

9th SINGAPORE RAPTOR WATCH REPORT

Autumn 2016 Migration - 6 Nov 2016

compiled by TAN Gim Cheong



Peregrine Falcon at Tuas South Avenue 16, 6 Nov 2016, by Tan Gim Cheong

The 9th Singapore raptor watch was held on Sunday, 6 November 2016 and involved 72 participants - the largest number of participants thus far. It had been raining the past few days prior and we were lucky that it did not rain during the count, although we had overcast conditions almost the whole day. We counted 343 raptors representing 7 migrant species and 92 raptors of 6 resident species. A further 41 raptors could not be identified to species level. There were 8 raptor watch sites and the numbers counted at each site varied from a high of 164 to a low of 4.

Site	Tuas South Ave 16	Japanese Garden	Kent Ridge Park	Ubin Puaka Hill	Halus Wetlands	Telok Blangah Hill Park	Changi Business Park	Hindhede Quarry	GRAND TOTAL
Site Totals	164	80	67	65	50	28	18	4	476

Figure 1 : Total count by Site

Apart from the addition of Hindhede Quarry, the other seven sites were the same ones as previous years, thanks to all the site leaders for their faithful support!

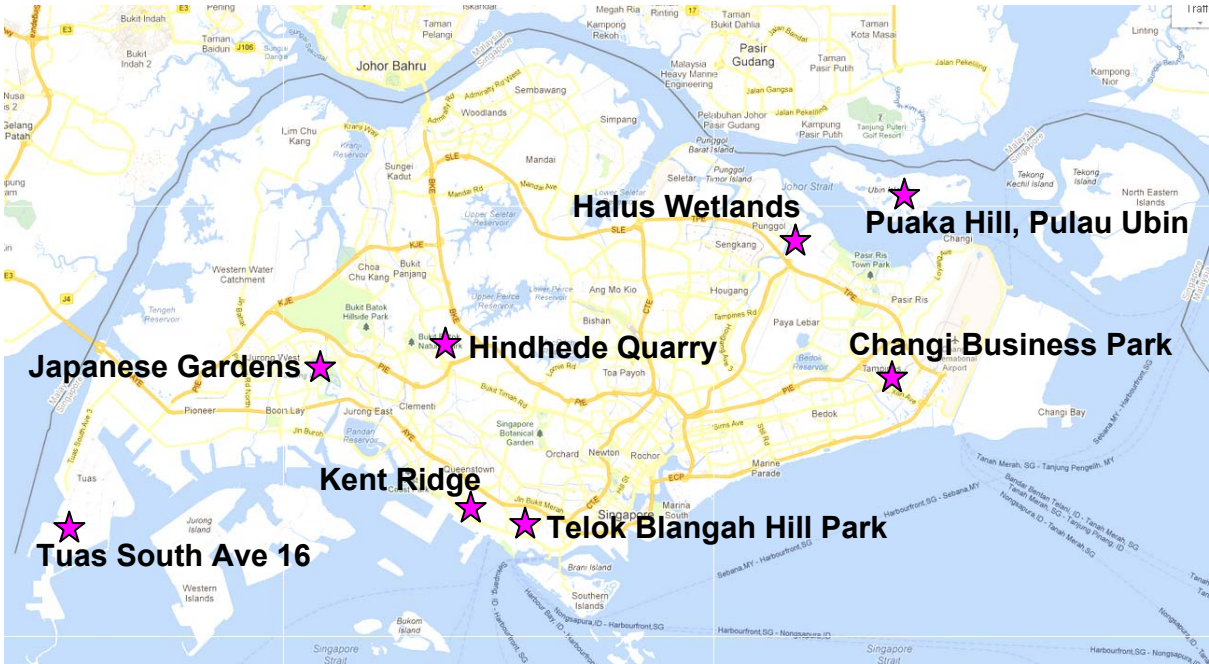


Figure 2 : 2016 Raptor Watch Sites. (source of basemap – maps.google.com.sg)

Most of the migrant raptors were recorded between 9am to 1pm, with the numbers trailing off later in the afternoon. Oriental Honey Buzzards migrating across Tuas South from 10-11am and 12-1pm contributed to the two 'mini-peaks' in the graph below.

