

16th Singapore Raptor Watch Report

Autumn 2023 Migration – 18 Nov 2023

compiled by TAN Gim Cheong



The Oriental Honey Buzzard was the most numerous migrant raptor during the 16th Raptor Watch, photo by Tan Gim Cheong

The 16th Singapore raptor watch was held on 18 Nov 2023, and involved 53 raptor lovers counting across nine sites. There was rain at a few sites in the afternoon, but the weather was kind to us mostly.

A total of 593 raptors were recorded, including 370 raptors representing 6 migrant species, and 128 raptors of 7 resident species (the numbers for resident raptors for some sites have been moderated in an attempt to account for possible repeated visits by the birds). A further 95 raptors could not be identified to species level.

Summary: **Number of raptors - 593**

- 370 migrant raptors.
- 128 resident raptors.
- 95 un-identified raptors.

Number of species - 13

- 6 migrant species.
- 7 resident species.

The raptor watch sites were Tuas South, Jurong Lake Garden, Kent Ridge Park, Telok Blangah Hill Park, Lorong Halus Wetlands, Puaka Hill (Pulau Ubin), St John's Island, Mount Faber and Little Guilin – thanks to all the site leaders for their faithful support!

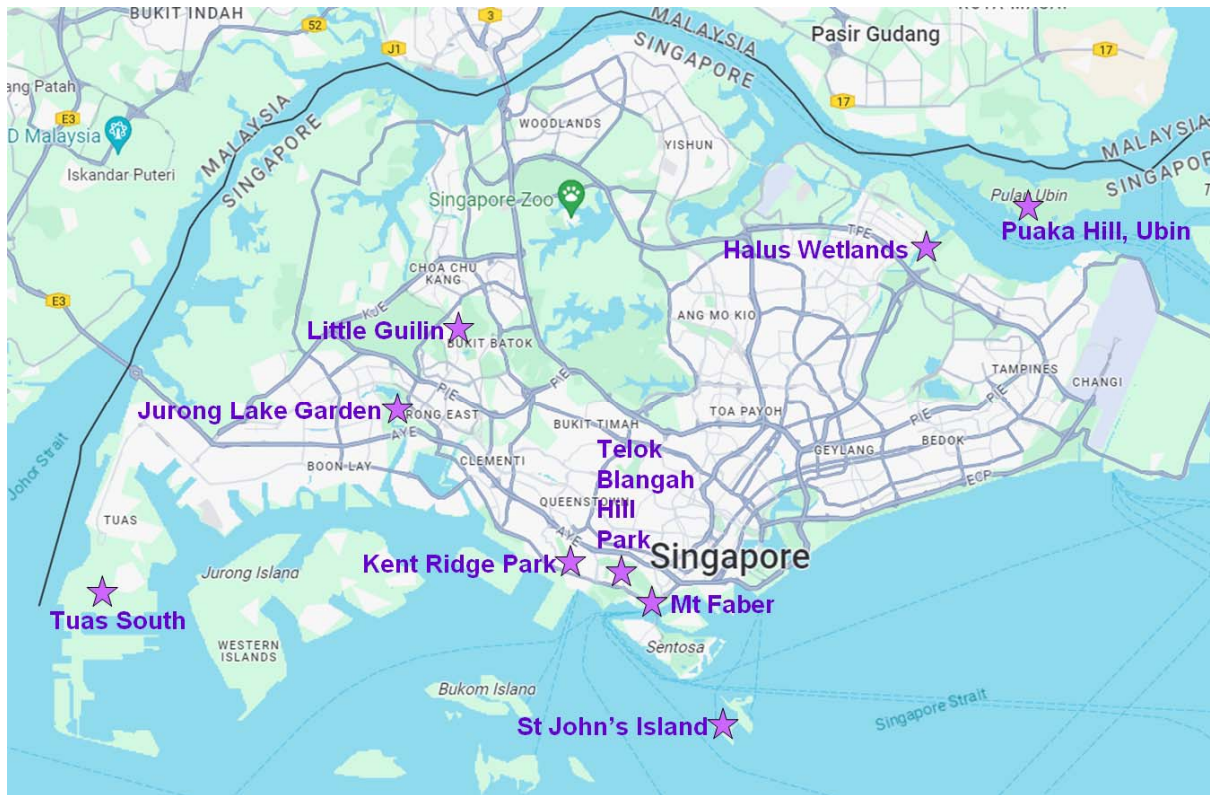


Figure 1 : 2023 Raptor Watch Sites. (source of basemap – google.com/maps)



Watching Raptors at St John's Island, 18 Nov 2023, photo by Veronica Foo.

The highest number of raptors recorded was at Tuas South (141 birds), Jurong Lake Garden (107 birds), followed by Puaka Hill, Ubin (101 birds) and Halus Wetlands (81 birds).

