

Singapore Raptor Report Spring Migration, March 2011

Summary:

A total of 290 migrant raptors of 10 species were recorded this month, a decline of 2 species compared to last month. The **Oriental Honey Buzzard** (OHB) overtook the Black Baza to become the most numerous raptor this month. A total of 171 OHBs were recorded, mostly on migration – 123 birds at Tuas on the 30th by Martti Siponen and 38 birds at Changi on the 25th by Lim Kim Seng and Lee Tiah Khee. The **Black Baza** was the second most numerous raptor with 81 birds. This included a kettle of 56 birds at Tuas, also on the 30th, recorded by Martti Siponen. The **Japanese Sparrowhawk** was the third most numerous with 11 birds.

Now, for the surprises. A flock of 8 **Grey-faced Buzzards** gave Nicholas Tan a pleasant surprise at Tanah Merah grasslands on the 12th as these scarce migrants circled high in the sky allowing him to get some photos of this handsome raptor. A small flock of 3 **Jerdon's Bazas** were seen and photographed by Con Foley and Danny Lau at Changi on the 13th. This is a new 'late date' for the Jerdon's Baza and represents an extension of 19 days, compared to the previous 'late date' of 22 Feb in 2009.

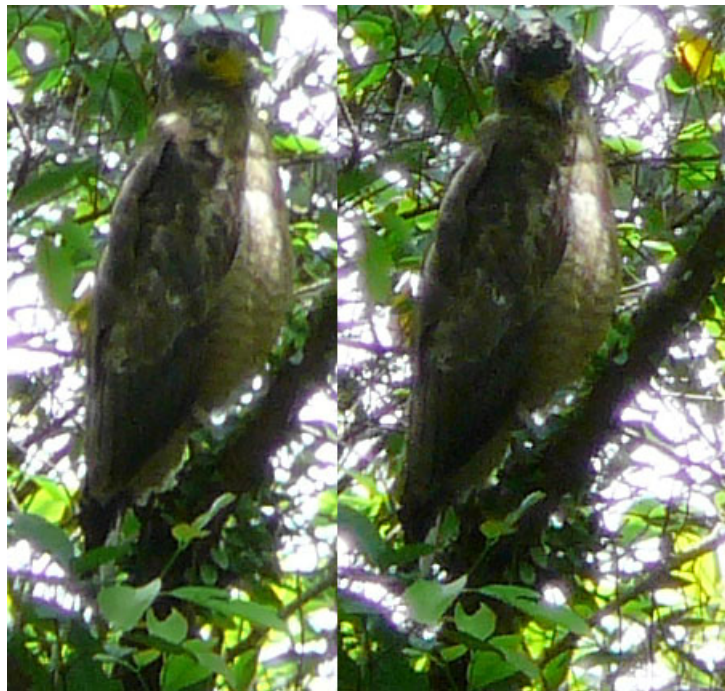
The other migrant raptors included 5 **Chinese Sparrowhawks**, 4 **Ospreys**, 4 **Peregrine Falcons**, 2 **Eastern Marsh Harriers** and 1 **Common Buzzard**.



Grey-faced Buzzard at Tanah Merah Grasslands on 120311, by Nicholas Tan

For the resident raptors, a rare **Crested Serpent Eagle** was seen and photographed at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve (SBWR) near the car park on the 19th by Raj Krishnan and other birders. SBWR also produced this month's only record of the rare **Crested Goshawk** on the 20th, by Horst Flotow, during the bird census.

A single Grey-headed Fish Eagle was recorded this month. Rounding up the resident raptors are the usual **Black-winged Kites**, **Brahminy Kites**, **White-bellied Sea Eagles**, and **Changeable Hawk-eagles**.



