

Singapore Raptor Report Spring Migration, February 2011

Summary:

A total of 116 migrant raptors of 12 species were recorded this month, an increase of 1 species over last month. This was due to the first **Pied Harrier** for this season, which was recorded at Changi by Myron Tay. The **Black Baza** is again tops in numbers, with 52 birds. The **Oriental Honey Buzzard** was number two, again, with 28 birds. The third place went to the **Chinese Sparrowhawks** with 6 birds. For three months in a row, the Chinese Sparrowhawks outnumbered the **Japanese Sparrowhawks**.

A group of 3 **Jerdon's Baza** put up a good show at Lorong Halus with daily flybys from the 4th to the 10th and then again on the 20th. One was seen by lucky Gloria Seow at Jelutong Tower on the 6th and one at Bidadari by Jonathan Cheah on the 5th making for a total of 5 birds.



Jerdon's Baza at Lorong Halus on 040211, by Francis Yap

This was a good month for the **Booted Eagle**. Apart from their stronghold at Seletar West, 2 were seen at Jelutong Tower in the Central Catchment by Gloria Seow and one at Changi by Jonathan Cheah. The single juvenile **Black Kite** continued to be present at Changi and was recorded on the 5th and the 26th of the month. Changi held 2 juvenile and 1 adult male **Eastern Marsh Harriers** (EMH). Another EMH was seen at Lorong Halus, thermalling. 2 **Common Buzzards** continue to winter at Changi. Small numbers of **Ospreys** and **Peregrine Falcons** accounted for the remainder of the migrant raptors.

For the resident raptors, 3 **Crested Goshawks** were recorded. This is a surprisingly high number as it is a rare resident. A juvenile was seen and photographed on the 8th by See Toh and Jonathan Cheah while Johnny Chew photographed another juvenile at Japanese Gardens on the 17th, perched on an open branch! This species tends to skulk in the foliage and uses the element of surprise to hunt. Danny Lau's sighting on the 20th of a bird perched under tree cover at Mount Faber was more typical behaviour for this species. Grey-headed Fish Eagles are holding out reasonably well and there are the usual **Black-winged Kites**, **Brahminy Kites**, **White-bellied Sea Eagles**, and **Changeable Hawk-eagles**.



Crested Goshawk, juvenile, at Japanese Gardens on 170211, by Johnny Chew



Crested Goshawk, at Earth Trail, on 200211, by Danny Lau

Table 1

S/N	Species	No.	S/N	Species	No.
1	Osprey	5		Residents / Sedentary Species	
2	Jerdon's Baza	5	13	Black-winged Kite	9
3	Black Baza	52	14	Brahminy Kite	32
4	Oriental Honey Buzzard	29	15	White-bellied Sea Eagle	21
5	Black Kite	1	16	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	5
6	Eastern Marsh Harrier	4	17	Crested Goshawk	3
7	Pied Harrier	1	18	Changeable Hawk-eagle	15
8	Chinese Sparrowhawk	6			
9	Japanese Sparrowhawk	3		Unidentified	
10	Common Buzzard	2	19	Unidentified Raptors	2
11	Booted Eagle	4	20	Unidentified Accipiters	1
12	Peregrine Falcon	4			
Total for Migrants		116	Grand Total		204

Compiled by Tan Gim Cheong