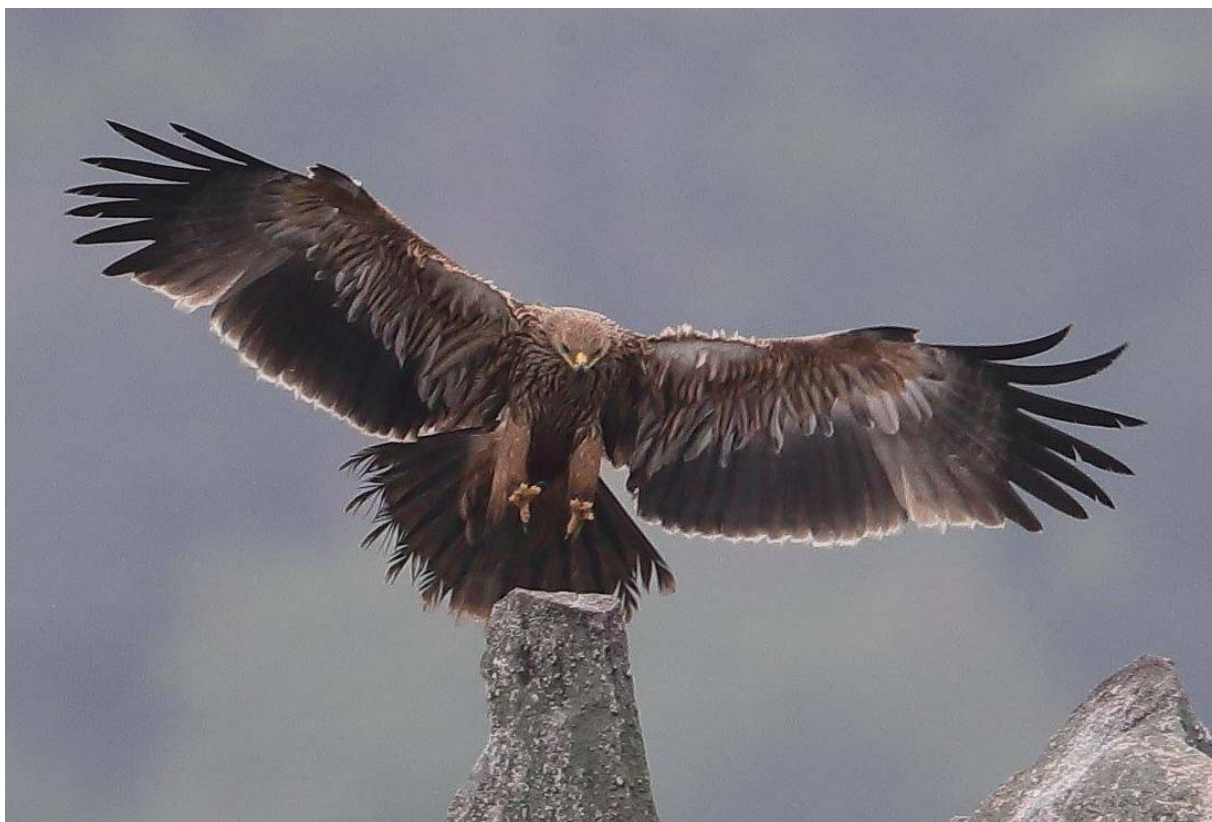


Singapore Raptor Report Autumn Migration, December 2016



Eastern Imperial Eagle, juvenile, Pulau Ubin, 28 Dec 2016, by Robin Tan

Summary for migrant species:

An uncommon **Grey-faced Buzzard** (adult) photographed by Thio Hui Bing on the 1st on Pulau Ubin after rain was a good start for the month. The next day, on the 2nd, two rare raptors showed up: a grey morph **Oriental Scops Owl** photographed by Gavan Leong in the daytime, also on Pulau Ubin and a juvenile **Black Kite** photographed by Francis Yap at Jelutong Tower.

Not to be outdone, a very rare **Amur Falcon** was photographed by Yip Peng Sun at Yishun Dam on the morning of the 16th - this being the second record for Singapore since the first occurrence on 21 Nov 2007. The streak of rarities culminated with a juvenile **Imperial Eagle**, again on Pulau Ubin. The last record being on 18 Nov 2001, 15 years ago. First photographed on the 19th, the Imperial Eagle was relocated on the 27th at the same spot and appeared there everyday till the 31st, giving birders here a great opportunity to see this rarity. A juvenile Imperial Eagle photographed on the 24th at the eastern part of Singapore main island was most likely the same individual. As is the case with migrant eagles, this individual was occasionally mobbed by resident House Crows and Brahminy Kites.

