

Singapore Raptor Report Autumn Migration, November 2012

Summary for migrant species:

November 2012 was quite a good month for raptors. A total of 259 migrant raptors of 13 species were recorded, a substantial increase from last month's 145 birds of 10 species. (Note that results from the 1-day raptor watch are not included in this report). The most numerous migrant raptor was the **Black Baza** with 157 birds. Flocks of up to 20 were recorded. The **Oriental Honey Buzzard** regained its usual placing with 72 birds and was the second most common migrant raptor. The **Japanese Sparrowhawk** was third with 10 birds.



Black Baza, at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, 101112, by Johnson Chua.

Next for the rarities! Lau Jia Sheng submitted a very rare record of a **Besra** seen and photographed at Changi on the 17th of the month¹. The other lucky guy was Lee Tiah Khee whose time out in the field was well rewarded with a rare **Greater Spotted Eagle**, which was of the even rarer pale '*fulvescens*' type. Nicholas Tan also had a stroke of luck with this species and recorded an individual of the nominate type flying over Lorong Halus on the 2nd.

The first **Jerdon's Baza** for the season was recorded on the 29th by Horst Flotow, perched on a tree outside his office at Biopolis – it pays to look outside! Shortly after, Alan OwYong found 2 of these birds riding the thermals nearby. A dark morph **Booted Eagle** was recorded at Changi on the 18th by Francis Yap. As is usual at this time of the year, Changi held a male **Eastern Marsh Harrier** as well as a female **Pied Harrier**. Also, three **Common Buzzards**, 2 pale and 1 dark morph, were recorded at Changi. On the 18th, David Yeo had the good fortune of photographing a juvenile **Peregrine Falcon**, flying at Lorong Halus with a tern in its talons. Small numbers of the **Chinese Sparrowhawk** was also recorded, half of them at Changi. Along the northern coasts of Singapore, three **Ospreys** were recorded.

¹ The record has been sent to the Records Committee for deliberation.



Greater Spotted Eagle, pale 'fulvescens', at Changi, 081112, by Lee Tiah Khee.

Highlights for sedentary species:

Wing Chong did his own mini raptor watch at Bukit Batok West on the 4th and was rewarded with a **Crested Serpent Eagle**. The other rare resident recorded was the **Crested Goshawk** – one at Kent Ridge Park and another at Japanese Garden.

Of the two **Grey-headed Fish Eagles** recorded, one was at Kent Ridge Park, away from the usual haunt of the Central Forests. A few **Black-winged Kites** were recorded at Changi and Seletar. As always, the **Brahminy Kite**, **White-bellied Sea Eagle** and **Changeable Hawk-eagle** were also recorded.

Table 1

S/N	Species	No.	S/N	Species	No.
1	Osprey	3		<i>Residents / Sedentary Species</i>	
2	Jerdon's Baza	2	14	Black-winged Kite	4
3	Black Baza	157	15	Brahminy Kite	7
4	Oriental Honey Buzzard	72	16	White-bellied Sea Eagle	11
5	Eastern Marsh Harrier	1	17	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	2
6	Pied Harrier	1	18	Crested Serpent Eagle	1
7	Chinese Sparrowhawk	6	19	Crested Goshawk	2
8	Japanese Sparrowhawk	10	20	Changeable Hawk-eagle	7
9	Besra	1			
10	Common Buzzard	3		<i>Unidentified</i>	
11	Greater Spotted Eagle	2	21	Unidentified Raptors	20
12	Booted Eagle	1	22	Unidentified Accipiters	4
13	Peregrine Falcon	3			
Total for Migrants		259	Grand Total		317

Compiled by Tan Gim Cheong