

# Singapore Raptor Report

## Late Spring Migration, April-June 2014



*Accipiters on migration over Tuas South, 6 April 14, by Low Choon How*

### **Summary:**

Late spring migration 2014 produced a few pleasant surprises. First, the 107 *accipiters* counted at Tuas South on 6 April is probably the highest single-day *accipiter* count on record! Second, a female Eastern Marsh Harrier, also at Tuas South on 6 April, extended the late date by 2 days. Thanks to Low Choon How for both records. The other late migrant raptors comprised the usual species – **Osprey**, **Oriental Honey Buzzard**, **Japanese Sparrowhawk** and **Peregrine Falcon**. The 8 June record of an *orientalis* Oriental Honey Buzzard lends further credence to the suspicion of over-summering by the species in the winter quarters. For the resident raptors, noteworthy records include that of the locally rare Crested Serpent Eagle on 11 April at Chek Jawa (1 bird) and on 20 Jun at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve (2 birds).

### **1. Osprey *Pandion haliaetus***

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
13 May	1	Mandai Orchid Garden vicinity	Tang Peck Chan

### **2. Oriental Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus***

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
2 Apr	1	Bidadari, adult male, morning	Yap Euhian
6 Apr	5	Tuas South	Low Choon How
9 Apr	1	Bidadari, <i>orientalis</i> adult male pale morph	Frankie Cheong
20 Apr	1	Pasir Ris Park	Low Choon How
21 Apr	1	Jurong Park	Low Choon How

11 May	1	Singapore Straits, flying over southern islands	Alan Owyong
17 May	1	Tampines Eco-green, <i>torquatus</i> juvenile	Yang Weixing
<p><i>"I had seen this bird many times at eco green... nearest at less than 5m. Quite an impressive view when it's fly past you at close range."</i></p> <p><i>"The first time I saw it was on 17 May... it like to perch on the bare tree between the exercise area and the express way during the late afternoon..."</i></p>			
8 Jun	1	Jurong Park, <i>orientalis</i> juvenile dark morph in moult	Low Choon How
8 Jun	1	Tampines Eco-green, <i>torquatus</i> juvenile	Alvin Seng

### **3. Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus***

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
6 Apr	1	Tuas South, female, 10am,	Low Choon How

*"Eastern Marsh Harrier (the same fellow from Mar report. Except this time I saw it gradually picking up thermal and in fact flying over me till reaching very high up and then head NW.....byebye)"*



Eastern Marsh Harrier  
Low Choon How, Apr 2014

*Eastern Marsh Harrier, female, Tuas South, 6 April 14, by Low Choon How*

#### **4. Chinese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter soloensis***

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
6 Apr	10	Tuas South	Low Choon How

#### **5. Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis***

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
6 Apr	1	Tuas South	Low Choon How
13 Apr	1	Dairy Farm, soaring, evening	Subhan

#### **6. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus***

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
13 Apr	1	Kallang Heights, perched on top of HDB flat, 5:30pm	Reuben (from London)
18 Apr	1	Thomson	Uncle Fai

#### **7. Unidentified Sparrowhawk *Accipiter sp***

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
6 Apr	96	Tuas South, "very high up, can't id"	Low Choon How
19 Apr	1	Tuas South	Low Choon How

### **Resident Raptors**

#### **Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus***

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
7 Jun	1	Lorong Halus, adult	Johnny Wee

#### **Brahminy Kite *Haliastur Indus***

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
4 Apr	1	Pandan River, adult	Yap Euhian
11 Apr	1	Gardens by the Bay	Reuben (from London)
11 Apr	1	Chek Jawa, Pulau Ubin	Terry Heppell
20 Apr	2	Ubin West, 10am	Willie Foo + KAK
27 Apr	2	Kranji Marsh, 11am	Willie Foo
11 May	2	Singapore Straits	Alan Owyong
8 Jun	1	Tampines Eco-green, juvenile	Alvin Seng
14 Jun	3	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, 1 adult, 2 juveniles, patrolling the Johor Straits initially, then moving towards central Singapore, 7am-9:30am	Ulf Remahl

