

Singapore Raptor Report Spring Migration, February 2011

Summary:

A total of 117 migrant raptors of 12 species were recorded this month, an increase of 1 species over last month. This was due to the first **Pied Harrier** for this season, which was recorded at Changi by Myron Tay. The **Black Baza** is again tops in numbers, with 52 birds. The **Oriental Honey Buzzard** was number two, again, with 28 birds. The **Jerdon's Baza** unexpectedly took the third spot for the second time with 7 birds. A group of 3 Jerdon's Baza put up a good show at Lorong Halus with daily flybys from the 4th to the 10th and then again on the 20th. One was seen by lucky Gloria Seow at Jelutong Tower on the 6th, one at Bidadari by Jonathon Cheah on the 5th, one at AVA compounds at Sembawang by Pat Chan on the 12th and one at Pasir Ris by Johnson Sia / Jonathon Cheah / Chew AS. The last time the Jerdon's Baza made it to the no. 3 spot was 2 months ago in December 2010. Only 1 Jerdon's Baza was recorded last month so this came as a surprise.



Jerdon's Baza at Lorong Halus on 040211, by Francis Yap

This was a good month for the **Booted Eagle**. Apart from their stronghold at Seletar West, 2 were seen at Jelutong Tower in the Central Catchment by Gloria Seow and one at Changi by Jonathan Cheah. The single juvenile **Black Kite** continued to be present at Changi and was recorded on the 5th and the 26th of the month. Changi held 2 juvenile and 1 adult male **Eastern Marsh Harriers** (EMH). Another EMH was seen at Lorong Halus, thermalling. For three months in a row, the **Chinese Sparrowhawks**, totaling 6 birds, outnumbered the 3 **Japanese Sparrowhawks** recorded. 2 **Common Buzzards** continue to winter at Changi. Small numbers of **Ospreys** and **Peregrine Falcons** accounted for the remainder of the migrant raptors.

For the resident raptors, 3 **Crested Goshawks** were recorded. This is a surprisingly high number as it is a rare resident. A juvenile was seen and photographed on the 8th by See Toh and Jonathon Cheah while Johnny Chew photographed another juvenile at Japanese Gardens on the 17th, perched on an open branch! This species tends to skulk in the foliage and uses the element of surprise to hunt. Danny Lau's sighting on the 20th of a bird perched under tree cover at Mount Faber was more typical behaviour for this species. Grey-headed Fish Eagles are holding out reasonably well and there are the usual **Black-winged Kites**, **Brahminy Kites**, **White-bellied Sea Eagles**, and **Changeable Hawk-eagles**.



Crested Goshawk, juvenile, at Japanese Gardens on 170211, by Johnny Chew



Crested Goshawk, at Earth Trail, on 200211, by Danny Lau

Table 1

S/N	Species	No.	S/N	Species	No.
1	Osprey	5		<i>Residents / Sedentary Species</i>	
2	Jerdon's Baza	7	13	Black-winged Kite	9
3	Black Baza	52	14	Brahminy Kite	32
4	Oriental Honey Buzzard	28	15	White-bellied Sea Eagle	21
5	Black Kite	1	16	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	5
6	Eastern Marsh Harrier	4	17	Crested Goshawk	3
7	Pied Harrier	1	18	Changeable Hawk-eagle	15
8	Chinese Sparrowhawk	6			
9	Japanese Sparrowhawk	3		<i>Unidentified</i>	
10	Common Buzzard	2	19	Unidentified Raptors	1
11	Booted Eagle	4	20	Unidentified <i>Accipiters</i>	1
12	Peregrine Falcon	4			
Total for Migrants		117	Grand Total		204

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

1. Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (5)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2	1	Punggol East	Francis Yap
5	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Con Foley
6	1	Sentosa	Pat Chan
11	1	Mandai Mudflats	Jonathon Cheah
12	1	Punggol Point	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau
14	1	Sembawang Park	Con Foley
20	2	Kranji Nature Trail	Danny Lau
26	1	Seletar West	Lau Jia Sheng, Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui



Jerdon's Baza, at Lorong Halus on 100211, by Lee Tiah Khee

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

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
4	3	Lorong Halus	Francis Yap / Lee Tiah Khee / Jonathan Cheah
5	3	Lorong Halus	Lee Tiah Khee / Francis Yap / Jonathan Cheah
5	1	Bidadari	Jonathan Cheah

