

Singapore Raptor Report

Early Autumn Migration, July-September 2015



A worn Oriental Honey Buzzard (orientalis) at Bidadari, 19 September 2015, by Francis Yap

Summary:

The Osprey, Oriental Honey Buzzard, Japanese Sparrowhawk, Peregrine Falcon and Rufous-bellied Eagle were recorded during early autumn migration 2015. The number of records for the **Oriental Honey Buzzard** during this period has increased. Out of 16 records, only 2 were of the resident *torquatus* form. The remainder were largely *orientalis* and at least 9 were juveniles - 1 juvenile in July, 3 juveniles in August and 5 juveniles in September. Most of these juveniles would have spent the summer here and were not early arrivals. A total of 6 **Japanese Sparrowhawks** were recorded in September, out of which at least 4 were adults. A rare **Rufous-bellied Eagle**, a juvenile, was recorded on 16 Sep as it flew by Jelutong Tower in the Central Catchment Forest. A single **Osprey** was photographed at Venus Drive on 4 July. An **ernesti Peregrine Falcon** was still present at the rooftop of buildings at Church Street. Another 2 Peregrines were recorded - one on 1st Aug and one on 27 Sep - these may be the true early arrivals. Two **torquatus Oriental Honey-buzzard** (sedentary subspecies) tweeddale morphs were recorded - one at Pasir Ris and another at Upper Pierce.

For the resident raptors, noteworthy records included the locally rare **Crested Serpent Eagle** on 22 August at Dempsey Road and the successful nesting of the **Crested Goshawk** at Bishan Park - where one chick fledged and the goshawk family attracted many birders from July-September. There was also a successful Crested Goshawk nesting at Gilman Barracks area. The Crested Goshawk was recorded at a total of 6 locations during this period. The **Grey-headed Fish Eagles** at Bukit Batok Town Park (Little Guilin) were feeding juveniles in August, but by late September, the pair had built a nest from scratch, within 39 days - the interval between observations.

1. Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
4 Jul	1	Venus Drive	Aldwin Recinto

2. Oriental Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus* (16)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
7 Jul	1	Hort Park, juvenile <i>orientalis</i>	Danny Lau
2 Aug	2	Botanic Gardens, worn juvenile <i>orientalis</i> male morph, in flight heading southeast	Low Choon How
3 Aug	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, adult male <i>orientalis</i> pale morph, mobbed by 5 House Crows, afternoon	Lim Kim Seng
5 Aug	1	Jelutong Tower, worn juvenile male <i>orientalis</i> moulting into adult, morning	Francis Yap
8 Aug	1	Pasir Ris Park, <i>torquatus</i>	Md Nasir
14 Aug	1	Pasir Ris Park, worn <i>torquatus</i> in moult	Tan Eng Boo
22 Aug	1	Pasir Ris Park, worn <i>torquatus</i> in moult	Alvin Seng
25 Aug	1	Tampines Eco-green, juvenile <i>orientalis</i> pale morph	Alvin Seng
2 Sep	2	Dempsey Road, 2 <i>orientalis</i> - 1 dark morph & 1 pale morph	Laurence Eu
5 Sep	2	Dempsey Road, 2 adult <i>orientalis</i> dark morphs	Laurence Eu
9 Sep	1	Old Upper Thomson Road, adult male <i>orientalis</i>	Lim Kim Seng
12 Sep	1	Upper Pierce, juvenile <i>orientalis</i> male pale morph	Ken Sng
12 Sep	1	Upper Pierce, <i>torquatus</i> tweeddale morph	Ken Sng
16 Sep	2	Pasir Ris Park, 1 juvenile <i>orientalis</i> pale morph in moult & 1 juvenile <i>orientalis</i> intermediate morph in moult	Tan Eng Boo
16 Sep	1	Pasir Ris Park, 1 juvenile <i>orientalis</i> pale morph in moult	Alvin Seng
18 Sep	1	Jelutong Tower	Francis Yap
19 Sep	1	Bidadari, worn juvenile <i>orientalis</i> pale morph	Francis Yap

3. Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis* (6)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
16 Sep	2	Jelutong Tower, females	Francis Yap
18 Sep	4	Jelutong Tower, adults, at least 2 males	Francis Yap

4. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (3)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
8 Jul	1	Capital Square, Church Street, <i>ernesti</i> feeding on fesh kill on roof ledge	Lee Ee Ling
1 Aug	1	Pekan Quarry, Pulau Ubin	See Toh Yew Wai
27 Sep	1	Tuas	Low Choon How

