

## Singapore Raptors Report for March 2008

### Summary:

With more observers this month due to the Annual Bird Census (ABC), the number of migrant raptors for March rose to 99 more than the 82 in February. The percentage of **Black Bazas** dropped to 62% from 72% last month but remains at the top with a count of 61. The surprise and bird of the month must be the rare **Booted Eagles**, a pale morph reported by Jia Sheng on the 1<sup>st</sup> and a dark morph 7 days later by Kok Hui, Danny, Jia Sheng and Con Foley. Both sightings, first for the season, were at the Seletar Airport. The **Common Buzzard** was again seen at Changi Coastal road by Kenneth and Alan on 9 March, after disappearing in February. These two boosted the total species to 9 for March. Kok Hui's group also got a **Pied Harrier** at Changi Cove to add to their sighting of this Harrier at Tuas last month. Kudos to Kok Hui and company for having the best sighting records of rare migrating raptors this season. The pair of **Eastern Marsh Harriers** was still hovering around Changi Cove, first reported in February. The **Peregrine Falcon** seems to be wintering at Pulau Ubin, with one more sighting this month. A STOMPer, Jason photographed a **Peregrine Falcon** perched on a ledge of a HDB block in Sengkang and posted it to STOMP website. Could this be a first for our heartland? Mike Hooper had another one right in downtown Shenton Way! KC Tsang photographed a pair of **Crested Honey-buzzard** "buzzing" at his place of residence while Margie Hall reported one flying over her garden at Sembawang Park.



*Leslie Fung's late photo of the Chinese Sparrowhawk taken at Sungei Buloh on 21<sup>st</sup> February graced this month cover.*

The numbers of resident raptors shot up to 82 compared to 57 in February. This was boosted by a large count of 11 **Black-winged Kites** by Kok Hui's group on 14 March at Changi Cove, Tuas and Seletar. Again the **White-bellied Sea Eagles** and **Brahminy Kites** took up the top two positions. The ABC count gave a very good picture on the distribution of our resident raptors and contributed to this month's record figures. We had the highest count of **White-bellied Sea Eagles** (29), **Brahminy Kites** (26), **Black-winged Kites** (18) and **Changeable Hawk-eagles** (8) since we started compiling this report in Nov'07. Margaret Yeo's sighting of a circling **Grey-headed Fish Eagle** over Sungei Buloh was an excellent record for this nationally and globally threatened bird.

**Table 1**

No	Migrating Raptors	Total for the month
1	<b>Black Baza</b>	<b>61</b>
2	<b>Crested Honey-buzzard</b>	<b>12</b>
3	<b>Peregrine Falcon</b>	<b>7</b>
4	<b>Japanese Sparrowhawk</b>	<b>3</b>
5	<b>Osprey</b>	<b>6</b>
6	<b>Eastern Marsh Harrier</b>	<b>3</b>
7	<b>Pied Harrier</b>	<b>1</b>
8	<b>Common Buzzard</b>	<b>1</b>
9	<b>Booted Eagle</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>Unidentified</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>99</b>

**Table 2**

No	Resident Raptors	Total for the month
10	White-bellied Sea Eagle	29
11	Brahminy Kite	26
12	Changeable Hawk-eagle	8
13	Black-winged Kite	18
14	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>

*Note : The total numbers in Table 1 & 2 are just an indicative figure for this report only as there could be a possibility of double-counting the same bird in a small island like Singapore.*

## **INDIVIDUAL RECORDS**

### **MIGRANT RAPTORS**

#### **1. Black Baza**

Date	No.	Location	Reported by.
2/3	7	Lorong Halus	Kim Seng
7/3	1	Punggol Grassland	Kok Hui
8/3	1	Neo Tiew Lane 2	Doreen
8/3	1	Marina East	Mike Hooper
9/3	3	Circling over Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve (SBWR)	Margaret Yeo
14/3	4	Seletar	Kok Hui, Con Foley, Danny & Jia Seng
14/3	3	Kranji Trail	Margie Hall
16/3	4	Labrador Park	Doreen, Ah Huay, Jane Rogers & Nessie
21/3	1	Bukit Batok West, photo taken	Ben Lee
21/3	2	Marina East	Mike Hooper
23/3	10	Serangoon during ABC	Kok Hui
23/3	10	Sembawang Park during ABC	Margie Hall
23/3	1	Bukit Batok West during ABC	Wing Chong, Yangchen, Phang Seng Khai
23/3	7	Malcolm Park during ABC	Jane Rogers
23/3	1	SBWR route2 during ABC	Sunny Teo
23/3	3	Khatib Bongsu during ABC	Hua Chew
25/3	1	Marina South	Mike Hooper
29/3	1	Marina East	Mike Hooper

