

Singapore Raptor Report - October 2023 (updated with Common Kestrel)



Peregrine Falcon (subspecies peregrinator), a first for Singapore, at Pulau Ubin, 14 Oct 2023, by Khoo Wunson.

Summary for migrant species:

The most notable record in October 2023 was that of a **Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus* of the *pereginator* subspecies, the first record of this subspecies in Singapore. (Thanks to Dr. Chaiyan and Terence Ang for their inputs.) This subspecies is sometimes called the Shaheen Falcon, and the raptor was photographed on Pulau Ubin on the evening of 14 October 2023, perched on the telecom tower near the jetty.

In total, 756 migrant raptors of 14 species were recorded in October 2023. The last few days of October was when diversity picked up. The only **Jerdon's Baza** *Aviceda jerdoni* showed up at the southern ridges on the 29th, while the only **Pied Harrier** *Circus melanoleucos* came in on the 31st. A small *Falco* was photographed in flight at Mount Faber on the 30th, and could either be an Amur Falcon or Eurasian Hobby. The only **Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus* was recorded in the Changi area on 28 Oct 2023.

The first of the three **Common Buzzards** *Buteo buteo* showed up on the 29th at the southern ridges, with another two the next day – one at Tuas and another at the southern ridges. The

first of the three **Greater Spotted Eagles** *Clanga clanga* also showed up on the 29th at the southern ridges, with single each on the next 2 days, again at the southern ridges.

The first of the seven **Black Kites** *Milvus migrans* was a juvenile recorded at Jurong Lake Gardens on the 13th. This was followed by another six at Tuas, Green corridor near Holland Road, central catchment, southern ridges, and Pulau Ubin. For the **Grey-faced Buzzard** *Butastur indicus*, the first of 19 was recorded at the southern ridges on the 24th, followed by small number on subsequent days at Jelutong Tower and the southern ridges, plus 11 on the 29th at the southern ridges.

The first **Black Baza** *Aviceda leuphotes* appeared on the 29th, followed by 28 birds on the 30th, and 49 birds on the 31st, all at the southern ridges. The 78 **Chinese Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter soloensis* and 169 **Japanese Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter gularis* were recorded from the 1st onwards and throughout the month.

The most numerous migrant raptor was the **Oriental Honey Buzzard** *Pernis ptilorhynchus*, with 380 birds, with 60 birds passing D'Leedon on the 3rd. There were also three **Western Ospreys** *Pandion haliaetus*, and 12 **Peregrine Falcons** *Falco peregrinus*, including the aforementioned *peregrinator*.



Crested Serpent Eagle, juvenile, Henderson Waves, 28 Oct 2023, by Angie Cheong.

Highlights for sedentary species:

A fresh juvenile **Crested Serpent Eagle** *Spilornis cheela* was recorded at the Botanic Gardens on the 2nd, together with an adult, possibly the second instance of breeding in Singapore. On the 28th, a lone juvenile was photographed at Henderson Waves, likely the same individual.

Mating was observed for a pair of **Grey-headed Fish Eagles** *Haliaeetus ichthyaetus* on the 3rd, and for a pair of **Crested Goshawks** *Accipiter trivirgatus* at Pasir Ris Park on the 13th. The other resident raptors recorded included the **Black-winged Kite**, **Crested Goshawk**, **Changeable Hawk-Eagle**, and the common **Brahminy Kite** and **White-bellied Sea Eagle**.

For the nocturnal **Buffy Fish Owl**, a recently fledged juvenile was recorded at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve in early October, while another juvenile was recorded at Changi Business Park on the 25th.

