

Singapore Raptor Report

Autumn Migration, November 2009

Summary:

When we first started compiling the migrating raptors in 2007, we were hoping for numbers in the hundred. But this month's total count of 2,028 raptors completely blew us away. More than 78% were Oriental Honey Buzzards (OHBs) with 1,249 migrating down through Tuas South, diligently counted by Martti Siponen over 17 days. On the 6th and 7th Nov, he counted 325 and 374 OHBs respectively. This was matched by Kim Keang's count at Simei Savannah Condo of 216 OHBs migrating eastwards on the 14th. Black Bazas came in a distance second with 224 recorded while the Japanese Sparrowhawks made a surprised tally of 71, with a high count of 21 migrating over Tuas on the 7th. We had 11 migrant species and 2 non-breeding visitors. Pete Jones photographed a Common Kestrel, a rare winter visitor from his Jurong Condo on 4th, a first for Jurong. Mick Price had a surprised find of a perched Blyth's Hawk-eagle, a non breeding visitor, at Simpang Grasslands on the 4th. This was only the 4th record after another adult recorded at Mount Faber on 3 February 2003. Lim Kim Keang recorded a Pied Harrier, a rare winter visitor at Pulau Semakau, a new location record for this *Circus* species. We did not include the counts recorded during the Raptor Watch on 8th Nov in this report, which can be accessed @ <http://wildbirdsingapore.nss.org.sg/indexA.html>



Peregrine Falcon at Changi Cove by Lee Tiah Khee graced this month cover.

Table 1

S/N	Species	Total	S/N	Species	Total
1	Oriental Honey Buzzard (<i>Pernis ptilorhyncus</i>)	1587	9	Pied Harrier (<i>Circus melanoleucos</i>)	2
2	Black Baza (<i>Aviceda leuphotes</i>)	224	10	Grey-faced Buzzard (<i>Butastur indicus</i>)	5
3	Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	11	11	Booted Eagle (<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>)	1
4	Japanese Sparrowhawk (<i>Accipiter gularis</i>)	71	12	Blyth's Hawk-eagle (<i>Spizaetus alboniger</i>)	1
5	Chinese Sparrowhawk (<i>Accipiter soloensis</i>)	10	13	Common Kestrel (<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>)	1
6	Osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>)	10	14	Raptor Species	32
7	Eastern Marsh Harrier (<i>Circus spilonotus</i>)	9	15	Accipiter Species	60
8	Common Buzzard (<i>Buteo buteo</i>)	4		GRAND TOTAL	2028

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

1. Oriental Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus* (1587)



OHB photographed by KC Tsang from his bedroom's window!

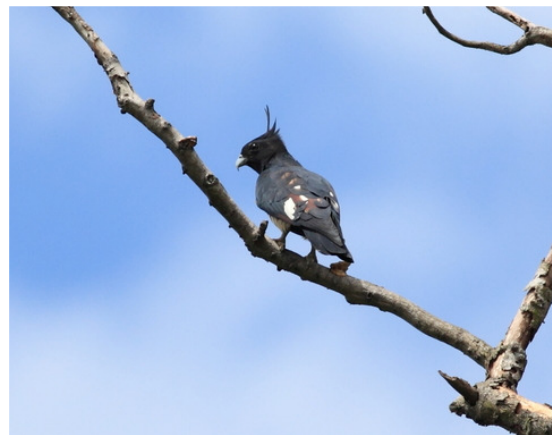
Date	Location and Details	No.	Submitted by
1	Jurong Lake	1	Sunny Yeo
1	Tuas	1	Martti Siponen
1	Singapore Quarry	2	Martti Siponen
1	CCK Cemeteries	5	Danny Lau
2	Flying over Telok Blangah	1	John Spencer
2	Upper Serangoon. Photo taken, see above	1	KC Tsang
3	Tuas South heading ESE direction	119	Martti Siponen
4	Flying over Telok Blangah	1	John Spencer
4	Tuas South Lane 1	12	Martti Siponen
4	Jurong Lake Condo.	1	Pete Jones
5	Tuas South Lane 1	29	Martti Siponen
6	Tuas South (Within 45 minutes -133)	325	Martti Siponen
7	Flying over Jurong Lake	2	Sunny Yeo
7	Flying over Telok Blangah	1	John Spencer
7	Tuas South over one morning	374	Martti Siponen
7	Lorong Halus	3	SC Fang
7	Jurong Lake Condo	5	Pete Jones
8	Kranji	1	Kim Seng
9	Tuas South Lane 1	38	Martti Siponen
10	Jurong Lake Condo. 30 in one flock	43	Pete Jones
10	Tuas South Lane 1	4	Martti Siponen
11	Japanese Gardens, dark morph	1	Gim Cheong
11	Tuas South Lane 1	67	Martti Siponen
12	Pulau Ubin	1	Ben Lee
12	Simei Savannah Condo, dark morph	1	Kim Keang
13	Tuas South Lane 1	3	Martti Siponen
14	Jurong Lake Condo	9	Pete Jones
14	Simei Savannah Condo, largest flock of 54	216	Kim Keang
14	Simpang Grasslands	4	Mick Price
14	Changi Coastal Road	1	Kok Hui & Danny Lau
14	Tuas Grasslands, flocks up to 60 thermaling	100	Martti, Kok Hui & Danny
15	CCK Cemeteries	6	Alan and Kenneth
15	Simei Savannah Condo, high up flying N.East	1	Kim Keang