#### **2. Crested (Oriental) Honey-buzzard**

Date	No	Location	Reported by
14/3	2	1 dark morph & 1 pale morph at Changi Cove	Kok Hui & Company
14/3	2	Soaring very high at Upper Pierce	KC Tsang
16/3	1	Bashing at a Yellow Palm at King's Ave	Margie Hall
21/3	1	Bukit Batok West, photo taken	Ben Lee
23/3	1	SBWR during ABC	Keith Hiller
23/3	1	Perched and preening at Casuarina tree at Kent Ridge	Alan OwYong
23/3	1	Soaring over Telok Blangah Park during ABC	Kenneth Kee
27/3	2	1 adult & 1 juvenile at Simon's Place, Upper Serangoon	KC Tsang
28/3	1	One flying over Margie's garden at Sembawang Park	Margie Hall



*Crested Honey-buzzard by KC Tsang*



*Peregrine Falcon (juvenile) by Lee Tiah Khee at Japanese garden.*

### **3. Peregrine Falcon**

- 8<sup>th</sup> Doreen reported one at Neo Tiew Lane 2
- 9<sup>th</sup> Kenneth, Alfred, Avian and Alan had good views of one at Changi Cove.
- 14<sup>th</sup> Kok Hui, Con, Danny and Jia Sheng reported one at Seletar area.
- 18<sup>th</sup> Mike Hooper had one right in downtown Shenton Way!
- 23<sup>rd</sup> One reported at Pulau Ubin by Chung Cheong. This falcon seem to be wintering there for over a month. Kim Seng saw one flying across the Sime Forest.
- 26<sup>th</sup> STOMPer, Jason photographed one at a HDB block at Sengkang and post it at the following website : <http://singaporeseen.stomp.com.sg/singaporeseen/viewContent.jsp?id=17145>

### **4. Japanese Sparrowhawk**

- 4<sup>th</sup> Lee Tiah Khee photographed one at Lorong Halus
- 5<sup>th</sup> KS Tsang also had a photo taken at the same place.
- 16<sup>th</sup> One was reported at Labrador Park by Doreen, Jane, Nessie and Ah Huay

### **5. Osprey**

- 8<sup>th</sup> One reported by Doreen at Neo Tiew Lane 2
- 6<sup>th</sup> Kok Hui and Lam Soo Yen reported one at Lorong Halus
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Two were seen at Mandai mudflats by Lim Kim Keang and Lynn Ng.
- 28<sup>th</sup> One seen flying towards P. Serangoon by Chung Cheong
- 30<sup>th</sup> One reported by KC Tsang at Upper Seletar, perching on a rotten tree trunk.

### **6. Eastern Marsh Harrier**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ding Li saw a female at Changi Cove.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Mike Hooper got one at Marina East
- 9<sup>th</sup> Alan, Kenneth, Alfred and Avian reported two flying low at Changi Cove
- 14<sup>th</sup> Kok Hui, Con Foley, Danny and Jia Sheng reported one male and one female flying over the Changi Cove. This pair could be wintering there since February.

### **7. Pied Harrier**

- 14<sup>th</sup> Kok Hui, Con Foley, Danny and Jia Sheng followed up with a sighting of one at Changi Cove, after their sighting of one at Tuas last month.

## **8. Common Buzzard**

9<sup>th</sup> Kenneth and Alan seen one perched on the airport fence along the Changi Coastal Road. Could this be the same bird Alfred saw in January ?

## **9. Booted Eagle**

1<sup>st</sup> A pale morph was reported and photographed by Jia Sheng at Seletar Airport  
8<sup>th</sup> A dark morph was seen at Seletar Airport by Kok Hui, Con Foley, Danny and Jia Sheng.



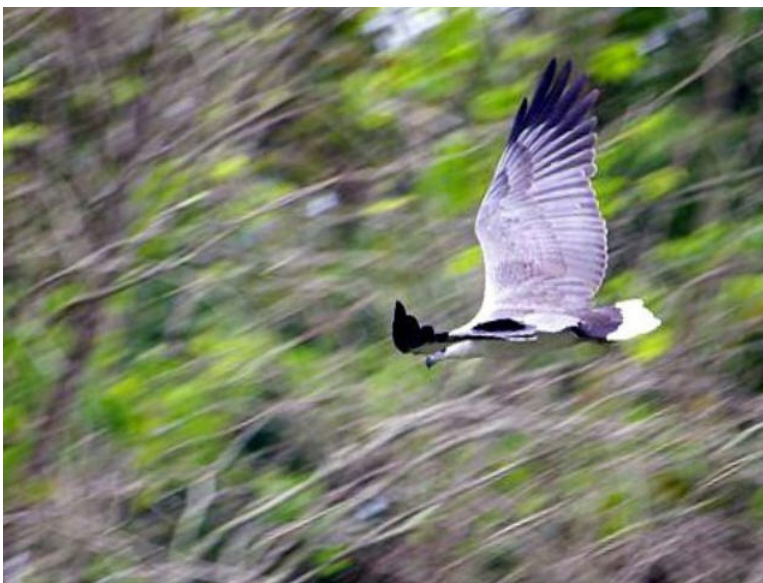
**BIRD OF  
THE MONTH**

*Booted Eagle (pale morph), a rare migrant to Singapore by Jia Sheng*

## **Unidentified**

16<sup>th</sup> Two unidentified Accipiters reported by Doreen and Company at Labrador Park.  
23<sup>rd</sup> One unidentified Accipiter reported by Wing Chong at Bukit Batok West  
23<sup>rd</sup> One unidentified Accipiter reported by Keith Hillier at Sungei Buloh route 1

