

# Singapore Raptor Report

## Spring Migration, February 2009

### Summary

The total count for migrating raptor for February was 104 boosted by a flock of 40+ Black Bazas at Sarimbun Camp on the 17<sup>th</sup>. We recorded a total of 9 species, 5 of which we suspected were wintering here. Again the **Black Bazas** topped the count with 67% of the total. We finally got the overdue **Jerdon's Baza** at Springleaf on the 14<sup>th</sup>, with another record from Upper Pierce on 22<sup>nd</sup> awaiting confirmation. A **Common Kestrel** was a first for Sungei Buloh with a sighting of a female juvenile on 28<sup>th</sup>. Our previous sightings of this *Falco* were mostly at Changi Cove. The **Peregrine Falcon** made its reappearance at our downtown CBD area again, with one or two wintering at Pulau Ubin. Five **Oriental Honey-buzzards** were observed over at Telok Blangah. The only Harrier was an **Eastern Marsh** reported at Tuas partly because we had no access to Changi Cove. The most exciting find for the month was the rediscovery of the **Bat Hawk** after 58 years! Also we had the first photographic record of a rare nocturnal raptor, the **Barred Eagle Owl**, taken in Pulau Ubin.



*Black-winged Kite with a rat in its talon taken at Changi Cove by Lee Tiah Khee graced this month cover*

### Migrant Raptors

Table 1

S/N	Species	No.	S/N	Species	No.
1	Black Baza	70	6	Jerdon's Baza	2
2	Oriental Honey-buzzard	17	7	Common Kestrel	1
3.	Osprey	4	8	Eastern Marsh Harrier	1
4	Peregrine Falcon	5	9	Unidentified Raptors	2
5	Japanese Sparrowhawk	2		TOTAL	104

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

## **1. Black Baza (70)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Eight birds were reported roosting at Springleaf by Margaret Yeo
- 1<sup>st</sup> Two reported hunting at Sungei Buloh (SBWR) by Martti Siponen.
- 7<sup>th</sup> One flying at Chinese Gardens by Alan OwYong
- 7<sup>th</sup> Could be the same two birds again reported by Martti at SBWR
- 8<sup>th</sup> One at Kranji Marshes by Kim Chuah
- 10<sup>th</sup> One flew over Kaki Bukit by Avian Chia
- 11<sup>th</sup> Two at Botanics Eco Gardens by Poh Bee.
- 14<sup>th</sup> One flew over at Japanese Gardens reported by Martti.
- 14<sup>th</sup> One at Neo Tiew Lane 2 by Kim Seng
- 15<sup>th</sup> Five birds seen at the same time over at Pulau Ubin by Martti Siponen.
- 15<sup>th</sup> Three recorded over at Telok Blangah Hill by Gloria Seow and Co.
- 16<sup>th</sup> One reported perched at NIE by Ding Li.
- 17<sup>th</sup> 40+ flew over Sarimbun Camp in NE direction by Sunny Yeo.
- 28<sup>th</sup> Three reported by Wing Chong over at Neo Tiew lane 2 (NTL2)
- 28<sup>th</sup> One reported at SBWR by Martti.

## **2. Oriental Honey Buzzard (17)**



*A worn OHB by Martti Siponen*

- 3<sup>rd</sup> A dark morph male photo by Poh Bee.
- 4<sup>th</sup> One reported by Doreen and photo by Tiah Khee at Muslim Cemetery Victoria St.
- 8<sup>th</sup> One seen flying overhead at One North by Alan OwYong
- 8<sup>th</sup> One seen circling over Clementi Ave 6 by Alan OwYong
- 8<sup>th</sup> One gliding to the NE seen at Bt Batok by Martti Siponen
- 15<sup>th</sup> A pale morph in flight over Bukit Batok by Ding Li
- 15<sup>th</sup> Five over at Telok Blangah reported by Gloria Seow and Co.
- 15<sup>th</sup> One over at Pulau Ubin by Martti Siponen
- 16<sup>th</sup> One seen over at Kent Ridge Park by Gim Cheong
- 18<sup>th</sup> Another one at Bukit Batok by Ding Li.
- 19<sup>th</sup> One circling over the AYE near Chinese Gardens by Martti.
- 28<sup>th</sup> One at SBWR by Martti.
- 28<sup>th</sup> One reported at Springleaf by Danny Lau and Con Foley

