

Singapore Raptor Report Spring Migration, February 2016



Common Kestrel, adult male, Pulau Punggol Barat, 23 Feb 16, by Alfred Ng.

Summary for migrant species:

The **Black Baza** again claimed the top spot with 54 birds; the largest gathering was a flock of 21 birds at the Lorong Halus area. The **Oriental Honey Buzzard** was well represented by 30 birds, some of which had perched in urban areas such as the top of apartments. Five **Japanese Sparrowhawks** were recorded; at this time of the year, most of them showed signs of moult (which could make their wings look more pointed) and may be confused with the Chinese Sparrowhawk.

Four **Peregrine Falcons** were recorded; among these, the 3 photographed were adults of the migrant race. Three **Ospreys** were recorded; 2 on the northern shores and 1 in the Central Catchment area. Two **Jerdon's Bazas** continued to winter at Tampines Eco Green; providing opportunities for birders to see this uncommon migrant. The juvenile **Chinese Sparrowhawk** with the falconry jesses on both tarsus was photographed again at Bidadari on the 18th.

The uncommon **Common Kestrel**, a male, wintering at Punggol Barat was photographed on the 7th and the 23rd. An adult dark morph **Common Buzzard** was photographed at Changi on the evening of the 24th. There was a sighting report of a juvenile **Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle** at Labrador Park on the 16th; it may be useful to note that confusion with juvenile Changeable Hawk Eagle cannot be ruled out without photos. Lastly, a nocturnal raptor, the **Northern Boobook** (first discovered at Pasir Ris Park mangroves on 31st Jan) was photographed on the 1st and 2nd; and seen on the 7th and 9th of Feb.



Changeable Hawk Eagle, dark morph, Lorong Halus, 3 Feb 16, by Francis Yap.

Highlights for sedentary species:

The rare **Crested Serpent Eagle** was recorded on camera at Neo Tiew area on the 24th and another at Malcolm Park on the 28th. There were 4 records for the **Crested Goshawk**, most notably one was sitting on a nest at the Botanic Gardens on the 14th. The *torquatus* tweeddale morph **Oriental Honey Buzzard** was photographed in the Pasir Ris area again and a typical plumaged *torquatus* was also photographed in the same area. The young **Grey-headed Fish Eagle** at Little Guilin that had fledged in January was still in the vicinity. 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		Residents / Sedentary Species	
2	Jerdon's Baza	2	12	Black-winged Kite	3
3	Black Baza	54	13	Brahminy Kite	18
4	Oriental Honey Buzzard	30	14	White-bellied Sea Eagle	13
5	Chinese Sparrowhawk	1	15	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	7
6	Japanese Sparrowhawk	5	16	Crested Serpent Eagle	2
7	Common Buzzard	1	17	Crested Goshawk	4
8	Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle	1	18	Changeable Hawk-Eagle	10
9	Common Kestrel	1			
10	Peregrine Falcon	4		Unidentified	
11	Northern Boobook	1	19	Unidentified Raptors	2
			20	Unidentified Accipiters	1
Total for Migrants			Grand Total		163
		103			

Compiled by TAN Gim Cheong