

Singapore Raptor Report December 2023



Pied Harrier, male, Tuas South, 31 Dec 2023, by Chen Boon Chong

Summary for migrant species:

A rare **Himalayan Vulture** *Gyps Himalayensis* showed up briefly at Bukit Timah hilltop on the 24th and was seen by a few lucky birders. A total of 11 migrant raptor species were recorded in December 2023 (2 more species compared to December 2022).

At Tuas South, wintering raptors attracted a following. A male **Pied Harrier** *Circus melanoleucos* pulled in a steady stream of birders to this ‘far’ corner of Singapore as the handsome male is not often seen; there was also a female but surprisingly no juvenile which is more commonly encountered. In addition, there were three **Eastern Marsh Harriers** *Circus spilonotus*, a female and two juveniles; plus a **Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*.

Seven **Jerdon’s Baza** *Aviceda jerdoni* were recorded, with four of them wintering at Coney Island – Lorong Halus – Pasir Ris Farmway area, and one each at Marina East (6th), Botanic Gardens (7th), and Pulau Ubin (19th).

Only two **Chinese Sparrowhawks** *Accipiter soloensis* were recorded, one at Punggol Promenade (7th) and one at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve (13th). On the other hand, there were 20 **Japanese Sparrowhawks** *Accipiter gularis*, singles at various locations.

There were six **Peregrine Falcons** *Falco peregrinus*, 22 **Black Bazas** *Aviceda leuphotes*, 67 **Oriental Honey Buzzards** *Pernis ptilorhyncus*, and up to nine **Western Ospreys** *Pandion haliaetus*.



Black-thighed Falconet, Punggol 17th Avenue, 29 Dec 2023, by Tan Gim Cheong

Highlights for sedentary species:

The rare **Black-thighed Falconet** *Microhierax fringillarius*, a non-breeding visitor, put up daily appearances from the 28th to 31st at Punggol 17th Avenue, perching near the tops of bare branches or man-made structures, feeding on swiftlets.

Breeding-related activities were noted for three species. The **White-bellied Sea Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucogaster* pair at SBWR and the **Changeable Hawk-Eagle** *Nisaetus cirrhatus* pair at Mount Faber were rebuilding their nests. The **Crested Goshawk** *Accipiter trivirgatus*, pairs at West Coast Park and Pasir Ris Park were also nesting.

Five records for the **Crested Serpent Eagle** *Spilornis cheela* in a month is not bad: two at the Botanic Gardens, and one each at Pulau Ubin on the 10th and Pasir Ris Park on the 13th, plus a juvenile at Woodlands Waterfront on the 2nd.

The sedentary *torquatus* subspecies of the **Oriental Honey Buzzard** was recorded at Kismis Road on the 14th, while the *ernesti* subspecies of the **Peregrine Falcon** was recorded at Springleaf Park Connector on the 19th.

The other resident raptors recorded were the **Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*, **Grey-headed Fish Eagle** *Haliaeetus ichthyaetus*, and the common **Brahminy Kite** *Haliastur indus*.

Table 1

S/N	Species	No.	S/N	Species	No.
1	Western Osprey	9		<i>Residents / Sedentary Species</i>	
2	Jerdon's Baza	7	12	Black-winged Kite	9
3	Black Baza	22	13	Brahminy Kite	C*
4	Oriental Honey Buzzard	67	14	White-bellied Sea Eagle	C*
5	Himalayan Vulture	1	15	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	14
6	Eastern Marsh Harrier	3	16	Crested Serpent Eagle	5
7	Pied Harrier	2	17	Crested Goshawk	11
8	Chinese Sparrowhawk	2	18	Changeable Hawk-Eagle	17
9	Japanese Sparrowhawk	20	19	Black-thighed Falconet	1
10	Common Kestrel	1			
11	Peregrine Falcon	6			
Total for Migrants		140	Grand Total		197

* C = Common

1. Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (9)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2	1	SBWR main hide	Darren Leow
10	2	SBWR	Yuh Woei Chong
11	2	MED	Oscar Neo
14	1	Jurong Lake	Loretta Kao
19	2	Rower's Bay Park	Evelyn Lee
23	1	Tuas South	Oliver Tan
29	1	SBG	Norhafiani A Majid

2. Jerdon's Baza *Aviceda jerdoni* (7)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
6	2	Pasir Ris Farmway 3	Kenneth Cheong
6	1	MED	Tony Wong
7	1	SBG	Keita Sin
7	1	Halus Wetlands	
12	1	Halus Wetlands	Daryl Yeo
19	1	Pulau Ubin	Lim Kim Chuah
21	4	Coney Island	Yasuko Chow

3. Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes* (22)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2	1	TEG	Oliver Burton
2	1	SBG	Pooja Vishwanath
3	4	CBP	Mac Ng
12	7	Springleaf Nature Park	Rogier Niessen
17	1	JLG	Khaleb Yordan
18	3	PRP	Khaleb Yordan
25	4	CBP	Mac Ng
31	1	PRP	Ian Lee

4. Oriental Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus* (67) *orientalis* unless indicated otherwise

PM= pale morph

DM = dark morph

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2	2	JLG	Prolay Kundu
2	1	Turut Track, juvenile DM	Art Toh
2	1	Bukit Batok East Ave 4, mobbed by crow	Kerry Pereira
4	7	Halus Wetlands	Pooja Vishwanath
5	1	HWL, juvenile PM, 1:01pm	Bing Xiu
6	1	Pioneer, juvenile	Benny Ng
6	1	Mergui Road	Lynn Tan
6	3	MED	Tony Wong
7	1	One North	Philippe Vachon
9	1	HWL, juvenile PM	Wernie Jiang
10	5	Tuas South	Nick

10	1	Pang Sua Canal	Wai Heng Lua
10	1	Changi Village	Jonathan Lin
11	3	Pulau Ubin	Jared Tan
12	2	PRP	Evelyn Lee
12	2	Coney Island	Eugene Tan
12	2	Springleaf Nature Park	Rogier Niessen
14	1	Kismis Road, <i>torquatus</i>	Jared Tan
15	1	ECP, female DM	SB Lim
16	1	BTNR	Matthew Teng
16	1	Choa Chu Kang Park	Kaeden Sim
19	3	BAMK Park	Nick
20	2	SBG	Evelyn Lee
21	1	TBHP	Farra Lie
24	7	Pinnacle@Duxton	Yip Jen Wei
--	1	WCP, juvenile	Benny Ng
25	1	Sentosa	Adam Sedgley
28	4	Kranji Marsh	C N Lee
28	1	Milton Residences	Akein N S
29	1	CCNR	Ong Jun Ze
29	2	Kallang River	Tammy Elizabeth
28	2	Punggol 17th Ave	Tan Gim Cheong
30	3	CBP	Mac Ng

5. Himalayan Vulture *Gyps himalayensis* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
24	1	Bukit Timah summit, 10:25am	Bear Jia, Timothy Chua

6. Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus* (3)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
9	1	Tuas South, juvenile	Wai Heng Lua
23	1	Tuas South, juvenile	Angie Cheong
28	3	Tuas South, 1 female, 2 juveniles	Yuh Woei Chong
31	2	Tuas South	Oliver Tan

7. Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucos* (2)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
15	1	Tuas South	Nick
22	1	Tuas South, female, 3:40pm	Hong Yijun
23	1	Tuas South, female	Angie Cheong
30	1	Tuas South, male, 10:19am	Lee Chin Pong
31	2	Tuas South, 1 male, 1 female	Alan OwYong

8. Chinese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter soloensis* (2)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
7	1	Punggol Promenade	Satheesh M B
13	1	SBWR	Kaeden Sim

9. Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis* (20)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2	1	Halus Wetlands, juvenile	Ramesh T.
3	1	JLG	Goeff Lim
3	1	JLG, juvenile	Geoff Lim
4	1	CBP	Ramesh T.
4	1	SBG	Kerry Pereira
4	1	MED, juvenile	Sylvester Goh
5	1	SBG, juvenile	Siew Mun
6	1	MED	Tony Wong
7	1	HWL, juvenile	Sheau Torng Lim
7	1	Coney Island, juvenile	Satheesh M B
9	1	Turut Track	Rogier Niessen
13	1	Springleaf Nature Park	Evelyn Lee
13	1	Punggol Drive, adult male	Satheesh M B
16	1	Tuas South, juvenile	Han Jinchi
18	1	PRP	Khaleb Yordan
19	1	BAMK Park	Nick
19	1	Pulau Ubin	Lim Kim Chuah
21	1	Holland Village	Geoff Lim
22	1	Yee Tee Park	Sze Kai Sim
23	1	Tuas South, juvenile	Yuh Woei Chong

10. Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
10	1	Tuas South Way	Dylan CK
26	1	Tuas South Way	Mohamed Fazlin

11. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (6) migrants unless otherwise stated

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2	1	Pasir Ris Farmway 3, juvenile	Ng Yan Ze
15	1	Telok Blangah, juvenile	Ros Qian
17	1	Pang Sua Canal	Wai Heng Lua
19	1	Rower's Bay Park, juvenile	Evelyn Lee
19	1	Springleaf Park Connector, <i>ernesti</i>	Yip Jen Wei
25	1	SBWR	Vincent Ng

Resident raptors**12. Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* (9)**

