

Singapore Raptor Report December 2017



c.k.teo

Oriental Honey Buzzard, adult female dark morph, on 8 Dec 2017, by Teo Chee Kee.

Summary for migrant species:

December marked the arrival of two migrant raptor species. The first **Eastern Marsh Harrier** for the season, a juvenile, was photographed in flight at Kranji Marshes on the 2nd at 6:59am. This is fairly typical behaviour for the species as they are early movers. The first **Black Kites** of the season came in a group of three over Pulau Ubin on the 26th. The three juveniles were flying about over Pulau Sekudu and the nearby fish farms, probably hoping to scavenge.

The rufous morph **Oriental Scops Owl** found on 30 November at Dairy Farm Nature Park was still around on the 1st, but disappeared thereafter. On the 9th, a grey morph Oriental Scops Owl was found roosting high up a nearby tree; it was recorded again on the 11th and the 17th at the same locality. This grey morph individual might also have been the same one found in January this year, returning to the same locality in Singapore after breeding in the northern latitudes!

Three **Jerdon's Bazas** were recorded. One frequented the Tampines Eco Green to Pasir Ris Park area throughout the month; another was recorded at Ang Mo Kio Town Garden West on the 10th and 11th; and the last one flew by Jelutong Tower on the 22nd. Two **Common Buzzards** were recorded; the first was photographed on the 2nd at Seletar Aerospace Drive; on the 6th, 2 birds were photographed at nearby Seletar West, and one of the birds may have been the same bird first recorded on the 2nd.

Five **Chinese Sparrowhawks** were recorded. A male at Pasir Ris Park on the 3rd and 9th; a female at Ang Mo Kio Town Garden West on the 9th, two over Henderson Wave on the 20th, and a female at Sentosa on the 24th. Two **Peregrine Falcons** were recorded; one at Clementi and the other at Seletar Airport area. Three **Western Ospreys** were recorded; one at SBWR-Kranji Marshes area, another at Yishun Dam and the last at Pasir Ris Park.

Finally, we come to the most abundant migrant raptors. 19 **Japanese Sparrowhawks** were recorded; a number of them at Henderson Waves, probably just passing through for destinations further south. 20 **Black Bazas** were recorded, and a small group is probably wintering at Pasir Ris Park. The **Oriental Honey Buzzard** is tops again with 93 birds; a number were recorded at Henderson wave, also probably just passing through on their way farther south.



Crested Goshawks mating, at Sentosa, on 28 Dec 2017, by Michael Phua.

Highlights for sedentary species:

The locally rare **Crested Serpent Eagle** was recorded three times, at Malcolm Park on the 3rd, Dairy Farm Nature Park on the 11th and Pulau Ubin on the 16th. Only one **Black-winged Kite** was recorded, at Kranji Marshes on the 16th.

For the uncommon **Crested Goshawk**, 11 birds were recorded. Notably the pair at Sentosa was observed mating on four days: the 24th, 25th, 26th and 28th. The pair was observed bringing small branches to reinforce their nest high up the bare tree and on the 25th, the female goshawk was photographed breaking a small branch with its beak. A juvenile goshawk, probably from the pair's last breeding attempt, was also seen at the tree on the 24th.

All three records of the *torquatus* **Oriental Honey Buzzards** were of the tweeddale form. An adult male was recorded at Pasir Ris Park on the 15th, the record on the 21st was probably of the same individual. Another was recorded at Toa Payoh on the 17th.

Of the two **Grey-headed Fish Eagles** recorded, one was at Bishan Park and the other at Little Guilin, where a new nest had been built on a tall tree but nesting was not observed during the month. The other resident raptors recorded included the **Changeable Hawk Eagle**, **Brahminy Kite** and **White-bellied Sea Eagle**.

