

Singapore Raptor Report Spring Migration, February 2010

Summary:

140 raptors from 11 migrant species were reported this month. **Black Bazas** continued to be the most numerous at 91 birds and a flock of 25 was reported by Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau and Lau Jia Sheng at Changi. Separately, Ulf Remahl had been tirelessly monitoring the suspected Black Baza roost at Singapore Quarry and found 18 birds on one morning. **Oriental Honey Buzzards** came in second in terms of numbers again with a total of 20 birds. This species is usually silent when wintering but an unusually vocal pair of birds was seen circling and calling repeatedly at Lower Pierce on the 21st for around 20 minutes by Lena Chow & Jimmy Tan. The third most numerous was the **Osprey** with 11 birds. One rare migrant species was recorded for the 1st time this season and two rare resident species were reported.

*A rare juvenile
Crested Goshawk
at Singapore Zoo
on 160210.*

Photo by Tsen Thau Ming

*Note: the zoo does not
keep Crested Goshawks!*



Highlights for migrant species:

On the morning of the 15th Mick Price saw a juvenile **Rufous-bellied Eagle** at Seletar West flying towards Khatib Bongsu. This is the first record of this rare species this season. The rare **Booted Eagles** continued to be present at Seletar West, although only 2 dark morphs were reported this month compared to 3 birds last month. Kent Ridge continued to hold good birds with a rare **Common Kestrel** seen by Horst Flotow.

For the uncommon raptors, a **Common Buzzard** was at its usual haunt in Changi (reported by Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau and Lau Jia Sheng) while another was seen at Holland Village by Martti Siponen. A **Chinese Sparrowhawk** was seen by Danny Lau and Lau Jia Sheng at Seletar West. Another sighting by Mick Price at nearby Pulau Punggol might be of the same individual. A total of 4 **Eastern Marsh Harriers** were recorded – 1 seen in flight at Pasir Ris Farmway 3 by Lim Poh Bee and another 3 at Changi (Nicholas Tan; Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau and Lau Jia Sheng). Small numbers of **Japanese Sparrowhawks** and **Peregrine Falcons** were also reported.

Highlights for sedentary species:

For the sedentary species, a rare **Crested Goshawk** was seen and photographed on 16 Feb 2010 by Tsen Thau Ming at the Singapore Zoo. It was a juvenile, indicating that Crested Goshawks may be breeding in or near Singapore. On the same day, Alan OwYong saw a probable Crested Goshawk over at One North. A second rarity, the **Crested Serpent Eagle**, was seen in flight at Bukit Batok Nature Park by Wing Chong on the 7th. This species was also reported off Lentor Avenue by Alfred Chia on the 9th and at Mandai by Low Choon How on the 19th.

For the **Grey-headed Fish Eagle**, 7 individuals were reported this month. The numbers for the uncommon **Changeable Hawk-eagle** held out at 18, same as last month. Tan Kok Hui reported a large flock of **28 Brahminy Kites** at Seletar West and Mick Price saw 25 of them at the same place on another evening.

One of the two Oriental Honey Buzzards that were circling and calling for about 20 minutes at Lower Pierce. This is a male.

Photo by Jimmy Tan



Table 1

S/N	Species	No.	S/N	Species	No.
1	Osprey	11			
2	Black Baza	91		Residents / Sedentary Species	
3	Oriental Honey Buzzard	20	12	Black-winged Kite	17
4	Eastern Marsh Harrier	4	13	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	7
5	Chinese Sparrowhawk	1	14	Crested Serpent Eagle	3
6	Japanese Sparrowhawk	3	15	Crested Goshawk	1
7	Common Buzzard	2	16	Changeable Hawk-eagle	18
8	Booted Eagle	2			
9	Rufous-bellied Eagle	1			
10	Common Kestrel	1		Unidentified	
11	Peregrine Falcon	4	17	Unidentified Accipiters	2
Total for Migrants		140		Grand Total	188

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

1. Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (11)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1	2	Kranji Reservoir, 2 birds flying side by side	Lee Tiah Kee
2	1	Western Part of Singapore, bird seen fishing in the late evening	Mike Tan
3	1	Singapore Quarry, morning	Ulf Remahl
6	1	Kranji bund	Sreedharan G.
10	1	Neo Tiew Lane 2, late morning, flying over the forest	Ulf Remahl
13	1	Seletar West Link, morning	Lau Jia Sheng & Danny Lau
17	1	Seletar West Link Bridge, 6.15pm	Mick Price
17	2	Pulau Punggol Timor, 6.30pm	Mick Price
18	1	Seletar West Link Bridge, 6.15pm	Mick Price
18	2	Pulau Punggol Timor	Mick Price
19	1	Sengkang Riverside Park, evening, circling above Sungei Punggol	Tan Kok Hui
20	3	Neo Tiew Lane 2, afternoon	Raj Krishnan
20	1	Seletar West, evening	Tan Kok Hui
21	2	Sungei Buloh	Martti Siponen
27	1	Kent Ridge, soaring over the top of the ridge	Horst Flotow
27	1	Neo Tiew Lane 2, afternoon	Raj Krishnan
28	1	Kranji	Henrietta Woo

2. Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes* (91)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1	11+	Jalan Asas (access road to Singapore Quarry), 8am	Ulf Remahl
1	6+	Forest Walk, Southern Ridges, 9am, riding on rising thermals	Serene Chng, Cai Yixiong, Mirza Rifqi bin Ismail
2	2	Access road to Singapore Quarry, morning, birds flew off at 8am	Ulf Remahl
2	1	Forest Walk, Southern Ridges, 9.30am, soaring above canopy	Serene Chng, Sheryl Chia, Cai Yixiong
3	2	Access road to Singapore Quarry, morning, birds flew off at around 8am	Ulf Remahl
3	5+	Hort. Park, flying towards Kent Ridge Park	Serene Chng, Geoffrey Davidson, Cai Yixiong, Eric Siah
4	6	Access road to Singapore Quarry, morning	Ulf Remahl
5	2	Singapore Quarry, midday	Martti Siponen
6	1	Sentosa	Lena Chow, Tsang Kwok Choong, Amy Tsang

6	2	Neo Tiew Lane 2	Sreedharan G.
9	5	Defu Lane	Avian Chia
10	2	Neo Tiew Lane 2, morning, circling	Ulf Remahl
11	10	Access road to Singapore Quarry, morning, birds on dead tree	Ulf Remahl
12	3	Bidadari, 12.30pm	Fang Sher Chyet
13	2	Seletar West Link, morning	Lau Jia Sheng & Danny Lau
15	5	Access road to Singapore Quarry, morning, perched	Ulf Remahl
15	1	Pulau Punggol Barat, 9am	Mick Price
16	14	Access road to Singapore Quarry, morning, perched	Ulf Remahl
17	12	Springleaf Avenue, 7.45am, seen flying towards Tagore Drive in slightly overcast weather	Leo Kum Chew
18	18	Access road to Singapore Quarry, morning <i>“This is the highest number since I started checking this roosting sight regularly.”</i>	Ulf Remahl
19	1	Admiralty Park	Tan Kok Hui
20	30	Changi, a flock of 5 and another flock of 25, morning	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng
20	1	Singapore Quarry	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng
20	2	Punggol Marina, 1 seen fighting with a crow	John Gaunt
20	1	Neo Tiew Lane 2, afternoon	Raj Krishnan
21	4	Sungei Buloh	Martti Siponen
23	9	Access road to Singapore Quarry, morning, perched	Ulf Remahl
24	10	Access road to Singapore Quarry, morning, perched	Ulf Remahl
25	1	Pulau Tekong	Lau Jia Sheng
26	1	King’s Avenue (Sembawang), foraging around a Yellow Flame tree.	Margie Hall
27	1	Khatib Bongsu	Lena Chow, Jimmy Lee & Foong Hin Cheong
27	1	Imbiah Trail, Sentosa, morning, perched on <i>Albizia</i> tree	Cyril Ng
27	5	Neo Tiew Lane 2, afternoon	Raj Krishnan
28	4-5	Tanjong Rhu	Lim Poh Bee, Jeffrey Toh, Lim Ming Huey
28	5	Access road to Singapore Quarry, morning, perched	Ulf Remahl
Feb	2-4	Science Park, Kent Ridge, groups of 2 to 4 seen on several mornings, cannot determine if they are the same individuals	Horst Flotow

