

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

Compiled by Tan Gim Cheong