

Singapore Raptor Report

Early Autumn Migration, July-September 2016



*Oriental Honey Buzzard (torquatus tweeddale morph) at Pasir Ris Park, 21 September 2016,
by Tony Chua*

Summary:

The Osprey, Oriental Honey Buzzard, Japanese Sparrowhawk and Peregrine Falcon were recorded during early autumn migration. The number of records for the **Oriental Honey Buzzard** during this period has increased slightly to 21 (compared to 16 for the same period last year). Out of these, only 4 were of the resident *torquatus* form. The remainder 17 were *orientalis* and at least 7 were juveniles - 5 in July and 2 in August. These juveniles were continuing their moult, showing new primaries (up to P5) and missing some primaries (up to P6), whereas in the last 3 months from Apr-Jun, only new P1 & P2 (counting from inside) were seen. These juveniles would have spent the summer in this region.

The first **Japanese Sparrowhawk** arrived on 16 Sep, followed by one on 21 Sep and another on 28 Sep. 4 **Ospreys** were recorded, one at Hindhede Quarry on 19 July and another at Springleaf Nature Park on 1 Aug, the other two were at the usual areas near Sungei Buloh and Yishun Dam. A **Peregrine Falcon** was recorded at Singapore Quarry on 21 Sep, seemingly in an aerial ballet with a Brahminy Kite.

A striking *torquatus* **Oriental Honey-buzzard** (sedentary subspecies) tweeddale morph was photographed at Pasir Ris Park throughout the 3 months and an *ernesti* **Peregrine Falcon** (sedentary subspecies) was photographed at Pulau Punggol Barat on 31 Aug.

For the resident raptors, highlights included the locally rare **Crested Serpent Eagle** on 23 Sep at Bukit Kalang Service Reservoir. A juvenile **Crested Goshawk** was found dead near a window at the Botanic Gardens in early September. The unfortunate bird may have collided with the window and it is probably one of the 4 juveniles that fledged in the gardens in June. Another rescued juvenile was released at the Warren Golf Course. The **Grey-headed Fish Eagles** at Bukit Batok Town Park (Little Guilin) were spending time on and around the nest at end September and may be starting to breed again. An intriguing **Changeable Hawk-eagle** showing a rare mix of dark and pale morph features was photographed at Choa Chu Kang Park on 16 July.



An unusual looking Changeable Hawk-eagle showing a mix of dark and pale morph characteristics, at Choa Chu Kang Park, 16 July 2016, by Lau Jia Sheng

Compiled by TAN Gim Cheong