

Singapore Raptor Report Autumn Migration, December 2015



Jerdon's Baza, Tampines Eco Green, 19 Dec 15, by Alvin Seng

Summary for migrant species:

For the month of December, a total of 145 migrant raptors of 11 species were recorded. The most abundant was the **Oriental Honey Buzzard** with 89 birds, followed by the **Black Baza** with 36 birds and the **Japanese Sparrowhawk** with 7 birds - no surprises here, except for the one-eyed Japanese Sparrowhawk at Tuas photographed on the 7th - how does it catch prey without depth perception? There were 3 **Ospreys** at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, one of the usual sites for this common migrant.

Next up - the uncommon raptors. A **Jerdon's Baza** was photographed at Tampines Eco Green on the 19th and the 21st. A juvenile pale morph **Common Buzzard** - an uncommon bird despite its name - was photographed at Tuas on the 8th. A juvenile **Chinese Sparrowhawk** was photographed between the 13th to 21st at Bidadari; the small raptor had brown leather ties (known as falconry jesses) around its tarsus - could it have escaped from its masters in North Asia and followed its instinct to migrate? The origins of this particular individual may remain a mystery. There were 3 records of the **Peregrine Falcon**, 1 at Mandai mudflats, 1 at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve and 1 that returned to the 35th floor balcony of Vista Residences, the last bird was also recorded in the previous season.

Lastly, the rare raptors. A juvenile **Black Kite** was photographed on the 18th at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve and an older individual photographed on the 29th at Punggol Barat. A juvenile **Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle** was photographed on the 22nd at Dairy Farm Nature Park. There was a sight report of a **Greater Spotted Eagle**, a lifer for the observer who was undergoing basic military training at Pasir Ris Camp, on the 31st.



Nicholas Tan ©

Oriental Honey Buzzard, juvenile, Bidadari, 26 Dec 15, by Nicholas Tan.

Highlights for sedentary species:

By the end of December, the young **Grey-headed Fish Eagle** on the nest at Little Guilin had grown to be as big as its parents. Other records of this fish eagle came from Venus drive on the 2nd and Lorong Halus Wetland on the 31st. The **Crested Goshawk** was recorded from Pasir Ris on the 2nd, Sentosa on the 25th and Little Guilin on the 27th, all being adults, while an un-aged individual was recorded on the 16th at the Botanic Gardens. There were 3 *torquatus* **Oriental Honey Buzzards**; a tweeddale morph was photographed at Pasir Ris Park on the 9th and 11th, a juvenile normal plumage type at Park East Condo on the 16th and an immature at Bidadari from the 20th to the 30th. The **White-bellied Sea Eagle**, **Brahminy Kite**, **Changeable Hawk-Eagle** and **Black-winged Kite** completed the roundup for the month.

Table 1

S/N	Species	No.	S/N	Species	No.
1	Osprey	3		<i>Residents / Sedentary Species</i>	
2	Jerdon's Baza	1	12	Black-winged Kite	5
3	Black Baza	36	13	Brahminy Kite	12
4	Oriental Honey Buzzard	89	14	White-bellied Sea Eagle	15
5	Black Kite	2	15	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	5
6	Chinese Sparrowhawk	1	16	Crested Goshawk	4
7	Japanese Sparrowhawk	7	17	Changeable Hawk-Eagle	7
8	Common Buzzard	1			
9	Greater Spotted Eagle	1		<i>Unidentified</i>	
10	Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle	1	18	Unidentified Raptors	1
11	Peregrine Falcon	3	19	Unidentified <i>Accipiters</i>	8
Total for Migrants		145	Grand Total		202

Compiled by TAN Gim Cheong



TAN Gim Cheong, 21 Dec 15, Bidadari



TAN Gim Cheong, 21 Dec 15, Bidadari

Black Baza, Bidadari, 21 Dec 15, by Tan Gim Cheong



*Chinese Sparrowhawk, juvenile with falconry jesses,
Bidadari, 21 Dec 15, by Tan Gim Cheong.*