

Singapore Raptor Report December 2018



Common Buzzard, adult pale morph with lizard tail protruding from its bill, on 1 Dec 2018, at the junction of Holland Road and North Buona Vista Road, by Art Toh.

Summary for migrant species:

A rare **Short-toed Snake Eagle** surprised and delighted a small group of birders who managed to get crisp photographs of the raptor as it flew over Changi Business Park on 5th December, and disappeared - a one-day wonder as it usually is for this species in Singapore. On the other side of the island, at the junction of Holland Road and North Buona Vista Road on 1st December, an uncommon **Common Buzzard** feeding on a lizard gave Art Toh many photo opportunities. A rare **Imperial Eagle** was reportedly seen at Neo Tiew Harvest Lane on the 15th.

A rufous morph **Oriental Scops Owl** was found on 5th December at Dairy Farm Nature Park. Then, a grey morph Oriental Scops Owl showed up in the same vicinity on the 9th, the same date as the year before! Both morphs were present on 9th and 10th December. Thereafter only the rufous morph was reported to be around until the 15th. These two birds display amazing site fidelity, returning to the same spot for the 3rd season in a row!

Eight **Jerdon's Bazas** were recorded: four wintering at Changi Business Park, three at Lorong Halus on the 25th and one at Pulau Ubin on the 30th. Five **Chinese Sparrowhawks** were recorded: singles at Pulau Ubin, Henderson Waves & Coney Island, and two at Lorong Halus. Five **Peregrine Falcons** were recorded: singles at Kranji Marshes, Coney Island, Changi Business Park, Seletar Aerospace and West Coast Drive. Three **Western Ospreys** were recorded: one at Simpang grasslands, one at Kranji Marshes, and another at MacRitchie Reservoir.

Finally, we come to the most abundant migrant raptors. 15 **Japanese Sparrowhawks** and 49 **Black Bazas** were recorded, including 27 bazas at Lorong Halus on the 29th. The **Oriental Honey Buzzard** is tops again with 85 birds, including 33 birds at Tuas on the 1st.



Short-toed Snake Eagle, in flight over Changi Business Park, on 5 Dec 2018, by Feroz N Fizah.

Highlights for sedentary species:

The notable sightings for resident raptors include that of the locally rare **Crested Serpent Eagle** which was recorded three times: an immature at Henderson Waves on the 8th, and two sightings at Pulau Ubin, on the 7th & 31st, probably of the same bird. Another was the nesting of the **Crested Goshawks** at West Coast, with 2 chicks that were reported to have fledged by the time of this report. And also, a **Brahminy Kite** at Neo Tiew Lane 2 flying with nesting materials on the 29th.

The *torquatus* **Oriental Honey Buzzard** was recorded at Jelutong Tower on the 20th (tweeddale morph), Springside Link on the 25th, and an immature at Pasir Ris starting from the 27th (and is still around). The other resident raptors recorded were the **Black-winged Kite**, **White-bellied Sea Eagle**, **Grey-headed Fish Eagles** and **Changeable Hawk Eagle**.

Table 1

| S/N | Species | No. | S/N | Species | No. |
|---------------------------|------------------------|------------|-----|---|------------|
| 1 | Western Osprey | 3 | | <i>Residents / Sedentary Species</i> | |
| 2 | Jerdon's Baza | 8 | 12 | Black-winged Kite | 5 |
| 3 | Black Baza | 49 | 13 | Brahminy Kite | 6 |
| 4 | Oriental Honey Buzzard | 85 | 14 | White-bellied Sea Eagle | 12 |
| 5 | Short-toed Snake Eagle | 1 | 15 | Grey-headed Fish Eagle | 4 |
| 6 | Chinese Sparrowhawk | 5 | 16 | Crested Serpent Eagle | 2 |
| 7 | Japanese Sparrowhawk | 15 | 17 | Crested Goshawk | 9 |
| 8 | Common Buzzard | 1 | 18 | Changeable Hawk-Eagle | 7 |
| 9 | Imperial Eagle | 1 | | | |
| 10 | Peregrine Falcon | 5 | | <i>Unidentified</i> | |
| 11 | Oriental Scops Owl | 3 | 19 | Unidentified Raptors | 5 |
| | | | 20 | Unidentified <i>Accipiters</i> | 2 |
| | | | | | |
| Total for Migrants | | 176 | | Grand Total | 221 |

1. Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (3)

| Date | No. | Location and Details | Reported By |
|------|-----|----------------------|---------------------|
| 13 | 1 | Simpang Grasslands | William Hildebrandt |
| 27 | 1 | Kranji Marshes | Zhang Licong |
| 30 | 1 | MacRitchie Reservoir | Adrian Silas Tay |

2. Jerdon's Baza *Aviceda jerdoni* (8)

| Date | No. | Location and Details | Reported By |
|------|-----|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 11 | 1 | Changi Business Park | Zacc HD |
| 13 | 4 | Changi Business Park | Stuart Campbell |
| 14 | 1 | Changi Business Park | Fadzrun A |
| 25 | 3 | Lorong Halus | Martin Kennewell |
| 30 | 1 | Pulau Ubin | Diane Campbell, Martin Kennewell |

3. Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes* (49)

| Date | No. | Location and Details | Reported By |
|------|-----|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | 3 | Punggol Waterway Park | Tan Kok Hui |
| 3 | 1 | Pasir Ris Park, morning | Alvin Seng |
| 7 | 1 | Pulau Ubin, morning | Thio HB |
| 7 | 2 | Pasir Ris Park | Alvin Seng |
| 9 | 3 | Bidadari | Koji Ichiyama |
| 14 | 1 | Bidadari, 12:45pm | Francis Chia |
| 15 | 8 | Changi Business Park | Adrian Silas Tay |
| 20 | 3 | Lim Chu Kang Lane 3 | Steven Cheong |
| 25 | 4 | Bukit Batok | Steven Chong |
| 25 | 1 | Lorong Halus | Zhang Licong |
| 25 | 4 | Lorong Halus | Joseph Lau |
| 25 | 1 | Bedok | Oliver Tan |
| 25 | 10 | Pasir Ris Coast Industrial Park 6 | Chen Boon Chong |
| 29 | 27 | Lorong Halus | Tan Kok Hui |

4. Oriental Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus* (85) *orientalis* unless indicated otherwise

| Date | No. | Location and Details | Reported By |
|------|-----|--|----------------------|
| 1 | 2 | Singapore Quarry, juvenile dark morphs | Thio HB |
| 1 | 1 | Gardens by the Bay | Alan OwYong |
| 1 | 2 | NTU, juvenile pale morph & juvenile dark morph | Zhang Licong |
| 1 | 1 | Pulau Ubin, 10:42am | Kerry Pereira |
| 1 | 2 | Kranji Marshes | Tan Kok Hui |
| 1 | 33 | Tuas | Tan Kok Hui |
| 2 | 2 | Telok Blangah Hill | Alan OwYong, Art Toh |
| 2 | 1 | Holland Road | Alan OwYong |
| 4 | 2 | Lorong Halus, 10:11am & 11:21am | Kerry Pereira |
| 4 | 1 | Tebing Lane, 11:47am | Kerry Pereira |
| 5 | 1 | Changi Business Park, juvenile dark morph | Joseph Lim |

