

## Singapore Raptor Report

### Late Spring Migration, April-June 2016



*A rare photo of an adult and a young White-bellied Sea Eagle "cartwheeling" over Sentosa, 21 Jun 16, by James Tann.*

#### **Summary:**

On 21st June, James Tann captured a rare series of photos of two talon-locked **White-bellied Sea Eagles** 'cartwheeling' through the air over Sentosa. Some books described this as 'talon-grappling' and 'tumbling'. Interestingly, an adult and a young eagle was involved in this instance whereas this behaviour is usually attributed to mated pairs but only mature adults have been known to form breeding pairs.

Now, for the migrants. Five migrant raptor species were recorded in the April to June period. Four of them - the Osprey, Oriental Honey-buzzard, Japanese Sparrowhawk and Peregrine Falcon were also recorded during last year's late spring migration. The notable addition this year was the **Rufous-bellied Eagle**: a juvenile was photographed at Lorong Sesuai on 23 April enjoying a meal.

Of the 14 *orientalis* **Oriental Honey Buzzards** recorded, 11 were juveniles (there were 10 in the same period last year), one was an adult female while the remaining two were not aged. Most of the juveniles were moulting their flight feathers (most were showing new P1 & P2,

counting from the inside). It is worth mentioning again that juveniles are known to 'over-summer' in the tropics.

Only one **Japanese Sparrowhawk**, an adult female, was recorded on 2nd April. Two **Ospreys** were recorded at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve in Apr and May, but none in June; elsewhere, there was a record at Singapore Quarry in Apr and another record at Seletar Dam in May.

Two **Peregrine Falcons** were recorded in April - one at Pulau Ubin on 8th and another at Chinatown on 21st. An *ernesti* Peregrine Falcon returned to its usual haunt at the rooftop of buildings at Church Street on 26 May and a juvenile, likely also *ernesti*, flew over Punggol Barat on 15 June.

Back to the resident raptors. The usually encountered resident raptors were all present (see the table of records below). Notable records included the locally rare **Crested Serpent Eagle** which was recorded thrice in April (Kent Ridge Park, Ubin & Bidadari), twice in May (Sungei Tengah & Malcolm Road), and once in June (Chancery Lane).

Also, April to June was a good quarter for the **Crested Goshawks** - in April, two juveniles were photographed at the leafy compounds of the Singapore Zoo and an adult male was seen collecting twigs at the Southern Ridges where two nest structures were seen; in May, the species was recorded at the Botanic Gardens and Bishan; and in June, a total of four juveniles from two different nests were recorded at the Botanic Gardens.



*Peregrine Falcon, likely a juvenile ernesti,  
Pulau Punggol Barat, 23 April 16, by Lee Tiah Khee*

### **1. Osprey *Pandion haliaetus***

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
2 Apr	2	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Huang Zhenjie & Leslie Loh
4 Apr	2	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Leslie Loh
16 Apr	1	Singapore Quarry	KC Ling
1 May	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, morning	Dean Tan
6 May	1	Seletar Dam	Zacc HD
9 May	1	Kranji Marsh, morning	Tan Eng Boo
9 May	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, morning	Cindy Yeo
22 May	1	Kranji Marsh, morning	Wong Chung Cheong
23 May	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, 6:40pm	Cindy Yeo

### **2. Oriental Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus (orientalis ssp for all records)***

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
17 Apr	1	Buona Vista, juvenile pale morph	Alan OwYong
21 Apr	1	Bukit Batok East Avenue 3, juvenile pale morph, perched on rooftop antenna, 6:47pm	Kwa Kee Lang
20 Apr	1	Bidadari	Leslie Loh
30 Apr	2	Tuas, 1 was a juvenile dark morph with 2 new primaries (P1 &P2) on right wing	K C Ling
6 May	1	Lorong Halus, juvenile pale morph with 2 new primaries (P1 & P2) on each wing	Tan Eng Boo
7 May	1	St John's Island, juvenile pale morph with 2 new primaries (P1 & P2) on each wing	Nicholas Tan
14 May	2	Bidadari, 1 female pale morph, 1 juvenile dark morph	Jamez Sicarius
20 May	2	Jelutong Tower, Central Catchment Forest, 1 juvenile pale morph with many newly moulted flight feathers, 1 juvenile dark morph that lost P1 on both wings, 9:15am	Francis Yap
22 May	1	Jurong Eco Garden, juvenile pale morph with active moult of flight feathers	Cindy Yeo
11 Jun	1	Satay by the Bay, juvenile pale morph with active moult in primaries and tail feathers	Andrew Tan
12 Jun	1	Pulau Ubin, juvenile pale morph with active moult in primaries and tail feathers, morning	Lim Kim Chuah

