

**THE HONG KONG
BIRD REPORT 1959**



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THE HONG KONG BIRD REPORT 1959

COMPILED BY
A. M. MACFARLANE AND J. N. HUMPHREYS.

INTRODUCTION

1959, the second full year in the life of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, was memorable not only for the number and variety of birds seen but for the general increase in the Society's activities. Though several of our founder members have left the Colony, there has been no lack of new recruits and membership now stands at over 50.

The following is a summary of the main events of the year:—

10th February — Chinese New Year outing on Mong Tseng peninsula attended by 8 members. Approximately 49 species seen.

1st March — Article on the work and objects of the Society published in South China Sunday Post-Herald.

4th March — Annual General Meeting held in H.M.S. Tamar and attended by 12 members.

16th March — Three members accompanied University of Hong Kong outing to Lamma Island and recorded at least 35 different species.

30th March — Easter Monday outing in vicinity of Shataukok with 6 members. Approximately 33 different birds recorded.

5th April — Several members visited the aviaries in the Botanical Gardens and then went on to see Dr. Kenneth Searle's birds at his home in Kowloon. After lunch near Kowloon Reservoir, members went to see Mr. R. A. Pereira's collection at Shatin.

16th/17th May — Some members took part in the world-wide recording of the "Dawn and Dusk Chorus" organised by the World Bird Research Station at Glanton, Northumberland.

18th May — Whit Monday outing on Maipo Marshes attended by 11 members. Chiefly memorable for impromptu swimming by some in order to see Little Bitterns' nests.

29th May — A few members visited Kau I Chau (Rubbish Island) in the evening in an abortive attempt to locate a Whitebellied Sea Eagle's nest. However, they were re-

warded by close-up views of a young Black-eared Kite and the nest of a pair of Violet Whisting Thrushes, unexpected residents on a small island so far from land.

7th June — Census of Yuen Long egrettries.

16th June — Publication of "The Hong Kong Bird Report 1958."

19th June — Five members of the Society appointed as Honorary Game Wardens for three years.

29th July — Honorary Secretary addressed a meeting of the H.K. Natural History Society on "Hong Kong birds and the objects of the H.K.B.W.S."

12th August — Mr. Keith David spoke to a meeting of the Society in H.M.S. TAMAR on the subject of bird photography and the use of binoculars as a telephoto lens.

16th September — Committee meeting at 403B Severn Road. Small profit on production and sale of 1958 report noted with satisfaction!

3rd October — Mr. and Mrs. Loke Wan Tho and Mr. Cairns (visitors from Singapore and Penang, and now members of the Society) taken to Capes Collinson and D'Aigular to see some Hong Kong birds.

11th October — Messrs. Heineman, Geniesse and Devine (visitors from the U.S.A.) taken to Maipo Marshes. The day we saw the Sand Martins!

19th October — Society outing to Ping Shan/Mong Tseng. 18 members attended so, for the first time, we had to split into two parties. About 50 species recorded, including a Pheasant-tailed Jacana seen by the Chairman which, when we met for a drink afterwards at the Sek Kong Club, another member of the committee was tactless enough to suggest might have been an immature Pond Heron!

9th November — Another Society outing with 15 members in the Ping Shan/Mong Tseng area. About 40 species seen.

22nd November — Lieutenant-General Sir Gerald Lathbury (the new Deputy Chairman of the Severn Wildfowl Trust) taken to Maipo Marshes and the Lam Tsuen Valley. The birds co-operated well and we were able to show our distinguished visitor 57 species, including a pair of Rufous Woodpeckers.

26th December — Society outing to Maipo Marshes and Lam Tsuen Valley with 8 members and two visitors: Lady Turner (E. Arnot Robertson) and Captain J. V. Wilkinson of H.M.S. Belfast. A record day with 64 species seen.

30th December — Black-eared Kite census with 10 members taking part (see separate report).

During the year, contact has been established with ornithological bodies in other parts of the world and arrangements made to exchange publications, assist visitors to Hong Kong, etc.

The Society subscribes to "The Ibis", the journal of the British Ornithologists' Union. The B.O.U. has been most helpful in providing a complimentary copy of its latest Check List of the Birds of Great Britain. This is being used as a guide to the lay-out of the new Check List of Hong Kong birds which will be published by the Society in 1960. Photocopies of articles concerning the birds of Hong Kong from past copies of "The Ibis" are also being obtained.

Reciprocal arrangements for the assistance of visitors have been made with the American Ornithologists' Union. It is hoped that Mr. Eugene Eisenmann, the Editor of "The Auk" (the journal of the A.O.U.), will come to Hong Kong during 1960.

Mr. Tom Harrison (Curator of the Sarawak Museum) has kindly sent us copies of the Museum Journal, one of which consists entirely of a Check List of the Birds of Borneo. A full-scale "Birds of Borneo" by Mr. B. E. Smythies (author of "Birds of Burma") is due to be published in 1960. The Society has been in correspondence with Mr. Smythies on problems of mutual interest concerning egrets. Mr. Smythies is planning to visit Hong Kong in 1961.

Publications have been exchanged with the Ornithological Society of Japan, which has its headquarters at the Yamashina Museum of Birds near Tokyo. It is hoped that a representative of the Society will be able to attend the Twelfth Conference of the International Council for Bird Preservation to be held there in May, 1960.

The Society subscribes to the new half-yearly journal "Bird Migration" by Kenneth Williamson, which is published by the British Trust for Ornithology.

Contact has been made with Mr. Tso-Hsin Cheng of the Institute of Zoology, Academia Sinica, Peking. He is the author of "A Distributional List of Chinese Birds", a valuable work in two parts, copies of which he has most kindly presented to the Society.

The lending library kept by the Hon. Secretary for the use of members has been expanded and now consists of the following main books:—

Birds of Hong Kong	Herklots
Birds of Hong Kong—Field Identification and Notebook	Herklots
Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China	La Touche
South China Birds	Caldwell & Caldwell
Birds of Japan	Kobayashi
Field Observations from the Colony of Hong Kong	Dove & Goodhart
Birds of Burma	Smythies
Distributional List of the Birds of China (2 volumes)	Cheng Tso-hsin
Hong Kong Naturalist Volumes I to V	Crook & Herklots
Birds of Malaya	Glenister
Birds of Japan—their Status and Distribution	Austin & Kuroda
European Field Guide	Peterson, Mountfort & Hollom
Ornithologists Guide	B.O.U.
Notes & Field Observations in Hong Kong	Sergeant and Walker
A Company of Birds	Loke Wan Tho
Birds of the Palearctic Fauna	Vaurie
My Year with the Woodpeckers	H. Sielmann
The Folklore of Birds	E. A. Armstrong
The Wandering Albatross	W. Jameson
The Birds	O. & K. Heinroth

COLONY RECORDS 1959

The Society acknowledges the generosity of Mr. Loke Wan Tho and others in presenting books to the library. Should anyone who may read this report have bird books which they might feel able to pass on, the Society would be most grateful for them and would put them to good use. Further copies of Dr. Herklots' two books and the volumes of the Hong Kong Naturalist from 1935 to 1941 are particularly required.

The objects of the Society remain as originally laid down at the inaugural meeting held on 7th August, 1957. They are reprinted on the back of the Application Form for membership which will be found at the back of this report.

Membership of the Society is open to all who are interested in birds, however small their knowledge or experience may be.

Copies of the 1958 Report are still available from the Hon. Secretary, to whom all correspondence, applications for membership, etc., should be addressed. His permanent address is:—

Hon. Secretary,
Hong Kong Bird Watching Society,
c/o The Chartered Bank,
Hong Kong.

The Society owns a telescope which is available for loan to members. Special field notebooks have been produced and may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary at \$1 each.

Copies of this report have been sent to the appropriate authorities for review and reference.

J.N.H.

Facts and Figures

During the Society's second year, 236 species and races, including six additions to the Colony list, have been reported by 26 observers. This compares with 223 reported in 1958.

47 species were proved to breed in the Colony and in addition 17 species were strongly suspected of doing so.

Weather

1959 was one of the hottest and wettest years experienced in the Colony since records began in 1884. January was exceptionally dry, followed by the wettest February on record. March, April and May were alternately dry, wet and dry until June turned out to be the second wettest month ever recorded. Over 28 inches of rain fell in the four days from June 12th to 15th. The rainfall remained above average until the end of September, but the last three months of the year were dry and sunny.

Summary

The year started well with the addition of the Slaty-backed Gull to the Colony list, reported from Deep Bay on New Year's Day. A Black Stork and White Ibis on two occasions were seen at Mai Po, whilst an Imperial Eagle was seen at Ping Shan. Three South China Button-Quails were flushed on Cloudy Hill and a party of Jays near Kowloon Reservoir.

February saw a minor invasion of Plumbeous Water-Redstarts to the central area of the New Territories, especially to the Lam Tsun Valley which also produced a pair of Chestnut Bulbuls and two pairs of Grey Bush-chats. Three Lesser Spoonbills were seen at Mai Po and six House-martins at Ping Shan.

The winter visitors began to depart in March and amongst them were a White's Thrush at Mai Po, three Wigeon on the marshes, a Goshawk at Sha Tau Kok, one or two Hodgson's Rosefinches in the Lam Tsun Valley and two reports of the Eye-browed Thrush on The Peak. Ashy Minivets were seen in several places and White-backed Munias in the University Compound. A Large Hawk-cuckoo began its summer stay in the Lam Tsun Valley.

April was a magnificent month for migrants. On the Mai Po marshes there was a Spoon-billed Sandpiper, two reports of Australian Curlew, Turnstones and Curlew-Sandpipers. Four Bee-eaters (the third record for the Colony) and a White-cheeked Drongo were spectacular visitors to the Mai Po marshes and Little Terns were reported from here and from Luen Tak. "Hundreds, if not thousands" of Red-necked Phalaropes were reported from Hong Kong waters, and even right inside the Harbour. Broad-billed Rollers were seen twice, and a Forest Wagtail, a Ferruginous Flycatcher and an Eye-browed Thrush were seen in Ping Shan wood. The lovely Narcissus Flycatcher was reported from Hong Kong Island twice and from Cheung Chau, whilst the third Colony record of the Japanese Paradise Flycatcher was made at Castle Peak.

The big surprise in May was the report of a Rufous Woodpecker from Repulse Bay, a new record for the Colony. A pair of Great Egrets were seen at a nest at Yuen Long (later to raise two young safely) and a Chinese Pipit's nest with 5 eggs (all to hatch and fly successfully) was found near the Castle Peak Hotel. Another report of Australian Curlew came from Luen Tak and it was during this month that some idea of the numbers of Black-throated Laughing-thrush on Hong Kong Island began to be realized.

Despite the rain in June, bird-watchers still managed to get out, and the first reports of Fork-tailed Sunbirds began to come in from Tai Po Kau. This was a new Colony record, and eventually it transpired that a family party could be seen regularly in any one of three gardens as the birds flew from one feeding ground to another. A nest of a Bare-footed Collared Scops Owl was found with two young on The Peak, a young Indian Cuckoo was found in the nest of a Black Drongo on Stonecutters, and Reef Egrets were reported nesting on Waglan and Lamtong Island.

A pair of Crimson-legged Crakes, a new Colony record, were seen near Tai Po in July, and an extraordinary report of a pair of Red-flanked Bluetails with two young came from the Tai Po Kau Forestry Reserve. Upland Pipits, previously only reported from the upper slopes of Tai Mo Shan, were found to be widespread there and also on Castle Peak and near Sunset Peak Camp on Lantau.

August was very dull except for a small return visit of Red-necked Phalaropes to Mirs Bay. During September, there were four reports of Forest Wagtail, several reports of Broad-billed Rollers and Ince's Paradise Flycatchers, a Crest-

ed Kingfisher was seen at Lok Ma Chau, and at Mai Po there was a Marsh Sandpiper and a Three-coloured Munia, the latter a new Colony record if not an "escape." A Watercock was flushed on Ping Shan marshes and six Red-rumped Swallows were seen at Crest Hill. At the end of the month, the first reports of Jays and Burmese Red Turtle-doves heralded the unusual numbers reported in October.

Migrants were again plentiful and exciting in October, and amongst the more interesting birds seen were Pheasant-tailed Jacana, Grey-headed Lapwing and Sand-martins on the marshes, Garganey and Merlin at Mai Po, a Serpent-eagle and an Ashy Drongo near Sai Kung, a Red-footed Falcon on Tai Mo Shan (a new Colony record), Bitterns from three places, and a Verditer Flycatcher and a Robin-Flycatcher together at South Bay.

In November, the forerunners of a rush of Chestnut Bulbuls arrived, and a pair of Rufous Woodpeckers were seen in the Lam Tsun Valley. A Grey-headed Lapwing was reported from Yuen Long, and a male Fire-breasted Flowerpecker from the University Compound. Two nests of the White-bellied Sea-eagle, both containing two eggs, were found at Cape Collinson and Steep Island.

The year came to an end with many interesting records, including Black Stork and White Ibis twice each, a Scaup, five Shelduck, an Avocet (only the second Colony record), and a Lapwing, all from the Mai Po marshes; a pair of Mandarin and a pair of Coot at Tai Lam Chung Reservoir; a pair of Rufous Woodpeckers and a Black-naped Green Woodpecker in the Lam Tsun Valley; a pair of Bonelli's Eagles for a week near Sek Kong Village; a Crested Kingfisher at Tai Tam; eight Red-rumped Swallows at Yuen Long; a male Fire-breasted Flowerpecker at Tai Po Kau and, finally, a Coot at Hebe Haven on New Year's Eve.

To comment on the above summary is almost superfluous. It speaks for itself in the quality and quantity of rare and beautiful birds seen. But the real success of the year is due to all those observers who not only went out and saw the birds, but who afterwards sent in their records. The volume of reports for 1959 was double that of 1958, and this despite the fact that only a very few more observers did send in reports. This has made the task of the Hon. Recorder more difficult but much more rewarding, and it is hoped that the increase will continue.

A.M.M.

FIELD STUDIES

(a) Nest Record Cards (BTO type)

Cards have been filled-in for the following species so far:—

	Up to 1958	1959	Total
Yellow Bittern	—	2	2
Black-eared Kite	—	4	4
Spotted Dove	—	3	3
Indian Cuckoo	—	1	1
Bare-footed Collared Scops Owl	—	1	1
Malay House-swift	—	1	1
White-breasted Kingfisher	—	2	2
House Swallow	3	1	4
Black Drongo	—	1	1
Chinese Starling	—	1	1
Crested Mynah	—	2	2
Chinese Bulbul	1	5	6
Crested Bulbul	2	3	5
Hwamei	—	2	2
Tailor-bird	—	1	1
Yellow-bellied Wren-warbler	3	—	3
Fantail Warbler	1	—	1
Magpie-robin	—	1	1
Violet Whistling-thrush	—	2	2
Chinese Pipit	—	1	1
Spotted Munia	—	1	1
	10	35	45

(b) Breeding Census of Ardeidae

During the 1959 season, counts or estimates were made at all the known Ardeidae colonies in Hong Kong. The table below shows the colonies, the species breeding in them and the numbers of occupied nests. The grid references are of the approximate centre of each colony and are taken from the maps on UTM Grid, Series L8811, 1/25,000, Hong Kong and the New Territories, GSGS-edn 1.

Colony	Yellow Bittern	Chinese Pond Heron	Cattle Egret	Little Green Heron	Little Egret	Lesser Egret	Swinhoe's Egret	Great Egret
Wong Uk-Yuen Long JV 950856	—	60	28	—	24	??	4	—
Shan Pui-Yuen Long JV 949861	—	9+	28	—	90	20	5	1
Mai Po Village JV 974906	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mai Po Marshes JV 949912	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Luen Tak Marshes JV 920882	10+	—	—	1?	—	—	—	—
Sha Tau Kok KV 125946	—	72	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hang Ha Po KV 058866	—	1?	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hung Uk Tsuen KV 916851	—	30	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sheung Shui KV 047919	—	25	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nam Wai-Castle Peak HQ 074828	—	??	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	25+	201+	56	1?	114	20	9	1

(c) Selected Species

This scheme of selecting several species for particular study during the following year has met with some success. The aim is to clarify the status of each species selected, with especial reference to breeding. It is intended to study the same species over a period of several years, so that only minor additions or subtractions will be made to the list each year. The species selected for the current year will be marked in the Systematic List of the previous year's Report.

New Enquiries for 1960

(d) Song-period Chart

It is intended to produce a Song-period Chart based on observations made up to and including 1960. All observers are requested to make a particular note of the dates between which they hear any birds singing or calling (e.g. Hwamei sings, Francolin and Koel call). Dates may be precise, or may indicate which week of which month the song or call was heard.

(e) 'Pink' Plumage in the Chinese Starling

A request has been received from Mrs. B. P. Hall of the British Museum (Natural History) for field observations

from the Far East on a pinkish colour-phase in the Chinese Starling. The phase has so far only been studied in skins, and preliminary examination indicates that the colouration may be due to an unusual external colouring agent. Anyone who can study this species in the field, especially after the post-breeding moult, is asked to note full details and send them to the Hon. Recorder in a separate report. Any member going home on leave is invited to meet Mrs. Hall to view the skins which started the investigation.

(f) **Colouration of the 'Soft Parts' of breeding Ardeidae**

It has been known for some time that the colour of the "soft parts", i.e., bill, facial skin, legs and feet, of egrets and herons is liable to change during the breeding season.

Since identification of some species is mainly dependant on such colours, it is important to know when and to what colours these parts undergo a change.

Anyone who can study these points at an egretty during the breeding season is asked to make particular notes, and if possible to watch the changes, if any, in particular birds at individual, recognizable nests.

A.M.M.

Systematic List of Birds Reported in Hong Kong During 1959

Abbreviations

- B = Breeding proved in 1959. Nest and eggs or young seen.
B? = Breeding strongly suspected in 1959.
LTV = Lam Tsun Valley.
NT = New Territories
TPK = Tai Po Kau
UA = Hong Kong University Area.
Res = Reservoir.
x = Selected Species.