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2	2	Pasir Ris Farmway 3	Ng Yan Ze
2	1	NTHL	Art Toh
18	5	Tuas South	Jared Tan
20	1	SBWR	Ryan Krishnan
23	3	Tuas South	Chen Boon Chong, Angie Cheong

13. Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

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

14. White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
		-- Common raptor --	
-	1	SBWR, adult flying back to nest with sticks	Shahrul Kamal, Benny Ng
-	1	SBWR, adult caught a ray (fish)	Shahrul Kamal

15. Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus ichthyaetus* (14)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2	1	JLG	Yong Ding Li
4	1	SBG	Kerry Pereira
5	1	SBG, adult	Siew Mun
10	1	Halus Wetlands	Mike Hooper
12	1	Springleaf Nature Park, adult	Siew Mun
12	1	Springleaf Nature Park	Vincent Yip
19	1	Pulau Ubin	Lim Kim Chuah
20	1	SBWR	Ryan Krishnan
20	2	SBG	Evelyn Lee
23	2	Singapore Quarry	Yi Fei Chung
24	1	Lower Peirce	Ng yan Ze
24	2	Pinnacle @ Duxton	Yip Jen Wei
26	2	Fort Canning Park	Daniel Walder
26	1	Holland Green	Lynn Tan
28	1	Sentosa	Valerie Oliveiro
31	1	MED	Swee Peng

16. Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela* (5)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2	1	Woodlands Waterfront, juvenile	Chang Fu Wen
2	1	SBG, adult	Siew Mun
7	2	SBG	Sylvester Goh
10	1	Pulau Ubin	Lucy Coleman
13	1	PRP	Loretta Kao
18	1	SBG, adult	Siew Mun

17. Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus* (11)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
3	2	PRP	Anirban K Ghosh
--	2	WCP, nest-building	Benny Ng
--	1	PRP, eating a squirrel	Andrew Hunt
--	1	WCP, caught a squirrel	Benny Ng
7	1	PRP, adding materials to its nest	Moses Lee
8	3	Fort canning Park	Oskar Pryor
12	1	Coney Island	Lee Wee Meng
12	1	JLG, adult	Jade Neo
21	1	Mandai	Rej Sup
29	1	JLG	Joyce Woon
29	1	SBG	Jiaying Fan

18. Changeable Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus cirrhatus* (17)

PM= pale morph

DM = dark morph

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
2	1	Kallang River	Matthaus Atkins
3	2	Mt Faber	SB Lim
7	1	JLG, PM flying with prey (waterhen)	Siew Mun
7	2	Mt Faber, PM & DM pair on nest	SB Lim
9	2	MED	Yip Jen Wei
9	2	SBWR	Rogier Niessen
9	1	NUS, PM	Meng Wang
10	1	Halus Wetlands	Oliver Tan
10	1	PRP, DM	Zhen Li
12	1	Mt Faber, adult PM on nest, calling	SB Lim
-	1	DFNP, PM	Benny Ng
15	1	CCNR	Jonathan Lin
16	1	Thomson Nature Park	Yu Xun Chin
17	2	Tuas South	Yuh Woei Chong
19	1	Pulau Ubin	Lim Kim Chuah
20	2	Changi Point	Sabine Urban
21	1	Holland Village	Geoff Lim
21	2	JLG	Khoo Wunson
24	1	MacRitchie Reservoir	Ng Yan Ze
25	2	Fort Canning Park	Christy Esmahan

26	1	Choa Chu Kang Park	Debby Ng
26	1	Mandai Road	M Tay
28	2	Punggol 17th Avenue	Tan Gim Cheong
28	1	Miltonia Residences	Akein N S
29	1	Clementi Forest	Jai Humphries

19. Black-thighed Falconet *Microhierax fringillarius* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
28	1	Punggol 17th Avenue	Kaeden Sim
29	1	Punggol 17th Avenue	Wai Muan Sum
30	1	Punggol 17th Avenue	Evelyn Lee
31	1	Punggol 17th Avenue	Lim Qian Xun

Abbreviations

BAMK– Bishan-Ang Mok Kio
 BTNR – Bukit Timah Nature Reserve
 CBP – Changi Business Park
 DFNP – Dairy Farm Nature Park
 ECP – East Coast Park
 JLG – Jurong Lake Gardens
 HWL – Hampstead Wetlands
 KM – Kranji Marsh
 MED – Marina East Drive
 NTHL – Neo Tiew Harvest Lane
 NUS – National University of Singapore
 PRP – Pasir Ris Park
 SBG – Singapore Botanic Gardens
 SBWR – Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve
 TBHP – Telok Blangah Hill Park
 TEG – Tampines Eo Green
 WCP – West Coast 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 Chen Boon Chong for the use of his photo.