

Singapore Raptor Report

Autumn Migration, December 2010

Summary:

A total of 140 migrant raptors representing 11 species were recorded this month. As expected, the most numerous of these were the **Black Bazas** with 93 birds, followed by the **Oriental Honey Buzzards** with 15 birds. Surprisingly, the third most recorded migrant raptor was the rare **Jerdon's Baza**! A total of 7 were recorded on the 11th of this month at Changi by Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng, Tan Kok Hui, Con Foley and Yamane Yoshio. This beat last month's record of 4 birds and represents the highest number of Jerdon's Bazas ever recorded for Singapore! The observers also witnessed 2 Jerdon's Bazas being chased by bees. This season's first **Black Kite**, a juvenile, was also seen and photographed on the 11th of the month at Changi by the same group of lucky birders. It was seen again on 19th Dec by Con Foley.

The only record of the **Eastern Marsh Harrier** came from Lee Tiah Khee at Changi. It should be evident by now that the hotspot of the month was Changi and the place continue to be the favoured haunt of 2 **Common Buzzards**. Another surprise was that the **Chinese Sparrowhawks** outnumbered **Japanese Sparrowhawks**, which were usually more common. The dark morph **Booted Eagle** was seen again at Seletar West by Danny Lau and Tan Kok Hui. 3 **Ospreys** and 6 **Peregrine Falcons** completed the line-up for this month's migrant raptors.



A kettle of Black Bazas, Punggol, 05 Dec 10, by Nicholas Tan

For the resident raptors, this month was a good one for the **Crested Goshawk** as 3 were recorded. The juvenile at Ang Mo Kio was still around and was seen / photographed by Fang Sher Chyet on the 4th; and Danny Lau & Lau Jia Sheng on the 5th. Another was seen during a Nature Society (Singapore) outing at Choa Chu Kang Cemetery on the 19th and reported by Jeremy Lewis. The 3rd bird, another juvenile, was seen and photographed at Chinese Gardens on the 31st by Rey Aguila, who was lucky enough to see the raptor hunt a White-breasted Waterhen.



Crested Goshawk, juvenile, Ang Mo Kio, 04 Dec 10, by Fang Sher Chyet



Crested Goshawk, juvenile, Chinese Gardens, 31 Dec 10, by Rey Aguila

Table 1

S/N	Species	No.	S/N	Species	No.
1	Osprey	3		<i>Residents / Sedentary Species</i>	
2	Jerdon's Baza	7	12	Black-winged Kite	8
3	Black Baza	93	13	Brahminy Kite	31
4	Oriental Honey Buzzard	15	14	White-bellied Sea Eagle	14
5	Black Kite	1			
6	Eastern Marsh Harrier	1	15	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	1
7	Chinese Sparrowhawk	6	16	Crested Goshawk	3
8	Japanese Sparrowhawk	5	17	Changeable Hawk-eagle	10
9	Common Buzzard	2		<i>Unidentified</i>	
10	Booted Eagle	1	18	Unidentified Raptors	4
11	Peregrine Falcon	6			
Total for Migrants		140	Grand Total		211

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

1. Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (3)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
4	1	Seletar West	Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui
11	1	Seletar West	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng, Tan Kok Hui
12	2	Kranji, flying together	Lee Ee Ling

2. Jerdon's Baza *Aviceda jerdoni* (7)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
11	7	Changi, a flock of 7. Bees chased away 2 birds.	Con Foley, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng, Tan Kok Hui, Yamane Yoshio



Jerdon's Baza, being chased by bees, Changi, 11 Dec 10, by Lau Jia Sheng

3. Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes* (93)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1	20	Lorong Halus, single flock flying across TPE, 8am	Mick Price
4	9	Bidadari	Alfred Chia
4	4	Bidadari	Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui
4	4	Seletar West	Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui
5	25	Punggol, near Riviera LRT, a kettle.	Nicholas Tan