### **3. Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis***

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
2 Apr	1	Bukit Brown, adult female	Leslie Fung

### **4. Rufous-bellied Eagle *Lophotriorchis kienerii***

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
23 Apr	1	Lorong Sesuai, juvenile, photographed	Art Toh

### **5. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus***

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
8 Apr	1	Pekan Quarry	Jacky Soh
21 Apr	1	Chinatown	Geoff Lim
26 May	1	Church Street, <i>ernesti</i>	Lee Ee Ling
15 Jun	1	Punggol Barat, probably <i>ernesti</i>	Leslie Fung
15 Jun	1	Punggol Barat, probably <i>ernesti</i>	Lee Tiah Khee

### **Resident Raptors**

#### **Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus***

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
22 May	1	Kranji Marsh, morning	Wong Chung Cheong
23 May	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, afternoon	Cindy Yeo
18 Jun	2	Kranji Marsh	Wong Chung Cheong
19 Jun	1	Lim Chu Kang	Leslie Loh

#### **Brahminy Kite *Haliastur Indus***

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
3 Apr	1	ITE West, 9:45am	Steven Chong
9 Apr	1	West Coast Road, flying with a twig, 12:12pm	Jaime Tan
10 Apr	1	West Coast Road	Jaime Tan
14 Apr	2	Pulau Ubin Jetty, 10:44am	Kerry Pereira
18 Apr	1	Sungei Serangoon, 6:21pm	Kerry Pereira
9 May	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, juvenile, morning	Cindy Yeo
16 May	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, juvenile	Loke Peng Fai
22 May	1	Kranji Marsh, morning	Wong Chung Cheong
22 May	1	Marsh Garden, West Coast Park, adult, afternoon	Jaime Tan
29 May	1	Changi Village, juvenile	Raphael Siah
13 Jun	1	Punggol Point	Yap Euhian
18 Jun	1	Kranji Marsh, juvenile	Wong Chung Cheong

#### **White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster***

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
2 Apr	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, adult	Howard Yap
6 Apr	2	Punggol Waterway Woodcress Estate, 2:56pm	Kerry Pereira
6 Apr	2	Punggol Waterway Park Sandpit, 6:52pm	Kerry Pereira
9 Apr	1	West Coast Road, sub-adult, 11:47am	Jaime Tan
10 Apr	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, adult, morning	Benson Brighton

10 Apr	1	Marina Bay Sands, 9:25am	Kerry Pereira
10 Apr	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, adult	Howard Yap
10 Apr	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, adult	Benson Brighton
12 Apr	2	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Raphael Siah
13 Apr	1	Central Catchment	Timothy Chua Jia Yao
14 Apr	2	Pulau Ubin Jetty, 11am	Kerry Pereira
16 Apr	1	Art Science Museum, 5:45pm	Kerry Pereira
18 Apr	1	Sungei Serangoon, 6:21pm	Kerry Pereira
20 Apr	2	Punggol Waterway Woodcress Estate, 4:33pm	Sarah Martens
8 May	1	Chinese Gardens, adult	Howard Yap
9 May	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, morning	Cindy Yeo
22 May	1	Kranji Marsh, morning	Wong Chung Cheong
2 Jun	1	Changi Point, adult with fish	James Tann
10 Jun	2	Punggol Promenade Riverside Walk, 4:25pm & 4:51pm (darker individual)	Sarah Martens
12 Jun	2	Dairy Farm	Yap Euhian
18 Jun	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Kingsley Phang
19 Jun	1	Changi Point Coastal Walk, juvenile, 5:30pm	Benjamin Tay
21 Jun	2	Sentosa, 1 adult & 1 young bird 'cartwheeling' - tumbling in the air with talons locked	James Tann

**Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus ichthyaeetus***

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
12 Apr	1	Botanic Gardens, adult, 9:07am	Danny Khoo
16 Apr	1	Bukit Batok Town Park (Little Guilin), adult, morning	Ulf Remahl
16 Apr	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, adult	Lim Kim Seng
16 Apr	2	Neo Tiew Lane	Zahidi Hamid
17 Apr	1	Botanic Gardens, adult	Zhang Licong
5 May	1	MacRitchie Reservoir, adult	Lim Kim Seng
9 May	1	Botanic Gardens, adult, 11:30am	GaoJian LiuJia
13 May	1	Botanic Gardens, adult, morning	Tony Chua
22 May	1	Kranji Marsh, morning	Wong Chung Cheong
29 May	1	Pulau Ubin, aub-adult	Mahesh Krishnan
4 Jun	1	Pulau Ubin	Lim Kim Chuah
5 Jun	2	Noordin Beach, Pulau Ubin, 8am	Doreen Ang & Peng Ah Huay
11 Jun	1	Pulau Ubin, perched on bald tree near lotus pond along Sensory Trail, 11:38am	Kerry Pereira
11 Jun	1	Pulau Ubin, perched on bald tree near lotus pond along Sensory Trail, 10:24am	Kerry Pereira
20 Jun	1	Sungei Seletar, adult	Paul Thong
22 Jun	2	Pulau Ubin Pekan Quarry	Lim Kim Seng

**Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela***

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1 Apr	1	Kent Ridge Park	Keita Sin
4 Apr	1	Pulau Ubin	Amanda Tay
8 Apr	1	Bidadari, adult, afternoon, photographed	Lim Khee Ming
9 May	2	Sungei Tengah	Ng Bee Choo
21 May	1	Malcolm Road / Goldhill Avenue, adult, photographed, 11:20am	Lim Kim Keang
4 Jun	1	Chancery Lane (near Malcolm Road), adult, photographed	Jan Roberts

**Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus***

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
26 Apr	2	Singapore Zoo, 2 juveniles, 1 with a rat	Jamez Sicarius
30 Apr	2	Southern Ridges, 1 adult male seen carrying twigs, 2 nest structures seen.	Michelle Chun
4 May	1	Botanic Gardens, adult	Richard White
4 May	1	Bishan, adult	Adrian Silas Tay
8 Jun	1	Botanic Gardens, 1 chick at nest	See Toh Yew Wai
14 Jun	1	Botanic Gardens	Paul Thong
14 Jun	1	Botanic Gardens	Richard White
18 Jun	3	Botanic Gardens, 1 adult & 2 recently fledged juveniles near nest	Laurence Eu
19 Jun	4	Botanic Gardens, the 2 juveniles above and another 2 chicks at another nest near Botany Centre.	Alan OwYong

**Changeable Hawk-eagle *Nisaetus cirrhatus***

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
4 Apr	1	Mount Faber, juvenile pale morph	Tony Chua
5 Apr	1	Central Catchment	Timothy Chua Jia Yao
11 Apr	1	Bidadari, dark morph mobbed by 2 Mynas	Benson Brighton
13 Apr	1	Central Catchment, dark morph	Timothy Chua Jia Yao
18 Apr	1	Sungei Serangoon, dark morph, 6:51pm	Kerry Pereira
19 Apr	1	Bidadari, juvenile pale morph	Ted Lee
20 Apr	1	Kranji Marsh, dark morph, 5:30pm	Stephen Beng
29 Apr	1	Gymkhana Avenue, dark morph, morning	Zahidi Hamid
6 May	1	Kranji Marshes, dark morph, noon	Laurence Eu
7 May	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, pale morph	Mark J. Oei
9 May	1	Punggol Barat, juvenile pale morph	Laurence Eu
9 May	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, pale morph, morning	Cindy Yeo
22 May	1	Kranji Marsh, pale morph, morning	Wong Chung Cheong
28 May	1	Choa Chu Kang Park, 6:17pm	Cheong Shu Min

### **Unidentified Raptors**

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
12 Apr	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, suspect Changeable Hawk-eagle	Raphael Siah
12 Apr	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, suspect Oriental Honey Buzzard	Raphael Siah

*Compiled by TAN Gim Cheong*

*Many thanks to everyone for sending in / sharing their records; and to Lee Tiah Khee and James Tann for the use of their photos.*