

Singapore Raptor Report October 2022



Shikra, at Mt Faber, 27 Oct 2022, by Ramesh T.

Summary for migrant species:

Raptor migration got off to a good start in October 2022, with 856 migrant raptors of 14 species recorded (in contrast, only 7 migrant raptors species were recorded in October last year).

The rarest migrant raptor to show up was a **Shikra** *Accipiter badius*, the third record for Singapore, photographed at Mt Faber on the 27th. On the same day, a **Booted Eagle** *Hieraaetus pennatus* was recorded at Nanyang Technological University, and probably the same individual, at the Botanic Gardens. Also on the same day, a **Greater Spotted Eagle** *Clanga clanga* was spotted at Tuas, followed by one each day for the next three days – at NTU on the 28th, Lorong Halus on the 29th, and the southern ridges on the 30th.

The 27th also marked the arrival of the first **Black Bazas** *Aviceda leuphotes*, with a flock of 70 birds over Mount Faber. Recorded everyday subsequently, at NTU, Lorong Halus, and the southern ridges, the month's total was 156 bazas. The most numerous migrant raptor was the **Oriental Honey Buzzard** *Pernis ptilorhynchus*, with 365 birds, recorded throughout the month. The highest number recorded in a day was 72 at NTU on the 14th. At number two was the **Japanese Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter gularis*, with 222 birds, recorded throughout the month. At the other end of the scale, there was one **Besra** *Accipiter virgatus* at Telok Blangah Hill Park on the 17th.

For the **Rufous-bellied Eagle** *Lophotriorchis kienerii*, there was an adult at the Rail Mall on the 24th, and an immature ranging from Bukit Timah to the southern ridges through the month. The **Grey-faced Buzzards** *Butastur indicus* started to arrive on the 22nd, passing through at Neo Tiew Road, NTU, Bukit Timah, and the southern ridges, with a total of eight birds.



Black Bazas over Mt Faber, 27 Oct 2022, by Tan Gim Cheong

Pied Harriers *Circus melanoleucos* started to show up on the 13th, and we had 6 of them in total. Five were passing through at Bukit Timah, Jelutong Tower, Mount Faber and NTU, while the one at Tuas could be staying on at the reclaimed land for a while. Not to be outdone, the **Eastern Marsh Harrier** *Circus spilonotus* came in bigger numbers – ten birds, passing through at Kranji Marsh, Bukit Timah, southern ridges and Lorong Halus. Apart from a male, most of them were juveniles, with one spending some time at Tuas.

Lastly, there were 60 **Chinese Sparrowhawks** *Accipiter soloensis*, recorded throughout the month; 12 **Peregrine Falcons** *Falco peregrinus*, and six **Western Ospreys** *Pandion haliaetus*.

Highlights for sedentary species:

There were two **Crested Serpent Eagles** *Spilornis cheela*, one at Pulau Ubin on the 7th, and there other at the Southern Ridges throughout the month. A *torquatus* **Oriental Honey Buzzard** was at Marina East on the 9th, and another at Mount Faber on the 27th.

Breeding-related activities were recorded for four resident species. A pair of **Black-winged Kites** was nesting at Gardens by the Bay and aerial transfer of food was observed. At West Coast Park, a pair of **Brahminy Kites** and a pair of **Crested Goshawks** were nesting. At Hillview Link, a pair of **Changeable Hawk-Eagles** was active around a nest.

For the nocturnal **Buffy Fish Owl**, mating was observed twice at Hampstead Wetlands on the 13th, and at SBWR, a chick fledged successfully.



