

THE HONG KONG BIRD REPORT 1970-1971



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THE HONG KONG BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY

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Records compiled by M. A. Webster, M.B.O.U., M.A.O.U.

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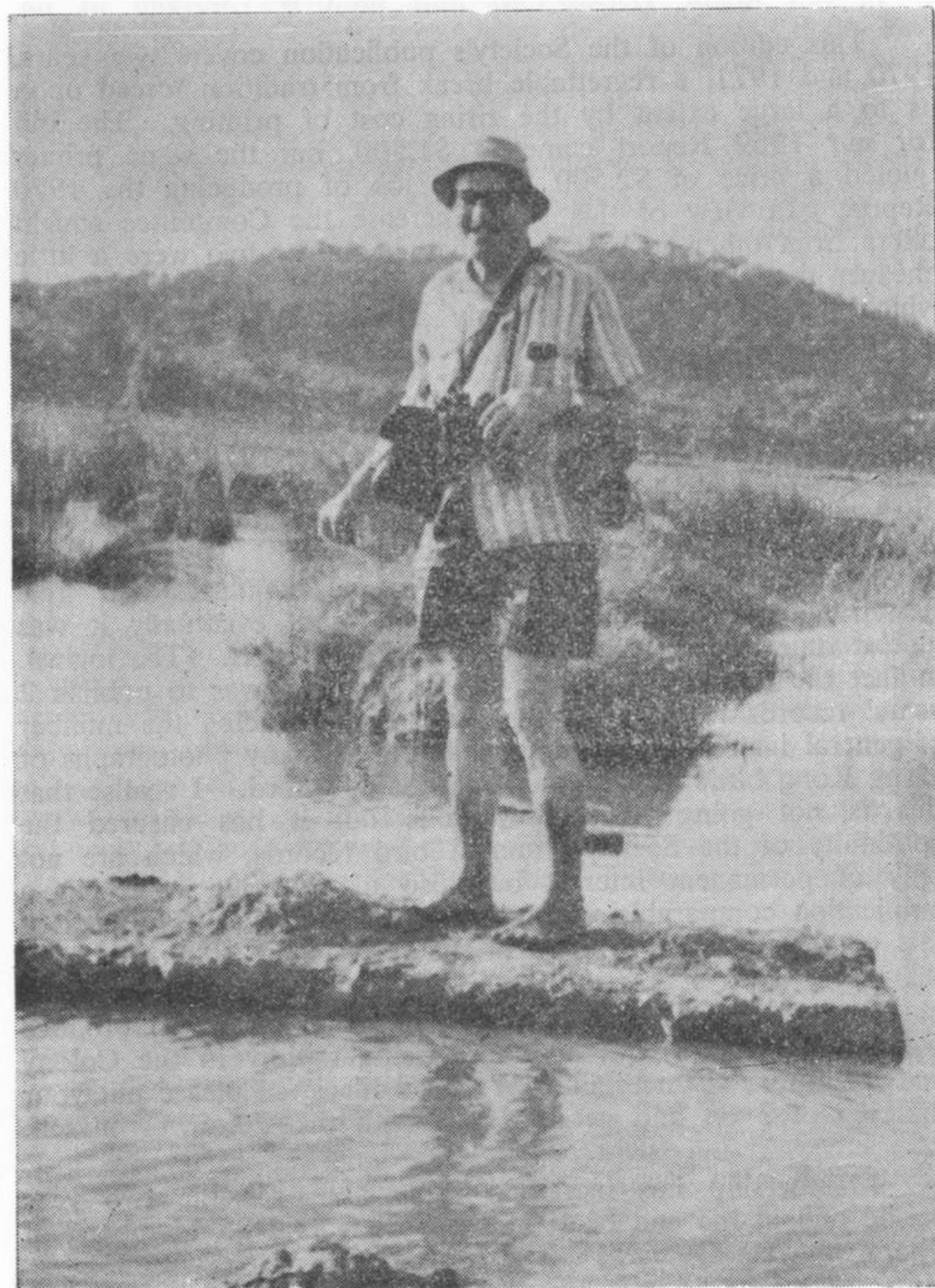
HONG KONG BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY

c/o The Chartered Bank, Hong Kong.

(A registered Society under the Hong Kong Societies Ordinance)

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

ChairmanF. O. P. Hechtel
Hon. SecretaryC. Briffett
Hon. TreasurerDr. R. J. Barnes
Hon. RecorderM. A. Webster



EDGAR WEBB

Chairman, Hongkong Bird Watching Society,
1961-70

“Without him the Society might not be in existence today.”

SOCIETY NEWS

This edition of the Society's publication covers two years, 1970 and 1971, a regrettable break from tradition forced upon us to a large extent by the rising cost of printing. The bill for our 1969 Report came to \$1,500, but the same printer quoted a price of \$2,500 for the job of producing the 1970 Report. In view of this steep increase the Committee sought offers from other sources, and though one or two were a little cheaper than \$2,500, all the offers were well outside the figure which the Society could properly afford each year to produce a report.

The Committee has studied some alternatives, such as running off a mimeographed edition of the 1970 Report, but even less drastic proposals aimed at cutting costs would have involved a significant drop in the overall standards which have been maintained since the Society was formed. The Committee was reluctant to accept any lowering of standards and time passed without our finding a solution, until eventually it was almost time to start thinking of the 1971 Report. The logical, in fact the inevitable, answer to this dilemma was to publish 2 years' records together, at the same time reducing the number of general interest articles but including as many photographs of Hong Kong birds as we could reasonably afford. I realise that this is not going to suit everyone but it has ensured the continuity of the Society's annual bird records, which are not only of permanent interest but also of scientific value, in a publication comparable with our previous reports. The cost of this combined report will be in the region of \$3,000.

I think most Members would like the Society to produce a report each year, but costs are rising rapidly in the Colony and the future is uncertain. We need ideas, so please put your thinking caps on and get in touch with the Editor or myself.

Membership has increased somewhat over the two year period and at the end of 1971 the Society had 85 Members, of whom 35 were Overseas Members.

With the resignation of our Chairman, Commander E. D. Webb, on his departure from the Colony on retirement, the Society suffered its worst loss for a very long time. Edgar Webb had been Chairman of the Society from 1961 until 1970; he had served as the Hon. Treasurer since the Society was founded, and was in fact a Founder Member. Those who have been Members of the Society for a longer period know just how

much Edgar Webb had contributed in time, in effort and above all in interest. Without him the Society might not be in existence today. There have been difficult times, there have been many different committees and an ever-changing membership, but Edgar Webb has guided the Society wisely and provided that very important element of continuity. Members who knew him will have fond memories of him on outings. He combined serious bird watching with a sense of humour and this greatly added both to the instructive purpose of the outing and to the relaxed enjoyment of the occasion. As a token of appreciation Edgar Webb was made an Hon. Life Member of the Society at the 1971 Annual General Meeting.

In July 1971 Sy. Lt. D. J. Bovey, who joined the Committee in February 1970, also left. Apart from organising our two special projects, the 1970 Kite Count and the 1970 census of breeding birds at the Starling Inlet egrettry, which he also wrote up for this report, he took on the job of Hon. Treasurer from Edgar Webb in November, 1970.

Only a few months later in October 1971, our Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. C. Payne, left Hong Kong upon retirement from Government. Jim Payne had been our Secretary since November 1968 and had been a member for many years. Jim Payne organised a number of new bird walks which proved popular and one in particular, the Lantau Island outing in the autumn has been so well attended in the two years since it started that it will probably become a yearly fixture in the Society's calendar.

Nearly all the outings were well attended in spite of the fact that we had leaned fairly heavily on Mai Po Marsh, which is not to everyone's liking. Much as the Committee would like to arrange expeditions to other places with differing habitats, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find reasonable bird watching areas which have not been spoilt and where groups of people stand a chance of seeing something. Woods for example, by their very nature, do not lend themselves to group bird watching. The Committee, faced with the perennial task of deciding where to hold outings, would welcome ideas from Members.

F. O. P. Hechtel.

REPORT ON THE BIRDS 1970

M. A. Webster, M.B.O.U., M.A.O.U.

Weather:—The first four months of the year were unusually mild, and dryer than usual. No major storms hit the Colony, and the only exceptional weather known to have affected the birds was a storm in May which seems to have caused the temporary abandonment of the egretty at Naam San Wai. No cold spell reached the Colony before the end of the year, and, although November and December were dryer than usual, there was nothing like the drought of 1969.

New species:—One new species was added to the Colony List, the Common Pochard, of which a fine male spent a month in early summer showing itself off at Chuk Yuen. I have also included the Pomarine Skua which was recorded by Roland de la Moussaye in February 1957; I have discussed the record with him, and there seems to be no reason why it should not be accepted. This brings to 13 the number of species added since the 1966 Checklist.

The records:—During the year, 257 species were recorded, plus nine 'escapees'. This is probably a record in itself. The records submitted for the Report have also exceeded in numbers those for any previous year.

The irruption of late 1969 made its effects felt until April 1970, as many species involved remained throughout the winter. In the following winter, the Greater Necklaced Laughing-Thrushes reappeared in larger numbers, and there were again good numbers of Black-winged Cuckoo-Shrikes and White-cheeked Drongos.

If we go through the Systematic List in order, the following are perhaps *outstanding*:—six records of Bitterns, the most for many years; continued breeding at two egretties (as one was destroyed early in the season, we are waiting anxiously to see whether they will be back this year); a remarkable number of White Ibises; an unusually wide variety of duck; almost every hawk on the list was recorded during the year, excepting only a number of species which have been recorded only once before; Serpent Eagles may have bred in or near the Colony; the first Cranes for five years turned up on a Boxing Day outing attended by only three people . . . possibly the worst attendance ever on this usually popular trip.

The southern end of the marshes between Chuk Yuen and Mai Po was in excellent condition last year, and, as well as a very good wader migration, it afforded excellent conditions for the breeding Jacanas, Little Grebes, Watercock, and Moorhen. Coots abounded there in the winter. Unfortunately this area is privately-owned land, and is in process of being dredged for fishponds; there is nothing whatsoever we can do about this, and we can only hope that these breeding species will settle in other parts of the marsh.

Red-necked Phalaropes abounded in all Colony waters in April and early May, and the Recorder was able to count over 100 of them from his office window. However, it was not necessary to have a conveniently placed office; the Phalaropes were on view whenever you crossed the Harbour. Another wader which made a reappearance after a long absence was the Jack Snipe. The Long-toed Stint was identified many times, and has reappeared this year; this would appear to be a slight change in the species' habits, as the identification problem is not a difficult one.

Saunders' Gull appeared again on the same date as in 1969, and has repeated this performance in 1971 . . . when we were able to learn to distinguish the immatures.

Two species have shown remarkable increases in numbers, the Rose-ringed Parakeet, and the White-backed Munia. The latter almost certainly breeds now. For 1971, please send in all records of these species, as well as the Chinese Greenfinch. Interesting data are beginning to emerge on all three of these species, and it is hoped that we can keep up this enquiry for a few more years. It would, however, be a tremendous help if more members could send in records, even if they only cover species under special study. A case to the contrary is the Common Mynah, which seems to have decreased considerably in the past few years; possibly this decrease is more apparent than real, as Ping Shan is generally a less attractive bird-watching spot than it used to be.

The Barred Owlet was seen again, and has been seen once so far in 1971. A much stranger owl, the Brown Fish-Owl descended beside our Chairman with a strange cry, the first record since 1968. Another obliging rarity was the Rufous Woodpecker, which was seen on three occasions. Flycatchers were in good supply in spring, and there were also quite a number in autumn (perhaps somebody will one day see a female Narcissus or a male Tricolor). The Pale-legged Willow-Warbler provided plenty of discussion; perhaps one of our overseas members could tell us how to identify it!

Finally, mention must be made of the massive numbers of escapes seen in or near the University grounds; these came so thick and fast that even the observer concerned could no longer suspend disbelief; we have not yet found a definite source for all these birds, but this flood of records must inevitably raise grave suspicions that many of the university records in the Checklist were not of genuinely wild birds (in April 1971 the Vinous-throated Parrotbill and the White-cheeked Laughing-Thrush turned up there on the same day, and these are two of the species which must necessarily be in doubt).

Observers:—my thanks to the following, who submitted records for this Report:—Dr. R. J. Barnes, Lt. Col. J. F. S. Batson, Sy. Sub. Lt. D. J. Bovey, D. Bridges, Mrs. M. S. Davidson, Asst. Supt. D. J. Galloway, T. P. Garland, I. W. Harris, F.O.P. Hechtel, Capt. J. N. Humphreys, R. de la Moussaye, Dr. D. G. Robertson, J. M. Rowlands, R. J. A. Savage, T. Shiota, H. D. Stead, K. V. Thompson, Cdr. E. D. Webb, M. A. Webster, R. P. Weeks, F. A. W. Whitford, B. D. Wilson.

Presentation:—the principles laid down in last year's Report have been followed in most cases, and with a little more consistency in the case of the use of initials. Otherwise there is not intended to be any change.

M. A. W.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1970

2. Great Crested Grebe. (*Podiceps cristatus*)

Apart from one at San Tin on 12 December, all records are from Deep Bay, where up to five were seen on various dates until 15 March. One was picked up on the beach near Lau Fau Shan on 16 November, and later released.

4. Little Grebe (*Podiceps ruficollis*)

Up to 20 were seen from January to March on Tai Lam Chung. Birds were present on the Deep Bay Marshes throughout the year; juveniles were seen in August and September, the maximum number of birds recorded being 30+ on 11 October. Other records come from a small reservoir on the Sek Kong Catchment Road (eight on 28 March, and one on 20 June), and Plover Cove (three on 13 December).