| | | | |
|----|---|---|-----------------------------|
| 5 | 2 | Coney Island, 10:22am & 11:46am | Kerry Pereira |
| 6 | 1 | Changi Business Park, juvenile pale morph, 3pm | Thio HB |
| 7 | 1 | Telok Blangah | Joyce Chia |
| 7 | 1 | Pulau Ubin, morning | Thio HB |
| 7 | 1 | Changi, 1:40pm | Thio HB |
| 7 | 2 | Bidadari, juvenile dark morph and juvenile pale morph | Ted Lee |
| 8 | 1 | Bidadari, juvenile pale morph | Thio HB |
| 8 | 1 | Changi Business Park, juvenile pale morph | Amin |
| 8 | 2 | Henderson Waves | Tan Kok Hui |
| 9 | 1 | Changi Business Park, juvenile pale morph | Ang HouBoon |
| 9 | 1 | Hougang Avenue 3 | Francis Chia |
| 9 | 6 | Coney Island, morning | Kerry Pereira |
| 11 | 1 | Pasir Ris Park, pale morph female | Alvin Seng |
| 11 | 2 | Telok Blangah Hill | Alan OwYong, Laurence Eu |
| 11 | 3 | Coney Island, morning | Kerry Pereira |
| 11 | 2 | Mattar MRT, 9:25am | Abigail Hui Xian |
| 12 | 2 | Pandan Canal | Alan OwYong |
| 12 | 1 | Coney Island | Kerry Pereira |
| 13 | 2 | Bulim Avenue | Alan OwYong |
| 14 | 3 | Telok Blangah Hill | Alan OwYong |
| 15 | 1 | National Museum, 3:56pm | Kerry Pereira |
| 17 | 2 | Satay by the Bay, juveniles | Steven Cheong |
| 19 | 1 | Tagore Avenue, 10:30am | Henrietta Woo |
| 19 | 1 | Pasir Ris Park, dark morph | Alvin Seng |
| 20 | 1 | Lim Chu Kang Lane 3, juvenile dark morph | Steven Cheong |
| 20 | 1 | Jelutong Tower, <i>torquatus</i> tweeddale morph | Seah KW |
| 21 | 1 | Bishan | Thio HB |
| 23 | 1 | Emerald Hill, adult male pale morph | Khoo Meilin |
| 24 | 1 | Telok Blangah | Joyce Chia |
| 24 | 1 | Lorong Halus, adult male, 8:14am | Carol Lim |
| 25 | 1 | Pasir Ris Coast Industrial Park 1 | Angie Cheong |
| 25 | 1 | Turut Track, adult male | Lam Jen Wee |
| 25 | 1 | Pasir Ris Park, adult female pale morph | Alfred Ng |
| 25 | 1 | Lorong Halus, juvenile dark morph | Zhang Licong |
| 25 | 1 | Springside Link, <i>torquatus</i> | Steven Neo |
| 25 | 2 | Lorong Halus | Martin Kennewell |
| 26 | 1 | Henderson Wave | Joyce Chia |
| 27 | 1 | Pasir Ris Park, <i>orientalis</i> | Feroz N Fizah |
| 27 | 1 | Pasir Ris Park, immature <i>torquatus</i> | Alvin Seng, Carol Lim |
| 27 | 1 | Kallang Pudding Road, male pale morph, 9:20am | Abigail Hui Xian |
| 28 | 1 | Bishan Park, noon | Francis Chia |
| 30 | 1 | Pasir Ris Park, immature <i>torquatus</i> | Zhang Licong |
| 31 | 1 | Mount Faber | Joyce Chia |

5. Short-toed Snake Eagle *Circaetus gallicus* (1)

| Date | No. | Location and Details | Reported By |
|------|-----|---|---------------------------------|
| 5 | 1 | Changi Business Park, photographed in flight, 10:09am | Melinda Chan, Chan Yoke Meng |

6. Chinese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter soloensis* (5)

| Date | No. | Location and Details | Reported By |
|------|-----|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 2 | 1 | Pulau Ubin | Adrian Silas Tay |
| 2 | 1 | Henderson Waves, adult male | See Toh Yew Wai |
| 9 | 1 | Coney Island, male | Tan Kok Hui |
| 25 | 2 | Lorong Halus | Martin Kennewell |

7. Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis* (15)

| Date | No. | Location and Details | Reported By |
|------|-----|---|--------------------------|
| 1 | 1 | Gardens by the Bay | Alan OwYong |
| 1 | 2 | Pulau Ubin, 10:36am & 11:59am | Kerry Pereira |
| 1 | 1 | Kranji Marshes | Tan Kok Hui |
| 1 | 2 | Tuas | Tan Kok Hui |
| 5 | 2 | Coney Island, 10:37am | Kerry Pereira |
| 8 | 2 | Henderson Waves, juveniles | Tan Kok Hui |
| 11 | 1 | Botanic Gardens, morning | Stuart Campbell |
| 15 | 1 | Changi Business Park | Adrian Silas Tay |
| 21 | 1 | Kent Ridge Park | Alan OwYong |
| 23 | 1 | Bedok | Oliver Tan |
| 24 | 1 | Central Catchment | Ruth Danella |
| 25 | 2 | Lorong Halus | Martin Kennewell |
| 25 | 1 | Pasir Ris Coast Industrial Park 1, male | Angie Cheong |
| 25 | 1 | Lorong Halus, male | Zhang Licong |
| 26 | 1 | Mount Faber | Joyce Chia |
| 27 | 1 | Lorong Halus | Alan OwYong, Luke Teo |
| 28 | 1 | Telok Blangah Hill | Tan Kok Hui |
| 30 | 1 | Pulau Ubin | Martin Kennewell |

8. Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* (1)

| Date | No. | Location and Details | Reported By |
|------|-----|--|-------------|
| 1 | 1 | Holland Road and North Buona Vista Road junction, adult pale morph, with lizard prey | Art Toh |

9. Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca* (1)

| Date | No. | Location and Details | Reported By |
|------|-----|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| 15 | 1 | Neo Tiew Harvest Lane, verbal report | Lim Kim Seng |

10. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (5)

| Date | No. | Location and Details | Reported By |
|------|-----|--|---------------|
| 1 | 1 | Kranji Marshes | Tan Kok Hui |
| 9 | 1 | Coney Island, juvenile, caught a Javan Myna, 12:02pm | Kerry Pereira |
| 11 | 1 | Coney Island, mobbed a nearby OHB once | Kerry Pereira |
| 13 | 1 | Changi Business Park | Thio HB |
| 25 | 1 | Seletar Aerospace | Mac NG |
| 26 | 1 | West Coast Drive | Tay Kian Guan |

11. Oriental Scops Owl *Otus sunia* (3)

| Date | No. | Location and Details | Reported By |
|------|-----|--|---------------|
| 5 | 1 | Dairy Farm Nature Park, rufous morph | Lim Kim Keang |
| 8 | 1 | Dairy Farm Nature Park, rufous morph | Steven Cheong |
| 9 | 2 | Dairy Farm Nature Park, rufous & grey morphs | Khoo Meilin |
| 10 | 2 | Dairy Farm Nature Park, rufous & grey morphs | Sandra Chia |
| 15 | 1 | Dairy Farm Nature Park, rufous morph | Tan Kok Hui |
| 19 | 1 | Oriole Crescent, dead rufous morph | David Tan |

Resident raptors

12. Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* (5)

| Date | No. | Location and Details | Reported By |
|------|-----|------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | 2 | Tanah Merah Coast Road | Ramesh T. |
| 15 | 2 | Neo Tiew Harvest Lane | Lau Jia Sheng |
| 20 | 1 | Kranji Marshes | Steven Cheong |
| 28 | 1 | Tuas South | Martin Kennewell |

13. Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus* (6)

| Date | No. | Location and Details | Reported By |
|------|-----|---|----------------------|
| 2 | 1 | Neo Tiew Crescent, adult | Francis Chia |
| 5 | 2 | Coney Island, 10:35am | Kerry Pereira |
| 9 | 2 | Coney Island | Kerry Pereira |
| 11 | 3 | Coney Island | Kerry Pereira |
| 12 | 2 | Coney Island | Kerry Pereira |
| 21 | 1 | Labrador Park | Joyce Chia |
| 25 | 1 | Seletar Aerospace Crescent, immature | Ender Tey |
| 27 | 1 | Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, adult | Jean-Pierre Bousquet |
| 29 | 1 | Neo Tiew Lane 2, flying with nesting material | Chee Wei-lin |

