

Singapore Raptor Report February 2020



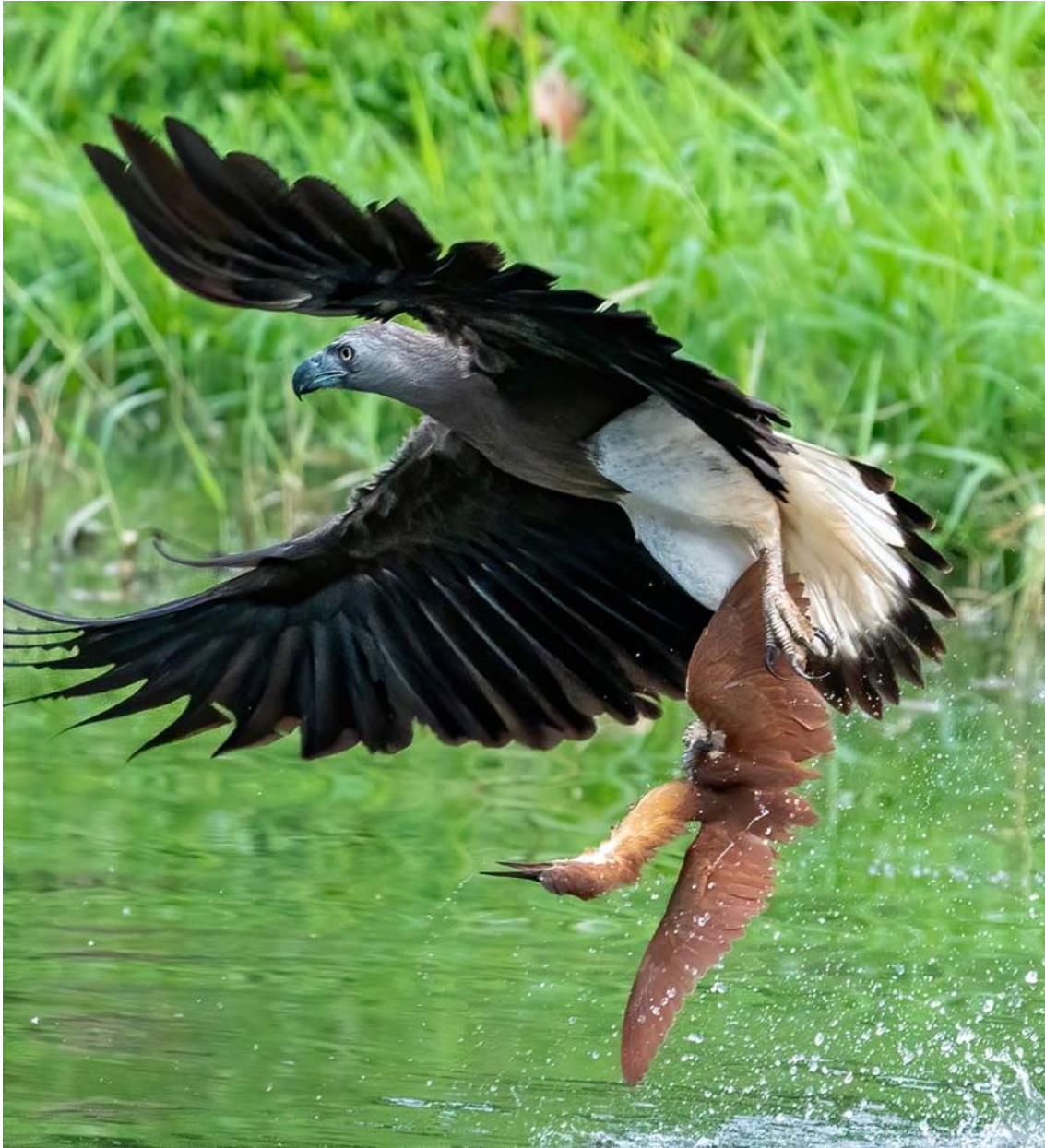
*Common Buzzard, juvenile pale morph,
at Bedok North Avenue 3, on 27 Feb 2020, by Danny Khoo*

Summary for migrant species:

In February 2020, 126 raptors of 10 migrant species were recorded. A scarce **Common Buzzard** perched on top of a HDB apartment block at Bedok North Avenue 3 was photographed by Danny Khoo on the 27th. A single dark morph **Booted Eagle** was photographed in flight at Coney Island on the 23rd by Yip Jen Wei, who also photographed a **Grey-faced Buzzard** at Puaka Hill, Pulau Ubin on the 29th.