7. Spotted-billed Pelican (*Pelecanus philippensis*)

Up to 81 (on 1 February) were seen on many occasions in the early part of the year in Deep Bay, near the mouth of the Shum Chun River, the last record being 66 being on 20 February. As the Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) was identified for the first time in March 1971, and as observers in the past have tended to assume that all Pelicans were Spotted-billed, it is possible that some of the records for 1970 and previous year refer to the Dalmatian Pelican. However, a photograph in the 1968 Report shows clearly the diagnostic wing-pattern of the Spotted-billed.

8. Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

Latest spring date was 6 April, and earliest autumn date was 22 November. Most records come from the stretch of coastline between Stonecutters' Island and Deep Bay, up to 20 being noted on Stonecutters'. Three at Tai Lam Chung on 1 March and 19 December. Generally in small numbers, but about 220 were seen over Deep Bay on 26 December, and 50-100 winter on Hayling Chau.

12. Yellow Bittern (*Ixobrychus sinensis*)

As usual in recent years, a few birds remained on the Deep Bay Marshes throughout the year. The main numbers, estimated at 50+ were on the marsh from about 3 May to the end of August.

13. Chestnut Bittern (*Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*)

One pair at Chuk Yuen from 3 May to 14 November. A single bird was seen at Long Valley on several occasions from 28 June to 19 July. One at Fanling on 23 December.

- 15. Bittern** (*Botaurus stellaris*)
Single birds on 18 January, 6 and 22 December, and three on 30 December, all on the Deep Bay Marshes.
- 17. Chinese Pond Heron** (*Ardeola bacchus*)
Present throughout the year on the Deep Bay Marshes. Bred at Sha Tau Kok and Yuen Long. Recorded also from many other areas in the New Territories, and six times on Hong Kong Island.
- 18. Cattle Egret** (*Ardeola ibis*)
Present in small numbers throughout the year in various low-lying areas of the New Territories, the main numbers being from April to August. Bred at Sha Tau Kok. In April and early May, up to 11 were seen several times resting in the trees near She Shan, but there was no sign of nesting there.
- 19. Little Green Heron** (*Boturides striatus*)
Up to 10 at Chuk Yuen from 9 May to 4 October, most records being in August and September. One at Tai Lam Chung on 8 February.
- 20. Little Egret** (*Egretta garzetta*)
Common throughout the year on the Deep Bay Marshes. Bred at Sha Tau Kok and Yuen Long.
- 21. Lesser Egret** (*Egretta intermedia*)
Two at Chuk Yuen on 21 April (MAW, RPW), and one there on 1 August (JFSB).
- 22. Swinhoe's Egret** (*Egretta eulophotes*)
One at Chuk Yuen on 29 March, and one at Naam San Wai on 10 May. At least two pairs bred at Sha Tau Kok.
- 23. Reef Egret** (*Egretta sacra*)
Up to four reported regularly at Little Sai Wan, and several records, mostly of single birds, from Lamma, Kau I Chau, Cheung Chau, Green Island, Silvermine Bay, Sandy Bay, Hong Kong Harbour, and Hayling Chau.
- 24. Great Egret** (*Egretta alba*)
Common, particularly in winter, on the Deep Bay Marshes. One at Sha Tau Kok on 12 April.
- 25. Grey Heron** (*Ardea cinerea*)
Up to 115 on the Deep Bay Marshes until 19 April, and up to 70 there from 16 August onwards.
- 26. Purple Heron** (*Ardea purpurea*)
One at Chuk Yuen on 11 and 18 January. From 26 April onwards, one or two birds present throughout, with four on 22 August. One at Silvermine Bay on 22 November.
- 28. Black Stork** (*Ciconia nigra*)
Up to 14 on the Deep Bay Marshes until 23 March, and one there on 28 December.
- 29. White Ibis** (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*)
Up to 11 seen regularly on the Deep Bay Marshes until 17 May, and up to eight from 16 August onwards. It is noteworthy that, apart from a single bird on 9 August 1958, these are both the latest spring and earliest autumn records for the Colony.
- 33. Yellow-nib Duck** (*Anas poecilorhyncha*)
Two at Chuk Yuen on 10 January, and 22 at Ping Shan on 6 February. Small numbers in autumn over the Deep Bay Marshes from 12 September onwards.
- 34. Gadwall** (*Anas strepera*)
One at Chuk Yuen on 14 and 28 November (JFSB).
- 35. Falcated Teal** (*Anas falcata*)
Four at Chuk Yuen on 14 March, and seven there on 10 December (DGR).
- 36. Teal** (*Anas crecca*)
Regular in numbers of up to 100 at Chuk Yuen, and up to 20 at Long Valley in winter, latest spring date being 11 April, and earliest autumn date being 12 September. One swimming in Hong Kong Harbour on 15 November.
- 38. Garganey** (*Anas querquedula*)
One at Chuk Yuen on 10 January. From 27 March to 11 April, and again from 3 August to 21 November, flocks of up to 30 in the same area.
- 39. Wigeon** (*Anas penelope*)
30 reported by a hunter at Chuk Yuen on 10 October, and on shot there on 31 October.
- 40. Pintail** (*Anas acuta*)
A female shot at Chuk Yuen on 1 November (DGR, JHCG).

- 41. Shoveler** (*Anas clypeata*)
Up to four at Chuk Yuen between 8 November and 6 December.
- 44. Tufted Duck** (*Aythya fuligula*)
At least three at Chuk Yuen from 31 October to 6 December; two of these were shot.
- 44x. Common Pochard** (*Aythya rufina*)
A drake at Chuk Yuen from 17 May to 20 June was the first Colony record (RPW, JFSB, MAW, JHCG, DJB).
- 46. Red-breasted Merganser** (*Mergus serrator*)
Up to 33 in Deep Bay until 14 March. One off Hayling Chau on 6 February (RJAS).
- 47. Shelduck** (*Tadorna tadorna*)
Up to 62 off the mouth of the Shum Chun River until 20 February. One shot on 6 December.
- 49-51. Goose sp.** (*Anser sp.*)
Four over the Deep Bay Marshes on 1 November, and 32 on 6 December were too far away for specific identification.
- 52. Black-eared Kite** (*Milvus migrans*)
Common and widespread.
- 54. Buzzard** (*Buteo buteo*)
Common throughout the Colony until 23 March, and from 27 October onwards.
- 56. Sparrow-hawk** (*Accipiter nisus*)
One at She Shan on 30 September, one at Tai Po Kau on 22 March. A bird seen to catch a Pied Wagtail at Chuk Yuen on 11 October may have been of this species. One at Stanley on 14 October.
- 57. Japanese Sparrow-hawk.** (*Accipiter virgatus/gularis*)
A bird captured at Shek Kong Primary School in December was one or other of these two species (M. Ward per MAW).
- 58. Goshawk** (*Accipiter gentilis*)
One over Sek Kong on 1 November (MAW, JHCG). A bird seen near Hong Kong University on 30 June and 17 July (JHCG) was probably an escape.
- 60. Golden Eagle** (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
One at Long Valley on 3 January and 12 December, one near Sha Kong on 6 February, and one at Chuk Yuen on 26 December.
- 61. Imperial Eagle** (*Aquila heliaca*)
One at Long Valley on 1 January, and two there on 7 February. One at Mai Po on 22 March. One at Mong Tseng on 20 February. Up to two at Long Valley from 8 November onwards.
- 63. Spotted Eagle** (*Aquila clanga*)
Up to two over the Mai Po Marshes until 29 March, two at Mai Po on 12 November, and three at Long Valley on 29 November.
- 64. Bonelli's Eagle** (*Hieraetus fasciatus*)
One at Silvermine Bay on 22 November, one at Mai Po on 14 November, and two on 6 December, and one on Lamma on 29 December.
- 66. White-bellied Sea-Eagle** (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*)
One or two birds seen throughout the year at various places round the coast, and in Hong Kong Harbour. Two eyries were found, one near Cape Collinson, and one on Lamma, but both were unsuccessful.
- 67. Grey-faced Buzzard-Eagle** (*Butastur indicus*)
Two at Tai Po Kau on 22 March, and one there on 30 March. One at Sek Kong on 29 November, and two at She Shan on 13 December (MAW, RPW, JHCG, MSD).
- 68. Serpent Eagle** (*Spilornis cheela*)
A bird at Pok Fu Lam on 9 February, 4 March, and 9 April is known to have been an escape. At least one bird remained in the Lam Tsuen Valley throughout the year, and two were seen courting there on 7 February. One at Tai Po Kau on 18 October and 1 November may well have been the same bird as the one in the Lam Tsuen Valley.
- 69. Marsh Harrier** (*Circus aeruginosus*)
At least five over the Deep Bay Marshes until 21 April, and at least six there from 8 September onwards.
- 70, 71. Harrier sp.** (*Circus sp.*)
One or two over the Deep Bay Marshes on various dates up to 11 April, and from 1 November onwards. All were females or immatures.

- 73. Black Vulture** (*Aegyptius monachus*)
One seen from Mai Po Wood on 1 January (TPG, MAW, etc.).
- 74. Osprey** (*Pandion haliaetus*)
Up to five over Deep Bay and the Marshes until 10 May, and from 16 August onwards. One at Tai Lam Chung on 1 March, and one at Plover Cove on 13 December.
- 76. Hobby** (*Falco subbuteo*)
A probable at Mong Tseng on 6 February (JSFB). One at Tai Po Kau on 20 December (MAW, TPG, R de la M, JHCG).
- 77. Peregrine Falcon** (*Falco peregrinus*)
One at Mai Po on several dates in January, February, and October, and on 8 July. One or more frequented Conduit Road, the Peak, Central District, and the Peninsula Hotel throughout most of the year, though more frequently noticed from October onwards. This may be the same bird which was seen at Happy Valley on 11 August, and at King's Park on five occasions during the year. One or two on the Sai Kung peninsula on 22 February.
- 79. Merlin** (*Falco columbarius*)
One at Chuk Yuen on 1 November (MAW, JHCG).
- 81. Kestrel** (*Falco tinnunculus*)
A common winter visitor; last spring date was 28 March, earliest autumn date was 8 October.
- 82. Chinese Francolin** (*Francolinus pintadeanus*)
Heard fairly commonly on scrub-covered hillsides throughout the Colony, though as usual there are few sight-records.
- 83. Quail** (*Coturnix coturnix*)
One shot at Long Valley on 18 October.
- 87. Common Crane** (*Grus grus*)
Five over Mong Tseng on 26 December (TPG, FOPH).
- 88. Water Rail** (*Rallus aquaticus*)
Single birds on the Deep Bay Marshes on 11 January, 11 April, 31 August, 3 October, 10 and 19 December.
- 89. Banded Rail** (*Rallus striatus*)
Fairly common on the Deep Bay Marshes throughout the year. Two hit a building in Central on the night of 23/24 October.

- 90. Baillon's Crake** (*Porzana pusilla*)
A small crake seen at Chuk Yuen on 30 August and 6 September was probably of this species, though the Yellow-legged Crake (*Porzana exquisita*) cannot be entirely excluded (MAW, DGR, JHCG, TPG).
- 93. White-breasted Waterhen** (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*)
Fairly common in the New Territories, especially on the Deep Bay Marshes, and at She Shan.
- 94. Moorhen** (*Gallinula chloropus*)
A few were present at Chuk Yuen throughout the year, the main arrival of breeding birds being in May. Probably ten to fifteen pairs bred. One at Long Valley on 18 January, and several records from other parts of the Deep Bay Marshes. A first-winter bird hit a building in Central on the night of 28/29 October.
- 95. Watercock** (*Galicrex cinerea*)
Up to ten on the Deep Bay Marshes from 17 May to 8 November. Four or more at Long Valley on 28 June. An immature hit a building in Central on the night of 23/24 October.
- 96. Coot** (*Fulica atra*)
Up to 33 on the Deep Bay Marshes until 27 March. From 8 October onwards, a wintering flock built up to a total of at least 400, despite constant persecution from illegal hunting.
- 97. Pheasant-tailed Jacana** (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*)
All records are from Chuk Yuen. Apart from two on 3 March, all records fall between 3 May and 29 November, the maximum being eight adults. Only one juvenile was seen.
- 98. Painted Snipe** (*Rostratula bengalensis*)
Single birds at Chuk Yuen on 4 and 11 October.
- 100. Lapwing** (*Vanellus vanellus*)
One at Chuk Yuen on 12 November (JHCG).
- 101. Grey-headed Lapwing** (*Microsarcops cinereus*)
Up to three at Chuk Yuen until 22 March, and one there on 31 October. One at Long Valley on 8 November.
- 103. Little Ringed Plover** (*Charadrius dubius*)
Small parties of up to 50 on various parts of the Deep Bay Marshes until 6 April, and from 23 August onwards. Also reported from Long Valley and Sek Kong.

104. Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*)

Up to 200 on the Deep Bay Marshes until 27 May, and from 12 September onwards. Main passage was in March and October/November, though the maximum number, c.1000, was recorded from Chuk Yuen on 10 December.

105. Greater Sand-Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*)

Parties of up to 150 on the Deep Bay Marshes in both migrations, though it is not possible to give extreme dates in view of the strong possibility of confusion with the following species q.v.

106. Mongolian Sand-Plover (*Charadrius mongolus*)

Parties of up to 20 on both migrations. Extreme dates of the two species of Sand-Plover combined are 15 March to 27 May, and 2 August to 6 December. Also recorded from Sha Tau Kok and Yuen Long. Single birds at Little Sai Wan on 5 and 7 April are the only records from Hong Kong Island.

107. Caspian Plover (*Charadrius asiaticus*)

Three at Kai Tak on 19 March (per MAW).

108. Grey Plover (*Charadrius squatarola*)

Up to 30 on the Deep Bay Marshes until 10 May and from 16 September onwards.

109. Asiatic Golden Plover (*Charadrius dominicus*)

Up to 12 at Chuk Yuen from 28 March to 10 May, and from 23 August to 1 November. One at Stanley on 4 April. One at Little Sai Wan on 22 and 23 April.

110. Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)

Up to 10 at Chuk Yuen from 14 April to 10 May.

111. Fantail Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)

112. Pintail Snipe (*Gallinago stenura*)

113. Swinhoe's Snipe (*Gallinago megala*)

On the Deep Bay Marshes up to 21 April and from 23 August onwards. All three species were identified in the hand from birds shot by hunters, most being Fantail, but several Swinhoe's and one Pintail.

115. Jack Snipe (*Lymnocyptes minimus*)

One shot at Chuk Yuen on 1 November (MAW).

116. Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*)

Two at Ho Chung on 10 January. One at Tai Om on 10 January. One at Tai Po Kau on 15 November.

117. Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)

About 20 at Chuk Yuen on 11 January. One at Chuk Yuen on 12 November, and one heard at Tsim Bei Tsui on 21 November.

119. Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)

One at Chuk Yuen on 19 April. Up to 15 there from 16 August to 10 October. 14 alongside the Tingkok Road on 27 September.

121. Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*)

Two at Chuk Yuen on 27 March, and one on 28 and 29 March. 21 there on 11 April, and one on 2 May. One on 16 August and 4 October, two on 22 December, and one on 29 December.

122. Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*)

One or two at Chuk Yuen from 6 April to 10 May, two on 12 September, and one on 28 December. Six at Sha Tau Kok on 28 September.

122x. Asiatic Dowitcher (*Limnodromus semipalmatus*)

On at Chuk Yuen from 16 to 26 August (MAW, DGR, RPW, TPG).

123. Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*)

Common in winter on the Deep Bay Marshes, Long Valley, Sek Kong, and in almost any marshy area. Extreme dates are up to 9 May, and from 6 September onwards.

124. Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*)

Up to 200 on the Deep Bay Marshes from 17 February to 10 May, and almost as many in autumn from 16 August to 10 December. About 20 in Long Valley on 18 October.

125. Common Sandpiper (*Tringa hypoleucos*)

Common, though in small numbers, wherever there are large streams, and on the Deep Bay Marshes, up to 24 May, and from 1 August onwards.

126. Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)

Common on passage on the Deep Bay Marshes, from 14 March to 17 May, and from 2 August to 10 December. Four January records, of up to 30 birds, are rather unusual.

127. Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*)

Common on the Deep Bay Marshes in winter, and on passage, numbers in winter reaching over 300. Latest spring date was 17 May, and earliest autumn date was 16 September.

128. Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)

Common in winter and on passage, on the Deep Bay Marshes, though numbers rarely exceed 50. Latest spring date was 17 May, and earliest autumn date was 16 August.

129. Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*)

Up to eight on the Deep Bay marshes from 29 March to 10 May, and up to five there from 19 August to 11 October.

130. Grey-rumped Sandpiper (*Tringa brevipes*)

One or two at Chuk Yuen from 27 March to 17 May, two on 4 October.

131. Terek Sandpiper (*Tringa terek*)

Up to 30 at Chuk Yuen from 19 April to 17 May, 11 on 19 August, and two on 31 August. A large party seen on 21 April were using their upturned bills to scoop up flies off the mud, rather as Skimmers take food off the surface of the water.

132. Knot (*Calidris canutus*)

16 at Chuk Yuen on 10 May (MAW, RPW).

133. Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*)

Up to 12 at Chuk Yuen from 6 April 9 May, and two on 10 October.

134. Eastern Little Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*)

Up to 100, possibly more, on the Deep Bay Marshes from 14 March to 27 May, and smaller numbers from 2 August to 28 December. 20+ at Pak Hok Chau on 25 January.

135. Long-toed Stint (*Calidris subminuta*)

Up to 15 at Chuk Yuen from 21 April to 10 May, one on 26 August, and two on 11 October (MAW).

136. Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*)

Two at Chuk Yuen on 25 January. Up to ten there between 6 April and 10 May, five on 11 October, and one on 22 and 28 December.

137. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*)

Up to 15 at Chuk Yuen from 6 April to 10 May.

138. Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)

Up to 75 at Chuk Yuen from 11 to 25 January. Up to 30 there from 15 March to 26 April. Up to 200 from 12 September to 28 December, though on many occasions during this period none at all were seen.

139. Curlew-Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)

Up to 28 at Chuk Yuen from 6 April to 17 May. About ten near Naam San Wai on 10 May.

140. Sanderling (*Crocethia alba*)

Up to three at Chuk Yuen from 6 to 21 April (RJB, DJB, EDW, RPW, MAW).

141. Spoon-billed Sandpiper (*Eurynorhynchus pygmaeus*)

One at Chuk Yuen from 12 April to 3 May.

142. Broad-billed Sandpiper (*Limicola falcinellus*)

Up to 40 at Chuk Yuen from 11 April to 10 May, and one on 4 October.

143. Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)

One at Chuk Yuen on 26 April (MAW, RPW).

144. Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*)

First report was from Little Sai Wan on 20 March. From 6 April to 10 May, birds were present at Chuk Yuen, the maximum being 50+ on 3 May. The first record from the Harbour was on 14 April, and from then until 5 May parties of up to 150 were recorded there almost daily. During the same period, flocks were seen in the area between Green Island and Lantau, in Deepwater Bay, Rocky Harbour, Tolo Harbour, and one in Stanley Bay. While it is not possible to be accurate on total numbers, it is certain that at least 600 birds were in Colony waters throughout this period, and probably well over 1,000. Three were seen between West Point and Green Island on 3 and 10 September.

145. Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*)

From 19 August to 28 December, up to 16 birds were seen regularly at Chuk Yuen. One bird, with a broken leg, was killed by a Peregrine (per SC).

146. Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*)

Two at the mouth of the Shum Chun River on 25 January (DGR, MAW, RPW).

147. Collared Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*)

One at Chuk Yuen on 1 November and 22 December.

147x. Pomarine Skua (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

One bird was seen in Hong Kong Harbour during a storm in February 1957 (R de la M) (This record was published in L'Oiseau et R.F.O., Vol. XXVIII, 2e tr. 1958, but seems to have escaped the notice of the authors of the Checklist). A fleeting glimpse of a 'heavy brown gull-like bird' among a flock of terns between Cheung Chau and Lantau on 14 May could also be this species (MAW).

148. Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)

Up to 150 in Hong Kong Harbour, and also some along the coast as far as Deep Bay until 4 April. Similar numbers in the same areas from 15 October onwards.

149. Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*)

12 in Hong Kong Harbour on 4 April (RPW). Identified by the very dark wing colour; there has always been some doubt about records of this species, as we have found it difficult to get good evidence of the field characters to be looked for, but it is noteworthy that the sightings in 1960 and 1968 were also in the first week of April.

151. Black-tailed Gull (*Larus crassirostris*)

An immature off Castle Peak Bay on 15 March (MAW).

152. Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*)

Up to 60, mainly at Deep Bay, but also a few in the Harbour, up to 30 March. From 11 November onwards, up to 50 were at Chuk Yuen; in the Harbour, numbers rose to almost 500 at the end of December.

152x. Saunders' Gull (*Larus saundersi*)

Up to four at Chuk Yuen from 14 to 22 March, all in complete summer plumage (DGR, MAW, RPW).

154. White-winged Black Tern (*Chlidonias leucoptera*)

Spring passage lasted from 24 April to 24 May, most records, of up to 12 birds, being from Chuk Yuen, but also recorded from Naam San Wai, Cheung Chau, and Repulse Bay. One record from Chuk Yuen on 20 June. Up to 20 on the Deep Bay Marshes from 27 September to 29 November.

155. Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*)

Up to 35 at Chuk Yuen from 16 August to 6 December; one at Long Valley on 21 November. About 50 at Sandy Bay on 20 September, and near Stonecutters' on 21 September.

156. Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)

Up to 50 on the Deep Bay Marshes from 29 March to 10 May, and one or two there from 16 August to 10 October. One near Stonecutters' on 21 September, and two in the Harbour on 28 September.

157. Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*)

One in the West Lamma channel on 10 September.

158x. Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*)

One at Sandy Bay on 20 September (MAW, JHCG).

160. Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*)

Up to 14 at Chuk Yuen from 19 April to 24 May, and two immatures there on 27 June.

164. Rufous Turtle-Dove (*Streptopelia orientalis*)

Up to 20 at Stanley until 18 April, and one on 18 December. One at Tai Po Kau on 3 January, one at Tai Lam Chung on 4 January, two at Mong Tseng on 6 February. Up to two between Central District and Pokfulam from 18 December onwards, and three on Lamma on 30 December. On Hayling Chau until 23 March.

165. Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*)

Common and widespread.

166. Red Turtle-Dove (*Streptopelia tranquebarica*)

11 at Sha Kong on 8 October (DGR, DJG).

166x. Emerald Dove (*Psittacula krameri*)

One at Tai Po Kau on 1 March, 31 May, 20 July, and 20 December. Two out of a flock of six were reported shot near Plover Cove in early February.

167. Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Chalcophaps indica*)

This species seems to have increased considerably since the previous year. Records by districts are as follows:—

Happy Valley:—small numbers in the early part of the year; from September onwards, a roost formed near the HK Football Club, probably over 100 birds being involved.

Wanchai to Central District:—fairly regular sightings, parti-

cularly towards the end of the year, when up to six were seen.

Deepater Bay:—30 on 8 February, and flocks of similar numbers from August onwards.

Stanley, Headland Road, Repulse Bay:—seen regularly throughout the year, the maximum being 33+.

Pokfulam:—up to four seen on a number of occasions.

Other localities on Hong Kong Island:—Wong Nei Chong Gap (one on 2 November), Jardine's Lookout (four on 25 April).

Stonecutters' I.:—one on 28 March, two on 21 September.

Kowloon:—regular sightings of up to ten, particularly in Kowloon Tong and King's Park.

Sek Kong Woods:—regular sightings of up to five.

Yuen Long and Naam San Wai:—up to 13 during the summer.

Ping Shan and Mong Tseng:—up to eight on several occasions.

Mai Po and Chuk Yuen Marshes:—one on 14 November, and three on 15 December.

Fanling:—a flock of 100-150 in October (per JNH).

Tai Po Tau:—ten on 8 March.

Tai Po Kau:—one on 13 December.

Hayling Chau:—one on 25 April.

These records suggest that at least 150 birds were on Hong Kong Island, ten or more in Kowloon, and 150 in the New Territories, making a total estimate of 310+, compared with 70+ at the end of 1969, and 80+ at the end of 1968.

170. Indian Cuckoo (*Cuculus micropterus*)

One at Wong Uk Tsuen, Yuen Long, on 10 May, and one on Lantau on 16 October.

172. Plaintive Cuckoo (*Cacomantis merulinus*)

Several records from Mai Po and Sek Kong in January to March; commoner and more widespread subsequently until the last record, on 19 December.

175. Koel (*Eurdynamis scolopacea*)

Most records are from March to June. At least two pairs bred in She Shan, three pairs in Tai Po Kau, one at Sha Tau Kok, one in Long Valley, two or three others in the Lam Tsuen Valley, and one or more on Hong Kong Island.

176. Crow-Pheasant (*Centropus sinensis*)

Common and widespread.

177. Lesser Crow-Pheasant (*Centropus bengalensis*)

Single birds recorded from Sek Kong Catchment Road, Tai Po Kau, Tai Mo Shan, She Shan, Ping Shan, and Headland Road, and two at Pokfulam. Heard often on Hayling Chau.

178. Barred Owlet (*Glaucidium cuculoides*)

One at Ma Po Mei on 3 May (JHCG).

180. Collared Scops Owl (*Otus bakkamoena*)

Two at Headland Road throughout the year. One at Bowen Road on 28 and 29 March. One near Conduit Road on 19 August, and from 21 October to 24 November.

182. Brown Fish-Owl (*Ketupa zeylonensis*)

One at Mai Po, near Pak Hop Chau, on 15 February (EDW).

185. Japanese Nightjar (*Caprimulgus indicus*)

A male at Kai Tak on 14 October (per MAW).

187. Large White-rumped Swift (*Apus pacificus*)

Fairly common, especially in March and April.

188. House Swift (*Apus affinis*)

Common and widespread.

189. Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*)

One or two birds over the Deep Bay Marshes throughout the year. A party of eight at Luen Tak on 30 March. Two at Long Valley on 28 September.

191. Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

Common on the Deep Bay Marshes, especially on passage, with occasional records elsewhere in winter. The only summer record is of one seen on Lady Clementi's Ride on 26 July.

192. White-breasted Kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*)

Common and quite widespread in winter. Summer records suggest breeding of pairs at Wong Uk Tsuen, Sha Tau Kok, the Sek Kong Catchment Road, near Hong Kong University, near Tai Po Kau, on Lamma, and in the Lam Tsuen Valley.

193. Black-capped Kingfisher (*Halcyon pileata*)

All records are of one or two birds, in many areas, particularly on the Deep Bay Marshes, in winter, and in summer at She Shan, Sha Tau Kok, and Deepwater Bay.

195. Broad-billed Roller (*Eurystomus orientalis*)

One at Stanley from 10 to 31 October. One at Mai Po Wood on 11 October. Up to 10 on High West on 12 and 13 October. One at Sek Kong on 1 November. Two at Pokfulam on 14 November.

197. Great Barbet (*Megalaima virens*)

At least three pairs in Tai Po Kau, two in She Shan, one at Ho Chung, one at Tai Om. Nest-holes found at Tai Po Kau and She Shan.

199. Rufous Woodpecker (*Micropternus brachyurus*)

One at She Shan on 21 February, 26 April, and 3 May (JFSB, MAW, RPW).

200. Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*)

Six records up to 22 February, and five from 4 October onwards, from widespread areas.

202. Small Skylark (*Alausda gulgula*)

One on Lamma on 2 July (JHCG). Two at Mai Po on 8 November (RJB). The short crest was noted on both occasions.

203. Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

Common and widespread, especially on migration.