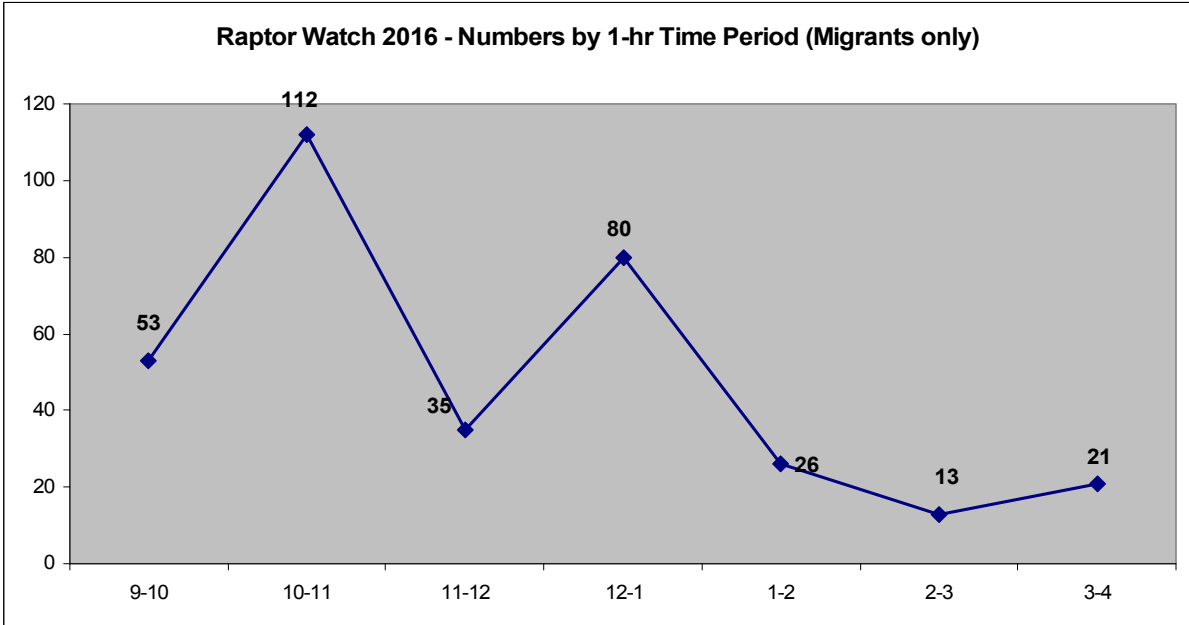


Figure 3 : Raptor numbers by 1-hour time periods (migrant raptors only)

The **Oriental Honey Buzzards** (OHB) was the most numerous migrant raptor counted, with 289 birds. Being the most widespread, the OHB was recorded at all the 8 sites. Highest numbers for the OHB were at Tuas South Avenue 16 (139 birds), Japanese Garden (43 birds) and Kent Ridge Park (39 birds).

Usually, the Black Bazas would constitute the second highest count, but not this year. The second spot was claimed by the 38 **Japanese Sparrowhawks**, which was recorded at six out of 8 sites, with 16 birds at the Japanese Gardens alone. Only ten **Black Bazas** were counted at two sites - 9 at Lorong Halus Wetlands and 1 at Puaka Hill on Pulau Ubin.

Two **Booted Eagles** - one at Japanese Gardens and the other at Changi Business Park - were exceptional for this scarce passage migrant. Only two **Peregrine Falcons** and one **Common Kestrel** were counted, and all three birds were recorded at Tuas South. The one and only **Chinese Sparrowhawk** was recorded at Lorong Halus Wetlands.

S/N	Species (Migrants)	Count
1	Oriental Honey Buzzard <i>Pernis ptilorhyncus</i>	289
2	Japanese Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter gularis</i>	38
3	Black Baza <i>Aviceda leuphotes</i>	10
4	Booted Eagle <i>Hieraeetus pennatus</i>	2
5	Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	2
6	Chinese Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter soloensis</i>	1
7	Common Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1
	Total Migrant Raptors	343
1	Un-identified Raptor	17
2	Un-identified Accipiter	24
	Total Unidentified Raptors	41

Figure 4 : Migrant and Unidentified Raptors Counted

For the resident species, the total count was 92 birds of 6 species, one more species than the year before - the addition being the Crested Goshawk. The count for the resident raptors comprised 43 **Brahminy Kites**, 29 **White-bellied Sea Eagles**, 11 **Changeable Hawk Eagles**, 4 **Grey-headed Fish Eagles**, 3 **Black-winged Kites**, and 2 **Crested Goshawks**. The decrease in the count for the Black-winged Kites was notable.

S/N	Species (Residents)	Count
1	Brahminy Kite <i>Haliastur indus</i>	43
2	White-bellied Sea Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	29
3	Changeable Hawk Eagle <i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>	11
4	Grey-headed Fish Eagle <i>Haliaeetus ichthyaetus</i>	4
5	Black-winged Kite <i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	3
6	Crested Goshawk <i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>	2
	Total Counts of Resident Raptors	92

Figure 5 : Resident Raptors Counted

The figure below provides a snapshot of the number of raptors according to the three categories - migrant, un-identified & resident raptors, at the 8 sites.

