

THE HONG KONG  
BIRD REPORT 1960



*Published by*

**THE HONG KONG BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY**

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*by the*

**HONG KONG BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY**

**c/o The Chartered Bank, Hong Kong.**

(A registered society under the Hong Kong Societies Ordinance)

# THE HONG KONG BIRD REPORT 1960

COMPILED BY  
A. D. MACDONALD

## INTRODUCTION

The year 1960 was an excellent one for the activities of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society. From the section of this Report entitled 'Colony records for 1960' it will be seen that ten species hitherto not recorded in the Colony were added to the list.

The main event of the year was the publication of *An Annotated Check-list of the Birds of Hong Kong*, compiled by Captain A. M. Macfarlane and Flight Sergeant A. D. Macdonald.\* Thus one of the main aims of the Society when it was founded in 1957 has now been fulfilled. The check-list includes all reports received up to 30th April 1960, and is a very thorough job of work based on an up-to-date system of nomenclature. It provides all who are interested in watching birds in Hong Kong with a comprehensive and sound basis from which to work. The check-list was well received by Ornithological Societies both in Britain and America.

Unfortunately some of the keenest members of the Society left the Colony during 1960, including both the Hon. Secretary, Commander J. N. Humphreys and the Hon. Recorder, Captain A.M. Macfarlane. It was chiefly owing to their enthusiasm and hard work that the various activities of the Society have been so successful during the past two years. Luckily a number of new members have recently joined and at the time of going to press there are approximately sixty members, twelve of whom reside outside the Colony.

The following is a list of the main activities of the Society during the year:—

29th January — Outing to Pak Taam valley (beyond Sai Kung).  
Total of 46 species seen.

\*Printed and published for the Society by South China Morning Post Ltd; price H.K.\$7.50.

- 6th March — Outing to Mong Tseng Peninsula and Deep Bay.
- 9th March — Annual General Meeting held in the University. After the meeting Dr. L. T. Ride showed a most interesting film of a young Crow Pheasant feeding on the lawn of his garden and also performing a strange 'dance'. A collection of colour slides was also shown including Mr. J. D. Bromhall's photographs of a White Bellied Sea Eagle with young.
- 16th March — Four members accompanied the Hong Kong University expedition to Lamma Island and recorded 50 different species of birds.
- 24th April — Field day at Mai Po marshes to see the spring migration of waders.
- 15th May — Outing to Mai Po marshes.
- 6th June — Expedition to Yuen Long egrettries.
- 25th September — Outing to Ping Shan.
- 5th October — Outing to Mai Po marshes.
- 17th October — Field day in Lam Tsun valley.
- 4th November — Visit to area beyond Sai Kung.
- 26th December — Boxing Day outing to Mai Po marshes.

In addition to sending in records of their observations during the year members were also asked to provide the Hon. Recorder with information about the song period of the various birds of Hong Kong, and the chart included in the current Report was based on that information.

Captain A. M. Macfarlane gave a talk to the Hong Kong Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society on 22nd September on the birds of Hong Kong. It was illustrated by a collection of colour slides and tape recordings of bird calls and songs. This talk was so successful that the Bird Watching Society arranged for it to be repeated as a public lecture in the British Council Library on 12th October. Also during the year Commander J. N. Humphreys gave

a talk over Radio Hong Kong on the birds of the Colony as well as several illustrated lectures to schools on the same subject.

During 1960 the Society was most fortunate to receive some very welcome additions to its library through the generosity of individuals. Mr. A. R. C. Morrison presented the Society with eight books about birds of China including two copies of La Touche, *A Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China* which is still the standard reference work for birds of this part of China as a whole. Dr. G. A. C. Herklots presented copies of his own most useful *Field Identification and Field Note Book* of the birds of Hong Kong as well as copies of *Field Observations from the Colony of Hong Kong* by Dove and Goodhart. Finally, the Society received a handsome gift of recently published books from Mr. Loke Wan Tho including E. A. Armstrong's fascinating work entitled *The Folklore of Birds*. If anyone reading this report has a copy of Dr. Herklots' book *Hong Kong Birds* or his *Field Note Book* or copies of *The Hong Kong Naturalist* which he no longer uses and would care to pass them on to the Society he can be assured that they will be received most gratefully and put to good use. These books are out of print and quite unobtainable.

During the course of the year the Society became a member of the International Council of Bird Preservation, and is anxious to play its part in bird preservation in the Colony.

The objects of the Society remain as originally laid down at its inauguration in 1957. They are printed on the back of the form of application for membership which will be found at the back of this report.

Copies of the 1959 Report are still available from the Hon. Secretary, to whom all correspondence, applications for membership, etc. should be sent. Permanent address:—

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

J.L.C-B.

## COLONY RECORDS 1960

### Facts and Figures

The third year of the Society's work brought records of 259 species and races including ten additions to the Colony list. This compares with 236 species and races reported in 1959.

There were slightly less breeding records however, 46 species being reported as breeding and a further 8 species were suspected of doing so.

### Weather

1960 was an exceptionally warm year, the annual mean temperature being the highest ever recorded. Rain fall was somewhat more than average, but not exceptionally so. The first four months were abnormally dry and sunny, relief from drought coming early in May when heavy rain caused serious flooding in the New Territories. June was marked by one of the worst typhoons in the Colony records, the centre passing over the New Territories on June 9th. At the end of the month another typhoon also passed close by. August was also rather wetter than normal due to a number of storms and in September Typhoon Kit brought bad weather to the Colony. November was the most humid month on record and December was colder than normal.

### Summary

The year started well with the addition of the Bar-tailed Cuckoo-Dove and the Yellow-breasted Willow-Warbler to the Colony list. A female Grey-throated Minivet was seen at Castle Peak and a Black-naped Monarch Flycatcher was seen on two occasions in the Tai Po Kau area. A White Ibis was seen at Mai Po. Perhaps the most remarkable feature of the spring records was the large number of Thrushes reported. The commoner species were in greater numbers than usual and the less frequently seen were quite widely reported. The Brown Thrush was a new Colony record and apart from the first report, one captured in a garage on the Peak, another was seen for some days on the Peak and one was seen near Tai Mong Tsai. There were also six reports of the Fire breasted Flowerpecker.

February saw a further report of White Ibis and also of the Lesser Spoonbill, Shelduck and Golden Eagle from Deep Bay. Grey Bushchats were seen in the Lam Tsun Valley.

March brought the beginning of the spring rush of migrants to Deep Bay and Birds of Prey seen included the Steppe Eagle, Serpent Eagle, and Goshawk. The Lam Tsun Valley was the scene of the first Colony record of the Grey-headed Flycatcher, the second record, in December, being from the same wood. A Caspian Plover was also seen in the Lam Tsun Valley. The University area provided the first Crow-Tit ever reported from the Colony and this month saw the departure of a pair of Tristram's Buntings which had spent the winter there. Hodgson's Rose-finch was seen near Tai Po.

April again proved an interesting month for waders, particularly the latter half although no unusual species were reported. A Red-headed Tit was seen in the Lam Tsun Valley. This is also a new Colony record. Rare birds seen included the Grey-faced Buzzard-Eagle, Slaty-backed Gull and the Chestnut Bunting. White-cheeked Drongos were reported passing through and a Bull-headed Shrike which spent the winter in the University area left.

A Black Bittern was picked up at the beginning of May in an exhausted condition, and after a few days was fit enough to be released. A Knot was seen at Mai Po and a flock of Lesser Crested Terns, reported in rough weather from the entrance to Tolo Channel, were the first Colony records for this species.

June will long be remembered for Typhoon Mary which caused such havoc when it struck the Colony on June 9th. It quite overshadowed Typhoon Olive at the end of the month, but this typhoon, like Typhoon Mary, though to a lesser extent, was responsible for some most unusual June records. Although no new records could be added to the Colony list, an Albatross of uncertain species was seen off Castle Peak. Amongst the other birds not usually seen in June, pride of place must surely go to the Pheasant-tailed Jacana. Although there are only six previous records they are reported to breed in the delta of the Canton river. Dare we hope that their enforced visit to Hong Kong will induce them to

return to breed? Other unusual records were for the Great Egret, (which has bred in the past), Buzzard, Sparrowhawk, Little Stint, Red-necked Phalarope, Common Tern, Greater Crested Tern, (of which there is only one previous record) and the Sand Martin.

As usual July and August were quiet months. However, a pair of Chinese Babax with young were seen high up on the side of Tai Mo Shan in July. This was a new addition to the Colony list. In August a White-tailed Sea Eagle was seen.

September, however brought Typhoon Kit and also Pintail, the Ruddy Crake, a Watercock, two Ruff, a Brown Shrike of the race *L. c. confusus*, not previously reported as such, (see Systematic List), and best of all, 14 Black-winged Stilts—a truly magnificent sight.

Interesting birds seen during October were the Grey-headed Lapwing, Styan's Grasshopper Warbler and a Baillon's Crake. A Fairy Bluebird seen on the Sai Kung Peninsular cannot be ascribed to a particular species as no description of *I. cyanogaster* is available in the Colony.

Apart from being a very humid month November saw the arrival of a number of winter visitors to the Deep Bay area and a Goshawk, an Imperial Eagle and a Water Rail were reported.

The year ended with a colder December than usual which may well have accounted for the two further additions to the Colony list, a Green-headed Flycatcher-Warbler, and a Ruddy Sparrow on Ma On Shan. It was probably also responsible for the report of a Wren from Kai Tak. Two Treepies seen in the Tai Po Kau Forestry reserve at Christmas were also of particular interest.

Whilst once again the Society has had a very successful year, the Hon. Recorder must regret that reports were received from fewer persons than in either of the two previous years. Perhaps members feel, from examining the published records, that the birds that they see are not sufficiently unusual.