A dark morph **Booted Eagle** was still wintering at Pulau Punggol Barat and the nearby areas, being recorded on the 3rd, 10th, 17th and 26th. Two **Ospreys** were recorded around the usual areas near the northern coast of Singapore. For the *Accipiters*, six **Japanese Sparrowhawks** were recorded, but none for the Chinese Sparrowhawk. Five **Peregrine Falcons** (3 juveniles, 1 adult, 1 un-aged) were recorded around the island, quite a good number for this uncommon species.

A total of 36 **Black Bazas** were recorded on the northern areas from Sungei Buloh to Pasir Ris, the largest flock being 15-strong at Punggol Barat. For the **Oriental Honey Buzzard**, 45 were recorded, the largest flock comprised 11 birds at Sungei Buloh on the 3rd, probably on migration. On the 15th, there was a sight report of a juvenile Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle, which cannot be verified due to the possibility of confusion with other similar-looking species.



Amur Falcon, Yishun Dam, 16 Dec 2016, by Yip Peng Sun

Highlights for sedentary species:

By the 22nd, the **Grey-headed Fish Eagle** chick on the nest at Little Guilin had fledged - another successful nesting for the species at the same locality. Other records of this fish eagle came from Kranji Marshes (on 10th & 26th) and Pulau Ubin (on 15th & 29th).

The **Crested Goshawk** was recorded from the Botanic Gardens (adult on 3rd & 13th), West Coast Park (juvenile on 7th & 20th) and Sengkang Floating Wetlands (juvenile on 17th). There were 2 *torquatus* **Oriental Honey Buzzards**; the adult tweeddale morph recorded at Pasir Ris Park the previous month was still around on the 10th, 17th and 21st, while a juvenile tweeddale morph first recorded last month at Ang Mo Kio was photographed at the nearby Bishan Park on the 24th and 25th.

For the **Changeable Hawk-Eagle**, it was notable that nesting was observed at Mount Faber on the 20th. The **White-bellied Sea Eagle**, **Brahminy Kite**, and **Black-winged Kite** completed the roundup for the month.



White-bellied Sea Eagle, immature, Pulau Ubin, 27 Dec 2016, by Tan Gim Cheong

Table 1

S/N	Species	No.	S/N	Species	No.
1	Osprey	2		<i>Residents / Sedentary Species</i>	
2	Black Baza	36	13	Black-winged Kite	5
3	Oriental Honey Buzzard	45	14	Brahminy Kite	24
4	Black Kite	1	15	White-bellied Sea Eagle	11
5	Japanese Sparrowhawk	6	16	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	6
6	Grey-faced Buzzard	1	17	Crested Goshawk	3
7	Eastern Imperial Eagle	1	18	Changeable Hawk-Eagle	9
8	Booted Eagle	1			
9	<i>Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle</i>	(1)			
10	Peregrine Falcon	5		<i>Unidentified</i>	
11	Amur Falcon	1	19	Unidentified <i>Accipiters</i>	1
12	Oriental Scops Owl	1			
Total for Migrants		100	Grand Total		159

1. Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (2)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
3	1	Neo Tiew Lane 3	Lau Jia Sheng
10	1	Kranji Marshes, afternoon	Jacky Soh
14	1	Yishun Dam	Zacc HD

2. Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes* (36)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
3	2	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng, Tan Kok Hui
3	5	Neo Tiew Lane 3	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng, Tan Kok Hui
3	1	Punggol Barat	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng, Tan Kok Hui
3	1	Pasir Ris Park	Soe Hlaing
7	2	Kranji Marshes	Tan Gim Cheong
10	13	Kranji Marshes, afternoon	Jacky Soh
17	1	Pasir Ris Park	Wang Wee Woan
20	15	Ponggol Barat, 6pm	Joseph Tan Kok Beng
25	1	Tampines Eco Green	Ong Siew See
26	2	Kranji Marshes	Doreen Ang, Peng Ah Huay, Ian & Freda Rickword, Nessie Khoo

3. Oriental Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus* (45) *orientalis* unless indicated otherwise

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
3	11	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng, Tan Kok Hui
7	2	West Coast Park, adult male pale morph and juvenile dark morph	Laurence Eu
7	2	Sentosa, juveniles	Alan OwYong
7	1	Kranji Marshes	Tan Gim Cheong
8	1	Bidadari	Tan Gim Cheong
9	2	Avon Park, juveniles, late morning	Alan OwYong
10	1	Mount Faber	Alan OwYong
10	2	Kranji Marshes, afternoon	Jacky Soh
10	2	Punggol Promendae, 6:16pm	Kerry Pereira
10	1	Pasir Ris Park, adult male <i>torquatus</i> tweeddale morph	Peter Pak
11	1	Seletar, juvenile pale morph, morning	Francis Yap

