

## Singapore Raptor Report January 2020



*Himalayan Vulture, near The Pinnacle@Duxton, 9 Jan 2020, by Bp Chua*

### **Summary for migrant species:**

The **Himalayan Vultures** stole the show in January. Amazingly, a total of 12 immature vultures showed up, besting the previous high of 9 immature birds in January 1992. On the 8th, one vulture was photographed at The Pinnacle@Duxton at 2:24pm, flying east, and another two were photographed at Cashew Road at 2:45pm. At 6:25pm, a flock of ten vultures, initially mistaken for Asian Openbills, were photographed at Bedok, flying towards Siglap. Shortly after 7pm, up to 11 vultures were captured on video flying at the Tanjong Pagar area around Amara Hotel and The Pinnacle@Duxton. One vulture even landed on the roads - Peck Seah Street & Maxwell Road, causing vehicles to slow down and avoid the bird. Members of the public expressed shock in seeing such a huge bird, which eventually flew off to safety.

The vultures must have roosted on the tall building in the Tanjong Pagar area as they were spotted on top of the buildings on the morning of the 9th. Twelve vultures were spotted and after 9am, they took flight, heading south towards Sentosa, but then turned back, probably dreading to fly over the open sea. By around 11am, eleven vultures were spotted flying over Fort Canning Park and by noon time, twelve vultures were spotted at Dairy Farm Nature Park – they were heading north.

There were no sightings of the vultures on the 10th. Then on the 11th, nine vultures were spotted at West Coast Park in the afternoon, flying west.



*Himalayan Vultures at Dairy Farm Nature Park on 9 Jan 2020, by Siew Mun*

A total of 137 raptors of 14 migrant species were recorded in January 2020. This is in great contrast to 7 migrants species recorded in January 2019! Only one **Grey-faced Buzzard**, a juvenile, was photographed at St John's Island on the 3rd. Also, a single **Eastern Marsh Harrier** was recorded, a juvenile on the 19th at Neo Tiew Harvest Lane. The wintering immature **Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle** was recorded at Dairy Farm Nature Park–Hindhede Nature Park area on the 15th, and at Bukit Timah Hill vicinity on the 17th.

Two **Booted Eagles** were reported – one at Pasir Ris Park on the 7th, and another at Pulau Ubin on the 9th. Also, two **Chinese Sparrowhawks** were recorded – one at the Botanic Gardens on the 15th and the wintering female at Ang Mo Kio on the 25th.

Five **Western Ospreys** were recorded along the northern coast from Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve (SBWR) to Yishun Dam to Pulau Ubin. Six **Jerdon's Baza**s were recorded – two at Changi Business Park, three at Coney Island, and one at Pasir Ris–Tampines Eco Green area. Ten **Japanese Sparrowhawks** were recorded, mostly singles at various location in the western half of Singapore.

Thirteen **Peregrine Falcons** were recorded, probably the highest monthly number for the species, comprising both adults and juveniles; they were recorded singly, with some individuals regularly perching near the top of apartment blocks at Jurong and Punggol. Twenty **Black Bazas** were recorded, mostly in the Lim Chu Kang area (including SBWR & Kranji Marshes) and Pasir Ris Park. 61 **Oriental Honey Buzzards** were recorded – apart from 12 recorded at Kranji Marshes on the 1st, the others were mostly singles from various localities.



*Grey-faced Buzzard, juvenile, at St John's Island, on 3 Jan 2020, by Dillen Ng*

A *Buteo* photographed at a distance at Tuas South on the 5th by Martin Kennewell and Zacc HD was initially thought to be a Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*, but may potentially be a Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus* – stay tuned! Lastly, two **Oriental Scops Owls**, a nocturnal raptor, were photographed during the daytime at the Central Catchment Nature Reserve on the 23rd.

#### **Highlights for sedentary species:**

Three **Crested Serpent Eagles** were recorded, one at Malcolm Road on the 10th and probably the same bird at Stevens MRT on the 12th; one at Seletar on the 12th; and one at Pulau Ubin on the 19th and 22nd.

Up to nine **Grey-headed Fish Eagles** were recorded, localities included SBWR, Kranji Marshes, Little Guilin, Sungei Ulu Pandan, Botanic Gardens, Central Catchment forest, Springleaf Nature Park, Yishun Dam, Lorong Halus and Pulau Ubin.