## **3. Osprey (4)**

- 8<sup>th</sup> One reported at the Kranji Marshes by Kim Chuah
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Three in flight over at NTL2, one seen feeding by Chung Cheong
- 28<sup>th</sup> One again at NTL2 by Wing Chong
- 28<sup>th</sup> One at SBWR by Danny Lau, Con Foley and Martti.

#### **4. Peregrine Falcon (5)**

- 15<sup>th</sup> One maybe two reported by Martti Siponen at Pulau Ubin.  
17<sup>th</sup> Ee Ling reported the Falcon again at downtown Church Street.  
19<sup>th</sup> One reported at Bukit Batok by Ding Li  
22<sup>nd</sup> One seen perched on Tower at NTL2 by Chung Cheong.

#### **5. Japanese Sparrowhawk (2)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> One was reported at SBWR by Martti Siponen  
22<sup>nd</sup> One at Mousedeer trail reported by Doreen, Nessie, Jane Rogers and Alfred Chia

#### **6. Jerdon's Baza (2)**



*Jerdon's Baza* by Raj Krishnan



*Jerdon's Baza?* by Alfred Chia

- 14<sup>th</sup> One was seen perched and photographed by Raj Krishnan at Springleaf.  
22<sup>nd</sup> A photo and report of one seen at Mousedeer trail was submitted by Alfred Chia. It was seen together with Doreen, Nessie and Jane and was originally thought to be an OHB *Torquatus* race. Pending acceptance by the Records Committee due to its rarity status.

#### **7. Common Kestrel (1)**

- 28<sup>th</sup> A female juvenile was seen from the main hide at SBWR by Danny Lau and Con Foley, likely a new record for SBWR.

#### **8. Eastern Marsh Harrier (1)**

- 16<sup>th</sup> Martti Siponen reported the only Harrier for the month seen at Tuas South.

#### **9. Unidentified Raptors (2)**

- 14<sup>th</sup> One dark raptor at Springleaf reported by Raj Krishnan.  
28<sup>th</sup> An accipiter reported by Martti Siponen at SBWR.

## Resident Raptors

### Summary

We had two sightings of the **Crested Serpent Eagle** both on the 8<sup>th</sup> over at Upper Pierce and Batok Batok NP. A pair of **Grey-headed Fish Eagles** was reported and photographed at Springleaf. Both the **White-bellied Sea Eagles** and **Brahminy Kites** were busy nesting with reports from all over the island. The **Changeable Hawk-eagle** was also observed nesting at Bukit Batok. The numbers seems to have increased steadily showing good signs that our resident raptors are doing and breeding well.

**Table 2**

S/N	Species	No.	S/N	Species	No.
1	White-bellied Sea Eagle	29	4	Changeable Hawk-eagle	13
2	Brahminy Kite	20	5	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	9
3	Black-winged Kite	8	6	Crested Serpent Eagle	2
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>81</b>

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

### 10. White-bellied Sea Eagle (29)



*Juv White-bellied Sea Eagle by Martti Siponen*

- 1<sup>st</sup> One adult and five juveniles reported at SBWR by Martti Siponen
- 1<sup>st</sup> Two seen in flight over at Springleaf by Margaret Yeo
- 7<sup>th</sup> One at Chinese Gardens being harassed by crows – Alan OwYong
- 7<sup>th</sup> Four seen at SBWR by Martti
- 8<sup>th</sup> Three at Kranji Marshes seen during NSS walk reported by Kim Chuah

