

Singapore Raptor Report October 2018



Chinese Sparrowhawk, female, at Henderson Waves, 24 Oct 2018, by Francis Yap. Two generations of feathers can be seen, the older (brownish) and the newer (grey) feathers.

Summary for migrant species:

October 2018 is probably the most remarkable October on record, with 11 migrant species recorded. This is in stark contrast to last October when only 6 migrant species were recorded (we usually record around 9 species in October). A big thank you to the burgeoning number of raptor watchers, especially at Henderson Waves.

453 migrant raptors were recorded, many times the 70 recorded last year. The most numerous were the 219 **Oriental Honey Buzzards**, followed by 123 **Japanese Sparrowhawks**, and 57 **Chinese Sparrowhawks**. In addition, more than 100 unidentified *Accipiters* were spotted this month and these were likely to have been either Chinese or Japanese Sparrowhawks. The first of the 35 **Black Bazas** appeared on 22 Oct, more than a week earlier than last year.

Birders at Henderson Waves were rewarded with three sought-after species. The first was the appearance of two **Grey-faced Buzzards** on 21 Oct, followed by a juvenile **Eastern Marsh Harrier** on the same morning. Another four Grey-faced Buzzards were spotted over Henderson Waves days later: two on 26 Oct and two on 27 Oct, around mid-day on both dates. In addition, birders on 27 Oct also spotted a **Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo* before noon (note: the various subspecies are 'lumped' as *Buteo buteo* in the NSS bird checklist).

Later the same day, 27 Oct, around noontime, a rare **Greater Spotted Eagle** made an appearance at Kent Ridge Park, delighting Alan OwYong. Before the month ended, Fadzrun Adnan photographed an immature **Rufous-bellied Eagle**, another rare visitor, at Pang Sua park connector on 30 Oct, flying about in the company of an Oriental Honey Buzzard.

Two **Western Ospreys** were recorded, one at the Kranji-Sungei Buloh area and one at Henderson Waves. Six migrant **Peregrine Falcons** were recorded.



Pale morph Changeable Hawk Eagle, at Henderson Waves on 8 Oct 2018, by Feroz & Fizah (left), and on 13 Oct 2018 by See Toh Yew Wai (right).

Highlights for sedentary species:

October was a good month for the locally rare **Crested Serpent Eagle**, with records from four different areas, from Nanyang Technological University (west) on 8th, Pulau Tekong (offshore) on 8th, Jelutong Tower (centre) on 24th and the Southern Ridges (south) on 16th, 21st & 30th.

On 6 Oct, a pair of **Crested Goshawks** were observed mating at West Coast Park. Then on 23 Oct, 2 chicks of the **White-bellied Sea Eagle** were seen on a nest at Woodlands. These are good signs for our resident raptors.

On 6 Oct, at Pulau Ubin near the main jetty, a juvenile **Peregrine Falcon** of the resident *ernesti* subspecies was photographed. This form bears some resemblance to, and may be mistaken for, the Oriental Hobby. The other resident raptors recorded included the **Grey-headed Fish Eagle**, **Black-winged Kite**, **Brahminy Kite** and **Changeable Hawk-Eagle**.

Table 1

S/N	Species	No.	S/N	Species	No.
1	Western Osprey	2		<i>Residents / Sedentary Species</i>	
2	Black Baza	35	12	Black-winged Kite	4
3	Oriental Honey Buzzard	219	13	Brahminy Kite	10
4	Eastern Marsh Harrier	1	14	White-bellied Sea Eagle	8
5	Chinese Sparrowhawk	57	15	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	4
6	Japanese Sparrowhawk	123	16	Crested Serpent Eagle	4
7	Common Buzzard	1	17	Crested Goshawk	11
8	Grey-faced Buzzard	6	18	Changeable Hawk-Eagle	11
9	Greater Spotted Eagle	1			
10	Rufous-bellied Eagle	1		<i>Unidentified</i>	
11	Peregrine Falcon	7	19	Unidentified Raptors	9
			20	Unidentified <i>Accipiters</i>	138
Total for Migrants		453		Grand Total	652

1. Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (2)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
4	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, morning	Stuart Campbell
13	1	Kranji Marsh, afternoon	Edward Ang
28	1	Henderson Waves, 10:45am	Adrian Silas Tay

2. Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes* (35)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
22	1	Telok Blangah Hill Park	Zacc HD
23	2	Pasir Ris Park, flying east	Jimmy Lee
27	1	Henderson Waves, midday	Pary Sivaraman
28	1	Henderson Waves, 11:19am	Adrian Silas Tay
29	1	Henderson Waves, noon	Low Choon How
29	29	The Raintree Condo, Bukit Timah, one kettle at 2:10pm	Richard White

3. Oriental Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus* (219)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2	2	West Coast, immature pale morph females	Tay Kian Guan
3	2	Jelutong Tower, at least 1 adult male pale morph	Francis Yap
3	1	Telok Blangah Hill	Alan OwYong
5	1	West Coast, immature dark morph	Tay Kian Guan
7	1	Henderson Wave, 0730-1000 hr	Lawrence Cher
8	4	Henderson Waves, 0830-1145 hr	Zacc HD
13	1	Sembawang, adult male pale morph, morning	Esther Ong
16	5	Clementi Road, 4 at 11:10am heading SE, 1 at 11:41am heading SW	Henrietta Woo, Ivan Kwan
16	66	Tuas South, noon	Tan Gim Cheong
16	9	West Coast, 2 calling loudly (including 1 dark morph juvenile), afternoon	Tay Kian Guan
18	7	Henderson Waves, morning	Tay Kian Guan
18	1	Bishan Park, pale morph adult male, morning	Chee Wei-lin
19	1	Kent Ridge Park, 1400-1800 hr	Alan OwYong
20	11	Henderson Waves, at least 1 immature male pale morph, mostly singles between 9:18am to 12:15pm	Con Foley, Zacc HD
21	1	Henderson Waves, adult male pale morph	See Toh Yew Wai
21	20	Henderson Waves, singles, up to 5 in a flock between 8:44am to 11:25am	Con Foley
21	1	Kent Ridge Park, 1100-1300 hr	Alan OwYong
22	10	Henderson Waves, 1000-1200 hr	Alan OwYong
23	5	Kent Ridge Park, 1000-1230 hr	Alan OwYong
24	10	Henderson Waves	Oliver Tan
26	22	Henderson Waves, flocks of 8 and 4, and singles	Sandra Chia
26	1	Labrador, immature male pale morph	Art Toh
27	1	Kent Ridge Park, 1000-1230 hr	Alan OwYong

27	12	Henderson Waves, three singles, a flock of 3 and a flock of 5, late morning	Pary Sivaraman
27	1	Kranji Marsh	Khoo Meilin
27	1	Pang Sua park connector, juvenile pale morph, 11:35am	Fadzrun Adnan
28	4	Henderson Waves	Adrian Silas Tay
29	5	Henderson Waves	Low Choon How
30	1	Bidadari, juvenile dark morph, morning	Siew Mun
30	1	Neo Tiew Harvest Link, adult female pale morph	Tay Sia Ping
30	4	Kent Ridge Park, 1100-1300 hr	Alan OwYong
30	5	Pang Sua park connector, late morning	Fadzrun Adnan
31	1	Mount Faber	Joyce Chia
31	1	Henderson Waves, 1000-1230 hr	Alan OwYong

4. Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
21	1	Henderson Waves, juvenile, 11:52am	Adrian Silas Tay, Low Choon How



Eastern Marsh Harrier, juvenile, at Henderson Waves, 21 Oct 2018, by Adrian Silas Tay

5. Chinese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter soloensis* (57)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2	1	Henderson Waves, adult female, 9:20am	Zacc HD
2	1	Japanese Garden, 10:50am	Stuart Campbell
2	1	Pulau Ubin	Geraldine Lee
3	1	Telok Blangah Hill, adult	Alan OwYong
6	1	Pulau Ubin, 9:30am	Henrietta Woo

6	1	Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, juvenile	Dillen Ng
7	1	Central Forest	Eyzat Amer
7	7	Henderson Wave, 1000-1400 hr	Adrian Silas Tay
16	4	Tuas South, noon	Tan Gim Cheong
18	1	Henderson Waves, adult male, morning	Tay Kian Guan
18	1	Pasir Ris Park, juvenile, 9:50am	Stuart Campbell
20	2	Henderson Waves, 1 adult female, 1 adult male	Con Foley
21	1	Henderson Waves, adult female	Pary Sivaraman
21	15	Henderson Waves, singles between 8:42am to 10:31am, two at 10:40am and eight at 10:51am	Con Foley
22	4	Henderson Waves, at least 1 juvenile, 1000-1200 hr	Alan OwYong, Stuart Campbell
23	1	Henderson Waves	Zacc HD
24	1	Henderson Waves, adult female, 12:45pm	Francis Yap
24	3	Henderson Waves	Oliver Tan
25	1	Lower Pierce, juvenile	Fadzrun A
25	1	Henderson Waves, juvenile	Tay Kian Guan
27	2	Jelutong Tower, juveniles	Tan Kok Hui
27	1	Kent Ridge Park, 1000-1230 hr	Alan OwYong
27	2	Henderson Waves, 1 juvenile, singles at around 10am	Francis Yap
28	1	Lorong Halus, juvenile, morning	Jimmy Lee
28	1	Henderson Waves, 12:14pm	Adrian Silas Tay
29	1	The Raintree Condo, Bukit Timah	Richard White
30	1	Kent Ridge Park, 1100-1300 hr	Alan OwYong
31	1	Henderson Waves, 1000-1230 hr	Alan OwYong