Breeding-related activities were observed for four species. Mating was observed for the **Black-winged Kite** at Neo Tiew Harvest Link on the 4th and at Kranji Marshes on the 26th. For the **Crested Goshawk**, a nest with chicks was observed at West Coast Park on the 3rd, and at Pasir Ris Park, nest building was observed on the 30th, followed by mating on the 31st. Interestingly, the nest at West Coast Park was only about 20m away from the nest of a pair of Brahminy Kites.



*Brahminy Kite, flying with a dead Red-legged Crake in its talons, at Satay by the Bay, on 14 Jan 2020, by Andrew Seah*

There were two nesting records for the **Brahminy Kite**, the nest at West Coast Park had two chicks, with one fledging on the 17th, and amazingly the adults were observed mating! By the 21st, the second chick had also fledged. The second nest was found at the Lim Chu Kang area on the 12th. On the 14th, an adult Brahminy Kite at Satay by the Bay was captured on camera flying with a dead Red-legged crake in its talons. For the **White-bellied Sea Eagle**, a pair was building a nest at SBWR on the 26th.

There was one *ernesti* **Peregrine Falcon**, an adult, on the 29th, in the vicinity of the Botanic Gardens, eating a bird. No *torquatus* **Oriental Honey Buzzards** were recorded in January. The other sedentary raptors recorded were five **Changeable Hawk-Eagles**, and one **Barred Eagle Owl** at the Singapore Quarry, its usual location, on the 23rd.

**Table 1**

S/N	Species	No.	S/N	Species	No.
1	Western Osprey	5		<b><i>Residents / Sedentary Species</i></b>	
2	Jerdon's Baza	6	15	Black-winged Kite	7
3	Black Baza	20	16	Brahminy Kite	C*
4	Oriental Honey Buzzard	61	17	White-bellied Sea Eagle	C*
5	Himalayan Vulture	12	18	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	9
6	Eastern Marsh Harrier	1	19	Crested Serpent Eagle	3
7	Chinese Sparrowhawk	2	20	Crested Goshawk	15
8	Japanese Sparrowhawk	10	21	Changeable Hawk-Eagle	5
9	Grey-faced Buzzard	1	22	Barred Eagle Owl	1
10	Booted Eagle	2			
11	Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle	1			
12	Peregrine Falcon	13		<b><i>Unidentified</i></b>	
13	Oriental Scops Owl	2	23	Unidentified Raptor	1
14	<i>Common Buzzard (possibly Long-legged Buzzard instead)</i>	1			
<b>Total for Migrants</b>		<b>137</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>178</b>

\*C = Common.

*Only notable records, such as breeding-related or interesting behaviour will be reported for these common species.*

### **1. Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (5)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
9	2	Pulau Ubin	Joseph Lin
12	1	Turut Track, mobbed by WBSE which stole the fish	Tuck Loong
12	3	Seletar Dam	Keita Sin
14	1	Mandai	Sacha Ruoss
17	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Siew Mun
25	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Wang HM
25	1	Kranji Marshes	Martti Siponen
26	1	Kranji Marshes	Martti Siponen
27	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Martti Siponen
28	2	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Jan Tan
29	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, chased by crows and a WBSE eyeing its catch	Sim Chip Chye
31	1	Kranji Marshes	Alan OwYong, Lee Ee Ling

### **2. Jerdon's Baza *Aviceda jerdoni* (6)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
7	2	Changi Business Park, morning	Tan Eng Boo
11	3	Coney Island	Ng Wei Khim
14	1	Tampines Eco Green	Philip Chua
27	1	Pasir Ris Park	Billy Goh

### **3. Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes* (20)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
1	4	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Peng Ah Huay
8	2	Changi Business Park	Ramesh T.
12	2	Pasir Ris Park, 8:50am	Carol Lim
12	5	Pasir Ris Park	Soumen Mondal
14	1	Sungei Tengah, 1:15pm	Veronica Foo
18	1	Marsiling Park	Fadzrun Adnan
19	1	Springleaf Nature Park	Ng Wei Khim
19	8	Kranji Marshes	Martin Kennewell
20	3	Lim Chu Kang Lane 3	Alan OwYong
23	5	Pasir Ris Park	Alvin Seng
24	7	Pasir Ris Park	Alvin Seng
25	1	Kranji Marshes	Martti Siponen
31	6	Kranji Marshes	Alan OwYong, Lee Ee Ling

