

Singapore Raptor Report Autumn Migration, November 2013



Oriental Honey-buzzards, Tuas South Avenue 16, 091113, by Low Choon How.

Summary for migrant species:

November is the peak month for raptor migration and it was a good month with 1,612 migrant raptors of 14 species recorded. This is the highest number of species recorded in the month of November since 2007 when monthly raptor reports started. Highlights included a record-high single day count of 745 **Oriental Honey-buzzards**, the second **Short-toed Snake Eagle** for the season and the first **Greater Spotted Eagle** for the season, all at Tuas South on 9 November - thanks to 'chief spotter and counter' Low Choon How, and to Lau Jia Sheng for sounding the alert on the 2 rare migrant eagles. Interestingly, the Short-toed Snake Eagle was mobbed by a Brahminy Kite while the Greater Spotted Eagle was mobbed by a Black-winged Kite. Lau Jia Sheng also had the good fortune of photographing a juvenile **Besra** (thanks to Dr Chaiyan for the ID) at Tuas South on 16 November. The **Common Kestrel** continued to be present at Tuas South. The first **Jerdon's Baza** for the season was photographed on the 16th, followed by a high of 5 birds on the 23rd, all at Pasir Ris.

The most numerous migrant raptor was the Oriental Honey Buzzard with 1,376 birds. The 122 **Japanese Sparrowhawk** was another record-high, putting the species at number 2, displacing the **Black Baza** to number 3, with 79 birds. Two dark morph **Booted Eagles** and three **Eastern Marsh Harriers** were recorded at Tanah Merah grasslands. So far this year, the Booted Eagles have not been spotted at their regular wintering spot - Seletar North Link / Pulau Punggol. Three **Common Buzzards** were recorded at Changi. The fourteen **Chinese Sparrowhawks**, six **Ospreys** and two **Peregrine Falcons** completed the line-up of this month's migrant raptors.



*Short-toed Snake Eagle, and the Brahminy Kite that was mobbing it,
Tuas South Avenue 16, 091113, by Tan Gim Cheong.*

Highlights for sedentary species:

Two juvenile **Crested Goshawks** were recorded, one at Bidadari, and another at Ang Mo Kio, goods signs of successful breeding. Also notable was a sedentary tweeddale morph *torquatus* **OHB** photographed by Wee Boon at Neo Tiew Lane on the 23rd. 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	6		<i>Residents / Sedentary Species</i>	
2	Jerdon's Baza	5	15	Black-winged Kite	5
3	Black Baza	79	16	Brahminy Kite	20
4	Oriental Honey Buzzard	1376	17	White-bellied Sea Eagle	13
5	Short-toed Snake Eagle	1	18	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	7
6	Eastern Marsh Harrier	3	19	Crested Goshawk	2
7	Chinese Sparrowhawk	14	20	Changeable Hawk-eagle	12
8	Japanese Sparrowhawk	122			
9	Besra	1		<i>Unidentified</i>	
10	Common Buzzard	3	21	Unidentified <i>Accipiters</i>	13
11	Greater Spotted Eagle	1	22	Unidentified Raptors	29
12	Booted Eagle	2			
13	Common Kestrel	1			
14	Peregrine Falcon	2			
Total for Migrants		1616	Grand Total		1717

Compiled by TAN Gim Cheong