5. Rufous-bellied Eagle *Hieraetus kienerii* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
16 Sep	1	Jelutong Tower, juvenile	Francis Yap

Resident Raptors

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
27 Sep	1	Aviation Park Road, adult	Zacc HD

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur Indus*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
6 Jul	1	NEA Environment Building, Scotts Road, 8:45am	Kerry Pereira
12 Jul	2	Poyan	Danny Lau
27 Jul	1	Dairy Farm Nature Park, adult	Yap Euhian
1 Aug	1	Changi Swimming Club, adult	Yap Euhian
7 Aug	1	Riviera LRT Station, Punggol, 6:50pm	Kerry Pereira
15 Aug	2	Pulau Ubin	Con Foley, Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui
21 Aug	4	Pulau Ubin, immatures, 2 immatures mobbed by 1 immature WBSE, 4:25pm	Kerry Pereira
14 Sep	1	Tampines Eco-Green, adult	Alvin Seng
19 Sep	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, adult	Jean-Pierre Bousquet
20 Sep	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, juvenile, scavenged a dead rat from the sea	Jean-Pierre Bousquet
27 Sep	2	Tampines Eco-Green, adults	Alvin Seng

White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
7 Jul	2	Pulau Ubin, 11:48am	Kerry Pereira
12 Jul	2	Sungei Serangoon	Tan Kok Hui
14 Jul	1	Singapore Quarry, adult, 8:30am, drove away a perched Grey-headed Fish Eagle	Ulf Remahl
28 Jul	4	Singapore Quarry, 2 adults & 2 juveniles	Ulf Remahl
1 Aug	3	Singapore Quarry, 1 adult & 2 juveniles, 8:10am	Ulf Remahl

"Adult WBSE came in from south with a fish. One of the two juveniles in the quarry immediately followed it closely. Both birds landed on a ledge in the cliff face. Adult WBSE dumped the fish on shelf and then instantaneously flew to a tree nearby. Juvenile

started to feed directly. Inside a minute the 2nd juvenile WBSE landed on the ledge behind 1st juvenile. Not until 1st juvenile finished eating and moved to perch in a small bush in the cliff face did 2nd juvenile approached the fish and started to eat. Shortly after that the adult WBSE left the quarry. Once the second one had finished feeding it took off from the cliff with what I thought was the remains of the fish. There was an aerial display. Juvenile 1 chased juvenile 2 until she/he dropped what it had in the claws. It turned out to be a big leaf."

7 Aug	1	Pulau Ubin, 10:35am	Kerry Pereira
15 Aug	2	Pulau Ubin	Con Foley, Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui
19 Aug	3	Singapore Quarry, 2 adults & 1 juvenile, 8am - 9am	Ulf Remahl
21 Aug	4	Pulau Ubin, immatures, 4:25pm	Kerry Pereira
22 Aug	1	Pasir Ris Park, juvenile	Alvin Seng
25 Aug	2	Marina Bay, 7:30pm	Ulf Remahl
27 Sep	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, mobbed by crow	Jean-Pierre Bousquet
28 Sep	1	Lorong Halus, adult	Alvin Seng

Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2 Jul	1	Botanic Gardens, adult	Frankie Lim
4 Jul	2	Pandan River, adults	Yap Euhian
14 Jul	1	Singapore Quarry, adult perched, 8:30am	Ulf Remahl

"Inside 10 minutes an adult White-Bellied Sea Eagle coming in from south spotted it. The WBSE dove into the tree and drove away the GHFE, which never returned during the 1/2 hour I stayed at the site."

23 Jul	2	Bukit Batok Town Park (Little Guilin), adult perched	Ulf Remahl
14 Aug	3	Bukit Batok Town Park (Little Guilin), 1 adult & 2 juveniles, the adult caught 2 fish, passing 1 fish to one juvenile, 9:30am to 11am	Ulf Remahl

"One adult Grey-headed Fish Eagle ... caught a fish about 20 cm + long, ... gave the fish to a juvenile GHFE, which immediately took off and landed in a big tree in the northern end of lake. I could ... establish that this juvenile GHFE was a 2015 edition. The adult bird ... Suddenly ... took off. ...caught another fish 15-20 cm long. This

one I could positively identify as a Common Walking Catfish *Clarias batrachus*. She immediately started feeding on it starting with the head. The youngster ... had interestingly enough also initiated the feeding from the head. I presume that is the normal way they feed? Anyhow when juvenile had had enough it flew up and into some very dense foliage on the cliff face ... Suddenly less than 30 seconds later another juvenile appeared ... He/she disappeared into the same dense greenery. "