Three **Chinese Sparrowhawks** were recorded, one at Pasir Ris, one at Lorong Halus – Coney Island area, and one female wintering at Ang Mo Kio. Of the six **Jerdon's Bazas**, five were recorded in the Lorong Halus – Coney Island area between the 7th to the 22nd, and one at Pulau Ubin on the 23rd. At our coastal areas, six **Western Ospreys** were recorded, including one at Lorong Halus on the 25th, mobbed by a Peregrine Falcon. As for the **Peregrine Falcons**, seven were recorded around the island, including one that mobbed an Oriental Honey Buzzard at Lorong Halus on the 25th.

Nine **Japanese Sparrowhawks** were recorded, all singles, at various localities. Rounding off the migrant raptors were 45 **Oriental Honey Buzzards** and 47 **Black Bazas**, including a flock of 14 at Kranji Marshes on the 28th.



Grey-headed Fish Eagle, flying off with a Cinnamon Bittern that it had caught in the river, at Pandan River, on 18 Feb 2020, by Yeak Hwee Lee.

Highlights for sedentary species:

Breeding-related activities were observed for five resident species. On the 10th, a pair of **Changeable Hawk-Eagles** (1 pale morph & 1 dark morph) were observed on their nest at Little Guilin. On the 23rd, a **Black-winged Kite** at Kranji Marshes was flying with nesting materials. At Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve on the 25th, a pair of **White-bellied Sea Eagles** were photographed in the act of mating. On the 28th, an active nest of the **Brahminy Kite** was found at the Jurong Lake Gardens.

February might just be the peak breeding period for the **Crested Goshawk**, as breeding-related activities were observed at five different locations: on the 5th, a nest with one chick was recorded at West Coast Park; on the 10th, courtship feeding was observed between a pair which had built a nest at Pasir Ris Park; the goshawk at Ang Mo Kio on the 10th was apparently nesting for the second season; at Pasir Panjang, an active nest with two chicks was observed throughout the month; and at Thomson, a nest with two chicks was recorded during the month, although only one chick survived.



Crested Goshawk, with a young Water Monitor Lizard that it had caught, at Pasir Ris Park, on 13 Feb 2020, by Michael Kwee.

Nine **Grey-headed Fish Eagles** were recorded at various waterbodies, including an adult at Pandan River on the 18th, ‘captured’ on camera by a lucky few (Yeak Hwee Lee, *et al*) in the act of catching an adult male Cinnamon Bittern that was hunting in the river. This is the second time a Grey-headed Fish Eagle was observed preying on a Cinnamon Bittern – the previous occurrence was on 13 Sep 2018, also at Pandan River. While mostly a fish eater, the Grey-headed Fish Eagle is known to take birds up to the size of a junglefowl, and small mammals like squirrels.

A **Crested Serpent Eagle** was recorded at Dairy Farm Nature Park on the 12th & 25th. And, one *torquatus* tweeddale morph **Oriental Honey Buzzard** was recorded at Singapore Quarry on the 20th.

Table 1

S/N	Species	No.	S/N	Species	No.
1	Western Osprey	6		<i>Residents / Sedentary Species</i>	
2	Jerdon's Baza	6	11	Black-winged Kite	6
3	Black Baza	47	12	Brahminy Kite	*C
4	Oriental Honey Buzzard	45	13	White-bellied Sea Eagle	*C
5	Chinese Sparrowhawk	3	14	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	9
6	Japanese Sparrowhawk	9	15	Crested Serpent Eagle	1
7	Common Buzzard	1	16	Crested Goshawk	16
8	Grey-faced Buzzard	1	17	Changeable Hawk-Eagle	5
9	Booted Eagle	1			
10	Peregrine Falcon	7		<i>Unidentified</i>	
			18	Unidentified Raptor	1
	Total for Migrants	126		Grand Total	164

*C = Common Raptor

1. Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (6)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1	1	SBWR	Michael Leong
9	1	Lorong Halus	Zhang Licong
21	2	Yishun Dam	Oliver Tan
23	2	Kranji Marshes	Martin Kennewell
23	1	Gardens by the Bay	Mikhail Alexandrov
25	1	Coney Island, morning	Lee Chuin Ming
25	1	Lorong Halus Wetland, mobbed by a Peregrine Falcon	Sylvester Goh