6	1	Jelutong Tower, 11am <i>“Within 5 min of seeing the Booted (Eagle), we spotted what we think was a Jerdon's Baza zipping right by the tower. Tim got decent shots of its underwings.... And when it landed on the treeline ridge very far away, I photographed a record shot showing its erect crest. Our J. Baza flew off in a NE direction disappearing over the ridge”</i>	Gloria Seow
6	3	Lorong Halus	Francis Yap / Jonathan Cheah
6	1	Bidadari	Jonathan Cheah
7	3	Lorong Halus	Francis Yap / Jonathon Cheah
8	3	Lorong Halus	Jonathon Cheah
9	3	Lorong Halus	Alfred Chia / Jonathon Cheah / Con Foley
10	2	Lorong Halus, afternoon	Lee Tiah Khee
12	1	Sembawang AVA, 10am <i>“This morning around 10 a.m, I saw a Jerdon Baza flying within the compounds of AVA. It was flying quite low and perched on a small tree before flying off towards the forest.”</i>	Pat Chan
15	1	Pasir Ris Park, juvenile	Johnson Sia
19	1	Pasir Ris Park	Jonathan Cheah / Chew AS
20	1	Lorong Halus, morning	Ian Rickword, Freda, Nessie
20	1	Lorong Halus, morning	Ashley Ng



Jerdon's Baza at Pasir Ris on 190211, by Chew AS

3. Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes* (52)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
4	1	Sengkang Park, morning	Sum Wai Muan
9	1	Gambas Avenue	Lau Jia Sheng
10	19	Lorong Halus	Con Foley
12	1	Bukit Brown	Gloria Seow
12	10	Poyan	Tan Kok Hui, Con Foley, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng
13	1	Bukit Brown, morning	Gloria Seow
--	1	Kent Ridge Park	Lam Hon Pui
16	1	Kent Ridge Park, 9:15am	John Spencer
26	6	Changi Cove	Lau Jia Sheng, Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui
26	2	Pasir Ris Farmway	Lau Jia Sheng, Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui
27	1	Jurong Lake, thermalling	Alan OwYong, Alfred Chia, Kenneth Kee,
27	10	Clementi Road near Sunset Way	Horst Flotow

4. Oriental Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus* (28)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
3	1	Singapore Quarry	Martti Siponen
5	1	Stevens Road, dark morph, circling, 1:30pm	Ian Rickword
5	1	Holland Road, chased by House Crows	Alan OwYong
7	1	West Coast Park Marsh Garden, mobbed by at least 3 Black-naped Oriole, 2 male Koel and 1 House Crow, 8.30am	JinZhao
8	1	Pasir Ris Park, male	"limtt"
8	2	Alexandra Road, 6:30pm	John Spencer
--	1	West Coast Park, early February	Lam Hon Pui
8	1	Singapore	Kim Tee
10	1	Toa Payoh	Gloria Seow
10	1	MacPherson Road, chased by crows, 6pm	Lena Chow
10	1	Lorong Halus	Con Foley
13	1	Bukit Brown, morning	Gloria Seow
13	1	Mount Faber, thermalling high up	Danny Lau
13	4	Bidadari, thermalling	Lena Chow
13	1	Lower Seletar Reservoir, 11am	Chuan Ming
14	2	Upper Serangoon Road and Hougang Avenue 3 junction, mobbed by a House Crow and a Javan Myna	Wong Chung Cheong
15	2	Bidadari, morning, 1 male, 1 juvenile	"limtt"
16	2	Science Park 2	Chuan Ming
17	1	Pioneer Road North, circling	Gloria Seow
18	1	Seletar West	Francis Yap

19	1	Kent Ridge Park, morning	John Spencer
19	2	Novena, circling upwards, late morning	Alan OwYong
19	1	MacPherson Road, flew by, 6-7pm	Lena Chow
20	1	Earth Trail (Mount Faber), aub-adult	Danny Lau
20	1	MacPherson Road, flew by, 6-7pm	Lena Chow
22	1	MacPherson Road, flew by, 6-7pm	Lena Chow
26	1	Pulau Ubin	Jeremy Lewis
27	1	Jurong Lake, female pale morph, circling	Alan OwYong, Kenneth Kee, Alfred Chia
27	1	MacPherson Road, perched on tree, 6-7pm	Lena Chow



