

Singapore Raptor Report

Spring Migration, February 2009

Summary

The total count for migrating raptor for February was 104 boosted by a flock of 40+ Black Bazas at Sarimbun Camp on the 17th. We recorded a total of 9 species, 5 of which we suspected were wintering here. Again the **Black Bazas** topped the count with 67% of the total. We finally got the overdue **Jerdon's Baza** at Springleaf on the 14th with another record from Upper Pierce on 22nd awaiting confirmation. A **Common Kestrel** was a first for Sungei Buloh with a sighting of a female juvenile on 28th. Our previous sightings of this *Falco* were mostly at Changi Cove. The **Peregrine Falcon** made its reappearance at our downtown CBD area again, with one or two wintering at Pulau Ubin. Five **Oriental Honey-buzzards** were observed over at Telok Blangah. The only Harrier was an **Eastern Marsh** reported at Tuas partly because we had no access to Changi Cove. The most exciting find for the month was the rediscovery of the **Bat Hawk** after 58 years! Also we had the first photographic record of a rare nocturnal raptor, the **Barred Eagle Owl**, taken in Pulau Ubin.



Black-winged Kite with a rat in its talon taken at Changi Cove by Lee Tiah Khee graced this month cover

Migrant Raptors

Table 1

S/N	Species	No.	S/N	Species	No.
1	Black Baza	70	6	Jerdon's Baza	2
2	Oriental Honey-buzzard	17	7	Common Kestrel	1
3.	Osprey	4	8	Eastern Marsh Harrier	1
4	Peregrine Falcon	5	9	Unidentified Raptors	2
5	Japanese Sparrowhawk	2		TOTAL	104

Note: The numbers are indicative only with similar species in the same area discounted to prevent duplication

Highlights of the Month

16. Bat Hawk (1)

On the evening of 3 Feb, Gim Cheong, Con Foley, Danny Lau and Marcus Ng made a dramatic rediscovery of the Bat Hawk, after an absence of 58 years! They were walking out of the MacRitchie reservoir at dusk when they saw this falcon-like bird flying in the sky. Both Marcus and Gim Cheong managed to snap a clear shot for ID later. In the field, Gim Cheong was just able to make out the white throat for visual confirmation. Unfortunately, subsequent visits by other birders to the same location did not yield any sightings. The last confirmed record was an adult female collected at Pulau Senang on 20 May 1951.



Bat Hawk by Marcus Ng



Barred Eagle Owl by Marcus Chua

17. Barred Eagle Owl (1)

On 25 Feb, Ding Li posted an article with photo of Barred Eagle Owl to the Bird Group website at <http://wildbirdsingapore.nss.org.sg/indexE.html>

He reported that on the 17 Jan 2009, a Barred Eagle Owl was seen and photographed for the first time by Marcus Chua at Pulau Ubin. Beside the record of one seen in the Upper Pierce Forest (by Ding Li himself) a year ago and some past sightings at Bukit Timah, this was also a first record for Singapore's offshore islands. Given the close proximity of Pulau Ubin to Johore, this rare nocturnal raptor may likely be a stray bird from there. However let us hope that the quiet serenity of Pulau Ubin would entice this former long-lost resident to become a permanent resident soon.