Table 1

S/N	Species	No.	S/N	Species	No.
1	Western Osprey	3		<i>Residents / Sedentary Species</i>	
2	Jerdon's Baza	3	12	Black-winged Kite	1
3	Black Baza	20	13	Brahminy Kite	15
4	Oriental Honey Buzzard	93	14	White-bellied Sea Eagle	9
5	Black Kite	3	15	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	2
6	Eastern Marsh Harrier	1	16	Crested Serpent Eagle	3
7	Chinese Sparrowhawk	5	17	Crested Goshawk	11
8	Japanese Sparrowhawk	19	18	Changeable Hawk-Eagle	14
9	Common Buzzard	2			
10	Peregrine Falcon	2		<i>Unidentified</i>	
11	Oriental Scops Owl	2	19	Unidentified Raptors	1
			20	Unidentified <i>Accipiters</i>	2
Total for Migrants		153	Grand Total		211

1. Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (3)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
16	1	Kranji Marshes, morning	Wang Wee Woan
18	1	Yishun Dam	Esther Ong
19	1	SBWR	Feroz Fizah
19	1	PRP, 9:19am	Felix Chan
23	1	Yishun Dam	Felix Chan

2. Jerdon's Baza *Aviceda jerdoni* (3)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
6	1	TEG, 11:15am	Lester Tan
10	1	Ang Mo Kio Town Garden West	Tey Boon Sin
10	1	TEG	Ong Siew See
11	1	Ang Mo Kio Town Garden West	Jimmy Lee
17	1	TEG	Ong Siew See
22	1	Jelutong Tower, 8:45am	Francis Yap
24	1	PRP	Alvin Seng
25	1	PRP, morning	Felix Chan

3. Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes* (20)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1	1	Bidadari	Tan Eng Boo
2	2	Kranji Marshes, morning	Veronica Foo
6	2	PRP, morning	Alvin Seng
7	1	PRP	Roy Toh
8	8	PRP	Meena Vathyam
10	2	Lorong Halus	Tan Kok Hui
12	3	Henderson Waves, morning	Zacc HD
14	1	PRP	Wilson Shee
16	1	Kranji Marshes	Tan Kok Hui
16	1	Lorong Halus	Siva Kumar
17	1	Bidadari	Tan Kok Hui
19	1	PRP	Alvin Seng
21	1	Lorong Halus	Tan Kok Hui
21	1	PRP	Lee Shunda
22	1	PRP, morning	Elvin Tan
22	5	Upper Changi Road East, morning	Ramesh Thiruvengadam
23	1	Changi	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng, Low Choon How, Tan Kok Hui
27	1	PRP	Felix Chan
27	1	Telok Blangah Hills	Tay Kian Guan
28	1	PRP	Phua Joo Yang

4. **Oriental Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus* (93)** *orientalis* unless indicated otherwise

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1	1	DFNP, pale morph, 9:50am	Veronica Foo
6	1	Toa Payoh North, adult male pale morph, 8:55am	Veronica Foo
6	1	Singapore, adult female dark morph	Jeremy Ong
7	2	Bidadari, immatures	Chen Boon Chong
7	1	Bidadari, adult male pale morph	Timothy Lim
7	1	PRP, adult male, 9:40am	Chan Kum Chun
8	1	Singapore, adult female dark morph	Teo Chee Kee
8	1	Singapore, juvenile pale morph	Jeremy Ong
8	1	Admiralty, adult female pale morph	Teo Ee Sin
9	3	Changi	Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui
9	2	SBG	Alan OwYong
10	3	Kranji Marshes, at least 1 adult female pale morph and 1 adult female dark morph	Francis Yap
10	1	Dempsey	Laurence Eu
10	2	Lorong Halus, juvenile pale morph	Tan Kok Hui
12	3	Hort Park, 8-9am	Tey Boon Sin
12	9	Henderson Waves, morning	Zacc HD
13	4	Kranji Marshes, 1 adult male, 1 adult female, 2 juvenile pale morphs	Tan Kok Hui
13	1	Telok Bangah Forest Walk, adult male, 10:15am	Chan Kum Chun
14	8	Henderson Waves	Tan Kok Hui
14	1	Murai Farmway, juvenile pale morph, morning	Jimmy Lee
14	1	TBHP, juvenile pale morph	Dawn Teo
15	1	Alexandra Forest Walk, immature female pale morph	Art Toh
15	1	PRP, <i>torquatus</i> tweeddale morph adult male	Alvin Seng
15	1	Kranji Marshes, adult female dark morph	Zhang Licong
15	2	Southern Ridges, 10-11am	Kerry Pereira
16	2	Kranji Marshes	Tan Kok Hui
16	1	Sengkang Floating Wetlands, adult male dark morph missing 6 inner primaries on left wing	Nizam Khan Surattee
16	2	PRP, morning	Veronica Foo
17	1	Bidadari, juvenile	Tan Kok Hui
17	1	PRP, adult male	Chan Kum Chun
17	1	Sengkang, juvenile pale morph	Tan Kok Hui
17	1	Bidadari, <i>torquatus</i> tweeddale morph, 10:21am	Henrietta Woo & Ong Ruici
17	1	Kranji Marshes, juvenile pale morph	Clarinda Yap
17	1	SBTB, juvenile pale morph	Terence Tan
18	1	SBTB, juvenile, morning	Benson Brighton
18	1	Singapore, adult female pale morph	Lian Yee Ming
19	1	GBTB, 10:15am	Veronica Foo
20	7	Henderson Waves, 4 juvenile, 2 adult males, 1 adult female	Tan Kok Hui
20	1	Gilman Barracks	Chen Boon Chong