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

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
7	1	Lorong Halus	Yeong Wai Kai
9	5	Coney Island	Ramesh T.
18	1	Coney Island	Kay Aik
22	5	Coney Island	Michael Leong
23	1	Pulau Ubin	Yap Wee Jin

3. Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes* (47)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2	16	Neo Tiew Harvest Lane, 2 flocks	Fadzrun A.
5	2	Changi Business Park	Wong Sangmen
9	1	Jurong Lake Garden	Bob Perata
12	1	Admiralty Road West	Martin Kennewell
14	1	Pasir Ris Park	Herman Phua
15	4	Lorong Halus Wetland	Krishna G.
16	3	Pasir Ris Park	Josh Spiler
23	3	Pulau Ubin	Oliver Tan
25	6	Botanic Gardens	Sandra Chia
28	14	Kranji Marshes, one flock, 7:30am	Martti Siponen

4. Oriental Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus* (45) *orientalis* unless indicated otherwise

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1	1	Eastwood Estate, juvenile pale morph	Herman Phua
1	2	NUS	Oliver Tan
3	1	Jurong Lake Garden, juvenile pale morph	Siew Mun
4	2	Lorong Halus Wetland	Oliver Tan
6	1	Pasir Ris Park	Steven Cheong
8	1	Bishan Park, juvenile pale morph	Laurence Eu
8	5	Changi Business Park	Lu Kiat
8	1	Jurong Lake Garden, juvenile pale morph	Siew Mun
9	3	Jurong Lake Garden, pale morphs, 1 female & 2 juveniles	Art Toh
10	2	Botanic Gardens	Ronald de Mol

10	3	West Coast Drive	Tay Kian Guan
12	1	Rifle Range Link	Keita Sin
13	1	Eastwood Estate, juvenile pale morph	Herman Phua
14	1	Jurong Lake Garden, juvenile pale morph	Siew Mun
14	2	Bukit Timah Nature Reserve	Oliver Tan
16	1	Seletar Aerospace Crescent, female dark morph	Jason Hong
19	2	Bishan Park	Peter Bijlmakers
19	1	Telok Blangah Hill Park	Keita Sin
19	1	Jurong Lake Garden, juvenile	Laurence Eu
20	1	Singapore Quarry, <i>torquatus</i> tweeddale morph	Martin Kennewell
20	1	Changi Business Park, juvenile pale morph	Lee Chuin Ming
20	1	Toa Payoh	Sylvester Goh
20	6	Jurong Lake Garden	Keita Sin
22	1	Japanese Cemetery Park	Peter Bijlmakers
22	2	Kranji Marshes	Martti Siponen
22	1	Changi Point Coastal Walk	Evelyn Lee
23	1	Coney Island, morning	Angie Cheong
23	1	Coney Island, morning	Chen Boon Chong
23	1	West Coast Park, juvenile pale morph	Fadzrun A.
24	1	Holland Village, adult male pale morph	Art Toh
25	1	Coney Island, adult male dark morph, morning	Lee Chuin Ming
27	1	Geylang Lorong 28, male, 5:07pm	Kerry Pereira
28	1	Gardens by the Bay East, juvenile pale morph	Herman Phua
28	1	Jurong Lake Garden, female pale morph	Siew Mun
29	1	Bedok Park Connector	Geri Lim

5. Chinese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter soloensis* (3)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
4	1	Pasir Ris Park	Mike Hooper
11	1	Lorong Halus Wetland	Peter Bijlmakers
--	1	Ang Mo Kio, adult female	Raymond Siew
23	1	Coney Island, adult male	Soumen Mondal

6. Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis* (9)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2	1	Neo Tiew Harvest Lane, adult male	Fadzrun A.
2	1	Changi Business Park	Russell Boyman
2	1	Toa Payoh	Richard Davis
13	1	Hume Avenue	Roger McNeill
16	1	Dairy Farm Nature Park	Raghav N.
16	1	Jurong Lake Garden	Han YK
19	1	Springleaf Nature Park	Keita Sin
23	1	Coney Island, morning	Angie Cheong
23	1	Coney Island, morning	Chen Boon Chong
25	1	Pulau Ubin	Oliver Tan
28	1	West Coast Park	Peter Bijlmakers

7. Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
27	1	Bedok North Avenue 3 near SingPost, juvenile pale morph perched atop an HDB block, late afternoon	Danny Khoo