Table 1

S/N	Species	No.	S/N	Species	No.
1	Osprey	3		<i>Residents / Sedentary Species</i>	
2	Jerdon's Baza	1	15	Black-winged Kite	5
3	Black Baza	78	16	Brahminy Kite	C*
4	Oriental Honey Buzzard	380	17	White-bellied Sea Eagle	C*
5	Pied Harrier	1	18	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	4
6	Black Kite	7	19	Crested Serpent Eagle	4
7	Chinese Sparrowhawk	78	20	Crested Goshawk	--
8	Japanese Sparrowhawk	169	21	Changeable Hawk-Eagle	--
9	Grey-faced Buzzard	19			
10	Common Buzzard	3		<i>Nocturnal raptor</i>	
11	Greater Spotted Eagle	3	22	Buffy Fish Owl	5
12	Common Kestrel	1			
13	Peregrine Falcon	12			
14	Amur Falcon / Eurasian Hobby	1			
Total for Migrants		756	Grand Total		774

* C = Common

1. Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (3)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
24	1	JLG	Zhen Li
28	1	Dawson	Lau Jia Sheng
28	2	Mt Faber	Chong Yuh Woei
29	2	HW	Chen Boon Chong

2. Jerdon's Baza *Aviceda jerdoni* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
29	1	HW, 11:05am	Vincent Yip, Ng Yan Ze
29	1	Mt. Faber, 11:10am	Bear Jia

3. Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes* (78)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
29	1	HW	Herman Phua, Vincent Yip
30	28	Mt Faber	Tomas Haraldsson
31	2	Mt Faber	Tomas Haraldsson
31	49	HW	Kaeden Sim

4. Oriental Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus* (380) *orientalis* unless otherwise stated

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1	5	Jelutong Tower	Timothy Chua
1	16	Mt Faber	Swee Peng
3	31	SG Quarry	Mathais Bjerregard
3	5	DFNP	Mathias Bjerregard
3	60	D'Leedon, including a kettle of 30	Tomas Haraldsson
3	1	Ulu Pandan PCN	Philip Howell
3	1	CBP	Herman Phua
3	1	Pinnacle@Duxton, female DM	Angie Cheong
4	7	Rail Mall	Lee Wee Meng
4	5	DFNP, 1 immature PM	Lim Kim Seng
4	1	Woodlands Ring Rd	Han YK
5	2	SBG, both adult male PM	Siew Mun
7	2	Lazarus Island	John Marriott
7	1	Jelutong Tower, adult male PM	Angie Cheong
7	11	Mt Faber	Low Chong Yang
8	2	Mt. Faber	Angie Cheong
8	1	Marine Parade Rd	Alexander Muir
9	1	Tuas South	Low CH
9	1	Mountbatten	Jamie Allott
9	5	Jelutong Tower	Daryl Yeo
11	2	Jelutong Tower	Sylvester Goh
12	1	Tuas	Low CH
12	1	CBP	Mike Hooper

12	3	Mt Faber	Vincent Ng
13	2	SBG	Lim Kim Seng
13	8	Jelutong Tower	Samuel Chong
13	1	MacRitchie	Tan Kok Hui
14	1	SBWR	Troy Shortell
14	12	Skyville@Dawson	Tan Kok Hui
14	13	Mt Faber	Ramesh T.
15	8	CCNR	Han Hui Zhen
15	1	Ubin	Kaeden Sim
15	1	USR Park	Fadzrun A.
15	9	Mt Faber	Vincent Yip
16	4	Tuas South	Low CH
17	1	SG Quarry	Lynette Holm
18	14	Mt Faber	CN Lee
18	2	KRP	Faye Manning
18	1	Changi Village	Lim Kim Seng
19	1	Mt Faber	Alan OwYong
20	5	KRP	Vincent Ng
20	1	GBTB	Lucy Winter
21	1	HWL	Ng Mac
21	1	Simpang Grassland	Lim Bo shi
21	1	Jelutong Tower	RX Chen
21	5	TBHP	Lau Jia Sheng
21	6	Mt Faber	Ramesh T.
22	2	CBP	Ng Mac
22	1	HWL	Richard Carson
22	2	KM	Mike Hooper
22	2	Tuas South	Low CH
22	1	Jurong West	Low CH
22	20	HW	Oliver Tan
22	5	Mt Faber	Swee Peng
23	1	NTU, adult male	Yip Jen Wei
23	2	Ubin	Faye Manning
23	1	SBG	Georgi Kamov
24	1	HW, 2CY male DM	Herman Phua
24	1	CCNR	Jamie Allott
25	1	JLG	Tan Yen Yi
25	15	HW	Tay Kian Guan
25	1	Dempsey Hill	Georgi Kamov
26	5	TBHP	Tan Kok Hui
26	12	Mt Faber	Ng Yan Ze
27	1	SBG	Lucius Ong
27	2	Mt Faber	Tay Kian Guan
27	1	ECP	Georgi Kamov
28	1	Sports Hub	Mohamed Fazlin
28	1	One-north, adult male PM	Alan OwYong
28	5	Mt Faber	Mike Hooper
29	9	CCNR	Mike Hooper