Some Bird Watching areas defined.

Mai Po Marshes: the area west of the road from Lok Ma Chau through Mai Po Village to Chuk Yuen Village, down to Deep Bay.

Luen Tak Marshes: the area of reclamation 1½ miles north of Ping Shan Village, on the edge of Deep Bay.

Lam Tsun Valley: the valley through which passes Route One.

Hong Kong University Area: the compound of the University itself and the hillside above it between the two sets of filter beds at the west end of Robinson Road.

Pokfulam: the coastal strip between Mount Davis and Waterfall Bay plus the lower half of the Pokfulam Reservoir valley.

Arrangement of species

An attempt has been made this year to arrange the species according to the Wetmore Order. In addition, a considerable number of changes to both English and scientific names have been made to bring the Hong Kong List into line with other Far Eastern Lists. Nearly all the very considerable amount of work involved in this has been done by Flight-Sergeant A. D. Macdonald.

Any temporary inconvenience which this re-arrangement may cause members is regretted. The odd-looking numbers used for each species refer to La Touche's "Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China" (London, 1925-34), which is still the main work of reference for Hong Kong bird-watchers. It is hoped that the use of these La Touche numbers will help bridge the gap for those in the Colony who are unaccustomed to the Wetmore Order, until the new Hong Kong Checklist is published later in 1960.

Observers

After each report, the initials of the observer concerned are given. The names of all who have contributed to this Report may be found at the end.

743 Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Deep Bay: up to c.25 birds on several occasions until March 9th. Up to six birds from November 15th to the end of the year (several observers).

747 Little Grebe *Podiceps ruficollis*

Tai Lam Chung Res: up to 15 birds seen until March 14th, and up to 34 birds from December 5th to the end of the year (JLCB, AMM). Shumchun River: two on January 24th (JNH, AMM). H.M.S. Tamar: one killed on January 29th (per JNH). Shatin: one on May 10th (EDW). Ho Chung: three on October 6th (JC) and one on November 17th (AMM). H.K. Harbour: one "probable" on December 5th (EDW).

658 Spotted-Billed Pelican *Pelecanus philippensis*

Mai Po Marshes: seen on six occasions up to April 16th. Maximum numbers were c.20 on January 18th (AMM, EDW, BCW). One soaring at a great height on October 11th (Society outing). Poi Toi Group: one flying north-east on December 18th (per JNH).

659 Southern Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Winter visitor, common, mainly to the Deep Bay area but also reported from Lamma Island, Hayling Chau, Ma Wan, Reef Island, Tai Lam Chung Res, Castle Peak Bay and Kai Tak. Reports were normally up to ten birds, but the following unprecedented gatherings were reported from Deep Bay: c.100 in a tight fishing group on January 11th,

and c.500 on and around two small islands off Mong Tseng at high tide on February 1st (AMM). Last reported, from Lamma Island: two on March 16th (JLCB, JNH, EDW). First reported, from Lamma Channel: one on October 5th (RBA).

x 695 Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis (B)*

Summer visitor to the Deep Bay Marshes: seen frequently from April 26th to October 6th (several observers). Two nests seen by three observers on May 18th. One contained eggs and the other young (Society outing).

696 Chestnut Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*

Sha Lo Tung: one on April 18th. Shatin: one on May 10th (EDW). Kam Tin: one on July 17th. Mai Po Marshes: one immature on September 13th (AMM).

699 Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Mai Po Marshes: one on March 14th and April 18th (JNH), two on 26th (AMM, BCW), and c. five flying around calling at dusk on October 31st. Tide Cove: two in flight calling at dusk on October 5th. Victoria Peak: flight calls heard at midnight on October 26th, by an observer who knows the call quite well (JNH).

x 688 Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus (B)*

Resident, common locally in summer but less so in winter. Breeds at several heronries in the NT. Reported also from Happy Valley: c.15 on April 19th to 21st. Kai Tak: one on April 25th (per JNH). Homantin: an immature on June 2nd (ADM). Stonecutters: five on October 6th (AMM).

x 699 Cattle Egret *Ardeola ibis (B)*

Summer resident, breeding in the Yuen Long egretty. First recorded, from Ping Shan Marshes: one in full plumage on March 15th. Last recorded, from Ho Chung: two on November 12th (AMM). Reported also from Plover Cover and Waglan.

x 691 Little Green Heron *Butorides striatus (B?)*

Deep Bay Marshes: single birds (once three) on several occasions between May 3rd and September 6th (several observers). LTV: one on September 19th. Hebe Haven: one on December 29th (JLCB).

x 685 Little Egret*Egretta garzetta (B)*

Resident, breeding in the Yuen Long egretty. Common all the year round in the Deep Bay marshes, although less so in winter. Reported also from Shatin: two on March 27th (JLCB). Hunghom: seven flying east on April 25th (ADM). Stonecutters: small parties at the end of April, generally flying off west towards Castle Peak (LPJ). Tsun Wan: three on October 12th (ADM).

x 684 Lesser Egret*Egretta intermedia (B)*

Summer resident, breeding in the Yuen Long egretty. Not identified away from the nests (JNH, AMM, AStGW).

x 686 Swinhoe's Egret*Egretta eulophotes (B)*

Summer resident, breeding in the Yuen Long egretty. First recorded from Yuen Long: two on April 25th (AMM).

x 687 Reef Egret*Egretta sacra (B)*

Waglan: a pair apparently nested in the usual place. The empty nest was seen, and local children reported that it had contained eggs earlier in the year (CBT). Lamtong Island: a pair nested successfully in the same spot for at least the third year in succession. One young bird was seen in June (JFB), otherwise reported from many places on the rocky coastline in ones and twos, in every month except August and December (several observers). Cheung Chau: four on March 8th (AMM). Tai Tam Bay: one, of the rare white form, on March 22nd (JLCB).

x 688 Great Egret*Egretta alba (B)*

Common winter visitor to the Deep Bay marshes, with one breeding record. Yuen Long egretty: a pair successfully raised two young, seen at the nest from May 23rd to July 31st (JNH, AMM, AStGW). This is the first breeding record for the Colony.

681 Grey Heron*Ardea cinerea*

Common winter visitor to the Deep Bay marshes. Last recorded, from Mai Po marshes: one on May 18th (Society outing). First recorded, from Mai Po marshes: c. eight on September 27th (AMM). Hebe Haven: one on December 29th and 31st (JLCB, JNH).

680 Purple Heron*Ardea purpurea*

Mai Po Marshes: single birds on April 16th, 19th and 26th (AMM, AStGW, BCW). Ping Shan Marshes: one on

August 3rd and September 17th (JLCB, JNH, EDW), two on October 25th (AMM). Mai Po Marshes: single birds on six occasions between August 9th and November 15th (AMM, AStGW, EDW).

677 Black Stork*Ciconia nigra*

Mai Po Marshes: one on January 11th (BCW), three on December 2nd (JNH) and two on 26th (Society outing). There are eight previous records for the Colony.

678 White Ibis*Threskiornis melanocephala*

Mai Po Marshes: eight on January 18th, two adults on 24th, one on February 15th, seven adults on March 27th, three adults on December 6th and 13 adults on 7th (AMM, EDW).

672 Lesser Spoonbill*Platalea minor*

Mai Po Marshes: three in flight on February 8th (AMM).

718 Mallard*Anas platyrhynchos*

Ping Shan: one shot on October 5th (per JNH). Tolo Harbour: c.70 on November 7th (DH).

719 Yellow-Nib Duck*Anas poecilorhynchos*

Mai Po Marshes: parties fighting in every evening up to March. Up to 50 birds in a party in mid-January. Fighting again from at least November 13th to the end of the year (JNH, BCW). c.10 on November 26th and December 26th (several observers). Hebe Haven: one on November 12th (AMM).

720 Falcated Teal*Anas falcata*

Mai Po Marshes: c.250 on January 18th, c.150 on 24th, c.200 on February 8th and c.200 on March 9th. Two shot on December 4th, c.100 on 7th and c.150 on 26th (several observers).

723 Teal*Anas crecca*

Deep Bay Marshes: parties fighting in every evening up to March, the last birds being reported on April 12th. First seen again on September 13th and up to the end of the year. Largest flocks were c.300 on November 22nd (several observers). Shatin: c.70 on October 17th and again a few days later (DH), one on November 15th (ADM).

725 Garganey*Anas querquedula*

Lok Ma Chau: a male on October 11th. Mai Po Marshes: a young male shot by a local sportsman on October 11th (AMM).

- 722 Wigeon** *Anas penelope*
 Mai Po Marshes: three (two males) on March 27th (AMM).
- 726 Pintail** *Anas acuta*
 Ping Shan Marshes: reported frequently between September 28th and October 16th (JNH). Tide Cove: c.80 on October 4th (DH). Mai Po Marshes: six on December 7th (AMM). Lok Ma Chau: ten on December 29th (JNH).
- 705 Mandarin** *Aix galericulata*
 Tai Lam Chung Res: a pair on December 5th (AMM). This is the fourth record for the Colony.
- 732 Scaup** *Aythya marila*
 Deep Bay: a "probable" party of c.25 seen at a great range on February 15th (AMM). Yuen Long Market: a young male offered for sale, alive, having allegedly been caught in a net on December 24th nearby (per AMM). Mai Po Marshes: a young male on December 26th (Society outing). There is only one previous record for the Colony.
- 741 Red-Breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*
 Mai Po Marshes: up to seven birds, all "brownheads", seen on seven occasions up to March 25th (AMM, BCW), one "brownhead" on December 26th (Society outing). Hayling Chau: two "probables" on the sea on December 5th (JLCB, JNH).
- 716 Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*
 Mai Po Marshes: five on December 7th (AMM).
- x 492 Black-Eared Kite** *Milvus migrans (B)*
 Resident. Local in summer, but very common and widespread in winter. Breeding proved at Stonecutters (two pairs), Rubbish Island, Cape Collinson, The Peak and Pokfulam Res. Valley, whilst additional pairs were strongly suspected to have bred at Stonecutters (four), Rubbish Island (two), Stanley, Big Wave Bay, Lamma Island (two) and High West. Summary: six nests proved and eleven more suspected (several observers). One observer estimates that the real nesting population may well be as high as 30 pairs throughout the Colony (JNH). Stonecutters: the roost was occupied throughout the year. Numbers decreased to c.200 by March 29th, and to c.20 on May 24th. Summer minimum c.12 birds, but build-up of numbers began in late August at

c.38, to c.300 on November 8th, c.500 on December 5th c.800 on 25th and c.1150 on 30th (JNH). Magazine Gap: c.30 to be seen at dusk during November and December, but c.150 roosted between here and Mount Kellett on 30th December.

See also separate report on count on 30th December (JNH).

- 501 Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*
 Fairly common, widespread winter visitor with occasional summer records. Shatin: two on July 11th (JLCB). Otherwise, last reported, from Kowloon and Mai Po Marshes: single birds on March 27th (JLCB, AMM). First reported, from The Peak: one on October 15th (JLCB).

- 506 Sparrow Hawk** *Accipiter nisus*
 Occasional winter visitor, widespread. Last recorded, from UA: one on May 14th (JLCB). First recorded, from Ping Shan Marshes: one on October 19th (Society outing).

- 504 Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*
 Starling Inlet: an immature on March 30th (Society outing). This is the fourth record for the Colony.

- 478 Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos*
 Au Tau Crossroads: one on January 18th (AMM).

- 479 Imperial Eagle** *Aquila heliaca*
 Ping Shan Marshes: one on January 11th (AMM). This is the fifth record for the Colony.

- 481 Spotted Eagle** *Aquila clanga*
 Ping Shan: a pair on January 11th (AMM). Deep Bay Marshes: one or two birds on four occasions from October 11th to the end of the year (several observers). Shatin: one on November 15th (ADM).

- 482 Bonelli's Eagle** *Hieraetus fasciatus*
 Little Sai Wan: two immatures on April 8th (JNH, AMM). Sek Kong Village: a pair daily from December 13th to 20th (BCW). Tai Lam Chung Res: a pair on December 19th, presumably the same as the Sek Kong pair (JLCB).

- x 488 Whitebellied Sea Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucogaster (B)*
 Resident. Reported all the year from many areas between Tap Mun Island and Cheung Chau (several observers). Cape Collinson: a pair with a juvenile on March 8th (JLCB). An empty nest, attended by one adult, found on April 3rd. The same nest, appearing refurbished on November 12th, contained two eggs on 21st, and had one downy eaglet and

one egg (which later proved to be infertile) on December 27th (JNH). Steep Island: a nest containing two eggs was found on November 29th (JDB). Both eggs later hatched, but both chicks came to grief before fledging (JNH).

484 Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela*

Sai Kung: one on October 6th (JC). There are about five previous records for the Colony.

500 Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Winter visitor, regular but never common, mainly to Deep Bay Marshes. Last reported, from Mai Po Marshes: a young male on April 12th (AMM). First reported, from Ho Chung: a male on October 6th (JC). Rarely more than two birds but at Luen Tak on October 16th there were about six birds (JNH).

498 Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucus*

Mai Po Marshes: a young male on January 4th and 24th, an adult male on March 27th (AMM, BCW) and an adult male on November 15th (EDW).

497 Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Deep Bay Marshes: one or two female harriers with broad white rumps were seen on January 24th, February 8th and April 20th, and on several occasions from October 6th to the end of the year (JNH, AMM, AStGW).

461 Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Widespread, but local, in winter with occasional summer records. Ping Shan marshes: one on June 20th (AMM). Otherwise, last recorded, from Rocky Harbour: one on May 3rd (EDW). First recorded, from Tide Cove: one on September 21st (JNH). Reported also from Deep Bay (up to four), Lan Tao, Castle Peak, Ho Chung and Erskine Camp (several observers).

467 Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

LTV: a male on February 1st (EDW). Mai Po Marshes: one on April 20th. Crest Hill: a male on September 15th. Queen's Hill: a female on November 19th (AMM).

464 Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

About fifty reports of single birds (occasionally two) from widespread localities for every month of the year except June (several observers). Whilst there is no evidence of breeding, the presence of birds late in May and in July in suitable areas indicates that the possibility exists (JLCB, JNH).

470 Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Mai Po Marshes: one on October 11th (AMM). Tai Mo Shan at 2,000 ft: one on October 16th (ADM).

473 Red-Footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

Tai Mo Shan at 2,000 ft: a female on October 20th (BCW). This is the first record for the Colony. The previously accepted record was from Bias Bay, which is outside the Colony boundary. Waglan: a "possible" female was seen on October 8th (CBT).

475 Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Fairly common, widespread winter visitor. Last reported, from Tai Mo Shan, at 3,000 ft: one on April 22nd. First reported, from Tai Mo Shan, at 2,000 ft: one on September 28th (ADM).

543 Francolin *Francolinus pintadeanus (B?)*

Common resident, widespread in suitable areas. Tai Tam Bay: several birds calling regularly after dark, on November 1st. Enquiries at the Royal Observatory disclosed that there had been a severe thunder-storm about 300 miles north-west of the Colony at 2300 hours local time that evening (i.e. about 3 hours after the birds were heard calling) and that the wind at that time was from the north-west. The storm must have "triggered the birds off" (JNH).

540 Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Tolo Harbour: one on October 4th (DH). Luen Tak: three on October 19th (AStGW) and four on November 9th (Society outing). Tai Mo Shan at 2,200 ft: one on November 4th (ADM). Middle Hill: one on November 5th (AMM). Mai Po Marshes: eight birds shot by local sportsmen on November 22nd. Similar bags have been recorded on several occasions during this autumn, which is reported to have been a good season (per JNH, AMM). Pak Tam: one on December 31st (JLCB, JNH).

548 South China Button-Quail *Turnix suscitator*

Cloudy Hill: two flushed by pointers on January 3rd (JNH). This is the third record for the Colony. A local sportsman reports that he has seen as many Button-Quail (species ?) as usual whilst out shooting Francolin during the last three months of the year (per JNH).

- 553 Banded Rail** *Rallus striata*
Luen Tak: one on January 11th. Mai Po Marshes: one on April 12th. Mai Po Marshes: on or two on seven occasions between August 16th and November 22nd. Luen Tak: one on November 9th (JLCB, JNH, AMM).
- 558 Crimson-Legged Crake** *Amaurornis akool*
Tai Po Market: a pair in a stream-valley on the evening of July 22nd (JLCB). This is the first record for the Colony.
- 559 White-Breasted Waterhen** *Amaurornis phoenicura (B)*
Resident, widespread in the NT. No reports from H.K. Island. Breeding proved at Shatin (RAP).
- 561 Watercock** *Gallicrex cinerea*
Ping Shan Marshes: one on September 29th (JNH). This is the tenth record for the Colony.
- 563 Coot** *Fulica atra*
Tai Lam Chung Res: a pair on December 5th (AMM). Hebe Haven: one on December 31st (JLCB, JNH). There is only one previous record since 1939.
- 564 Pheasant-Tailed Jacana** *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*
Ping Shan Marshes: one on October 19th (JMR, AStGW). This is the sixth record for the Colony.
- 565 Painted Snipe** *Rostratula benghalensis*
Ping Shan Marshes: six on September 29th, several (including a party of ten) on October 6th (JNH). Cape D'Aguilar: a female on October 1st (JLCB, JC). Yuen Long: two shot on October 9th (per AMM).
- 614 Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*
Mai Po Marshes: one on December 26th (Society outing).
- 615 Grey-Headed Lapwing** *Microsarcops cinereus*
Luen Tak: three on October 6th (JNH). Yuen Long: one on November 9th (AMM, BCW).
- 608 Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*
Winter visitor and passage migrant in small numbers up to twelve mainly to the Deep Bay Marshes. Lamma Island: five or six on March 16th (EDW). Last reported, from Yuen Long: two on May 19th. First reported, from Mai Po Marshes: seven on September 13th (AMM).

