

# Singapore Raptor Report

## Autumn Migration, December 2009

### Summary:

November was definitely the peak month for migrating raptors over Singapore. After the 2000+ raptors that migrated through last month, the total count for December dropped to a mere 66 from 9 species. The standouts were a Common Kestrel over at Tanah Merah and a Booted Eagle over at Seletar, reported by our top raptor team on the 5<sup>th</sup>. The Eastern Marsh Harriers were well represented with both sexes, juvenile, sub-adults and adult birds wintering over at Changi. Both the Oriental Honey Buzzards and Black Bazas still made up the majority (75%) of all the migrating raptors. We had the first report of a pair of Crested Serpent Eagles seen together for the first time at King's Avenue. This pair may have come over from across the Straits but we hope that they will stay and breed here.



*Eastern Marsh Harrier (male) at Changi by Jonathan Cheah graced this month cover.*

**Table 1**

S/N	Species	No.	S/N	Species	No.
1	Oriental Honey Buzzard	22	6	Osprey	1
2	Black Baza	27	7	Peregrine Falcon	1
3	Eastern Marsh Harrier	5	8	Booted Eagle	1
4	Japanese Sparrowhawk	3	9	Common Kestrel	1
5	Chinese Sparrowhawk	3	10	Crested Serpent Eagle	2
				<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>

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

### 1. Oriental Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus* (22)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1	3	Migrating SE over at Tuas South	Martti Siponen
4	1	Roof top at Woodlands Drive	Cyril Ng
4	2	Migrating SE over at Tuas South	Martti Siponen
5	1	Tanah Merah Grasslands, <i>Orientalis</i>	Jia Sheng, Con Foley, Kok Hui, Danny Lau and Rene
8	1	Buona Vista MRT. In flight	Alan OwYong
8	2	Soaring over Toa Payoh	Gloria Seow
11	1	Soaring over PIE near Toa Payoh	Gloria Seow
12	2	Migrating SE over at Tuas South	Martti Siponen
16	2	Soaring over Paya Lebar MRT	Gloria Seow
19	1	Flying SW over Chinese Gardens	Peter Jones
20	1	Flying over Botanic Gardens	Alan OwYong
20	1	Flying over Dairy Farm	Lim Kim Seng
23	1	Soaring over Botanic Gardens	Gim Cheong
26	1	Resting on top of car park Woodlands St 82, female	Lim Kim Seng
31	2	Perched at Bidadari Cemetery, M & F	Johnny Chew

### 2. Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes* (27)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
4	2	Migrating SE over Tuas South	Martti Siponen
5	7	Tanah Merah Grasslands	Jia Sheng, Con Foley, Kok Hui, Danny Lau & Rene
5	1	Seletar	Jia Sheng, Con Foley, Kok Hui, Danny Lau & Rene
11	11	Circling over Woodlands near Causeway	Mick Price
12	1	Holland Road seen feeding	Ulf Remahl
13	1	Mount Faber	Teh Chan
20	1	Dairy Farm N. Park	Lim Kim Seng
28	2	Botanic Gardens	Tan Gim Cheong
28	1	Circling over Singapore Quarry	Doreen Ang & Ah Huay.

### 3. Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus* (5)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
3	3	Tanah Merah Grasslands	Mick Price
5	1	Tanah Merah Grasslands, sub-adult male	Jia Sheng, Con Foley, Kok Hui, Danny Lau & Rene
6	1	Changi Cove with photo, juvenile	Lee Tiah Khee
20	2	Changi Cove with photo, adult M & imm F	Jonathan Cheah

#### 4. Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis* (3)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
7	1	Circling on thermals at Rail Mall, Upper Bukit Timah, heading south	Ulf Remahl
20	1	Flying over Singapore Quarry	Lim Kim Seng
21	1	Flying over Boon Lay in Jurong	Alan OwYong

#### 5. Chinese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter soloensis* (3)

Date	No.	Location & Details	Reported By
1	1	Woodlands Road, near Causeway	Mick Price
5	1	Seletar. 1 adult female	Jia Sheng, Con Foley, Kok Hui, Danny Lau & Rene
8	1	Old Choa Chu Kang Road, 1 adult male	Tan Gim Cheong

#### 6. Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (1)

Lena Chow photographed one flying over Lower Pierce Reservoir on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### 7. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (1)

Sun Chong Hong reported that the same Falcon was still flying around Bishan area on various days of the month. First reported way back in Oct'09!

#### 8. Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* (1)

Jia Sheng, Con Foley, Kok Hui, Danny Lau and Rene reported one at the Tanah Merah Grasslands on the 5<sup>th</sup>.



*Common Kestrel (female) at Tanah Merah Grasslands by Con Foley.*

**9. Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus* (1)**

A female dark morph was seen in Seletar by Jia Sheng and company on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

**10. Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela* (2)**

Margie Hall reported 2 adults sitting side by side on an Albizia's tree at King's Avenue on the 11<sup>th</sup>. A new location for this raptor and may have stray over from across the Straits, given the close proximity to Johor.

*Compiled by Alan OwYong*

*Edited by Kenneth Kee*

*Note:*

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

*Many thanks to those who sent in their reports and especially to Jonathan Cheah & Con Foley for the use of their photos.*