29	11	Mt Faber	Bear Jia
29	3	CBP	Ng Mac
29	1	ECP	Jay Hassell
29	1	PRF 1	Natarajan R.
29	1	MT15	Alexander Muir
29	41	HW	Ramesh T.
30	19	HW	Vincent Ng
30	20	Mt Faber	Tomas Haraldsson
30	6	Tuas South	Low CH
30	1	Bedok South Ave 1	Georgi Kamov
31	1	Ulu Pandan PCN	Philip Howell
31	1	Bedok Close	Ramesh T.
31	1	GBTB	Alex Rossi
31	31	HW	Kaeden Sim
31	22	Mt Faber	Tomas Haraldsson

5. Black Kite *Milvus migrans* (7)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
13	1	JLG, juvenile	Zheng Yifei
22	1	Tuas South	Low CH
24	2	Green corridor near Holland Road	Jonathan Yeo
24	2	HW	Khoo Wunson
28	1	CJ, Ubin, juvenile	Art Toh, Chen Boon Chong
29	1	CCNR	Mike Hooper
29	1	HW	Mohamed Fazlin
31	1	HW	Vincent Ng

6. Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucos* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
31	1	HW	Vincent Ng

7. Chinese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter soloensis* (78)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1	2	Mt Faber	Swee Peng
3	1	Ulu Pandan	Philip Howell
4	1	JLG	Chien N Lee
4	1	Mt Faber, adult	Kenneth Cheong
6	1	CCNR	Vincent Yip
7	2	Jelutong Tower	Vincent Ng
7	1	TBHP	Tan Kok Hui
9	1	Jelutong Tower	Daryl Yeo
11	1	Jelutong Tower	Sylvester Goh
12	1	KM	Roger Niessen
12	3	Mt Faber	Vincent Ng
13	1	CCNR	Chien N Lee
14	1	TBHP, adult	Chong Yuh Woei

14	1	Skyville@Dawson	Tan Kok Hui
14	1	BTNR	Ng Yan Ze
14	7	Mt Faber	Ramesh T.
14	1	Berlayer Creek, juvenile	Chong Yuh Woei
15	3	CCNR, 2 female 1 juvenile	Ng Yan Ze
15	13	Mt Faber	Vincent Yip
19	1	CBP	Mike Hooper
20	1	CCNR	Chien N Lee
20	1	Mt Faber	Alvin Voon
21	4	Mt Faber	Ramesh T.
22	3	Tuas South	Low CH
22	1	JLG	Han Jinchi
22	2	Southern ridges	Cheng Guang Guo
22	5	HW	Nick
22	6	Mt Faber	Swee Peng
24	2	CCNR	Jamie Allott
24	1	Mt Faber	RX Chen
25	3	HW	Tay Kian Guan
25	1	Mt Faber	Vincent Yip
28	2	HW	Chen Boon Chong
28	3	Mt Faber	Ng Yan Ze
29	1	CCNR, juvenile	Mike Hooper
29	2	BTNR	Wai Heng Lua
29	1	Coney Island, female	Alvin
29	1	ECP	Ray Hassell
29	8	HW	Daryl Yeo
29	1	Mt Faber	Swee Peng
30	4	HW	Vincent Ng
30	7	Mt Faber	Tomas Haraldsson
31	3	HW	Daryl Yeo

8. Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis* (169)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1	1	SBWR	Evelyn Lee
1	1	DFNP	Lim Kim Seng
1	20	Mt Faber	Swee Peng
1	1	Jelutong Tower	Chen Boon Chong
2	1	Mt. Faber	Low Chong Yang
4	1	Mt Faber	Kenneth Cheong
6	1	TBHP, adult female	Herman Phua
6	4	Mt Faber	Kenneth Cheong
7	1	Lazarus Island	John Marriott
7	3	TBHP	Tan Kok Hui
8	1	Mt. Faber	Angie Cheong
8	2	CCNR	Ong Jun Ze
8	1	MED	Oliver Tan
8	1	Mt Faber	Swee Peng
9	1	Mt Faber	Vincent Yip

10	1	MED	Nick
11	7	BTNR	Fadzrun A.
12	4	Mt Faber	Vincent Ng
13	2	BTNR	Joshua Chong
13	2	Mt Faber	Brad R.
14	2	TBHP	Chong Yuh Woei
14	1	Sentosa	John Marriott
14	1	MED	Yu Xun Chin
14	5	JLG	Zhang Licong
14	11	Mt Faber	Ramesh T.
14	4	Waters off ECP during pelagic trip	Chen Boon Chong
15	2	CCNR	Ng Yan Ze
15	1	Tanjong Rhu	Chong Yuh Woei
15	27	Mt Faber	CN Lee
18	9	Mt Faber	CN Lee
19	1	GBTB	Faye Manning
20	1	KRP	Vincent Ng
20	1	CCNR	C N Lee
21	1	Jelutong Tower	RX Chen
21	1	MED	Glenda Khoo
21	8	TBHP	Lau Jia Sheng
21	4	Mt Faber	Ramesh T.
22	2	Tuas South	Low CH
22	5	Mt Faber	Swee Peng
22	1	Hort Park	Amin
23	1	JLG	Tay Kian Guan
23	1	SBG	Georgi Kamov
23	2	Mt Faber	Low Chong Yang
24	1	CCNR	Jamie Allott
24	1	HW	Herman Phua
24	2	Mt Faber	RX Chen
25	1	Pinnacle@Duxton, juvenile	Angie Cheong
25	10	Mt Faber	Vincent Yip
26	1	TBHP	Tan Kok Hui
27	1	Eastwood Estate	Herman Phua
27	1	ECP	Georgi Kamov
27	2	CCNR	Vincent Yip
27	1	Mt Faber	Low Chong Yang
27	1	Eastwood Estate, juvenile	Herman Phua
28	10	Mt Faber	Mike Hooper
29	4	CCNR	Mike Hooper
29	2	DFNP	Yong Ding Li
29	1	Lim Chu Kang	Marcel Finlay
29	1	HW, adult male	Siew Mun
29	1	Kampong Java	Geoff Lim
29	1	CBP	Ng Mac
29	1	Berlayer Creek	Mohamed Fazlin
29	5	Mt Faber	Swee Peng

30	15	Mt Faber	Tomas Haraldsson
30	1	PRP, lying on ground with a Crested Goshawk standing over it	Sheau Torng Lim
30	2	Mt Faber	Kenneth Cheong
31	1	KM	Tan Yen Yi
31	6	Mt Faber	Krishna G.

9. **Grey-faced Buzzard *Butastur indicus* (19)**

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
24	1	Mt. Faber	RX Chen
25	1	Jelutong Tower, juvenile	Francis Yap
27	1	Mt Faber	Tan Gim Cheong
28	3	Skyville@Dawson	Lau Jia Sheng
29	1	Hort Park, 12:39pm	Amin
29	11	HW	Samuel Chong
30	1	Mt Faber	Tomas Haraldsson

10. **Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* (3)**

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
29	1	HW	Vincent Yip
29	1	Mt Faber	Bear Jia
30	1	Tuas South, 12:30pm	Low CH
30	1	HW, 1:05pm	Vincent Ng
30	1	Mt Faber, 1:07pm	Tomas Haraldsson

11. **Greater Spotted Eagle *Clanga clanga* (3)**

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
29	1	Hort Park, 12:39pm, 1CY	Amin
29	1	HW	Vincent Yip
29	1	Mt Faber	Alan OwYong
30	1	HW	Vincent Ng
30	1	Mt Faber, 1CY	Tomas Haraldsson
31	1	Mt Faber	Krishna G.

12. **Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* (1)**

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
7	1	Meragi Road, Changi area	Ramesh T.

