

Singapore Raptor Report February 2018



*Chinese Sparrowhawk moulting into adult (grey) feathers,
at Punggol Promenade, on 1 Feb 2018, by Felix Chan*

Summary for migrant species:

In February, 81 raptors of 11 migrant species were recorded. The raptor of the month is undoubtedly the vagrant **Himalayan Vulture** *Gyps himalayensis* photographed by Francis Yap at Bukit Timah on the 8th. On the 12th, two scarce raptors were recorded: a **Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo* photographed at Kent Ridge Park by Nathan Johnson and a **Black Kite** *Milvus migrans (lineatus)* photographed at Pulau Ubin by Wang HM. A grey morph **Oriental Scops Owl** *Otus sunia* photographed at Mimosa Walk by Heather Goessel on the 14th was a good surprise.

Nine **Jerdon's Bazas** *Aviceda jerdoni* continued to winter at the Lorong Halus area, three were spotted at Changi Business Park and one at Bishan Park. Of the 28 **Black Bazas** *Aviceda leuphotes* recorded in the month, 18 were fittingly seen on the 18th by Goh Cheng Teng at Kranji Marshes.

The female **Chinese Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter soloensis* at Ang Mo Kio is still wintering there, while single occurrences were recorded at Punggol Promenade (1st), Upper Seletar (6th) and Lorong Halus (17th). There were also four **Japanese Sparrowhawks** *Accipiter gularis* during the month: a female at Bukit Timah (9th), an immature at Jelutong Tower (21st), one at Pasir Ris Park (23rd) and another female at Tampines Eco Green (26th).

Among the five **Peregrine Falcons** *Falco peregrinus* recorded, one was the *ernesti* race recorded on the 17th at Jelutong Tower by Goh Cheng Teng and Lim Hong Yao. Four **Western Ospreys** *Pandion haliaetus* and 19 **Oriental Honey Buzzards** *Pernis ptilorhyncus* rounded up the migrant raptors for the month.



Crested Goshawk, Ang Mo Kio, on 15 Feb 2018, by Michael Phua.

Highlights for sedentary species:

February was a pretty good month for the **Crested Serpent Eagle** *Spilornis cheela*, with records from Pulau Ubin on the 4th, Kent Ridge Park on the 8th and the long-staying individual at Malcolm Park. Also good as a daytime record was an **Eastern Barn Owl** *Tyto delicatula* photographed by Deborah Friets at Satay by the Bay on the 19th.

There were two breeding records for the **Crested Goshawk** *Accipiter trivirgatus*: a pair at the Botanic Gardens with a single chick that fledged on the 4th and another pair at Ang Mo Kio that had a more eventful time as the nest was reported to have been blown down by strong winds together with the chicks. Fortunately, ACRES was alerted and the chicks returned to the parents which continued to look after them till they fledged. Interestingly, a juvenile Crested Goshawk caught a young monitor lizard (probably a clouded monitor) at the Botanic Gardens on the 3rd.

There were also two breeding records of the **Buffy Fish Owl** *Ketupa ketupu*: a fledgling at the Botanic Gardens late in the month, and another fledgling at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve with its parents on the 26th. The other sedentary raptors recorded included seven **Grey-headed Fish Eagles**, eight **Black-winged Kites**, seven **Changeable Hawk-Eagles**, and the common **White-bellied Sea Eagles** and **Brahminy Kites**.

Table 1

S/N	Species	No.	S/N	Species	No.
1	Western Osprey	4		<i>Residents / Sedentary Species</i>	
2	Jerdon's Baza	13	12	Black-winged Kite	8
3	Black Baza	28	13	Brahminy Kite	5
4	Oriental Honey Buzzard	19	14	White-bellied Sea Eagle	7
5	Himalayan Vulture	1	15	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	7
6	Chinese Sparrowhawk	4	16	Crested Goshawk	10
7	Japanese Sparrowhawk	4	17	Crested Serpent Eagle	3
8	Black Kite	1	18	Changeable Hawk-Eagle	7
9	Common Buzzard	1	19	Eastern Barn Owl	1
10	Peregrine Falcon	5	20	Buffy Fish Owl	6
11	Oriental Scops Owl	1			
Total for Migrants		81	Grand Total		135

1. Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (4)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
11	1	Yishun Dam	Wang HM
12	1	SBWR, morning	Tan Eng Boo
25	1	Kranji Marshes	Yap Wee Jin
26	2	Kranji Marshes	Richard White
28	2	Bukit Timah hilltop, morning	Francis Yap

2. Jerdon's Baza *Aviceda jerdoni* (13)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
3	2	Lorong Halus, morning	Felix Chan
6	8-10	Lorong Halus, flying towards Coney Island	Geri Lim
7	1	Changi Business Park	Ramesh Thiruvengadam
17	1	Lorong Halus, late morning	Martin Kennewell
21	1	Bishan Park, morning	Alan OwYong
24	9	Lorong Halus, 7:30-9:45am	Adrian Silas Tay
25	2	Tampines Eco Green	Alvin Seng
26	1	Tampines Eco Green	Stuart Campbell
26	3	Changi Business Park	Albert Low
28	1	Bishan Park, morning	Alan OwYong

3. Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes* (28)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
3	1	Pasir Ris Park	Alvin Seng
4	5	Lorong Halus	Felix Chan
6	3	Lorong Halus	Felix Chan
10	1	Pasir Ris Park	Alvin Seng
18	18	Kranji Marshes, heading north, 7:30am	Goh Cheng Teng
24	7	Lorong Halus, 7:30-9:45am	Adrian Silas Tay
24	5	Sungei Buloh	Low Choon How
25	6	Kranji Marshes	Yap Wee Jin
26	2	Changi Business Park	Ramesh Thiruvengadam

4. Oriental Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus* (19) *orientalis* unless indicated otherwise

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1	1	Coney Island	Felix Chan
1	1	Pasir Ris Park, juvenile pale morph	Alvin Seng
3	2	Pasir Ris Park, 1 adult male dark morph, 1 pale morph	Alvin Seng
4	3	Lorong Halus	Felix Chan
5	1	Woodlands, adult male pale morph	Tay Ser Keong
6	1	Lorong Halus	Felix Chan
6	1	Bishan Park, adult male pale morph, 10:45am	Henrietta Woo
7	1	Mandai, juvenile dark morph, morning	Veronica Foo

10	1	Tampines Eco Green, juvenile pale morph	Samuel Chuah
10	2	Pasir Ris Park, 1 juvenile pale morph, 1 adult male dark morph	Marcus Ho
12	1	Tampines Eco Green, juvenile pale morph	Alvin Seng
17	2	Orange Grove Road, at least 1 juvenile pale morph	Marcel Finlay
21	1	Whampoa Drive, pale morph	Alvin Seng
21	1	Bedok Camp II, 6:35pm	Kerry Pereira
22	1	Tampines Eco Green, adult female pale morph	Feroz Fizah
23	1	Pasir Ris Park, 9:53am	Kerry Pereira
24	1	Lorong Halus, 7:30-9:45am	Adrian Silas Tay
24	1	Ang Mo Kio, adult female pale morph (streaked variant)	Art Toh
24	1	Ang Mo Kio, adult female pale morph (brown type)	Mettalady Yeo
25	1	Changi Business Park	Ramesh Thiruvengadam
25	1	Windsor Nature Park, juvenile pale morph, 10:54am	Henrietta Woo

5. Himalayan Vulture *Gyps himalayensis* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
8	1	Bukit Timah, photographed in flight, 11:10am	Francis Yap



Himalayan Vulture, a composite image, Bukit Timah, on 8 Feb 2018, by Francis Yap.

6. Chinese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter soloensis* (4)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1	1	Punggol Promenade, immature	Felix Chan
6	1	Upper Seletar Reservoir, immature	Veronica Foo
9	1	Ang Mo Kio Town Garden West, adult female	Lim Ser Chai
17	1	Lorong Halus, late morning	Martin Kennewell
20	1	Ang Mo Kio, adult female	Kelvin Ng Cheng Kwan
20	1	Ang Mo Kio, adult female	Lee Tiah Khee

7. Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis* (4)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
9	1	Bukit Timah, adult female	Francis Yap
21	1	Jelutong Tower, immature	Joseph Lin
23	1	Pasir Ris Park, 10:28am	Kerry Pereira
26	1	Tampines Eco Green, adult female, morning	Tan Eng Boo

8. Black Kite *Milvus migrans* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
12	1	Pulau Ubin, juvenile chased by a Brahminy Kite	Wang HM

9. Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
12	1	Kent Ridge Park, adult, photographed, soaring with a Brahminy Kite	Nathan Johnson

10. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (5)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
4	1	Pulau Ubin, juvenile	Andrew Chow
7	1	Singtel ComCentre, Exeter Road, roof top, morning	Tom Wilson
10	1	Pulau Ubin, juvenile	Wang HM
17	1	Jelutong Tower, <i>ernesti</i> subspecies "entirely black head", morning	Lim Hong Yao
17	1	Jelutong Tower, <i>ernesti</i> subspecies, morning	Goh Cheng Teng
21	1	One North, 2nd record at this locality, afternoon	Alan OwYong
25	1	Kranji Marshes	Yap Wee Jin

11. Oriental Scops Owl *Otus sunia* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
14	1	Mimosa Walk, grey morph photographed	Heather Goessel

Resident raptors

12. Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* (8)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
9	2	Seletar Aerospace Drive	Oliver Tan
17	1	Tampines Eco Green	Martin Kennewell
18	1	Lorong Halus	Tan Kok Hui
25	4	Kranji Marshes	Tanvi DG

13. Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus* (5)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1	1	Coney Island	Felix Chan
4	2	Lorong Halus	Felix Chan
10	1	Pulau Ubin	Wang HM
12	1	Pulau Ubin, juvenile chasing a Black Kite	Wang HM
12	1	Kent Ridge Park, adult, photographed, soaring with a Common Buzzard	Nathan Johnson
20	1	Pan Island Expressway near Eng Neo exit	Henrietta Woo
23	1	Pasir Ris Park	Kerry Pereira

14. White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* (7)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1	1	Coney Island	Felix Chan
1	1	Punggol Promenade	Felix Chan
3	4	Lorong Halus, 1 juvenile, morning	Felix Chan
4	3	Lorong Halus	Felix Chan
14	1	Potong Pasir, adult	Ong Sy
16	1	Hume Avenue, adult, heard and seen, 10am	Ulf Remahl
21	1	Potong Pasir, adult	Michael Phua
23	1	Potong Pasir, adult	Michael Phua
27	1	Changi Business Park, juvenile	Ramesh Thiruvengadam

15. Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus ichthyaeus* (7)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
4	1	Kranji Marshes, adult, mobbed by Large-billed Crow	Adrian Silas Tay
4	1	Lorong Halus	Felix Chan
8	1	Botanic Gardens, Swan Lake, adult	Jeremiah Loei
9	2	Upper Seletar Reservoir, adults, 2pm	Veronica Foo
10	1	Pulau Ubin, adult	Wang MH
20	2	Pan Island Expressway near Eng Neo exit, 1 adult 1 sub-adult	Henrietta Woo
27	1	Little Guilin, adult, 10:20am	Ulf Remahl

16. Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus* (10)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1	1	Southern Ridges	Tay Kian Guan
3	1	Botanic Gardens, immature, caught a young clouded monitor	Lian Yee Ming
3	3	Botanic Gardens, a pair and their chick	Laurence Eu
4	2	Botanic Gardens, the chick fledged today, with its mother nearby	Laurence Eu
11	1	Henderson Waves	Tan Kok Hui
13	4	Ang Mo Kio, nesting pair with 2 chicks, nest fell from tree and chicks rescued. Eventually chicks reunited with parent birds. 1st chick fledged around 18th.	Khoo Meilin
13	1	Ang Mo Kio, female	Dean Tan
14	1	Labrador Park, juvenile	Roberta Cheok
14	3	Ang Mo Kio, a pair feeding sharing a prey, and a fledgling	Art Toh
15	1	Ang Mo Kio, 1 fledgling	Peter Lee
15	2	Ang Mo Kio, 1 adult, 1 fledgling	Michael Phua
16	1	Sentosa	Con Foley
19	2	Ang Mo Kio, 1 adult, 1 fledgling	Alex Fok
20	2	Ang Mo Kio, an adult feeding a fledgling	Kelvin Ng Cheng Kwan
22	1	Pasir Ris Park, immature	Alvin Seng
24	2	Botanic Gardens	Fadzrun A
28	1	Tampines Eco Green	Con Foley



Crested Goshawk with a young monitor lizard, Botanic Gardens, on 3 Feb 2018, by Lian Yee Ming.

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

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
4	1	Pulau Ubin	Tan Ju Lin
8	1	Kent Ridge Park	Francis Yap
12	1	Malcolm Park	Con Foley
16	1	MacRitchie	Yong Ding Li
23	1	Malcolm Park	Martin Kennewell
24	1	Malcolm Park	Tan Kok Hui

18. Changeable Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus cirrhatus* (7)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
3	1	Lorong Halus, dark morph, morning	Felix Chan
7	1	Satay by the Bay, immature pale morph	Micahel Phua
9	1	Botanic Gardens, adult pale morph	Alex Fok
14	1	Kranji Marshes, juvenile pale morph	Rosalind Koh
20	1	Pan Island Expressway near Eng Neo exit, adult pale morph	Henrietta Woo
24	1	Lorong Halus, 7:30-9:45am	Adrian Silas Tay
25	1	Windsor Nature Park, 10:54am	Henrietta Woo
27	1	Botanic Gardens, in flight with prey (waterhen)	Geoff Lim
28	1	Bukit Brown, dark morph	Thana Sinnathamby

19. Eastern Barn Owl *Tyto delicatula* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
19	1	Satay by the Bay	Deborah Friets

20. Buffy Fish Owl *Ketupa ketupu* (6)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
17	1	Venus Loop, evening	Art Toh
19	1	Ulu Pandan Park Connector, night	Nathan Johnson
26	3	SBWR, 1 pair and their fledged chick	Khoo Meilin
late	1	SBG, fledgling	Richard White

Compiled by Tan Gim Cheong

Note: The numbers in brackets beside the bird names indicates the total number seen for this month. Different 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 also thanks to Felix Chan, Michael Phua, Francis Yap and Lian Yee Ming for the use of their photos.