

## Singapore Raptor Report Autumn Migration, November 2011

### Summary for migrant species:

By all counts, November was a good month for raptors, as it usually is, with 13 migrant species recorded, 5 more species compared with the month before. A total of 277 migrant raptors were recorded, quite an improvement over last month's 94.



*Japanese Sparrowhawk, adult female, feeding on Eurasian Tree Sparrow,  
at Bedok, on 141111, by Wong Wan Shin, Rane*

It was a close fight for the top spot, with the **Black Baza** numbering 121 and the **Oriental Honey Buzzard** just a “hair” behind at 120 birds. Notably, a kettle of 52 Black Bazas were seen at Kent Ridge Park on the 7<sup>th</sup> of the month by Horst Flotow during his recce for the raptor watch. On the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month, John Spencer also did his pre-raptor watch birding and was rewarded with 45 Oriental Honey Buzzards circling over Kent Ridge Park before heading east.

Next up for the goodies! Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng and Tan Kok Hui record the first **Booted Eagles** for the season at Pulau Punggol. There were a total of 4 dark morphs (one was more like intermediate) and two of them were clearly moulting. The other two appeared to be juveniles in fresh plumage. These birds elicited a stream of birders / photographers who managed to see the rare eagles during most of the month. On the 10<sup>th</sup>, Nicholas Tan saw 2 **Jerdon's Bazas** at Tanah Merah. On the 16<sup>th</sup>, David Li had the good fortune of seeing and photographing a beautiful juvenile **Rufous-bellied Eagle** flying over the Singapore Botanic Gardens. Then on the 18<sup>th</sup>, Low Choon How photographed the first **Common Kestrel** for the season. This rare *Falco* is not recorded every year, so it was a very good record indeed.



*Rufous-bellied Eagle, juvenile, over Singapore Botanic Gardens, on 161111, by David Li*

For the rare **Pied Harrier**, 4 were recorded, which was a good number! There was one female at Changi and 3 juveniles – one at Changi, one over Pulau Punggol and one at Turut Track, a new locality for the species. Four **Eastern Marsh Harriers** were recorded, 2 adult males and 2 juveniles, all at Changi.

Three **Common Buzzards** were recorded at their usual haunts in Changi. There was a pale juvenile, a pale adult and a dark morph. The seven **Japanese Sparrowhawks** recorded was on the low side for the species at this time of the year. Nevertheless, an adult female put up a good show for Wong Wan Shin (Rane) by feeding on an Eurasian Tree Sparrow right outside his window! The five **Chinese Sparrowhawks** recorded was comparable to previous years. Small numbers of the regular **Ospreys** and **Peregrine Falcons** completed the line-up for the migrant raptors.

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

The rare **Crested Goshawk** was seen again on the 20<sup>th</sup> at Chinese Garden. The other rarity, the **Crested Serpent Eagle** was seen at Sungei Bulaoh Wetland Reserve on the 7<sup>th</sup> by John Spencer and on the 18<sup>th</sup> by Margie Hall from the comfort of her house at King's Avenue!

There were 4 **Grey-headed Fish Eagles** and notably, one was seen carrying nesting materials. The uncommon **Changeable Hawk-eagles** (16 birds) have really grown from strength-to-strength and they outnumbered the common **White-bellied Sea Eagles** (12 birds)! As usual, the most common resident raptor was the **Brahminy Kite**. We also had small numbers of the **Black-winged Kite**.



*Changeable Hawk-eagle, juvenile dark morph, 161111, by Francis Yap*

**Table 1**

S/N	Species	No.	S/N	Species	No.
1	Osprey	2			
2	Jerdon's Baza	2		<b><i>Residents / Sedentary Species</i></b>	
3	Black Baza	121	14	Black-winged Kite	4
4	Oriental Honey Buzzard	120	15	Brahminy Kite	21
5	Eastern Marsh Harrier	4	16	White-bellied Sea Eagle	12
6	Pied Harrier	4	17	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	4
7	Chinese Sparrowhawk	6	18	Crested Serpent Eagle	2
8	Japanese Sparrowhawk	7	19	Crested Goshawk	1
9	Common Buzzard	3	20	Changeable Hawk-eagle	16
10	Booted Eagle	3			
11	Rufous-bellied Eagle	1		<b><i>Unidentified</i></b>	
12	Common Kestrel	1	21	Unidentified <i>Accipiters</i>	22
13	Peregrine Falcon	3	22	Unidentified Raptors	1
<b>Total for Migrants</b>		<b>277</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>360</b>

*Compiled by Tan Gim Cheong*

*Many thanks to those who have sent in their reports and especially to Wong Wan Shin, David Li, Francis Yap, Jason Cho, Myron Tay, Con Foley, Ben Lee, Low Choon How, Nicholas Tan and Lee Tiah Khee for the use of their photos.*

Photospot Feature – Booted Eagles at Pulau Punggol in November 2011



*Booted Eagle no. 1,  
161111, by Myron Tay*



*Booted Eagle no. 2,  
191111, by Jason Cho*



*Booted Eagle no.3,  
261111, by Nicholas Tan*



Nicholas Tan

*Booted Eagle no. 3,  
261111, by Nicholas Tan*



*Booted Eagles no. 3 & 4,  
271111, by Low Choon How*



*Booted Eagles no. 3 & 4,  
271111, by Low Choon How*