

Singapore Raptor Report Spring Migration, March 2009

Summary:

We finally had our first migrating flock of **Oriental Honey-buzzards** for Spring, thanks to Martti Siponen. On 22nd afternoon at Tuas South, he counted a total of **359** OHBs flying along the western coast of Tuas towards Johore in the north. Largest single group counted was 40 raptors. This could be part of the larger flocks that migrate over from Sumatra to Tanjong Tuan, Malacca in March every year and maybe forced to the south by change of prevailing winds. We will make a point to do a count at Tuas come next March. Martti met a casual birder who told him that he counted 159 “eagles” flying over Ang Mio Kio Town Gardens on the same morning. With Martti’s count, the Honey-buzzards top the list for the first time with a total record of **429** counted. This gave us a grand total of **499** raptors for March, the highest monthly count since we started compiling the records in October 2007. We had a total of 8 species with single record of **Chinese Sparrowhawk** and a late **Common Buzzard**. A pair of **Eastern Marsh Harriers** were reported wintering at Tuas Grasslands. **Peregrine Falcons** were recorded in the resident area of Bishan and downtown Novena. **Black Bazas** were seen by many observers all over Singapore during the Annual Bird Census. **Ospreys** were spotted at Sime Forest and Tuas beside its usual haunt in Kranji while **Japanese Sparrowhawks** were still reported wintering at three locations.



A pair of Black-winged Kites in aerial combat at Changi Cove by Lee Tiah Khee graced this month cover.

Migrant Raptors

Table 1

S/N	Species	No.	S/N	Species	No.
1	Oriental Honey-buzzard	429	6	Chinese Sparrowhawk	1
2	Black Baza	43	7	Common Buzzard	1
3	Peregrine Falcon	8	8	Eastern Marsh Harrier	2
4	Osprey	5	9	Unidentified Raptors	6
5	Japanese Sparrowhawk	4		TOTAL	499

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