

## Singapore Raptor Report Spring Migration, March 2012

### Summary for migrant species:

In March, a total of 58 migrant raptors of 12 species were recorded. The **Jerdon's Baza** surprised us again as it was the second most numerous migrant raptor with 9 individuals! Lim Kim Seng reported 7 birds at Changi on the 4<sup>th</sup> and Alfred Chia had another 2 at Lorong Halus during the Annual Bird Census on the 11<sup>th</sup>, which also extended the late date by 5 days.

The rarity of the month goes to the **Common Kestrel** – a female seen and photographed by Alvan Buckley at Jurong on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Other birders also managed to see it on the subsequent few days. Surprisingly, a juvenile **Rufous-bellied Eagle** turned up at Goldhill Avenue and was photographed. The previous record was at Bukit Timah summit in January.

The most numerous migrant raptor was the **Black Baza** with 27 birds. The **Oriental Honey Buzzard** was relegated to the third spot, with 5 birds. Next was the **Chinese Sparrowhawk** with 4 birds – Alan Owyong witnessed 2 birds “in aerial display” over Changi. There were 3 **Peregrine Falcon** and 2 **Japanese Sparrowhawk**. The 2 wintering **Common Buzzard** were reported by Frankie Cheong to be present at Changi on most days during the first week and were still at there on the 8<sup>th</sup>. The harriers were not recorded last month, so it was good that Lim Kim Seng recorded 2 **Eastern Marsh Harrier** (EMH) and 1 male **Pied Harrier** on the 4<sup>th</sup>, at Tanah Merah. Lee Tiah Khee also photographed 2 EMHs – a male and a juvenile – on the 15<sup>th</sup>. There was also an **Osprey** at Sungei Mandai.



*Eastern Marsh Harriers, male(L), juvenile(R), at Tanah Merah, on 150312, by Lee Tiah Khee*



*Crested Goshawk, juvenile, at Bidadari, on 260312, by Frankie Cheong*

**Highlights for sedentary species:**

A juvenile **Grey-headed Fish Eagle** was perched near its nest with an adult, an indication of successful breeding. The rare **Crested Serpent Eagle** was still around at Goldhill Avenue. There were good records of the rare **Crested Goshawk**, including an adult at the Botanic Gardens and a juvenile at Bidadari, feeding on a skink. Healthy numbers of the **Changeable Hawk-eagle** were reported across the island. Other resident raptors recorded include the **White-bellied Sea Eagle**, **Brahminy Kite** and **Black-winged Kite**.

**Table 1**

S/N	Species	No.	S/N	Species	No.
1	Osprey	1			
2	Jerdon's Baza	9		<i>Residents / Sedentary Species</i>	
3	Black Baza	27	13	Black-winged Kite	3
4	Oriental Honey Buzzard	5	14	Brahminy Kite	29
5	Eastern Marsh Harrier	2	15	White-bellied Sea Eagle	12
6	Pied Harrier	1	16	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	4
7	Chinese Sparrowhawk	4	17	Crested Goshawk	1
8	Japanese Sparrowhawk	2	18	Crested Serpent Eagle	4
9	Common Buzzard	2	19	Changeable Hawk-eagle	13
10	Rufous-bellied Eagle	1			
11	Common Kestrel	1			
12	Peregrine Falcon	3			
<b>Total for Migrants</b>		<b>58</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>124</b>

*Compiled by Tan Gim Cheong.*

*Many thanks to Lee Tiah Khee and Frankie Cheong for the use of their photos.*