204. Red-Rumped Swallow (*Hirundo daurica*)

One at Chuk Yuen on 26 April, and two or three at Sandy Bay on 21 May. From 1 November to 12 December, up to 15 at Chuk Yuen. Five above Crest Hill on 28 December.

205. House Martin (*Delichon urbica*)

45 at Shouson Hill on 9 March, and five on 16 March. About four near Chuk Yuen on 22 March, and two there on 15 November. Three or four at Sandy Bay on 21 May.

206. Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*)

Four at Chuk Yuen on 3 May, two on 10 May, and two on 4 October.

208. Rufous-backed Shrike (*Lanius schach*)

Common and widespread, especially in summer.

209. Bull-headed Shrike (*Lanius bucephalus*)

A female above Hong Kong University on 10 and 13 October (JHCG).

210. Brown Shrike (*Lanius cristatus*)

Two at Long Valley on 18 January. One at Hayling Chau on 14 February and 18 May. One at King's Park from 6 to 15 February, and on 12 and 23 October. One in Government

House Garden from 23 February to 29 March. One at Pokfulam on 21 April and 17 May. One at Mai Po on 31 August and 11 October. One at Hong Kong University on 25 September, and two on 9 October. One at Cheung Chau on 15 October. One on top of the Ocean Terminal on 29 September.

211. Black-naped Oriole (*Oriolus chinensis*)

First seen at Hayling Chau on 19 April. Several at Beas River in May and June. One at She Shan on 9 May. One at Kennedy Road on 2 July and 16 August. Two immature birds at Sek Kong Woods on 4 October, six there on 8 October, two on 11 October, and one remaining until 15 November. At least ten at Mai Po Wood, and one over the marsh, on 8 October. Two at Mong Tseng on the same day. One on South Lantau on 3 October. One at Ting Kau on 4 October. One at Tai Om on 15 November. One at Stanley on 4 October.

212. Black Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocercus*)

Fairly common in summer, with a few winter records. 12 on Stonecutters on 20 June. A nest found at Beas River on 10 May was watched for four days, during which the birds were seen changing over at the nest; on 6 June, the nest contained a young cuckoo.

213. Ashy Drongo (*Dicrurus leucophaeus*)

Birds of subspecies *salangensis* were seen at Stanley on 2 January, She Shan on 7 February, Stanley on 18 October and 15 November, and Pokfulam on 9 November. Birds of subspecies *leucogenis* were seen regularly up to 26 April at Pokfulam, Sek Kong Woods, She Shan, and from 1 October onwards at She Shan, Pokfulam, Tai Om, Shouson Hill, and Stanley.

214. Hair-crested Drongo (*Dicrurus hottentottus*)

Between 28 March and 19 December, this species was fairly common throughout the Colony, the main strongholds being Tai Po Kau and the Lam Tsuen Valley.

215. Chinese Starling (*Sturnus sinensis*)

Four or five at Fanling on 1 January. Four at Mai Po on 3 January. Six at Ping Shan on 6 February, 3 on 8 February, and two on 30 March. Four at Mai Po on 21 February. Four at King's Park on 24 February. Four in the Lam Tsuen Valley on 8 March. Eight at King George V School on 17 April. Ten or more at Stanley on 18 April. Six at Sek Kong (with a nest under the eaves) on 3 May, and three on 10 May.

About six at Wong Uk Tsuen, Yuen Long, on 2 August. Ten at St. Mary's School, Tsimshatsui, on 4 and 11 October. About eight at Long Valley on 18 October, and 20+ on 29 November. Up to 12 at King George V School from 7 to 31 December. Five outside United Services Recreation Club on 31 December.

216. Silky Starling (*Sturnus sericeus*)

About ten at Long Valley on 1 January. c12 in the Lam Tsuen Valley on 8 March. Up to 50 at Yuen Long Sewage Farm on 14 and 15 March. Two at Mai Po on 10 October. From 8 November onwards, a flock was seen regularly in Long Valley, at least 150 birds being present on one occasion.

217. Grey Starling (*Sturnus cineraceus*)

Four at Mong Tseng on 6 February. c30 at Sek Kong on 11 October. c30 at Mong Tseng on 29 November. One at Mong Tseng on 14 November. 30-50 in Long Valley on 8 November and subsequently. Two at Mai Po on 6 December.

218. Black-necked Starling (*Sturnus nigricollis*)

Seen throughout the year in the North of the New Territories. Probably bred at Sha Tau Kok, She Shan, near Yuen Long, and on the Mong Tseng peninsula, where flocks of up to 25 birds were seen in both winters.

219. Common Mynah (*Acridotheres tristis*)

Up to five seen several times on the Mong Tseng peninsula. Unusual records are one at Tai Po Kau on 13 June, and one at Yuen Long on 2 August.

220. Crested Mynah (*Acridotheres cristatellus*)

Common and widespread.

221. Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*)

One in Tai Po Kau on 4 January, and seven there on 30 March. Up to six at She Shan on 15 February, and up to two there from 21 to 28 June. Two at Tai Po Kau on 1 November and 13 December, and heard there on 20 December. Six at She Shan on 6 December, and four on 13 December.

222. Blue Magpie (*Urocissa erythrorhyncha*)

Fairly common in all wooded areas.

223. Magpie (*Pica pica*)

Common and widespread.

224. Treepie (*Crypsirina formosae*)

After last year's irruption, up to ten birds remained in the Lam Tsuen Valley until 2 May, and up to 20 in Tai Po Kau until 21 April. Up to four at Headland Road from 22 January to 19 March, and two at Pokfulam on 31 January and 9 February. One at Stanley on 21 February. Two at Mong Tseng on 20 February.

226. Jungle Crow (*Corvus macrorhynchus*)

Common and widespread.

227. Collared Crow (*Corvus torquatus*)

Apart from one pair regularly at Sandy Bay and Stonecutters, and two at Plover Cove and two at Long Valley on 7 February, all records come from the Deep Bay Marshes and the Mong Tseng peninsula, where up to four birds were seen regularly.

228. Black-winged Cuckoo-Shrike (*Coracina melaschistos*)

After last year's irruption, one or two birds were seen regularly until 6 April in the following areas:—Sek Kong Woods, She Shan, Tai Om, Happy Valley, and Pokfulam. From 30 September onwards, birds were again seen regularly at Sek Kong, Tai Om, She Shan, Pokfulam, Severn Road, Headland Road, Mai Po Wood, Cheung Chau, Stanley, Hong Kong University, and Shouson Hill.

231. Ashy Minivet (*Pericrocotus divaricatus*)

About seven near Luen Tak on 30 March. Three at Stanley on 4 April. Two at Mai Po Wood on 8 October. One at She Shan on 15 November.

233. Scarlet Minivet (*Pericrocotus flammeus*)

Remained in the Lam Tsuen Valley and Tai Po Kau until 4 April, the largest flocks being 15 in each place. Single females were also seen at Sek Kong, and Lin Au. About eight at She Shan on 13 December.

234. Chestnut Bulbul (*Hypsipetes flavala*)

Two or more at Tai Po Kau until 4 April.

236. Crested Bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus*)

Common and widespread.

237. Chinese Bulbul (*Pycnonotus sinensis*)

Abundant, with large flocks noted in winter.

238. Red-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus aurigaster*)

Common, but less so than 236 and 237, and apparently showing a preference for higher ground.

243. Black-faced Laughing-Thrush (*Garrulax perspicillatus*)

Common and widespread.

244. Black-throated Laughing-Thrush (*Garrulax chinensis*)

Quite common on the Peak and near Headland Road, where it is heard regularly, but rarely seen.

245. Hwamei (*Garrulax canorus*)

Common on Hong Kong Island, but only recorded from Tai Po Kau in the New Territories.

246x. Greater Necklaced Laughing-Thrush (*Garrulax pectoralis*)

Up to 11 in Tai Po Kau on 30 March, and three times during April. From 29 October onwards, at least 30 birds in Tai Po Kau. Although there seems to be little doubt of the identification in both cases, the birds seen in the latter part of the year showed a prominent whitish eye ring, a character which was certainly not present in the birds of the previous winter. The white lores were also noted this time, this being an important differentiation characteristic from the closely related *Garrulax monileger*.

248. Peking Robin (*Leiothrix lutea*)

Five on Tai Mo Shan on 26 April (JFSB). One near Hong Kong University on 30 December (TPG). As usual, these may probably be escaped.

251. Ince's Paradise Flycatcher (*Terpsiphone paradisi*)

One at Tai Po Kau on 29 March. One at Stanley and one at Pokfulam on 3 October. Two at Shouson Hill on 4 October. Two at Mai Po Woods and one at Sek Kong Woods on 8 October. One at Stanley and one at Mong Tseng on 10 October. One at Pokfulam on 9 December.

252. Japanese Paradise Flycatcher (*Terpsiphone atrocaudata*)

One at Stanley on 9 April and again on 3 October (RPW, MAW).

253. Grey-headed Flycatcher (*Culicicapa ceylonensis*)

One at She Shan on 14 December. One at Sek Kong on 29 December.

254. Black-naped Monarch Flycatcher (*Hypothymis azurea*)

Apart from two at She Shan on 1 January, all records are of single birds as follows:—Mai Po Wood on 1 January, She Shan on 6 January, 28 March, Ko Tin Hom on 8 March, and Tai Om on 18 January.

255. Brown Flycatcher (*Muscicapa latirostris*)

Fairly common in most woods in the early part of the year, the last spring record being on 5 May. Common again from 18 September onwards, though there was a noticeable reduction in numbers towards the end of November.

256. Grey-spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa griseisticta*)

One at Hayling Chau on 15 April and 17 to 19 May; two at She Shan on 3 May; one at Hong Kong University from 7 to 16 May. Autumn records are much more numerous and widespread, up to four birds together being seen in many areas between 4 October and 22 November.

258. Verditer Flycatcher (*Muscicapa thalassina*)

Single birds at She Shan on 6 January, 1 February, 15 and 28 March, Tai Po Kau on 4 January and 8 March, Bowen Road area on 16 February and 4 March. One at Sek Kong Woods on 4 October, one at Hong Kong University on 25 November, one on 19 December at Tai Po Kau. Up to four in Sek Kong Army Village from 5 December to the end of the year. One at Barker Road on 20 December. One at Hayling Chau on 8 March.

259. Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa parva*)

One at Tai Po Kau from 1 to 4 January; one at Stanley on 3 January; one at Hayling Chau on 13 February. One at Mai Po Wood on 8 October; one at Tai Om and one at Sek Kong Wood on 15 November; the latter bird stayed throughout the winter.

260. Robin Flycatcher (*Muscicapa mugimaki*)

One at Tai Po Kau on 5 April, and eight or more there from 15 November to the end of the year. From 13 December onwards, up to four at Sek Kong Army Village.

261. Narcissus Flycatcher (*Muscicapa narcissina*)

Single males at Sek Kong on 27 March, She Shan on 28 March and 5 April, and Cheung Sha, Lantau, on 4 April.

262. Tricolor Flycatcher (*Muscicapa zanthopygia*)

A female at Pokfulam on 20 September (MAW, JHCG), and 21 September (FAWW).

263. Hainan Blue Flycatcher (*Niltava hainana*)

One or two at Stanley from 2 January to 6 April (MAW, FAWW, RPW), one at Tai Po Kau on 5 April (MAW, RPW), and one at She Shan on 6 December (MAW, RPW, JHCG).

264. Blue and White Flycatcher (*Cyanoptila cyanomelana*)

Males widespread from 21 March to 9 April. A young male at Pokfulam on 10 October.

265. Chinese Bush Warbler (*Cettia diphone*)

Seen in small numbers up to 14 March, and from 14 October onwards.

267. Short-tailed Bush-Warbler (*Cettia squameiceps*)

Recorded up to 28 March from Pokfulam, Tai Po Kau, Tai Om, Stanley, Sek Kong. One at Hong Kong University on 14 December.

269. Styan's Grasshopper Warbler
(*Locustella (ochotensis) pleskei*)

Two at Chuk Yuen on 11 and 25 January (MAW, RPW, JFSB).

270. Von Schrenck's Reed-Warbler (*Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*)

Common at Chuk Yuen from 19 April to 17 May.

271. Great Reed-Warbler (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*)

Up to six at Chuk Yuen from 21 April to 3 May. Very common there from 23 August to 1 November, with single records from Sek Kong and Long Valley.

273. Dusky Warbler (*Phylloscopus fuscatus*)

Common on the Deep Bay Marshes, with occasional records elsewhere, up to 25 April, and from 27 September onwards.

274. Yellow-browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus inornatus*)

Common in winter and on passage, up to 22 May, and from 2 August onwards.

275. Pallas's Warbler (*Phylloscopus proregulus*)

Common and fairly widespread up to 9 April. Much scarcer the following winter, with only six records from 15 November onwards.

276. Arctic Warbler (*Phylloscopus borealis*)

Three at Stanley on 21 May. Fair numbers in autumn from 20 September to 3 November.

277. Pale-legged Willow-Warbler (*Phylloscopus tenellipes*)

This species has not certainly been identified for many years, but several records this year may have been of this species. Prominent eyestripe and lack of wingbar were noted on all, as well as unfamiliar call, but no observer got an adequate view of the chestnut-tinged rump and tail. The situation is further confused by the fact that one bird, at Stanley on 5 December, was generally greenish (presumably subsp. *ijimae*) (MAW), whereas the others, one at Tai Po Kau on 13 December (MAW, JHCG), and one at Pokfulam on 20 December (KVT), were generally brownish, and presumably subsp. *tenellipes*. It is noteworthy that Kobayashi and others treat the two subspecies of *tenellipes* as separate species.

279. Yellow-breasted Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus cantator*)

One at Luen Tak on 30 March (MAW).

282. Long-tailed Tailor-bird (*Orthotomus sutorius*)

Common and widespread.

285. Brown Wren-Warbler (*Prinia subflava*)

Common on the Deep Bay Marshes, with one record from Sandy Bay.