**4. Oriental Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus* (61) *orientalis*** unless indicated otherwise

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
1	1	Neo Tiew Harvest Lane, juvenile pale morph	Tok Sock Ling
1	12	Kranji Marshes	Martin Kennewell
1	2	West Coast Park, at least 1 adult male pale morph	Steven Cheong
1	1	Pulau Ubin	Darren Leow
3	1	Sg Ulu Pandan	Sylvester Goh
4	2	Tuas South	Danny Lau
4	1	Ang Mo Kio	Ng Wei Khim
4	2	Bishan Park	Ng Wei Khim
4	1	Southern Ridges, adult male pale morph	Michael Leong
5	1	Sentosa	John Marriott
5	1	Marina East	Martin Kennewell
5	1	Bukit Panjang Park	Dillen Ng
5	1	Tampines Eco Green	Zhang Licong
6	1	Lim Chu Kang Lane 1, pale morph, chased away by two juvenile Brahminy Kites	Kay Aik
7	2	Changi Business Park, morning	Tan Eng Boo
8	1	Little Guilin	Ulf Remahl
8	1	Jurong Lake, juvenile dark morph, 10:30am	Carol Lim
9	1	Pulau Ubin	Joseph Lin
9	1	Pasir Ris Town Park, juvenile	Alvin Seng
9	1	The Pinnacle@Duxton	Oliver Tan
11	1	Turut Track, pale morph adult male	Derrick Wong
11	1	Pasir Ris Park, juvenile dark morph	Lee Chin Pong
11	1	Baker Street, vocal pale morph male	Zacc HD
11	1	Jurong Lake Gardens	Martti Siponen
11	2	West Coast Park, juveniles, pale morphs	Michael Leong
11	3	Lorong Halus Wetlands	Martin Kennewell
12	3	Jurong Lake Gardens	Martti Siponen
12	1	Yishun Dam	Keita Sin
13	1	Pasir Ris Park, juvenile	Boas Emmanuel
14	2	Bukit Timah Nature Reserve	Boas Emmanuel
14	1	Serangoon Gardens	Michael Leong
18	2	Central Forests	Lim Kim Chuah
18	1	Satay by the Bay, juvenile pale morph	Siew Mun
18	1	Jurong Lake Gardens	Martti Siponen
19	3	Jurong Lake Gardens	Martti Siponen
19	2	Turf Club Road, the Grandstand (Bukit Timah area)	John Ascher
19	1	Springleaf Nature Park	Ng Wei Khim
19	1	Eastwood Estate	Oliver Tan
22	1	Botanic Gardens	Oliver Tan
23	2	West Coast Drive, one was calling loudly	Tay Kian Guan
23	1	NTU	Mathias Blicher Bjerregård
25	1	Marsiling Park, juvenile pale morph	Fadzrun Adnan

25	1	Kranji Marshes	Marti Siponen
27	1	Baker Street, juvenile dark morph	Michael Leong
27	2	Kent Ridge Park	Keita Sin
27	1	Pasir Ris Park, adult female	Fadzrun Adnan
28	1	Turut Track, juvenile dark morph	Pary Sivaraman
28	3	Changi Business Park, 1 juvenile pale morph, 1 juvenil dark morph, 1 adult male dark morph	Karyne Wee
30	1	Jurong Lake Garden, adult male pale morph	Tay Kian Guan
23	3	West Coast Drive	Tay Kian Guan
31	2	Kranji Marshes	Alan OwYong, Lee Ee Ling

#### 5. Himalayan Vulture *Gyps himalayensis* (12)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
8	1	The Pinnacle@Duxton, 1 juvenile flying east, 2:24pm	Raghav Narayanswamy
8	2	Cashew Road, 2:45pm	Choong YT
8	10	Bedok, flying towards Siglap, 6:25pm	Michael C
8	11	Tanjong Pagar area outside Amara Hotel, in flight, 7:12pm	Joyce Ang
8	7	The Pinnacle@Duxton, juveniles in flight, 7:20pm	Joseph Lim
8	1	Peck Seah Street, a juvenile standing on the road causing drivers to slow down and avoid, 7:35pm	Kirarai Labo, Asha Teo
8	1	Maxwell Centre, a juvenile standing on the road obstructing traffic, 7:47pm	Vadim Mytnik-Gonta
9	8	The Pinnacle@Duxton, perched on CBD skyscrapers (including Orchid Hotel, Oasis Hotel Downtown & Carlton City Hotel) early morning, thereafter flying between Pasir Panjang, Sentosa and Marina Bay after 9am, till 10am+	Oliver Tan, Martin Kennewell, Chen Boon Chong, Peter Bijlmakers, Ramesh T.
9	1	Tanjong Pagar, morning	BP Chua
9	12	Tanjong Pagar, around 10am	Lee Chuin Ming
9	2	Outram Road, 10:45am	Martin Kennewell
9	11	Fort Canning Park, around 11am - 12pm	Peter Bijlmakers
9	10	From Dairy Farm Nature Park towards Bukit Timah summit, around noon	Siew Mun
9	12	Dairy Farm Nature Park	Bryan Lim
9	10	Cashew Heights, 9 flying N/NW, 10th bird separated from group and lost sight of it, 12:25pm	Raghav Narayanswamy
11	4	West Coast Park, flew west, 3:20pm to 3:33pm	Tan Chuan Yean
11	9	West Coast Park, flew west	Tan Chuan Yean