*Buffy Fish Owl feeding fish to its chick, Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve,
17 Oct 2022, by Tan Gim Cheong*

Table 1

S/N	Species	No.	S/N	Species	No.
1	Western Osprey	6		<i>Residents / Sedentary Species</i>	
2	Black Baza	156	15	Black-winged Kite	2
3	Oriental Honey Buzzard	367	16	Brahminy Kite	C*
4	Eastern Marsh Harrier	10	17	White-bellied Sea Eagle	C*
5	Pied Harrier	6	18	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	3
6	Chinese Sparrowhawk	60	19	Crested Serpent Eagle	2
7	Japanese Sparrowhawk	222	20	Crested Goshawk	3
8	Besra	1	21	Changeable Hawk-Eagle	9
9	Shikra	1			
10	Grey-faced Buzzard	8		<i>Nocturnal raptor</i>	
11	Greater Spotted Eagle	4	22	Buffy Fish Owl	4
12	Booted Eagle	1			
13	Rufous-bellied Eagle	2			
14	Peregrine Falcon	12			
Total for Migrants		856	Grand Total		879

* C = Common

1. Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (6)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1	1	Rifle Range Link	CN Lee
7	1	Tuas	Tan Gim Cheong
16	1	Skyville@Dawson	Tan Kok Hui
20	1	USR Park	Ng Yan Ze
23	1	TBHP	Lim Kim Keang
24	1	KM	Martti Siponen

2. Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes* (156)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
27	2	Neo Tiew Road	Jared Tan
27	1	Canterbury Road	CN Lee
27	108	Mt Faber, a flock of 70, and a flock of 20	Tan Gim Cheong
28	11	HW	Oliver Tan
28	2	Skyville@Dawson	CN Lee
29	20	NTU	Vincent Yip
29	9	HW	Tan Kok Hui
29	18	Mt Faber	Raghav N.
29	1	Lorong Halus Wetlands	Lim Yu Jun
30	2	Skyville@Dawson	Tan Kok Hui
30	7	HW	Oliver Tan
30	6	Mt Faber	Chen Boon Chong
31	7	Mt Faber	Tan Gim Cheong

3. Oriental Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus* (365+2) *orientalis* unless otherwise stated

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1	1	DFNP	Jamie Allot
2	2	SBWR	W Khoo
5	2	Jurong West, immatures	Philip Toh
6	24	NTU	Jared Tan
8	3	TBHP	Yip Jen Wei
9	1	MED, <i>torquatus</i>	Shiang K. A.
9	7	Skyville@Dawson	Tan Kok Hui
10	2	West Coast Drive	Tay Kian Guan
10	2	BTNR	Andy Webb
13	3	BTNR	Kaeden Sim
13	3	NTU	Yip Jen Wei
14	72	NTU	Jared Tan
14	6	SBWR	Aradhana Rangachar
14	3	Jelutong Tower	Francis Yap
14	12	Tuas South	CN Lee
14	2	Central Boulevard	W Khoo
14	2	Lorong Ah Soo	Debbie Men
14	3	CBP	Ramesh T.
14	6	CCNR	Lim Qian Xun