286. Yellow-bellied Wren-Warbler (*Prinia flaviventris*)

Common and widespread, though most noticeable on the Deep Bay Marshes.

287. Fantail Warbler (*Cisticola juncidis*)

Common on the Deep Bay Marshes, with records from Sek Kong, Long Valley, and the Lam Tsuen Valley.

289. Red-tailed Robin (*Luscinia sibilans*)

Eight records of single birds from Stanley, Pokfulam, Hong Kong University and Sek Kong, up to 9 April. One near Hong Kong University on 30 and 31 December.

290. Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*)

One at Long Valley on 1 January. One at Chuk Yuen on 22 and 28 March, and two on 11 April.

291. Rubythroat (*Luscinia calliope*)

Fairly widespread up to 22 March, and from 13 December onwards. More often heard than seen.

292. Red-flanked Bluetail (*Tarsiger cyanurus*)

Common up to 5 April, in all suitable woods. Four records from 6 to 31 December.

- 293. Magpie-Robin** (*Copsychus saularis*)
Common and widespread.
- 294. Daurian Redstart** (*Phoenicurus aureus*)
Widespread, but not common, up to 3 April, and from 8 November onwards.
- 295. Plumbeous Water-Redstart** (*Rhyacornis fuliginosus*)
Three females or immatures at Tai Lam Chung headwaters on 4 January and 8 February (MAW, TPG, RPW).
- 296. Stonechat** (*Saxicola torquata*)
Common up to 21 April, and from 4 October onwards.
- 297. Grey Bushchat** (*Saxicola ferrea*)
Three or more at Tai Om until 15 February. One at Tai Mong Tsai on 22 February. Two on the Sek Kong Catchment Road on 17 February. A pair at Tai Om on 15 November. At least three above She Shan from 13 December onwards.
- 298. Blue Rock-Thrush** (*Monticola solitaria*)
Fairly common in all suitable areas up to 26 April, and from 31 August. The Red-bellied form appears to be more frequent, though many birds are obviously intermediate between the two subspecies.
- 299. Chestnut-breasted Rock-Thrush** (*Monticola rufiventris*)
Two at Severn Road from 25 January to 8 March, and from 8 to 13 December (MJR). One at Lamma on 30 December (DGR).
- 300. Violet Whistling Thrush** (*Myiophonus caeruleus*)
Common near streams throughout the Colony.
- 301. Pale Thrush** (*Turdus pallidus*)
Single birds at Stanley on 20 January, Pokfulam on 21 January and 28 March, and one at Sek Kong on 5 April.
- 304. Grey-backed Thrush** (*Turdus hortulorum*)
Common in woodland areas up to 18 April, and from 15 November onwards.
- 305. Dusky Thrush** (*Turdus naumanni*)
One on Sek Kong Catchment Road on 17 February (JFSB). Two at Little Sai Wan on 22, 23, and 26 March (FAWW).

- 306. Blackbird** (*Turdus merula*)
Single birds or small parties seen up to 6 April, the maximum being six at She Shan on 18 January. Earliest autumn record was 12 November, and a party of at least 15 birds was seen several times in the Lam Tsuen Valley, usually near Hang Ha Po.
- 307. Grey Thrush** (*Turdus cardis*)
Common in wooded areas up to 18 April, and from 25 October onwards.
- 310. White's Thrush** (*Turdus dauma*)
One at Deepwater Bay on 29 March (HDS).
- 313. Great Tit** (*Parus major*)
Common and widespread.
- 313x. Yellow-bellied Tit** (*Parus venustulus*)
The birds which arrived towards the end of 1969 remained throughout the winter, the last sighting being on 4 April. The parties of these tits were smaller and more elusive; the main group still remained in Tai Po Kau and the Lam Tsuen Valley, but there was some dispersal, as evidenced by records from Boulder Lodge, Castle Peak Bay, Pokfulam, and Mong Tseng.
- 315. Richard's Pipit** (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*)
Common everywhere in winter; the darker race is common on high ground, and in a few other areas, in summer. In view of the strong possibility of confusion between the two races, extreme dates mean very little.
- 316. Indian Tree-Pipit** (*Anthus hodgsoni*)
Common in winter up to 26 April, and from 11 October onwards.
- 317. Red-throated Pipit** (*Anthus cervinus*)
Very small numbers on the Deep Bay Marshes and in the Sek Kong Valley from 15 February to 30 March, and at Chuk Yuen on 11 October.
- 319. Upland Pipit** (*Anthus sylvanus*)
Up to five on Tai Mo Shan on 14 and 15 February, and 15 August. Two on Mount Davis on 21 September.
- 320. Forest Wagtail** (*Dendronanthus indicus*)
One at Stanley on 3 and 4 October. One in three areas from Hong Kong University to Pokfulam from 10 October to 19 October.

321. White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*)

Common in the winter months up to 11 April, and from 30 September onwards.

322. Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)

Common near streams and marshy ground up on 29 April, and from 16 August onwards.

323. Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*)

Mainly on passage, though some remained throughout the winter. Last spring record was 24 May, and first autumn record was 28 September.

324. Fork-tailed Sunbird (*Aethopyga christinae*)

Resident in Tai Po Kau and Headland Road. Other records, many of which may indicate resident pairs, are from Happy Valley, Po Shan Road, Magazine Gap, Stanley, and Sek Kong Army Village.

325. White-eye (*Zosterops japonica*)

Common and widespread.

326. Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum cruentatum*)

Resident, apparently in some numbers, in Tai Po Kau and She Shan. There are also two autumn records from Sek Kong, and two from Hong Kong University area.

327. Fire-breasted Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum ignipectus*)

Records are confined to the winter months, the species being seen at Pokfulam, and Tai Po Kau on various dates up to 4 April, and at Tai Po Kau, Hong Kong University, Sek Kong, and the Peak from 4 October onwards.

328. Black-tailed Hawfinch (*Eophona migratoria*)

Parties of up to 20 in the Lam Tsuen Valley, Sek Kong, and Mong Tseng until 30 March. Apart from two at She Shan on 14 December, and one at Mong Tseng on 26 December, all records for the latter part of the year are of up to 15 birds in the Sek Kong Woods from 15 November onwards.

329. Chinese Greenfinch (*Chloris sinica*)

Again, all records are given in full:—
Shouson Hill to Aberdeen Reservoir:—three on 31 January, five on 9 February, one on 14 February, one on 1 September, four or more in October and November.

Sek Kong Woods:—up to eight birds from 1 February to 28 March, one on 23 August, and six on 28 December.

Sek Kong Catchment Road:—two on 17 February.

Sek Kong Army Village:—one on 24 May, three on 20 June, one on 5 and 30 December.

Happy Valley:—one on many dates between 16 February and 24 May.

Lantau:—Silvermine Bay, c15 on 22 November.

Pokfulam:—up to eight on many dates from 17 January to 27 May, three on 7 June, and two on 14 November.

The Peak:—22 on 15 March, and two on 30 December.

Cheung Chau:—"Great numbers" in flocks of c15 on 15 October.

Long Valley:—one on 15 February, 24 on 21 November, five on 28 December.

Boulder Lodge:—one on 1 February.

Lau Fau Shan:—one on 11 March.

Mong Tseng:—12 on 26 December.

Stanley:—three on 7 March and 4 April.

King George V School:—five on 25 June.

Lion Rock:—two on 15 July.

Fanling:—two on 11 January, up to six from 21 to 31 December.

Sha Tin:—two on 28 December.

Hayling Chau:—seen on 24 March, and juveniles on 23 to 30 May.

331. Common Rosefinch (*Carpodacus erythrinus*)

Up to 11 in the Lam Tsuen Valley until 12 April, two at Tai Po Kau on 15 March. Up to five at Sandy Bay from 21 to 31 May could well have been escapes.

332. Masked Bunting (*Emberiza spodocephala*)

Common and widespread up to 3 May, and from 22 October onwards.

335. Tristram's Bunting (*Emberiza tristrami*)

Up to ten in Tai Po Kau until 4 April, and from 15 November onwards. Two at Pokfulam on 8 March. One at Tai Om on 25 January and 1 March; one at She Shan on 28 March. One on the Sek Kong Catchment Road on 29 March.

336. Chestnut Bunting (*Emberiza rutila*)

Eight at Tai Po Kau on 13 December (MAW, RPW). One above Hong Kong University on 14 November (JHCG) was probably an escape.

337. Yellow-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza aureola*)

One at Chuk Yuen on 1 November and 21 November; one at Mong Tseng on 14 November.

338. Grey-headed Bunting (*Emberiza fucata*)

Up to ten in Long Valley until 15 February, and from 29 November onwards. Two at She Shan on 1 February, and three in the Lam Tsuen Valley on 1 March.

339. Little Bunting (*Emberiza pusilla*)

Widespread, but not common, in winter until 5 April, and from 27 November.

340. Crested Bunting (*Melophus lathami*)

Regularly seen in the Lam Tsuen Valley in winter, and on the Peak and on Tai Mo Shan in summer.

341. Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

Abundant.

343. Red Avadavat (*Estrilda amandava*)

Seven at Mai Po on 10 January. Five at Long Valley on 18 January and three on 7 February. From 22 August to the end of the year, up to 12 were seen at Mai Po, and up to 35 at Long Valley.

344. Java Sparrow (*Padda oryzivora*)

One at Sandy Bay in September, almost certainly an escape. One at Sek Kong Woods on 11 October could have been a wild bird.

345(b) Chestnut Munia (*Lonchura malacca atricapilla*)

Up to 14 on the Deep Bay Marshes between 2 February and 10 December, most records being from April to October.

346. Spotted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*)

Common and fairly widespread. A flock of 250+ at Long Valley on 6 December is exceptional.

347. White-backed Munia (*Lonchura striata*)

Fairly widespread in flocks of up to 12 between Magazine Gap Road and Pokfulam. Up to 12 seen several times in the Lam Tsuen Valley and Sek Kong. Seven at Mai Po Woods on 16 September.

348. White-headed Munia (*Lonchura maja*)

One near Pak Hop Chau on 4 October (MAW, DGR).

Escapes

Chinese Grackle (*Gracula religiosa*).

Up to six at Pokulam throughout the year, and smaller numbers elsewhere in mid-levels and on the Peak. Two at Mong Tseng on 20 February and 26 December.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (*Kakatoe sulphurea*)

Up to eight ranged between Victoria Barracks, Happy Valley, and the University; one on Stonecutters' I. on 21 September.

Baya Weaver (*Ploceus philippensis*)

A flock of c30 at Sandy Bay from 22 August to 20 September; ten at Ping Shan on 27 September.

Chestnut-flanked White-eye (*Zosterops erythropleura*)

Up to three on the hillside above Hong Kong University on 14 November (JHCG); although this species could possibly occur wild in Hong Kong on its migration between the Yangtze Estuary and Vietnam, this occurrence in an area where sightings of escapees are notoriously frequent, with a Chestnut Bunting (q.v.) on the path below them at the same time, suggests strongly that these were escapes. On the other hand, this species has not been noted in bird-shops, though this may simply be a matter of oversight among the large numbers of White-eyes always for sale.

Red-breasted Parakeet (*Psittacula alexandri*)

One at Mong Tseng with Rose-ringed Parakeets on 14 November.

Green Iora (*Aegithina inidissima*)

One at Hong Kong University in December.

Silver-eared Mesia (*Leiothrix argentauris*)

One at Hatton Road in December.

Siskin (*Carduelis spinus*)

One at Hatton Road in December.

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*)

One at Hong Kong University in December.

1969 Report.

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) reported from Tai Mo Shan on 7 April, should be deleted; the bird was probably a Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*), possibly on Oriental Hobby (*Falco seveurs*).

REPORT ON THE BIRDS 1971

A total of 243 species was recorded during the year; this compares with the following totals for previous years:— 1966, 239; 1967, 224; 1968, 237; 1969, 247; 1970, 257. Five species were added to the Colony List during the year, the Dalmatian Pelican, Christmas Island Frigate-Bird, Fugitive Hawk-Cuckoo, European Starling, and Petchora Pipit. Of these, the Christmas Island Frigate-Bird and the European Starling are over a thousand miles from the nearest locality previously recorded, and the latter is certainly an unwelcome addition to the list.

A careful study of the list will show that quite a number of rarer species were recorded, particularly among the waders, which occurred in exceptionally large numbers during the spring migration. The Spotted Greenshank and Saunders' Gull both occurred again, the Greater Necklaced Laughing-Thrushes remained until at least August, and at the end of the year Yellow-bellied Tits put in a welcome reappearance.

This report customarily mentions rarities rather than common species, and it is easy to overlook the sharp declines of many of our commoner birds, both winter visitors and summer visitors. It is not, of course, as easy to generalise for migrants, as many factors may affect their passage over the Colony, and the numbers recorded here do not give much of a clue to their actual status on a worldwide basis. I would instead like to take this opportunity of examining some of the changes which have taken place since the publication of the Checklist in 1966, the species being treated in Checklist order.

The Little Grebe has maintained its increase as a breeding bird, though suitable areas on the marshes are being destroyed daily. The Night Heron is now a scarce vagrant, not a passage migrant. Cattle Egrets, Little Egrets, and Chinese Pond-Herons are maintaining their numbers, and the population of Swinhoe's Egret remains steady at three pairs. The Purple Heron can now be seen all the year round, and may well breed nearby. Black Storks, White Ibises, and Lesser Spoonbills are now recorded annually, though the last-named has been scarcer in recent years. The Falcated Teal is rarely seen these days, but Wigon, Shoveler, and Tufted Duck have apparently become commoner.

Sparrowhawks seem to have declined, and are now as rare as the Goshawk. The Imperial Eagle is now a regular winter visitor, and Bonelli's Eagle is almost regular, and may breed

nearby. The Pied Harrier is little more than a memory. Ospreys now summer at Plover Cove. Hobbies and Merlins are no longer recorded annually, and this winter even the Kestrel seems scarcer than in previous years. Quail are few and far between, and neither of the Button-Quails has been reported for at least seven years.