Oriental Honey Buzzard, Lorong Halus, 100211, by Con Foley

5. Black Kite *Milvus migrans* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
5	1	Changi Cove, juvenile	Jonathan Cheah
26	1	Changi Cove	Lau Jia Sheng, Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui

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

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
12	1	Tanah Merah	Francis Yap
13	1	Changi Cove	Jonathon Cheah
13	1	Tanah Merah, juvenile	Francis Yap
14	1	Changi Cove	Jonathon Cheah

14	3	Changi Cove, 1 male, 2 juvenile	Myron Tay
15	1	Changi Cove	Jonathon Cheah
16	1	Changi Cove	Jonathon Cheah
16	1	Lorong Halus Wetlands, mid afternoon <i>“It was not flying low over the grasslands, but start circling from a few stories high to way above the low clouds. This is the first time I seen a Marsh Harrier riding up on thermals possibly and a return migration.”</i>	Alan OwYong, with Lim Kim Keang and Willie Foo
17	1	Changi Cove, male	“limtt”
26	1	Changi Cove, juvenile, harassed by a Black-winged Kite	Lau Jia Sheng, Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui

7. Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucos* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
14	1	Tanah Merah, juvenile	Myron Tay



Pied Harrier, juvenile, Tanah Merah, 140211, by Myron Tay

8. Chinese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter soloensis* (6)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
3	1	Singapore Quarry	Martti Siponen
13	1	Mount Faber <i>“a Chinese Goshawk appeared from nowhere to attack a group of swiftlets but missed.”</i>	Danny Lau

14	1	Republic Poly, in flight	Tan Kok Hui
14	1	Changi Cove	Jonathon Cheah
19	1	Kent Ridge Park, female, morning	John Spencer
26	1	Seletar West, male	Lau Jia Sheng, Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui



Chinese Sparrowhawk, Changi, 140211, by Jonathon Cheah

9. Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis* (3)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
12	1	Bukit Brown	Gloria Seow
13	1	Bukit Brown, chasing a Black Baza, morning	Gloria Seow
21	1	Alexandra Road, 6:15pm	John Spencer
27	1	Mount Faber	Jeremy Lewis

10. Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* (2)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
26	2	Changi Cove	Lau Jia Sheng, Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui

11. Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus* (4)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
5	1	Changi Cove, pale morph	Jonathon Cheah
6	2	Jelutong Tower, dark morphs, flying in southwest direction, 11am	Gloria Seow

		<p style="text-align: center;"><i>“Was at Jelutong tower at around 11am this morning. Saw 2 Booted Eagles fly by in a Southwest direction not too high above Jelutong towers (we were on the 3rd level). These 2 birds were both dark morph with a pale wedge on the inner primaries of their underwings. They did not circle or linger, they just glided by, too quickly to take any shots.”</i></p>	
13	1	Seletar West, morning	Francis Yap
16	1	Seletar West	Jonathon Cheah
17	1	Seletar West	Jonathon Cheah
18	1	Seletar West	Jonathon Cheah
26	1	Seletar West	Lau Jia Sheng, Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui

12. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (3)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
4	1	Tuas South	Martti Siponen
13	2	Lorong Halus	Francis Yap
26	1	Pulau Ubin, on telecom tower near jetty, 10am	Jeremy Lewis
26	1	Tuas South	Martti Siponen

Resident raptors

13. Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* (9)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
4	2	Tuas South	Martti Siponen
5	1	Lorong Halus	Francis Yap
12	1	Lorong Halus	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau
26	6	Changi Cove	Lau Jia Sheng, Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui
27	1	Tuas South	Martti Siponen

14. Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus* (32)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
4	3	Tuas South	Martti Siponen
5	1	Kranji Nature Trail	Martti Siponen
12	2	Punggol Point	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau
13	1	Singapore Quarry	Martti Siponen
13	1	Bedok Reservoir	Chuan Ming
18	2	Seletar Dam	Tan Kok Hui
19	2	Tuas Grasslands	Martti Siponen
20	2	Labrador Park	Danny Lau
25	1	Keppel Island, 1pm	Jeremy Lewis
26	2	Changi Cove	Lau Jia Sheng, Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui
26	1	Mount Faber, 9:15am	Jeremy Lewis
26	2	Pulau Ubin	Jeremy Lewis
26	2	Tuas South	Martti Siponen
26	1	Pasir Ris Park	Lau Jia Sheng, Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui
26	2	Pasir Ris Farmway	Lau Jia Sheng, Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui
26	10	Seletar West	Lau Jia Sheng, Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui
27	3	Jurong Lake, adults	Alan OwYong, Alfred Chia, Kenneth Kee,

15. White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* (21)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
3	3	Singapore Quarry	Martti Siponen
4	1	Kovan	Yamane Yoshio
5	2	Kranji Nature Trail	Martti Siponen
6	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, juvenile	Con Foley, Yamane Yoshio
12	2	Punggol Point	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau
12	1	Lorong Halus	Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau
13	4	Singapore Quarry	Martti Siponen
13	1	Bedok Reservoir	Chuan Ming
18	1	Seletar Dam	Tan Kok Hui
19	1	Chestnut Drive	Gloria Seow
20	1	Labrador Park	Danny Lau
20	1	Kranji Nature Trail	Danny Lau
26	1	Changi Cove	Lau Jia Sheng, Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui
26	1	Pasir Ris Farmway	Lau Jia Sheng, Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui

26	1	East Coast Park, 4:45pm	Jeremy Lewis
26	2	Seletar West	Lau Jia Sheng, Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui
27	1	Jurong Lake, adult	Alan OwYong, Kenneth Kee, Alfred Chia
27	1	Tuas South	Martti Siponen

16. Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus* (5)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
3	3	Singapore Quarry	Martti Siponen
5	1	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve	Con Foley
5	2	Kranji Nature Trail	Martti Siponen

17. Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus* (3)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
8	1	Kent Ridge Park, juvenile, evening <i>“A juvenile was ... sighted by me at Kent Ridge Park on the evening of Feb 8. It was perching on the left of the Canopy Walk at the starting 10 meter stretch and was harassed by an agitated a flock of White-crested Laughingthrush followed by a pair of Racket-tailed Drongo.”</i>	See Toh
8	1	Kent Ridge Park	Jonathon Cheah
17	1	Japanese Gardens, juvenile, morning	Johnny Chew
20	1	Earth Trail (Mount Faber), late morning <i>“saw a raptor perched about 100 ft up and 80 ft away, from bins spotted spotted thick rufous streaks on breast. Went back to car to get my scope and raptor was still around. The short crest and distinct breast and belly barrings confirmed a Crested Goshawk, grey face/headside with long and unbroken mesial stripe - adult male.”</i>	Danny Lau

18. Changeable Hawk-eagle *Spizaetus cirrhatus* (15)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
4	1	Sengkang Park, morning	Sum Wai Muan
5	2	Kranji Nature Trail	Martti Siponen
12	2	Poyan	Tan Kok Hui, Con Foley, Danny Lau, Lau Jia Sheng

12	1	Seletar Expressway, near Lentor Exit	Francis Yap
13	2	Singapore Quarry	Martti Siponen
13	1	Mount Faber	Danny Lau
19	1	Kent Ridge Park, morning	John Spencer
26	3	Changi Cove, 1 dark morph, 1 pale morph, 1 juvenile pale morph	Lau Jia Sheng, Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui
26	1	Nee Soon Swamp Forest	Gloria Seow
26	1	Tuas South	Martti Siponen
27	2	Mount Faber	Jeremy Lewis
27	1	Tuas South	Martti Siponen

19. Unidentified Raptors (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
26	1	Changi Cove, probable Booted Eagle	Lau Jia Sheng, Danny Lau, Tan Kok Hui

20. Unidentified Accipiters (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
26	1	Changi Cove	Lau Jia Sheng, Danny Lau, Con Foley, Tan Kok Hui

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 Francis Yap, Johnny Chew, Chew AS, Lee Tiah Khee, Con Foley, Myron Tay, Jonathon Cheah and Danny Lau for the use of their photos.