- 11<sup>th</sup> One flying over at Pandan by Alan OwYong
- 12<sup>th</sup> Three hovering over HDB at Teck Whye by Raj Krishnan
- 14<sup>th</sup> Two at Springleaf by Raj Krishnan.
- 14<sup>th</sup> One adult seen carrying fresh sprig to nest at NTL2 by Kim Seng
- 15<sup>th</sup> Four adults and one juvenile at Pulau Ubin reported by Martti
- 15<sup>th</sup> One at Telok Blangah by Gloria Seow and Co.
- 19<sup>th</sup> Two adults at Woodlands reported by Martti
- 21<sup>st</sup> Two at Lower Pierce reported by Sree
- 22<sup>nd</sup> A juvenile spotted with a fish at Kranji reservoir by Chung Cheong.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> One at Changi Boardwalk by Poh Bee.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Two perched at Lower Pierce by Alfred Chia
- 28<sup>th</sup> A pair perched at MacRitche Reservoir by Chung Cheong
- 28<sup>th</sup> One at NTL2 reported by Wing Chong
- 28<sup>th</sup> One at SBWR by Danny Lau and Con Foley, 2 juveniles by Martti
- 28<sup>th</sup> One seen perched at Chinese Gardens by Kenneth Kee.



## **11. Brahminy Kite ( 20)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Chung Cheong's friend Jimmy Lee reported a pair nesting at Yio Chu Kang with what appeared to be 2 fledglings inside.
- 7<sup>th</sup> A pair of adults and one juvenile seen at Chinese Gardens by Alan OwYong
- 7<sup>th</sup> Three individuals seen at SBWR by Martti.
- 8<sup>th</sup> One seen stealing food from a Black-winged Kite at Kranji Marshes - Kim Chuah
- 12<sup>th</sup> One adult reported flying over the Marina Pier by Doreen Ang
- 14<sup>th</sup> One seen at the Chinese Gardens by Martti, one at Springleaf by Raj and another at NTL2 by Kim Seng
- 15<sup>th</sup> One flew over Telok Blangah Hill seen by Gloria and Co.
- 15<sup>th</sup> One at Pulau Ubin reported by Martti
- 19<sup>th</sup> Two over at Tuas South reported by Martti.
- 21<sup>st</sup> One reported by Sree at Lower Pierce
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Maybe the same Kite at Tuas South again by Martti
- 24<sup>th</sup> One seen carrying nesting material over AYE near the Chinese Gardens by Martti.
- 28<sup>th</sup> Two at NTL2 by Wing Chong
- 28<sup>th</sup> Maybe the same Kite seen at Springleaf by Danny Lau and Con Foley.
- 28<sup>th</sup> One at SBWR reported by Danny Lau, Con Foley and Martti.
- 28<sup>th</sup> One reported flying over the Chinese Gardens by Kenneth Kee

## **12. Changeable Hawk-eagle (13)**

- 8<sup>th</sup> One pale and one dark morph seen flying over at Upper Pierce by Freda and Ian Rickwood, Nessie, Jane Rogers, Ah Huay and Doreen Ang.
- 8<sup>th</sup> One dark morph seen at Kranji Marshes by Kim Chuah
- 11<sup>th</sup> Doreen reported the nesting of one on albizia tree at Bukit Batok
- 15<sup>th</sup> Gloria Seow and Co reported two dark morphs over at Telok Blangah Hill.
- 15<sup>th</sup> Jane Rogers reported one frequently seen at Malcom Park
- 15<sup>th</sup> Two were reported from Pulau Ubin by Martti.
- 24<sup>th</sup> Nesting record with a single chick at Bukit Batok with photos by William. Could be the same one reported by Doreen on the 11<sup>th</sup>.
- 27<sup>th</sup> One flying over Mandai Park reported by Cyril Ng
- 28<sup>th</sup> Two reported at NTL2 by Wing Chong
- 28<sup>th</sup> One heard calling at SBWR by Danny Lau and Con Foley, while another was seen by Martti