Chinese Sparrowhawk, female, at Henderson Waves, 21 Oct 2018, by Pary Sivaraman.

6. Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis* (123)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2	1	Henderson Waves, adult female, 9:20am	Zacc HD
2	1	South Buona Vista Road, adult male, 9:50am	Francis Yap
3	1	Telok Blangah Hill	Alan OwYong
4	1	Satay by the Bay, juvenile, morning	Tan Eng Boo
4	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Lim Hong Yao
5	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Low Choon How
6	1	Pulau Ubin, 10:21am	Henrietta Woo
7	3	Central Catchment	Eyzat Amer
7	3	Henderson Wave, 0730-1000 hr	Lawrence Cher
8	1	Henderson Waves, 0830-1145 hr	Zacc HD
9	1	Telok Blangah Hill Park	John Marriott
9	1	Pulau Ubin, juvenile, around 2:30pm	See Toh Yew Wai
9	1	Upper Pierce Reservoir, juvenile, 4pm	Yeong WaiKai
10	3	Henderson Waves, including 1 adult female	Geraldine Lee
12	1	Pasir Ris Park, juvenile, morning	Alvin Seng
13	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Mike Hooper
15	1	Kent Ridge Park	Sandra Chia
16	4	Tuas South, noon	Tan Gim Cheong
17	1	Sembawang	Eyzat Amer
18	3	Henderson Waves, 1 juvenile, morning	Tay Kian Guan
18	2	Central Catchment	Oliver Tan
20	7	Henderson Waves, at least 1 juvenile, ones and twos between 9:03am to 11:06am	Con Foley, Zacc HD
21	1	Kent Ridge Park, 1100-1300 hr	Alan OwYong
21	2	Henderson Waves	Con Foley
21	1	Punggol Waterway Park	Tan Kok Hui
22	3	Jelutong Tower, including 1 adult male, morning	Francis Yap
22	5	Henderson Waves, 1000-1200 hr	Alan OwYong
23	2	Kent Ridge Park, 1000-1230 hr	Alan OwYong
23	16	Henderson Waves	Zacc HD
24	6	Henderson Waves	Oliver Tan
25	6	Henderson Waves	Tay Kian Guan
26	1	Old Choa Chu Kang Road	Tay Kian Guan
26	15	Henderson Waves	Oliver Tan
26	1	Jelutong Tower	Francis Yap
27	8	Henderson Waves, singles, between 9:15am to 12:35pm	Francis Yap
27	1	Kent Ridge Park, 1000-1230 hr	Alan OwYong
27	1	Pasir Ris Park	John Faber
28	11	Henderson Waves, at least 2 juveniles, singles between 10:54am to 12:19pm	Tay Kian Guan, Oliver Tan
28	2	Kranji Marsh	Pary Sivaraman
29	1	Henderson Waves	Oliver Tan
31	1	Henderson Waves, 1000-1230 hr	Alan OwYong



Japanese Sparrowhawk, male (left), at Jelutong Tower on 22 Oct 2018 by Francis Yap, female (middle), at Henderson Waves, 2 Oct 2018, by Zacc HD, & juvenile (right) at Henderson Waves, 20 Oct 2018, by Zacc HD.

7. Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
27	1	Henderson Waves, photographed, 11:20am	Francis Yap



*Common Buzzard, at Henderson Waves, on 27 Oct 2018, by Francis Yap.
Comment from Dr. Chaiyan - looks like reffectus/burmanicus juvenile.*

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

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
21	2	Henderson Waves, photographed, 1 adult & 1 juvenile, 10:27am	Adrian Silas Tay
26	2	Henderson Waves, photographed, 12:59pm	Sandra Chia
27	2	Henderson Waves, photographed, singles at 12:25pm & 1229pm	Francis Yap, Pary Sivaraman

9. Greater Spotted Eagle *Clanga clanga* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
27	1	Kent Ridge Park, photographed, noon	Alan OwYong

10. Rufous-bellied Eagle *Lophotriorchis kienerii* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
30	1	Pang Sua park connector, photographed, 11:35am	Fadzrun Adnan

11. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (7)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
7	1	Henderson Wave, 0730-1000 hr	Lawrence Cher
8	1	Clementi Ave 3, perched on construction crane	Tay Kian Guan
9	1	Pulau Ubin, juvenile <i>ernesti</i> , around 6pm	See Toh Yew Wai
20	1	Clementi Ave 3, perched on construction crane	Tay Kian Guan
23	1	Henderson Waves	Zacc HD
25	1	Nanyang Technological University	James Lambert
25	1	Bukit Batok transmission tower, migrant sub-adult	Francis Yap
27	1	Clementi Ave 3, perched on construction crane	Tay Kian Guan
27	2	Henderson Waves	Con Foley
28	1	Bukit Batok transmission tower	Art Toh
29	1	The Raintree Condo, Bukit Timah	Richard White



Peregrine Falcon, ernesti juvenile, at Pulau Ubin, 9 Oct 2018, by See Toh Yew Wai.

Resident raptors

12. Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* (4)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1	2	Lim Chu Kang Lane 3	Fadzrun A
4	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, adult	Fadzrun A
6	1	Kranji Marsh	Tan Kok Hui
21	2	Tanah Merah Coast Road	Rames T
24	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Martin Kennewell
28	2	Kranji Marsh	Martin Kennewell
30	1	Neo Tiew Harvest Link	Adrian Silas Tay
30	1	Tanah Merah grasslands, adult	Oliver Tan

13. Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus* (10)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
7	4	Henderson Wave, 0730-1000 hr	Lawrence Cher
7	6	Henderson Wave, 1000-1400 hr	Adrian Silas Tay
8	5	Henderson Waves, 0830-1145 hr	Zacc HD
9	1	Oasis LRT station	Kerry Pereira
16	1	West Coast, adult, afternoon	Tay Kian Guan
18	2	Henderson Waves, morning	Tay Kian Guan
19	1	Mount Faber, juvenile	Joyce Chia
19	2	Kent Ridge Park, afternoon	Alan OwYong
22	1	Henderson Waves, 1000-1200 hr	Alan OwYong
23	1	Mount Faber, juvenile	Joyce Chia
23	2	Pasir Ris Beach	Carol Lim
25	1	Mount Faber, juvenile	Joyce Chia
26	2	Mount Faber, adults	Joyce Chia
28	1	Serangoon East Dam, juvenile	Jimmy Lee
29	1	Mount Faber, adult	Joyce Chia
31	3	Henderson Waves, 1000-1230 hr	Alan OwYong

14. White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* (8)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
4	1	Pasir Ris Street 11, adult, 7pm	Alvin Seng
7	2	Henderson Wave, 0730-1000 hr	Lawrence Cher
7	2	Henderson Wave, 1000-1400 hr	Adrian Silas Tay
8	1	Henderson Waves, 0830-1145 hr	Zacc HD
9	2	Oasis LRT	Kerry Pereira
19	1	Mount Faber, adult	Joyce Chia
19	1	Kent Ridge Park, afternoon	Alan OwYong
22	1	Henderson Waves, 1000-1200 hr	Alan OwYong
23	2	Woodlands, 2 chicks on nest	Christina See
27	1	Kent Ridge Park, 1000-1230 hr	Alan OwYong
28	2	Lorong Halus, morning	Jimmy Lee

15. Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus ichthyaetus* (4)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
21	1	Henderson Waves, juvenile	Sandra Chia
21	1	Kent Ridge Park, 1100-1300 hr	Alan OwYong
22	2	Henderson Waves, 1000-1200 hr	Alan OwYong
29	2	The Raintree Condo, Bukit Timah	Richard White
30	1	Kent Ridge Park, 1100-1300 hr	Alan OwYong

16. Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela* (4)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
8	1	Nanyang Technological University	James Lambert
8	1	Pulau Tekong, 11:23am	Jamie Whitehouse
16	1	Kent Ridge Park, adult, around noon	Veronica Foo
21	1	Henderson Waves, adult, late morning	Adrian Silas Tay
24	1	Jelutong Tower, adult, 9:36am	Francis Yap
30	1	Kent Ridge Park, 1100-1300 hr	Alan OwYong



A Crested Serpent Eagle over Jelutong Tower, on 24 Oct 2018, by Francis Yap.

17. Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus* (11)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2	1	Henderson Waves, 9:20am	Zacc HD
2	1	Telok Blangah, adult male	Joyce Chia
6	1	Ang Mo Kio West Garden, female	Ender Tey
6	2	West Coast Park, a pair mating	Low Choon How

6	1	Sentosa	John Marriott
7	1	Ang Mo Kio West Garden, female	Ender Tey
8	3	Henderson Waves, 0830-1145 hr	Zacc HD
15	2	West Coast Park, nesting pair	Ender Tey
20	1	Dempsey Road	Laurence Eu
20	2	Henderson Waves, aerial courtship display	Con Foley
21	1	Bishan Park, immature	Ender Tey
21	3	Henderson Waves	Con Foley
24	1	Henderson Waves	Oliver Tan
28	1	Lorong Halus, morning	Jimmy Lee
31	1	Pang Sua Park connector, adult, late morning	Fadzrun A

18. Changeable Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus cirrhatus* (11)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
7	3	Henderson Wave, 1000-1400 hr	Adrian Silas Tay
8	1	Satay by the Bay, dark morph	Laurence Eu
8	1	Henderson Waves, 0830-1145 hr	Zacc HD, Feroz & Fizah
10	1	Kranji Marsh, dark morph, late morning	Carol Lim
13	1	Henderson Waves, adult pale morph, morning	See Toh Yew Wai
16	1	Clementi Road, pale morph, 8:50am	Henrietta Woo, Ivan Kwan
18	1	Henderson Waves, morning	Tay Kian Guan
20	1	Dempsey Road	Laurence Eu
20	4	Henderson Waves, at least 1 adult pale morph	Con Foley, Zacc HD
21	2	Kent Ridge Park, 1100-1300 hr	Alan OwYong
22	2	Henderson Waves, 1000-1200 hr	Alan OwYong
23	2	Kent Ridge Park, 1000-1230 hr	Alan OwYong
23	2	Henderson Waves, apparently in aerial courtship display	Tay Kian Guan
24	3	Henderson Waves	Oliver Tan
25	2	Mount Faber, 1 immature pale morph	Joyce Chia
27	1	Choa Chu Kang Park, dark morph	Zhang Licong
27	1	Kent Ridge Park, 1000-1230 hr	Alan OwYong
28	1	Lorong Halus, dark morph, morning	Jimmy Lee
30	1	Kent Ridge Park, adult pale morph	Alan OwYong
30	2	Tanah Merah grasslands, pale morphs, 1 adult, 1 immature	Oliver Tan
31	2	Henderson Waves, 1000-1230 hr	Alan OwYong

19. Unidentified Raptors (9)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
11	1	Telok Blangah	Joyce Chia
18	2	Henderson Waves, morning	Tay Kian Guan
21	1	Kent Ridge Park, 1100-1300 hr	Alan OwYong
30	5	Kent Ridge Park, 1100-1300 hr	Alan OwYong

20. Unidentified Accipiters (138)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
7	3	Henderson Wave, 1000-1400 hr	Adrian Silas Tay
21	1	Kent Ridge Park, 1100-1300 hr	Alan OwYong
21	50	Henderson Waves, up to 12 in a flock, between 10:36am to 11:25am	Con Foley
22	1	Khatib MRT, probably Japanese, no dark wing tips, around 9am	Henrietta Woo
24	15	Henderson Waves	Oliver Tan
26	16	Henderson Waves	Sandra Chia
27	23	Henderson Waves, singles, a couple and a flock of 5 and a flock of 6, between 9:30am to 12:34pm	Francis Yap
28	13	Henderson Waves, 7 at 10:20am, singles between 10:52am to 12:19pm	Adrian Silas Tay
29	5	Henderson Waves	Low Choon How
29	6	The Raintree Condo, Bukit Timah	Richard White
30	4	Kent Ridge Park, 1100-1300 hr	Alan OwYong
31	1	Henderson Waves, 1000-1230 hr	Alan OwYong

Compiled by Tan Gim Cheong

Note: The numbers in brackets beside the bird names indicates the month's total number. 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 Francis Yap, Feroz & Fizah, See Toh Yew Wai, Adrian Silas Tay, Pary Sivaraman, and Zacc HD for the use of their photos.