SITE	Tuas South Ave 5	Jurong Lake Gdn	Kent Ridge Park	Telok Blangah Hill Park	Halus Wetlands	Ubin Puaka Hill	St John's Island	Mt Faber	Little Guilin	Grand Total
SITE TOTAL	141	107	40	40	81	101	51	27	5	593

Figure 2 : Total count by Site

The figure below provides a snapshot of the number of raptors according to the three categories - migrant, un-identified & resident raptors, at the sites. Tuas South had the most number of migrant raptors (124), followed by Jurong Lake Garden (96), Halus Wetlands (37) and Puaka Hill, Ubin (36).

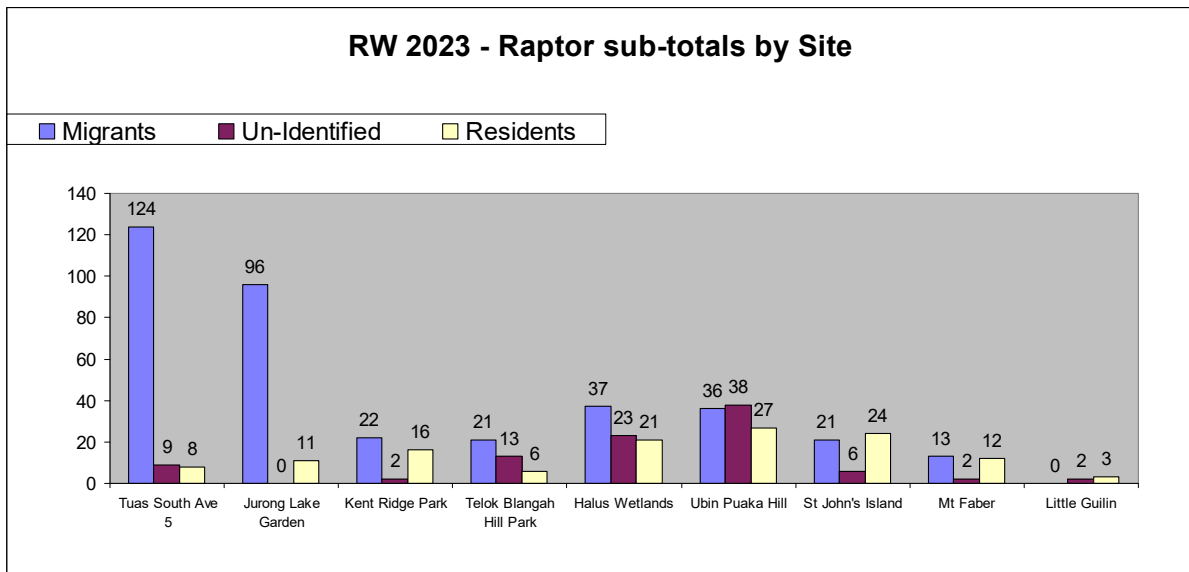


Figure 3 : Raptor Sub-totals by Category by Site

The number of migrant species varied from six (at Halus Wetlands) to zero, and that for resident species from six (at Kent Ridge Park) to two, across the sites.

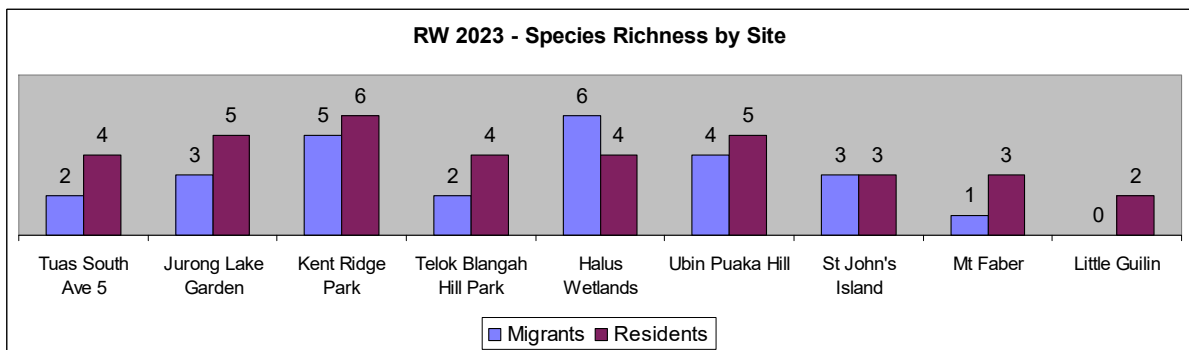


Figure 4 : Species Richness by Site

The **Oriental Honey Buzzard** was the most numerous raptor with 286 birds counted. The largest number of OHB was at Tuas South (104 birds) followed by Jurong Lake Garden (86 birds). The **Japanese Sparrowhawk** was second with a total of 57 birds, including 20 at Tuas South and 15 at Puaka Hill.

