

Singapore Raptors Report for January 2008

Summary:

A total of 123 migrating raptors were reported (higher than the 102 for December) from a total of 7 species. **Black Bazas** still tops the number of migrating raptors with a total count of 93, making up 76% (compared to a count of 82 and 80% last month) of the total migrating raptors. The ratio so far seems to be quite consistent.

Alfred's sighting of the **Common Buzzard** at the Changi Coastal Road on the 26th was the highlight of the month. This was also the first for this season. Danny and Kok Hui recorded two rare **Jerdon's Bazas** catching and eating their prey at the CCK Cemeteries. This was the second year that they recorded the Jerdon's Baza there. Thanks to the alertness of Ee Ling, we had the second record of a **Peregrine Falcon** sighting in the city, this time at Capital Square, Church St. on the 19th. Gim Cheong also had one soaring over Lower Pierce Reservoir on the 25th.

As for the residents, Ah Huay spotted a **Grey-headed Fish Eagle** flying over Jurong Lake on the 16th and Hua Chew and Cyril reported one at Khatib Bongsu on the 20th. The **Crested Serpent Eagle** seemed to have returned to the Central Catchment Area with James Heng's sighting of an individual perched along Venus Drive on the 15th. Both the counts of the **White-bellied Sea Eagles** (24) and **Brahminy Kites** (17) boosted the total number of resident raptors to 56 (compared to only 15 last month). This is largely due to the sightings during the Asian Waterbird Census on the 20th, where raptors were being counted as well.

The early excitement for 2008 is the sighting of a single **Himalayan Griffon Vulture** at Upper Seletar on the 3rd. Twenty days later on the 23rd, Lee Tiah Khee posted a spectacular photo of two soaring H. G. Vultures over Bukit Timah Hill. A total of three were seen that day by Tiah Khee, Sian, Jimmy and Sree. The rest of us went searching for these Vultures at Turf City and Bukit Batok the following days but it was James Heng who saw an individual circling from the north of Simpang grassland on the morning of the 26th.



Interestingly, all the vultures seen were in a strong and healthy state (flying high) unlike the past years where they were found weak and starving. Though strictly not considered as raptors, these were notable and significant records for Singapore

Himalayan Griffon Vultures flying over Bukit Timah Hill by Lee Tiah Khee

Table 1

No	Migrating Raptors	Total for the month
1	Black Baza	93
2	Crested Honey-buzzard	16
3	Peregrine Falcon	2
4	Japanese Sparrowhawk	3
5	Jerdon's Baza	3
6	Osprey	5
7	Common Buzzard	1
	Total	123

Table 2

No	Resident Raptors	Total for the month
8	White-Bellied Sea Eagle	24
9	Brahminy Kite	17
10	Changeable Hawk-eagle	6
11	Black-winged Kite	5
12	Crested Serpent Eagle	2
13	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	2
	Total	56

Note : The total numbers in Table 1 & 2 are just an indicative figure for this report only as there could be a possibility of double-counting the same bird in a small island like Singapore.

1. Black Baza

Date	No.	Location	Reported by.
3 rd	4	Marina South	Mike Hooper
5 th	3	Tampines Ave 10	Sher Chyet Fang
6 th	2	Main Hide Sungei Buloh (SBWR)	Kenneth Kee
6 th	2	Marina East	Mike Hooper
7 th	1	Turf City flying overhead	KC Tsang
7 th	1	SBWR	Mike Hooper
7 th	1	Lorong Halus	Sher Chyet Fang
12 th	3	Marina East	Mike Hooper
13 th	1	Chinese Gardens	John Spencer
13 th	3	Punggol HDB estate	Willie Foo
15 th	1	Ulu Pandan Camp	Gim Cheong
16 th	3	Pulau Ubin seen soaring	Gim Cheong
19 th	2	Botanic Gardens	Kok Hui
20 th	1	Khatib Bongsu during AWC	Hua Chew & Cyril
21 st	9	Pulau Ubin. 3 perched and 6 flying	Willie Foo
21 st	17	Marina East	Harry Ong
25 th	5	Simpang Grassland	Simon Cockayne
26 th	6	Chua Chu Kang Cemeteries	Kok Hui and Danny
26 th	16	Muslim Cemetery, maybe from the same flock	Alan OwYong
26 th	1	Marina East	Mike Hooper
28 th	8	CCK Cemeteries.	Simon Cockayne
31 st	1	Telok Blangah Hill	KC Tsang
?	1	Bedok. Photographed by	Timothy Pwee

2. Crested (Oriental) Honey-buzzard

Date	No	Location	Reported by
2	1	MacPherson Area	Lena Chow
6	1	Marina East	Mike Hooper
7	1	Turf City	KC Tsang
12	1	Katong Park	Mike Hooper
13	2	Chinese Gardens	KC Tsang
13	1	Punggol Estate	Willie Foo
13	1	Soaring and perched at Toa Payoh	Gloria Seow
19	1	Toa Payoh, maybe the same bird	Gloria Seow
19	1	Stamford Road	Gloria Seow
19	1	Dark morph at Hindhede Park	Alan OwYong
25	1	Simpang Grassland	Simon Cockayne
25	2	Pale morph at Turf City	Alan and KC
25	1	Turf City	KC Tsang

25	1	Keppel Road	Alan OwYong
26	1	Circling over Muslim Cemetery	Alan OwYong
27	1	Pasir Ris	Sher Chyet Fang
31	1	Ang Mo Kio Ave 10	Sher Chyet Fang

3. Peregrine Falcon

- 19th Ee Ling was alert enough to spot one at Capital Square, Church St perched, preening and flying around the area.
25th One was seen by Gim Cheong soaring over Lower Pierce Reservoir.