Date	Location and Details	No.	Submitted by
15	Sungei Buloh WR	1	Ben Lee
15	Tuas South Ave 12	20	Martti Siponen
16	Simei Savannah Condo, flying East	4	Kim Keang
17	Tuas Grasslands	121	Martti Siponen
18	Jurong Lake Condo	1	Pete Jones
18	Tuas South Lane 1	7	Martti Siponen
19	One dark morph perched	1	Angie Ng
20	Serangoon North	2	SC Fang
20	Tuas South Lane 1	2	Martti Siponen
21	Jurong Lake Condo	2	Pete Jones
21	West Coast Park, dark morph, chased by bees	1	SC Fang
21	Flying towards Bidadari Cemetery	1	Lean Chow
21	Simpang Grasslands	3	Mick Price
21	Tuas View Drive	9	Martti Siponen
22	Jurong Lake Condo	1	Pete Jones
22	CCK Cemeteries	1	NSS Bird trip
22	Tuas Grasslands	2	Martti Siponen
24	Nee Soon Rd. 1 dark and 1 pale morph	2	Kim Keang
25	Jurong Lake Condo	3	Pete Jones
26	Bishan	1	Sun Chong Hong
26	Flying over Kent Ridge	1	KC Tsang
26	Tuas South Lane 1	6	Martti Siponen
27	Savannah Condo, flying south 1 dark & 1 pale	2	Kim Keang
28	Kranji Reservoir	6	Martti Siponen
29	Jurong Lake Condo	3	Pete Jones
29	Sengkang	2	Kok Hui
29	Singapore Quarry	3	Martti Siponen

2. Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes* (224)



Black Baza at NTU Nanyang Crescent by Howard Banwell



6	Tuas South Ave 12	8	Martti Siponen
7	Jurong Lake, perched	2	Sunny Yeo
7	Tuas	27	Martti Siponen
7	Bukit Batok Nature Park, thermaling	1	Kim Seng
7	Dairy Farm, flying overhead	1	Peng Ah Huay
7	NSRCC at Kranji	1	Kok Hui & Danny Lau
7	Tuas South West Drive	27	Martti Siponen
8	Kranji Marshes	3	Kim Seng