A total of 15 **Black Bazas** were recorded at four sites. There were nine **Chinese Sparrowhawks** also at four sites, and two **Peregrine falcons** (Kent Ridge Park and Halus Wetlands), and the only **Jerdon's Baza** was at Halus Wetlands.

S/N	Species (Migrants)	Count
1	Oriental Honey Buzzard <i>Pernis ptilorhyncus</i>	286
2	Japanese Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter gularis</i>	57
3	Black Baza <i>Aviceda leuphotes</i>	15
4	Chinese Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter soloensis</i>	9
5	Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	2
6	Jerdon's Baza <i>Aviceda jerdoni</i>	1
Total Migrant Raptors		370
1	Un-identified <i>Accipiter</i>	47
2	Un-identified Raptor	48
Total Unidentified Raptors		95

Figure 5 : Migrant and Unidentified Raptors Counted

The resident species comprised 49 **Brahminy Kites**, 41 **White-bellied Sea Eagles**, 22 **Changeable Hawk Eagles**, 9 **Grey-headed Fish Eagles**, 3 **Crested Goshawks**, 2 **Black-winged Kites** (at Tuas South only), and 2 **Crested Serpent Eagles** (Kent Ridge Park & Puaka Hill, Pulau Ubin).

Note: numbers for resident raptors have been moderated in an attempt to account for possible repeated visits by the birds.

S/N	Species (Residents)	Count
2	Brahminy Kite <i>Haliastur indus</i>	49
2	White-bellied Sea Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	41
3	Changeable Hawk Eagle <i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>	22
4	Grey-headed Fish Eagle <i>Haliaeetus ichthyaetus</i>	9
5	Crested Goshawk <i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>	3
6	Black-winged Kite <i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	2
7	Crested Serpent Eagle <i>Spilornis cheela</i>	2
Total Count of Resident Raptors		128

Figure 6 : Resident Raptors Counted

A complete breakdown of the species counted at each site is shown in the table below:

SITE	Tuas South Ave 5	Jurong Lake Gdn	Kent Ridge Park	Telok Blangah Hill Park	Halus Wetlands	Ubin Puaka Hill	St John's Island	Mt Faber	Little Guilin	Grand Total
SITE TOTAL	141	107	40	40	81	101	51	27	5	593
Migrants = 370										Total
Black Baza		2	8		4	1				15
Jerdon's Baza					1					1
Oriental Honey Buzzard	104	86	7	19	28	14	15	13		286
Chinese Sparrowhawk			1		1	6	1			9
Japanese Sparrowhawk	20	8	5	2	2	15	5			57
Peregrine Falcon			1		1					2
Residents = 128										
Black-winged Kite	2									2
Brahminy Kite	2	3	6	1	5	10	15	5	2	49
White-bellied Sea Eagle	2	3	3	2	12	9	7	3		41
Grey-headed Fish Eagle		2	1		3	2			1	9
Crested Serpent Eagle			1			1				2
Crested Goshawk		1	1	1						3
Changeable Hawk Eagle	2	2	4	2	1	5	2	4		22
Un-identified = 95										
Unid. Accipiter	9		1	12	6	15	4			47
Unid. Raptor			1	1	17	23	2	2	2	48

Figure 7 : Raptor numbers by Site and break down of Species

Thanks to all the 53 people - site leaders, NParks staff, volunteers, for spending their time out in the open to count raptors:

Alan OwYong	Gretel Seet	Lee Lay Tin	Steven Shields
Andrew Inglis	Harry Loh	Leow Yoon Li	Susan Knight
Andy Bell	Ho B	Lim Cheng Wee	Swee Hua Bey
Anusha Kundargi	Jan Tan	Lim Lee Lee	Tan Gim Cheong
Audrey Tok	Jason Chan	Low Choon How	Tan Kok Hui
Betty Shaw	Johan Eisenhauer	Nancy Eisenhauer	Tarun Kataria
Cheryl & husband	John Spencer	Ng Yan Ze	Teo Kah Ming
Chiang Wai Jeon	Keith Sng	Ong Jhin Yee	Terina Lee
Elsie Woo	Ken Tan	Paola Ng	Veronica Foo
Florence Lian	Kerry Pereira	Patricia	Wai Jeon Chiang
Francis Goo	Khoo Lei Chern	Ryan	Wee Meng
Goh Han Kee	King Kiat	Sng Bee Bee	Wilson Leung
Gregory Lim	Lee Ee Ling	Spencer Yau	Yu Xun Chin