15	7	NTU	Yip Jen Wei
15	10	Mt Faber	Krishna G.
15	1	Lorong Halus Wetlands	Lim Kim Seng
16	2	Yishun Pond	Yc Sim
16	7	Skyville@Dawson	Tan Kok Hui
16	3	JLG	Mike Hooper
17	1	JLG, immature dark morph	SB Lim
17	2	BTNR	Francis Yap
17	5	TBHP, morning	Tay Kian Guan
17	2	TBHP, afternoon	Tan Gim Cheong
18	12	NTU	Yip Jen Wei
18	2	BTNR	Vincent Yip
18	5	Pinnacle@Duxton	Chen Boon Chong
19	5	HW	Art Toh
20	1	Bukit Timah hill top, dark morph	Wai Heng Lua
20	8	BTNR	Joshua Chong
20	1	USR Park, male	Khoo MeiLin
20	3	Tuas South	Raghav N.
20	2	TBHP	Vincent Ng
21	1	HWL	Veronica Foo
22	2	PRP	Avery Bartels
22	2	SBWR	Fadzrun A.
22	3	JLG	Lim Qian Xun
23	2	Skyville@Dawson	Tan Kok Hui
23	5	TBHP	Veronica Foo
24	1	HW, 1100-1400h	Chen Boon Chong
27	7	Neo Tiew Road	Jared Tan
27	1	Mt Faber, <i>torquatus</i>	Tan Gim Cheong
27	4	Mt Faber	Ramesh T.
27	18	NTU	Yip Jen Wei
27	6	Canterbury Road	CN Lee
27	2	CBP	Vish M.
28	15	Skyville@Dawson	CN LEE
28	6	Mt Faber	Ramesh T.
28	4	Punggol	Lim Yu Jun
28	7	NTU	Yip Jen Wei
29	9	DFNP	Vincent Yip
29	1	Bukit Timah hill top, dark morph juvenile	Low Chong Yang
29	30	NTU	Vincent Yip
29	18	Mt Faber	Raghav N.
29	5	Lorong Halus Wetlands	Lim Yu Jun
30	1	HW	Darren Leow
30	12	Mt Faber	CN Lee
30	2	Tuas View Crescent	Chen Boon Chong
30	1	Ubin	Yong Ding Li
31	20	Tuas South	Daryl Yeo

4. Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus* (10)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
20	1	Bukit Timah hill top, juvenile	Wai Heng Lua
20	1	Tuas South, juvenile	Raghav Narayanswamy
23	3	Hort Park, 1 adult male	Zacc HD
24	1	KM, juvenile	Martti Siponen
25	1	Pinnacle@Duxton, juvenile	Chen Boon Chong
27	1	Tuas South, juvenile	Francis Yap
28	1	Skyville@Dawson, juvenile	Francis Yap
28	1	Lorong Halus Wetlands, juvenile	Lim Yu Jun
29	1	Tuas South, juvenile	Art Toh, Khoo Mei Lin
30	1	Tuas South, juvenile	May Swales

5. Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucos* (6)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
13	1	Jelutong Tower, juvenile	Joshua Chong
17	1	Bukit Timah hill top, female, 5:26pm	Francis Yap
28	1	Jelutong Tower, juvenile	Francis Yap
28	1	Mt Faber, juvenile	Ramesh T.
29	1	Mt Faber, juvenile	Ramesh T.
30	1	NTU, juvenile	Bear Jia
31	1	Tuas South, juvenile	Vincent Yip

6. Chinese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter soloensis* (60)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1	2	KM	Martti Siponen
1	1	Rifle Range Link	Kaeden Sim
8	1	TBHP	Yip Jen Wei
9	1	Skyville@Dawson	Tan Kok Hui
10	3	BTNR	Andy Webb
13	1	BTNR	Kaeden Sim
14	2	Jelutong Tower	Francis Yap
15	1	NTU	Bear Jia
15	4	HW	Vincent Yip
16	1	Skyville@Dawson	Tan Kok Hui
17	1	TBHP	Tay Kian Guan
17	1	HW	CN Lee
18	1	NTU	Yip Jen Wei
18	2	BTNR	CN Lee
18	1	Mt Faber, mixed with a flock of 9 Japanese Sparrowhawks	Tan Gim Cheong
20	1	Bukit Timah hill top	Wai Heng Lua
21	1	Green Corridor at King Albert Park	Lukasz Wojciech
22	2	BTNR	Yong Ding Li
22	5	HW	Oliver Tan
23	2	SBG	George Watola
23	6	HW	Vincent Yip

23	5	TBHP	Kaeden Sim
27	1	SBG	Philip Howell
27	2	Mt Faber	Ramesh T.
28	1	BTNR	Raghav Narayanswamy
28	1	Skyville@Dawson	CN Lee
28	1	Mt Faber	Ramesh T.
29	2	NTU	Vincent Yip
29	1	HW	Tan Kok Hui
29	1	Mt Faber	Kaeden Sim
30	1	NTU	Bear Jia
30	1	HW	Darren Leow
30	11	Mt Faber	CN Lee
31	1	JLG	Frank Chen

7. Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis* (222)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
1	1	TBHP	Tan Kok Hui
1	1	CCNR	Kaeden Sim
2	1	CBP	Mac Ng
2	1	CCNR	CN Lee
4	1	KM	Lim Kim Keang
6	1	Bukit Timah hill top	Low Chong Yang
8	1	JLG	Jayden Kang
8	1	Bukit Timah hill top	Low Chong Yang
8	3	TBHP	Yip Jen Wei
9	2	Skyville@Dawson	Tan Kok Hui
9	1	MED, juvenile	Ramesh T.
9	2	HW	Low Chong Yang
13	1	JLG, female	Lim Qian Xun
14	1	NTU	Jared Tan
14	1	CBP	Ramesh T.
15	11	West Coast Drive	Tay Kian Guan
15	5	HW	Oliver Tan
15	24	Mt Faber	Krishna G.
16	2	JLG	Mike Hooper
16	1	HW, juvenile	Low Chong Yang
16	2	Skyville@Dawson	Tan Kok Hui
17	1	TBHP, juvenile	Tan Gim Cheong
17	1	GBTB, juvenile	SB Lim
17	7	TBHP	Tay Kian Guan
18	2	NTU	Jared Tan
18	2	BTNR	Kaeden Sim
18	5	HW	CN Lee
18	16	Mt Faber, including a flock of 9	Tan Gim Cheong
18	1	MED, juvenile, 5:36pm	Chen Boon Chong
18	1	CBP	Ramesh T.
19	1	HW	Art Toh
19	4	BTNR	Joshua Chong

20	1	USR Park	Ng Yan Ze
20	1	Bukit Timah hill top	Wai Heng Lua
20	3	TBHP	Vincent Ng
20	3	Tuas South	Raghav N.
21	11	Mt Faber	Raghav N.
21	1	CCNR	Lim Qian Xun
22	1	SBWR	Fadzrun A.
22	1	SBG	Alex Rossi
22	1	JLG	Lim Qian Xun
22	16	HW	Vincent Yip
23	10	Skyville@Dawson	Tan Kok Hui
23	15	TBHP	Kaeden Sim
23	24	HW	Vincent Yip
24	2	Tuas South	Raghav N.
24	2	KM	Martti Siponen
24	2	HW, 1100-1400h	Chen Boon Chong
24	1	MED, juvenile	Lim Joseph
24	1	Singapore	Ros Qian
24	2	Berlayer Creek	Yuh Woei Chong
25	1	Pinnacle@Duxton	Chen Boon Chong
25	1	Berlayer Creek	Jared Tan
27	8	Mt Faber	Tan Gim Cheong
27	2	Canterbury Road	CN Lee
28	1	NTU	Jared Tan
28	1	Punggol	Lim Yu Jun
28	5	Skyville@Dawson	CN Lee
28	2	Mt Faber	Ramesh T.
29	6	NTU	Vincent Yip
29	5	HW	Oliver Tan
29	6	Mt Faber	Raghav N.
30	1	Mt Faber, juvenile	Angie Cheong
30	10	HW	Oliver Tan
30	7	Mt Faber	Chen Boon Chong
30	2	Berlayer Creek	Fadzrun A.

8. *Besra Accipiter virgatus* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
17	1	Telok Blangah Hill Park, juvenile	Tay Kian Guan

9. *Shikra Accipiter badius* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
27	1	Mt Faber, juvenile	Ramesh T.

