

Singapore Raptor Report, July-September 2023



Peregrine Falcon, ernesti juvenile, Pulau Ubin, 18 September 2023, by Mithilesh Mishra

Summary:

Seventeen **Japanese Sparrowhawks** *Accipiter gularis* were recorded in September, with the first arrival on 16 September, same as last year. These are probably the only early migrants from north Asia.

A total of 26 observations were made for the **Oriental Honey Buzzard** *Pernis ptilorhyncus* during the July to September period: 4 in July, 10 in August and 12 in September. Where photographs were available, the honey buzzards could be aged as sub-adults (2nd calendar year), right up to end September. These are over-summering birds. Moulting of the primaries (feathers) was consistent with last few years' observation. From the photographs, up to four non-migratory *torquatus* **Oriental Honey Buzzard** were noted.

There were records of the **Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus* of the *ernesti* (non-migratory) subspecies from two locations – a juvenile photographed at the central business district on 10 August perched outside an office window, and another juvenile at Pulau Ubin from 14 August to 18 September. One record on Ubin was not identified to subspecies, but is likely to have been the *ernesti* juvenile.

The **Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* was reported from three localities – Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, Gardens by the Bay, & Yishun Dam during this 3-month period. The rare **Crested Serpent Eagle** *Spilornis cheela* was recorded from two areas: the Neo Tiew–SBWR area, and the Botanic Gardens–Goldhill Avenue area.



Black-winged Kite, Marina Grove, 9 July 2023, by Derrick Wong

There were nesting-related records for a number of species of diurnal raptors. At Marina Grove, a pair of **Black-winged Kites** *Elanus caeruleus* mated on 6 July. For the **White-bellied Sea Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucogaster*, an adult was on the nest at Marsiling on 5 July while the fledged juvenile was perched near by, another nest containing two chicks at Woodlands Road fell on 13 July after the branch supporting it broke.

On 13 July, nestbuilding activities were noted for a **Changeable Hawk-Eagle** *Nisaetus cirrhatus*. For the **Crested Goshawks** *Accipiter trivirgatus*, a nest with two chicks was found at Fu Shan Park on 18 September.

Juvenile **Sunda Scops Owl** *Otus lempiji* were recorded at two localities, one at the Southern Ridges on 6 July, and two at Jurong Lake Gardens on 28 July. For the **Buffy Fish Owl** *Ketupa ketupu*, the chick at Ulu Pandan fledged on 7 August, while the one at SBWR fledged on 20 August. The pair at Hampstead Wetlands Park mated in September 2023. There were also reports of **Barred Eagle Owl** *Bubo sumatranus* and **Eastern Barn Owl** *Tyto javanica*.

1. Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (3)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
10 Jul	1	SBWR	Rovena Chow
26 Jul	1	GBTB	Stephen Lorenz
5 Aug	1	SBWR	Han YK
11 Sep	1	Yishun Dam	Lim Kim Seng

2. Oriental Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus (orientalis mainly)* (4, 10, 12, +4R)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
7 Jul	1	GBTB	Tan Siying
12 Jul	1	West Coast Drive	Tay Kian Guan
29 Jul	1	KM	Jan Brandin
30 Jul	1	Pasir Ris Farmway 1, 2CY male PM, new P1-P5	Ng Yan Ze
30 Jul	1	PRP, 2CY male PM (same individual as above)	Chong Yuh Woei
1 Aug	1	Pulau Tekong	Ong Jun Ze
6 Aug	1	PRF3	John Ascher
6 Aug	2	Dillenia Hut, CCNR, both <i>torquatus</i> , a male and a female	Wai Heng Lua
9 Aug	1	Jelutong Tower	Timothy Chua
9 Aug	1	Woodgrove CC, <i>torquatus</i> tweeddale morph male	Jonathan Chew
10 Aug	1	Woodgrove CC, <i>torquatus</i> tweeddale morph male	Jonathan Chew
13 Aug	1	DFNP	Low Zhi Hao
16 Aug	1	CBP	Mike Hooper
19 Aug	1	Halus Wetlands	Johann Lee
24 Aug	1	West Coast Drive, 2CY female PM	Tay Kian Guan
27 Aug	1	MED	Mike Hooper
29 Aug	1	HWL, 2CY male PM, new P1-P6	Alain Chen
1 Sep	1	Central Singapore, 2CY male	Cheng Li Ai
2 Sep	1	USR, <i>torquatus</i>	Lee Yue Teng
2 Sep	1	Coney Island	Samuel Chua
5 Sep	2	NTU	Yip Jen Wei
16 Sep	1	RRL, one 2CY female PM	Wai Heng Lua
17 Sep	1	KM	Wai Muan Sum
17 Sep	3	Mt Faber	Low Chong Yang
19 Sep	1	GBTB	Ramit Singal
20 Sep	1	ECP, 2CY female	SB Lim
22 Sep	1	SBG	Wangworn S.

3. Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis* (17)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
16 Sep	1	CCNR	Morten Lisse
17 Sep	1	MED	Wang Zhongyu
17 Sep	1	Mt Faber	Low Chong Yang
18 Sep	2	BTNR	Morten Lisse
18 Sep	1	HWL	Fernandez Francis
19 Sep	1	CBP	Mike Hooper
20 Sep	1	SBWR	Roger Niessen
23 Sep	1	Mt Faber	Wai Heng Lua
24 Sep	1	SBWR	Wai Heng Lua
24 Sep	2	Dempsey Road	Yip Jen Wei
26 Sep	1	MacRitchie	Shawn Herron
27 Sep	1	Chestnut NP	Raghav N.
28 Sep	1	Mt Faber, male	Low Chong Yang
28 Sep	1	JLG	BY Tan
30 Sep	1	Singapore	Ah Heng

4. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (2)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
10 Aug	1	CBD, juvenile <i>ernesti</i>	Zhang Licong
14 Aug	1	Pulau Ubin, <i>ernesti</i>	Alan OwYong
3 Sep	1	Pulau Ubin	Yip Jen Wei
14 Sep	1	Pulau Ubin telecom tower, <i>ernesti</i> , 5.30pm	Jacky Soh
18 Sep	1	Pulau Ubin, juvenile <i>ernesti</i>	Mithilesh Mishra

Resident Raptors

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
6 Jul	2	Marina Grove, mating observed	Moses Tang
9 Jul	1	Marina Grove	Derrick Wong

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
		-- common resident --	

White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
		-- common resident --	
5 Jul	2	Marsiling, 1 adult perched on nest tree, 1 juvenile perched near nest	Tan Gim Cheong
13 Jul	2	Woodlands Road, branch that supported nest broke and nest with 2 chicks fell to the ground	Chang Fu Wen

Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus ichthyaeetus*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
July	1	Singapore, adult harassing a Purple Heron	Teo Chee Yong
1 Sep	2	Lorong Halus Wetlands, adults	Zhang Licong

Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
29 Jul	1	Neo Tiew Road, adult	Wunson
9 Aug	1	SBWR	Jon Garcia
14 Aug	1	SBG	Ross Glover
18 Aug	1	Jalan Gemala, adult	CK Lee
16 Sep	1	Goldhill Ave, adult	Matthew Teng

Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
8 Jul	1	Admiralty Park, female	Chang Fu Wen
18 Sep	2	Fu Shan Garden, nest with 2 chicks	Germaine Lim
28 Sep	1	Botanic Gardens vicinity	Cheng Li Ai

Changeable Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus cirrhatus*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
13 July	1	Singapore, building nest	Chee Kim Loon
10 Aug	2	Lornie Highway	SB Lim
19 Aug	1	SBG, dark morph	Zhang Licong

Nocturnal Raptors

Sunda Scops Owl *Otus lempiji*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
6 Jul	1	Southern Ridges, juvenile	Felix Curry
28 Jul	2	JLG, juveniles	Kelvin Ng

Barred Eagle Owl *Bubo sumatranus*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
16 Sep	2	Rifle Range Link	Wai Heng Lua

Buffy Fish Owl *Ketupa ketupu*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
5 Aug	2	Ulu Pandan, 1 adult & 1 juvenile	Tony Chua
7 Aug	3	Ulu Pandan, chick fledged, 2 adults	Julie Edgley
20 Aug	1	SBWR, newly fledged	David Tan
Sep	2	HWL, mating observed	Trevor Teo
Sep	1	SBWR, juvenile	Benny Ng

Spotted Wood Owl *Strix seloputo*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
31 Jul	2	Admiralty Park	Jayden Kang
15 Aug	1	Pulau Tekong	YC Sim
17 Sep	2	Changi Bay Point	Ng Yan Ze

Eastern Barn Owl *Tyto javanica*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
11 Aug	1	Pulau Tekong	Ong Jun Ze
18 Aug	1	HDB block	Asyraf
26 Aug	1	Tuas View Drive	Sim Sze Kai

Compiled by Tan Gim Cheong

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