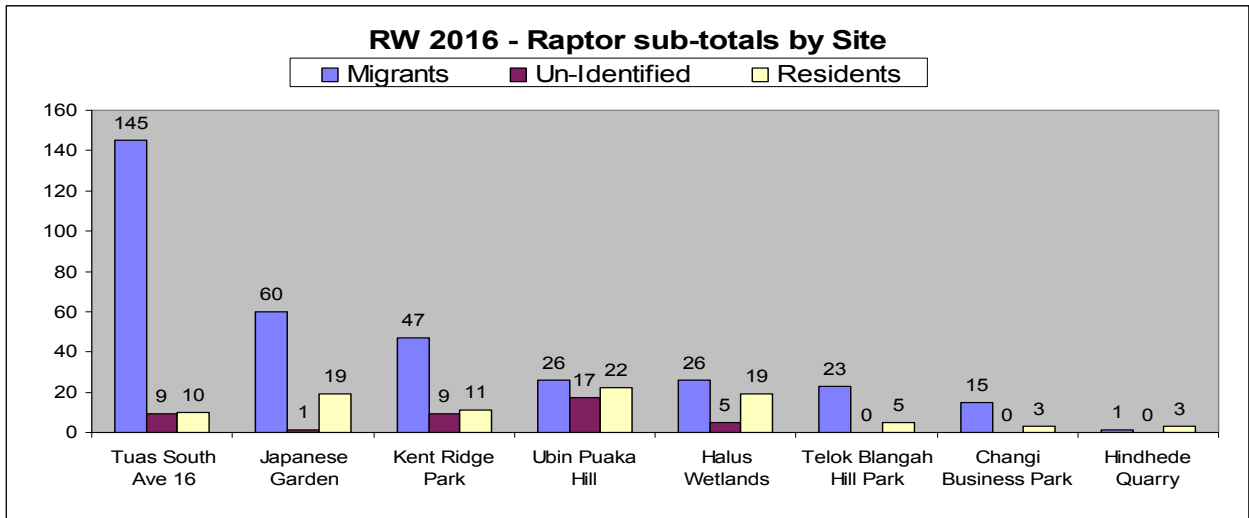


Figure 6 : Raptor Sub-totals by Category (migrant /unidentified /resident) by Site

Summary: Number of raptors
 - 343 migrant raptors.
 - 41 un-identified raptors.
 - 92 resident raptors.

Number of species
 13 species counted, including:
 - 7 migrant species.
 - 6 resident species.

A complete breakdown of the species counted at each site is shown in the table below:

SITE	Tuas South Ave 16	Japanese Garden	Kent Ridge Park	Ubin Puaka Hill	Halus Wetlands	Telok Blangah Hill Park	Changi Business Park	Hindhede Quarry	Grand Total
SITE TOTAL	164	80	67	65	50	28	18	4	476
Migrants = 343									Total
Black Baza				1	9				10
Oriental Honey Buzzard	139	43	39	19	13	21	14	1	289
Chinese Sparrowhawk					1				1
Japanese Sparrowhawk	3	16	8	6	3	2			38
Common Kestrel	1								1
Booted Eagle		1					1		2
Peregrine Falcon	2								2
Residents = 92									
Black-winged Kite	2			1					3
Brahminy Kite	6	12	5	10	4	2	1	3	43
White-bellied Sea Eagle	2	3	4	7	9	3	1		29
Grey-headed Fish Eagle		2			1		1		4
Crested Goshawk		1	1						2
Changeable Hawk Eagle		1	1	4	5				11
Un-identified = 41									
Un-identified Accipiter	6	1	6	9	2				24
Un-identified Raptor	3		3	8	3				17

Figure 7 : Raptor numbers by Site and break down of Species

Thanks to all the 72 wonderful birders, both leaders and participants, for spending their Sunday out in the open to count raptors. National Parks Board staff and NParks volunteers also participated. The following fantastic people led or assisted in the raptor count:

Alan OwYong	John Spencer	Roaslind Koh
Alyce Ang (Ubin Vounteer)	Joseph Lin (Nparks)	Saket Sarupria
Art Toh	Keita Sin	See Toh Yew Wai
Atsuko Kawasaki	Kerry Pereira	Sia Ping
Betty & Steven Shaw	Khalid Pasha	Sox Tok (Ubin Volunteer)
Bey Swee Hua & Kim	Koh Seng Chor	Susan Knight
Carmen Hui	Koh Tse Hsien	Tan Gim Cheong
Chloe Tan	Lee Chuin Ming	Tan Kok Hui
Clara wj (Ubin Vounteer)	Lee Ee Ling	Tan Li Li
Con Foley	Leesar Lee	Timothy Chua Jia Yao
Cyrena Lin (Nparks)	Leow Yoon Li	Timothy Lim
Danny Lau	Leung Wei Kee	Tuck Long & Sean
Dominic Ng	Liana Knight Spencer	Veronica Foo
Esther Ong	Lim Kim Chuah	Wang Heng Mount (NSS)
Francis Yap	Lim Kim Keang	Wilson Shee
Fressia Shee	Lioe Kim Swee (Nparks)	Wing Chong
Goh Cheng Teng	Low Choon How	Winnie Poh
Grace Ang (Nparks)	Michael Toh	Wong Chung Cheong
Han (Ubin Volunteer)	Myrna Lam	Woo Lai Choo
Henrietta Woo (Nparks)	Ng Wei Jing and friend	Yan Jiejun
Jacky Soh (Nparks)	Patricia - Vivekananda Yoga (NSS)	Yap Wee Jin
Jason	Peach Won	Yeo Seng Beng
Joanna Yeo	Raj	Yong Jun Zer