21	2	PRP, adult male pale morph <i>orientalis</i> and a tweeddale morph <i>torquatus</i> , on the same tree	Tan Kok Hui
21	1	Lorong Halus, adult male pale morph	Tan Kok Hui
22	1	PRP, adult male, dark morph, morning	Ko Eng Wee
22	1	TBHP, adult female pale morph	Marvin Heng
22	1	PRP, adult male	Tan Kok Hui
22	1	Southern Ridges Forest Walk, adult male dark morph	Tay Kian Guan
22	1	Simei, adult male pale morph	Ramesh Thiruvengadam
23	1	PRP	Alvin Seng
23	1	Telok Blangah	Wang HengMount
23	1	TEG, juvenile	Ong Siew See
23	1	Changi, juvenile pale morph	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng, Low Choon How, Tan Kok Hui
24	1	Lorong Halus, adult female pale morph	Feroz Fizah
25	1	PRP, adult female pale morph	Tekko Koh
25	5	PRP	Felix Chan
26	1	Sentosa	Kelvin Leong
27	1	PRP, juvenile female pale morph, morning	Felix Chan
27	1	PRP, adult male pale morph	Felix Chan
29	5	Coney Island	Kerry Pereira & Sarah Martens
29	1	Kranji Marshes, adult male	Lam Jen Wee
31	1	Sungei Mandai to Sungei Mandai Kechil, pale morph flying just above the mangroves	Ulf Remahl
31	1	Singapore	Thio Hui Bing

5. Black Kite *Milvus migrans* (3)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
26	3	Pulau Ubin, thermalling over Pulau Sekudu and fish farms, juveniles, photographed, noon	Oliver Tan

6. Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2	1	Kranji Marshes, juvenile, photographed, 6:59am	Goh Cheng Teng

7. Chinese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter soloensis* (5)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
3	1	PRP, adult male	Alvin Seng
9	1	Ang Mo Kio, adult female, 5pm	Chen Boon Chong
9	1	PRP mangrove, adult male	Alvin Seng
20	2	Henderson Waves	Tan Kok Hui
24	1	Fort Siloso, Sentosa, adult female	Tan Kok Hui, Goh Cheng Teng

8. Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis* (19)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2	1	Kranji Marshes, morning	Veronica Foo
6	1	Seletar West, 9am	Low Choon How
7	1	DFNP, juvenile	Chen Boon Chong
9	1	Ang Mo Kio, adult female	Tey Boon Sin
10	2	Tanah Merah Coast Road, 1 adult male, 1 adult female, morning	Goh Cheng Teng
10	1	Dempsey, juvenile	Laurence Eu
10	1	Lorong Halus, juvenile	Tan Kok Hui
11	1	Lorong Halus, juvenile	Siva Kumar
12	3	Henderson Waves, morning	Zacc HD
15	1	Jelutong Tower, juvenile	Francis Yap
20	3	Henderson Waves	Tan Kok Hui
20	1	Kent Ridge Park	Tan Kok Hui
24	1	Fort Siloso, Sentosa, juvenile	Tan Kok Hui
27	1	Telok Blangah Hills	Tay Kian Guan
29	1	Coney Island	Kerry Pereira & Sarah Martens

9. Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* (2)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2	1	Seletar Aerospace Drive, photographed	Alfred Chia
6	2	Seletar West, photographed, 9am	Low Choon How

10. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (2)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
6	1	Seletar West, 9am	Low Choon How
7	1	Clementi, morning	Tay Kian Guan
9	1	Seletar Airport	Zacc HD
25	1	Clementi	Tay Kian Guan

11. Oriental Scops Owl *Otus sunia* (2)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1	1	DFNP, rufous morph	Con Foley
9	1	DFNP, grey morph, morning	Thana Sinnathamby
9	1	DFNP, grey morph, afternoon	Peter Cool
11	1	DFNP, grey morph	Ng Ngak Seng
11	1	DFNP, grey morph	Tan Gim Cheong
17	1	DFNP, grey morph	Art Toh

Resident raptors

12. Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
16	1	Kranji Marshes	Tan Kok Hui

13. Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus* (15)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2	2	Kranji Marshes, 1 adult 1 juvenile, morning	Veronica Foo
6	1	Seletar West, 9am	Low Choon How
8	1	Hampstead Gardens, juvenile, morning	Veronica Foo
13	1	SBWR	Tan Kok Hui
14	1	Henderson Waves	Tan Kok Hui
14	1	Caldecott MRT	Henrietta Woo
16	2	Kranji Marshes	Tan Kok Hui
16	1	SBWR	Tan Kok Hui
17	1	Bidadari, adult	Tan Kok Hui
17	1	Treetops Executive Residences, Orange Grove Road, 2:52pm	Kerry Pereira
18	1	Little Guilin, adult, 9-11am	Ulf Remahl
19	1	GBTB, 9:45am	Veronica Foo
20	1	Henderson Waves, adult	Tan Kok Hui
21	2	Lorong Halus	Tan Kok Hui
25	1	Little Guilin, adult, morning	Ulf Remahl
25	1	PRP	Felix Chan
29	3	Coney Island	Kerry Pereira & Sarah Martens
31	2	Sungei Mandai to Sungei Mandai Kechil, 1 bird on a nest, could be sitting on eggs, and another perched on the same tree, morning	Ulf Remahl

14. White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* (9)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
6	1	Seletar West, 9am	Low Choon How
16	2	Kranji Marshes	Tan Kok Hui
17	3	Punggol SAFRA, 6:16pm	Kerry Pereira
21	1	Lorong Halus	Tan Kok Hui
23	1	Yishun Dam, juvenile	Felix Chan
25	1	PRP, juvenile	Felix Chan
29	4	Coney Island	Kerry Pereira & Sarah Martens
29	3	Singapore Quarry, 11:11am	Ulf Remahl
31	1	Sungei Mandai to Sungei Mandai Kechil, adult, morning	Ulf Remahl

15. Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus ichthyaetus* (2)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1	1	Bishan Park, noon	Cheong Khan Hong
18	1	Little Guilin, calls heard, then 1 bird seen flying; no eagles around the 'new nest', 9-11am	Ulf Remahl
22	1	Little Guilin, heard only; no eagles around the 'new nest', 9-10:45am	Ulf Remahl
25	1	Little Guilin, calls heard, then 1 bird seen, it dived into the water and caught a catfish; no eagles around the 'new nest', 9-11am	Ulf Remahl
26	1	Bishan Park, noon	Cheong Khan Hong

16. Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela* (3)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
3	1	Malcolm Park	Leslie Fung
11	1	DFNP	Emmanuel Raphael Goh
16	1	Pulau Ubin	Zhang Licong, Esther Ong

17. Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus* (11)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
10	2	SBG, a pair	Tan Gim Cheong
11	1	SBG	Tan Gim Cheong
11	1	Ang Mo Kio, adult male	Jimmy Lee
12	3	Henderson Waves, morning	Zacc HD
14	1	Henderson Waves	Tan Kok Hui
16	1	PRP, morning	Veronica Foo
17	1	Toa Payoh Lorong 7, adult male perched on window of an apartment, 2:30pm	Seow Kia Hui
19	1	PRP mangrove, juvenile	Alvin Seng
24	3	Fort Siloso, Sentosa, a pair repairing their nest, and a juvenile probably from last season	Tan Kok Hui
24	2	Fort Siloso, Sentosa, a pair, mating observed	Alan OwYong
25	2	Fort Siloso, Sentosa, a pair, mating observed	Alan OwYong
26	1	Fort Siloso, Sentosa	Kelvin Leong
26	2	Fort Siloso, Sentosa, a pair, mating observed	Kelvin Leong
28	2	Fort Siloso, Sentosa, a pair, mating observed	Michael Phua
29	1	Fort Siloso, Sentosa, female eating a rat	Alvin Seng
31	1	Sentosa	Wang HengMount

18. Changeable Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus cirrhatus* (14)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1	2	DFNP	Esther Ong
1	1	PRP, dark morph	Ng Ngak Seng
1	1	DFNP, pale morph, 10:35am	Veronica Foo
2	1	PRP, dark morph	Fabius Tan

8	1	Kranji Marshes, juvenile pale morph, morning	Lee Peiying
10	1	Seletar East, juvenile pale morph	Tan Kok Hui
10	1	SBG, dark morph	Laurence Eu
11	1	PRP, juvenile pale morph	Carol Oh
12	1	Henderson Waves, morning	Zacc HD
13	1	SBWR, dark morph	Tan Kok Hui
13	1	PRP, juvenile pale morph	Alvin Seng
13	1	Caldecott MRT	Henrietta Woo
14	2	Henderson Waves	Tan Kok Hui
14	1	Murai Farmway, juvenile pale morph, morning	Jimmy Lee
14	1	Caldecott MRT	Henrietta Woo
16	1	Kranji Marshes	Tan Kok Hui
16	1	SBWR, juvenile pale morph	Tan Kok Hui
16	1	Yishun Avenue 8, pale morph	Siva Kumar
16	1	PRP, juvenile pale morph, morning	Veronica Foo
17	1	Bidadari, pale morph	Tan Kok Hui
17	1	Kranji Marshes, juvenile pale morph with waterhen in talons	Gerlad Chua
20	3	Henderson Waves, 2 pale morphs and 1 dark morph	Tan Kok Hui
21	1	Lorong Halus, dark morph	Tan Kok Hui
25	1	PRP	Felix Chan

22. Unidentified Raptors (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
25	1	Choa Chu Kang Cemetery, probable Black Kite, forked tail, bigger than Brahminy Kite	Lim Kim Chuah

23. Unidentified Accipiters (2)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
6	1	Seletar West, 9am	Low Choon How
21	1	SBG	Henrietta Woo

Site abbreviations

CCNR = Central Catchment Nature Reserve

DFNP = Dairy Farm Nature Park

GBTB = Gardens by the Bay

NUS = National University of Singapore

PRP = Pasir Ris Park

SBG = Singapore Botanic Garden

SBTB = Satay by the Bay

SBWR = Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve

TBHP = Telok Blangah Hill Park

TEG = Tampines Eco Green

Compiled by Tan Gim Cheong

Note: The numbers in brackets beside the bird names indicates the month's total number. Reports of the same raptors from the same area have been discounted to avoid duplication.

Many thanks to everyone who had reported their sightings in one way or another, and especially to Teo Chee Kee and Michael Phua for the use of their photos.