10	1	One North	Alan Owyong
11	5	Bidadari, morning	Wong Chung Cheong
11	4	Changi	Con Foley, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng, Tan Kok Hui, Yamane Yoshio
12	3	Neo Tiew Lane 2	Lee Ee Ling
12	2	Dairy Farm / Singapore Quarry, afternoon	Jeremy Lewis
12	3	Bidadari, afternoon	Sreedharan G.
14	15	Malcolm Park, 7.30am, birds flew low overhead traveling SE to NW.	Jane Rogers
18	6	Changi	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng
18	9	Bidadari, afternoon	Jeremy Lewis
19	6	Choa Chu Kang Cemetery, NSS outing, morning	Alan Owyong & Jeremy Lewis
29	2	Admiralty Park	Tan Kok Hui

4. Oriental Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus* (15)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
4	1	Pulau Semakau, morning	Jeremy Lewis
5	2	Choa Chu Kang Cemetery	Alan Owyong
5	1	Ang Mo Kio West Park	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng
10	1	Portsdown Road, flying overhead	Alan Owyong
11	3	Changi, 2 pale adult, 1 pale juvenile	Con Foley, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng, Tan Kok Hui, Yamane Yoshio
12	1	Bidadari, afternoon	Sreedharan G.
12	1	Dairy Farm / Singapore Quarry, afternoon	Jeremy Lewis
19	1	King's Avenue, adult pale morph <i>"It is flying backwards and forwards around and through the trees, quite low, which it obviously has to do to find bee hives. Just now it seemed to approach a smallish outer branch of a Yellow Flame Tree for an upright landing, found small branches in its way and landed hanging underneath. It then bent its neck up and around so that it could see a "normal" view of things, before deciding which direction to go when it let go and flew off. I do find it amazing how such a large bird cruises around so low and amongst dense foliage. I also wonder about them managing to stay alive in Singapore living on just bee and wasp larvae - of which there don't seem to be any around this afternoon. How often do they need to eat, I wonder"</i>	Margie Hall

19	2	Choa Chu Kang Cemetery, NSS outing, morning	Alan Owyong
26	1	MacRitchie Reservoir, morning	Jeremy Lewis
29	1	Admiralty Park	Tan Kok Hui

5. Black Kite *Milvus migrans* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
11	1	Changi	Con Foley, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng, Tan Kok Hui, Yamane Yoshio
19	1	Changi	Con Foley

6. Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
17	1	Changi Cove	Lee Tiah Khee

7. Chinese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter soloensis* (6)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
4	1	Seletar West, adult male feeding on a reptile	Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui
7	1	Ang Mo Kio West Park, male	Tan Kok Hui & Con Foley
11	1	Changi	Con Foley, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng, Tan Kok Hui, Yamane Yoshio
12	1	Mount Faber, female	Danny Lau
18	3	Changi, <i>“including seeing 1 female juvenile and observing 2 female adults in a cat-fight with claw-clenching and calling”</i>	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng

8. Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis* (5)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
11	2	Changi, male and juvenile	Con Foley, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng, Tan Kok Hui, Yamane Yoshio
11	1	Jurong Lake, morning	Jeremy Lewis
11	1	Seletar West, male	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng, Tan Kok Hui
12	1	Tuas	Lee Tiah Khee

9. Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* (2)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
11	2	Changi	Con Foley, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng, Tan Kok Hui, Yamane Yoshio
18	2	Changi	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng



Common Buzzard, Changi, 18 Dec 10, by Lau Jia Sheng

10. Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
4	1	Seletar West, dark morph	Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui

11. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (6)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
4	1	West Coast Ferry Terminal <i>“it was on one of the big towers resting and the suddenly flew down to the pier at great speed trying to catch some prey”</i>	Jeremy Lewis
10	1	Kranji, juvenile	Lee Tiah Khee
12	1	Kranji, perched on telecom tower	Lee Ee Ling

17	1	Changi Cove, juvenile	Lee Tiah Khee
mid	1	Jurong West Street 65, adult, spotted and photographed on a HDB ledge for one week in mid-December, was reported eating a pigeon	Lianhe Zaobao
24	2	Bishan <i>“Just saw thirty minutes ago a pair of Peregrine Falcon circling the 25 storey HDB block a few times before one flew away and one settled on the usual TV antenna perch. Even though I had my camera on hand, I was not quick enough to capture any image of them flying together because of obstructions in my balcony. This confirmed my suspicion that they are 2 PF around here as I saw, long time ago, one that was on another 25 storey block very much further away. But it was so far away that I couldn't be certain.”</i>	Sun Chong Hong



