

Singapore Raptor Report Spring Migration, January 2013

Summary for migrant species:

A total of 35 migrant raptors of 10 species were recorded in January 2013. The **Black Baza** and the **Oriental Honey Buzzard** tied for the top spot with 10 birds each. The third spot was taken by the **Osprey** with 5 birds.

Next up were the **Booted Eagles**, of which 3 were still wintering at Seletar North Link. There was 1 pale morph, 1 dark morph and 1 rufous morph. For the **Peregrine Falcon**, 2 birds were recorded, with an adult at Chinese Gardens mobbed by a bunch of House Crows.

For the other 5 migrant species, only 1 individual, each, was recorded. The first **Rufous-bellied Eagle** for the season, a juvenile, was recorded on two days at King's Avenue, Sembawang, by Margie Hall from her garden! The **Common Buzzard**, a dark morph, was at the usual spot in Changi, as was the single female **Pied Harrier**. The male **Chinese Sparrowhawk** made a few appearances at Seletar North Link and the juvenile **Japanese Sparrowhawk** was photographed at Jalan Boon Lay.



*Changeable Hawk-eagle, juvenile pale morph, at Neo Tiew Lane 2, by David Yeo.
Note the pale (white) uppertail coverts, which are not illustrated in field guides!*

Highlights for sedentary species: The **Crested Goshawk**, **Crested Serpent Eagle** and **Grey-headed Fish Eagle** made it back to the monthly report after having gone “missing” in December 2012. Notably, the Crested Goshawk and the Crested Serpent Eagle were both recorded at King’s Avenue on the 23rd by Margie Hall. With regard to raptors in flight, David Yeo managed to photograph a rare view of the upperwing and uppertail of a juvenile **Changeable Hawk-eagle** in flight, which clearly showed the pale (white) uppertail coverts – a feature not illustrated in field guides!



Grey-headed Fish Eagle, juvenile, at Seletar North Link, by Low Choon How.

Table 1

S/N	Species	No.	S/N	Species	No.
1	Osprey	5			
2	Black Baza	10		Residents / Sedentary Species	
3	Oriental Honey Buzzard	10	11	Black-winged Kite	4
4	Pied Harrier	1	12	Brahminy Kite	19
5	Chinese Sparrowhawk	1	13	White-bellied Sea Eagle	21
6	Japanese Sparrowhawk	1	14	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	6
7	Common Buzzard	1	15	Crested Serpent Eagle	1
8	Booted Eagle	3	16	Crested Goshawk	3
9	Rufous-bellied Eagle	1	17	Changeable Hawk-eagle	6
10	Peregrine Falcon	2			
Total for Migrants		35	Grand Total		95

Compiled by Tan Gim Cheong