The fallacy in this line of thought is shown by the fact that this Society has not one Nest Record Card for the Tree Sparrow. For many of the commoner birds covered by this report the Hon. Recorder had to rely entirely or almost entirely upon his own

observations which hardly cover Hong Kong Island at all, and are naturally rather patchy in the New Territories. Birds reported as common residents may well be entirely absent from significant areas not covered by him. Similarly, birds reported as resident but local may well occur in areas known to some members but not to those who sent in reports.

It is hoped that the next Hon. Recorder may have the advantage of many more reports next year.

**A.D.M.**

## FIELD STUDIES

### Breeding census of Ardeidae

During the 1960 season, counts were made of most of the known Ardeidae colonies in Hong Kong. The table below shows the result. It should be compared with records from previous years. Briefly it will be seen that the major changes were a gain in numbers of Cattle Egrets and a reduction in the number of little Egrets. The number of Lesser Egrets shown in the last report should most probably be added to the total of Little Egret owing to mistaken identification. (See Checklist of the Birds of Hong Kong). The grid referances 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, 1st Ed. The numbers are of occupied nests.

COLONY	Yellow Bittern	Pond Heron	Cattle Egret	Little Egret	Swinhoe's Egret
Wong Uk Yuen Long JV 950856	—	12	24	20	5
Shan Pui- Yuen Long JV 949861	—	7	47	52	4
Mai Po Village JV 974906	—	11	—	—	—
Mai Po Marsh JV 949912	12	—	—	—	—
Luen Tak Marsh JV 920882	10+	—	—	—	—
Shataukok KV 125946	—	70	—	—	—
Hung Uk Tsuen KV 916851	—	30	—	—	—
Shung Shui KV 047919	—	40	—	—	—
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>22+</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>9</b>

# HONG KONG BIRDS

## SONG PERIOD CHART Prepared by AMM

SPECIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Francolin												
Spotted Dove												
Indian Cuckoo												
Large Hawk Cuckoo												
Plaintive Cuckoo												
Koel												
Crow-Pheasant												
Lesser Crow-Pheasant												
Barred Owlet												
Collared Scops Owl												
Japanese Nightjar												
Savannah Nightjar												
Great Barbet												
Rufous Backed Shrike												
Black Naped Oriole												
Black Necked Starling												
Indian Mynah												
Crested Bulbul												
Chinese Bulbul												
Red Vented Bulbul												
Black Throated Laughing Thrush												
Hwamei												
Chinese Bush Warbler												
Von Schrenk's Reed Warbler												
Great Reed Warbler												

## SONG CHART PAGE 2

SPECIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Dusky Warbler												
Yellow-Browed Warbler												
Pallas Warbler												
Tailor Bird												
David's Hill Warbler												
Brown Wren Warbler												
Yellow Bellied Wren Warbler												
Fantail Warbler												
Rubythroat												
Magpie Robin												
Stonechat												
Red Bellied Rock Thrush												
Grey Thrush												
Great Tit												
Chinese Pipit												
Tree Pipit												
Upland Pipit												
White Faced Wagtail												
White-Eye												
Greenfinch												
Masked Bunting												
Crested Bunting												
Grey-Headed Flycatcher												
Brown Flycatcher												

# Game Birds in Hong Kong 1959-60

## Based on a report by Mr Wong Bor

**DUCK.** More duck have been seen in the Deep Bay area this season than in any other season.

**FRANCOLIN.** On the whole, the "partridge" shooting this season can be regarded as fair. This bird is mostly found in the more distant places and is continuously moving further inland. It is estimated that about 700 birds have been shot this season. Illegal trapping takes a heavy toll of this bird.

**QUAIL.** This season has been far the best for this little game bird for a long time.

**SNIPE.** Suitable districts in the New Territories are being constantly reduced in size owing to houses being built on the paddies and also to extensive vegetable growing in these areas.

**WOODCOCK.** In spite of the dry season, a fair number have been shot, mostly in the Sai Kung, Shatin and Kam Tin area, but very few in the Ha Tsuen valley.

(The above report has been included since it summarizes the observations of the Colony's hunters on a particular section of our bird-life. It is hoped to make this an annual contribution.)

A.M.M.

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## Systematic List of Birds Reported in Hong Kong During 1960

### ABBREVIATIONS

- B = Breeding proved in 1960. Nest and eggs or young seen.  
B? = Breeding strongly suspected in 1960  
LTV = Lam Tsun Valley

- NT = New Territories  
TPK = Tai Po Kau  
UA = Hong Kong University Area  
HMT = Ho Man Tin (Central Kowloon)  
TMS = Tai Mo Shan  
Res = Reservoir

### 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 Rd.

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

### ARRANGMENT OF SPECIES

The list has been arranged in accordance with 'AN ANNOTATED CHECK-LIST OF THE BIRDS OF HONG KONG'. New species reported since the Check List was closed for publication (30th April, 1960) have been inserted in their correct position and a suffix letter, 'x' has been used.

The numbers by the side of the English names are the Check List numbers. La Touche numbers have been omitted; they may be found in the Check-list.

### 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.



- 2 **Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*  
Deep Bay: Up to 25 birds on several occasions until March 6th (several observers). Tai Lam Chung Res.: 1 on Dec. 23rd (EJA)
- 4 **Little Grebe** *Podiceps poggei*  
Tai Lam Chung Res: Up to 40 seen on several occasions up to 19th March (AMM). 3 on December 23rd (EJA)
- 5 **Spotted-Billed Pelican** *Pelecanus roseus*  
Deep Bay: Seen on four occasions up to the 20th March (AMM,BCW,EDW). Maximum numbers were c. 85 on 21st February. One seen on 18th December (EDW)
- 6 **Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*  
Winter visitor, mainly to the Deep Bay area, but also reported from Tai Lam Chung Res., Stonecutters Island, and North-east Lan Tao Island. Last reported; 14 on 3rd April at Stonecutters (JNH). First reported: 3 on 18th November from Deep Bay (ADM)
- 10 **Yellow Bittern** *Ixobrychus sinensis (B)*  
Summer visitor to the Deep Bay marshes; Seen frequently from 1st May (AMM) to 5th October (ADM).
- 11 **Chestnut Bittern** *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*  
Ho Chung: 3 on 7th April (JNH). San Tin: a female on 4th September (AMM)
- 12 **Black Bittern** *Ixobrychus flavicollis*  
Mong Kok: One at the Police Station was handed to the S.P.C.A. on 2nd May. Later released. (AStGW)
- 13 **Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*  
Mai Po; One on 12th March (JNH)
- 15 **Chinese Pond Heron** *Ardeola bacchus (B)*  
Resident and migrant. Common locally in summer but most winter birds are migrants. Breeds at number of heronries in the NT. Reported also from Magazine Gap Rd, 2 on 31st March (AStGW). Ho Man Tin: a number of single birds between 10th and 23rd April and 15 on 21st October arrived soon after midnight (ADM)
- 16 **Cattle Egret** *Ardeola ibis (B)*  
Summer visitor, breeding at the Yuen Long Egrettry. First recorded from the Ho Chung Valley on 7th April (JNH). Last recorded at Kai Tak on 31st October (ADM)
- 17 **Little Green Heron** *Butorides striatus*  
Mai Po: One on 18th September is the only record (AMM)
- 18 **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta (B)*  
Resident. Breeding at the Yuen Long Egrettry. Reported all the year round from Deep Bay, though less common in winter.
- 19 **Lesser Egret** *Egretta intermedia*  
Mai Po: Two on 22nd May is the only positive record (AMM)
- 20 **Swinhoes' Egret** *Egretta eulophotes (B)*  
Summer visitor. Bred at Yuen Long Egrettry. First reported from Mai Po on 15th April. Last reported at Mai Po on 10th June (AMM)
- 21 **Reef Egret** *Egretta sacra (B?)*  
Reported from various places on the south coast on Hong Kong Island, from Sai Kung and Stonecutters Island, in February, April and from June to October (several observers) including one report of five on August 31st (AStGW)
- 22 **Great Egret** *Egretta alba*  
Winter visitor; last reported from Mai Po 24th April (Society Outing) First reported 18th September (AMM). Additionally there were two at Ping Shan on the 10th and 11th June, just after Typhoon Mary (AMM)
- 23 **Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*  
Common winter visitor to the Deep Bay marshes. Last reported 8th May; first reported 4th September, except for two seen at Ping Shan on 11th June (AMM). Also reported from Hebe Haven on 29th January (JLCB), Stonecutters on 3rd April (JNH)
- 24 **Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*  
Mai Po: Two on 24th April (Society Outing), one on 29th September (AMM), three on October 23rd and one on November 13th (EJA)

- 26 **White Ibis** *Threskiornis melanocephala*  
 Mai Po; One on 6th January (JNH). Six in flight on 28th February (AMM)
- 28 **Lesser Spoonbill** *Platalea minor*  
 Mai Po: Up to four on three occasions between 14th and 28th February (AMM & BCW). Lok Ma Chau: Eight in flight on 29th October (JAO). Luen Tak: Two on 31st December (JAO)
- 29 **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*  
 Mai Po; More than twelve seen on 12th March (EDW)
- 30 **Yellow-Nib Duck** *Anas poecilorhyncha*  
 Mai Po: Flighting in during January, very large numbers being reported on 30th January (DH). Last reported 14th January (AMM) First reported from San Tin on 22nd September (JAO). Mai Po: About 300 on 16th October (AMM) almost certainly of these species.
- 31 **Falcated Teal** *Anas falcata*  
 Mai Po: Last reported on 28th February, c. 150 (AMM). First reported from Luen Tak on 20th November, a flight of 12 (AMM)
- 32 **Teal** *Anas crecca*  
 Deep Bay Marshes: Last reported, 15 on 20th March (AMM). First reported on 28th September (JAO). Only small flocks were seen in the autumn.
- 34 **Garganey** *Anas querquedula*  
 Ping Shan: A flock of 15 on 28th September (AMM). Mai Po: A 'pricked' female on 5th October (Society Outing)
- 36 **Pintail** *Anas acuta*  
 Ping Shan: A female on 29th September (AMM)
- 42 **Red-Breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*  
 Mai Po: One seen on 14th and 28th February (AMM). Deep Bay: A flock of c.33 on 6th March (Society Outing)
- 43 **Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*  
 Mai Po: Twelve on 14th February and three on 28th February (AMM)

