

Singapore Raptor Report Late Spring Migration, April-June 2022



*Oriental Honey Buzzards, immature (left) and a surprise adult male (right),
DFNP, 6 June 2022, by Siew Mun*

Summary:

Eight migrant raptor species were recorded during this period, compared with four in most other years. An adult male **Oriental Honey Buzzard** (OHB) *Pernis ptilorhyncus* on 6 June was a surprise, as the over-summering OHBs are usually second year immature birds. There were 22 records of OHB in April, 17 in May and 13 in June.

The only record for the **Black Baza** *Aviceda leuphotes* was a flock of 14 at Bukit Panjang on 2nd April. In some years, there are no records of this species after the month of March. There was also just one record of the **Chinese Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter soloensis* – at Jurong Lake Gardens on 8th April.

Fourteen **Japanese Sparrowhawks** *Accipiter gularis* were recorded between 2nd to 16th April, mostly singly. Five **Peregrine Falcons** *Falco peregrinus* were recorded, four between 2nd to 12th April, and one on 1st May. Small numbers of **Western Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* were also recorded between April to June.

An immature **Rufous-bellied Eagle** *Lophotriorchis kienerii* was recorded on 19th and 30th April, and 17th May at Upper Bukit Timah – Dairy Farm area. Lastly, a **Northern Boobook** *Ninox japonica* was measured, ringed and released by NParks at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve on 13 April.



Northern Boobook, SBWR, 13 April 2022, by Benjamin Lee

Sedentary Raptors

There were breeding records for two resident raptors. The **Crested Goshawks** *Accipiter trivirgatus* at Bukit Panjang Park were attending to two fledglings in April, and the pair at Pasir Ris Park was attending to one fledgling in May. At Kent Ridge Park in June, a pair was photographed as they mated. Prey items for the species noted during this period included junglefowl chick, rat and bat.

There were four nesting records for the **White-bellied Sea Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucogaster* between May to June. A nest at Admiralty Park held two chicks. The pair at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve bred again this season, producing two chicks. Unfortunately one chick became entangled with fishing line and hook, and died despite rescue efforts. In June, two chicks had already fledged from a nest at Ang Mo Kio, whereas the two chicks at Fort Canning have yet to fledge. Additionally, an adult was perched near a nest at Tanah Merah Coast Road (though it was not clear if the nest was active).



Peregrine Falcon, ernesti juvenile, showing rufous underparts which is not described in most books, SBWR, 26 June 2022, by Teo Chee Yong

A **Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus* of the resident *ernesti* race was recorded at SBWR on 26th June. The rufous underparts of the juvenile *ernesti* remains undescribed in most books. At Ulu Pandan, the **Grey-headed Fish Eagle** *Haliaeetus ichhyaetus* picked up a rat and a squirrel from the canal on 24th April.

The **Crested Serpent Eagle** *Spilornis cheela* was recorded at the Botanic Gardens, Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, Goldhill Avenue, Kent Ridge Park and Pulau Ubin. There were also records of the **Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*, **Changeable Hawk-Eagle** *Nisaetus cirrhatus* and **Brahminy Kite** *Haliastur indus*.



Brown Fish Owl, showing the fine horizontal markings on the underparts, Hindhede Nature Park, 26 May 2022, by Norhafiani A. Majid

Nocturnal Raptors

On 26th May, a few lucky birders spotted our one and only **Brown Fish Owl** *Ketupa zeylonensis* at Hindhede Nature Park during daylight hours. At NTU, a **Barred Eagle-Owl** *Bubo sumatranus* was seen during daylight hours on 12th and 23rd April.

Addendum

Additionally, there was a successful nesting of the **Changeable Hawk-Eagle** during this period at Dover East. The pair comprised a female pale morph and a male dark morph. Interestingly, the dark morph had pale morph type plumage on his left chest! The nest was discovered on 25th March and the pale morph eaglet fledged around 15th April, but was still dependent on the adults until early June.

1. Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2 Apr	1	TNP	Darren Leow
8 Apr	1	Kranji Marsh	Lim Kim Chuah
9 Apr	1	Seletar Dam	Tan Kok Hui
25 May	1	Ketam, Ubin	Joseph Lin
26 Jun	1	Bukit Batok	Hong Yijun

2. Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2 Apr	14	Bukit Panjang	Ho Kai Poh

3. Oriental Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2 Apr	1	BAMK Park	Lim Kim Seng
2 Apr	1	JLG, immature pale morph	Matthew Teng
2 Apr	1	Berlayer Creek	Sylvester Goh
2 Apr	1	PRP, immature pale morph	Amelia Choon
3 Apr	1	TEG	Tan Kok Hui
7 Apr	3	RRL	Chien N Lee
8 Apr	1	SBG	Anusha Kundargi
8 Apr	1	Goldhill Ave, immature pale morph	Steven Cheong
9 Apr	1	Bishan Street 13	Vincent Ng
10 Apr	1	JLG, immature pale morph female	Angie Cheong
10 Apr	1	Sentosa	Matthew Teng
12 Apr	1	NTU	Yip Jen Wei
14 Apr	1	Faber Walk	Benny Ng
18 Apr	1	SBTB, imm	Siew Mun
April	1	Ulu Pandan, immature pale morph female	Benny Ng
22 Apr	2	DFNP	Mike Hooper
24 Apr	1	HWL, immature dark morph	Amelia Choon
26 Apr	1	River Valley, immature dark morph	Marvin Hammond
29 Apr	1	CBP	Lim Kim Keang
1 May	1	DFNP	Chen Boon Chong
1 May	1	SBG	Alan Tan
3 May	1	Ubin	Mike Hooper

6 May	1	Changi Bay Point	Norhafiani A. Majid
7 May	1	Ubi Ave 1	Low Zhi Hao
9 May	1	SBG	Yip Jen Wei
12 May	1	SBWR	Vincent Ng
14 May	1	Malcolm Road, immature pale morph female	Sc Tan
15 May	1	Lorong Halus	Wai Heng Lua
16 May	2	Lorong Halus	Lim Kim Seng
17 May	1	PRP, imm	Alvin Seng
May	1	Bedok Reservoir, immature pale morph female	Wang HM
22 May	1	DFNP	Brad R.
26 May	2	Rail Corridor, adult and juvenile <i>torquatus</i>	Yong Ding Li
28 May	1	Serangoon PCN, immature pale morph female	Tan Gim Cheong
28 May	1	SBWR	Kaeden Sim
29 May	1	BAMK Park	Jun Ze Ong
1 Jun	1	BTNR	Yip Jen Wei
5 Jun	2	DFNP	Jonathan Lin
5 Jun	2	Lorong Halus	Yuh Woei Chong
6 Jun	2	DFNP, adult male PM, immature pale morph	Siew Mun
9 Jun	1	DFNP, immature pale morph	Siew Mun
18 Jun	1	Lorong Halus, immature dark morph female	Feroz
21 Jun	1	Windsor NP	Joshua Chong
23 Jun	1	Mount Sinai Rise	Julie Edgley
25 Jun	1	PRP, immature pale morph female	Ted Kiku
26 Jun	1	Ulu Pandan	Virendra Goswami



Oriental Honey Buzzard, immature female, Serangoon PCN, 28 May 2022, by Tan Gim Cheong.

4. Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2 Apr	1	Berlayer Creek, female	Tan Kok Hui
2 Apr	1	KM	Martti Siponen
2 Apr	3	TNP, at least 1 female	Darren Leow
8 Apr	1	Jelutong Tower	Vincent Ng
8 Apr	1	KM	Lim Kim Chuah
9 Apr	1	KM, female	Chen Boon Chong
10 Apr	1	JLG	Martti Siponen
10 Apr	1	CBP, male	Ramesh T.
12 Apr	1	Jelutong Tower, male	Vincent Ng
13 Apr	1	RRL	Chien N Lee
15 Apr	1	JLG	Ray Ng
16 Apr	1	JLG	Chan Mei Yee



Japanese Sparrowhawk, adult female, Kranji Marsh, 9 April 2022, by Chen Boon Chong

5. Chinese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter soloensis*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
8 Apr	1	JLG	Kaeden Sim, Anusha Kundargi

6. Rufous-bellied Eagle *Lophotriorchis kienerii*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
19 Apr	1	Upper Bukit Timah Road, immature	Benjamin Lee
30 Apr	1	DFNP, immature	Lee Zhi Heng
17 May	1	DFNP, immature	Vincent Yip, Siew Mun

7. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2 Apr	1	JLG, migrant adult	Matthew Teng
10 Apr	1	Marina East	Mike Hooper
10 Apr	1	DFNP, migrant adult	Siew Mun
11 Apr	1	Turut Track, migrant adult	Tok Sock Ling
12 Apr	1	Tuas South Ave 9	Martti Siponen
1 May	1	SBG	Alan Tan
26 Jun	1	SBWR, juvenile, ernesti	Teo Chee Yong

8. Northern Boobook *Ninox japonica*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
13 Apr	1	SBWR, measured, ringed, and released by NParks	Benjamin Lee

Resident Raptors

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
April	1	Turut Track, juvenile	Soumen Mondal
8 Apr	2	Kranji Marsh	Lim Kim Chuah
19 Apr	4	Tuas South Avenue 9	Marti Siponen
23 Apr	1	Ubin	Mike Hooper
24 Apr	1	Marina East	Matthew Teng

1 May	1	SBG	Alan Tan
1 May	1	Marina East	Oliver Tan
25 May	2	NTHL	Chien N Lee

5 Jun	1	Central Boulevard	Yip Jen Wei
19 Jun	2	Tuas South, 1 juvenile	Wai Heng Lua
26 Jun	1	NTHL	Chien N Lee

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
		-- common raptor --	

White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
		-- common raptor --	
4 May	4	Admiralty Park, nest with 2 chicks, 2 adults	Tan Boon Tiong
14 May	2	SBWR, 2 chicks on nest , 1 chick entangled by fishing line	David Tan
16 May	1	SBWR, 1 chick that was dangling from nest (entangled by fishing line and with fishing hook embedded on beak) broke free and fell to the ground, sent to vet but died on 21 May	Zi Shan Kow
30 May	1	Tanah Merah Coast Road, adult perched near nest	Michael C.
18 Jun	2	Fort Canning, 2 chicks on nest	Jeremiah Loei
21 Jun	4	Ang Mo Kio, 2 chicks already fledged from nest	Zulfika

Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus ichthyaeus*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2 Apr	2	Little Guilin, 6pm	Ulf Remahl
24 Apr	1	Ulu Pandan, adult, picked up a rat from the water	SB Lim
24 Apr	1	Ulu Pandan, adult, picked up a squirrel from the water	Teo Chee Yong
14 May	1	DFNP, adult	Siew Mun
24 May	1	Ulu Pandan, adult	SB Lim
29 May	1	DFNP, adult	Siew Mun
12 Jun	1	Ulu Pandan, adult	Andrew Hunt, SB Lim

Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
7 Apr	3	Bukit Panjang Park	Tim S
10 Apr	1	Dover Road	Vincent Ng
12 Apr	1	Mandai	Aaron Ching
24 Apr	3	Bukit Panjang Park, 2 juveniles	Lyndon Gan
26 Apr	1	Goldhill Ave	Larry Lim
2 May	1	Sentosa	John Marriott
2 May	1	SBG, male feeding on a junglefowl chick	Evelyn Lee
16 May	1	PRP, chick on nest	Andy Tonge
18 May	3	PRP, 2 adults, 1 fledgling	Alvin Seng
22 May	1	Goldhill Ave	Joshua Chong
26 May	1	Jurong West, immature	Philip Toh
29 May	1	Jurong West, immature feeding on a rat	Philip Toh
30 May	1	Jurong West, immature feeding on a rat	Philip Toh
1 Jun	1	Hillcrest Road	M. Tay
4 Jun	1	SBWR, immature	Brenda Chua LH
7 Jun	1	Jurong West, immature caught a bat	Philip Toh
7 Jun	1	NUS	Ethan Gyllenhaal
12 Jun	2	KRP, mating recorded	Yuh Woei Chong
13 Jun	2	Gillman, 1 adult, 1 juvenile	Wai Heng Lua
13 Jun	1	TBHP, juvenile	Wai Heng Lua
18 Jun	1	GBTB	Ishaan Shrimali

Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
10 Apr	1	SBG	Kaeden Sim, Joshua Chong
13 Apr	1	Goldhill Ave	Jared Tan
22 Apr	1	Goldhill Ave, adult	Herman Phua
23 Apr	1	Ubin, adult	Benjamin Lee
28 Apr	1	KRP, adult	Tay Kian Guan
30 Apr	1	SBWR	Chien N Lee
9 Jun	1	SBWR	Joshua Chong

Changeable Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus cirrhatus*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
3 Apr	1	Sembawang, pale morph	Keith Hutton
8 Apr	1	RRL, juvenile pale morph	Herman Phua
23 Apr	1	Goldhill Ave, pale morph	Zhang Licong
24 Apr	1	PRP, dark morph	Darren Leow
Apr	1	Bedok Reservoir, adult pale morph	Wang HM
25 Apr	1	CBP, adult pale morph	SB Lim
10 May	1	PRP, dark morph	Alvin Seng
May	1	Changi Bay, pale morph	Herman Phua
14 May	1	SBG, dark morph	Siew Mun
14 May	1	Malcolm Road, juvenile pale morph	Sc Tan
May	1	Bedok Reservoir, juvenile pale morph	Wang HM
20 May	1	DFNP, juvenile pale morph	Siew Mun
1 Jun	1	DFNP, pale morph	Siew Mun
18 Jun	1	SBWR, pale morph	Siew Mun
June	1	Bedok Reservoir, juvenile pale morph	Wang HM
Apr-Jun	3	Dover Forest East, the pair comprised a female pale morph and a male dark morph. Interestingly, the dark morph had pale morph type plumage on his left chest! The nest was discovered on 25th March and the pale morph eaglet fledged around 15th April, but was still dependent on the adults until early June.	Chng Eng Keong

Nocturnal Raptors

Barred Eagle-Owl *Bubo sumatranus*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
12 Apr	1	NTU	Mellissa Tawin
23 Apr	1	NTU	Wai Heng Lua

Brown Fish Owl *Ketupa zeylonensis*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
26 May	1	Hindhede Nature Park	Norhafiani A. Majid, Jared Tan

Abbreviations

- BAMK – Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park
- BTNR – Bukit Timah Nature Reserve
- CBD – Central Business District
- CBP – Changi Business Park
- DFNP – Dairy Farm Nature Park
- GBTB – Gardens by the Bay
- JLG – Jurong Lake Gardens
- HWL – Hampstead Wetlands
- KM – Kranji Marsh
- KRP – Kent Ridge Park
- MED – Marina East Drive
- NTHL – Neo Tiew Harvest Lane
- NTU – Nanyang Technological University
- PRP – Pasir Ris Park
- RRL – Rifle Range Link
- SBG – Singapore Botanic Gardens
- SBTB – Satay by the Bay
- SBWR – Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve
- TBHP – Telok Blangah Hill Park
- TEG – Tampines Eco Green
- TNP – Thomson Nature Park
- WCP – West Coast Park

Compiled by TAN Gim Cheong

For the resident raptors, only selected records of interest are collated here.

Many thanks to everyone for posting / sending in / sharing their records, and to Siew Mun, Benjamin Lee, Teo Chee Yong, Norhafiani A. Majid and Chen Boon Chong for the use of their photos.