Date	Location and Details	No.	Submitted by
10	Jurong Lake Condo	3	Pete Jones
11	Jurong Lake Condo	5	Pete Jones
11	Tuas South Lane 1	7	Martti Siponen
12	Pulau Ubin	5	Ben Lee
12	Jurong Lake Condo	1	Pete Jones
12	Simei Savannah Condo, flying SE	3	Kim Keang
14	East Coast Park, flying East	4	Kim Chuah
14	Simpang Grasslands	6	Mick Price
15	Simpang Grasslands	1	Chung Cheong
15	Bidadari Cemetery	1	Gim Cheong
15	Sungei Buloh WR	2	Kim Seng
15	Sungei Buloh WR, perched	1	Ben Lee
15	Sungei Buloh WR	2	Kim Seng
15	Tuas South Ave 12	3	Martti Siponen
18	Jurong Lake Condo	2	Pete Jones
18	Neo Tiew Lane	1	Kok Hui & Soo Yen
19	Tuas South Lane 1	1	Martti Siponen
21	West Coast Park	1	SC Fang
21	Circling Clementi Forest	4	Peng Ah Huay
21	Simpang Grasslands	8	Mick Price
21	Changi Cove	20	Kok Hui & Danny Lau
21	Punggol Grasslands	2	Kok Hui & Danny Lau
22	NTU Nanyang Crescent. Photo taken	2	Howard Banwell
22	Swan Lake Botanic Gardens, circling	4	Peng Ah Huay
22	Henderson Bridge, Telok Blangah	5	Kenneth Kee
22	CCK Cemeteries	5	NSS Bird outing
22	Jurong Lake Condo	1	Pete Jones
22	Sengkang	1	Kok Hui
26	Chinese Garden MRT, roost	2	Kim Keang
27	Changi Grasslands	5	Howard Banwell, Poh Bee and friends.
27	Poyan	2	Kok Hui & Con Foley
28	Dairy Farm, flying and perched	14	Ben Lee
28	Singapore Quarry	15	Jeremy Lewis
28	Tuas	1	Martti and Pete Jones
28	Kranji	2	Martti and Pete Jones
28	Bidadari Cemetery	1	Kok Hui & Danny Lau
29	Bidadari Cemetery	2	SC Fang
29	Kranji Marshes	8	Alan, Kenneth and Alfred

3. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (11)

1	Bishan, seen almost daily	1	Sun Chong Hong
4	Jurong Lake Park	1	Pete Jones
7	Neo Tiew Lane	1	Soo Yen & Friends
7	Tuas	1	Martti Siponen
9	Changi Cove. Photo taken. See cover page.	1	Lee Tiah Khee
12	Pulau Ubin	1	Ben Lee
18	Changi Cove, juvenile	1	Gim Cheong & Kok Hui
22	Bukit Batok Tower	1	Albert Low and Horst Flotow

Date	Location and Details	No.	Submitted by
18	Jurong Lake Condo	1	Pete Jones
8	Jurong Lakeside	1	Jeremy Lewis
29	Kranji	1	Alan, Kenneth and Alfred
21	Changi Cove	1	Kok Hui & Danny Lau
14	Changi Grasslands	1	Kok Hui & Danny Lau
14	Savannah Condo, migrating East	2	Kim Keang

4. Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis* (71)

1	Jurong Lake Condo	1	Pete Jones
3	Jurong Lake Condo	1	Pete Jones
4	Jurong Lake Condo	1	Pete Jones
6	Alexander Road, flying NW	1	John Spencer
7	Tuas South, on migration	21	Martti Siponen
7	Bukit Batok Nature Park	1	Kim Seng
10	Jurong Lake Condo	5	Pete Jones
12	Pulau Ubin	1	Ben Lee
12	Jurong Lake Condo	1	Pete Jones
12	Savannah Condo, flying SE	2	Kim Keang
14	Simpang Grasslands	3	Mick Price
14	Jurong Lake Condo	2	Pete Jones
14	Neo Tiew Lane, bird in talons	1	Soo Yen & friends
14	Savannah Condo, migrating	8	Kim Keang
14	Tuas Grasslands	3	Martti Siponen
15	CCK Cemeteries	1	Kenneth and Alan
15	Dairy Farm	3	Ben Lee
15	Jurong Lake Condo	3	Pete Jones
17	Tuas Grasslands	5	Martti Siponen
21	Simpang Grasslands	3	Mick Price
27	Savannah Condo, flying south	1	Kim Keang
28	Tuas South	1	Martti Siponen
29	Jurong Lake Condo	1	Pete Jones
29	Singapore Quarry	1	Martti Siponen