15 Aug	2	Bukit Batok Town Park (Little Guilin), 1 adult & 1 juvenile	Ulf Remahl
20 Aug	2	Bishan Park	Alan Owyong
9 Sep	2	Botanic Gardens, adults	Alvin Seng
23 Sep	2	Bukit Batok Town Park (Little Guilin), nest building, 10am	Ulf Remahl

Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
22 Aug	1	Dempsey Road	Gill Jones

Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
4 Jul	1	Venus Drive, adult	Anthony Nik
6 Jul	3	Gilman Barracks, 3 soaring initially, then 1 adult with prey (Plantain Squirrel), 9:20am	Danny Lau
11 Jul	1	Venus Drive, adult	Anthony Nik
15 Jul	2	Bishan Park, adult female and juvenile	Ender Tey
15 Aug	1	Bishan Park, juvenile with prey (pigeon)	See Toh Yew Wai
16 Aug	1	Jurong West, adult, perched on window calling, morning	Low Choon How
16 Aug	2	Bishan Park, adult and juvenile with prey (Common Fruit Bat)	See Toh Yew Wai
16 Aug	2	Bishan Park, adult and juvenile with prey (Common Fruit Bat), adult hunts bats roosting in Chinese Fan Palm (<i>Livistona chinensis</i>)	Con Foley
22 Aug	1	Bishan Park, adult with prey (Rock Pigeon)	See Toh Yew Wai
23 Aug	1	Bishan Park, juvenile	Alvin Seng, Wong Chung Cheong
25 Aug	1	Bishan Park, juvenile	Frankie Lim
25 Aug	1	Bishan Park, juvenile	Kennie Goh
26 Aug	1	Bishan Park, juvenile, morning	Lim Kim Seng
26 Aug	2	Bishan Park, adult and juvenile with prey (rat), morning	Kennie Goh
27 Aug	1	Bishan Park, juvenile	Alvin Seng
28 Aug	1	Bishan Park, juvenile, morning	Lim Kim Seng
28 Aug	1	Bishan Park, juvenile with prey (rat),	Sreedharan Gopalsamy

		evening	
29 Aug	1	Bishan Park, juvenile	Vincent Lao
30 Aug	1	Bishan Park, juvenile with prey (big grasshopper and changeable lizard)	Tan Gim Cheong
4 Sep	2	Bishan Park, 1 adult & 1 juvenile	Lee Tiah Khee
5 Sep	1	Bishan Park, juvenile	Kennie Goh
7 Sep	1	Bishan Park, juvenile with prey (Changeable Lizard)	Frankie Lim
11 Sep	1	Bishan Park, juvenile, morning	Kennie Goh
13 Sep	1	Gilman Barracks, juvenile	Danny Lau
15 Sep	1	Bishan Park, juvenile	Kennie Goh
15 Sep	1	Bishan Park, adult, evening	Kennie Goh
16 Sep	1	Jelutong Tower, juvenile	Francis Yap
17 Sep	1	Bishan Park, juvenile with prey (Plantain Squirrel)	Paul Lee
18 Sep	1	Bishan Park, juvenile with prey (bat), morning	Kennie Goh
26 Sep	1	Bishan Park, juvenile with prey (appears to be Common Shrew)	Paul Lee
27 Sep	1	Ridout Road, adult, noon	Carina Howitt

Changeable Hawk-eagle *Spizaetus cirrhatus*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
5 Jul	1	Lorong halus, dark morph, afternoon	Vincent Lao
12 Jul	2	Poyan	Danny Lau
14 Jul	1	Singapore Quarry, heard only	Ulf Remahl
1 Aug	3	Singapore Quarry, heard only, morning	Ulf Remahl
5 Aug	1	Jalan Kampong Chantek, dark morph	Zacc HD
7 Aug	1	Lorong Halus, adult pale morph	See Toh Yew Wai
19 Aug	1	Singapore Quarry, heard only	Ulf Remahl
8 Sep	2	Dempsey Road, 1 dark morph & 1 pale morph juvenile	Gill Jones
13 Sep	1	Jelutong Tower, juvenile pale morph	Joseph Tan BK
15 Sep	1	MacRitchie Reservoir, adult pale morph	Lim Kim Seng
19 Sep	1	Dairy Farm Nature Park, adult pale morph	See Toh Yew Wai
20 Sep	1	Punggol Waterway Park, adult pale morph	Zacc HD

Compiled by Tan Gim Cheong

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