**White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster***

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
11 Apr	3	Chek Jawa, Pulau Ubin	Terry Heppell
13 Apr	1	Dairy Farm	Subhan
17 Apr	2	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, adults	Yap Euhian
20 Apr	1	Ubin West, 11am	Willie Foo + KAK
27 Apr	1	Mandai mudflats, 4:15pm	Kerry Pereira
27 Apr	1	Kranji Marsh, 10am	Willie Foo
28 Apr	1	Sheares Bridge, 7:30am	Willie Foo
11 May	1	Singapore Straits, perched on buoy	Alan Owyong
13 May	2	Mandai Orchid Garden vicinity	Tang Peck Chan
19 May	2	Pasir Ris Park	Yap Euhian
20 May	1	Pavilion Park, 6:36pm	Steven Chong
24 May	1	Pang Sua Canal, 7:27am	Steven Chong
30 May	1	Pavilion Park, 4pm	Steven Chong
11 Jun	2	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Yap Euhian
14 Jun	4	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, 2 adults, 2 juveniles, patrolling the Johor Straits initially, then moving towards central Singapore, 7am-9:30am	Ulf Remahl
21 Jun	1	Sports Hub, 4pm	Willie Foo & KAK
22 Jun	1	Sports Hub, 4pm	Willie Foo & KAK
27 Jun	1	Pang Sua Canal, 8am	Steven Chong

**Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus***

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
13 Apr	2	Singapore Botanic Gardens, adults	Yap Euhian
18 Apr	1	Little Guilin, juvenile	Chris Lee
27 Apr	1	Kranji Marsh, 10:30am	Willie Foo
7 May	2	Pandan River, 1 adult, 1 juvenile	Yap Euhian
10 May	1	Singapore Quarry, juvenile	Suresh Surenthiraraj
13 May	1	Central Catchment Nature Reserve, adult	Alan Owyong
11 Jun	1	Jelutong Tower	Yong Ding Li
24 Jun	1	Central Catchment Nature Reserve, adult	Andrew Chow

**Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela***

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
11 Apr	1	Chek Jawa, Pulau Ubin	Terry Heppell
20 Jun	2	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, morning	Angelia Teng

**Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus***

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
9 Apr	1	Japanese Garden	Philip Toh
17 Apr	2	Zoo, beside Baboon enclosure, adults	Alvin Yeo
22 Apr	2	Zoo, adults	Con Foley

1 May	1	Chinese Garden, juvenile	Yong Ding Li
7 May	1	Japanese Garden	Francis Yap
13 May	1	Zoo, adult	Tan Kok Hui
18 May	1	Kent Ridge Park, 10:30am	John Spencer

*"One Crested Goshawk in display flight (shallow wing beats, puffed out under-tail coverts) over Kent Ridge Park on Sunday 18th May at 10.30."*

2 Jun	1	Singapore Botanic Gardens	Lawrence Cher
12 Jun	1	Japanese Garden, juvenile	Lawrence Cher
15 Jun	1	Kent Ridge Park, adult	Rey Aguila
22 Jun	1	Orchard Road, adult	John Arifin
29 Jun	1	Canopy Walk, Southern Ridges, adult	Lawrence Cher

#### **Changeable Hawk-eagle *Spizaetus cirrhatus***

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
6 Apr	2	Lorong Halus	Francis Yap
6 Apr	1	Central Catchment Nature Reserve	Andrew Chow
6 Apr	1	Lorong Halus, noon time	Francis Yap
8 Apr	1	Jurong East, near Trade Hub 21, pale morph adult at nest with eaglet in white down	Kleen Koh
10 Apr	1	BKE, perched on lamp post	Reuben (from London)
12 Apr	1	Lower Pierce Reservoir, 6pm	Willie Foo
13 May	1	Mandai Orchid Garden vicinity, at nest	Tang Peck Chan
11 Jun	1	MacRitchie Reservoir	Yong Ding Li

*Compiled by Tan Gim Cheong*

*Many thanks to everyone for sending in their records and to Low Choon How for the use of his photos.*