- 605 Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*
Common winter visitor and passage migrant to the Deep Bay Marshes. Largest numbers were c.400 on March 9th (AMM).
- 612 Greater Sand-Plover** *Charadrius leschenaultii*
Luen Tak Marshes: c.100 on April 7th and several on 18th (AMM). Mai Po Marshes: up to 20 on many occasions between April 16th and May 18th, and up to 50 on several occasions between August 16th and November 1st (several observers). Shatin: c.5 on November 15th (ADM).
- 611 Mongolian Sand-Plover** *Charadrius mongolus*
Luen Tak Marshes: several on April 7th and 18th (AMM). Mai Po Marshes: c.10 on April 19th (AStGW), EDW), one or two on August 16th and one on September 20th (AMM).
- 602 Grey Plover** *Charadrius squatarola*
Mai Po Marshes: 13 on February 8th, one on April 16th and one on May 18th. Two on September 29th, and two on five occasions from November 1st to the end of the year (several observers).
- 613 Asiatic Golden Plover** *Charadrius dominicus*
Mai Po Marshes: one on August 31st (AMM). Sek Kong Camp: six on November 14th, three on 22nd (several observers).
- 601 Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*
Mai Po Marshes: two in full plumage on April 20th; three, including a pair displaying, on May 10th, and one in full plumage on 18th (several observers).
- 654 Fantail Snipe** *Capella gallinago*
Despite the difficulty of assigning sight records to this or the next species, it is considered that the following reports do refer to this species.
Reported from widespread areas up to April 29th and again from September 21st to the end of the year. Maximum numbers reported were from Mai Po Marshes: c.30 on March 11th and from Ping Shan Marshes: "plentiful" on September 29th (several observers). One observer estimates that from reports from local sportsmen, c.2,000 snipe (species?) were shot in the Colony from the last days of August to the end of September (JNH).

- 653 Pintail Snipe** *Capella stenura*
 Sek Kong Valley: ten shot on September 8th (per AMM).
 San Tin: one shot on September 9th. Long Valley: seven
 shot on September 9th. Ping Shan: c.seven shot on Septem-
 ber 29th (JNH).
- 652 Swinhoe's Snipe** *Capella megala*
 Mai Po Marshes: eight on April 29th. Laffan's Plain:
 two on August 15th. Sek Kong Valley: one on September
 3rd, one on 9th (JNH, AMM).
- 650 Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*
 Mai Po: two on January 4th (AMM, BCW). Sek Kong
 Valley: one shot on January 4th. Shatin: one on February
 25th (JNH). Shatin: one shot on October 17th and five
 more at intervals to the end of the year (DH). Ping Shan:
 one on October 25th (AMM, EDW). LTV: one shot on
 November 24th. Snowdon: one on December 29th (JNH).
- 619 Curlew** *Numenius arquata*
 Mai Po Marshes: 15 on February 8th, eight on 15th,
 and one or two between April 26th and June 14th (several
 observers). Waglan: flocks heard calling in flight on the
 nights of August 27th and 30th (CBT). Mai Po Marshes:
 up to nine between August 31st and October 11th (several
 observers).
- 620 Australian Curlew** *Numenius madagascariensis*
 Mai Po Marshes: one on April 11th and four on 20th.
 Luen Tak Marshes: two on May 3rd (AMM). There are
 two previous records for the Colony.
- 621 Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*
 All reports are from the Deep Bay Marshes. Reported
 between March 9th and June 14th, with maximum numbers
 of c.35 on May 10th, and again between August 9th and
 October 19th, with maximum numbers of c.30 on September
 6th (several observers).
- 624 Bar-Tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*
 Luen Tak: two on April 18th. Mai Po Marshes: three
 on April 20th, six on September 20th, one on November 15th
 (AMM).
- 628 Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*
 Mai Po Marshes: two on January 4th, one on March
 11th. Ping Shan Marshes: one or two birds on January
 11th, February 8th and March 15th. Yuen Long Fishponds:
 one on April 20th. Reported from several places, including

the Deep Bay Marshes, Sek Kong Valley and Tai Lam Chung
 Res, from September 14th to the end of the year. Maximum
 numbers were at Mai Po Marshes; c.15 on October 31st
 (several observers).

- 629 Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*
 Deep Bay Marshes: up to c.25 between April 7th and
 May 3rd and again up to c.25 between August 3rd and No-
 vember 9th (several observers). Castle Peak: one heard
 calling in flight on the night of May 1st (AMM). Shatin:
 one on May 10th (ADM).
- 627 Common Sandpiper** *Tringa hypoleucos*
 Winter visitor and passage migrant in small numbers,
 widespread. Last reported, from Shek O: one on May 16th
 First reported, from Ping Shan Marshes: three on August
 3rd (JLCB, JNH).
- 631 Redshank** *Tringa totanus*
 Fairly common spring and autumn migrant to the Deep
 Bay Marshes with occasional winter records. Mai Po Mar-
 shes: c.30 on January 11th, c.25 on 17th, one on 24th, 11 on
 February 1st and several on 15th, and an injured bird on
 November 22nd. Otherwise all reports fall between April
 12th and May 18th and again between August 3rd and Sep-
 tember 20th (several observers).
- 632 Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*
 Mai Po Marshes: seen on nine occasions up to May 18th,
 the largest numbers were c.85 on January 18th; c. 20 on
 December 7th (several observers).
- 634 Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*
 Mai Po Marshes: seen on many occasions up to May
 18th, the largest numbers were c.70 on February 8th. Again
 seen frequently from August 31st to the end of the year,
 the largest number being **c.20 on November 15th**. Luen Tak
 Marshes: one on February 10th, September 6th and 7th (sev-
 eral observers).
- 633 Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*
 Mai Po Marshes: one or two on September 13th, seven
 on November 1st (AMM).
- 630 Grey-Rumped Sandpiper** *Tringa brevipes*
 Mai Po Marshes: up to c.20 between April 20th and
 May 18th, four on August 16th and at least one on Septem-
 ber 13th. Luen Tak: c.6 on May 3rd (several observers).

626 Terek Sandpiper*Tringa terck*

Luen Tak Marshes: one on April 7th and two on 18th (AMM). Mai Po Marshes: up to 20 between April 16th and May 18th, and up to ten between August 16th and September 20th (several observers).

639 Eastern Little Stint*Calidris ruficollis*

Passage migrant to the Deep Bay Marshes, sometimes in large numbers. Seen on seven occasions between April 16th and May 18th, when the largest numbers recorded were from Mai Po Marshes: c.25 on April 16th. Yuen Long Fishponds: c.50 on April 20th. Mai Po Marshes: seven on August 16th, two on September 6th and one or two on 20th (several observers).

641 Temminck's Stint*Calidris temminckii*

Luen Tak Marshes: c.8 on April 7th (AMM). Ping Shan Marshes: c.25 on October and four on November 9th. Yuen Long c.12 on November 9th (several observers).

642 Sharp-Tailed Sandpiper*Calidris acuminata*

Mai Po Marshes: four "probables" on March 14th (JNH) one on September 20th. Luen Tak Marshes: one on April 7th (AMM).

644 Dunlin*Calidris alpina*

Mai Po Marshes: several on March 9th. Luen Tak: one on March 15th. Mai Po Marshes: one on September 20th and twelve on November 15th (AMM).

643 Curlew-Sandpiper*Calidris ferrugineus*

Yuen Long Fishponds: four on April 20th. Mai Po Marshes: four on April 26th (AMM, BCW). Probably the same group on both occasions as the combinations of plumage variations were the same.

638 Spoon-Billed Sandpiper*Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*

Mai Po Marshes: one bird, with an injured leg, on April 26th (AMM, BCW). This is the sixth record for the Colony.

647 Broad-Billed Sandpiper*Limicola falcinellus*

Luen Tak Marshes: one on April 7th (AMM). Mai Po Marshes: three on May 18th (Society outing), one on August 16th, six on September 6th, nine on 13th, seven on 20th (JNH, AMM, AStGW).

649 Red-Necked Phalarope*Phalaropus lobatus*

Mirs Bay to Waglan: hundreds, if not thousands, very tame, reported by naval officers of the H.K. Flotilla between April 11th and 16th (per JNH). Junk Bay: one on April 19th (JMR). H.K. Harbour: 20-30 seen from the Star Ferry in heavy rain on April 21st (EDW). Lam Tong Island: small flocks between here and Cape Collinson on April 22nd (CBT). Green Island: "plenty" on April 24th (per JNH). Hayling Chau: eight on April 30th (JNH). Cape D'Aguiar: c.20 close inshore on April 30th (per JNH). Mirs Bay: several on August 19th (JNH). Mai Po Marshes: one on August 31st (AMM). Lan Tao: several south of the island on September 18th (per JNH). Lamma Island: one on September 27th (JNH).

617 Avocet*Recurvirostra avosetta*

Mai Po Marshes: one on December 6th (EDW). This is the second record for the Colony.

573 Collared Pratincole*Glareola pratincole*

Mai Po Marshes: a pair on May 10th (AMM). Luen Tak: eight on August 3rd (JLCB, JNH, EDW). Mai Po Marshes: four on August 9th, c.20 on 22nd (EDW) and four on 31st (AMM).

575 Vega Herring Gull*Larus argentatus vegae*

Winter visitor, sometimes in large numbers, mainly to H.K. harbour, but also reported from Deep Bay, Castle Peak Bay, Tide Cove, Tai O and Lamma. Last reported, from near Lamma Island: one on March 16th. First reported, from near Lamma Island and Green Island: many on October 17th (JNH, AMM). The majority of birds recognized have been of this (the pink-legged) race.

574 Mongolian Herring Gull*Larus argentatus mongolicus*

Winter visitor, sometimes in fairly large numbers but normally less than the last race. All reports have come from H.K. Harbour or near Lamma Island. Last reported, from H.K. Harbour: a few on March 8th (AMM). First reported, from several areas around H.K. Island: many at the end of October (per JNH).

578 Slaty-Backed Gull*Larus schistisagus*

Deep Bay, off Sha Kong: one on January 1st (AMM). This is the first record for the Colony, although it has been reported doubtfully on a few previous occasions.

- 581 Black-Headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*
 Deep Bay: common winter visitor, maximum numbers c.250 on January 11th. Last reported, from Castle Peak Bay: c.15 on March 1st. First reported, from Mai Po Marshes: c.35 on November 15th (several observers). Lamma Channel: "a gull with a black head" on September 20th must have been of this species (FJHR).
- 587 White-Winged Black Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus*
 Mai Po Marshes: two adults in full plumage, during a period of strong wind and very heavy rain, on June 14th (AMM).
- 589 Gull-Billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*
 Mai Po Marshes: up to eleven birds on six occasions between April 12th and May 18th (several observers). Castle Peak Bay: c.18 on September 5th (AMM).
- 588 Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia*
 Mai Po Marshes: one on April 20th (AMM), four or five on June 7th (EDW).
- 596 Black-Naped Tern** *Sterna sumatrana*
 Mai Po Marshes: a large flock of at least 100, during a period of strong winds and heavy rain, on June 14th (AMM).
- 595 Little Tern** *Sterna albifrons*
 Luen Tak Marshes: c.20 on April 18th. Mai Po Marshes: three on April 20th (AMM).
- Terns (species?)
 Many terns have been reported during the autumn, in particular in the last two weeks of September, in Lamma Channel and other H.K. waters, none of which could be identified (several observers).
- 520 Rufous Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia orientalis*
 Shouson Hill: one on March 11th and two on April 15th (JLCB). Pokfulam: one on March 27th. Route Twisk: one on August 17th. Mai Po: one on September 15th (ADM). UA: one on September 24th. Tai Tam Res.: one on October 4th (JLCB). Mai Po: at least one on November 22nd (AMM). Local sportsmen report these birds on many occasions but it is difficult to get exact information.
- 518 Spotted Dove** *Streptopelia chinensis* (B)
 Common resident, widespread. Breeding proved at Stonecutters (two nests) and Chung Hum Kok (JLCB, JNH).

- 523 Burmese Red Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia tranquebarica*
 Chung Hum Kok: one on September 15th (JLCB). Ping Shan: three on September 29th and one on October 13th (JNH). Stonecutters: two parties of four and three on October 2nd, a flock of c.20 on 4th, and a flock of seven on 6th (AMM). Mai Po: one on October 11th. Luen Tak: three on October 19th (JMR, AStGW). Tai Lam Chung Res.: a pair on October 19th (AMM).
- 418 Rose-Ringed Paroquet** *Psittacula krameri* (B?)
 Small parties, up to twelve birds, reported from the area Murray Barracks to UA during the year. Mong Tseng: one in flight on April 26th (EDW). Queen Mary's Hospital: one on October 13th (JLCB).
- 402 Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*
 Ping Shan: one on May 3rd (AMM). The Peak: a "probable" bird on May 13th and October 21st. Shatin: a "probable" bird on September 28th (JNH).
- 407 Indian Cuckoo** *Cuculus micropterus* (B)
 Summer visitor, local. First reported, from Ping Shan: one on April 16th (AMM). Reported also from Stonecutters, Lamma Island and Shouson Hill. Breeding proved at Stonecutters, where a young bird was found in the nest of a Black Drongo on June 10th (JNH).
- 408 Large Hawk Cuckoo** *Cuculus sparveroides* (B?)
 Summer visitor, local. LTV: first reported, calling all night on March 21st/22nd (AMM). Thereafter, heard and seen by several members until June 7th. Two birds were heard calling on April 11th (EDW). Tai Tam Tuk: one heard calling on April 16th (EDW).
- 410 Burmese Plaintive Cuckoo** *Cacomantis merulinus* (B?)
 Summer resident, widespread but local. First recorded, from Ping Shan: one calling on February 15th. Last recorded, from Mai Po: one on September 27th (AMM). Elsewhere, reported from Shatin, Tai Po, TPK, LTV, Fanling, Castle Peak and Shouson Hill.
- 413 Koel** *Eudynamis scolopacea* (B?)
 Summer resident, common locally. First recorded, from Ping Shan: a male seen on February 15th (AMM). Last recorded, from Tai Tam Harbour: a female on October 12th (JLCB).

414 Crow-Pheasant *Centropus sinensis* (B)

Common resident, widespread. Breeding proved at UA and Aberdeen (JLCB).

415 Lesser Crow-Pheasant *Centropus bengalensis* (B)

Less common resident than previous species, but also widespread. Breeding proved on Tai Mo Shan (JLCB).

458 Whitely's Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides*

LTV: single birds reported on six occasions between March 22nd and August 23rd (JLCB, JNH, AMM).

451 Bare-Footed Collared Scops Owl *Otus bakkamoena* (B)

Mai Po Marshes: one on January 23rd (BCW). Severn Road, The Peak: heard every night during February and March (AStGW). Shouson Hill: one seen on April 15th and calling on 21st. TPK: one calling on September 19th (JLCB). Homantin: up to three birds seen by street-light hunting, between October 28th and 31st (ADM). Chater Hall, Conduit Road: heard calling during November and December (EDW). The Peak: breeding proved at Peak Mansions, where a nest containing two well-grown young was found at the head of a drain-pipe on June 5th. The young flew successfully. Calling was reported from this area from January 13th until June 30th (JNH, INT).

437 Japanese Nightjar *Caprimulgus indicus*

Pokfulam Res: one heard calling between March 28th and June 1st (JNH, AMM). From August 22nd to the end of the year, nightjars of this or the next species were seen on several occasions at Sek Kong Airstrip, Tide Cove, Deep Bay Marshes, Ting Kau, Route Twisk and The Peak, but none could be positively identified (RBA, JNH, AMM).

438 Swinhoe's Nightjar *Caprimulgus affinis* (B?)

Castle Peak Hotel: one bird heard calling frequently between March 8th and May 22nd. A second bird was heard about one mile from the first on May 22nd (AMM).

433 Large White-Rumped Swift *Apus pacificus* (B?)

Reported from widespread areas in every month of the year except January, often in parties of ten or more even in mid-summer. Waglan: a nest containing three young "white-rumped swifts" was pulled down by some local children, but was not seen by any observers. Swifts are seen every day here during the breeding season (CBT). Whether this report refers to this or the next species has yet to be proved.

x 434 Malay House-Swift *Apus affinis* (B)

Reported from widespread areas in every month of the year except January and February. Large numbers on migration. Crest Hill: during considerable movement to the South-West on September 14th and 15th, it was estimated that this species outnumbered the last species by ten to one (AMM). Breeding proved at Aberdeen, Tsun Wan and Yuen Long. Castle Peak: a pair which evicted a pair of House Swallows on April 3rd were themselves evicted by Tree-Sparrows on April 15th (AMM).

x 423 Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

All reports are from the Ping Shan-Luen Tak Marshes where one or two birds were seen in nearly every month of the year (several observers).

424 Crested Kingfisher *Ceryle lugubris*

Lok Ma Chau: one on September 24th (JC). Tai Tam Bay: one female on December 20th (JNH).

425 Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Resident, common locally, but no direct evidence of breeding. Reports come from widespread areas, from H.K. Harbour and Dockyard to the Deep Bay Marshes.

426 White-Breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis* (B)

Resident, common locally. Breeding proved at UA, TPK and Tsai Tseng, but strongly suspected from at least ten other areas on H.K. Island and the NT.

x 427 Black-Capped Kingfisher *Halcyon pileata* (B)

Fairly common locally in winter, with occasional summer records. Breeding proved at Shouson Hill (JLCB), and also reported during the summer from LTV and Sha Tau Kok.

421 Philippine Islands Bee-Eater *Merops superciliosus*

Mai Po Marshes: four birds on April 19th (AStGW). This is the third record for the Colony.

419 Broad-Billed Roller *Eurystomus orientalis*

LTV: one on April 14th (AMM). Pokfulam: one on April 29th (JMR). Pokfulam Res: one on September 17th (RBA). TPK: one on September 18th and 19th (JLCB). Magazine Gap Road: two on September 24th (JNH). UA: one or two birds on five occasions between September 28th and October 14th (JLCB et al). Stonecutters: single birds on September 30th, October 5th and 8th (AMM). Route Twisk: one on October 11th (AStGW). Jubilee Res: one on October 20th (AMM).