13. **Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (11+1)**

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
7	1	Lazarus Island, migrant type	John Marriott
8	1	HW	Chong Yuh Woei
14	1	Pulau Ubin, Telecom tower near jetty, 6:48pm, adult <i>peregrinator</i>	Khoo Wunson
15	1	Pulau Ubin, Telecom tower near jetty, 7:30am, with prey	Hearn Robin

22	1	Hort Park	Amin
22	2	HW	Glenda Khoo
23	1	BTNR, migrant type	Jared Tan
25	1	Bulim	Benny Ng
25	1	HW	Tay Kian Guan
26	2	Mt Faber, migrant type	Ng Yan Ze
29	1	HW, juvenile migrant type	Yip Jen Wei
29	1	CCNR	Mike Hooper
29	1	CBP	Ng Mac

14. Amur Falcon / Eurasian Hobby *Falco amurensis / subbuteo* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
30	1	Mt Faber, small <i>Falco</i> high up, photographed in flight	Krishna Gopagondanahalli

Resident raptors

15. Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* (5)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
3	1	Pinnacle@Duxton	Nick
15	1	KM	Lim Kim Seng
15	2	Mt Faber	Swee Peng
26	1	MED	Zhen Li

16. Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
		--Common Raptor--	

17. White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
		--Common Raptor--	

18. Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus ichthyaetus* (4)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2	1	MacRitchie Reservoir, immature	Alan OwYong
3	2	Singapore, mating observed	Andy Chew
8	2	Singapore Quarry, adults	Zhang Licong
Oct	1	HWL, adult	Benny Ng

19. Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela* (4)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2	2	SBG, 1 juvenile, 1 adult	Looi Ang Soh Hoon
5	1	SBG, adult	Siew Mun, Daniel Neo

6	1	Mt Faber	Kenneth Cheong
20	1	KRP	Vincent Ng
21	1	Choa Chu Kang Road, adult	Art Toh
26	1	DFNP	Lm Kim Seng
28	1	HW, juvenile	Andy Lee, Angie Cheong
30	1	HW	Daryl Yeo
31	1	HW	Gideon Lam

20. Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
13	2	PRP, mating observed	Alvin Seng
Mostly singles at various localities including NTU, JLG, southern ridges, Fort Canning, Sentosa, SBG, Geylang East, Bedok Close, and Pasir Ris Park			

21. Changeable Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus cirrhatus*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
8	1	Singapore Quarry, adult PM	Zhang Licong
8	1	Mt. Faber	Angie Cheong
27	1	Hillview Terrace	Kerry Pereira
Also present at SBWR-KM area, JLG, CCNR and surrounding areas down to SBG to southern ridges to GBTB, Halus to PRP to TEG to CBP, Yishun and Ubin			

22. Buffy Fish Owl *Ketupa ketupu* (5)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1	1	SBWR, fledgling	Chong Yuh Woei
7	3	SBWR, 1 fledgling	Han Hui Zhen
24	1	TNP, chased by two Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	Veronica Foo
25	1	CBP, juvenile	Audrey Toh

Abbreviations:

AMKTGW – Ang Mo Kio Town Garden West
 BTNR – Bukit Timah Nature Reserve
 CBP – Changi Business Park
 CCNR – Central Catchment Nature Reserve
 DFNP – Dairy Farm Nature Park
 GBTB – Gardens by the Bay
 HW – Henderson Waves
 HWL – Hampstead Wetlands
 JLG – Jurong Lake Gardens
 KM – Kranji Marsh

KRP – Kent Ridge Park
 MED – Marina East Drive
 NTU – Nanyang Technological University
 PRP – Pasir Ris Park
 SBG – Singapore Botanic Gardens
 SBTB – Satay by the Bay
 SBWR – Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve
 TBHP – Telok Blangah Hill Park
 USR Park – Upper Seletar Reservoir Park

Compiled by Tan Gim Cheong

Note: The numbers in brackets beside the bird names indicates the month's total number. Reports of the same raptors from the same area have been discounted to avoid duplication.

Many thanks to everyone who had reported their sightings in one way or another, and especially to Khoo Wunson and Angie Cheong the use of their photos.