3. Oriental Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus* (20)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
3	1	Canopy Walk, Southern Ridges, dark morph, seen flying and then perch & preened itself	Serene Chng, Geoffrey Davidson, Cai Yixiong, Eric Siah
3	1	Ang Mo Kio Ave 3, pale morph, 10am	Fang Sher Chyet
4	1	Simon Lane	Tsang Kwok Choong
6	1	Central Forest	Tan Kok Hui
9	1	Yew Tee MRT, landed on tree opposite the station, morning	Felix Wong
9	1	PIE Paya Lebar exit, pale morph, 8am	Fang Sher Chyet
10	1	Chua Chu Kang Ave 4, immature male	“vbs1979”
15	1	Lock Road, at night, coming in to roost	Peter Jones
20	1	Changi, immature pale morph	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng
20	2	Punggol Marina, 1 dark and 1 pale juvenile	John Gaunt
20	1	Jurong West Street 42, in flight	Kenneth Kee
21	1	Lower Pierce, 3.35pm, intermediate morph in flight	“GCSpyder”
21	1	Lower Pierce, 4pm, intermediate morph, circling and calling for 20 minutes	Lena Chow
21	2	Lower Pierce, 1 intermediate morph and 1 pale morph. The birds were circling and calling to each other	Jimmy Tan
27	1	Aljunied Park, evening, flying towards Bidadari and chased by 2 Black-naped Orioles	Lena Chow, Jimmy Lee & Foong Hin Cheong
27	1	Kent Ridge, soaring over the top of the ridge	Horst Flotow
27	1	Upper Thomson Road, dark morph, 4.30pm	Fang Sher Chyet
28	4	Pulau Semakau	Lee Ee Ling, Jeremy Lewis



The other Oriental Honey Buzzard (a female) at Lower Pierce. Photo by Jimmy Tan.

4. Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus* (4)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
13	1	Changi, juvenile, mid morning	Nicholas Tan
14	1	Pasir Ris Farmway 3, male, in flight	Lim Poh Bee
17	1	Changi, male, afternoon	Nicholas Tan
20	1	Changi, juvenile, different bird from 13 th , mid morning	Nicholas Tan
20	1	Changi, male, seen flying towards Changi Airport	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng



Eastern Marsh Harrier, 3rd year male, at Changi on 17 Feb 10. Photo by Nicholas Tan.

5. Chinese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter soloensis* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
13	1	Seletar West Link, morning, adult female	Lau Jia Sheng & Danny Lau
18	1	Pulau Punggol Timor	Mick Price

6. Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis* (3)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
20	1	Changi, morning	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng
20	1	Choa Chu Kang Cemetery, male, chased by Black-naped Oriole, afternoon	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng
20	1	Singapore Quarry, afternoon	Jeremy Lewis

7. Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* (2)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
5	1	Holland Village, 5.43pm	Martti Siponen
20	1	Changi, pale morph, on lamp post	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng

8. Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus* (2)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
13	2	Seletar West Link, morning, both dark morph	Lau Jia Sheng & Danny Lau
20	1	Seletar West, evening, dark morph	Tan Kok Hui

9. Rufous-bellied Eagle *Hieraaetus kienerii* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
15	1	Seletar West Link Bridge, juvenile, 7.15am, seen flying towards Khatib Bongsu	Mick Price

10. Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
27	1	Kent Ridge, late morning, circling over the museum at the top of the ridge	Horst Flotow

11. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (4)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
6	1	Neo Tiew Lane 2	Sreedharan G.
7	1	Tuas South, midday	Martti Siponen
13	1	Seletar West Link, morning	Lau Jia Sheng & Danny Lau
18	1	Seletar West Link Bridge, 6.15pm	Mick Price
20	1	Seletar West	Tan Kok Hui
20	1	Pulau Ubin Telecom Tower, 8.15am, <i>japonensis</i>	Gloria Seow, Tan Hang Chong
24	1	Tuas South, 5pm	Martti Siponen

Resident raptors

Note: For resident raptors, the counts for the 2 very common resident raptors – Brahminy Kite and White-bellied Sea Eagle were not tabulated.

12. Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* (17)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1	1	Kranji Reservoir	Lee Tiah Kee
5	1	Tuas South, 4.15pm	Martti Siponen
6	2	Neo Tiew Lane 2	Sreedharan G.
7	2	Tuas South, midday	Martti Siponen
10	1	Neo Tiew Lane 2, morning, perched on transmission tower	Ulf Remahl

13	2	Seletar West Link, morning	Lau Jia Sheng & Danny Lau
17	2	D’Kranji Resort, 1 of the 2 birds seen eating a Garden Skink on top of an albizia tree outside	Lim Kim Seng
20	6+	Changi	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng
20	1	Tuas South, midday	Martti Siponen
20	1	Neo Tiew Lane 2, afternoon	Raj Krishnan
21	1	Sungei Buloh	Martti Siponen
22	1	Tuas South, 5pm	Martti Siponen
26	4	Tuas South, 4pm, all 4 birds seen at the same time	Martti Siponen
27	1	Neo Tiew Lane 2, afternoon	Raj Krishnan
28	2	Pulau Semakau	Lee Ee Ling, Jeremy Lewis
28	1	Kranji	Henrietta Woo

13. Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus* (7)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
3	1	Singapore Quarry, morning <i>“one juvenile bird, which was changing into adult plumage. The young eagle was mostly perching but spent also some time walking along the shoreline on the far side of the Quarry presumably looking for some prey.”</i>	Ulf Remahl
6	2	Neo Tiew Lane 2, morning, adult perched on transmission tower	Ulf Remahl
6	1	Kranji bund	Sreedharan G.
6	2	Singapore Quarry, late morning <i>“two adult eagles at Little Guilin one perching in a small tree near the cliff face and the other in a tall tree. Just after 11:00am one eagle took flight and started to chase a Changeable Hawk Eagle, which was calling and circling around the former quarry. After a while the chase died down and the Grey-headed Fish Eagle return to perch in a tree.”</i>	Ulf Remahl
6	1	Central Forest	Tan Kok Hui
7	1	Mandai, nest	Yong Ding Li
11	1	Singapore Quarry, morning, appears to be the same juvenile seen on 03 Feb 10	Ulf Remahl
20	1	Singapore Quarry, afternoon	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng
21	1	Sungei Buloh, adult	Martti Siponen

14. Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela* (3)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
7	1	Bukit Batok Nature Park, 10.12am <i>“It was seen circling briefly above the cliff and subsequently flew towards West”</i>	Wing Chong
9	1	Track 24, off Lentor Avenue, adult, seen perched in the heat of the afternoon	Alfred Chia
19	1	Mandai, perched on tree	Low Choon How



A rare Crested Serpent Eagle at Bukit Batok Nature Park. Photo by Wing Chong.

15. Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
16	1	Singapore Zoo, juvenile <i>“Saw this small raptor at the zoo at the animals presentations stand. flew right over me and landed. animal show was going on and it was not spooked. I was having my lunch at the covered walkway between the elephant rides place and the splash amphitheater when I saw it. I had to walk just a little into the elephant ride to get the shot, it was straight up over head.”</i>	Tsen Thau Ming

16. Changeable Hawk-eagle *Spizaetus cirrhatus* (18)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
3	1	Singapore Quarry, morning	Ulf Remahl
5	2	Singapore Quarry, mid-day, 1 dark & 1 pale morph	Martti Siponen
6	2	Central Forest	Tan Kok Hui

6	2	Little Guilin, morning, 1 soaring & 1 chased by a Grey-headed Fish Eagle <i>“The pursuit must have lasted for close to five minutes. At the same time another Changeable Hawk Eagle was soaring just above the cliff face on the other side of the lake. So there was a pair of Changeable Hawk Eagle. From what happened I got the impression that two different kinds of birds of prey were trying to establish a territory in the same area.”</i>	Ulf Remahl
7	2	Tuas South, midday, 1 dark & 1 pale morph	Martti Siponen
12	1	Tekong, heard only	Lau Jia Sheng
13	1	Seletar West Link, morning	Lau Jia Sheng & Danny Lau
15	1	Khatib Bongsu, dark morph, 10am	Mick Price
20	2	Changi, adult dark morph & juvenile pale morph, morning	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng
20	2	Singapore Quarry, afternoon	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng
21	3	Sungei Buloh, 1 dark, 1 pale morph & 1 immature	Martti Siponen
22	1	Choa Chu Kang Cemetery, pale morph	Alfred Chia
23	1	Bukit Brown, dark morph	Tsang Kwok Choong
27	1	Khatib Bongsu, pale morph, juvenile	Lena Chow, Jimmy Lee & Foong Hin Cheong
27	1	Kent Ridge, calling and soaring over the ridge	Horst Flotow
27	2	Singapore Quarry, 1 dark & 1 pale morph, midday	Martti Siponen
28	1	Singapore Quarry, heard only	Ulf Remahl

17. Unidentified Accipiters (2)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
16	1	One North (North Buona Vista Road) <i>“This morning, I saw a medium size raptor flew into a huge fruiting fig tree at One North. It perched on a branch offering only views of its barred belly. Luckily it flew to another branch. I was able to see the full size of this accipiter. It is a much larger accipiter, it underside barrings and eyes are very prominent. I suspect that it was going after the smaller birds that were feeding on the figs. After a few short flights around the ficus, it flew across to the mid canopy of a nearby tree. From this short observation, I cannot be sure but the gist and behaviour suggests a probable Crested Goshawk.</i>	Alan OwYong

		<i>Last evening at around the same location, I witnessed a Brahminy Kite being attacked by a mid size accipiter. The Kite had to take refuge among the thick foliage of a large tree. Unfortunately I did not have my bins with me and was not able to have good looks of the accipiter. Could it be the same Goshawk?"</i>	
21	1	Sungei Buloh	Martti Siponen

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 Tsen Thau Ming, Jimmy Tan, Nicholas Tan and Wing Chong for the use of their photos.