Peregrine Falcon, Changi, 17 Dec 10, by Lee Tiah Khee

Resident raptors

12. Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* (8)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
4	1	Pulau Semakau, morning	Jeremy Lewis
4	1	Seletar West, harassed by House Crow	Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui
11	5	Changi, 3 adults, 2 juveniles	Con Foley, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng, Tan Kok Hui, Yamane Yoshio
11	1	Seletar West	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng, Tan Kok Hui
12	1	Neo Tiew Lane 2	Lee Ee Ling
18	4	Changi	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng

13. Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus* (31)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
4	3	Pulau Semakau, morning	Jeremy Lewis
4	3	Sultan Shoal	Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui
4	1	MacRitchie Reservoir, afternoon	Jeremy Lewis
4	4	Seletar West, 3 adult, 1 juvenile	Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui
5	2	Choa Chu Kang Cemetery	Alan Owyong
11	5	Changi	Con Foley, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng, Tan Kok Hui, Yamane Yoshio
11	7	Seletar West	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng, Tan Kok Hui
12	1	Neo Tiew Lane 2, mobbed by 2 Large-billed Crows	Lee Ee Ling
18	2	Changi	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng
19	3	Choa Chu Kang Cemetery, NSS outing, morning	Jeremy Lewis
30	2	Sungei Serangoon, 1 adult, 1 immature	Tan Kok Hui
--	2	King's Avenue, present most days.	Margie Hall

14. White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* (14)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
4	3	Pulau Semakau, morning	Jeremy Lewis
4	2	Seletar West, both adults	Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui
5	1	Pasir Ris Drive 3	Wong Chung Cheong

11	1	Changi	Con Foley, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng, Tan Kok Hui, Yamane Yoshio
11	2	Seletar West	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng, Tan Kok Hui
12	1	Kranji, flying across reservoir with big fish	Lee Ee Ling
18	1	Changi, juvenile	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng
12	1	Dairy Farm / Singapore Quarry, afternoon	Jeremy Lewis
26	1	Lower Pierce Reservoir, morning	Jeremy Lewis
29	2	Admiralty Park, heard only	Tan Kok Hui
30	2	Sungei Serangoon, 1 adult, 1 subadult	Tan Kok Hui

15. Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
10	1	Kranji	Lee Tiah Khee



Grey-headed Fish Eagle, Kranji, 10 Dec 10, by Lee Tiah Khee

16. Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus* (3)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
4	1	Ang Mo Kio West Park, juvenile	Fang Sher Chyet
5	1	Ang Mo Kio West Park, juvenile	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng

19	1	Choa Chu Kang Cemetery, NSS outing, morning	Jeremy Lewis
31	1	Chinese Gardens, juvenile, noon. The bird successfully caught a White-breasted Waterhen.	Rey Aguila



Crested Goshawk, juvenile, Ang Mo Kio, 04 Dec 10, by Fang Sher Chyet



Crested Goshawk, juvenile, with prey (White-breasted Waterhen) Chinese Gardens, 31 Dec 10, by Rey Aguila

17. Changeable Hawk-eagle *Spizaetus cirrhatus* (10)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
5	1	Choa Chu Kang Cemetery	Alan Owyong
11	3	Changi, 1 dark adult, 1 pale adult, 1 pale juvenile	Con Foley, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng, Tan Kok Hui, Yamane Yoshio
11	1	Seletar West, pale morph	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng, Tan Kok Hui
11	1	SLE, before Mandai exit, pale morph	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng
11	1	Mandai Road, near Mandai Lake Road, dark morph	Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng
12	2	Neo Tiew Lane 2, both pale morph, flying together and calling loudly	Lee Ee Ling
23	1	PIE near Eng Neo exit, dark morph, perched on lamp post	Sreedharan G.

18. Unidentified Raptors (4)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
19	4	Choa Chu Kang Cemetery, NSS outing, morning	Alan Owyong

Compiled by Tan Gim Cheong

Note:

The numbers in brackets beside the bird names indicates the total number seen for this month. Different reports of the same raptors from the same area have been discounted to prevent duplication.

Many thanks to those who have sent in their reports and especially to Nicholas Tan, Fang Sher Chyet, Rey Aguila, Lee Tiah Kee and Lau Jia Sheng for the use of their photos.