The Crimson-legged Crake has now been proved to breed. Moorhens and Watercock still breed, but in much smaller numbers than two years ago. Coot are now abundant in winter. The Pheasant-tailed Jacana may well not have bred in 1971, and may soon revert to its Checklist status as an occasional visitor. Painted Snipe are now quite uncommon. Among the waders, Lapwings have become rarer, but Grey-headed Lapwings are more frequent. The Black-tailed Godwit has now become commoner than the Bar-tailed. Wood Sandpipers now winter regularly. Long-toed Stints have become regular passage migrants and winter visitors, though here the change may be largely a matter of identification. Dunlin have become much scarcer, and Sanderling are now rarely reported; large flocks of this species are a thing of the past. Black-winger Stilts are now annual, and Avocets more frequent than before. Pratincoles are now very uncommon.

The Black-tailed Gull has been recorded only once in seven years. The Caspian Tern has become much rarer, and the Black-naped Tern has not been recorded for six years. The Red Turtle-Dove is less common than formerly. The Rose-ringed Parakeet appears to have decreased again after its tremendous increases in 1969 and 1970. The Cuckoo and the Large Hawk-Cuckoo have not been seen for some years, and the Indian Cuckoo is probably restricted to a few areas. The Lesser Crow-Pheasant appears to have declined. The Barred Owlet has been recorded twice in six years, and is probably no longer resident. Both Nightjars are now rarely seen, and have probably decreased considerably. The Pied Kingfisher is likely to share the fate of the Crested Kingfisher, though possibly one pair still remains on the Deep Bay Marshes. The other three breeding Kingfishers have all declined in summer, though winter populations of the Common and White-breasted are probably unchanged. The Great Barbet has probably declined.

The Black-naped Green Woodpucker is now a rare vagrant. The Small Skylark is rarely reported, perhaps because of identification difficulties. The Brown Shrike is now rare. The Black-naped Oriole is probably now restricted to Fanling Golf Course. Black Drongos and Hair-crested Drongos both seem to have declined, particularly the former. The Common Mynah

has probably almost died out, though reports from new localities may indicate that it is becoming established over a wider area, and is therefore less easily assessed. Jays may now breed, but are almost restricted to Tai Po Kau and She Shan. Jungle Crows are decidedly scarcer, but Collared Crows appear to have regained ground in the eastern part of the Colony.

Ashy Minivets have declined, but Scarlet Minivets are much commoner than before. Hwameis seem to be increasing in the New Territories. There is little change among the flycatchers, except that the Tricolour is now rarely recorded; the Hainan Blue no longer breeds. Pallas's Warbler has again become commoner, but the Pale-legged Willow-Warbler is no longer recorded annually. The Arctic Warbler is scarcer than before. David's Hill-Warbler and the Chinese Babax have not been reported for at least seven years, and are probably no longer resident. The Fantail Warbler is now scarce outside the Deep Bay Marshes and Long Valley. The Bluethroat is still recorded annually, but usually only one or two records. The Rubythroat appears to be rarer, but this could be deceptive. The Daurian Redstart is much rarer than it was five years ago, and the decline appears to have been a steady progress. The Plumbeous Water-Redstart is now rarely seen except on the headwaters of Tai Lam Chung.

The Blue and Red-bellied Rock-Thrushes are certainly not common any longer. The larger thrushes continue to be irregular in their numbers, and no conclusions can be inferred from reports of this group. The Chinese Pipit seems to be much rarer than before. The Fork-tailed Sunbird and Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker have spread, but the Fire-breasted Flowerpecker is now rarely seen. The Black-tailed Hawfinch is no longer common, though still regular in a few areas. The Chinese Greenfinch seems to have declined. Tristram's Bunting has increased, but the Yellow-breasted and Grey-headed Buntings have decreased considerably. The Crested Bunting has probably also decreased. The Red Avadavat is now regular in autumn, and it has to be assumed that a breeding colony has established itself somewhere in China, as Hong Kong is a long way from the species' normal range. The Chestnut Munia still breeds on the Deep Bay Marshes, and the White-backed Munia has at last been proved to breed.

This is a long catalogue, and it is noticeable that in general the declines are among breeding species, or among those which

require a specialised habitat. It is difficult to give an overall picture, but one thing is quite certain; the destruction of wilderness areas throughout the Colony is reducing our breeding population of birds, and we can foresee in the not too distant future a time when the only birds remaining will be those which have adapted to urban and suburban areas, and those which inhabit mountainous areas which Man has so far found no profitable reason to destroy. In the meantime, we continue to maintain this Annual Report, if with some difficulty, in the hope that the diversity of bird life to be found in Hong Kong will, somewhere, some time, be recognised as worth a little attention in the practical form of nature reserves. It is too easy to take it all for granted, and then wake up one morning to find it all gone.

The bulk of the work on this Report was done by Robert Weeks, and I have changed very little of the Systematic List, though I have written the complete introduction. I would like to thank the following for submitting records:— R. J. Barnes, J. F. S. Batson, C. Briffett, J. Chapman, J. L. Chapple, B. J. Coates, J. C. Cummings, Mrs. M. S. Davidson, L. W. Filewood, D. J. Galloway, T. P. Garland, R. E. Hale, I. W. Harris, W. A. Layton, C. C. Lindt, R. R. Mason, D. G. Robertson, J. M. Rowlands, T. Shiota, H. D. Stead, K. D. Stead, K. V. Thompson, C. A. Viney, M. A. Webster, R. P. Weeks, F. A. W. Whitford, B. D. Wilson.

Information needed:—all records of Lesser Crow-pheasants, Rose-ringed Parakeets, Chinese Greenfinches and White-backed Munias. All breeding records should also be noted. Records for 1972 should be submitted before 31 January, 1973.

M. A. W.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1971

2. Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*)

All records are from Deep Bay where up to eight were to be seen until 6 March and five on 19 December.

4. Little Grebe (*Podiceps ruficollis*)

Reported in every month except February with most records in the summer. Breeding probably occurred at Tsing Lung Tau (one pair), and definitely at Mai Po north (one or two pairs) and Mai Po south (four pairs). The first young did not appear until early August with most being seen in late September or early October. Apart from the above mentioned areas 14 birds wintered at Tai Lam Chung, seven in the Feeder Reservoir at Sek Kong, and one was seen at Tam Kan Chau on 30 December.

7. Spotted-Billed Pelican (*Pelecanus philippensis*)

All records are from the Deep Bay/Mai Po area, occurring from the beginning of the year until 14 March with a maximum of c30 on 23 January.

7x. Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*)

This is the first year that this species has been recorded in the Colony. It was first seen on 14 March (MAW, RPW) over Deep Bay where 20 out of a flock of 83 pelicans were identified as this species. Six were seen a week later (MAW). They can be told from *P. philippensis* by the bright orange gular pouch and the black on the underwing covering the primaries and trailing edge as opposed to only black on the tips of the primaries in *philippensis*.

8. Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

Common from the beginning of the year up to 21 March and again from 25 November until the end of the year. Occurred in flocks of up to 50 at Deep Bay with one record of c270 on 27 December. Also smaller flocks occurring regularly at the following places, Tai Lam Chung (maximum five), Stonecutters (maximum 20), and Lantau Coast and the surrounding islands (maximum 15).

10. Great Frigate-Bird (*Fregata minor*)

There is only one record of a single female over Lamma Island on 4 July (JCC per MAW).

10x. Christmas Island Frigate-Bird (*Fregata andrewsi*)

This year produced the first record of this species when one was seen flying over Findlay Road and then moving off towards Kai Tak (HDS). The distinctive marking on it was a white diamond on the abdomen, being the only conspicuous marking on an otherwise all black bird.

12. Yellow Bittern (*Ixobrychus sinensis*)

Single birds were seen on 8, 21, 23, 27 January, and 7, 8 March on Mai Po marshes after which the species became common with 50+ being seen in mid-summer. By early October numbers began to decrease and the last bird was seen on 14 November. Breeding again occurred on the marshes with young being seen from August onwards. The only other area where the bird was seen was on the northern side of Ma On Shan but breeding is doubtful as only single birds were seen.

13. Chestnut Bittern (*Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*)

Two on the Mai Po marshes from 23 May until 30 August and one exceptional record of 10 at the same place on 19 May, possibly of migrating birds.

14. Black Bittern (*Ixobrychus flavicollis*)

Only two records of this bird, both of single birds on the Mai Po marshes on 2 and 9 May.

15. Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*)

One flushed 5 January, another on 10 January and three in February.

16. Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

One adult found dead on the outer bund of Mai Po marshes on 14 November.

17. Chinese Pond Heron (*Ardeola bacchus*)

Common throughout the year with higher numbers after the breeding season with the addition of the first year birds. Breeding occurred again at Sha Tau Kok with about 100 pairs, and one pair bred behind the Hong Kong Soya Bean Factory, Au Tau. A new egretty has been found behind Lok Ma Chau Police Station with c30 pairs breeding, probably mostly of this species and Little Egrets.

18. Cattle Egret (*Ardeola ibis*)

Very common in spring through to autumn with a few wintering. Largest numbers occur just after breeding season. An estimated 150 pairs bred at Sha Tau Kok Egretty and some at Yuen Long; both egretties suffering badly during Typhoon Freda with an estimated 350 birds dead, mainly of this species, Little Egrets and Chinese Pond Herons.

19. Little Green Heron (*Boturides striatus*)

Up to five on the Mai Po marshes from 9 May until 7 November. One at Tai Lam Chung catchment stream on 17 January.



Chinese Bulbul

(Pycnonotus sinensis)



Crested Bulbul

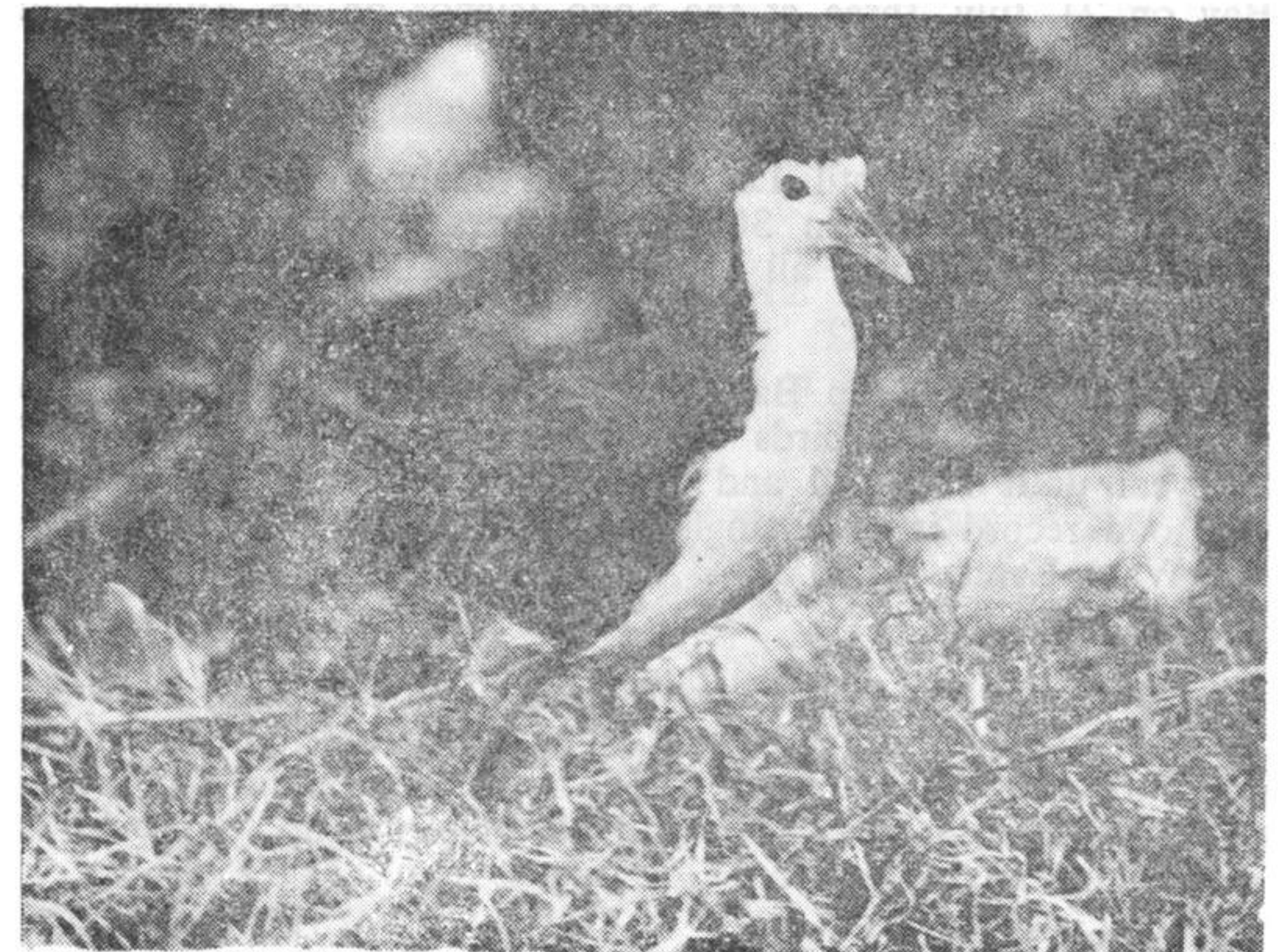
(Pycnonotus jocosus)



Red-vented Bulbul

(Pycnonotus aurigaster)

Photos by D. J. Galloway



White-breasted Waterhen

(A. phoenicurus)

Photos by D. J. Galloway

20. Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)

Common on Mai Po marshes throughout the year. Breeding occurred in four places, Sha Tau Kok where 150-200 pairs bred, Nam San Wai with c60 pairs, c10 pairs behind the Hong Kong Soya Bean Factory, Au Tau, and a few at Lok Ma Chau.

