

## Eurasian Hobby

*Falco subbuteo*



Subspecies *subbuteo*

**Status** Rare to common breeding and passage migrant.

**Habitat** Flood-plain forests, forest steppes, upland forests, lowland steppes, semi-deserts, and foothill and mountain forests, up to 2,700 m in the Tien Shan.

**Distribution** Widespread breeder in Kazakhstan.

Rare in the northern and central Tien Shan. Absent from Mangghystau province. During migration, throughout Kazakhstan.

**Migration** From mid-April to late May, and from late August to late October (September).



## Saker Falcon

*Falco cherrug*



Subspecies *cherrug* and *milvipes*

**Status** Rare resident, breeding migrant, passage migrant and winter visitor.

**Habitat** Flood-plain forests, lowland steppes, semi-deserts, deserts, foothills and mountains.

**Distribution** Breeds mainly in the Aral-Caspian region (1,062–1,259 pairs), northern Aqtöbe province, the Tobol valley (142–168 pairs) and Naurzum nature reserve in Qostanay province, south-eastern Pavlodar (35–38 pairs in 2005) and East Kazakhstan provinces (50 pairs), and the Betpak-Dala desert (50 pairs). A few pairs breed in the Balkhash-Alakol region and the northern Tien Shan. In summer, non-breeding pairs have been found in the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region and Aksu-Dzhabagly nature reserve in the western Tien Shan. (The large 'gaps' in the distribution likely reflect a lack of information rather than a true absence. In western Kazakhstan, it is believed that it is either absent or breeds at low density in the Mugodzhary mountains and the Mangghystau range, which results in a distinct separation between the forest-steppe population of north-western Kazakhstan and the desert population of the Aral-Caspian region. Furthermore, the population estimates given above are often based on extrapolations from incomplete surveys (A Dixon in litt.) Migration behaviour of adult birds varies within populations. Even in the northern part of the species' breeding range, some birds remain at their nesting sites all winter. On the other hand, post-fledging dispersal by juvenile birds is exhibited in all populations. These long-distance dispersal movements are not unidirectional. A juvenile female fitted with a transmitter at the Kolyvan mountain in the Russian Altai on 24 July 2004 began to migrate on 27 July, crossed Pavlodar province and was eventually traced back near Pirechenka in northern Qostanay province on 1 August 2004. In winter, good numbers are found in the Tarbagatai, especially feeding on Feral Pigeons attracted to sunflower fields. The Aral-Caspian population is probably resident.