400 Great Barbet*Megalaima virens (B)*

Resident, local. Reported from Victoria, UA, The Peak, Happy Valley, TPK, LTV, Sha Tau Kok, Bride's Pool and Tai Mo Shan. Breeding proved at Church Guest House (see separate report) and on Tai Mo Shan. Happy Valley: six together in one tree on October 27th (EH).

382 Black-Naped Green Woodpecker*Picus canus*

LTV, Tai Om: one on December 6th (AStGW). This is the ninth record for the Colony.

391 Rufous Woodpecker*Micropternus brachyurus*

Repulse Bay: one on May 6th (JLCB). LTV, Tai Om: a pair on November 22nd (Society outing) and on December 6th (AStGW). These are the first records for the Colony.

399 Wryneck*Jynx torquilla*

Sek Kong: one on February 2nd (BCW). Tsai Tseng: two on March 15th. Mai Po Marshes: one on March 25th October 25th (AMM, EDW), four on November 9th (Society outing) and one on December 16th (EDW).

365 South China Skylark*Alauda gulgula*

Ping Shan Marshes: six on January 11th, twelve on February 8th and 15th (AMM). Tai Mo Shan: two on May 5th, and one on 6th (ADM). Mai Po Marshes: one flying south on November 15th. Ping Shan Marshes: c.15 on December 20th (AMM).

333 House Swallow*Hirundo rustica (B)*

Common summer visitor with occasional reports of birds in winter. Yuen Long Fishponds: two on January 10th and 18th (AMM). Widespread and numerous from February 7th onwards until mid-November. Mong Tseng: two on December 16th (EDW). Mai Po: two on December 26th (Society outing). Yuen Long Fishponds: c.20 on December 26th and several on 27th (AMM).

337 Red-Rumped Swallow*Hirundo daurica*

Crest Hill: six together flying west on September 15th. Yuen Long Fishponds: about eight on December 26th, and one still present on 27th (AMM).

327 House Martin*Delichon urbica*

Ping Shan: six on February 14th (BCW).

331 Sand Martin*Riparia riparia*

Yuen Long Fishponds: one on October 11th and 31st (AMM). Mai Po Marshes: c.20 on October 11th (Society outing). Ping Shan Marshes: one on October 16th (JNH) and c.40 on 19th (Society outing).

171 Rufous-Backed Shrike*Lanius schach (B)*

Common resident, widespread, and migrant in some numbers. Breeding proved at Pokfulam, The Peak, Tsai Tseng, Mai Po, Shatin and Tai Po. Examples of the "Dusky" form have been reported from many areas. Tai Po: a normal adult was seen feeding a "Dusky" chick out of the nest on July 22nd (JLCB). Shatin: a "mixed" pair were found attending a nest containing one "Dusky" and three normal young (RAP).

176 Japanese Brown Shrike*Lanius cristatus superciliosus*

Lamma Island: one on April 19th (JNH). UA: one on April 21st and 22nd (per JLCB). Victoria Peak: a party of at least 12 on May 1st (RBA). Severn Road, The Peak: one on August 31st (AStGW). Lamma Island: one on September 9th. South Bay: one on September 15th (JLCB). Ha Tsuen: one on September 20th. Sek Kong Camp: one on September 21st (AMM). Ping Shan: one on September 29th. Lamma Island: one on October 2nd (EDW). Stonecutters: one on October 2nd (AMM).

177 Philippine Brown Shrike*Lanius cristatus lucionensis*

Yuen Long: one on April 20th (AMM). The Peak: two separate birds on April 30th (JLCB, JNH). Severn Road, The Peak: one on May 1st (AStGW). Shatin: one on May 10th (EDW). Ping Shan: one on August 31st and September 17th (EDW). Lamma Island: one on September 9th (JLCB). Homantin: one on October 1st (ADM). Stonecutters: one on October 2nd. Lok Ma Chau: one on October 11th. Sek Kong: one on December 11th and 31st (AMM).

253 Black-Naped Oriole*Oriolus chinensis (B)*

Summer visitor, very local, with occasional reports of wintering birds. Fanling: one or two on December 20th (DL). Breeding proved at TPK, Tai Po and UA (JLCB). Recorded from H.K. Island (several places), TPK, Tai Po, Fanling Golf Course, Shataukok, Tsai Tseng and Castle Peak. First reported, from UA: a female on April 9th (JLCB). Last reported, apart from the wintering record, from Tai Po: five on or about September 14th (DB).

191 Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus (B)*

Summer resident, common locally, with occasional reports of birds in winter. Pokfulam: one on December 25th (EDW). Stonecutters: one on December 30th (JNH). Otherwise all records fall between April 19th and October 27th. Sha Tau Kok: a party of c.30 on May 10th (BCW). Breeding proved at Stonecutters (an estimated 18 pairs), The Peak and Big Wave Bay. Stonecutters: a nest was found to contain a young Indian Cuckoo on June 10th (JNH).

192 Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus salangensis*

Pak Wai: one on October 6th (JC).

193 White-Cheeked Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus leucogenis*

Mai Po Marshes: one on April 26th (AMM, BCW).

194 Hair-Crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentotta (B)*

Summer resident, common locally, with occasional reports of birds in winter. Jubilee Res: one on January 7th. Shatin: one on January 11th. Ping Shan: one on February 17th (JMR, AMM). Ho Chung: two on December 14th (JLCB). Otherwise, all records fall between April 14th and October 31st. Breeding proved at Lady Clementi's Ride, LTV, TPK and Severn Road. Nathan Road, Kowloon: one seen flying west above the Shamrock Hotel on October 1st (JC).

258 Silky Starling *Sturnus sericeus*

Fairly common winter visitor to the NT. Again no reports from H.K. Island. Last recorded, from Ho Chung: a few on March 27th (AStGW). First recorded, from Ping Shan: c.10 on November 9th (Society outing).

261 Chinese Starling *Sturnus sinensis (B)*

Fairly common summer visitor, local, with occasional reports of wintering birds. Ping Shan: one on December 16th (EDW). Otherwise, first reported from Ho Chung: 10-20 on March 27th. Last reported, from Ping Shan: several on November 9th (ADM).

263 Black-Necked Starling *Sturnus nigricollis (B)*

Fairly common resident in the NT, widespread in the north and north-west areas only. Still no reports from H.K. Island. Breeding proved at Kam Tin and Tai Po (several nests in electric pylons).

— **Indian Mynah** *Acridotheres tristis (B?)*

Mong Tseng: reported on several occasions from January to April, including an unprecedented flock of c.30 birds on February 10th (Society outing). One on August 31st (EDW). Ping Shan: several on October 19th (JLCB, EDW).

264 Crested Mynah *Acridotheres cristatellus (B)*

Common resident, widespread. Some flocks up to 100 in winter.

15 Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Shatin: six on January 11th (JMR). Pokfulam: three on September 25th (RBA). Ho Chung: three on October 6th (JC). Jubilee Res: at least three on October 20th (AMM). These appear to be the first autumn reports for the Colony.

11 Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythrorhyncha (B)*

H.K. Island: reported as being more common than in the previous two years (EDW). Reported from Government House, UA, The Peak, and generally out as far as Cape D'Aguilar in suitable wooded localities. NT: reported from LTV, Fanling Golf Course, TPK, Tai Lam Chung Res, Shatin, Jubilee Res, Clearwater Bay and Sai Kung. Breeding proved at Severn Road, UA, and Fanling Golf Course.

8 Magpie *Pica pica (B)*

Fairly common resident, widespread. Occasional flocks up to 14 strong seen in winter. Shouson Hill: a bird was seen to fly into a tree, on May 21st, carrying something in its claws. The bird was chased, and dropped its prey, which proved to be a freshly killed adult Hwamei (JLCB, JNH).

x 3 Jungle Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos (B?)*

H.K. Island: seen all the year round and strongly suspected of breeding near Harlech Road and Shouson Hill. Parties of up to ten birds reported, but less common in the Severn Road area than last year. NT: reported throughout the year only from TPK, Shatin and LTV, but numerous and widespread occurrences during winter.

5 Collared Crow *Corvus torquatus (B?)*

Up to five birds together, mainly during the winter months, mostly reported from the Deep Bay Marshes area. Breeding strongly suspected on Lamma Island and on Stonecutters Island. Mai Po Marshes: a gathering of over 50 birds on the mud at the mouth of Shumchun River at low tide on January 24th at dusk (JNH, AMM). (See also 1958 Report).

188 Black-Winged Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina melaschistos*

UA: a male on January 1st (EDW), a female on March 29th (JLCB). Nathan Road, Kowloon: one on October 10th, being mobbed by bulbuls (JC).

187 Ashy Minivet *Pericrocotus divaricatus*

Mai Po: a pair on March 25th (AMM). UA: six on March 29th and 15 on 31st (JLCB). LTV: about nine on March 30th (Society outing). Conduit Road: three on April 2nd (JLCB). Mai Po: a pair on September 20th (AMM).

89 Chestnut Bulbul *Microscelis flavalus*

LTV: a pair seen and heard briefly on February 22nd (JNH, AMM, EDW). Clearwater Bay Road: a flock of 25-30 on November 29th (AStGW). LTV: approximately 8 on November 28th (EDW) and on December 1st (AMM), and 12-20 birds on December 6th (AStGW). South Bay: two on November 29th (JLCB). Mount Parker: heard calling at dusk on December 13th (AStGW). Junk Bay: two on December 18th. Tai Tam area: three groups of two, two and six on December 21st. Shouson Hill: eight on December 28th. Repulse Bay: two on December 28th (JLCB). Tai Mong Tsai: c.12 on December 31st (JLCB, JNH).

90 Red-Vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster* (B)

Common resident, widespread, but inexplicably absent from some suitable areas.

91 Chinese Bulbul *Pycnonotus sinensis* (B)

Abundant resident, widespread. Large flocks of up to 100 from end of October.

94 Crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus* (B)

Common resident, widespread.

57 Black-Faced Laughing Thrush *Garrulax perspicillatus* (B?)

Common resident, wide spread.

59 Black-Throated Laughing Thrush *Garrulax chinensis* (B?)

All reports are from H.K. Island where birds have been seen and/or heard singing almost throughout the year, except for the period August 31st to December 13th. Singing birds were located in ten areas, which are listed here for future reference:—

1. Harlech Road.
2. North of High West.
3. Top of Wanchai Gap Road.
4. Between Aberdeen Reservoir and Stubbs Road.
5. End of Middle Gap Road.
6. Peak Tram between May Road and Barker Road.
7. Lady Clementi's Ride.
8. Wongneichong Res.
9. Below Lugard Road.
10. Bowen Road, just west of junction with Repulse Bay Road.

The above represents a great increase in distribution of this species, almost certainly due to the ability of the observers concerned to recognise the song rather than a spectacular spread (JLCB, JNH, AMM, AStGW, EDW).

65 Hwamei *Garrulax canorus* (B)

Common and widespread resident on H.K. Island. Breeding proved at High West (JLCB). NT: reports are mainly of singing birds from TPK (several), Tai Mo Shan (several), Castle Peak Ranges (four or five), Tai Lam Chung Res (three), Jubilee Res (up to five), Shatin (two) and Tai Mong Tsai (several observers).

166 Ince's Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi*

Severn Road, The Peak: one on August 30th (AStGW). Hang Hau: a male on September 18th (AMM). TPK: two on September 19th (JLCB). Castle Peak: a male on September 26th. Mai Po: a male on September 27th (AMM) and two on October 11th (Society outing).

167 Japanese Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone atrocaudata*

Castle Peak: a male on April 19th (AMM). This is the third record for the Colony.

146 Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa latirostris*

Common winter visitor, widespread. Last reported, from Peak: one on April 30th (JLCB, JNH). First reported, from Harlech Road, The Peak: one on September 1st (JNH). Particularly large numbers were reported from several places in October, including a report from Mai Po: c.40 on October 18th (BCW).

147 Grey-Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa griseisticta*

Pokfulam: one on April 29th (JMR). Severn Road, The Peak: one on May 1st, and a different one on 2nd (AStGW). Tai Mo Shan at 3,000 ft: one on September 25th and October 2nd (ADM). UA: one on October 5th. The Peak: one on October 15th. Mt. Davis: one on October 22nd (JLCB).

- 150 Ferruginous Flycatcher** *Muscicapa ferruginea*
Ping Shan: one on April 14th (AMM).
- 168 Verditer Flycatcher** *Muscicapa thalassina*
South Bay: a female on October 18th (JLCB).
- 151 Red-Breasted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa parva*
Common winter visitor, local but widespread. Last reported, from Ping Shan: a male in full plumage on April 25th (AMM). First reported, from Stanley and Castle Peak: single birds on September 19th (JNH, AMM).
- 152 Robin Flycatcher** *Muscicapa mugimaki*
South Bay: a female on October 18th. TPK: a pair on November 7th (JLCB). LTV: a male and three females on November 22nd (Society outing). Shek Hang: a female on December 31st (JLCB, JNH).
- 154 Narcissus Flycatcher** *Muscicapa narcissina*
Pokfulam: a male on April 29th (JMR). Cheung Chau: a male on April 30th (JNH). UA: a pair on May 1st (JLCB).
- 157 Blue-and-White Flycatcher** *Cyanoptila cyanomelana*
UA: a male on March 19th and 20th (JLCB). LTV: a male on April 14th (AMM). UA: a male on October 23rd (JLCB).
- 241 Chinese Bush Warbler** *Cettia diphone*
LTV: one singing briefly on February 22nd (JNH, AMM, EDW). Pokfulam: one on March 13th (JLCB). Homantin: one on September 30th (ADM).
- 196 Von Schrenck's Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*
Mai Po Marshes: one heard and seen in full song on April 26th (AMM, BCW).
- 195 Great Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*
Mai Po Marshes: one singing on April 16th and another seen. One on 26th (AMM). One in full song on May 18th (Society outing). Castle Peak Bay: one singing on April 24th and 26th (AMM). Mai Po Marshes: up to three on six dates between August 31st and November 15th (AMM). Ping Shan Marshes: one or two seen on four dates between September 21st and November 9th (JNH, AStGW et al). Laffan's Plain: one on September 21st (JNH). Yuen Long Fishponds: one on October 11th (AMM).
- 221 Dusky Warbler** *Phylloscopus fuscatus*
Common winter visitor, widespread. Last reported, from Mai Po Marshes: one on May 10th. First reported, from

Stonecutters: two on October 7th (AMM). Starling Inlet: a bird in full song on March 30th (Society outing).

- 225 Yellow-Browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*
Common winter visitor. Last reported, from Chung Hum Kok: one on May 24th (JLCB). First reported, from Mong Tseng: one on August 31st (EDW).
- 224 Pallas' Warbler** *Phylloscopus proregulus*
Common winter visitor. Last reported, from Ping Shan: a few on April 7th (AMM). First reported, from Sek Kong: one on September 12th (BCW).
- 227 Arctic Warbler** *Phylloscopus borealis*
Sassoon Road: several "probables" on May 24th (AStGW). Kam Tin: three on September 14th (ADM). UA: one "probable" on September 17th. TPK: one "probable" on September 19th (JLCB). Ping Shan: one "probable" on October 19th (JNH).
- 230 Pale-Legged Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus tenellipes*
LTV: one on September 19th (JLCB).
- 214 Tailor Bird** *Orthotomus sutorius (B)*
Common resident, widespread. Breeding proved at UA (two pairs), Ping Shan, Homantin and Kadoorie Avenue, Kowloon.
- 248 David's Hill Warbler** *Prinia polychroa*
Tai Mo Shan: one singing on June 25th, and two seen and heard singing on November 25th, all near the jeep-track at about 2,800 ft. (AMM).
- 249 South-East China Wren-Warbler** *Prinia inornata (B)*
Mai Po Marshes: reported from March 25th in varying numbers to the end of the year. Song heard frequently in the breeding season (several observers). Ping Shan: one singing on June 20th (AMM), three on November 9th (AStGW).
- 250 Yellow-Bellied Wren-Warbler** *Prinia flaviventris (B)*
Common resident in NT, but local. A pair were watched building a nest amongst sword grass at Cape D'Aigular but subsequently deserted. Breeding was also suspected at the Peak (JLCB, JNH).
- x 215 Fantail Warbler** *Cisticola juncidis (B?)*
Mai Po Marshes and Luen Tak Marshes: birds recorded in every month except July. Song was heard during the breeding season (several observers). Mount Davis: one on

January 20th (ADM). Sek Kong Camp: a pair on September 3rd (AMM). Shek O: one on December 6th (JLCB).

140 Rubythroat *Luscinia calliope*

LTV: a male on January 11th and February 22nd (EDW). South Bay: a male on January 18th and April 12th (JLCB). Mount Davis: one on January 22nd (ADM). Mai Po Marshes: a female on March 9th, and two on 25th (AMM). Mai Po: a male on March 15th (BCW). UA: a female on March 28th (EDW) and a female on May 5th and 6th (JLCB). UA: a female on November 5th (per JLCB). Mai Po Marshes: a male on November 15th (AMM). LTV: a male on November 22nd (EDW). Tai Lam Chung Res: a male in full song on December 5th (AMM).

139 Red-Spotted Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

Mai Po Marshes: up to three birds on seven occasions between February 14th and April 20th, always in the area of the Police Post (JNH, AMM).

126 Swinhoe's Red-Tailed Robin *Luscinia sibilans*

LTV: one on February 22nd (JNH, EDW). Ping Shan: one on April 7th. Mai Po: a "probable" bird on September 20th (AMM).

141 Red-Flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus (B)*

Fairly common winter visitor, widespread, with one amazing breeding record. Last reported, from Sek Kong: a pair on March 18th (BCW). First reported, from TPK Forestry Reserve: a female on November 7th (JLCB). TPK Forestry Reserve: a female seen feeding two young birds, both of which were able to fly quite well, on July 12th. The adult pair were seen on 14th, one young bird seen on 15th (also by AMM) and again on 25th (JLCB, MECB). This is proof of breeding at least 1,000 miles south of the known normal breeding areas of this species, and is, of course, the first known record for the Colony.

