

## Singapore Raptor Report Autumn Migration, December 2011

### Summary for migrant species:

This month, 101 migrant raptors of 12 species were recorded. An all time high of 8 **Jerdon's Baza** were reported. The first was an individual photographed at Tampines Eco Garden on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and reported by Peck Chan. Then, on the 10<sup>th</sup>, a flock of 7 was seen at Changi by Con Foley, Danny Lau, Jiasheng and Kok Hui! Moving to Lorong Halus later on, Danny, Jiasheng and Kok Hui saw another individual flying towards Coney Island! It is not clear if this was the same bird seen by Peck Chan on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

As for the **Booted Eagle**, 2 birds remained at the Pulau Seletar wintering site. Also notable was an adult **Oriental Honey Buzzard** of the *torquatus* subspecies seen and photographed by Tan Hwee Boon on the 31<sup>st</sup> at Pasir Ris Park. A single juvenile **Rufous-bellied Eagle** made the day for Seetoh Yew Wai at Bukit Timah Nature Reserve in the middle of the month.

The top 2 most numerous migrant raptors went to the usual suspects – the **Black Baza** with 49 birds and the **Oriental Honey Buzzard** with 18 birds. Surprisingly, the 3<sup>rd</sup> spot went to the **Jerdon's Baza**!

*Oriental Honey Buzzard,  
torquatus subspecies,  
showing the long crest,  
at Pasir Ris,  
on 291211,  
by Tan Hwee Boon*



As usual, Changi is the place for harriers and a beautiful adult male **Pied Harrier** was seen and photographed by a few lucky birders! A juvenile Pied Harrier was also present. There were also three **Eastern Marsh Harrier** – 1 male and 2 juveniles. Changi was also the only site for the 3 **Common Buzzards** recorded. One ‘dark morph’ individual was kindly identified by Dr. Chaiyan of the Thai Raptor Group as a “Grey-brown” variant of the *vulpinus* subspecies, which some authors refer to as the Steppe Buzzard.

Small numbers of **Chinese Sparrowhawk**, **Japanese Sparrowhawk**, **Peregrine Falcon** and **Osprey** completed the line up for the migrant raptors.



*Jerdon's Baza at Changi, on 101211, by Con Foley*

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

The rare **Crested Goshawk** was recorded only once, on the 31<sup>st</sup>, but it was a good record as an adult was photographed holding a rat in its claws, perched next to a juvenile. The juvenile seem to be big enough to tear up the prey on its own as the adult flew off, leaving the youngster with the rat.

A pair of **White-bellied Sea Eagles** were photographed by Low Choon How performing their courtship rituals by locking talons in mid-air near Pulau Seletar in the early part of the month, a usual breeding time for local raptors. Nesting activity was also reported for the **Grey-headed Fish Eagle**. On the 10<sup>th</sup>, a **Black-winged Kite** was seen mobbing a **Changeable Hawk-eagle** in flight. Apart from the common **Brahminy Kites**, 10 unidentified raptors were also recorded this month.



