

Autumn Raptor Migration Report
2nd year, Full-day Raptor Count
8th November 2009



A flock of 84 Black Bazas migrating over Tuas South, witnessed and photographed by Martti Siponen.

The star raptor of the day was the pale morph **Short-toed Snake Eagle** *Circaetus gallicus* picked out by John Spencer at 11.20 am flying over the Japanese Garden. This very rare passage migrant will be the eighth confirmed record if accepted by the Records Committee (RC). Not to be outdone, Danny Lau, Kok Hui and Con Foley counted not one but three **Booted Eagles** *Hieraaetus pennatus* at the Western Catchment, a new location for this year. This was another very rare passage migrant and if accepted by the RC will be the ninth confirmed records so far. Last year they had the same species over at Punggol. Well done guys and please submit your detailed notes and descriptions to the RC's Chairman, Lim Kim Seng for review and acceptance.

Martti Siponen had the largest flock of 84 **Black Bazas** *Aviceda leuphotes* migrating over at Tuas South at 2.30 pm. His amazing photo of the whole flock graced the cover of this report. Another large flock of 50 **Black Bazas** was reported by Lim Kim Keang over at Tanah Merah Coastal Road at 2.24 pm just a few minutes earlier. This was a good indication that they were migrating through both sides of the main island.

The total count for the day was **706** with 610 migrants and 96 residents (See Table 1 & 2). We recorded 9 migrant species and 5 residents. Last year, we had 6 migrants and 4 residents totaling 106 raptors with **Black Bazas** topping at 22. This year the **Black Bazas** was again the highest with a huge count of **328**, more than half of the total migrant count! **Oriental Honey Buzzards** *Pernis ptilorhyncus* was the second highest at **174** with **Japanese Sparrowhawks** *Accipiter gularis* making the top three at **57**. These three species accounted for **91.6%** of all migrating raptors.

Tuas South had the highest count of 204 with 186 migrants and 18 residents (See Table 3). Martti also reported an unusual concentration of 18 **Brahminy Kites** *Haliastur indus* seen over the morning. **Brahminy Kite** also topped the resident list with 64 birds counted.

Lim Kim Keang did the count at the Tanah Merah Coastal Road near to the New Water Plant as Changi Cove was not assessable. It was a big surprise this year with the second highest count of 159 raptors boosted by 117 **Black Bazas**. Japanese Garden and Kent Ridge Park also had high counts of 94 and 89 respectively. The raptors seemed to avoid flying over Lorong Halus which had a low count of 10. Over at Sembawang, the count was saved by a lone Black Baza. The rest of the locations came in with numbers from 24 to 51.

Peter Jones was kind enough to drive across the causeway to Kukup, Johor to do a comparative count. He had 64 **Oriental Honey Buzzards**, including a flock of 42 flying westwards off the mainland, 4 **Japanese Sparrowhawks**, 3 **Chinese Sparrowhawks**, 1 **Black Baza**, 2 **White-bellied Sea Eagles** and 2 **Changeable Hawk-eagles**.

We want to thank all the 47 leaders and participants for spending their Sundays in the hot sun counting the raptors. This was a higher turnout compared to last year's total of 37. Staff from the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve and several senior management personnel from National Parks Board also participated in the count this year. The following fantastic people led or assisted in the raptor count and made it a tremendous success. See you all in 2010:

Ali Jaffar, Alan OwYong, Sunny Yeo, Tom Yuan, Mike Bush, Joey Chew, Benjamin Lee, Soh Hui Hiang, Toh Yuet Hsin, Hah Yan Yun, Eric Siah, Kenneth Kee, Horst Flotow, Peter Cheng, Mike Price, Eva Conellan, Lim Kim Keang, Tan Siew Kwang, Lim Poh Bee, Martti Siponen, Linda Oei, Lioe Kim Swee, Doreen Ang, Chung Cheong, Francis Tan & family, Aloysius and wife, Abdul Kadir, Low Wai Hoe, John Spencer, Ben Lee, Pui Cui fen, Yong Ding Li, Gloria Seow, Timothy Pwee, Surajkumar Shetty, Danny Lau, Kok Hui, Con Foley, Ramakrishnan Kolandavelu, Khalid, Bari, Lim Kim Chuah, Margie Hall, Peck Chan, Eileen, Sau Cheng.

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 Edited by: Kenneth Kee

Table 1 : Summary of Count (Migrants and NBV)

S/N	Species	Count	S/N	Species	Count
1	Black Baza	328	7	Booted Eagle	3
2	Oriental Honey Buzzard	174	8	Osprey	3
3	Japanese Sparrowhawk	57	9	Short-toed Snake Eagle	1
4	Chinese Sparrowhawk	8	10	Unidentified Accipiter	8
5.	Eastern Marsh Harrier	6	11	Unidentified Eagle	17
6	Peregrine Falcon	5		Total	610

Table 2 : Summary of Count (Residents)

S/N	Species	Count
1	Brahminy Kite	64
2	White-bellied Sea Eagle	20
3	Changeable Hawk-eagle	8
4	Black-winged Kite	3
5	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	1
	Total	96

Table 3 : Locations Count

	Tuas South	Tanah Merah	Jap Gdn	Kent Ridge	Western Catchment	Telok Blangah	Sungei Buloh	Bukit Timah	Lor Halus	Semba-wang
Migrants	186	153	87	70	36	28	24	21	4	1
Residents	18	6	7	19	15	12	10	3	6	0
Total	204	159	94	89	51	40	34	24	10	1