## **13. Grey-headed Fish Eagle (9)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Margaret Yeo reported the presence of one at Springleaf. This was followed up another sighting by Raj Krishnan on the 14<sup>th</sup> and a pair seen and photo at the same location by Danny Lau and Con Foley on the 28<sup>th</sup>.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> A juvenile was reported from Seletar Camp by Poh Bee.
- 5<sup>th</sup> One heard at Upper Pierce by Ding Li.
- 7<sup>th</sup> One seen fishing at Lower Pierce Reservoir by Alan OwYong
- 8<sup>th</sup> Freda and Ian Rickwood, Ah Huay, Nessie, Jane and Doreen reported one adult at Upper Pierce.
- 8<sup>th</sup> One was reported at Bukit Batok Nature Park by Martti.
- 8<sup>th</sup> One seen at Kranji Marshes during NSS walk reported by Kim Chuah
- 10<sup>th</sup> A pair heard calling by Ding Li at Lower Pierce.
- 15<sup>th</sup> A sub-adult perched at Sime track reported by Ee Ling.

- 21<sup>st</sup> Poh Bee got one at Lower Pierce.  
 26<sup>th</sup> Gim Cheong and Alfred Chia sent in separate report of one at Lower Pierce.



*A pair of Grey-headed Fish Eagle with one flying down to a shallow stream at Springleaf by Danny Lau*

#### **14. Black-winged Kite (8)**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Lee Tiah Khee photographed one at Changi Cove with a rat in its talons  
 7<sup>th</sup> Two were reported at SBWR by Martti Siponen  
 8<sup>th</sup> One seen at Kranji Marshes by Kim Chuah  
 11<sup>th</sup> One at Tuas South reported by Martti  
 14<sup>th</sup> One seen perched at NTL2 by Kim Seng  
 15<sup>th</sup> One seen at Pulau Ubin by Martti  
 19<sup>th</sup> Another report from Tuas South by Martti  
 25<sup>th</sup> One more from Tuas South by Martti.  
 28<sup>th</sup> Two at SBWR reported by Martti.  
 28<sup>th</sup> One reported at NTL2 by Wing Chong

#### **15. Crested Serpent Eagle (2)**

- 8<sup>th</sup> Doreen sent in a report of an individual flying over Lower Pierce  
 8<sup>th</sup> On the same day, Martti Siponen also recorded one flying over Bukit Batok in a NE direction.

### **Highlights of the Month**

#### **16. Bat Hawk (1)**

On the evening of 3 Feb, Gim Cheong, Con Foley, Danny Lau and Marcus Ng made a dramatic rediscovery of the Bat Hawk, after an absence of 58 years! They were walking out of the MacRitchie reservoir at dusk when they saw this falcon-like bird flying in the sky. Both Marcus and Gim Cheong managed to snap a clear shot for ID later. In the field, Gim Cheong was just able to make out the white throat for visual confirmation. Unfortunately, subsequent visits by other birders to the same location did not yield any sightings. The last confirmed record was an adult female collected at Pulau Senang on 20 May 1951.



*Bat Hawk by Marcus Ng*



*Barred Eagle Owl by Marcus Chua*

### **17. Barred Eagle Owl (1)**

On 25 Feb, Ding Li posted an article with photo of Barred Eagle Owl to the Bird Group website at <http://wildbirdsingapore.nss.org.sg/indexE.html>

He reported that on the 17 Jan 2009, a Barred Eagle Owl was seen and photographed for the first time by Marcus Chua at Pulau Ubin. Beside the record of one seen in the Upper Pierce Forest (by Ding Li himself) a year ago and some past sightings at Bukit Timah, this was also a first record for Singapore's offshore islands. Given the close proximity of Pulau Ubin to Johore, this rare nocturnal raptor may likely be a stray bird from there. However let us hope that the quiet serenity of Pulau Ubin would entice this former long-lost resident to become a permanent resident soon.

*\*The numbers in brackets besides the bird name indicates the total number of raptor seen during the month. Different reports of the same raptors in the same area are discounted to prevent duplication.*

*Compiled by Alan OwYong from reports sent in to the WildbirdSingapore Forum*

*Edited and layout by Kenneth Kee. Many thanks to those who sent in their reports. Special appreciation to Lee Tiah Khee, Danny Lau, Raj Krishnan, Alfred Chia, Martti Siponen, Marcus Ng and Marcus Chua for the use of their photos.*