## **RESIDENT RAPTORS**



*Our majestic White-bellied Sea Eagle, captured by Lam Hon Pui at Botanic Gardens*



## 10. White-bellied Sea Eagle

Date	No	Location	Reported by
1/3	2	Seletar Airport	Jia Sheng
2/3	1	Changi Cove	Ding Li
8/3	2	Neo Tiew Lane 2	Doreen
8/3	1	Photographed flying over the lake at Botanic Gardens	Lam Hon Pui
10/3	1	<b>Nesting</b> at Yishun Ave	Kok Hui
14/3	5	Changi Cove, Seletar and Tuas	Con Foley, Danny, Kok Hui & Jia Sheng
14/3	1	Upper Pierce	KC Tsang
14/3	2	Kranji Trail	Margie Hall
17/3	1	<b>Nesting</b> at P.Ubin, photo taken	Ben Lee
23/3	1	Juvenile at Sembawang Park	Margie Hall
23/3	1	Bukit Batok West during ABC	Wing Chong, Yangchen Phang Seng Khai
23/3	2	SBWR during ABC	Keith Hillier
23/3	2	Lor Halus during ABC	Alfred Chia
23/3	1	P. Ubin Central during ABC	Chung Cheong
23/3	2	P. Ubin West during ABC	Willie Foo
23/3	1	Nee Soon during ABC	Albert Low
23/3	2	Mandai Mudflats during ABC	Kim Keang, Lynn Ng
23/3	1	Khatib Bongsu during ABC	Ho Hua Chew

## 11. Brahminy Kite

Date	No	Location	Reported by
1/3	4	Thermaling at Seletar Airport	Jia Sheng
2/3	1	Changi Cove	Ding Li
8/3	1	Neo Tiew Lane 2	Doreen
14/3	5	Seletar and Changi Cove	Danny, Jia Sheng, Kok Hui & Con Foley
14/3	1	Upper Pierce	KC Tsang
16/3	1	Labrador Park	Doreen, Jane Rogers, Ah Huay & Nessie
21/3	1	Bukit Batok West, photo taken	Ben Lee
22/3	1	Perched on a tree at Pearl Bank Park	Lee Lay Tin
23/3	1	Punggol Grassland during ABC	James Heng
23/3	2	Sungei Serangoon during ABC	Kok Hui
23/3	1	Bukit Batok West during ABC	Wing Chong, Yangchen, Phang Seng Khai
23/3	1	SBWR during ABC	Keith Hillier
23/3	1	Lor Halus during ABC	Alfred Chia
23/3	2	Malcolm Park during ABC	Jane Rogers
23/3	2	P. Ubin Central	Chung Cheong
23/3	1	Mandai Mudflats during ABC	Kim Keang, Lynn Ng

## 12. Changeable Hawk-eagle

- 8<sup>th</sup> Two pale morph reported at Neo Tiew Lane by Doreen and Hua Chew  
8<sup>th</sup> One heard over Punggol reported by Kok Hui, Danny and Jia Sheng  
14<sup>th</sup> One at KJE and another at Changi Cove reported by Kok Hui, Con, Danny and Jia Sheng  
23<sup>rd</sup> One heard calling for 20 mins at S. Serangoon by Kok Hui during ABC  
23<sup>rd</sup> One at P. Ubin West during ABC by Willie Foo  
23<sup>rd</sup> One at Nee Soon during ABC by Albert Low  
23<sup>rd</sup> One at Marina East during ABC by Harry Ong

### **13. Black-winged Kite**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> One at Lorong Halus reported by Kim Seng  
8<sup>th</sup> One at Neo Tiew Lane 2 reported by Doreen  
9<sup>th</sup> One at Changi Cove reported by Simon Cockayne and Piet  
14<sup>th</sup> A total of 11 counted and reported at Changi Cove, Tuas and Seletar by Kok Hui, Con Foley, Danny and Jia Sheng.  
21<sup>st</sup> Two at Punggol Grassland by James Heng  
23<sup>rd</sup> One at Marina East during ABC by Harry Ong  
28<sup>th</sup> One perched at Ponggol grassland by Chung Cheong

### **14. Grey-headed Fish Eagle**

- 9<sup>th</sup> One circling over Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve reported by Margaret Yeo.

*Compiled by Alan OwYong from postings on WildbirdSingapore e-group. Edited and layout by Kenneth Kee. Many thanks to the numerous contributions and reports from the birders and photos from Jia Sheng, Lam Hon Pui, Lee Tiah Khee, Leslie Fung and KC Tsang.*