- 48 **Black-Eared Kite** *Milvus migrans (B)*  
 Resident and winter visitor. Local in summer, but very common in winter. Stonecutters Island: At least one pair bred, probably six pairs. Numbers fell off during the spring to c. 160 on 3rd April, c. 80 on 22nd June. The autumn numbers were well down on last year. Although no complete census was attempted, numbers at Stonecutters were probably below 500 in December.
- 50 **Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*  
 Fairly common, widespread, winter visitor. One summer record from above Tai Mo Shan on 10th June (ADM), otherwise last reported on 2nd April, one at Ho Chung (JNH) and one at MT. Davis (JLCB). First reported from Sai Kung on 24th October (ADM)
- 52 **Sparrowhawk** *Accipter nisus*  
 Widespread winter visitor with one summer record from Ho Man Tin on 28th June (after Typhoon Olive) (ADM). Last reported from UA on 24th April (JLCB). First recorded from Mai Po on 18th September (ADM)
- 54 **Goshawk** *Accipter gentilis*  
 Mong Tseng: One on 6th March (Society Outing) Ping Shan: One on 18th November (ADM)
- 56 **Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos*  
 Mai Po: One on 28th February (AMM) is the only record.
- 57 **Imperial Eagle** *Aquila heliaca*  
 Au Tau Cross roads: One soaring on 28th November is the only record (ADM)
- 58 **Steppe Eagle** *Aquila nipalensis*  
 Luen Tak: One on 6th March (Society Outing)
- 59 **Spotted Eagle** *Aquila clanga*  
 Tai Mong Tsai (Sai Kung Pen.): One on 25th February. Mai Po: One on 20th March (AMM)
- 60 **Bonelli's Eagle** *Hieraetus fasciatus*  
 Telegraph Pass (West of TWSK): One adult on 11th January (AMM). Mai Po: Two birds together, one definitely of this species, the other probably, on 5th October (Society Outing)

- 61 **White-Tailed Eagle** *Haliaeetus albicilla*  
Tweed Bay: 30th August, one fishing in the Bay (A StGW)
- 62 **White-Bellied Sea Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucogaster* (B)  
Resident. Bred on Steep Island and Cape Colinson (Several observers)
- 63 **Grey-Faced Buzzard-Eagle** *Butastur indicus*  
Castle Peak: One present during the period 23rd to 29th April inc. (AMM)
- 64 **Serpent-Eagle** *Spilornis cheela*  
LTV: One on 8th March (BK) and 23rd March (AMM). There are six previous records
- 65 **Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus aeruginosus*  
Winter visitor to the Deep Bay marshes. Last recorded on 24th April (Society Outing). First recorded on 27th September (AMM).
- 66 **Pied Harrier** *Circus melanoleucos*  
Luen Tak: One on 6th March, (Society Outing). Mai Po: One on 16th October (AMM & EJA)
- 67 **Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*  
Mai Po: A female seen on 6th January (JNH), 24th April (Society Outing), and 2nd October (AMM). Ping Shan: A female on 28th September (AMM).
- 70 **Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*  
All reports are from the Mong Tseng area except one reported off North-east Lan Tao on 4th February (AStGW). Last reported on 6th March (Society Outing), first reported on 18th November (ADM)
- 72 **Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*  
No spring records. Reported from Ping Shan on 28th September, Mai Po on 2nd October (AMM). Kowloon on 9th October, 26th October and 8th November and from TWSK on the 7th November (ADM)
- 73 **Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*  
Winter visitor. Widespread in the NT and on Hong Kong Island. There are reports for all months except May and July, though the June records can probably be attributed to Typhoon Mary.

- 77 **Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus interstinctus*  
Winter visitor. Widespread. Last reported from Ho Chung Valley on 2nd April (JNH). First reported from Tai Mo Shan on 5th October (ADM)
- 78 **Chinese Francolin** *Francolinus pintadeanus* (B)  
Common resident. Widespread in suitable areas of rough cover.
- 79 **Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*  
Winter visitor. Most reports are from the Deep Bay area, but there are others from the Sai Kung Peninsula, Shatin area, Castle Peak, and Tai Mo Shan. The 1959/60 shooting season was considered the best for many years. Over twenty were flushed at Lok Ma Chau on 20th February, over fifteen near Shung Shui on 27th March. Last reported at Chu Kiang on 30th April, first reported on 9th September from Chuk Yuen (JAO)
- 81 **Barred Button-Quail** *Turnix suscitator*  
Lok Ma Chau: One male shot on 26th October. Ping Shan: Two shot on 9th November and two shot on 20th November (JAO)
- 84 **Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*  
Luen Tak: One on 18th November (ADM) in the mangroves.
- 85 **Banded Rail** *Rallus striatus*  
All reports except two are from Mai Po where the presence of immatures on the 4th September and 2nd October tend towards the possibility of breeding here, which has been suspected in previous years. The dates are late however and cannot be taken as confirmation, though lateness might be due to the young from a second sitting after the destruction of the first earlier in the year. Wong Nai Tau: One on 1st January (EDW) Luen Tak: One on 6th March (Society Outing). Mai Po marshes: Seven reports between 24th April (Society Outing) and 2nd October (AMM).
- 86 **Ballou's Crake** *Porzana pusilla*  
Ping Shan: One immature shot on 2nd October as it flew up with Snipe (per AMM) This is the second record from the Colony.

87 **Ruddy Crane** *Porzana fusca*

Ping Shan: One on 27th September (AMM). This is the third Colony record.

89 **White-Breasted Waterhen** *Amaurornis phoenicurus* (B)

Resident, widespread in the NT. No reports from Hong Kong Island but one reported from Lamma Island on 16th March (JLCB)

90 **Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

Shatin Valley: One probable on 3rd January (DH). Mai Po; One probable on 12th March (per JNH). Lok Ma Chau: One on 15th October (SPMK)

91 **Watercock** *Gallicrex cirerea*

Mai Po: One on 3rd September (RHAC). Sheung Shui Jockey Club: One at the end of September (JAO). Kowloon: One flew into a room and was examined before release during the autumn (Br. W.B.)

92 **Coot** *Fulica atra*

Stream south of Fanling: One on 13th January (JNH). Mai Po: One on 6th November (SPMK). Tai Lam Chung Reservoir: nine on 23rd December (EJA). There are only two previous post-war records.

93 **Pheasant-tailed Jacana** *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*

Tai Lam Camp, Castle Peak: 5 adults, including two males in full breeding plumage on 9th and 10th June, one male on 11th June. Ping Shan: Three including one male on 11th June (AMM). There are only three previous records.

94 **Painted Snipe** *Rostratula benghalensis*

Shataukok: Two males shot on 3rd January. Shun Wan, Tai Po: Five shot on 6th March. Laffan's Plain: One male shot on 13th September. From 2nd October to the end of the year parties of up to four seen mainly in the Deep Bay area by JAO who quotes ratio of two males to each female.

97 **Grey-Headed Lapwing** *Microsarcops cinereus*

North of Ha Tsuen: Four flocks of 20 on 5th October, two on 16th October and one on 26th October (JAO)

98 **Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

Winter visitor and passage migrant, mainly in small flocks to the Deep Bay marshes. Lamma Island: Five on 16th March (JLCB, JNH). Ho Chung: Three on 2nd April (JNH). Last recorded from Yuen Long on 13th April (AMM). First recorded from Mai Po on 29th August (AMM). Lok Ma Chau: c. 50 on 11th December (JAO)

100 **Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*

Fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant, mainly to the Deep Bay marshes. Sai Kung c. 5 on 10th April. Shatin Wai: 20 on 5th December (ADM) Mai Po: Last reported on 22nd May, first reported on 4th September (AMM)

101 **Greater Sand Plover** *Charadrius leschenaultii*

Most records are from the Deep Bay marshes, but there are two spring records from Castle Peak, Deep Bay: Last reported on 22nd May, one record of c.5 on 10th June and then c.10 on 14th August is the first autumn record (AMM)

102 **Mongolian Sand Plover** *Charadrius mongolus*

Mai Po: c.4 on 24th April (Society Outing), c.4 on the 8th and 22nd May (AMM). Up to six between 18th September and 5th October (Several Observers)

103 **Caspian Plover** *Charadrius asiaticus*

LTV: One on 27th March (EDW). This is the seventh Colony record

104 **Grey Plover** *Charadrius squatarola*

Mai Po: Up to 35 in spring. Last reported on 22nd May, first reported on 11th September (AMM)

105 **Asiatic Golden Plover** *Charadrius dominicus*

Passage migrant to the Deep Bay Marshes. Spring records fall between 28th February and 22nd May (AMM), and autumn records fall between 11th September (EJA) and 2nd November (JAO). Five were seen at Mai Po on 10th June (AMM)

106 **Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

Mai Po: One on 8th May (AMM). Four reports of single birds between 11th September (AMM) and 5th October (ADM)

107 **Fantail Snipe** *Capella gallinago*

Reported from Mai Po and Ho Chung until 7th April (JAO, JNH). Two shot at Sek Kong on 27th August (AMM). Two shot at Ho Chung on 31st December (JAO).

108 **Pintail Snipe** *Capella stenura*

Some shot in April in various places (JAO). Widespread from 25th August to the end of the year. The largest numbers were in August (JAO, AMM).