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

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
29	1	Puaka Hill, Pulau Ubin	Yip Jen Wei

9. Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
23	1	Coney Island, dark morph, 8:49am	Yip Jen Wei, Liu Weihao

10. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (7)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1	1	Taman Jurong, juvenile	Norhafiani A. Majid
7	1	Botanic Gardens	Martin Kennewell
17	1	Jurong Lake Garden, juvenile	Oliver Tan
19	1	Hindhede Nature Park	Martin Kennewell
22	1	Kranji Marshes	Martti Siponen
23	1	Coney Island, juvenile, 10:31am	Angie Cheong
25	1	Coney Island, juvenile, morning	Lee Chuin Ming
25	1	Lorong Halus Wetlands, mobbed an OHB	Sylvester Goh
27	1	Bedok North, adult	Khoo Meilin
28	1	West Coast Park	Peter Bijlmakers

Resident raptors

11. Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* (6)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
8	2	Kranji Marshes	Martti Siponen
8	2	Tuas South	Oliver Tan
14	1	Bukit Timah Nature Reserve	Raghav N.
15	1	Coney Island	Michael Leong
23	1	Kranji Marshes, bringing nesting materials	Troy Shortell
28	2	Kranji Marshes	Martti Siponen

12. Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
		-- common raptor --	
28	1	Jurong Lake Gardens, active nest	Fadzrun A.

13. White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
		-- common raptor --	
25	2	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, photographed mating	Derrick Wong

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

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
4	1	Botanic Gardens vicinity, adult	Cheng Li Ai
7	1	MacRitchie Reservoir	Marcel Finlay
9	1	Jurong Lake Garden	Martin Kennewell
10	1	Little Guilin, adult perched on bushes on cliff face throughout, 9am – 10:30am	Ulf Remahl
--	1	Pulau Ubin, adult	Wang HM
18	1	Pandan River, adult, caught a male Cinnamon Bittern, morning	Yeak Hwee Lee, Vincent Lim, Ong SY
23	1	Kranji Marshes	Martin Kennewell
25	1	Lorong Halus Wetland, adult	Choong YT
26	1	Botanic Gardens	Evelyn Lee
29	2	Pandan River, adults	Jean-Pierre Bousquet

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

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
12	1	Dairy Farm Nature Park	Keita Sin
25	1	Dairy Farm Nature Park	Peter Bijlmakers

16. Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus* (16)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
4	2	Pasir Ris Park, adult sharing prey – a myna	Bp Chua
4	1	West Coast Park, on the ground, looked injured	Steven Wong
5	1	West Coast Park, nest with 1 chick	Catalina
9	1	SBWR	Martti Siponen
10	2	Botanic Gardens	Peter Bijlmakers
10	2	Pasir Ris Park, adults with prey – a rat	Kelvin Ng
10	2	Pasir Ris Park, adults, apparently courtship feeding by the male	Wong Sangmen
10	1	Ang Mo Kio, apparently nesting for the 2nd season	Ender Tey
13	2	Pasir Ris Park, adult feeding on a young water monitor lizard	Ibn Talip, Michael Kwee

14	2	West Coast Park	Keita Sin
24	1	Pasir Ris Park, adult caught a white-throated kingfisher	Eric Bronson
27	1	Central Catchment Nature Reserve, immature	Alex Fok
28	2	Sin Ming area, 1 adult & 1 fledgling	Nicole Philips
28	2	Pasir Panjang, 2 chicks on nest	Shandy Lee
28	2	West Coast Park	Tay Kian Guan
29	1	Sentosa, adult	John Marriott
29	1	Pasir Ris Park, adult caught a junglefowl chick	Leow Hui Chin
Feb	4	Pasir Panjang, nest with 2 chicks, observed from 040120 til fledging on 220320	Shandy Lee
Feb	4	Thomson, nesting, 2 chicks, 1 did not survive	Md Jusri, Gerald Ng

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

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
3	1	Neo Tiew Harvest Link, pale morph	Pary Sivaraman
10	1	Changi Business Park, pale morph	Herman Phua
10	2	Little Guilin, one pale morph & one dark morph observed on nest, 9am – 10:30am	Ulf Remahl
22	1	One-North, juvenile	Alan OwYong

18. Unidentified Raptor (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
19	1	Lorong Halus, unidentified <i>Falco</i>	Henrietta Woo

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 Danny Khoo, Yeak Hwee Lee, and Michael Kwee for the use of their photos.