142 Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis (B)*

Common resident, widespread. Breeding proved at UA, Fanling and Homantin.

133 Daurian Redstart *Phoenicurus aureus*

Fairly common winter visitor, local but widespread. Last reported, from Tide Cove and Mai Po: on March 27th (JLCB, AMM). First reported, from Tai Mo Shan at 3,000 ft.: a female on September 27th (ADM). TPK: a male persisted in attempting to "get in" at one particular window, during a period of almost two weeks in November, presumably attracted by its own reflection (AOB).



White-bellied Sea Eagle at nest in Malaya. (Loke Wan Tho)



Young White-bellied Sea Eagles in nest on Steep Island. (J. D. Bromhall)

137 Plumbeous Water-Redstart *Phoenicurus fuliginosa*
 LTV: a male and two females on January 31st (PMR), a female on February 1st and two females on 22nd (JNH, AMM, EDW). TPK: a male on January 31st (JMR). Irish Bridge, Route Twisk: a pair on February 14th, and a female on March 7th (JLCB). Tai Mo Shan at 2,500 ft.: a male on April 1st (ADM). Irish Bridge, Route Twisk: a female on November 22nd (GL, EDW). Ho Chung: a female on December 14th (JLCB).

144 Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*
 Common winter visitor, widespread. Last reported, from Ping Shan Marshes: a few on April 18th. First reported, from Mai Po: a female on September 27th (AMM).

145 Grey Bush-Chat *Saxicola ferrea*
 LTV: two separate pairs on February 14th (JLCB). Pokfulam: a pair on March 27th (ADM).

116 Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitaria pandoo*
 Winter visitor, widespread on the more rocky coasts but much less common than the next race. Last recorded, from Cheung Chau: one on April 30th. First recorded, from Tytam Bay and Waglan: one on September 12th (JNH, CBT).

117 Red-Bellied Rock Thrush *Monticola solitaria philippensis*
 Common winter visitor, reported from the coast and from several places well inland. There are three reports of birds on buildings in the heart of Victoria and Kowloon. Last recorded, from UA: a male on May 1st (JLCB) and Victoria Peak: a male on May 1st (RBA). First recorded, from Tytam Bay: one or two pairs on September 20th (JNH). Singing birds have been reported on several occasions in the autumn.

121 Violet Whistling Thrush *Myophonus coeruleus (B)*
 Widespread resident, especially common on H.K. Island. Several observers report that this species becomes rare in autumn, either going away or becoming very secretive. Breeding proved at UA, Jardine's Corner, near Mt. Austin Mansions, Lady Clementi's Ride, Rubbish Island and TPK, but suspected at many other places.

100 Eye-Browed Thrush *Turdus obscurus*
 Severn Road, The Peak: two males on March 21st and a female on 26th (AStGW). Ping Shan: a male on April 25th (AMM).

- 102 Grey-Backed Thrush** *Turdus hortulorum*
Common winter visitor, widespread. Last recorded, from Ping Shan: a female on April 14th (AMM). First recorded, from LTV: several on November 22nd (Society outing).
- 98 Blackbird** *Turdus merula*
Winter visitor, widespread but not common. Last recorded, from Route Twisk: one on April 1st (ADM). First recorded, from Castle Peak: one on December 19th (AMM).
- 103 Grey Thrush** *Turdus cardis*
Common winter visitor, widespread. Several observers reported a noticeable increase in numbers in late February and March. Last recorded, from Castle Peak: a male on April 19th (AMM). First recorded, from UA: nine on November 16th (JLCB). LTV: a male heard singing well on April 14th (AMM).
- 110 White's Thrush** *Turdus dauma*
Mai Po: one on March 15th (BCW). This is the sixth record for the Colony.
- 21 Great Tit** *Parus major (B)*
Common resident, widespread. Breeding proved at UA, Severn Road, LTV, Yuen Long and Shouson Hill.
- 356 Richard's Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae richardi*
Common winter visitor, widespread. Last reported, from Shek O: one on May 16th (JLCB). First reported, from Tsai Tseng: one on September 6th (AMM). There is difficulty in deciding when this race goes and the next race arrives. The spring movement must overlap, but the autumn movement appears more clear cut.
- x 357 Chinese Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae sinensis (B)*
Breeding reports are as follows:— Castle Peak Hotel: a pair with a nest of 5 eggs on May 11th. This hatched successfully and all five young flew. Yuen Long egretty: a pair with three flown young on July 31st (AMM). During the breeding season, birds have been reported from Castle Peak Ranges (song-flight), Tai Mo Shan, Tai Long, The Peak, and Sunset Peak Camp, Lantau (song-flight) (several observers).
- 350 Indian Tree Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni*
Very common winter visitor, widespread. Last reported, from UA: one on April 20th. First reported, from Stanley and Mai Po: several on October 18th (JLCB, BCW).

- 354 Red-Throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus*
Fairly common winter visitor, local. Last reported, from Mai Po Marshes: one on April 16th (AMM). First reported, from Ping Shan Marshes: several on November 9th (Society outing).
- 359 Upland Pipit** *Anthus sylvanus (B?)*
Resident, but very local. Reported from Tai Mo Shan, fairly widespread above the 1,500 ft. contour. Song heard several times in the breeding season (JLCB, JNH, ADM, AMM). Castle Peak Ranges: one singing on July 27th and 28th and another some distance away on August 7th, all above the 1,500 ft. contour (AMM). Sunset Peak Camp, Lan Tau, at 2,500 ft.: heard singing frequently between August 31st and September 5th (MEMB).
- 348 Forest Wagtail** *Dendronanthus indicus*
Ping Shan: one on April 14th (AMM). TPK: one on April 26th (JLCB). Pokfulam: one on September 7th (BRA). Stanley: one on September 15th. UA: one on September 17th and 24th. TPK: one on September 19th (JLCB). Castle Peak: one on October 21st (AMM).
- 339 Streak-Eyed Wagtail** *Motacilla alba ocularis*
Common winter visitor, widespread: Last reported, from Tai Lam Chung Res: one on May 30th (JLCB). First reported, from Route Twisk: one on July 30th (ADM).
- 342 White-Faced Wagtail** *Motacilla alba leucopsis (B?)*
Common winter visitor, widespread, with occasional reports of birds in summer. Kai Tak: one on May 8th (ADM) and three (a pair and a single bird) on June 27th (AMM, BCW). A juvenile seen on May 13th must have been of this race (ADM). Otherwise, last reported, from Ping Shan: several on April 7th. First reported, from Sek Kong Air-strip: two on August 26th (AMM).
- 339/342 "White" Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*
Two roosts containing birds of both races have been reported. Nathan Road, Kowloon, opposite the Majestic cinema: c.500 birds on October 18th (JC) and several there on December 26th (JNH). Supreme Court, Victoria: an estimate of c.1000 birds roosting on the building and in Statue Square on November 26th (JNH, DL).
- 343 Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*
Common winter visitor, widespread. Last recorded, from Shek O: one on May 16th. First recorded, from UA: one on August 19th (JLCB).

344 Blue-Headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava flavissima*

Mai Po Marshes: one on April 16th. Ping Shan Marshes: at least ten males on May 3rd. Several on September 6th (AMM).

345 Grey-Headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava macronyx*

Ho Chung: a male on March 27th (ASIGW). Mai Po Marshes: three males on April 26th (AMM, BCW). Ping Shan Marshes: at least two males on May 3rd (AMM), two on October 19th (Society outing).

346 Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava taiyana*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor, local. All reports are from the Deep Bay Marshes. Last recorded, from Luen Tak Marshes: one on April 26th (EDW). First recorded (presumed this race), from Mai Po Marshes: several on August 31st (AMM).

372 Fork-Tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga christinae (B)*

It was reported early in the year that a male and a female of this species had been caught separately by trappers at Fanling and LTV. There was no way of confirming this at the time. TPK: a pair with two juveniles were seen frequently by many observers from early June until the end of July in the garden of three private houses within about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of each other (JLCB et al). A female was seen at the end of September. A pair was seen during the latter half of November and in December (AOB). Fanling: single birds reported from a private garden from mid-summer up to August 13th (Fr.P). These are the first records for the Colony.

370 White-Eye *Zosterops japonica (B)*

Common resident, widespread and abundant in winter. Breeding proved at UA and Homantin (JLCB, ADM).

374 Scarlet-Backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatus*

UA: a male on January 13th (JLCB). LTV: a pair and a female on March 22nd (AMM). TPK: up to three birds (a male and two females) seen on about ten occasions between July 4th and 21st (JLCB et al). LTV: one on August 23rd (AMM). UA: a male on December 10th (JLCB).

376 Fire-Breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus*

UA: a male seen and another bird heard on November 29th (JLCB). TPK: a male on December 30th (AOB).

271 Lesser Black-Tailed Hawfinch *Euphonia migratoria*

Fairly common winter visitor, local. Reported from UA, LTV, Mai Po, Ping Tseng and Ho Chung in flocks up to c.40 (several observers). Last reported, from LTV: a pair on March 30th (Society outing). First reported, from LTV: c.six on December 1st (AMM).

286 Chinese Greenfinch *Chloris sinica (B)*

There are records for every month except August, widespread. Breeding proved at Kai Tak and Castle Peak (ADM, AMM). Occasional flocks up to c.30 in autumn and winter.

288 Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Kai Tak: one on March 12th (ADM). This may have been an "escape".

280 Hodgson's Rose-Finch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

LTV: two females on March 22nd (AMM), and one female on 30th (Society outing). Pak Tam: a "probable" female on December 31st (JLCB, JNH).

315 Masked Bunting *Emberiza spodocephala*

Common winter visitor, widespread. Last recorded, from Sha Tau Kok: a female on April 26th. First recorded, from Pokfulam: a female on October 27th (JLCB).

323 Yellow-Breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola*

Ping Shan Marshes: about 20 in full plumage on April 26th (EDW). Mai Po Marshes: a pair in full plumage on April 26th (AMM, BCW). Ping Shan Marshes: reported between October 6th and November 13th (several observers) with peak numbers on October 16th when it was estimated that in one square mile of the marshes c.3000 birds came in to roost (JNH). Nathan Road, Kowloon: eleven flying west over the Shamrock Hotel on October 18th (JC).

302 Grey-Headed Bunting *Emberiza fucata*

Fairly common winter visitor, widespread. Last reported, from Mai Po Marshes: a male on April 16th. First reported, from Mai Po Marshes: one on November 1st (AMM).

305 Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

Uncommon winter visitor, about twelve records, widespread. Last reported from LTV: a pair on March 23rd (HDM). First Report, from Ping Shan: one on October 19th (JLCB).

Reports for every month of the year except August. Widespread in the NT. H.K. Island reports are as follows:— Windy Gap: one on April 4th and September 12th (JNH). Mount Davis: two females on October 21st (JLCB). Lamma Island: two females on March 16th (JLCB, JNH). Breeding proved on Tai Mo Shan (ADM) where this species is particularly common in spring. Twelve pairs were counted along the RAF Road from the top of Route Twisk to the top of Tai Mo Shan on June 25th (AMM). In winter, flocks of up to 50 birds reported from Mong Tseng, LTV, Ho Chung, Pak Taam and Hang Hau (several observers).

290 Tree-Sparrow*Passer montanus* (B)

Common resident, widespread. Waglan: one on March 23rd. Not an established resident here (CBT).

— **Three-Coloured Munia***Lonchura malacca malacca*

Mai Po Marshes: one, amongst several of the next race, on September 6th (JNH, AStGW), 13th (AMM) and 14th (ADM). Not previously recorded in the Colony, nor by La Touche for Easter China, but despite the fact that this race is found not far south of the Chinese border, the strong possibility of its being an "escape" must be remembered.

266 Chestnut Munia*Lonchura malacca atricapilla*

Mong Tseng: one on February 10th (Society outing). Shatin: one on March 30th, and three on October 18th (JMR). Mai Po Marshes: up to seven on several occasions between May 10th and June 14th. Up to c.50 on many occasions between July 25th and the end of the year. Immatures were reported amongst the adults on three occasions in August (many observers).

267 Spotted Munia*Lonchura punctulata* (B)

Fairly common resident, but local. Breeding proved at Fanling (two pairs), TPK (several), and Castle Peak (MEMB, JLCB, AMM).

268 White-Backed Munia*Lonchura striata*

UA: one on May 1st and 4th (JLCB). Severn Road, The Peak: two on June 21st (AStGW). UA: three on December 1st (JLCB, JNH). Ho Chung: c.eight on December 15th (JLCB). There is only one previous record since 1939.

DOUBTFUL RECORDS 1959

It has been decided that where the only reports of a species have been doubtful ones, they are excluded from the main body of the Report to avoid too much unconfirmed detail. But for general interest, these doubtful reports are included separately below.

733 Tufted Duck*Aythya fuligula*

Mai Po Marshes: four "probables" in flight on September 20th (AMM). There is only one previous record for the Colony.

502 Upland Buzzard*Buteo ferox*

The Peak: an injured bird was picked up by a Chinese on November 13th, handed over to the HKSPCA and finally released on Robin's Nest on 15th. In the excitement, no measurements were taken. The legs were fully feathered, there was a noticeable white patch on the back, but no noticeable black terminal band on the tail (JNH). A photograph of this bird is included in the Report. Not recorded in the Colony.

528 Ring-Necked Pheasant*Phasianus colchicus*

Mai Po Marshes: a call, heard only once, which both observers are "almost willing to swear" was that of this species was heard from the reeds north of the mouth of the Shumchun River (JNH, AMM). There are no records of genuine wild birds for the Colony for about 50 years.

552 Water Rail*Rallus aquaticus*

Ping Shan: brief view of a "probable" on October 19th (JNH).

555 Baillon's Crake*Porzana pusilla*

Ping Shan Marshes: one or two small crakes, no bigger than a button-quail flushed several times on September 29th and October 6th (JNH).

459 Collared Pygmy Owllet

The Peak, near Peak Tram Terminus: a bird heard calling on May 26th, 27th and 28th and again on July 4th, 8th and 9th (JNH, AStGW). The call was written as **Kok Kok** repeated almost indefinitely at four second intervals. It was heard at night between 7 p.m. and 1 a.m., but usually at about 10 p.m. or 11 p.m. Not recorded in the Colony.

454 Malayan Scops Owl*Otus scops*

TPK: a bird calling from early April until 26th, at dawn (JLCB). The call was written as **Tock Tock Tock**, repeated about every two seconds. There are only three previous records for the Colony.

445 Brown Fish-Owl*Ketupa zeylonensis*

Pokfulam Res: a bird heard calling in the early morning of March 18th (JNH). The call was written down as **Hu Wu Oo**, repeated at odd intervals.

439 Grass-Owl*Tyto longimembris*

Mong Tseng: one in daylight on December 17th (EWD). Lack of good descriptions or pictures of this species prevent positive identification, although the bird was seen well. It was not a Short-eared Owl. Not recorded in the Colony.

68 Lesser Scimitar-Babbler*Pomatorhinus ruficollis*

Tai Tam Res: two birds heard calling on December 21st (JLCB). The call was written as **Poo Poo Poo**, soft but carrying well. There is one previous record for the Colony.

This List was compiled by the Honorary Recorder from the records of the following observers:—

Mr. R. B. Adams
 Mr. & Mrs. A. O. Baretto
 Miss M. E. M. Benham
 Mr. J. D. Bromhall
 Captain J. F. Bunnell, Green Howards
 Mr. J. McC. Cairns
 Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Cranmer-Byng
 Mr. D. Holeczy
 Commander & Mrs. J. N. Humphreys
 Lt-General Sir Gerald Lathbury, KCB, DSO, MBE
 Mr. D. Liu
 Flight-Sergeant A. D. Macdonald
 Captain A. M. Macfarlane, RA
 Mr. R. A. Pereira
 Rev. Fr. Poletti
 Mr. L. Prior-Jones
 Commander F. J. H. Rathborne, RN
 Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Rowlands
 Mr. Noble Smith
 Mr. C. B. Thirlwell
 Mrs. I. N. Tingle
 Mr. & Mrs. A. StG. Walton
 Commander E. D. Webb, RN
 Captain B. C. Webster, RF

Mainly for List-Tickersby **A. M. Macfarlane**

It is a red-letter day for any bird-watcher when he adds a new bird to his list, and there are few of us who can honestly say that we do not keep lists, in some form or other, of birds we have recorded.

It is with this in mind that the following not-too-serious article is written, to set down various known "tally-records" made under certain sets of circumstances in Hong Kong.

For statistical purposes only, where a race is recognizable in the field (i.e. the "pied" and "yellow" wagtails) it is counted as a separate bird.

Birds recorded by one observer

(qualifying mark=200, "possible"=345)

- 245 (approx.) by Flight Sgt. F. J. Walker between 6th June, 1955, and 21st October, 1957.
 239 by Capt. A. M. Macfarlane between 5th December, 1957, and 29th February, 1960.
 204 by Mr. A. StG. Walton between 1949 and 29th February, 1960.
 200 by Dr. G. A. C. Herklots between 1928 and 1948.
 230 by Lt. R. S. Dove and Lt. H. J. Goodhart between 25th February, 1952, and 20th October, 1953; either of whom, but certainly the former, must qualify.

Birds recorded in one month

- 127 by Capt. Macfarlane during April, 1959.

Birds recorded in one day

- 71 by Dr. Herklots on 14th April, 1941.
 71 by Lt. J. H. Sergeant on 6th October, 1957.

Ardeidae recorded in one day

- 9 by Capt. Macfarlane and Capt. B. C. Webster on 26th April, 1959.

Hawks recorded in one day

- 8 by Capt. Macfarlane on 16th November, 1958.

Waders recorded in one day

- 21 by Lt. Sergeant on 8th and 14th September, 1957.

Anyone who claims to have beaten any of the above records (!) or established any others should contact the Hon. Recorder with full details.