109 **Swinhoe's Snipe** *Capella megala*

Up to 30 reported during April from the Shung Shui Plain area of the New Territories (JAO), Sek Kong: One shot on 27th Aug. Yuen Long: One shot on 10th September (AMM)

112 **Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

Winter visitor. Last reported from the Shatin Valley on 11th March (DH). First reported from Sek Kong on 1st August (RHAC). This is the earliest autumn record for the Colony.

113 **Curlew** *Numenius arquatus*

There are fewer reports than usual. Mai Po: One heard on 24th April, three on 4th September, a few on 18th September, two on 16th October (AMM, ADM, EJA). Tolo Harbour: One in flight on 25th August (ADM)

115 **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

All reports are from the Mai Po marshes. Reported between 15th April and 10 June with eight on 24th April, and again between 14th August and 16th October with over 30 on 29th August (Several Observers)

118 **Bar-Tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

Mai Po: Nine on 24th April, (Society Outing), one on 8th May (AMM), up to twelve between 11th September and 23rd October (Several observers)

119 **Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

Mai Po: Last reported on 4th March (JNH). First reported on 18th September (ADM)

120 **Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

Reported from various places including the West Lamma Channel, between 14th February and 22nd May and from the Deep Bay area between 4th September and 13th November (Several Observers)

121 **Common Sandpiper** *Tringa hypoleucos*

Winter visitor and passage migrant, widespread in small numbers. Last reported from Mai Po on 22nd May (AMM). First reported on 5th August (RHAC)

122 **Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

Fairly common spring and autumn visitor with occasional winter records. Mai Po: c. 25 on 17th January (EDW). Otherwise all records except one fall between 15th April and 22nd May and again between the 14th August and 16th October. Mai Po: Four on 10th June (AMM)

123 **Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

Mai Po marshes: Seen on nine occasions up to 8th May, the largest number was c. 50 on 28th February. There were no autumn records.

124 **Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

Most reports are from the Deep Bay marshes but there is one report of a bird crossing the Kowloon Peninsula on 28th February (ADM). Two were seen at Mai Po on 10th June (AMM), otherwise all reports fall between 6th January and 22nd May and again between 14th August and 16th October.

125 **Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*

Mai Po: Three on 15th April, one on 29th August, 12 on 11th September (AMM, EJA)

126 **Grey-Rumped Sandpiper** *Tringa brevipes*

All records are from the Mai Po marshes and apart from two seen on 10th June they all fall between 15th April and 22nd May and again from 14th August and 2nd October (AMM)

127 **Terek Sandpiper** *Tringa terek*

Apart from one record of four birds from Tolo Harbour on 25th August (ADM) all records are from Mai Po marshes. The spring

passage was from 15th April until the 22nd May and the autumn passage was from 14th August to 5th November. Four birds were seen on 10th June (AMM).

128 **Knot** *Calidris canutus*

Mai Po: One on the 8th May is the only record (AMM).

129 **Great Knot** *Calidris tenuirostris*

Mai Po: One on 2nd October (AMM) and one on 5th October (Society Outing).

130 **Eastern Little Stint** *Calidris ruficollis*

Passage migrant to the Deep Bay marshes: Up to twenty seen on five occasions between 18th April and 22nd May and one was present on 11th June at Ping Shan (AMM) There are no autumn records.

131 **Long Toed Stint** *Calidris subminuta*

Mai Po: One on 12th March (JNH). Ping Shan: One on 18th April (AMM). There is only one previous record.

132 **Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*

There are five records. Yuen Long fishponds: six on 2nd January, two on 28th January, c.10 on 29th January (AMM). Ping Shan: C.10 on 27th September, Mai Po: two on 5th October (ADM)

133 **Sharp-Tailed Sandpiper** *Calidris acuminata*

Mai Po: Four on 22nd May (AMM)

134 **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

All records are from Mai Po: c. 15 on 28th February (AMM), two on 24th April (AStGW), are the only spring records. Reported in autumn between 2nd October and the end of November (Several observers)

135 **Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

Mai Po: Up to six between 24th April and 22nd of May (Several Observers). One on 4th September and one on 2nd October (AMM)

136 **Sanderling** *Crocethia alba*

Mai Po: One on 29th August and one on 2nd October (AMM)

138 **Broad-Billed Sandpiper** *Limicola falcinellus*

Mai Po: Six on 8th and 22nd May (AMM). Up to 30 between 4th September and 5th October (AMM & Society Outing)

139 **Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*

Mai Po: Two juvenile males on 25th September (ADM). This is the sixth Colony record

140 **Red-Necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus*

Spring records fall between 23rd March and 7th May from many parts of the Colony waters, up to 40 being seen (Several observers). Mai Po: One on 10th June (AMM). Autumn records are: Tai Long, Mirs Bay, c.150 in bands of 20 on 21st August; small bands in Eastern harbour at the end of October (JAO). Tolo Harbour 15 to 20 on 6th November (MEMB)

141 **Black-Winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*

Mai Po: Fourteen on 11th September (AMM, NS, and EJA). This is the sixth Colony record.

143 **Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola*

Luen Tak: Four on 18th April (AMM). Mai Po: Two on 24th April (Society Outing). Castle Peak: Four at Gordans Camp and c. 85 at Tai Lam Camp on 9th June, c. 10 at Tai Lam Camp on 10th June. Ping Shan: c.50 on 11th June (AMM). Mong Tseng: over 150 on 22nd October and a few on 29th October (JAO)

144 **Vega Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus vegie*

Winter visitor, mainly to the area of Hong Kong Harbour, but also reported from Castle Peak and Deep Bay and the Lamma Channel. Over 100 birds were reported in the Harbour during January, numbers had dropped to three by the end of March but there were c.40 on 3rd April (JLCB). c.60 on 20th October in the Deep Bay area and in western coastal waters (MEMB).

144 **Mongolian Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus mongolicus*

Winter visitor, usually with the last species but in smaller numbers. Only definitely identified on 24th, 28th, 29th January and 16th March (JNH,AStGW,AMM)

145 **Slaty Backed Gull** *Larus schistisagus*

Hong Kong Harbour: Three on 2nd April and 16 on 3rd April (JNH). These are the second and third Colony records.

147 **Black Tailed Gull** *Larus crassirostris*

Castle Peak Bay: Two on 29th January (AMM) are the only positive records.

148 **Black Headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*

Common winter visitor to the Harbour and to Deep Bay: Over 100 in the Harbour on 25th and 29th January (AStGW). Last reported from Deep Bay: 20th March (AMM). First reported, from the Harbour on 7th December (DNG)

150 **White Winged Black Tern** *Chlidonias leucoptera*

Mai Po paddy fields: Over 100 on 8th May. Sek Kong: c.20 on 15th May. Mai Po marshes: one on 22nd May, three on 10th June. Ping Shan: eight on 11th June (AMM). Tide Cove: c.15 on 21st May (AStGW). Luen Tak: Flock on 28th September and 2nd October. Mai Po village: flock on 23rd October (EJA)

151 **Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida*

Castle Peak: Three on 9th June. Ping Shan: More than 20 on 11th June. Yuen Long fishponds: Two from 3rd to 6th October (AMM). Luen Tak: One found dead on 2nd October (EJA). Mai Po: Two on 5th October (Society Outing)

152 **Gull Billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*

Mai Po marshes: Up to seven seen on four occasions up to 22nd May (AMM and Society Outings), c.10 on 10th June, one on 5th October (AMM), Castle Peak: c.20 on 24th April and three on 25th April (AMM). Ping Shan: One on 11th June (AMM). Luen Tak: One on 25th September (AMM).

153 **Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia*

Castle Peak: One immature on 9th June. Mai Po marshes: Three immature on 10th June. Ping Shan: Three including one adult on 11th June (AMM)

153x **Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo? longipennis*

Mai Po: One on 10th June (AMM). This is the first Colony record for this pretty Tern, which is reported to migrate along the China coast.

154 **Black Naped Tern** *Sterna sumatrana*

Tai Lam Camp: Two on 9th June. Tai Lam Res: Four on 9th June (AMM). Mai Po: c.40 on 11th June (AMM), seven on 18th November (ADM), a new late date.

155 **Little Tern** *Sterna Albifrons*

Mai Po: Three on 24th April (Society Outing), two on 10th June (AMM), two on 18th September (ADM)

156 **Greater Crested Tern** *Thalasseus bergii*

Tai Lam Camp: Two on 9th June (AMM). This is the second Colony record.

156x **Lesser Crested Tern** *Thalasseus zimmermani*

Tolo Channel: Between 15 and 20 on 29th May (AStGW) in rough weather. This is the first Colony record.

157 **Bar Tailed Cuckoo Dove** *Macropygia unchall*

Vagrant. One was seen near Tai Po Kau on 24th January (JNH) and again on 30th January, 21st February, and 8th April (AOB). These are the first Colony records.

158 **Rufous Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia orientalis*

Widespread passage migrant reported between 10th January and 29th April with flock of 50 reported on 14th February (JAO), and again between 18th September and mid-December in small numbers (several observers).