10. *Grey-faced Buzzard Butastur indicus* (8)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
22	3	BTNR	Wai Heng Lua
23	1	Skyville@Dawson, juvenile	Tan Kok Hui

27	1	Neo Tiew Road, juvenile	Chien N Lee
28	1	NTU	Yip Jen Wei
30	2	HW	Oliver Tan

11. Greater Spotted Eagle *Clanga clanga* (4)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
27	1	Tuas South, juvenile	Francis Yap
28	1	NTU	Jared Tan
29	1	Lorong Halus Wetlands	Lim Yu Jun
30	1	Skyville@dawson	Tan Kok Hui
30	1	HW	Darren Leow
30	1	Mt Faber	Angie Cheong, Ramesh T.

12. Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus* (1)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
27	1	NTU	Yip Jen Wei
27	1	SBG	Philip Howell

13. Rufous-bellied Eagle *Lophotriorchis kienerii* (2)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
8	1	Bukit Timah hill top, immature	Low Chong Yang
9	1	Forest Walk before Alexandra arch bridge, immature	Low Chong Yang
23	1	Skyville@Dawson, immature	Tan Kok Hui
24	1	Rail Mall, adult	W Khoo
27	1	NTU	Yip Jen Wei
29	1	Bukit Timah hill top, immature	Low Chong Yang

14. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (12)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
14	2	Tuas South	CN Lee
16	1	Tuas South	Raghav N.
17	1	Bukit Timah hill top	Francis Yap
17	1	West Coast Drive, adult migrant	Tay Kian Guan
--	1	CBD, adult <i>japonensis</i>	Wang HM
22	1	HW	Oliver Tan
24	1	KM	Martti Siponen
24	1	Strathmore Avenue	Lee Zhi Heng
27	1	Neo Tiew Road, adult migrant	CN Lee
27	1	Queenstown, adult <i>japonensis</i>	Keith Wong
29	1	KM	Philip Howell

Resident raptors

15. Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* (2)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
5	1	GBTB	SB Lim
8	2	GBTB, food transfer in the air	SB Lim
--	2	GBTB, food transfer in the air	Soumen Mondal
16	1	Neo Tiew Harvest Lane, adult	Art Toh

16. Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
		--Common Raptor--	
--	2	WCP, nesting	Benny Ng

17. White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
		--Common Raptor--	
8	1	SBWR, adult caught a needlefish	Teo Chee Yong

18. Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus ichthyaetus* (3)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
4	1	SBWR, platform 2, adult	Siew Mun
30	1	Lim Chu Kang Road, adult	Angie Cheong
30	1	HW	Darren Leow

19. Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela* (2)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
7	1	Ubin	Larry Chen
9	1	TBHP, adult	Low Chong Yang
15	1	KRP	Raghav N.
18	1	HW	CN Lee
22	1	HW	Oliver Tan
24	1	GBTB	Alex Rossi
27	1	Canterbury Road	CN Lee
28	1	HW	Oliver Tan
30	1	HW	Darren Leow

20. Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus* (3)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
16	1	Alexandra Road, female	Ros Qian
--	2	WCP, a pair near their nest, and female subsequently sitting on nest	Benny Ng

21. Changeable Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus cirrhatus* (9)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
8	1	Bukit Timah hill top, dark morph	Low Chong Yang
18	1	SBWR, heard only	Tok Sock Ling
18	1	JEG, adult pale morph	Tok Sock Ling
19	2	Hillview Link, nest-building	Sarah See
23	1	Goldhill Ave, dark morph	Sc Tan
24	1	KM, pale morph	Art Toh
24	1	HW, dark morph, 1100-1400h	Chen Boon Chong
29	2	PRP	Alvin Seng
29	1	Bukit Timah hill top, dark morph	Low Chong Yang
30	1	HW	Darren Leow

22. Buffy Fish Owl *Ketupa ketupu* (4)

Date	No.	Location and Details	Reported By
9	1	SBWR, female flew out of nest	Teo Chee Yong
13	2	HWL, mating observed twice	Rovena Chow
18	1	SBWR, chick is out of nest	Avadi L. Parimalam

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 Ramesh T. the use of his photo.