Report on Kite Count held on 30th December, 1959

by J. N. Humphreys

With the object of estimating the numbers of Black-eared Kites (*Milvus migrans*) wintering in Hong Kong and the location of their roosts, 10 members were asked to record their observations at various points between 1645 and 1730 on 30th December, 1959. Not all were able to keep a watch for the whole period and in fact the timing was wrong. It was a fine evening with a clear sky and the kites kept on the move until after 1800. Sunset was at 1747 and the wind westerly; 8 knots at 1600, decreasing to 1 knot at 1900.

The following is a summary of the reports received. The initials of observers are given in brackets at the end of each section. The map at the end is designed to illustrate this report.

Magazine Gap

11 passed through heading North East between 1705 and 1720 (AStGW).

South side of the Peak overlooking Aberdeen

Between 1645 and 1730 about 29 settled in the area between Magazine Gap and the spur east of Mount Kellett. They arrived from the direction of Magazine Gap or the North West. At 1730 when observation ceased, 29 kites were circling over the area and it is assumed they were the same (AStGW).

140 kites were circling in the area between Mount Kellett and Aberdeen at 1645. At 1700, 100+ were over Aberdeen. Between 1705 and 1715 most of this party settled on the spur east of Mount Kellett or in the valley between. At 1722 when observation ceased, 50 of these were airborne again and circling (AStGW and NS)

Pokfulam Reservoir Valley and Victoria Park

No kites seen between 1720 and 1740. At 1745 one approached Victoria Peak from the east, turned round and went back (RBA).

Dockyard and University area

Between 1700 and 1730 odd kites were seen circling over the harbour and the hillsides, but no definite movement was detected (EDW and JLCB).

North side of the Peak overlooking the harbour

Between 1645 and 1810, 57 kites headed north west or west and 5 south. Of the former, 45 were circling over Mount Gough (eastern end of the Peak) at 1800 and then went north west at 1600 feet in two groups, as if towards the south end of Tsing Yi Island (AStGW and JDW).

Note It is considered that these 45 kites could have altered course and reached Stonecutters Island in time to be included in the maximum count there at 1810 (see below).

Tate's Cairn

Between 1715 and 1745 only one kite was seen. It was to the eastward heading north towards Tolo Harbour at 1720 (MEMB).

Ho Man Tin

This is a rocky hillock in Kowloon just east of the railway bridge on Waterloo Road. Between 1705 and 1805, 178 kites crossed the Kowloon peninsula from east to west heading towards Stonecutters. They were at an average height of 300 feet above sea level. In addition 10 circling over Gun Club at 1741 had moved south out of sight by 1743 (ADM).

Rambler Channel between Tsing Yi Island and the mainland

17 overhead at 1648 (ADM).

Mawan Island

Only 3 kites seen between 1700 and 1715. (Watched again between 1750 and 1810 on 4th January, 1960, and again only 3 kites seen) (AMM).

Stonecutters Island

Walking round the island between 1615 and 1645, fair numbers of kites were always to be seen overhead and many already perched on trees were disturbed.

From 1645 to 1825 a more or less continuous watch was kept from the highest point in the middle of the island, i.e. the old gun site above the ruined "Japanese House". From this position there is a clear view in all directions. Results are summarised below (all numbers are approximate):—

Time	Perched on mast	Airborne	Total
1645) Not	150	150
1650)	300	300
1700) observed	400	400
1730	65	300	365
1735	100	400	500
1745	100	550	650
1750	100	600	700
1755	100	780	880
1800	60	850	910
1805	15	1000	1015
1810	Nil	1150	1150
1815	Nil	700	700
1820	Nil	160	160
1825	Too dark to continue observations.		

At 1645 the 150 kites observed were in a loose concentration over the centre of the island. At 1650 a lot took off from trees in the Armament Depot (on the southern extremity of the east end) and formed a "swirling spiral" over the Depot, being joined by many of the original loose concentration.

By 1700 a separate "swirling spiral" was forming over the west end of the island, but the main concentration was still just south of the Armament Depot.

At 1725 a stream of kites was gliding in from the direction of the Kowloon peninsula to the east (see report under Ho Man Tin above). Shortly afterwards it was noticed that 65 were perched on one of the wireless masts at the east end. It was decided to record the numbers on this mast separately from then on as a guide to the behaviour of birds perching in the early stages of the evening's activity. This seemed important as kites were settling and taking off again from trees all over the island. It was impossible to estimate how many were settled at any one time; it was bad enough trying to make a sensible count of those airborne!



White-bellied Sea Eagle at nest in Malaya. (Loke Wan Tho)



A "probable" Upland Buzzard (By courtesy of South China Morning Post)

By 1745 the airborne Armament Depot group (about 250) had spread their area of circling towards the centre of the island, and numbers over the west end had built up to about 300.

The sun set at 1747 and visibility remained remarkably good. Odd kites could be seen making towards Stonecutters from the south, flying low over the harbour.

Between 1745 and 1800 there was much ebb and flow between the centre and the east end. At times there were two separate groups, at others one swirling mass. The west end birds appeared to keep to themselves, but built up their spiral to about 1000 feet and appeared to be "stacked up" at an angle from ground level away to the westward.

At 1800 a count of the mast showed that numbers had dropped by 40% and at the same time some birds were seen going down into trees in the centre of the island. Meanwhile more kites were still gliding in from the east in twos and threes.

At 1810 the light was fading fast, but it could just be seen that the mast was bare. Numbers airborne at the west end, outlined against the afterglow, had dropped to 150, whereas the centre of the island was smothered in a silent shifting canopy of kites, estimated by a somewhat awestruck observer at about 1000.

In the last ten minutes of twilight numbers airborne decreased rapidly and it was clear that the kites were really going to roost at last. Some 400 formed a final "swirling spiral" to the north of the centre and there was a small build up to 200 at the west end.

The last count at 1820 showed only 10 over the centre, 50 to the north and 100 at the west end (JNH).

Conclusions

1. It seems probable that at least 1300 Black-eared Kites roosted in the Colony on the night of 30th December, 1959; about 1150 on Stonecutters Island and about 150 on the south side of the Peak.

2. Apart from the one bird going north from east of Tate's Cairn (which may well have altered course later), there was no indication of kite roosts in any other parts of the Colony (but see note below on Mawan Island). This accords with previous information.

3. Some kites gather into large groups away from the roosting areas during the afternoon (a party of 120 were circling east of Junk Island at 1400 on 22nd December, 1959), while others reach the roosts singly or in small parties.

4. In the interval between assembly in the roosting area and finally roosting (1½ hours or more), kites indulge in aerial manoeuvres in the form of circular soaring flights, usually in tight groups, alternating with periods of inactive perching.

5. There appears to be a maximum spell of airborne activity just before finally going to roost which, on this occasion, was 30 minutes after sunset.

6. There appear to be definite flight lines which kites follow to the roosts, e.g. from Kowloon Bay over the middle of the Kowloon peninsula at about 300 feet to Stonecutters, and from the eastern part of Hong Kong Island along the north side of the Peak and across the harbour at about 1600 feet to Stonecutters (See Map).

Notes

1. The lack of activity at Mawan Island was surprising. When the island was visited on 5th December, 1959, about an acre of pine-covered hillside was found to be thick with droppings and kite feathers. The inhabitants confirmed that the "large hawks" came there. 100+ were seen over the island just before sunset on several occasions in February and March, 1958.

2. If a count of kites is taken again, and it is suggested that it would be worth doing each winter in October, December and February, it would be interesting to post observers in the following additional places:—

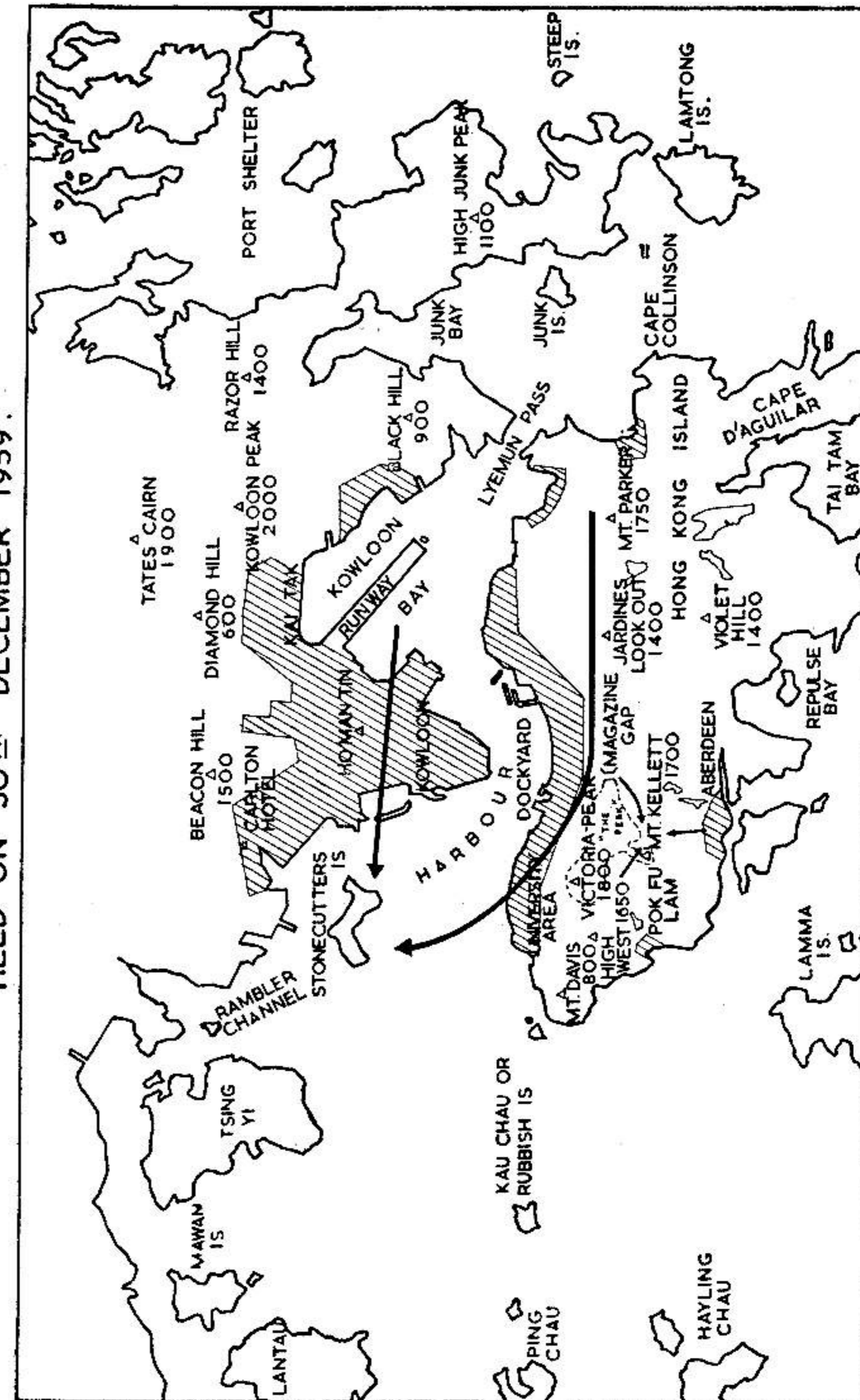
West end of Lugard Road, The Peak

From here, with high-powered glasses or a telescope, it should be possible to see what happens to kites crossing over the harbour towards Stonecutters at high level and, in general, where the kites which gather at the west end of Stonecutters come from.

Taipo Road above the Carlton Hotel

From here Stonecutters is overlooked from the north and there is a good view over a wide field around it.

MAP TO ILLUSTRATE REPORT ON KITE COUNT.
HELD ON 30TH DECEMBER 1959.



BUILT-UP AREAS [Hatched pattern]
APPROXIMATE HEIGHTS GIVEN IN FEET.
MAIN FLIGHT LINES ARE INDICATED BY ARROWS.

SCALE 1 : 88800
0 1 2 3 4 MILES

The Breeding Birds of Stonecutters Island

by J. N. Humphreys

Stonecutters Island lies in the north west corner of Hong Kong harbour about half a mile from the mainland. It is shaped roughly like a letter "Z" canted over on its left side, with the top and bottom parallel on a north east/south west axis. Each leg of the island is about half a mile long and 300 yards wide.

It is hilly and well wooded, mainly with pines. There is an open grassy fringe along the north shore which is used as a rifle range, and this is fringed by an area of thick scrub.

There are various buildings on the island; a naval wireless station at the east end with several tall masts, an armament depot on the south central point, and a military barracks at the west end which is only used in the summer months. The whole island is a prohibited area subject to little disturbance apart from the noise of firing on the range, which seems to have little effect on the birds.

The following account of the breeding birds of Stonecutters is based mainly on visits made on 10th and 24th May, 1959, by the author and other members of the Society, coupled with information gained from residents and short visits on other occasions. Dates and estimates of breeding pairs are all for 1959.

The most outstanding Stonecutters bird is undoubtedly the Black-eared Kite which roosts there in large numbers in the winter (see separate article in this report). In the spring and summer the population was estimated at 6 breeding pairs and about 25 non-breeding birds. Two nests were found; one in a pine tree and the other in a low bush. One young is believed to have flown from the latter despite torrential rain during the fledging period. Two other nests were sighted but could not be reached. Black-eared Kites seem to be remarkably gregarious and breeding pairs showed no reaction to other adult kites passing close to their nests.

The largest concentration of Black Drongos in the Colony, estimated at 18 pairs, is to be found on Stonecutters. The scrub-covered hillsides, with tall trees interspersed with more open glades, provide an ideal habitat for them. They can be seen hawking unconcernedly for insects over the rifle range while firing is in progress, and often mob kites. Only one nest was found and when last visited on 10th June this contained a young Indian Cuckoo. An adult male of this species had been heard calling in the vicinity on 10th May, when the drongo's nest contained one whitish egg spotted with pink.

Spotted Doves are everywhere on the island and it is estimated that about 70 pairs nested in the scrub and in bushes around gardens.

Derelict buildings, the butts on the rifle range, the base of old kites' nests and the nesting holes of White-breasted Kingfishers provide nesting sites for some 60 pairs of Crested Mynah. The Tree Sparrow is also present in fair numbers around the buildings.

At least two pairs of White-breasted Kingfisher bred on the island and another was suspected. Several bare faces of disintegrating granite provide ideal sites for tunneling.

Of the three common Hong Kong bulbuls only two nest at Stonecutters. The breeding populations were roughly assessed as 150 pairs of Chinese Bulbul and 15 of Crested Bulbul

Four pairs of Chinese Magpie, one or two of Collared Crow and one of Jungle Crow were estimated although breeding was not specifically proved.

Male Crow Pheasants were heard calling in two parts of the island and breeding was considered most likely.

For the rest, it is probable that the following species, all of which were seen on the island in May or June, bred there. No estimate of numbers can be given, however.

Great Tit
Magpie-Robin
Tailor-bird

White-eye
Greenfinch

Birds of Pokfulam

by J. L. Cranmer-Byng

Readers of **Hong Kong Birds** by G.A.C. Herklots will remember how often he mentions having seen a particular bird 'near my house in Pokfulam' or 'in several parts of Pokfulam'. I understand from Mr. A. St.G. Walton that Dr. Herklots used to live near the junction of Mt. Davis Road and Island Road, and that before the Second World War the area between Mt. Davis and the Dairy Farm cattle pens below the Queen Mary Hospital used to have plenty of large old trees—far more than it now has. It was obviously a good place for birds before the war, but to some extent, in spite of recent building operations, it still is. The object of this note is to indicate what birds one can hope to see there at the present time.

First of all it is necessary to define the area referred to as 'Pokfulam' for the purpose of this article. It can be defined as running from Mt. Davis along the coast to Telegraph Bay and from there inland to include Bethany and Pokfulam village, up to the Pokfulam reservoir. From here its boundary is marked by the contour path round the sides of High West which passes above Queen Mary Hospital to its nearest point to the junction of Mt. Davis Road with Island Road. Thus it forms a long rectangle with the coast line and High West forming its sides and Mt. Davis and Pokfulam village its short ends. This may not coincide exactly with Dr. Herklots' own definition, but it is near enough.

Within this area during the last two years I have seen a number of interesting birds as well as plenty of the common ones. Mt. Davis itself is now rather spoilt by new buildings and a new road but there is a useful stretch of coast from Felix Villas to Sandy Bay, where I have seen a Collared Crow, and an observer living in Felix Villas reports seeing one or sometimes two Collared Crows here at various times during 1959. Jungle Crows scour the coast line from Mt. Davis to Telegraph Bay and beyond fairly regularly as well. At Sandy Bay I have seen a Black-capped Kingfisher each time since I first visited the bay in October 1959. A White-breasted Kingfisher and a Common Indian Kingfisher can usually be seen here together with one or two Common Sandpiper.

On December 30th, 1959 I watched a pair of the latter courting. They stood beak to beak; suddenly one and then the other jumped into the air fluttering their wings. Then one bird spread out its tail feathers and moved round sideways while the other stretched its wings to their fullest extent above its head. Next they ran round and round in a fluttering chase. At last the female crouched down perfectly still while the male postured from side to side dipping his body up and down, until finally he mounted the female. After that they quietly resumed feeding, but when I left they were standing beak to beak again.

Streak-eyed, White-faced and Eastern Grey Wagtails can also be seen at Sandy Bay, and it was here that I saw an Osprey 'fishing' at no great distance from the coast, until it flew off in the direction of Lamma. The observer at Felix Villas reports having seen a flock of Chinese Starlings here in the spring, and the fact that a pair nested at Felix Villas in 1959.

A little further along, between Bisney Villas and Sassoon Road there is an open stretch of the coast covered by rough grass and boulders. Here in October 1959 I saw two female Crested Bunting, and later (January 1960) I found a dead one on the contour path on the side of High West. This is interesting in view of what Herklots wrote about Crested Buntings in his book. 'In 1947 this bunting must have nested near the cemetery at the junction of Mount Davis Road with Island Road. On numerous occasions during the summer, certainly as late as mid June the cock bird would perch on a bamboo or small tree at the edge of the garden and sing.' So this area is worth watching for Crested Buntings. In this part I have also seen Masked Buntings and a Stonechat, as well as a stray Rose-ringed Paroquet.