159 **Spotted Dove** *Streptopelia chinensis (B)*

Common resident, widespread, Ho Man Tin: a flock of 35 rested for a few hours on 21st October, these were presumably migrants (ADM)

160 **Red Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia tranquebraica*

Sai Kung: Two on 29th January (Society Outing). Mong Tseng: reported in small numbers between 21st September and 9th November (JAO)

161 **Rose Ringed Paroquet** *Psittacula krameri*

Small numbers seen on Hong Kong Island between Murray Barracks and the UA throughout the year. Ho Man Tin: One on 5th March (ADM). Im Tin Tsai Island, Plover Cove: A large flock in August (JFL)

- 162 **Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*  
The Peak: One every day between 31st March and 7th April (AStGW). Ping Shan: One on 18th April (AMM)
- 163 **Himalayan Cuckoo** *Cuculus saturatus*  
Ping Shan: One hepatic female on 13th March (AMM). Mai Po wood: A male and an hepatic female on 5th October (Society Outing). The hepatic appears to be the commonest female form (See La Touche 405). There is only one previous record.
- 164 **Indian Cuckoo** *Cuculus micropterus*  
LTV: One on 24th April (JLCB,ADM). Mai Po wood: One heard calling on 8th and 22nd May (AMM). Peak: One heard calling on 27th May.
- 165 **Large Hawk Cuckoo** *Cuculus sparveroides*  
LTV: One heard on 12th, 13th and 23rd March and 14th April (AMM, EDW). Peak: One heard on 5th, 8th, 9th, 14th, 24th and 30th April (AStGW, AMM) One seen on 1st May (AStGW).
- 186 **Plaintive Cuckoo** *Cacomantis merulinus (B?)*  
Summer visitor, local but widespread and quite common. The earliest birds are probably migrants. First reported Ping Shan 14th February (AMM) also reported from Shung Shui, Fanling, Yuen Long, Ho Man Tin, and UA. Last reported at Castle Peak in late July, still calling. (AMM)
- 169 **Koel** *Eudynamis scolopacea*  
Summer resident, common locally. First reported from Tai Mong Tsai on 25th February (AMM). Last reported from Ping Shan on 25th September (AMM). Also reported from LTV, Fanling, Mount Kellet, Yuen Tong, Shueng Shui, TPK, and Shouson Hill and the Peak.
- 170 **Crow-Pheasant** *Centropus sinensis*  
Common resident, widespread both on the island and in the New Territories. There are, however, no records after 14th September this year.
- 171 **Lesser Crow-Pheasant** *Centropus bengalensis*  
Resident; quite common locally but not so common as the last species.

- 172 **Barred Owlet** *Glaucidium cuculoides*  
LTV: One on 21st February (AMM), 23rd March (JNH), and 3rd July (AMM).
- 174 **Collared Scops Owl** *Otus bakkamoena*  
The Peak: One heard calling from late January until June (AStGW,BK,JLCB). Fanling: One heard on 17th February (JNH). LTV: One heard on 12th March.
- 180 **Savanna Nightjar** *Caprimulgus affinis (B?)*  
Puppy Hill, Fanling: One heard calling on 16th February (AMM). Castle Peak: One heard calling between 10th May and 4th June. One seen but not heard on 1st July (AMM). Sek Kong village: One calling every night for most of May from the lower slopes of Tai Mo Shan. (BCW)
- 181 **Large White Rumped Swift** *Apus pacificus*  
First reported Waglan: 21st January (CBT). 3,000ft TMS: 22nd January c.8 (ADM). In view of the confirmed report from TMS the birds seen at Waglan, the first after a long break, are almost certainly this species (See 1959 Report). The last birds seen at TMS were on 23rd October 1959 though there are later reports from lower levels, so that this appears to be the start of the spring migration, rather than local movement. Last reported from Ho Man Tin on 25th November (AMM).
- A bird in juvenile plumage was picked up on the top of TMS on 11th August in a period of strong winds and bad weather, the summit having been in cloud for some days. It could not fly although apparently uninjured. It was fed and finally released after a few exercise flights on 14th August (ADM).
- 182 **House Swift** *Apus affinis (B)*  
Seen in every month except December. First reported from Mt. Kellet on 31st January (RBA). Breeding at Queen Mary Hospital, Pokfulam, Tsuen Wan, Shamshuipo Mongkok.
- 183 **Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*  
Mai Po marshes: One flew over on 24th April (Society Outing). Ping Shan: Two seen on 24th January (EDW), one on 29th September (AMM) and two on 18th November (ADM).



- 185 **Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis (B?)*  
Resident, common locally. No direct evidence of breeding. Reports from coastal areas all around the island and New Territories and there are two reports from the Watersplash on TWSK on 11th August and 1st September (ADM)
- 186 **White Breasted Kingfisher** *Halcyon smyrnensis (B)*  
Resident, common locally. One or two seen regularly, near watersplash on TWSK up to end of April and again in December, and two seen at HMT until 10th April, re-appearing in August (ADM). LTV: One on 24th April (Society Outing), juvenile, just flying on 3rd July (AMM). Otherwise reports are from widespread coastal areas, including the Ping Shan paddy area. Breeding suspected at Stonecutters, Castle Peak and Ho Chung.
- 187 **Black-Capped Kingfisher** *Halcyon pileata*  
Fairly common winter visitor, but probably less common in winter 1960/61 than in previous years. There are summer records of a pair at Stonecutters in June (AMM) and a single bird at Shouson Hill on 5th June (AStGW)
- 189 **Broad Billed Roller** *Eurystomas orientalis*  
UA: One on 23rd April to 1st May, two on the 2nd and 3rd May (JLCB). Magazine Gap: Two on 4th May (JLCB). Ping Shan: Two on 29th April (BCW). One on 30th April and 1st May (AMM). Tai Mong Tsai: One on 23rd October (SPMK).
- 191 **Great Barbet** *Megalaima virens (B)*  
Resident, local. Reported from the north side of Hong Kong Island, west of Victoria Barracks and in the New Territories from LTV, TPK, and the slopes of TMS, where it almost certainly bred.
- 194 **Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*  
Ha Tsuen: One or two on 5th January. Yuen Long fish-ponds: One on 5th February. Mai Po wood: One on 7th February (AMM). The Peak: One on 9th October (AStGW). Lai Chi Kok: One on 12th October. Mong Tseng Peninsula: One on 18th November (ADM).
- 195 **Oriental Skylark** *Alauda gulgula*  
Ping Shan: Two on 6th March are the only records this year (Society Outing).

- 196 **Swallow** *Hirundo rustica (B)*  
Birds were present throughout the year in the Yuen Long area. Migration appears to have started about the second week in February, with peak movements during the last week in April. Birds bred in many places. The return movement began about mid-August certainly continuing until the end of October and probable well into November. Definite information is difficult owing to the fact that the bird is present throughout the year, both as a summer and winter visitor. (Many observers) One bird seen at Tai Lam Camp, Castle Peak on 9th June may have been *H.r.tytleri* or *H.r.saturata*.
- 197 **Red Rumped Swallow** *Hirundo daurica*  
Ho Chung: Two on 2nd April (JNH,JLCB). Mai Po: One on 22nd May (AMM). Ping Shan: One on 18th November (ADM)
- 199 **Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*  
Mai Po: Three on 10th June (AMM), and c.6 on 5th October (Society Outing).
- 201 **Rufous Backed Shrike** *Lanius Schach (B)*  
Common breeding resident and migrant (or local movement?). There were noticeable increases in numbers during February and August. There are a total of thirteen reports of 'Dusky Shrikes' from many parts of the New Territories.
- 202 **Bull Headed Shrike** *Lanius bucephalus*  
UA: A young male wintered from 26th December 1959 until 20th April 1960 (EDW,JLCB). This is the second Colony record.
- 203a **Indian Brown Shrike** *Lanius cristatus cristatus/confusus*  
TMS: One on 16th September at 3,000ft (ADM). This bird appeared to conform with the characteristics for the race *L.c.confusus* the first record for this race from the Colony. However it is also the first record since the Society became aware of the existence of this race from the publication of 'Distributional List of the Birds of China', Cheng 1959, and got a description from 'The Birds of the Palaearctic Fauna' Vaurie 1959, so that earlier records referred to *L.c.cristatus* may well have referred to *L.c.confusus*.
- 203b **Japanese Brown Shrike** *Lanius cristatus superciliosus*  
LTV: One on 14th January (AMM). Mai Po temple: Two on 24th April (Society Outing). Mai Po: One on 29th August

(AMM). TMS: above 2,000ft, one on 9th May, one on 2nd September, one on 28th September (ADM). San Tin: one on 4th September (AMM) Sek Kong: One on 7th September (AMM).

203c **Philippine Brown Shrike** *Lanius cristatus lucionensis*

Mai Po: Two on 24th April (Society Outing). Kam Tin: One on 24th April (Society Outing). Lok Ma Chau: One on 27th April (AStGW). UA: One on 30th April (JLCB). Chung Hum Kok (HK Is.): One on 1st May (AStGW). Shek-O: One on 7th May (JLCB). Brides Pool: One on 9th Man (MEMB).

204 **Black-Naped Oriole** *Oriolus chinensis* (?B)

Summer visitor. reported from Tai Po, Yuen Long, Ping Shan, and Hong Kong Island where it almost certainly breeds. First reported from UA on 7th April (JLCB), last reported on 16th October from beyond Tai Mong Tsai (MEMB)

205 **Black Drongo** *Dicrurus macrocercus* (B)

Summer visitor, breeding at Stonecutters where both sitting birds and young were seen on 20th June (AMM). Possibly less numerous this year. First reported from Chun Hum Kok on 21st April (JLCB), last reported at Lai Chi Kok, two birds flying west on 9th October (ADM).

206 **White Cheeked Drongo** *Dicrurus leucophaeus leucogenis*

Chung Hum Kok: Two on 21st April, calling to each other with a light but penetrating 'see-see' or sometimes 'seeg-seeg'. In some lights during flight they looked blue (JLCB). Castle Peak: One on 23rd April. Mai Po wood: One on 18th September (AMM).

207 **Hair Crested Drongo** *Dicrurus hottentottus* (B)

Summer visitor, breeding proved at LTV and Tai Po. First reported from UA on 17th March (JLCB), last reported from Mai Po, two on 28th November (ADM).

208 **Chinese Starling** *Sturnus sinensis* (B)

The status of this bird requires review as it seems probable that it is resident in Kowloon. Up to ten birds were frequently seen at Ho Man Tin from the beginning of the year until April and again from September, in the spring being particularly attracted by the flower of the Bombax. Meanwhile two or three pairs bred under the eaves of the Indian Welfare Clinic, near Gun Club Swimming pool during June.

