



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	Geoffrey Christie
Your email, phone or address	

Section B: Record details	
Common and scientific names Include subspecies if relevant	Japanese Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter gularis</i>
Site location (with GPS if possible)	West Island Lake (Bechat Besar), Cocos (Keeling) Islands
Date(s) and time(s) of record (First and last date of occurrence if known)	Late November through to January 2022 with photographs taken on the 18th December 2021
How many individuals were there?	2 birds
What was the distance to the bird(s)?	In November they would spend the early morning at the far end of the lake, about three hundred metres from the bird hide and two birds would roost in the adjacent Hibiscus trees
Habitat description	A sheltered muddy lake. Where the bird(s) would often feed on dragonflies
Sighting conditions (e.g. weather, visibility, light conditions)	
How confident are you in the identification (as a %) and why?	
Did you find and/or identify the bird initially? Who else recorded the bird and do they agree with the identification?	
What experience have you had with this species?	
Has this species been seen at this location before? When?	
Have photographs of the bird or discussion of it occurred on the internet? (Please	

provide the site name, a summary, electronic link, etc.)	
Do you permit BARC to display your images etc. electronically (credited with your name)	

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.

Photographs help to separate other species including Chinese Sparrowhawk which was available for direct comparison.

Note the distinct wing pattern of a Japanese Sparrowhawk, short thick wings with long extended wing tips with visible barring. The curve of the wing secondaries is classic Japanese. The chest markings suggesting this is a young bird.

The second bird submitted in the images below shows the extent of tail moult, but still shows the classic wing shape of a Japanese Sparrowhawk.

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	Can be seen in photo
Bare parts	Can be seen in photo
Moult details	Missing tail feathers helped to quickly spot the bird and separate it from Japanese Sparrowhawk which was also present.
Structure and 'jizz'	Wing shape in the field was a good character
Calls	
Behaviours	
Age, sex and/or taxonomy	

Section E: Confusion species

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

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

These photographs were taken on the 18th December 2021 images show A Chinese Sparrowhawk in flight with a Japanese Sparrowhawk (lower bird).



The bird at the bottom of the image is the Japanese Sparrowhawk



The bird at the bottom of the image is the Japanese Sparrowhawk (above is the Chinese Sparrowhawk)