Crested Serpent Eagle, at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve on 190311, by Raj Krishnan

Table 1

S/N	Species	No.	S/N	Species	No.
1	Osprey	4		Residents / Sedentary Species	
2	Jerdon's Baza	3	11	Black-winged Kite	7
3	Black Baza	81	12	Brahminy Kite	24
4	Oriental Honey Buzzard	171	13	White-bellied Sea Eagle	15
5	Eastern Marsh Harrier	2	14	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	1
6	Chinese Sparrowhawk	5	15	Crested Serpent Eagle	1
7	Japanese Sparrowhawk	11	16	Crested Goshawk	1
8	Grey-faced Buzzard	8	17	Changeable Hawk-eagle	14
9	Common Buzzard	1			
10	Peregrine Falcon	4			
Total for Migrants		290	Grand Total		353

Note: The total numbers are indicative only with similar species in the same area discounted to prevent duplication.

1. Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (4)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
5	1	Changi Coast Road, 11:30am	Jim Yeo
9	1	Seletar Dam, bird caught a fish	Tan Kok Hui
20	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Horst Flotow
20	1	Serangoon Reservoir	Tan Kok Hui

2. Jerdon's Baza *Aviceda jerdoni* (3)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
13	3	Changi Cove	Con Foley & Danny Lau



Jerdon's Baza, at Changi Cove on 130311, by Con Foley

3. Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes* (81)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
9	3	Khatib Bongsu	Tan Kok Hui
11	2	Telok Blangah Hill Park, Car Park C, morning	Terry Heppell
11	1	Jalan Gemala	Tan Kok Hui
14	2	Tyersall Avenue, 9am	Mick Price
20	2	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Horst Flotow
20	1	Kent Ridge Park, morning	Alan OwYong
20	1	Serangoon Reservoir	Tan Kok Hui
20	1	Poyan	Danny Lau

20	1	Ubin West	Willie Foo & Goh Pei Hao
27	11	Neo Tiew Lane 2, kettling on thermals	Doreen Ang, Ah Huay, Ivy Tan, Daphne Liew, Ho Fee Hian, Ness, Ian & Freda Rickword
30	56	Tuas South Avenue 5, one flock, after 4pm	Martti Siponen

4. Oriental Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus* (171)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
4	2	Jurong Bird Park, 1pm	Jeremy Lewis
5	1	Tanah Merah	Low Choon How
6	2	Pasir Ris Park, adult pale morph & juvenile pale morph	Jeremy Lewis
6	1	Junction of PIE and KPE, 6pm	Yoshio Yamane
12	1	Singapore Quarry	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng
13	1	Changi Cove	Danny Lau & Con Foley
14	2	MacPherson Road, juvenile pale morph and adult dark morph	Lena Chow
14	2	MacPherson Road, juvenile pale morph and adult dark morph	Lena Chow
25	38	Changi Cove, a kettle heading eastwards, 10am	Lim Kim Seng & Lee Tiah Khee
30	26	Tuas South Avenue 5, 26 birds on migration counted in 30 minutes	Martti Siponen
30	97	Tuas South Avenue 5, mostly after 4pm	Martti Siponen



A kettle of Oriental Honey Buzzards, at Changi Cove on 250311, by Lee Tiah Khee

5. Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus* (2)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
5	1	Tanah Merah, juvenile	Low Choon How
12	1	Tanah Merah Grasslands, male	Nicholas Tan

6. Chinese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter soloensis* (5)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
13	1	Changi Cove, adult male	Danny Lau & Con Foley
20	1	Serangoon Reservoir, in flight	Tan Kok Hui
30	3	Tuas South Avenue 5, mostly after 4pm	Martti Siponen

7. Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis* (11)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
29	2	Buona Vista, 5:15pm	Cyril Ng
30	9	Tuas South Avenue 5, mostly after 4pm	Martti Siponen

8. Grey-faced Buzzard *Butastur indicus* (8)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
12	8	Tanah Merah Grasslands, kettling high in the sky	Nicholas Tan

9. Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
5	1	Tanah Merah	Low Choon How



Common Buzzard, Tanah Merah, 050311, by Low Choon How

10. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (4)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1	1	Raffles Place, 9pm	Jeremy Lewis
15	1	Harding Road, morning, juvenile "It was sighted there a couple of other occasions since late December last year."	See Toh
20	1	Lorong Halus	Alfred Chia
27	1	Neo Tiew Lane 2	Doreen Ang, Ah Huay, Ivy Tan, Daphne Liew, Ho Fee Hian, Ness, Ian & Freda Rickword