The headland formed by Sassoon Road and one arm of Telegraph Bay is promising, and Black Drongos were seen here in the autumn as well as various warblers, one of which I could not identify. There is a path which runs along the coast below the gardens of the houses on this headland, and from here one gets a good view of the sea below and can watch Rock Thrushes in the winter. The other arm of Telegraph Bay and the grounds running down to it from Bethany are a likely places for seeing birds. Here I have seen both a Kestrel and a Sparrow Hawk, Crow Pheasants (and once a Lesser Crow Pheasant) and in the summer Black-naped

Orioles and Black Drongos. The grounds of Bethany itself are usually full of thrushes in winter, and are a most likely place for almost any species during migration. J. M. Rowlands has reported seeing a Narcissus Flycatcher here in the spring of 1959 as well as a Broad-billed Roller, and J. H. Sergeant saw Blackbirds and a Wryneck here in February 1958.

By the village end of Pokfulam reservoir there is an earth cutting containing several Kingfisher holes, one or two being small enough for the boring of a Common Indian Kingfisher. I have seen both this species and the White-breasted fishing at the village end of the reservoir. Once in 1959 I watched a White-bellied Sea Eagle flying above it.

To return to Mt. Davis from here, one can take the stone-flagged path from the grounds of University Hall, and follow it past the Queen Mary Hospital as far as the junction of Mt. Davis Road and Island Road. By University Hall in the winter there are Grey Thrushes in abundance feeding together with a few Grey-backed Thrushes. Blue Magpies like these woods and one can usually see a Violet Whistling Thrush or two in the water courses at the sides of this path. Here, also, I have met female Red-flanked Bluetails and once a male; also warblers, including a Chinese Bush-warbler on March 13th, while Herklots has records for this species in Pokfulam between January 19th and February 11th. Near here are some fresh Kingfisher holes in a high bank. By a house called Alberose is another good place for thrushes and Crow Pheasants, while near the Queen Mary Hospital is the best spot in the area for watching Malay House Swifts and Large White-rumped Swifts in action. They are usually flying about together and in 1959 I saw both these species at this place as late as November 29th. It is also possible to return towards Mt. Davis by the countour path from Pokfulam reservoir by climbing the steps up to some filter beds. In this area Spotted Munias, Greenfinches and Rufous-backed Shrikes may sometimes be seen, as well as Buzzards and other birds of prey. It is likely that a pair of Kites nest in the trees or cliff face of High West at a point above the Queen Mary Hospital and P. E. Fry saw a Kite taking food to this place in the spring of 1959. White-eyes, Masked Buntings and Bulbuls can also be seen on his path as well as Tree Pipits.

Other birds which can be seen in the Pokfulam area thus defined are Spotted Doves, Broad-billed Flycatchers, Grey Spotted Flycatchers (one on the side of Mt. Davis in 1959), and possibly Swinhoe's Red-tailed Robin since R. de la Moussaye reported one from Mt. Davis in February 1957. F. J. Walker reported a small party of Java Sparrows at Telegraph Bay between October and November, and a Hodgson's Rosefinch at Mt. Davis. Meanwhile several members of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society visit this area from time to time and I expect they could add to the species listed in this note. I am certain that anyone who visited this area regularly (or lived here) would eventually see one or more of the rarer Flycatchers and perhaps one or two of the less common thrushes. All in all it is a promising place for a visit at any time except perhaps August, and if one was to include the University garden in the area the number of interesting species seen would be large. But the University is an area on its own and deserves a separate article.

NOTES ON NEST OF CHINESE GREAT BARBET

(*Megalaima virens virens*)

Watched from the window of Church Guest House,
Upper Albert Road, Hong Kong, April to August, 1959.

by

Miss M. E. M. Benham

Introduction

A visitor to Church Guest House noticed a bird making a hole in a tree outside some bathroom windows in early April. It was fearless, and she watched it as she bathed. Short watches were kept on April 23 and 29, but no activity was seen and there was no indication whether or not the hole was in use. An employee of the Guest House said he had seen a bird enter the hole about midday on April 28. On the evening of May 5 a barbet was seen perched in a nearby tree. After this the area was watched for periods of usually a half to one and a half hours, mostly in the evenings, from a window some 30 feet from the hole and on the same level. Grateful acknowledgment must be made to the staff and residents for their tolerance and interest during the subsequent three months.

Dates Of Main Events Noted

Early April. Nesting hole being excavated.

April 28. First report of bird entering hole.

May 5. Barbet seen near hole, apparently resenting the presence of Eastern Rose-Tinged Paroquets.

May 6. First certainty that hole was in use.

May 11 to 20. Barbet observed to stay in hole for periods of 20 to 68 minutes and certainly longer, as usually either already in when watcher arrived or not yet emerged when watcher left. Stuck head out for several minutes at intervals of about 10 to 15 minutes.

May 12, 14, 18 and 20. One bird seen to enter as the other left.

May 22. Barbet seen taking food into hole.

June 13. Young heard calling in nest.

June 17. Head of young bird seen sticking out of hole.

June 22 to 23. Probable date of young of first brood leaving the nest.

June 25 (early morning). Tree sparrows perching on rim of hole and flying to and from it. Barbet perched nearby, not apparently interested.

June 27. Barbet removing something solid and lumpy from hole.

June 28. Both birds in trees near hole, one going in and out; remaining in for about 3 to 4 minutes.

July 4. Bird in hole for intervals of 5 to 20 minutes. Excited behaviour. Copulating.

July 7. Copulating. One seen to enter hole.

July 8 to 12. Barbet in hole 25 to 50 minutes, sticking head out at intervals.

July 18. Twice seen to change over, thus not leaving hole unoccupied. Possibly one bird also fed the other at the hole.

July 19 and 20. Seen to remain in hole for no longer than 15 minutes.

July 21. ?feeding young.

July 22. Certainly feeding young.

July 25, 26 and 28. Feeding.

No further activity seen.

Nest And Nest Site

The nesting hole was about 50 feet from the ground, in the trunk of a large tree (*Litsea monopetala*) which was covered by a parasitic plant. The hole faced west and looked almost directly towards the house. There was a mark on the trunk some 10 inches lower and facing to the north, which looked like a discarded attempt to make a hole. In early July, when the weather was very hot and the second clutch of eggs was being incubated, this appeared to have been newly pecked and might have formed an air entry to the nest, but it was not possible to see whether it penetrated so far. Some days later, when the temperatures were in the 90's, the nesting hole seemed to have been enlarged at the entry, and the area of trunk below and to the side was bare. The shape of the hole inside the bark was then more clearly visible, and seemed to be a narrow descending passage. As the top of the trunk had broken off and the branches above the hole were bare, it had been thought that the space inside the entry might be hollow or at least rotten. Now this appeared not to be so.

About 35 feet to the south of this tree is a main road, and beyond lie the Botanic Gardens. The road is busy with cars, and many people walk there slowly for pleasure. The wooded hillside slopes steeply down to the north, and on the east side is a well-used path connecting with a thoroughfare lower down the hill. Further to the east are the grounds of Government House, and there is thus a considerable area of tree covered land on 3 sides of this nesting site.

Disturbance At The Nest Site, And Reaction Of Barbets To Other Birds And To Noise In The Vicinity

There was no evidence of interference or intrusion at the nest hole, but on several occasions other birds in nearby branches seemed to annoy the barbets. To some birds they showed no hostile reaction; as with Tree Sparrows nesting higher in the same trunk, Crested Bulbuls and Spotted Doves perching nearby, and a Chinese Magpie which came to the garage roof near to the hole for bread which was often thrown there. Four Eastern Rose-ringed Paroquets, however, flew into the trees calling noisily on May 5, and the barbet appeared disturbed and flew to the twig near the hole remaining there for some minutes. Crested Mynahs were rearing young in a hole some 30 feet away at the same height from the ground but not visible from the barbets' hole and, on June 7 and 9, scuffles with Crested Mynahs on the branches between the 2 holes were noted.

Noise from the house and the nearby road did not appear to worry the barbets. The hole was pecked out regardless of the noise of the running bath water and the presence of a Guest House resident in the bathroom opposite. On May 14 the area was watched at dusk, and the adult bird remained with its head stuck out while lights were switched on, windows banged shut, and a noisy geyser started up. On May 23, the day after the first brood hatched, the watcher stood well forward in the window frame, leaning out, to see if this produced any reaction. The bird was in the hole and soon stuck its head out. After 2 minutes it withdrew, and the watcher moved back into the room. Two minutes later it looked out again, and two minutes later withdrew. On the afternoon of June 6 a camera was mounted near the window and there was a metallic click every time a photograph was taken, but the adult bird spent some time on the twig beside the hole, and later flew down to the garage roof to try out bread and take some in to the young. At one point it cocked its head on one side and looked towards the camera as though curious.

Feeding, Including Timing, Intervals And Content

It was assumed on May 22 that the first clutch of eggs had hatched, because this was the first day on which a bird was seen entering the hole with food and leaving immediately. The intervals observed between feeds on this day varied from 3 to 20 minutes, the watch lasting for one hour and sixteen minutes. On May 24 and 26 one bird was seen taking in food, and 2 days later both birds were seen taking in food. One bird was taking food in on June 1, but next day no activity was noted during a 53 minute watch. On June 4 a bird flew in with food twice, with a 6-minute interval between the feeds. Two days later the area was watched in the early afternoon, and a bird was seen to fly to the twig near the hole and perch with bill open and empty, crouching and cocking its head but making no sound. Photographs were being taken, but there was no indication that the birds' behavior was affected by the clicking of the camera. The bird did not enter the hole, but flew higher into the trees and then down to a garage roof where bread had been thrown. It sampled the bread and then flew to the hole with a large lump.

Food was benign taken in on June 7. On June 13 a bird was taking food off the plant growing on the tree trunk. This may have been insects, but once a berry was clearly seen in the bill. Next morning a bird was again collecting food from the trunk, and a bill-full of large insects was also taken in.

Up to this time the bird had disappeared completely into the hole to feed the young, but on June 15 it was seen to perch on the rim, lean in, and then fly away. Two days later the head of a young bird was seen sticking out of the hole, but when the parent arrived with a bill-full of insects it quickly withdrew and started calling from within the hole. The adult then entered, disappearing completely, and quickly emerged and flew away. On June 19 the young bird was sticking its head rather further out. The adult bird flew to the twig by the hole, apparently with nothing in its bill, but the young withdrew at once into the hole and started calling. The adult then flew away while the young continued to call. On the following 2 days the young bird was seen to withdraw and start calling when the parent bird appeared with food, but once the parent was seen to feed from the rim, leaning in, and to do so very quickly. Later that evening the young bird was seen leaning out of the hole and pecking at the sur-

rounding growth. The young bird was again nibbling at the plant on the trunk on June 22, and the adult fed it quickly from the rim. Five minutes later the adult returned to the twig by the hole, and the young bird withdrew and called. As the parent did not move, the young bird looked out again, and the parent, with bill full of insects, flew to a more distant branch. The young bird went back into the hole, and 3 minutes later looked out again. The parent was still on the far branch but paid no attention, and a few minutes later the young bird withdrew, into the hole. This was the last time that food was seen taken to the hole for the first brood, and it was thought that the young flew before the next evening, and had certainly vacated the hole by early in the morning of June 25.

Feeding of the second brood was first seen on July 21, and on July 22 a bird flew into the hole with bill brimful of insects. Five days later no activity was seen during a 36-minute watch, but on the next evening a bird was seen to fly in twice with something that appeared red in the bill.

The last feeding observed was on July 29, when some trouble seemed to be caused by an insect's wing sticking to the bill tip. The bird was perched on a high branch when the watcher arrived, and seemed to be trying to rearrange a billfull of insects, rubbing the bill on the branch. Still with a wing sticking off the tip of the bill, it flew to the twig by the hole, and then perched on the rim, leaned in 3 times and entered. It emerged quickly, still with the wing stuck to the tip. It flew to a further branch and rubbed its bill on it, churring angrily. Then it re-entered the hole and scolding noises could be heard. It came out with the wing still on the bill tip, and settled on a branch, until in a minute or so it got it off. Then it remained perched, quite still and apparently contented.

After this the nest was deserted.

The food usually taken in appeared to consist of large insects whose wings and legs stuck out on both sides of the bill. It was not possible to identify the red lump seen in the parent's bill.

Display

A resident reported having seen one bird perched near the hole when the other emerged from it on May 11. She said the birds faced each other, 3 feet apart, raising and

lowering their tails. Then the one that had emerged flew away, and the other entered the hole. The next evening one bird was seen to perch on the twig 2 feet from the hole, and the other to stick its head out. The bird on the twig leaned forward, bill open and tail raised. The other then came out of the hole and flew away, and the mate entered. On May 14 display was very similar to that seen on May 12, though the tail-raising did not commence until the bird had come out of the hole, and it was not possible to see if the newly emerged bird raised its tail as did the newly arrived bird. Four days later a bird was seen to emerge from the hole, perch, raise its tail and fly to another branch where it again raised and lowered its tail, looking into the branches from which a second bird appeared and flew into the hole. Again, the newly arrived bird was not at first visible, and so it was not known whether it too raised its tail. Thirty-five minutes later both birds were on a branch higher in the tree, facing each other, 10 feet apart, flirting their tails.

Two days later the change over at the hole was carried out without any obvious recognition. One bird was in the hole, and had not looked out for 19 minutes, when the mate flew into a higher branch out of sight of the hole. No call was heard, but the bird in the hole looked out, and the other flew to the perch beside the hole. Neither bird seemed to look at the other, but one emerged and the other entered.

On the day after the first brood hatched, a bird emerged from the hole and perched for 10 minutes on a neighbouring branch. The other bird flew up, and one raised its tail, first facing and then turning its back on the other. Next evening both birds were in the branches, one raising its tail and the other then entering the hole.

About 5 days after the first brood left the nest one bird was seen in the branches. The other appeared and flew to a branch nearby, perching with its back to the first bird and apparently not seeing it. The first bird raised its tail like a fan, opened its bill and made a churring noise. The second bird turned towards the first, then flew to a branch just above it. The first bird kept its tail raised and moved it from side to side. The second bird did not raise its tail throughout. Both seemed excited, with bills open, churring. After a minute they flew away together, but 4 minutes later returned to the same branch and perched side by side, one bird raising its tail directly it perched and keeping it raised.

One bird fed the other (it was thought tail-down fed tail-up, but this was not certain). The bird which had had its tail up flew to another branch, and the other bird entered the hole. It emerged after a minute with bill filled to capacity, tips wide apart, and flew away. The bird which had raised its tail remained in the same place, and the other returned to a nearby branch. The bird which had previously raised its tail did so again, and wagged it from side to side, while the other bird entered the hole.

Next morning (June 28), a barbet was perched near the hole, and the other bird which appeared slighter in build came out, perched on the twig by the hole, and faced the first bird which raised its tail and wagged it from side to side. Both birds had their bills open, but they made no sound and seemed less intense than on the previous day. The smaller-seeming bird entered the hole, and the other flew away. Two minutes later it emerged to the twig by the hole while the other remained unconcernedly preening in the distance. After 4 minutes the smaller-seeming bird re-entered, the other remaining where it was. Four minutes later it came out and perched with its back to the other bird which seemed unaware of it, but raised its tail and flew away into the trees, soon followed by the smaller-seeming bird.

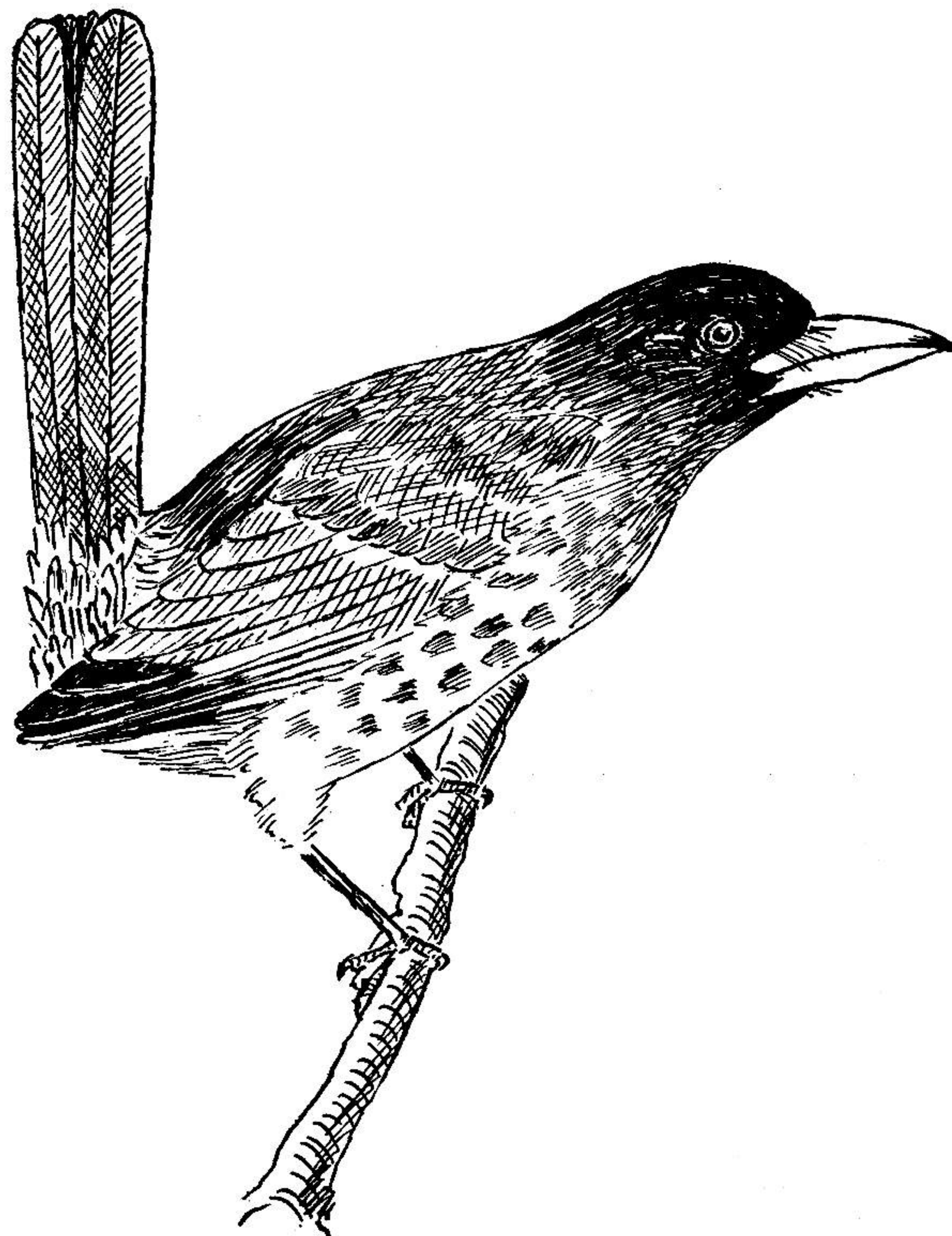
Two days later (June 30) one bird was seen perched, making churring sounds and wagging its raised tail from side to side. The other bird was some 3 feet away, looking towards the first bird but not raising its tail, and it soon flew away into the trees. The bird that had raised its tail remained.