Elsewhere the bird was widespread. In small numbers on the island from March 13th, breeding at Mount Davis about mid-May, and in larger numbers on the west coast of the New Territories where c.40 were reported on 18th November (ADM,JLCB,AMM, AStGW).

209 **Silky Starling** *Sturnus sericeus*

Fairly common in the Ping Shan area in winter from which the last report is of five on 6th March (JLCB,AStGW). First reported from Mong Tseng on 18th November, about twenty, (ADM), about one hundred on 18th December (EDW). Lamma Island: One on 16th March (JLCB,JNH).

210 **Grey Starling** *Sturnus cineraceus*

Ping Shan and Mong Tseng: Flocks of up to about fifteen reported until 6th March when three were seen (AStGW). Mai Po: Thirteen on 28th February (AMM). Lamma Island: One on 16th March (JLCB). First reported from Mong Tseng of flocks of up to twelve on 18th December (EDW).

211 **Black Necked Starling** *Sturnus nigricollis* (B)

Resident in the north west of the New Territories, where a few may always be seen. Also reported from Shatin, and Sai Kung where one or two were seen on 25th February (AMM).

212 **Common Mynah** *Acridotheres tristis* (B)

Resident in the vicinity of Mong Tseng village where the largest number seen during the year was 8 on 18th December (EDW)

213 **Crested Mynah** *Acridotheres cristatellus* (B)

Common resident, widespread from shorelines to 1,500 ft on Tai Mo Shan. No large flocks were reported this year.

214 **Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

She Shan wood, LTV: One on 8th March (BK), three on 23rd March (AMM,JNH,JLCB). Tai Om, LTV: Two on 14th April (AMM)

215 **Blue Magpie** *Urocissa erythrorhyncha* (B)

Resident; common locally on Hong Kong Island, reported from the Peak, UA, and Shek-O and on the wooded hillsides on the southern side of the island. In the New Territories it has been reported from LTV, TPK, at both ends of Route TWSK and from Turret hill near Shatin.

- 216 **Magpie** *Pica pica* (B)  
Fairly common resident, both in towns and villages, occasional flocks of up to ten reported.
- 217 **Treepie** *Crypsirina formosae*  
TPK: Two on 27th December (EDW)
- 219 **Jungle Crow** *Corvus macrorhynchus* (B)  
Reported throughout the year from Hong Kong Island and from many parts of the New Territories, both on the West coast and in Tolo Harbour and Port Shelter. Probably breeding at Stonecutters, on Hong Kong Island and TPK.
- 220 **Collared Crow** *Corvus torquatus*  
Most winter reports are from the northwestern part of the New Territories of one or two birds. Lamma: Two on 16th March (JLCB). Sandy Bay: Two on 13th April (JLCB). Stonecutters: One on 14th February (JNH), a pair in mid-June (AMM). Tide Cove: Two on 5th December (ADM)
- 221 **Black-Winged Cuckoo-Shrike** *Coracina melaschistos*  
HMT: One on 10th January, one on 12th February (ADM). She Shan Wood, LTV: A male on 23rd March (AMM). Middle Bay, HK: One on 9th April (JLCB)
- 223 **Ashy Minivet** *Pericrocotus divaricatus*  
Castle Peak: A female on 17th January (AMM). Tai Mong Tsai: One on 27th March, about one and a half miles beyond the end of the road. UA: c.20 circling on 23rd April (JLCB). Hong Kong Is, above Deep Water Bay: Three or four on 23rd April (MEMB).
- 224 **Grey-Throated Minivet** *Pericrocotus solaris*  
Castle Peak: A female on 17th January (AMM)
- 226 **Chestnut Bulbul** *Microscelis flavalus*  
Reported widely from various parts of the New Territories and Hong Kong Island and from Lamma Island and Tsing Island. Most parties were of three or four birds but at least twenty were recorded at She Shan wood on 27th March (EDW). Last reported from Ho Chung Valley on 7th April (JNH). There were no autumn reports.

- 227 **White-Headed Black Bulbul** *Microscelis madagascariensis*  
Like the last species there was a widespread irruption during the early part of the year and it was reported from Hong Kong Island and the New Territories. The irruption started later however, the first report being from Severn Road, HK, on 22nd January (AStGW). Most reports are of single birds or small parties but c.30 were reported from TPK on 21st February (JHN,JLCB) where one or two were seen with no white on the head. Last reported on 22nd March (JLCB)
- 228 **Crested Bulbul** *Pycnonotus jocosus* (B)  
Common resident, widespread
- 229 **Chinese Bulbul** *Pycnonotus sinensis* (B)  
Abundant resident, large flocks being seen in winter. Reported at all altitudes and from Tap Mun and Steep Islands.
- 230 **Red-Vented Bulbul** *Pycnonotus ourigaster* (B)  
Common resident, widespread but preferring open ground with trees and is not so frequently found in urban areas.
- 230x **Webb's Crow-Tit** *Paradoxornis webbiana*  
UA: One on 29th March (JLCB). Probably of the race *P.w.suffusus*, but in thick undergrowth the colour shades may have been unreliable. This is the first Colony record of any Crow-tit.
- 230x **Chinese Babax** *Babax lanceolatus* (B)  
TMS, above Sek Kong at 2700ft: A pair with three young out of the nest on 24th July (AMM). One heard singing on 19th July and 4th August (AMM). This is the first Colony record.
- 234 **Black-Faced Laughing Thrush** *Garrulax perspicillatus* (B)  
Common resident, widespread in rural areas.
- 235 **Black-Throated Laughing-Thrush** *Garrulax chinensis* (B)  
Again all reports are from Hong Kong Island where birds were heard singing at a number of new locations (see 1959 report) including South Bay and Big Wave Bay (JLCB,AStGW,JNH),
- 236 **Hwamei** *Garrulax canorus* (B)  
Common and widespread resident on Hong Kong Island. NT: Reports are from TMS, above Sek Kong; Castle Peak Range; Leadmine Pass; Tai Lam Chung Res.; Tai Mong Tsai and TPK (AMM,EDW,BCW).

- 240 **Ince's Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone paradisi*  
 UA: A female on 22nd April (JLCB). Castle Peak: A male on 29th September (AMM)
- 242 **Grey Headed Flycatcher** *Culicicapa ceylonensis*  
 She Shan wood, LTV: One on 8th March (BK), one on 28th November, was in strong canary-like song (ADM). These are the first Colony records.
- 243 **Black-Naped Monarch Flycatcher** *Hypothymis azurea*  
 TPK: A female on 24th and 25th January (JNH, AStGW) are the fourth and fifth Colony records. On 24th January it was heard making a loud call of a single note repeated at five second intervals.
- 244 **Brown Flycatcher** *Muscicapa latirostris*  
 Common winter visitor, widespread. Last reported from Middle Gap road, HK and LTV on 23rd April (AStGW, AMM). First reported from Middle Gap Road on 14th September (AStGW)
- 245 **Grey-Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa griseisticta*  
 Castle Peak: One on 11th April. Ping Shan: A pair on 18th April (AMM) Middle Gap Road: One on 20th and 21st April and 21st, 23rd and 24th May (AStGW). UA: Two on 30th April and one on 5th May (JLCB). Botanic Gardens: One on 2nd & 7th May (MEMB). Middle Gap Road: One from 24th to 26th September (AStGW) Ping Shan: One on 2nd October (EJA) Mai Po wood: One on 5th October. Sai Kung: One on 14th October (ADM)
- 248 **Red-Breasted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa parva*  
 Castle Peak: One on 3rd January, 17th March and 29th September (AMM) LTV: Two on 14th January (AMM) and one on 16th January (AStGW). UA: One on 24th February and 15th April (JLCB). TPK: One on 24th January. Mai Po Wood: One on 12th April (JNH). Shek Ku Hung, Tide Cove: One on 5th December (ADM)
- 249 **Robin Flycatcher** *Muscicapa mugimaki*  
 Severn Rd, HK: One female on 10th January (JNH, AStGW)
- 250 **Narcissus Flycatcher** *Muscicapa nascissina*  
 She Shan: One male on 23rd March (JNH, JLCB), UA: One male on 28th March (JNH, JLCB).

- 253 **Blue and White Flycatcher** *Cyanoptila cyanomelana*  
 UA: Up to one male and female between 27th March and 11th April (JLCB, JNH, EDW). Middle Gap Road: One male between 23rd March and 9th April (AStGW). Ho Chung Valley: Three males and one female on 2nd April, two males on 7th April (JNH, JLCB). Stonecutters: One male, one female on 3rd April. TPK: One male on 10th April (JNH). Ping Shan: Two males on 24th April (AMM). TWSK: One male on 22nd November (ADM).
- 254 **Chinese Bush Warbler** *Cettia diphone*  
 Widespread reports from the NT, Hong Kong Is, and Lamma Is. Last reported from UA on 7th April (JLCB). No autumn reports.
- 258 **Styan's Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella ochotensis*  
 Mai Po marshes: One on 2nd October (AMM) one on 5th October (ADM)
- 260 **Great Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*  
 Yuen Long Fishponds: One on 1st May (AMM). Mai Po: Up to three between 18th September and 16th October (AMM, ADM). Ping Shan marshes: Up to three between 25th September and 29th September (AMM)
- 262 **Dusky Warbler** *Phylloscopus fuscatus*  
 Common winter visitor. Last reported from Mai Po: one on 8th May (AMM). First reported from Mai Po: one on 25th September (ADM).
- 263 **Yellow-Browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*  
 Common winter visitor. Last reported from Castle Peak, two singing on 11th April (AMM). First reported from Mai Po wood, one on 18th September (AMM).
- 264 **Pallas's Warbler** *Phylloscopus proregulus*  
 Common winter visitor. Last reported from HMT on 5th March (ADM), first reported from Shek Ku Hung on 5th December (ADM).
- 265 **Arctic Warbler** *Phylloscopus borealis*  
 Mai Po marshes: One on 18th September. Mai Po wood: one on 18th September Ping Shan: One on 25th September (AMM). Middle Gap Rd: One on 24th and 25th September (AStGW).