4. Japanese Sparrowhawk

- 6th One reported at Marina East by Mike Hooper
25th One perched at the back of Turf City by KC Tsang
25th One seen flying over Keppel Road by Alan OwYong.

5. Jerdon's Baza.

- 13th One was reported by John Spencer flying low over the Chinese Gardens in a northerly direction. Second sighting of this rare migrant at CG.
26th



Danny and Kok Hui for the second year running, came across this Baza at the CCK Cemeteries. They had two this time round. The Baza caught a lizard and was seen tearing up the meal. Danny managed to photograph one of them perched.

Well done!

Jerdon's Baza by Danny Lau

6. Osprey

- 5th Amy, KC Tsang, Yang Pah Liang and Alan OwYong saw one flying across the Seletar Reservoir, while on a trip to look for the H. Vulture.
8th One was reported by Con Foley over at Punggol
16th Gim Cheong had one perched at Mandai besides the reservoir.
20th One was seen perched on a kelong at the Straits of Johore by Alan and Yangchen during AWC. On the same day, Mike Hooper reported seeing one at Chek Jawa.

7. Common Buzzard

- 21st Trust Alfred to come up with the raptor of the month. He spotted it perched on the perimeter fence along the Changi Coastal Road, its favorite haunt.

RESIDENT RAPTORS



White-bellied Sea Eagle fishing by Lee Tiah Khee

8. White-bellied Sea Eagle

Date	No	Location	Reported by
5	4	2 adults and 2 juveniles fishing at the Upper Seletar Reservoir	Amy, KC Tsang, Pah Liang, Alan
13	1	Chinese Garden	KC Tsang
16	1	In flight over at Mandai	Gim Cheong
20	2	Khatib Bongsu during AWC	Hua Chew & Cyril
20	3	Seen from Changi Boardwalk across to Ubin	Ping Ling
20	1	Kranji Dam during AWC	Alan & Yangchen
21	2	Ubin West during AWC	Willie Foo
26	1	Simpang Grassland	James Heng
26	5	Changi Village	Sher Chyet Fang
27	2	Hindhede Park	Kenneth Kee
27	2	Lower Pierce Reservoir	Sher Chyet Fang

9. Brahminy Kite

Date	No	Location	Reported by
6	1	Tuas Grassland	Alan & KC Tsang
7	3	Flying over Turf City	KC Tsang
16	4	Circling over Jurong Lake	Ah Huay
19	1	Botanic Gardens	Kok Hui
20	1	Seen from Changi Boardwalk	Ping Ling
21	1	Pulau Ubin West	Willie Foo
26	1	CCK Cemeteries	Kok Hui & Danny
26	2	Flying over Muslim Cemetery	Alan OwYong
26	1	Pulau Ubin	Sher Chyet Fang
27	1	Juvenile at Hindhede Park	Kenneth Kee
31	1	Telok Blangah Hill	KC Tsang

10. Changeable Hawk-eagle



Changeable Hawk-eagle with squirrel by KC Tsang

- 16th One heard at P. Ubin by Gim Cheong.
- 20th A dark morph was flying between the Abizias at Hindhede Park reported by Ui Leong and Alan OwYong
- 26th Two were seen flying around the CCK cemeteries by Danny and Kok Hui
- 31st A dark morph at Telok Blangah Park was captured in a dramatic photograph by KC Tsang with a plantain squirrel in its talons in flight.
- 31st One was seen flying over the CBD by Mike Hooper. Good sighting

11. Black-winged Kite

- 20th One was counted at Khatib Bongsu during AWC by Hua Chew and Cyril
- 26th Two at Simpang Grassland reported by James Heng
- 26th One at the CCK Cemeteries by Kok Hui and Danny
- 26th One at the Muslim Cemetery by Alan OwYong.

12. Crested Serpent Eagle

- 15th One was spotted by James Heng perched at Venus Drive. This could be the central catchment forest resident appearing once in a while at the forest fringes.
- 28th The one reported by Margie Hall at Sembawang last month is still hanging around the King's Avenue area.

13. Grey-headed Fish Eagle

- 16th Ah Huay reported one flying over Jurong Lake, a significant record for this nationally threatened and globally endangered bird.
- 20th One was counted at Khatib Bongsu during the AWC by Hua Chew and Cyril.

*Compiled by Alan OwYong from postings on WildbirdSingapore e-group. Edited by Kenneth Kee
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