Four days later (July 4) the birds were seen together, and they appeared excited, copulating and making a low squawking noise. Both raised their tails and wagged them when perched about 3 feet apart, not always looking towards each other. This lasted only a few seconds, and then one entered the hole and the other flew away. Three days later (July 7) the birds were again seen copulating, churring, and wagging their raised tails. Next day one was perched by the hole with tail raised and bill open; it entered the hole and the bird which had been on a nearby branch flew away.

On July 14 a bird emerged from the hole and was soon joined by the other which entered the hole after both had crouched and raised tails. This was the last time that tail-raising was seen, although feeding of the young continued until July 28.

In this display the tail was sometimes nearly touching the back, and was usually up to a vertical position. It was noticeable that the tail-raising showed off to good advantage the bright red of the under tail coverts.

This sketch (drawn by Lieut-Commander M. D. Joel from a photograph) shows a barbet in a typical tail-raising attitude.



Differences Noted In Adult Birds & Young

La Touche in "A Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China" records no difference between the male and female Chinese Great Barbet, and during the observation of this nest it was not possible to recognise the male from the female with any certainty. Towards the end of June, however, when the nest was being cleared out and reoccupied for the second brood, the watcher thought that one bird was of slighter build with a less pronounced bill. This was the bird which on June 28 was spending short periods of 3 or 4 minutes in the hole, while the mate preened nearby and once raised and wagged its tail on seeing the apparently smaller bird emerge.

Unfortunately the young birds were never seen outside the hole. One young bird was seen leaning out about 3 days before it flew, and the head and upper back appeared to be covered in glossy feathers resembling the black and green plumage of the adult. The bill seemed shorter, but otherwise the bird leaning out closely resembled the adult bird which had leaned out in a similar way a month earlier.

Calls

The call of the Chinese Great Barbet is described by La Touche as **cooloo-cooloo-ee-yoo**. He does not mention any other call. Herklots in "Hong Kong Birds" writes "The call of the male can best be interpreted as **cooloo-ee-you** with the emphasis on the **-ee** which is pitched a semi-tone above the first and last syllables. The call of the female is **ee-ee-ee** whistled repeatedly on the same note; it might be interpreted as **yuie-yuie-yuie**." The bird in the Botanic Gardens Aviary, labelled male, makes a call similar to that attributed by Herklots to the male. During the observation of this nest, an adult bird was twice seen to make the call attributed by Herklots to the female, once apparently in response to a male call heard in the distance. A resident reported having seen a bird making the female call on another occasion in May. No adult bird was seen making the male call, but the sounds made by the young in the hole were entirely male.

Other sounds made were the "churring" which sometimes accompanied display, and 2 loud single note squeaks made by a barbet perched by the hole on July 1, the reason for which was not apparent.

Effect Of Temperature And Rain

Throughout the period of observation, the bird which was spending some time in the hole seemed to find it necessary to stick its head out at frequent intervals, usually with the bill open. The heat increased and temperatures in the first half of July were in the nineties, but there was no indication that the bird's length of staying in the nest, or periods of looking out, were affected by the temperature. As already mentioned, it seemed possible that a lower hole was pecked to let in air, the plant growth around the hole was cleared away, and the mouth of the hole seemed to have been enlarged. Heavy rain fell for several days in mid-July, when the young of the first brood were calling in the hole, but the parents seemed undeterred in feeding them.

Number Of Birds In Each Brood

This was a matter for conjecture. Sixteen days after the first brood hatched, a barbet was seen to leave the hole, perch on the twig nearby, raise its tail slightly with appearance of excitement, and re-enter after 2 minutes. It emerged at once with something in its bill large enough to prevent it closing, and of a dull red colour, which could have been a dead young bird. A week later the 3-note call was heard from the hole, and either only one bird called at a time or the young had a remarkably well developed sense of calling in unison. For about 6 days before the young flew, one was frequently seen sticking its head out of the hole, and from what could be seen of the passage leading in and down to the nest, there would have been space for only one to perch with its head out. If a nearly grown bird were to perch thus for periods as long as 10 minutes, (as was recorded), the air entry would be so impeded that with temperatures in the 90's it seems doubtful if several young birds could have survived.

There was no clue to the number in the 2nd brood.

Summary

1. The nesting hole of a pair of Chinese Great Barbets was watched from the window of a house some 30 feet away, throughout the period of laying, incubation and rearing of the first brood, and the laying, incubation and rearing of the second brood up to the desertion of the hole when the young were about one week old.

2. The nest site was in a wooded area, but near to the centre of a crowded city, close to a busy road, and in full and close view of a guest house.

3. The barbets appeared undisturbed by some birds in the vicinity, and irritated by others. They showed no fear of domestic or traffic noises. There was no evidence of interference at the nesting hole.

4. Both birds participated in the feeding of the young, but because of the difficulty of telling male from female the share taken by each could not be estimated. Food taken into the hole consisted mainly of large-winged insects, but berries and bread were also seen in the bill of the adult entering to feed. An unidentifiable lump of red matter was also taken in.

5. On many occasions a form of display was seen. Usually one bird, and occasionally both birds, would raise the tail to a vertical position and then sometimes wag it from side to side. This often occurred when one left the hole and the other entered. The bright red of the under tail coverts then showed up well. Sometimes the displaying bird kept its bill open, and occasionally it made a "churring" noise.

6. At one point the watcher thought there was a clear difference between the two birds, one being of slighter build with a less pronounced bill. Usually, however, they seemed similar, and La Touche in "A Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China" records no difference. The young were never seen out of the hole, but the head and neck seen sticking out on the last few days before the young flew, resembled the adult in plumage, though the bill appeared shorter.

7. A barbet was twice seen to make the call attributed to the female by Herklots in "Hong Kong Birds". No adult bird was seen making the male call, but this call was heard in the distance. The calls of the young in the hole were entirely male.

8. Temperature and rain did not appear to affect the barbets' behaviour.

9. It seemed likely that only one bird of the first brood grew up to leave the nest. The second brood was deserted when about one week old.

NOTE ON A DAURIAN REDSTART AT TAIPO KAU

A male Daurian Redstart arrived in our garden during the first half of November, 1959, and stayed about 16 days. He spent a lot of time apparently trying to get into the house and repeatedly flew at the window pane in the guest room. He was obviously attracted by his own reflection in the window.

It was very touching to see him bring berries to "feed" this reflection of himself. We gave him food and water during his stay.

My son attempted to trap him in the end, with a view to releasing him a few miles away, for we were afraid he might damage his bill in his unceasing flights against the glass of the window.

He was tame and very beautiful, and in perfect condition.

A.O.B.

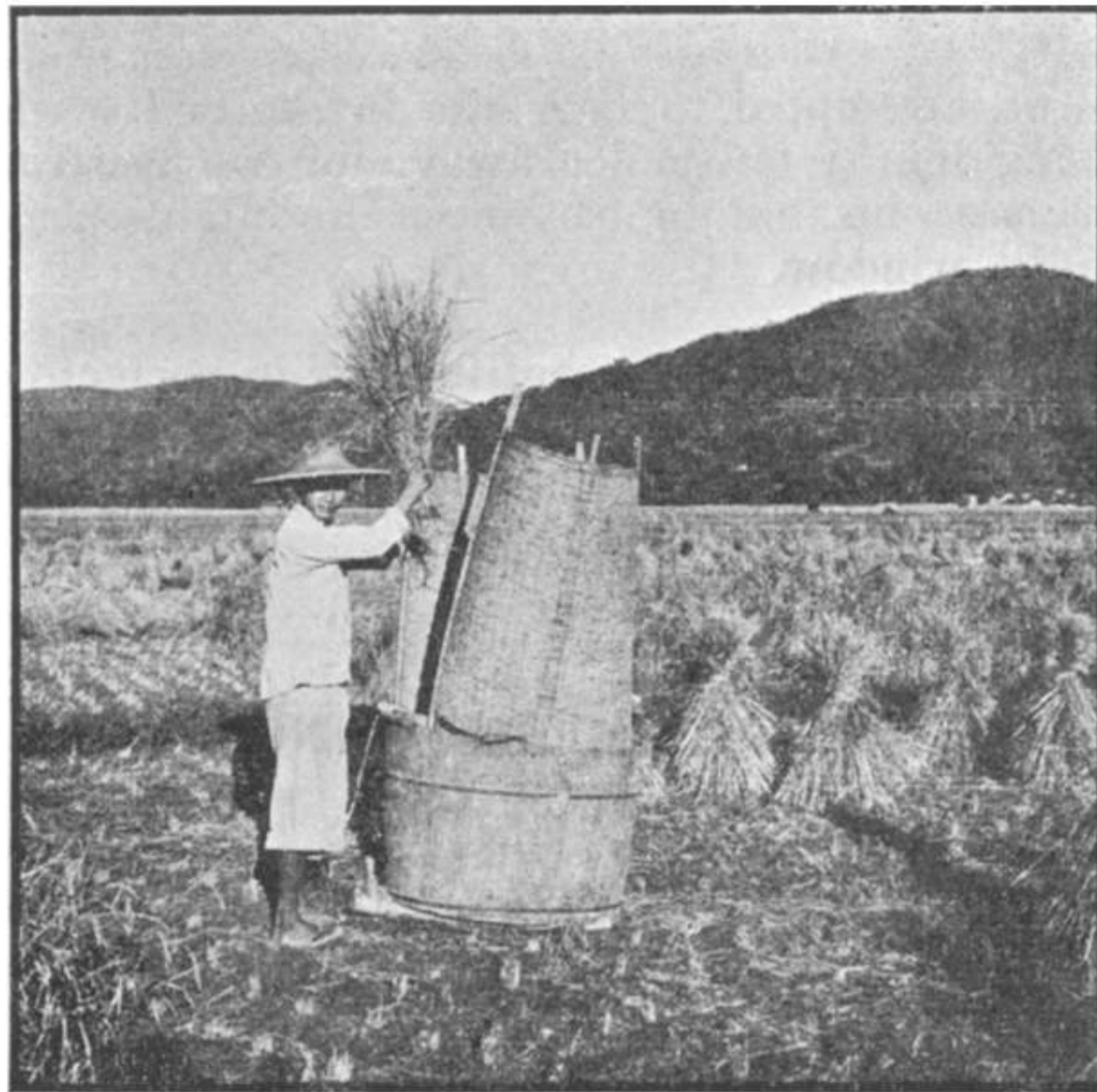
HINTS ON CHOOSING BINOCULARS

For bird watching, binoculars should have a magnification of not less than 6 nor more than 10. They should have a light value of not less than 16. The latter may be calculated by dividing the diameter of the object glass in millimetres by the magnification, and squaring the result. For example, an 8 x 40 pair of binoculars will have a light value of 25. Binoculars for bird watching should also have a fairly wide field of vision. Central focusing is more convenient, but is perhaps less airtight and therefore more liable to be affected by Hong Kong's damp climate.

Most makes of Japanese binoculars are satisfactory and a good pair can be bought in Hong Kong for about \$125. It is advisable to check the framework, focusing mechanism and lenses by comparison with first class binoculars such as those made by Ross or Zeiss. An easy way to ensure that lenses are evenly ground is to focus on an isolated object, such as the top of a flagpole, and slowly move the binoculars so that all parts of the lenses are used. If there is no trace of a double image or of rainbow colouring the lenses should be suitable.

A Feast of Wagtails

One golden afternoon in late October, I drifted into the Lam Tsuen valley to find a scene of great activity, by men, women and wagtails. The humans were cutting and thrashing the second crop of rice and taking no notice of the wagtails. The wagtails were feasting on the spilt and taking no notice of the humans. Camera in one hand and binoculars in the other, I was interested in everything and only wished that I could make myself invisible.



Over the birds there was not much difficulty and I was soon surrounded by hundreds of running and darting forms, with the evening sun showing off and exaggerating every shade of colour. Only the bobbing heads made it hard to see the all-important eyebrow stripes of the yellow wagtails which, although heavily outnumbered by their pied cousins and keeping on the far fringe of each flock, were running about in the stubble in their tens and twenties. They were mostly Eastern Yellows with noticeably speckled backs, but here and there a blue-grey head showed up and at least once I could detect no eyebrow at all and hoped that it was a grey-headed and that five varieties were on the scene. There were certainly no grey wagtails among the flocks. Overhead I suddenly saw a paroquet, unusually far from home.

So much for the birds. The humans were far more shy, at least as soon as I touched my camera, and there was clearly no chance of getting any close-up snaps of the very photogenic Hakka women, in their lampshade hats and straw armlets to protect their wrists from the sweep of the sickle. The best I could do was to cajole a lad into posing at his threshing tub, and by writing his name and address in my little notebook he received a print (I hope) within the week. If not, he has only to join the Society to see his photograph in the Annual Report.

E.D.W.

As they hear us!

Look! There's a wryneck!
Where? Over there
On the trunk of that tree.
But I **still** can't see.
Well you see that rock
Like a conical hat?
Ten to three from **that**.

Oh damn—it's flown
I might have known
I'd never see
A wryneck climbing up a tree
But there's something else.
It has white on its head

And I think, yes I **think**
There's a hint of pink
Or it might be red.
Well it's my belief
That the red's a leaf.
Oh you bird-watching fool
It's a **bulbul**.

J.D.W.

RECORDING

1. Records can be sent in to the Hon. Recorder at any time, but preferably quarterly or at worst half-yearly. Anyone leaving the Colony is asked to send in his records before departure if possible; notes have a nasty habit of getting mislaid "en voyage".

2. Use a separate sheet of paper (4½" by 6" approx.) for each species.

3. Head each sheet and complete it as follows:—

YEAR	SPECIES	OBSERVER'S INITIALS
Date	Place	Numbers, age, sex, etc.
e.g. 1960	BONELL'S EAGLE	AMM
1st Jan.	Tai Lam Chung Res.	One adult with two Golden Eagles.
4th Feb.	Ping Shan Marshes	Two immatures flying South about 2 P.M.

4. Please do NOT use diary form.

5. Whenever possible obtain confirmation of a rarity by getting someone else to see it. At least take full notes on the spot and send them in with your records. Do NOT guess or imagine details afterwards. Please read the extract from the British Birds editorial on the following page. It is important that our standards in Hong Kong should be as high as possible from the start. Nevertheless, it is hoped that members will send in reports of rarities even when they are doubtful whether they have enough supporting evidence to make the observation a certainty. Subsequent events sometimes support a report of this kind, or it may tie in with those of other observers.

6. Remember that your records will be kept for future reference. Please type or write them neatly and legibly.

7. The following information about the Colony's birds is particularly needed:—

(a) Positive breeding records for all species in all areas.

(b) Nesting data, such as breeding period, clutch size, incubation and fledging periods.

(c) Arrival and departure dates of summer and winter visitors.

(d) Reports from the New Territories **East** of the Kowloon-Canton railway.

(a) and (b) are best recorded on nesting cards which may be obtained from the Hon: Secretary. Full instructions are printed on them. When completed they should be sent to the Hon. Recorder.

SIGHT-RECORDS OF RARE BIRDS

(Extracted from the editorial in "British Birds",
Vol: XLV, No. 1, January, 1952)

Accurate sight-records of rare birds are important because they add to knowledge without causing the destruction involved in the alternative method of collecting specimens. However, sight-records are of very little use if not above suspicion.

Do not record a rare bird as seen for certain unless you have taken down on the spot its characteristics before consulting a work on ornithology. It is entirely unsatisfactory to view a bird in the field, taking insufficient notes, and then, finding its supposed portrait or description in a book, even a short time afterwards, to proceed to work out an account or sketch of what was seen.

Ideally field-notes of a rarity should cover the following points:—

1. Distance of bird from you, whether you were using glasses or not, and nature and direction of light.

2. Nature of ground it was on and what other birds (if any) it was associating with.

3. Whether you saw it from different angles; whether at rest or in flight; whether from above or below. (The more varied the conditions of observation the better).

4. What were its actions and what was the character of its flight compared with other birds.

5. Its general form as compared with other birds, and how it differed from other birds at all like it which are known to you.

7. Particular points in structure as compared with other birds, such as size and shape of bill, length of legs, shape of wing, length of tail.

8. Colour of bill, legs and feet; any distinctive white or coloured patches or markings and their exact position. A rough sketch or diagram is a great help. (Some general anatomy should be learnt so that you can give the colour of wing-coverts, under tail-coverts, nape, throat, chin or other parts of the plumage accurately.)

9. So far as possible, an exact description of the whole plumage of the bird, not only the parts which you think may help in identifying it.

10. Any calls or notes, indicating especially the quality of the sound (harsh, rattling, shrill, hoarse, liquid, etc.), and comparison with notes of other species if this assists the description.

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