5. Chinese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter soloensis* (10)

1	Jurong Lake Condo	2	Pete Jones
3	Lower Pierce, chased and caught a swiftlet	1	Gim Cheong
7	Jurong Lake, perched	1	Sunny Yeo
7	Tuas West Drive	2	Martti Siponen
10	Jurong Lake Condo	2	Pete Jones
14	Jurong Lake Condo	1	Pete Jones
15	Jurong Lake Condo	1	Pete Jones

6. Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (10)

1	Sungei Buloh WR	1	Horst Flotow
7	Neo Tiew Lane	1	Soo Yen & friends
8	Jurong Lakeside	1	Jeremy Lewis
14	Neo Tiew Lane	1	Soo Yen & friends

Date	Location and Details	No.	Submitted by
18	Changi Cove	1	Gim Cheong & Kok Hui
21	Simpang Grasslands	1	Mick Price
22	CCK Cemeteries	1	NSS Bird Outing
28	Pulau Semakau, heading South	1	Kim Keang
28	Kranji Marshes	2	Martti & Pete Jones
29	Kranji Marshes	3	Alan, Kenneth & Alfred

7. Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus* (9)



Eastern Marsh Harrier gliding over Changi Cove by Lee Tiah Khee

1	Tanah Merah Grasslands	1	Alfred Chia
7	Pulau Semakau	1	Gim Cheong
9	Changi Cove. Photos taken. 2F & 1M	3	Lee Tiah Khee
14	Changi, 1 Sub-adult & 1 Juv	2	Kok Hui & Danny Lau
17	Tanah Merah Grasslands	3	Kim Keang
18	Changi Cove, 2 adults & 2 Juv	4	Gim Cheong & Kok Hui
21	Simpang Grasslands	1	Mick Price
21	Changi Cove, 1 Juv & 1 Sub-adult	2	Kok Hui & Danny Lau
28	Pulau Semakau, 1 male	1	Kim Keang

8. Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* (4)

7	Tuas South	1	Martti Siponen
10	Jurong Lake Condo	2	Pete Jones
18	Jurong Lake Condo	1	Pete Jones
21	Jurong Lake Condo	1	Pete Jones
22	Bukit Batok. Pale morph soaring	1	Ding Li

9. Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucos* (2)

14	Changi Grasslands, juvenile	1	Kok Hui and Danny
18	Changi Cove, juvenile	1	Gim Cheong and Kok Hui
28	Pulau Semakau, male - first for the island	1	Kim Keang

10. Grey-faced Buzzard *Butastur indicus* (5)

Date	Location and Details	No.	Submitted by
7	Tuas South and West Drive	4	Martti Siponen
11	Tuas South lane 1	2	Martti Siponen
14	Tuas Grasslands	3	Martti Siponen
15	Tuas Grasslands	2	Martti Siponen
15	Simpang Grasslands, photo in flight	1	Chung Cheong

11. Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus* (1)

21	Japanese Garden, flying SW, dark morph	1	Pete Jones
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12. Blyth's Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus alboniger* (1)

14	Simpang Grasslands, perched on low branch	1	Mick Price and Kim Seng
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13. Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* (1)

4	Jurong Lakeside Condo, photo taken	1	Pete Jones
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14. Unidentified Raptors (32)

7	Lorong Halus	1	SC Fang
8	Sentosa, large dark coloured	1	Gim Cheong
21	Bukit Batok, buzzard-liked raptor	1	Alan OwYong
27	Tanah Merah, flying past Sports Centre	1	Howard Banwell, Poh Bee & friends
Various	Mainly over Tuas on 9 th , 10 th , 15 th , 18 th , 22 nd & 28 th .	28	Martti Siponen

15. Unidentified Accipiter Species (60)

1	Simpang Grasslands	2	Martti Siponen
17	Tanah Merah Grasslands	4	Kim Keang
28	A large accipiter (P.Falcon?) seen chasing a Black-winged Kite across P. Semakau	1	Kim Keang
Various	Spread over 11 days of November	53	Martti Siponen

Ref: The Avifauna of Singapore by Lim Kim Seng, Nature Society (Singapore) 2009.

Compiled by Alan OwYong

Edited by Kenneth Kee

Note:

The numbers 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 Lee Tiah Khee, KC Tsang and Howard Banwell for the use of their photographs.