11	1	Kranji Marshes, juvenile	Zhang Licong
12	1	Nee Soon Camp, 7:16am	Gavan Leong
12	1	Kranji Marshes	Yap Euhian
15	1	Kaki Bukit, 11:10am	Yong Jun Zer
17	1	Pasir Ris Park, adult male <i>torquatus</i> tweeddale morph	Wang Wee Woan
17	1	Labrador Park, juvenile pale morph	Ros Qian
17	2	Bidadari, 1 adult male, 1 juvenile, pale morphs	Henrietta Woo
18	1	Bishan Park, juvenile <i>torquatus</i> tweeddale morph	Wong Sang Chin
19	1	Central Forests	Tan Gim Cheong
19	1	Yio Chu Kang, morning	Johnny Wee
20	1	Mount Faber	Laurence Eu
21	1	Pasir Ris Park, adult male <i>torquatus</i> tweeddale morph	Alvin Seng
23	1	Bishan Park	Laurence Eu
24	1	Bishan Park, juvenile <i>torquatus</i> tweeddale morph	Wong Sang Chin
25	1	Yio Chu Kang, juvenile, morning	Edmund Teo Wei Pin
25	1	Bishan Park, juvenile <i>torquatus</i> tweeddale morph	Kennie Goh
26	2	Lorong Halus	Francis Yap
26	3	Bishan Park, morning	Shirley Ng
27	1	Tanjong Rhu Road, male, 8:30am	Atish Bannerjee
31	1	Satay by the Bay, adult male, morning	Siew Mun
--	1	Chinese Garden	Loke Peng Fai

4. Black Kite *Milvus migrans* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2	1	Jelutong Tower, Central Catchment, juvenile	Francis Yap

5. Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis* (6)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
4	1	Pasir Ris Park, adult male	Adrian Silas Tay
10	1	Dairy Farm, adult female	Tan Ting Huang
10	1	Kranji Marshes, afternoon	Jacky Soh
18	1	Yishun Dam	Dawn Birding
25	1	Sengkang Riverside Park	Zhang Licong
25	1	Sengkang Floating Wetlands, juvenile	Keita Sin

6. Grey-faced Buzzard *Butastur indicus* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1	1	Pulau Ubin	Thio Hui Bing



Grey-faced Buzzard, Pulau Ubin, 1 Dec 2016, by Thio Hui Bing

7. Eastern Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
19	1	Pulau Sekudu, Pulau Ubin, juvenile	Lim Kim Seng
24	1	Eastern mainland Singapore, juvenile, mobbed by House Crows and Brahminy Kite	Muller Luqman
27	1	Pulau Sekudu, Pulau Ubin, juvenile, mobbed by House Crows	Tan Gim Cheong
28	1	Pulau Sekudu, Pulau Ubin, juvenile	Willie Foo
29	1	Pulau Sekudu, Pulau Ubin, juvenile, mobbed by House Crows	Tan Gim Cheong
30	1	Pulau Sekudu, Pulau Ubin, juvenile	Angeline Yeo
31	1	Pulau Sekudu, Pulau Ubin, juvenile	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau



Eastern Imperial Eagle, juvenile, Pulau Ubin, 28 Dec 2016, by Frankie Cheong

8. Booted Eagle *Hieraetus pennatus* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
3	1	Punggol Barat, dark morph	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng, Tan Kok Hui
10	1	Punggol Barat, dark morph	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng, Tan Kok Hui, Con Foley
17	1	Punggol Barat, dark morph	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng, Tan Kok Hui
26	1	Lorong Halus, dark morph	Francis Yap

9. Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle *Lophotriorchis kienerii* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
15	1	Ketam Quarry, Pulau Ubin, juvenile, morning <i>Unconfirmed report. The possibility of confusion with other similar-looking species cannot be ruled out.</i>	Alan OwYong

10. Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
16	1	Seletar Dam (Yishun Dam), photographed, morning	Yip Peng Sun

11. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (5)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
7	1	Kranji Marshes, juvenile	Tan Gim Cheong
16	1	Khoo Teck Puat Hospital, juvenile, 5:30pm	Freddy Chew
18	1	Clementi Sports Hall	Kristie Yeong
22	1	Changi Airport Freight Centre, adult	Priscilla Yeo
30	1	Pulau Ubin, juvenile	Dean Tan

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

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2	1	Pulau Ubin	Gavan Leong

Resident raptors**13. Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* (5)**

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
3	1	Singapore, eating a rat, on a roof top antenna	Timothy Chua
3	1	Punggol Barat	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng, Tan Kok Hui
10	1	Kranji Marshes, afternoon	Jacky Soh
12	2	Punggol Barat, afternoon	Alan Tang
26	1	Kranji Marshes	Doreen Ang, Peng Ah Huay, Ian & Freda Rickword, Nessie Khoo

14. Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus* (24)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2	1	West Coast Park, adult, 6:01pm	Jaime Tan
3	2	Punggol Barat	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng, Tan Kok Hui
7	4	West Coast Park, 2 adults and 2 chicks on nest	Laurence Eu
10	1	Gardens by the Bay, 8:18am	Jaime Tan
10	2	Kranji Marshes, afternoon	Jacky Soh
10	1	Punggol SAFRA, 5:32pm	Kerry Pereira

12	2	Kranji Marshes, adults mating	Yap Euhian
12	1	Woodlands, 6:30pm	Yong Jun Zer
17	1	Kent Ridge Park, 6:11pm	Jaime Tan
18	2	West Coast Park, morning	Jaime Tan
20	3	West Coast Park, 2 adults and 1 chick on nest	Laurence Eu
20	1	Mount Faber	Laurence Eu
20	1	Rail Corridor south of Gombak Drive, adult, just before noon	Ulf Remahl
22	2	Bukit Batok Town Park (Little Guilin), seen carrying small dead branch in the direction of Gombak Stadium.	Ulf Remahl
23	1	Lorong Halus, 11:20am	Jaime Tan
25	1	West Coast Park, morning	Jaime Tan
26	4	Kranji Marshes, 1 individual carrying nesting materials	Doreen Ang, Peng Ah Huay, Ian & Freda Rickword, Nessie Khoo
29	1	Pulau Ubin, adult with giant locust in talons	Zhang Licong
30	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, juvenile	Elvin Tan
31	1	Kent Ridge Park, morning	Jaime Tan

15. White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* (11)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
3	2	Punggol Barat	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng, Tan Kok Hui
10	2	Kranji Marshes, afternoon	Jacky Soh
12	1	Kranji Marshes, immature	Yap Euhian
13	2	Yishun Dam	Yong Jun Zer
14	1	Yishun Dam	Zacc HD
24	3	Singapore Quarry, 2 adults and 1 juvenile, late morning.	Ulf Remahl
26	1	Lorong Halus, adult	Francis Yap
26	2	Bidadari, morning	Jaime Tan
26	2	Kranji Marshes	Doreen Ang, Peng Ah Huay, Ian & Freda Rickword, Nessie Khoo

16. Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus ichthyaetus* (6)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
10	2	Kranji Marshes, afternoon	Jacky Soh
15	2	Ketam Quarry, Pulau Ubin, morning	Alan OwYong
22	2	Bukit Batok Town Park (Little Guilin), 1 adult and 1 eaglet that had fledged. Successful nesting.	Ulf Remahl
26	1	Kranji Marshes	Doreen Ang, Peng Ah Huay, Ian & Freda Rickword, Nessie Khoo
29	1	Pulau Ubin, adult	Tan Gim Cheong
31	1	Bukit Batok, adult	Steven Chong

17. Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus* (3)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
3	1	Botanic Gardens	Laurence Eu
7	1	West Coast Park, juvenile	Laurence Eu
13	1	Botanic Gardens	Tan Gim Cheong
17	1	Sengkang Floating Wetlands, juvenile	Eugene Lin
20	1	West Coast Park, juvenile	Laurence Eu

18. Changeable Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus cirrhatus* (9)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
3	1	Punggol Barat	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng, Tan Kok Hui
4	1	Marina Barrage, juvenile pale morph	Alan OwYong
10	2	Kranji Marshes, afternoon	Jacky Soh
11	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, dark morph, morning	Jaime Tan
12	1	Punggol Barat, adult pale morph, afternoon	Alan Tang
19	1	Lorong Halus, dark morph	Chee Wei-lin
20	1	Mount Faber, on nest	Laurence Eu
20	1	Rail Corridor south of Gombak Drive, adult dark morph, just before noon	Ulf Remahl
21	1	Sime Trail, Central Forests, dark morph	Laurence Eu
24	1	Singapore Quarry, heard only, calling incessantly	Ulf Remahl
25	1	Sengkang Riverside Park, dark morph	Keita Sin
26	1	Kranji Marshes, heard only	Doreen Ang, Peng Ah Huay, Ian & Freda Rickword, Nessie Khoo
27	1	Rail Corridor south of Gombak Drive, adult dark morph, just before noon	Ulf Remahl
--	1	Choa Chu Kang, dark morph	Jason Kok

19. Unidentified *Accipiters* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
17	1	Punggol Barat	Lau JiaSheng

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 especially to Robin Tan, Yip Peng Sun, Thio Hui Bing and Frankie Cheong for the use of their photos.