#### 6. Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
19	1	Neo Tiew Harvest Lane, juvenile, late afternoon	Raghav Narayanswamy



**7. Chinese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter soloensis* (2)**

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
15	1	Botanic Gardens	Boas Emmanuel
25	1	Ang Mo Kio, adult female, wintering	Norhafiani A. Majid

**8. Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis* (10)**

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
4	1	Tuas South	Danny Lau
5	1	Tuas South, juvenile	Zacc HD
5	2	Tuas South	Martin Kennewell
10	1	Botanic Gardens	Oliver Tan
14	1	Bukit Batok Nature Park	Boas Emmanuel
18	1	Tuas South, juvenile	Pary Sivaraman
18	1	Marsiling Park	Fadzrun Adnan
19	1	Dairy Farm Nature Park	John Ascher
20	1	Neo Tiew Harvest Lane	Jan Tan
20	1	Lim Chu Kang Lane 3	Choong YT
23	1	Satay by the Bay	Mike Hooper
24	1	Changi Business Park	Ramesh T.
25	1	Bukit Brown cemetery, juvenile	Marcel Finlay

**9. Grey-faced Buzzard *Butastur indicus* (1)**

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
3	1	St John's Island, juvenile photographed on a branch, morning	Dillen Ng

**10. Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus* (2)**

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
7	1	Pasir Ris Park	Oliver Tan
9	1	Pulau Ubin	Joseph Lin

**11. Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle *Lophotriorchis kienerii* (1)**

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
15	1	Dairy Farm Nature Park, immature, 5:47pm	Khaleb Yordan
15	1	Hindhede Nature Park, immature, around 5pm	Martin Kennewell
17	1	Bukit Timah hill vicinity, immature, morning	Francis Yap

**12. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (13)**

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1	1	Jurong East, adult, 6:42pm	Johnny Chew
2	1	Coney Island, juvenile	Choong YT
4	1	Lim Chu Kang Lane 1, juvenile	Kay Aik
6	1	Lim Chu Kang Lane 1, juvenile, chased away by juvenile Brahminy Kite	Kay Aik
7	1	Jurong East, adult, 6:58am	Johnny Chew
7	1	Yishun Dam, juvenile	Dillen Ng
11	1	Tiong Bahru, adult	Foo Shaotyng
12	1	Turut Track	Tuck Loong
12	1	Punggol, adult	Wong Chung Cheong
12	1	Yuan Ching Road, juvenile	Norhafiani A. Majid
13	1	Pasir Ris Town Park	Philip Chua
13	1	Joo Chiat	Mike Hooper
13	1	Central Forests	Oliver Tan
14	1	Taman Jurong, juvenile	Alok Mishra
14	1	Telok Blangah Hill Park, adult	Foo Shaotyng
19	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, adult	Chen Boon Chong
20	1	Lorong Halus Wetlands	Zhang Licong
21	1	Jurong East, adult	Johnny Chew
26	1	Kranji Marshes, juvenile	Marti Siponen
29	1	Botanic Gardens vicinity, adult <i>ernesti</i> photographed consuming prey on television antenna, 1:20pm	Cheng Li Ai
31	1	Telok Blangah Hill Park	Keita Sin

**13. Oriental Scops Owl *Otus sunia* (2)**

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
23	2	Central Catchment Nature Reserve, photographed at day roost	Alex Fok

**14. Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* (but possibly Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*) (1)**

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
5	1	Tuas, initially thought to be a Common Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i> , but possibly a Long-legged Buzzard instead, (if so, a first for Singapore), a distant bird mobbed by crows	Martin Kennewell