14. White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* (12)

| Date | No. | Location and Details | Reported By |
|------|-----|--|---------------|
| 1 | 1 | Pulau Ubin | Kerry Pereira |
| 4 | 1 | Tebing Lane, 11:47am | Kerry Pereira |
| 5 | 2 | Coney Island, 10:49am | Kerry Pereira |
| 9 | 2 | Bedok | Khoo Meilin |
| 9 | 3 | Coney Island, 1 adult, 2 juveniles | Kerry Pereira |
| 11 | 1 | Coney Island | Kerry Pereira |
| 12 | 2 | Coney Island, 1 adult, 1 juvenile, seen talon-grabbing | Kerry Pereira |
| 15 | 2 | Marina Barrage, adults | Francis Chia |
| 26 | 1 | Mount Faber, juvenile | Joyce Chia |
| 26 | 1 | Lorong Halus, juvenile | Steven Cheong |
| 29 | 1 | Lorong Halus, adult | Zhang Licong |
| 31 | 4 | Mount Faber, 3 adults, 1 juvenile | Joyce Chia |

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

| Date | No. | Location and Details | Reported By |
|------|-----|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | 1 | Punggol | Tan Kok Hui |
| 8 | 1 | Chinese Garden, juvenile | Loke Peng Fai |
| 24 | 1 | Lorong Halus, adult, 9:16am | Carol Lim |
| 24 | 1 | Kranji Marshes, immature | Geri Lim |
| 30 | 1 | Pulau Ubin | Martin Kennewell |

16. Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela* (2)

| Date | No. | Location and Details | Reported By |
|------|-----|---|----------------|
| 7 | 1 | Pulau Ubin, photographed, morning | Thio HB |
| 8 | 1 | Henderson Waves, immature, photographed | Tan Kok Hui |
| 31 | 1 | Pulau Ubin | Pary Sivaraman |

17. Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus* (9)

| Date | No. | Location and Details | Reported By |
|------|-----|--|-----------------|
| 3 | 1 | Pasir Ris Park, juvenile, morning | Alvin Seng |
| 19 | 1 | MacRitchie Reservoir | Marcel Finlay |
| 19 | 4 | West Coast Park, nesting with 2 chicks | Steven Wong |
| 20 | 3 | West Coast Park, 1 juvenile | Khoo Meilin |
| 21 | 1 | Bishan, juvenile | Thio HB |
| 24 | 1 | Telok Blangah, juvenile | Joyce Chia |
| 29 | 1 | Daley Road area, near Botanic Gardens | William Mahoney |
| 31 | 1 | Sentosa | William Mahoney |

18. Changeable Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus cirrhatus* (7)

| Date | No. | Location and Details | Reported By |
|------|-----|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | 2 | Kranji Marshes, 1 dark & 1 pale morph | Tan Kok Hui |
| 4 | 1 | Lorong Halus | Kerry Pereira |

| | | | |
|----|---|----------------------------|---------------|
| 4 | 1 | Changi Business Park | Ted Lee |
| 7 | 1 | Telok Blangah | Joyce Chia |
| 13 | 1 | Bulim Avenue | Alan OwYong |
| 20 | 1 | Jelutong Tower, pale morph | Feroz N Fizah |
| 24 | 1 | Kranji Marshes, pale morph | Tay Kian Guan |
| 26 | 1 | Mount Faber, juvenile | Joyce Chia |
| 26 | 1 | Henderson Waves | Joyce Chia |

19. Unidentified Raptors (5)

| Date | No. | Location and Details | Reported By |
|-------------|------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 5 | 1 | Coney Island, 11:27am | Kerry Pereira |
| 7 | 4 | Changi | Thio HB |

20. Unidentified Accipiters (2)

| Date | No. | Location and Details | Reported By |
|-------------|------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 11 | 1 | Coney Island, morning | Kerry Pereira |
| 30 | 1 | Pulau Ubin | Martin Kennewell |

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 Art Toh and Feroz N Fizah for the use of their photos.