- 266 **Pale-Legged Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus tenellipes*  
 Three Fathom Cove: Three or four in pines on 14th October (ADM).
- 268 **Yellow-Breasted Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus cantator*  
 TPK: One on 24th January (JNH). She Shan wood, LTV: c.4 on 28th November (ADM). These are the first Colony records.
- 268x **Green-Headed Flycatcher-Warbler** *Seicercus affinis*  
 Shatin Wai: One on 5th December (ADM). This is the first Colony record. The race appears to be *S.a.intermedia*, no grey was observed on the crown which was clearly seen.
- 270 **Long-Tailed Tailor Bird** *Orthotomus sutorius* (B)  
 Common resident, widespread. Breeding in LTV and TPK.
- 271 **David's Hill Warbler** *Prinia polychroa* (B?)  
 TMS: One singing at 2,000ft on 1st August (AMM)
- 272 **Brown Wren-Warbler** *Prinia subflava* (B)  
 Mai Po marshes: Reported from 14th February until 28th November (AMM,ADM). Ha Tsuen: A pair on 7th March (Society Outing).
- 273 **Yellow-bellied Wren Warbler** *Prinia flaviventris* (B)  
 Common resident in suitable areas in the NT. Steep Is.: Two seen on 10th January (JNH).
- 274 **Fantailed Warbler** *Cisticola juncidis*  
 Deep Bay marshes: Recorded between 14th February and 24th April and again between 14th August and 16th October (AMM, JNH). Ho Chung: One on 24th January (AStGW). San Tin: One on 4th September (AMM).
- 275 **Red-Tailed Robin** *Luscinia sibilans*  
 Middle Bay: One male on 2nd January (JLCB). Po Shan Rd: One on 20th and 28th March and 1st April (JLCB). Mt.Kellett: One on 21st March (per JNH) She Shan wood: A pair on 28th November (ADM).
- 276 **Bluethroat** *Luscinia svecica*  
 Mai Po: Two females on 14th March (EDW), three on 20th March (AMM,EDW), a male on 15th April (AMM).

- 277 **Rubythroat** *Luscinia calliope*  
 Reported from Victoria Peak, Middle Bay, Ha Tsuen, Fanling, Tai Mong Tsai, Sha Kong, TPK, and Mai Po marshes mainly before 25th February (JLCB,AStGW,JNH,EDW,AMM,RBA). Last reported from Mai Po Police Post, a female on 12th April (JNH). First reported from Sek Kong Village on 14th October where there was also a pair from 27th December (SPMK). The only other autumn report is of two pairs at Shek Ku Hung on 5th December (ADM).
- 278 **Red-Flanked Bluetail** *Tarsiger cyanurus*  
 Rather more reports than usual during the spring. Widespread. Last reported from Middle Gap Rd on 27th March (AStGW). The only winter report is of a female at Sek Kong village on 31st December (SPMK)
- 279 **Magpie-Robin** *Copsychus saularis* (B)  
 Common resident, widespread. Breeding proved at Castle Peak, Stonecutters, and Ho Man Tin where the first brood in two nests were washed out during Typhoon Mary but one pair successfully raised a second brood.
- 280 **Daurian Redstart** *Phoenicurus auroreus*  
 Fairly common winter visitor, local but widespread. Last reported from Chung Hum Kok on 9th April (JLCB). First reported from Sek Kong village on 14th October (SPMK)
- 281 **Plumbeous Water Redstart** *Rhyacornis fuliginosus*  
 South of Tai Po Market: One female by the river on 3rd January (MEMB). Sek Kong end of Route TWSK: One female near a stream on 16th January (AStGW)
- 282 **Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata*  
 Common winter visitor, widespread. Last reported from Mai Po marshes on 24th April (ADM). First reported from Yuen Long on 10th September (AMM)
- 283 **Grey Bushchat** *Saxicola ferrea*  
 Tai Om, LTV: Five (including two males) on 21st February and two females on 23rd March (AMM). She Shan, LTV: One female on 23rd March (JLCB,JNH)

284 **Blue Rock Thrush***Monticola solitaria pandoo*

Winter visitor, found on rocky coastlines and also the hilly parts of the NT. Intermediates between this race and the next occur very commonly, the amount of red varying between birds having only a red vent to birds having all but a small band across the lower abdomen red. Females of this race appear to be darker below with smaller white spots. Flycatching has been noted in the next race but not in this. The birds often climb steeply until they stall and return to the perch in a steep glide. Last reported; a female on TMS on 5th April, first reported, a male on 19th September (ADM) on TMS.

284 **Red Bellied Rock Thrush***Monticola solitaria philippensis*

Winter visitor; found both in coastal and inland areas including Central Kowloon. Last reported from Castle Peak: a male on 14th April (AMM). First reported from Castle Peak on 9th September (AMM).

286 **Violet Whistling Thrush***Myiophonus caeruleus (B)*

Widespread resident, especially in the Peak area of Hong Kong Island and along the streams running down from Tai Mo Shan.

287 **Pale Thrush***Turdus pallidus*

An exceptional year for this species. Up to three birds together were seen at several places on the Peak on many occasions between 30th January and 15th April (JLCB, AStGW, RBA, AMM). One or two birds were seen at UA on nine occasions between 14th January and 13th April (JLCB, EDW). One was seen at Plover Cove on 11th February (AStGW). One was seen on Mong Tseng Peninsula on 6th March (JLCB). One was seen at the Royal Observatory, Kowloon on 29th March (JNH)

288 **Eye-Browed Thrush***Turdus obscurus*

Ping Shan: A male on 14th February (EDW) and one on 24th April (AMM). Mai Po wood: One on 24th April (JLCB). Castle Peak: One on 24th April (AMM).

289 **Brown Thrush***Turdus chrysolais*

The Peak: A male was caught on 11th January and after examination released. A female was seen on 30th January and 8th February (AStGW, JNH). Tai Mong Tsai: A female seen on 29th January (Society Outing.) These are the first Colony records.

290 **Grey-Backed Thrush***Turdus hortulorum*

Very common and widespread during the spring passage. Last reported from Castle Peak on 12th April (AMM). The only autumn record is of one at HMT on 19th November (ADM).

291 **Dusky Thrush***Turdus naumanni eunomus*

Tai Mong Tsai: Two on 29th January (Society Outing). Hok Lok Yuen, Tai Po: one on 16th February (AMM). Mong Tseng: Two parties of seven and of three birds seen separately on 6th March (Society Outing). Lamma: Five on 16th March (JLCB, EDW), Shek Ku Hung: At least two on 5th December (ADM)

292 **Blackbird***Turdus merula*

Single birds reported from UA, TPK, Castle Peak, Puppy Hill, Fanling until 17th February (JLCB, AStGW, EDW, AMM). Mai Po wood: three on 17th February (JNH). HMT: Up to two males between 4th February and 6th March (ADM). LTV: At least four on 28th November (ADM)

293 **Grey Thrush***Turdus cardis*

Large numbers were reported by many observers from widely scattered parts of Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the NT, including a party of fifteen feeding together on Stonecutters island on 3rd April (JNH). Last reported from UA, a female on 8th May (JLCB). No autumn records.

296 **White's Thrush***Turdus dauma aurea*

Severn Rd., the Peak: One or two birds seen on many occasions between 9th January and 14th February (AStGW, JLCB, EDW, NS) Victoria Peak: One seen on many occasions between 26th January and 5th April (RBA, JNH, AMM) and two were seen on 3rd April (JNH). Lamma: One on 16th March (JLCB). Pokfulam: One seen on 22nd and 24th March (JLCB). UA: One seen on five occasions between 24th March and 17th April (JLCB, EDW). Chung Hum Kok: One seen on 9th April (JLCB) There are only five previous records.

297 **Wren***Troglodytes troglodytes*

Kai Tak: One on 7th December (DNG)

299 **Great Tit***Parus major (B)*

Common resident, widespread. Breeding proved at Severn Road, LTV, TPK, Castle Peak and Mai Po wood.

- 300 **Red-Headed Tit** *Aegithalos concinnus*  
 She Shan wood: One on 15th April (EDW). This is the first Colony record.
- 301 **Richard's Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae richardi*  
 Common winter visitor. Last reported from Ping Shan on 18th April when several were still present (AMM). First reported from Luen Tak where two were seen on 26th September (AMM).
- 301 **Chinese Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae sinensis*  
 Common summer visitor, but no definite breeding reports this year. First reported from Yuen Long Egretty, several on 16th April (AMM). Last reported from Ping Shan, one with several of the last race on 18th November (ADM).
- 302 **Indian Tree Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni*  
 Common and widespread in winter. Last reported, Mai Po, several on 24th April (Society Outing). First reported: Mai Po four on 16th October (AMM).
- 303 **Red-Throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus*  
 Fairly common winter visitor in small numbers. Last reported from Mai Po, one on 24th April (Society Outing). First reported from Ping Shan, a pair on 18th November (ADM).
- 304 **Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta*  
 Mai Po: One on 14th February, one on 21st February, three on 28th February, (AMM,BCW). One or two on 28th November (ADM).
- 305 **Upland Pipit** *Anthus sylvanus (B)*  
 TMS, above 2,000ft: One on 3rd January (JNH). Then from 6th April to 2nd September during which time at least two pairs bred successfully, One in song on 12th December (a fine day after a cloudy spell) (ADM). Sunset Peak, Lan Tao: One singing on 3rd September (MEMB).
- 306 **Forest Wagtail** *Dendroanthus indicus*  
 UA: One on 20th and 23rd April (JLCB). Ping Shan: one on 1st May (AMM). Middle Gap Rd: One from 24th to 26th September (AStGW). Mai Po wood: one on 2nd October (AMM). Path to Three Fathom Cove: One on 14th October (ADM).