Resident raptors

11. Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* (7)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
9	1	Seletar West	Tan Kok Hui
11	1	Neo Tiew Lane 2	Tan Kok Hui
12	1	Tuas	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau
13	3	Changi Cove	Danny Lau & Con Foley
17	2	Tuas Grasslands	Felix Wong
27	1	Neo Tiew Lane 2	Doreen Ang, Ah Huay, Ivy Tan, Daphne Liew, Ho Fee Hian, Ness, Ian & Freda Rickword

12. Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus* (24)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
5	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Jeremy Lewis
6	1	Labrador Park, bird caught a fish	Danny Lau
9	1	Seletar Dam, immature bird caught a fish	Tan Kok Hui
11	2	Neo Tiew Lane 2	Tan Kok Hui
13	4	Changi Cove, 3 adults, 1 sub-adult	Danny Lau & Con Foley
17	2	King's Avenue, 2 chicks seen clearly on nest	Margie Hall
18	1	West Coast Park	Lam Hon Pui
20	3	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Horst Flotow
20	2	Serangoon Reservoir	Tan Kok Hui
20	1	Ubin West	Willie Foo & Goh Pei Hao
26	2	Kranji Marsh, adults, morning	Wong Chung Cheong
26	1	Changi Coast Road	Jim Yeo

13. White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* (15)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
5	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Jeremy Lewis
9	2	Seletar Dam, adults	Tan Kok Hui
11	1	Poyan	Tan Kok Hui
12	4	Singapore Quarry	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng
13	2	Changi Cove	Danny Lau & Con Foley
20	1	Bukit Batok Nature Park	Andrew Chow
20	2	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Horst Flotow
20	1	Poyan	Danny Lau
20	2	Ubin West	Willie Foo & Goh Pei Hao
23	1	Lower Pierce Reservoir, evening	Felix Wong
26	2	Kranji Marsh, adults, morning	Wong Chung Cheong
26	1	Changi Coast Road, 11:17am	Jim Yeo
27	2	Neo Tiew Lane 2, adults	Doreen Ang, Ah Huay, Ivy Tan, Daphne Liew, Ho Fee Hian, Ness, Ian & Freda Rickword
27	2	Kranji Nature Trail	Danny Lau
31	1	Pasir Ris Drive 12, having confrontation with a Changeable Hawk-eagle	Lee Tiah Khee
31	2	Loyang Valley, adults	Howard Banwell

14. Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
20	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Horst Flotow
27	1	Neo Tiew Lane 2, adult	Doreen Ang, Ah Huay, Ivy Tan, Daphne Liew, Ho Fee Hian, Ness, Ian & Freda Rickword

15. Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
19	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Raj Krishnan

16. Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
20	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Horst Flotow

17. Changeable Hawk-eagle *Spizaetus cirrhatus* (14)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2	1	Tuas Grasslands, pale morph	Felix Wong
4	2	Tanjong Rhu	Arjun Sai Krishnan
5	1	Tanah Merah, pale adult.	Low Choon How
12	1	Tanah Merah Flyover, dark adult	Jim Yeo
12	2	Singapore Quarry, pale morph & dark morph	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng
20	1	Bukit Batok Nature Park	Andrew Chow
20	2	Lorong Halus	Alfred Chia
20	1	Poyan	Danny Lau
25	2	Changi Cove	Lim Kim Seng & Lee Tiah Khee
27	2	Neo Tiew Lane 2, 1 pale and 1 dark morph	Doreen Ang, Ah Huay, Ivy Tan, Daphne Liew, Ho Fee Hian, Ness, Ian & Freda Rickword
31	1	Pasir Ris Drive 12, dark morph, having confrontation with a White-bellied Sea Eagle	Lee Tiah Khee

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 prevent duplication.

Many thanks to those who have sent in their reports and especially to Nicholas Tan, Raj Krishnan, Con Foley, Lee Tiah Khee and Low Choon How for the use of their photos.