

Crested honey buzzard eating honeycomb at Pasir Ris

Subject: Crested honey buzzard, *Pernis ptilorhynchus* (Aves: Accipitriformes: Accipitridae).

Subject identified by: Morgany Thangavelu.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Pasir Ris Park, along Sungei Tampines; 13 November 2016; at around 1105 hrs.

Habitat: Parkland with small patch of mangrove forest.

Observers: Contributors.

Observation: One black-morph individual, about 50 cm in total length, was observed perched on a bare branch near the top of a tree. It was holding a piece of honeycomb in its talons (see accompanying picture), and was feeding on the item.

Remarks: The crested honey buzzard is a common migrant and rare visitor to Singapore. This raptor specialises in feeding on bee and hornet larvae and beeswax which are obtained by tearing hives apart (Yong et al., 2016: 33). However, the honey buzzard is not restricted to this diet, as it also hunts and eats large insects, reptiles, small birds and mammals (Myers, 2009: 46). Apparently the honeycomb eating behaviour featured here is not frequently observed.

References:

- Myers, S., 2009. *A Field Guide to the Birds of Borneo*. Talisman Publishing Pte Ltd, Singapore. 272 pp.
Yong D. L., K. C. Lim & T. K. Lee, 2016. *A Naturalist's Guide to the Birds of Singapore*. 2nd edition. John Beaufoy Publishing Limited, United Kingdom. 176 pp.



Photograph by Morgany Thangavelu

Contributors: **Morgany** Thangavelu & **Sharvamaya** Chandra Mohan
Contact address: dbsmt@nus.edu.sg (Morgany)