

Singapore Raptor Report Autumn Migration, October 2015



Oriental Honey Buzzard, adult female orientalis, at Jelutong Tower, Central Catchment, 7 Oct 15, by Francis Yap.

Summary for migrant species:

More than five hundred raptors of 8 migrant species were recorded in October, which was shrouded in haze on most days, reducing visibility to a few kilometres. **Oriental Honey Buzzards** made up the bulk with 344 individuals, and the first big flock comprising 45 birds was recorded on 7 Oct at Tuas South. Next up were the **Japanese Sparrowhawks** with 76 birds, mostly on passage. Close behind were 73 **Black Bazas**, arriving on the last 2 days of October, with 50 birds recorded at Tuas South on the 31st.

22 **Chinese Sparrowhawks** were recorded, a good number for Singapore. The juvenile **Eastern Marsh Harrier** photographed at Seletar East Link by Jacky Soh and Henrietta Woo was the first of the season, and the only record. Another highlight was the juvenile **Rufous-bellied Eagle** photographed at the Botanic Gardens on the 18th by Cheng Ken, likewise both the first for the season and the only record.

One **Opsrey** was photographed flying in hazy weather over Dairy Farm and another at Yishun Dam. 4 **Peregrine Falcons** were recorded; notably one individual was seen feeding on a Yellow Bittern on a window ledge of Millenium Tower in the CBD by Zhang Zicong, and another recorded on Pulau Ubin on the 1st was an *ernesti* - the resident form.

Highlights for sedentary species:

Two rare residents were recorded this month. The **Crested Goshawk** was recorded at the Nanyang Technological University on the 17th and at Kent Ridge Park, a seemingly reliable spot for the species, on the 24th. The other rare resident was the **Grey-headed Fish Eagle** which was recorded at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, the Central Catchment, and nesting at Little Guilin (high up a tree tall on the inaccessible eastern side of the pond). Also notable was a sedentary *torquatus* **OHB** photographed on the 2nd at Pasir Ris Park by Alvin Seng. The other resident raptors recorded included the, **Black-winged Kite**, **Brahminy Kite**, **White-bellied Sea Eagle** and **Changeable Hawk-eagle**.



Oriental Honey Buzzard, torquatus tweeddale morph, at Pasir Ris Park, 2 Oct 15, by Alvin Seng.

Table 1

S/N	Species	No.	S/N	Species	No.
1	Osprey	2		<i>Residents / Sedentary Species</i>	
2	Black Baza	73	9	Black-winged Kite	3
3	Oriental Honey Buzzard	344	10	Brahminy Kite	14
4	Eastern Marsh Harrier	1	11	White-bellied Sea Eagle	9
5	Chinese Sparrowhawk	22	12	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	4
6	Japanese Sparrowhawk	76	13	Crested Goshawk	2
7	Rufous-bellied Eagle	1	14	Changeable Hawk-eagle	7
8	Peregrine Falcon	4			8
				<i>Unidentified</i>	
			15	Unidentified <i>Accipiters</i>	15
Total for Migrants		523	Grand Total		585

Compiled by TAN Gim Cheong



*Chinese Sparrowhawk, female, at Jelutong Tower, Central Catchment,
29 Oct 15, by Francis Yap*



*Japanese Sparrowhawk, female, at Bidadari, 7 Oct 15, by Francis Yap.
Note the barred breast & belly and the yellow eye.*