

Singapore Raptors Report Autumn Migration, November 2008

Summary :

November again proved to be the main migrating month for raptors in Singapore. We recorded a total of **11 species** (9 in Nov 07) numbering **288** raptors (240 in Nov 07) with **Black Bazas** as expected topping the count with 137 (122 in Nov 07) followed by **Oriental Honey Buzzards** at 77 (58 in Nov 08). I have excluded the records from the full-day raptor count on the 9th Nov so as not to confuse the report. The excitement for the month was the sighting of a juvenile *Torquatus* race of the **Oriental Honey Buzzard** at Toa Payoh spotted by Gloria Seow. This is a South-East Asia resident race with breeding records from Malaysia. What are the chances of this race staying and breeding in Singapore in the future? Martii Siponen, a visiting birder and keen raptor watcher spent 5 days in early half of November birding at Sungei Buloh, Pulau Ubin and Tuas. He sent in a personal record of **157** migrating raptors for the month. He had the distinction of seeing the largest flock of migrating Oriental Honey Buzzards (**55**) ever recorded in Singapore, at Sungei Buloh on 1st Nov. He followed this with another excellent record of 44 Black Bazas migrating over Chek Jawa on the 8th. We also had our first record from Pulau Tekong of two Black Bazas and a Changeable Hawk-eagle seen by Avian Chia while serving National Service on this restricted island. Both the **Ospreys** and **Peregrine Falcons** were enjoying their winters here at Kranji and Jurong areas respectively. Four **Eastern Marsh Harriers** congregated over the Changi Cove reclaimed land, a favourite location for our Harriers together with two **Common Buzzards**. The odd Common Buzzard outside the Changi area was reported migrating over Kent Ridge Park by Horst Flotow. While we had reports of only two **Chinese Sparrowhawks** during the month, we already counted 12 on the 9th Nov during the full-day raptor count. The **Grey-faced Buzzard (1)**, **Booted Eagle (2)** and **Pied Harrier (1)** made up the rest of the species with low numbers.



By Lee Tiah Khee

Peregrine Falcon tearing up a White-vented Myna by Lee Tiah Kee taken at Japanese gardens on 14th Nov, graced this month cover.

Table 1

No	Species	Count	No	Species	Count
1	Black Baza	137	8	Common Buzzard	3
2	Oriental Honey Buzzard	71	9	Booted Eagle	2
3	Japanese Sparrowhawk	12	10	Grey-faced Buzzard	1
4	Osprey	11	11	Pied Harrier	1
5	Eastern Marsh Harrier	6	12	Unidentified Accipiter	21
6	Peregrine Falcon	4	13	Unidentified Raptor	5
7	Chinese Sparrowhawk	14		Total	288

Note : The total numbers are representative and care was taken during compilation to avoid double counting