

Singapore Raptor Report Autumn Migration, October 2013



Besra, at Tuas South, 201013, by Low Choon How.

Summary for migrant species:

This season appears to be a season of rarities. Low Choon How's vigil at Tuas South paid off handsomely with a very rare **Besra** photographed on the 20th, bringing forward the early date by a whopping 37 days. He also recorded a rare **Common Kestrel** at the same site on the 19th. Over at the Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Francis Yap's hikes to the Jelutong Tower were rewarded with a very rare **Short-toed Snake Eagle** on the 24th and a rare **Black Kite** (juvenile) on the 28th!

A total of 310 migrant raptors of 11 species were recorded this month. In stark contrast with last year, the **Oriental Honey Buzzard** (OHB) came in top with 180 birds while the **Black Baza** was relegated to an unusually low 4th place with just 5 birds. Of note, Low Choon How recorded 122 OHB on the 20th at Tuas South. The second most numerous migrant raptor was the **Japanese Sparrowhawk** with 73 birds. Not far behind was the **Chinese Sparrowhawk** with 40 birds. Two separate flocks of 10 Chinese Sparrowhawks recorded on migration on the 18th were the largest flocks recorded.

A pale morph **Booted Eagle** recorded by Lim Kim Keang, See Swee Leng and Tan Ju Lin on the 20th, during the bird race, set the early date forward by 6 days. A few **Ospreys** and a **Peregrine Falcon** completed the line-up of this month's migrant raptors. Notably absent were the harriers and the Common Buzzard.



*Short-toed Snake Eagle,
at Jelutong Tower, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, 241013, by Francis Yap.*

Highlights for sedentary species:

Two rare residents were recorded this month. The **Crested Serpent Eagle** was recorded at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve during the bird race on the 20th and at Bukit Timah Hill Top by Lau Jia Sheng on the 29th. The other rare resident was the **Crested Goshawk** which was recorded at three separate localities; one at National Junior College was found on the grass, apparently stunned, but alive. Also notable was a sedentary *torquatus* **OHB** photographed by Daniel Ong near Maju Camp on the 26th. The other resident raptors recorded included the **Grey-headed Fish Eagle, Black-winged Kite, Brahminy Kite, White-bellied Sea Eagle and Changeable Hawk-eagle.**

Table 1

S/N	Species	No.	S/N	Species	No.
1	Osprey	4		<i>Residents / Sedentary Species</i>	
2	Black Baza	5	12	Black-winged Kite	6
3	Oriental Honey Buzzard	180	13	Brahminy Kite	30
4	Black Kite	1	14	White-bellied Sea Eagle	18
5	Short-toed Snake Eagle	1	15	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	8
6	Chinese Sparrowhawk	40	16	Crested Serpent Eagle	2
7	Japanese Sparrowhawk	73	17	Crested Goshawk	4
8	Besra	1	18	Changeable Hawk-eagle	10
9	Booted Eagle	3		<i>Unidentified</i>	
10	Common Kestrel	1	19	Unidentified <i>Accipiters</i>	21
11	Peregrine Falcon	1	20	Unidentified Raptors	16
Total for Migrants		310	Grand Total		425

Compiled by TAN Gim Cheong