- 307 **Streak-Eyed Wagtail** *Motacilla alba ocularis*  
 Common winter visitor, widespread. Last reported from Yuen Long fishponds on 1st May (AMM). First reported from TMS, one on 7th October (ADM).
- 307 **White-Faced Wagtail** *Motacilla alba leucopsis*  
 Common winter visitor: Last recorded from Mai Po, one on 24th April (AStGW). First recorded from Sek Kong Camp: one on 10th October (AMM).
- 308 **Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*  
 Common winter visitor, though usually seen singly or in pairs. Last recorded from TMS, 2,000ft, one on 1st May (ADM). First recorded from UA, one on 21st August (MEMB). Between 30 and 50 gathered just before dusk on roofs and trees in Macdonnell Road, Hong Kong Is., moving down as darkness fell in January and February, and again in November (MEMB).
- 309 **Blue-Headed Wagtail** *Motacilla flava simillima*  
 Ho Chung Valley: One on 7th April (JNH). Mai Po Temple: One on 24th April, Mai Po marsh, at least two on 24th April: (Society Outing). Yuen Long: one on 10th September. Ping Shan marshes: one on 25th September (AMM). Water splash, Route TWSK: one on 17th October (ADM).
- 309 **Grey-Headed Wagtail** *Motacilla flava macronyx*  
 Ho Chung Valley: one on 2nd April (JNH,JLCB). Mai Po Temple: one on 24th April, Mai Po marshes: two or three on 24th April (Society Outing). Mai Po temple: one on 13th October (SPMK.). Sai Kung: One on 24th October (ADM).
- 309 **Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava taivana*  
 Fairly common passage migrant and some birds winter. Most reports are from the Deep Bay marshes but there is one report from Ho Chung Valley of several on 2nd April (JNH,JLCB), one from Lai Chi Kok, two on 9th October and from Sai Kung of one on 14th October (ADM). Otherwise, last recorded from Mai Po: c.20 on 24th April (Society Outing). First recorded from Yuen Long, several on 10th September (AMM).
- 310 **Fork-Tailed Sunbird** *Aethopyga christinae (B?)*  
 Resident; recorded at UA, Repulse Bay, Stanley, TPK, and Au Tau on the Sai Kung Peninsula (JLCB,JNH,AMM,ADM), up to two males and a female being seen together.

- 311 **White-Eye** *Zosterops japonica (B)*  
Common resident, widespread and numbers augmented in winter. Breeding at Ho Man Tin.
- 312 **Scarlet-Backed Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum cruentatum*  
HMT: A male on 3rd March, a female on 30th December (ADM). Dills Corner: a female on 10th March, LTV: a male on 3rd JULY (AMM). Au Tau, Sai Kung Peninsula: a female on 14th October (ADM)
- 313 **Fire-Breasted Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum ignipectus*  
The Peak: a male on 9th January, a female on 10th and 22nd January and two males and one female on 31st January (AStGW, JNH). UA: a male and one other on 10th January, two on 15th January (JLCB).
- 314 **Lesser Black-Tailed Hawfinch** *Eophona migratoria*  
Fairly regular winter visitor, but flocks are local. Reported from Tai Mong Tsai, Mong Tseng, LTV, Lok Ma Chau, UA, and Telegraph Bay in flocks, usually of about twelve, (largest 14). Last reported UA: a female on 15th April (JLCB) First reported from LTV: c.12 on 28th November (ADM).
- 315 **Chinese Greenfinch** *Chloris sinica (B)*  
There are again records for every month except August; widespread. Breeding proved at Castle Peak and UA.
- 317 **Hodgson's Rose-Finch** *Carpodacus erythrinus*  
Leadmine Pass Valley, Tai Po: Three on 23rd March (JNH, JLCB).
- 318 **Masked Bunting** *Emberiza spodocephala*  
Fairly common winter visitor. Last reported from UA: one on 2nd May (JLCB). First reported from Wong Nei Tsi: two females on 5th December (ADM)
- 321 **Tristram's Bunting** *Emberiza tristrami*  
UA: A male and female seen on several occasions between 24th January and 28th March (JLCB,AMM).
- 322 **Chestnut Bunting** *Emberiza rutila*  
UA: One on 21st April (JLCB,NS). This is the forth Colony record.

- 323 **Yellow-Breasted Bunting** *Emberiza aureola*  
LTV: a female on 10th January (AStGW). UA: a female on 27th April (JLCB).
- 324 **Grey Headed Bunting** *Emberiza fucata*  
Winter visitor. Up to six reported from various parts of the NT. Last recorded from Hebe Haven, c.4 on 10th April (AStGW). A female seen on TMS on 16th February at 3,000ft was of the race *E. f. kuatunensis*.
- 325 **Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla*  
Mong Tseng: several on 4th January. Luen Tak: several on 24th January and 14th February. Tai Mong Tsai: several on 28th February (EDW). LTV: a female on 23rd March. Ho Chung Valley: one on 2nd April (JNH)
- 326 **Crested Bunting** *Melophus lathamii (B?)*  
Resident. Flocks up to fifty reported in winter. Probably breeds on TMS.
- 327 **Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus (B)*  
Resident. Common in the vicinity of human habitation.
- 327x **Ruddy Sparrow** *Passer rutilans*  
Ma On Shan: One on the upper slopes on 10th December (NS). This is the first Colony record.
- 328 **Red Avadavat** *Estrilda amandava*  
Mai Po: Four or six on 25th September (ADM). Two on 13th November (EJA). These may be escapes.
- 329 **Java Sparrow** *Padda oryzivora*  
Sek Kong village: A flock of c.12 flew over on 10th October (SPMK).
- 330 **Chestnut Munia** *Lonchura malacca atricapilla*  
Flocks of up to twenty reported in the Deep Bay area between 14th February and 8th May, and again between 14th August and 28th November (AMM,ADM).
- 331 **Spotted Munia** *Lonchura punctulata (B)*  
Fairly common resident in the NT and also reported from the UA between 19th January and 4th February (JLCB). Breeding at the Jockey Club, Shung Shui and TPK.



## DOUBTFUL RECORDS 1960

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As before, where the only record of a species is doubtful, it is excluded from the main body of the Report. However as a guide to later successful sightings and for general interest they are added here.

5x **Albatross?** *? Diomedea sp.*

Castle Peak: a bird seen on 9th June was believed, from size and general appearance, to have been an Albatross (AMM). The most likely species is *D. albatrus*.

45-7 **Grey Goose** *Anser sp.*

Grey geese were observed crossing the Kowloon Peninsular along the line of Jordan Road. On 6th March two skeins of five and three, and on 22nd March a skein of four. The range was too great to identify the species but the Grey-lag is the more probable. They were thought not to be the Bean Goose (ADM).

231x **Fairy Bluebird** *Irena sp.*

Sai Kung Peninsula, above Three Fathom Cove: A Fairy Bluebird was seen on 14th October in thick scrub jungle. It may have been *I. cyanogaster*, brought by Typhoon Kit from the Philippines, but no description of this bird is available in the Colony. The only other alternative seems to be *I. puella* which has only once been taken in China and then on the Burmese frontier.

It may have been an escape but the species has never been observed in a bird shop. Information on this point would be welcome (ADM.)

This list was compiled by the Honorary Recorder from the records of the following observers:-

Mr. R. B. Adams  
Mr. Edwin J. Allen Jr.  
Miss M. E. M. Benham  
Mr. A. O. Barretto  
Major R. H. A. Cockburn  
Mr. J. L. Cranmer-Byng  
S.A.C. D. N. Greasley RAF  
Mr. D. Holeczy  
Commander & Mrs. J. N. Humphreys RN  
Brigadier S. P. M. Kent O.B.E.  
Ensign B. King USN  
Mrs. J. Loch  
Flight Sergeant A. D. Macdonald RAF  
Captain A. M. Macfarlane RA  
Mr. J. A. Oliver  
Mr. Noble Smith  
Mr. C. B. Thirwell  
Mr. & Mrs. A. St. G. Walton  
Commander E. D. Webb RN  
Captain B. C. Webster

## 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. 1961	BONELLI'S EAGLE	
1st Jan.	Tai Mo Shan.	One Male
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 the n. 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.

# Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

(To be sent to the Hon. Secretary—Mr. J. L. Cranmer-Byng, Department of History, University of Hong Kong—who will pass on the application and subscription to the Honorary Treasurer).

Introduced by .....  
(If Applicable)

I support the objects of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (as reproduced overleaf) and wish to become a member. I enclose \$10 (\$5 if joining after 30th June) as my subscription for the current year.

Date..... Signature.....

Name & Address .....

.....

Telephone No.....(Home) .....(Office)

The objects of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society are:—

- (a) To facilitate and encourage the study of birds in Hong Kong.
- (b) To provide information and assistance to all persons, either visitors to the Colony or residents, who are interested in birds.
- (c) To correlate and publish from time to time the field records of all bird watchers in the Colony.
- (d) To publish and keep up-to-date a check-list of the birds of Hong Kong.
- (e) To assist in the enforcement of the law relating to the protection of birds (The Wild Birds and Wild Mammals Protection Ordinance, No. 8 of 1954).
- (f) To operate a lending library of books on birds.
- (g) To exchange information among members and with ornithological societies in other countries.

## OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

*Acting Chairman:* Commander E. D. Webb R. N.,  
Government House Flat, Hong Kong.

*Hon. Recorder:* Mr. E. J. Allen,  
New Asia College, 6 Farm Road, Kowloon.

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*Hon. Treasurer:* Commander E. D. Webb R.N. (Address as above)

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