## Resident raptors

### **15. Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* (7)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
4	2	Neo Tiew Harvest Link, mating	Lee Chin Pong
9	1	Lorong Halus Wetlands	Sylvester Goh
16	1	Baker Street	Peter Bijlmakers
19	3	Kranji Marshes	Martin Kennewell
22	1	Tuas South	Martti Siponen
25	1	Kranji Marshes	Martti Siponen
25	1	Tuas South	Martti Siponen
26	2	Tuas South, harassed by House Crows	Choong YT
26	1	Kranji Marshes	Martti Siponen
26	2	Kranji Marshes, mating observed	Shandy Lee

### **16. Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus***

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
3	4	West Coast Park, nest with chicks, on a tree about 20m from the nest of a pair of Crested Goshawks	George Koh
12	2	Lim Chua Kang area, nesting	James Tann
17	4	West Coast Park, 2 adults & 2 chicks on nest, one of the chicks fledged in the morning, adults still feeding the remaining chick, mating observed for the adults, 11:15am	Sim Chip Chye
21	1	West Coast Park, an adult brought food to an empty nest, the chick apparently fledged earlier, 11:35am	Jimmy Lim

### **17. White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster***

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
26	2	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, a pair nest building	Laurence Eu

### **18. Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus ichthyaetus* (9)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
1	3	Kranji Marshes	Martin Kennewell
6	1	Yishun Dam	Tan Kok Hui
8	1	Little Guilin, perched on tree up on quarry rim, 7:09pm	Ulf Remahl
11	1	Lorong Halus Wetlands	Martin Kennewell
12	1	Sungei Ulu Pandan	Peng Ah Huay
18	3	Central Forests	Martin Kennewell
19	1	Springleaf Nature Park	Ng Wei Khim
22	1	Botanic Gardens	Oliver Tan
26	1	Kranji Marshes	Martti Siponen
27	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Martti Siponen

**19. Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela* (3)**

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
10	1	Malcolm Road, adult, mobbed by a kingfisher multiple times but did not move from perch, 8am	Doug Morrow
12	1	Stevens MRT station vicinity, adult, evening	Eric Peuch
12	1	Piccadilly Circus, Seletar, 10:53am	Oliver Tan
19	1	Pulau Ubin, adult	Vicki Stokes
22	1	Pulau Ubin, adult, 10am	Carol Lim

**20. Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus* (15)**

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
3	4	West Coast Park, nest with chicks, on a tree about 20m from the nest of a pair of Brahminy Kites	George Koh
4	1	Kranji Marshes	John Ascher
4	1	Ang Mo Kio Town Garden West	Ng Wei Khim
4	2	Aljunied MRT vicinity, an adult male & an adult female on the ground, talons locked around each other refusing to let go. Passerbys had to separate the two before they flew away.	KL Pow
6	1	Bukit Chandu, adult	Shandy Lee
14	1	Sentosa	Dillen Ng
17	2	West Coast Park, adults, tending to nest	Sim Chip Chye
19	1	West Coast Park, adult eating a prey (appeared to be a pigeon)	Gloria Seow
21	1	Kent Ridge Park, adult male	Choong YT
28	1	Clementi Woods Park	Keita Sin
30	2	Pasir Ris Park, adults, nest-building observed	Sim Chip Chye
30	1	Mandai	Jan Tan
31	2	Pasir Ris Park, adults, mating observed	Ken Joree Tan
31	1	West Coast Park, adult	Jenny Koh

**21. Changeable Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus cirrhatus* (5)**

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
5	1	Bukit Batok Nature Park quarry lake, pale morph, 9:25am	Ulf Remahl
7	1	Bukit Batok Nature Park quarry lake, pale morph, 18:31pm	Ulf Remahl
9	1	Telok Blangah Hill, dark morph	Lee Chuin Ming
19	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, juvenile pale morph	Chen Boon Chong
19	1	Dairy Farm Nature Park	Timothy Chua
25	1	Kranji Marshes, pale morph	Marti Siponen
25	1	Jurong, dark morph	Mathias Blicher Bjerregård
31	1	Kranji Marshes	Alan OwYong, Lee Ee Ling

**22. Barred Eagle Owl *Bubo sumatranus* (1)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
23	1	Singapore Quarry	Martin Kennewell

**23. Un-identified Raptor (1)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Location and Details</b>	<b>Reported By</b>
20	1	Pulau Ubin, a probable Crested Serpent Eagle perched on a far tree	Zhang Licong

*Compiled by Tan Gim Cheong*

*Note: The numbers in brackets beside the bird names indicates the total number seen for this month. Different 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 also thanks to Siew Mun, Bp Chua, Dillen Ng, and Andrew Seah for the use of their photos.*