

BirdLife Australia Rarities Committee

Unusual Record Report Form

This form is intended to aid observers in the preparation of a submission to document a major rare bird in Australia. Its use is NOT mandatory. Please attach and/or include all relevant information including any digital images. Please Email the completed form/submission to the BARC Chair, Tony Palliser tonyp@bigpond.net.au

BARC considers submissions that include a minimum of the submitter's name(s), the bird species claimed and the location and date(s) of the record. However, more information and evidence will usually be required for BARC to accept a record. So, please submit as much detailed information about the bird as possible.

If you choose not to use this form please make sure all relevant information requested in this form is included in your submission. However, it is our preference that you fully complete sections "A" and "B", or follow their headings, so that BARC has some continuity between all submissions.

Section A: Submitter details	
Your name(s) Joint submissions are fine	Michael Calvin (Raptor Rehabilitation Association of WA) (+ Stephen Debus has viewed the video and 3 stills)
Your email, phone or address	michael.calvin56@gmail.com sdebus@une.edu.au

Section B: Record details	
Common and scientific names Include subspecies if relevant	Chinese Sparrowhawk (<i>Accipiter soloensis</i>)
Site location (with GPS if possible)	The Pearle of Cable Beach, Broome, Western Australia.
Date(s) and time(s) of record (First and last date of occurrence if known)	Single sighting only on 9 th August 2020 at about 1300 hrs
How many individuals were there?	One
What was the distance to the bird(s)?	Closest point to me @ 25 metres
Habitat description	N/A SD: video shows urban elements (building/ornamental tree(s) in foreground); bird is against sky
Sighting conditions (e.g. weather, visibility, light conditions)	Clear blue sky, calm, bright sunlight
How confident are you in the identification (as a %) and why?	Very confident, iPhone video footage shared and sighting confirmed by other sources including Dr Steve Debus SD: 100% sure on shape and plumage after viewing video and stills, consulting relevant field guides, consulting overseas raptor expert who viewed stills. Bird is not a familiar Australian accipiter.
Did you find and/or identify the bird initially? Who else recorded the bird and do they agree with the identification?	I saw the bird circling overhead. I was sure it wasn't any species I'd ever seen before so I videoed what I could. No one else saw it to my knowledge. As above. SD: Michael is an experienced raptor rehabilitator originally from overseas, so is familiar with some/many overseas raptors.
What experience have you had with this species?	None

	SD: none
Has this species been seen at this location before? When?	Not that I'm aware of SD: previous accepted BARC case of 2 birds on Browse Island off the Kimberley coast is closest prior record to Broome
Have photographs of the bird or discussion of it occurred on the internet? (Please provide the site name, a summary, electronic link, etc.)	Six-second iPhone video footage shared to my Facebook homepage (Michael Calvin) so I could ask if anyone knew what the bird might be. I still have the original video footage on my phone. SD: 3 stills were circulated on Facebook and were referred to me. Initial discussion by Australian respondents asked whether it might be a northern Brown Goshawk <i>A. fasciatus didimus</i> . I referred the 3 stills to W.S. (Bill) Clark, international raptor expert, who replied by email (quote): "The hawk in the photos is <i>Accipiter soloensis</i> , Gray Frog Hawk [= Chinese Sparrowhawk] adult male."
Do you permit BARC to display your images etc. electronically (credited with your name)	Yes

You may choose to delete or ignore this page, but please include as much of the requested information in your submission as possible, especially Sections C and E.

Section C: Supporting evidence

Please include evidence that supports the identification, such as photographs, video, call recordings, etc. Digital images can be pasted into this document below, at the end, or provided separately. Digital video and sound recordings can be sent separately to this form. Label photos etc or insert captions to make note of relevant features they show.

3 stills from Michael's video are pasted below

Section D: Description of the bird(s)

Please provide a description of the bird(s) including all identification features recorded. Provide all possible details that might corroborate the identification.

Plumage	SD: evident in the video/stills are the grey head, rufous breast, pale lower belly and crissum, pale and almost unmarked underwings except for extensive, crisp black tips to primaries (4 'fingers'), and coarsely barred tail (only 3 fairly thick bars visible) including prominent subterminal bar. Tail looks rather square-tipped in some stills.
Bare parts	SD: not discernible in the video/stills
Moult details	SD: none evident in the video/stills
Structure and 'jizz'	SD: a typical small accipiter (broad wings, longish tail), slightly more pointed wingtips than Brown Goshawk/Collared Sparrowhawk; wingspan to tail ratio also appears slightly greater than in these 2 Aust. accipiters. Clearly not a falcon.
Calls	SD: apparently none uttered or heard (is silent in winter range anyway)
Behaviours	SD: soaring (rapid circuit on set wings, no flapping)
Age, sex and/or taxonomy	SD: adult male on plumage, confirmed by Bill Clark

Section E: Confusion species

Please indicate other species that the bird(s) might be confused with and how they can be eliminated

SD: adult Brown Goshawk/Collared Sparrowhawk: have less extensive dark wingtips, 5 primary 'fingers', barred underwings, more finely barred tail (more bars). No other Asian migrant or resident accipiters match.

Section F: References and aids

Did you use books, journal articles or on-line sites or pages to help you prepare this submission? Which ones?

SD: consulted, and compared the 3 video stills with, Menkhorst et al. Aust. Bird Guide; Pratt & Beehler Birds of New Guinea 2nd edn; Robson Field Guide to Birds of South East Asia; Ferguson-Lees & Christie Raptors of the World field guide edn – all plates of adult/adult male overhead in flight match the Broome bird, no other accipiters match. Also Birds of the World Online flight images.

Would you like to acknowledge the assistance of others in the identification process or preparation of this submission?

Bill Clark confirmed preliminary but confident identification by SD.



Chinese Sparrowhawk, Cable Beach, Broome, WA, 9 August 2020: still from video by Michael Calvin



Chinese Sparrowhawk, Cable Beach, Broome, WA, 9 August 2020: still from video by Michael Calvin



Chinese Sparrowhawk, Cable Beach, Broome, WA, 9 August 2020: still from video by Michael Calvin