21. Lesser Egret (*Egretta intermedia*)

This bird is probably resident on Mai Po marshes all the year round but due to the difficulty in identification it is rarely recorded. There are three records for this year, they are: 6 February two birds, recognised by dark tips to yellow bills, 11 December one bird identified by bill and comparison to *alba* and *garzetta* (both JFSB) and a final record of one bird on 7 November identified as previous record (DGR).

22. Swinhoe's Egret (*Egretta eulophotes*)

At least two pairs bred at the Sha Tau Kok egretty as in other years; there appears to be no increase in the number of breeding pairs although five birds were seen at one time on 13 June (RPW). A single bird was seen at Mai Po south on 12 April (DGR) and again on 7 November (MAW).

23. Reef Egret (*Egretta sacra*)

14 records all of single birds except for a pair at Tweed Bay on 21 July, three at the Soko Islands on 26 August and a pair on Lantau on 18 September.

24. Great Egret (*Egretta alba*)

Recorded up until 12 April and again from 16 October. Maximum number seen 30 but numbers probably are in the region of 100, almost all of them on the Mai Po marshes.

25. Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)

Common in Deep Bay in the winter and also on Mai Po marshes where c100 birds were present from the beginning of the year until 12 April and again from 4 September onwards. One odd record is of a single bird feeding off a beach at Chi Ma Wan, Lantau (CB).

26. Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*)

Although this bird is considered a passage migrant there are at least eight winter records of two separable birds. Apart from these records up to three birds were seen on spring migration between 14 March and 28 June and up to five birds on autumn migration from 15 August until 27 November.

28. Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*)

Only one record of a single bird over Mai Po on 8 January.

29. White Ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*)

Up to eight present at Mai Po from the beginning of the year until 17 March and four in the same area from 31 October until the end of the year.

31. Lesser Spoonbill (*Platalea minor*)

One on 27 October, five on 31 October and two on 7 November; all on the Deep Bay marshes.

33. Yellow-Nib Duck (*Anas poecilorhyncha*)

First seen on 30 August and small numbers seen fairly regularly from then until 30 October with a maximum of nine birds on 5 September.

35. Falcated Teal (*Anas falcata*)

Only one record of a single bird on the Mai Po marshes on 7 March (RPW).

36. Teal (*Anas crecca*)

Common between February and April and again from November to December. Recorded from three main districts, Mai Po where small flocks of up to 20 birds were often seen, similarly with Long Valley where up to 40 birds were seen; and finally Tai Lam Chung which held by far the largest concentration of Teal in the Colony with a maximum of 53 birds on 21 March. There is a record of 200 duck on this reservoir, probably of this species. There is one odd record of a single male in a pond at Silvermine Bay on 5 December.

38. Garganey (*Anas querquedula*)

All records for this year from Mai Po marshes, mainly in April, where 10 birds were often seen. The only record for the second half of the year is of 20 birds at Mai Po south.

39. Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)

One record only of an immature at Silvermine Bay on 5 December.

41. Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)

One male at Mai Po south on 4 April (MAW, RPW).

44. Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

One at Mai Po on 14 November is the only record.

46. Red-Breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*)

c25 on Deep Bay on 10 January including at least two males.

48. Lesser Whistling Teal (*Dendrocygna javanica*)
One at Mai Po south on 9 April (MAW).

52. Black Eared Kite (*Milvus migrans*)

Common throughout the year. Breeding was proved in several areas including a pair with eggs at Mt. Davis on 13 February; several pairs nested in the pylons on Hong Kong Island and several pairs nested on Stonecutters although no exact census was carried out. One unusual record is of a pair carrying sticks on 23 October, which would be an extremely early date for the birds to start nesting.

54. Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*)

Recorded from all parts of the Colony in the winter months; last spring date 9 May, first autumn date 10 October. There is one record of a pair of birds over Ridge Court on 13 July. This is the fourth year that buzzards have been recorded in the summer months and it may be possible that a pair breeds somewhere in the Colony.

56. Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*)

Only four records for the spring, two from Hong Kong Island and two from the New Territories, all of single birds. The autumn produced more records with single birds or pairs being seen from 17 October until the end of the year.

58. Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)

This year produced an unusual number of records of this species. One was seen in Tai Po Kau Forestry Reserve on 7 February and one or two there on 21 November. An immature bird was seen above the Deep Water Bay Golf Course on 5 April.

60. Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

One record of two birds at Long Valley, one a female and the other an immature, on 3 February (MSD).

61. Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*)

Not uncommon from the beginning of the year until 5 April with at least two adults and two immatures present; the only record for the latter half of the year is of an adult on 27 December. All records come from the area from Long Valley along to Mong Tseng.

63. Spotted Eagle (*Aquila clanga*)

Fairly common from the beginning of the year until 12 April with at least three immatures and one adult present; there are two records of birds in the latter half of the year, one juvenile on 14 November and one on 11 December. All these records come from the Lok Ma Chau/Mai Po area.

64. Bonelli's Eagle (*Hieraaetus fasciatus*)

Three records, one of a pair over Lantau in early June, one over Ridge Court on 7 June and one over Lantau Peak on 14 August. It is very probable that this species breeds in the Colony, the most likely place being somewhere on Lantau or one of its surrounding islands.

66. White Bellied Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*)

At least three eyries are at present situated in the Colony, all of which were occupied this year, and there are at least two other possible sites. Birds were seen regularly throughout the year in various areas of the Colony and breeding was proved at the three known sites.

67. Grey Faced Buzzard Eagle (*Butastur indicus*)

A bird possibly of this species was seen on Tai Mo Shan on 29 May. Prominent features of the bird were "a longish tail, neck longer than an eagle, slightly larger than a kite, wings pointed and fairly long and the bird was behaving like a larger falcon chasing swallows." All these features point to the bird being the Buzzard Eagle.

68. Serpent Eagle (*Spilornis cheela*)

One or two birds were present at She Shan from the beginning of the year until 28 March and another bird was seen at Sha Tau Kok on 13 June, a very unusual date for this species. The only other record is of a single adult above Tai Po Kau on 21 November.

69. Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*)

A common bird on the Mai Po marshes where up to five were seen. At least two males and two females were present up until 12 April and two female/immatures and one male from 19 September until the end of the year. The only other record is of a female over Long Valley on 3 January.

70. Pied Harrier (*Circus melanoleucos*)

One at Mai Po on 28 March (RJB) identified by black head and neck.

71. Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)

All together there are ten records of this species of five separable individuals. Records are as follows: one female at Chuk Yuen on 27 January, one immature male at Mai Po on 6 and 7 February, a possible female over Bethanie on 5 April, a female at Mai Po on 18 April, an adult male on 16 October at Deep Bay, one almost adult male at Mai Po on 30 October and a male at the same place on 7 and 27 November and again on 11 December.

73. Black Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*)
One over Long Valley on 4 March (DGR).

74. Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)
Recorded regularly up until 12 April with at least three birds present and three again from 11 October onwards. All reports come from Deep Bay/Mai Po area except for a single record of one bird at Plover Cove on 6 June.

76. Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*)
Only one record of a young bird flying over Victoria Peak on 27 October (TS).

77. Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)
One bird was present around Central/Happy Valley/Kowloon for most of the year. There are only two other records, one at Sek Kong on 15 February and one at Ho Man Tin on 18 June.

81. Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)
Reported from most areas of the Colony singly or in pairs. Last spring date 21 March and earliest autumn record 23 September.

82. Chinese Francolin (*Francolinus pintadeanus*)
This species is quite common in the hilly areas of the Colony although it is very rarely seen. There are only eight sight records from widespread areas, the stronghold seems to be the slopes of Tai Mo Shan. Other areas where they have been reported are Pokfulam, Kowloon Reservoir, Pat Heung, Big Wave Bay, Wong Chuk Hang and Mt. Parker.

83. Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*)
Two flushed at Sheung Tsat Muk Kiu on 30 December (JLC).

89. Banded Rail (*Ralus striatus*)
Several birds were in evidence on the Mai Po marshes throughout most of the year and one was seen at Long Valley on 24 April. Since the rebuilding of the bunds at Mai Po and the resultant destruction of its habitat this bird has seemingly become much rarer. It is probably now only present in much smaller numbers than before.

92. Crimson-legged Crake (*Amaurornis akool*)
This year provided the first breeding record of this species for the Colony. A pair bred at Tsing Lung Tau just above the old Carling Brewery; one adult was seen there on 31 May and subsequently one adult feeding with two young on 6 June. The young had probably only left the nest a few days before being seen.

93. White Breasted Waterhen (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*)

Any low lying area in the Colony with a reasonable supply of water and good shelter is a suitable area for this species. It is mainly seen singly but on occasion in pairs. Paddy fields are probably its' favourite habitat and one can often be seen stalking along the edges of these fields looking for small insects.

94. Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)

Common on the marshes, particularly around Nam San Wai. Some birds apparently stayed all year round and as many as five pairs bred on the marsh; another pair bred at Ho Chung. The total breeding population is probably well in excess of these figures.

95. Watercock (*Gallicrex cinerea*)

Apart from a single record of one female at Long Valley on 3 January all records are from Mai Po south between 18 April and 19 September; it is possible that breeding took place on the marshes but there is no record of young to prove it.

96. Coot (*Fulica atra*)

The Coot has become exceedingly common on the marshes and where it was rare to see flocks of more than 20 in previous year it was not unusual to see flocks of well over 100 this year. The last spring date was 21 March and the first autumn date 30 October. Breeding almost certainly occurred on the marshes as there were several summer records, one of three birds, one of which was a juvenile on 30 August (JFSB). The largest flocks were estimated at over 200 birds, being found both at Mai Po north and Mai Po south in January and February.

97. Pheasant Tailed Jacana (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*)

Although not nearly as common as last year several were present on the marshes from 8 May until 30 October the maximum number of birds seen was seven on 16 May. Although breeding was not proved it may have occurred and the three juveniles seen at Long Valley on 24 October may well have been raised there.

98. Painted Snipe (*Rostratula benghalensis*)

One record only of a single bird found dead at Long Valley on 28 February.

100. Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)

Five birds in flight over Sha Kong on 12 December (JC).

101. Grey Headed Lapwing (*Microsarcops cinereus*)

One record of two birds at Lok Ma Chau on 10 October (MAW).

103. Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*)

Common up until 12 April and again from 30 August onwards with flocks of up to 20 often being recorded and one large flock of 60+ on 4 December. There is one summer record of a pair at Mai Po on 23 May.

104. Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*)

This species is of similar status to the Little Ringed Plover, being common up until 23 June and again from 30 August. It is confined more exclusively to the main marsh and is usually found in flocks of up to 60. There are several records this year of flocks exceeding 150 birds.

105. Greater Sand-plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*)

106. Mongolian Sand-plover (*Charadrius mongolus*)

Recorded between 7 March and 2 June and again from 30 August until 4 September; there are a few records of wintering birds and one summer record. From the number of birds actually identified it appears that the Greater Sand Plover was much commoner than the Mongolian this year.

108. Grey Plover (*Charadrius squatarola*)

Up to 23 birds present on the Deep Bay marshes, the last spring date is 6 April; there is only one autumn record of a single bird at Mai Po on 30 August.

109. Golden Plover (*Charadrius dominicus*)

Small numbers present from 7 March until 16 June with one record of six on 27 January and another of 16 on 6 February. The only winter records are of one bird on 19 September and 15 on 14 November. All records are from Mai Po marshes.

110. Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)

Quite common on spring passage with a maximum of 20 birds on 2 May. The first birds were seen on 18 April and the last record was of 15 on 26 May. All records are from Mai Po marshes except one odd record of a single bird at Chai Wan on 26 May (DJG).

111. Fantail Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)

112. Pintail Snipe (*Gallinago stenura*)

113. Swinhoe's Snipe (*Gallinago megala*)

Present on the Deep Bay marshes and Silvermine Bay up until 2 May and from 4 September onwards. Up to 20 birds often seen in a day and at Lok Ma Chau up to 35 could often be seen feeding on the mud. The only birds identified as to species were some Fantail Snipe shot on 14 November and a bird of the same species at Ho Chung on 19 September.

116. Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*)

There are only two records; one in Happy Valley on 24 October and one at Silvermine Bay on 5 December.

117. Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)

Only three records for the first part of the year, a flock of 70 on 27 January, 80+ on 30 January and four on 9 May; the latter half of the year brought more records with up to 40 birds being seen between 19 September and the end of the year. All records are from the Deep Bay marshes.

119. Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)

One record for spring is of six birds at Mai Po on 9 May. Up to 50 in the same place from 30 August until 19 September.

121. Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*)

Recorded between 8 March and 2 May and again from 22 August until 4 December. All records are from the Mai Po/Lok Ma Chau area with up to eight birds present, except for one flock of 30 on 9 April.

122. Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*)

Only one record of six on 4 September.

123. Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*)

Reported from most low lying areas of the Colony where there is water, with some areas holding up to 20 birds. The last spring record was 18 April and the first autumn date 3 October. Silvermine Bay holds quite a large concentration of birds, with 20 seen on 5 December.

124. Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*)

All reports of this species are from various parts of the Deep Bay marshes, apart from one record of three at Silvermine Bay on 5 December. Up to 100 were seen in spring, from 14 March until 2 May. The first autumn record was 30 August, with 50+ present until 27 November, when most moved on leaving a few wintering.

125. Common Sandpiper (*Tringa hypoleucos*)

Commonly found singly or in pairs over most of the Colony's shoreline with a higher concentration on the Deep Bay marshes.

126. Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)

All records are from the Deep Bay marshes. Flocks of 150 were seen on spring migration from 28 February until 23 June and up to 100 in autumn between 22 August and 27 November.

127. Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*)

Large flocks of these birds were present on the Deep Bay marshes up until 10 May with a maximum of c250 on 8 January. Smaller numbers were reported from 14 November onwards with a maximum of c100 on 11 December.

128. Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)

Up to 150 birds on the Deep Bay marshes until 23 May and 20+ from 19 September until the end of the year.

128x. Spotted Greenshank (*Tringa guttifer*)

Two on the Deep Bay marshes on 2 May and possibly one on 15 April are only the second and third Colony records. Recognised by call, shorter legs than Greenshank and yellow on lower mandible.

129. Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*)

Large numbers passed through the Colony in spring between 21 March and 23 May, with a maximum of c 52 on 12 April. Only about three or four recorded on autumn passage between 30 August and 11 December. There is one record of one on 27 January. All records from Deep Bay.

130. Grey Rumped Sandpiper (*Tringa brevipes*)

One on 9 May and two or three on 16 May at Mai Po are the only records.

131. Terek Sandpiper (*Tringa terek*)

Up to seven at Mai Po from 25 April until 9 May, one there on 19 September and one at Lok Ma Chau on 4 December.

132. Knot (*Calidris canutus*)

Three at Mai Po on 2 April in summer plumage (TT) and one on 14 November are the only records.

134. Eastern Little Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*)

Up to 130 on the Deep Bay marshes from 8 January to 23 May and six there from 30 October to 11 December.

135. Long-Toed Stint (*Calidris subminuta*)

This stint has recently become common on the grassy areas of the marsh and it is thought that the difficulty in identification is the only reason why it was not seen before. The first birds were seen on 14 March and up to 15 remained until 16 May. In autumn the first record was for 4 October and up to 15 were to be seen until 19 December.

136. Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*)

Up to 10 from the beginning of the year until 12 April and the same number from 7 November onwards.

137. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*)

Up to 30 present on the Mai Po marshes from 4 April to 29 May.

138. Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)

Up to 50 on the Mai Po marshes from 8 January to 18 April and a single bird at the 22 milestone on the Castle Peak Road.

139. Curlew-Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)

This spring has seen an invasion of this species with c250 present on the Mai Po marshes from 28 March to 31 May with c330 on 2 May (MAW). The only autumn record is of six at Mai Po on 14 November.

141. Spoon-billed Stint (*Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*)

One on 2 May and one on 16 May, both at Mai Po.

142. Broad-billed Sandpiper (*Limicola falcinellus*)

Up to 30 on Deep Bay marshes from 21 March to 8 May and one there on 30 October.

144. Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*)

Recorded from Deep Bay marshes, Victoria Harbour, Tolo Harbour and Tweed Bay in flocks of up to 50 between 4 April and 23 May and smaller numbers on Mai Po marshes from 26 September to 10 October.

145. Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*)

Up to four on the Deep Bay marshes from 6 April to 23 May and four at Lok Ma Chau from 19 September to 4 December.

146. Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*)

Up to 30 at Lok Ma Chau from 28 November to 4 December.

148. Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)

Up to 50 in the harbour from the beginning of the year until 25 March and one flock of ten at Deep Bay on 7 March. First winter report on 25 November and flocks of up to 30 common at Western Anchorage and the harbour until the end of the year.

152. Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*)

Up to 500 at Western Anchorage and c400 on Deep Bay until 7 March. Similar numbers from 14 November onwards in the same places.

152x. Saunders Gull (*Larus saundersi*)

This is the third year running that this species has been recorded from the Deep Bay marshes; 21 were seen on 7 March and small numbers from then on until 17 March.

154. White-winged Black Tern (*Chlidonias leucoptera*)

All reports in the spring are from the Deep Bay marshes between 2 and 23 May of up to c25 birds. There are only two autumn records; four were seen in Tolo Harbour on 29 August and two near Cheung Chau on 26 August.

155. Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*)

Only one spring record of a single bird at Mai Po on 8 January; autumn records are of up to four on the marshes from 19 September to 14 November. There is one record of c50 birds near Cheung Chau on 26 August (MAW).

157. Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*)

Two south of Lau Fau Shan on 29 December is the only record.

158/158x. Common/Roseate Tern (*Sterna hirundo/dougallii*)

Four terns of this group were seen near South Lamma on 26 August (MAW, DGR).

160. Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*)

One at Mai Po marshes on 25 April and four there on 2 May.

164. Rufous Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia orientalis*)

c25 at Stanley on 1 January, c30 on 10 March and one there on 5 April. One at Tai Po Kau from 27 January to 9 April and again on 31 October and 21 November; c20 at Po Shan Road from 5 to 7 January and again from 16 to 27 December. Other records are from Mong Tseng (seven), Beas River (one), Three Fathoms Cove (one shot by hunters), Lin Au (one) and Mai Po woods (one).

165. Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*)

Common in all areas of the Colony.

166. Red Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia tranquebarica*)

Up to three in Mai Po woods from 19 September to 3 October and one at Tsim Bei Tsui on 17 October.

166x. Emerald Dove (*Chalcophaps indica*)

Two in Tai Po Kau on 6 February and one in early May and again on 24 August; a male at Kowloon Reservoir on 18 January. Up to three around the campus of South China Adventist College, Clear Water Bay from 17 July to 15 December.

167. Rose Ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*)

Records are:—

Kowloon City — Up to 20 throughout the year.

Ho Man Tin — Up to 15 throughout the year.

Kowloon Peak — One on 25 September.

Happy Valley — Flocks of up to 67 throughout the year, smaller parties in the summer.

Victoria Barracks — Flocks of up to 30 in the early part of the year but no reports for the latter half of the year.

Mid Levels — Small flocks of up to 15 throughout the year.

Aberdeen — One or two birds on 21 June, 31 August and 11 September.

Mong Tseng — Up to 22 birds until 25 March and five on 27 December.

Deep Water Bay — One on 7 February, four on 24 March and four on 9 October.

Sek Kong Woods — Up to eight in the early part of the year but no records after 14 March.

Long Valley — Two on 3 February and 33 on 29 December.

Mai Po — Six on 19 September. One on 3 October and 35 on 16 October.

Lok Ma Chau — One on 30 August and three or four on 4 December.

Ma On Shan — One at the foot on the northern side on 14 April.

Headland Road — Up to 35 throughout most of the year except the summer months.

170. Indian Cuckoo (*Cuculus Micropterus*)

Except for four in Mai Po woods on 3 October and three at Beas Hill on 8 May all records are of single birds at Black's Link, Sek Kong, Kings Park, Headland Road, Ping Shan and Deep Bay between 1 May and 3 October.

171x. Fugitive Cuckoo Hawk (*Cuculus fugax*)

This year has produced the first Colony record for this bird when one was caught at Clear Water Bay, identified by C. Briffett and then released. The bird was photographed and a description recorded:—"Length 11¾", a well defined yellow eye ring; yellow lower and brown upper mandible decurved at the tip; legs and feet yellow. Crown dark brown with patches

of slate grey, brown around the eyes and just above the nape; white feathers on either side of the neck. Wings dark brown, paler on the primaries, white feathers to scapulars; underwing pale with pronounced cross-streaks. Underparts creamy with dark VERTICAL streaks more prominent near the neck and diminishing to creamy white on the vent. Tail long with grey, black and brown crossbands on upperside, similarly marked on underside but much paler".

172. Plaintive Cuckoo (*Cacomantis merulinus*)

Often heard and quite often seen between 7 February and 19 September, with records for 3, 8 and 16 January of single birds at Sek Kong. Areas in which they were seen are Happy Valley (many reports), Sek Kong (seven records), Sheung Shui (three records), Lok Ma Chau (one record), Mai Po woods (five records) and four reports from various areas on Hong Kong Island.

173. Red-winged Crested Cuckoo (*Clamator coromandus*)

Only one record of one bird picked up dead in Sek Kong Village on 16 September.

174. Drongo Cuckoo (*Surniculus lugubris*)

One was seen at Beas Hill on 8 May (DGR). Description mentions the white bars on the outer tail feathers and the red eye, and similarity to a Drongo. This is only the second Colony record of this species.

175. Koel (*Eudynamis scolopacea*)

At least two pairs in Tai Po Kau Forestry Reserve, four males and two females in the Lam Tsuen Valley, one pair at Sek Kong and single birds at Sha Tau Kok, Pokfulam and the head of Beas River.

176. Crow Pheasant (*Centropus sinensis*)

Common and widespread, normally singly but occasionally in twos or more during the breeding season.

177. Lesser Crow Pheasant (*Centropus bengalensis*)

The 13 records are from widespread areas of the Colony and only at Headland Road was a bird seen more than once, being seen on 28 and 29 January and again on 14 March. On two occasions two birds were seen together, once at Tsing Lung Tau on 31 May and once on Lamma Island on 30/31 December.

178. Barred Owlet (*Glaucidium cuculoides*)

It was reported that a bird of this species was present in Ma Po Mei Woods early last year so it was decided to visit the wood again; it was seen on 21 February but since then, despite frequent visits, it has not been seen again. It was also reported that another bird of this species was present in Sek Kong Woods.

180. Collared Scops Owl (*Otus bakkamoena*)

This is undoubtedly Hong Kongs' commonest owl. It was heard throughout the year at Sek Kong and through the summer at Ridge Court. One was seen at Headland Road on three occasions, 12 March, 7 September, and 10 November. At Tai Po Kau on the evening of 20 June at least five birds were heard calling, although not one was seen there in daylight (MAW, RPW & JMC Gerson).

185. Japanese Nightjar (*Caprimulgus indicus*)

186. Savannah Nightjar (*Caprimulgus affinis*)

A bird of one of the above species was seen over the USRC just after dusk. It had very obvious white patches under the wing and could have been either of the above species except for a female Japanese.

187. Large White Rumped Swift (*Apus pacificus*)

There are only five records this year; two from Mai Po, one from Tai Mo Shan, one from Ridge Court and one from Lantau Peak. Although there are so few records I believe this is mainly because records of this species have not been submitted.

188. House Swift (*Apus affinis*)

Common for most of the year, particularly from spring to autumn. Breeding occurred at the Hong Kong Football Club Stadium with up to 50 pairs in evidence.

189. Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*)

All records are from the Deep Bay marshes, single birds being seen throughout the year. Pairs of birds were seen on 28 March and again on 23 May.

191. Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

Common near water on Hong Kong Island and in the New Territories during most of the year. One nest was found on 14 April but the young had already flown (RPW).

192. White Breasted Kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*)

Common over most of the Colony, mainly where there is water, but often seen in wooded areas. In summer most of the birds probably moved into woodland areas to breed, although there is no record of a nest being found.

193. Black Capped Kingfisher (*Halcyon pileata*)

Small numbers found all over the New Territories and there are four records of a bird at Ridge Court. There are no records of it breeding, although several summer records from She Shan indicate that it could have bred there.

195. Broad Billed Roller (*Eurystomus orientalis*)

One at Lady Clementi's Ride on 20 August.

197. Great Barbet (*Megalaima virens*)

As many as nine seen or heard in Tai Po Kau, three or more pairs in the Lam Tsuen Valley and two reports of single birds, one at Shing Mun and one in the forest on Tai Mo Shan. There is also a record of two birds at Clearwater Bay.

198. Black-naped Green Woodpecker (*Picus canus*)

A single bird was seen in She Shan on 11 March. On 14 March it was heard calling and drumming.

199. Rufous Woodpecker (*Micropternus brachyurus*)

Two records; the first is of two birds, one male and one female, at She Shan on 3 January; the other record is of a single bird in the same place on 1 May.

200. Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*)

13 records, all of single birds, at the following areas; Mount Davis 13 February, Garden Road 14 February, Kings Park 27 February, Stanley Cemetery 14 April, Mai Po Wood 19 September, Clear Water Bay 9 and 27 November and again on 30 December, Lok Ma Chau 27 November, Mong Tseng 23 January and 27 December and Pak Hok Chau on 29 December.

203. Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

Large flocks from March through to September with several reports of breeding from various areas of the Colony. Small numbers were seen regularly in the winter months but never more than ten birds at one time.

204. Red-Rumped Swallow (*Hirundo daurica*)

There are only two records for this species, both for the winter; one of 11 at Mai Po on 27 November and the other of 110+ over Mong Tseng all heading north possibly on migration, on 27 December.

205. House-Martin (*Delichon urbica*)

One record of 13 above Sek Kong Catchment Road on 6 March.

206. Sand-Martin (*Riparia riparia*)

Four over Mai Po south on 25 April is the only record.

208. Rufous-backed Shrike (*Lanius schach*)

Common and widespread.

210. Brown Shrike (*Lanius cristatus*)

Four records for the first half of the year; one at Sek Kong on 3 January, one at Long Valley on 17 January, one at King George V School on 6 February and one at Kings Park on 13 February. There are far more records in the latter half of the year, between 17 September and the end of December, from widespread areas of the Colony. Two unusual records are two birds at Chuk Yuen on 2 May and one at She Shan on the same day.

211. Black-naped Oriole (*Oriolus chinensis*)

The Fanling/Beas River area seem to hold the largest concentration of birds with up to three being seen from 8 May to 17 September; there are only three other reports, one at Bowen Path in July, one at Clearwater Bay on 10 October and one in Sek Kong Woods on 19 September.

212. Black Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocercus*)

Apart from a single bird on Lamma Island on 31 December and one at Long Valley on 3 January all records occur between 1 May and 21 November from widespread localities.

213a. Ashy Drongo (*Dicrurus leucophaeus salangensis*)

One bird at Stanley Cemetery from the beginning of the year until 10 March and two there on 10 October; one at Bethanie on 7 March.

213b. White-Cheeked Drongo (*Dicrurus leucophaeus leucogenis*)

One at Sek Kong Woods on 7 and 21 February and one at She Shan on 17 January, 28 February and 11 March.

214. Hair-crested Drongo (*Dicrurus hottentottus*)

Common during the summer months between 4 April and 24 October; MAW estimates c15 pairs in Tai Po Kau and c10 pairs in She Shan.

215. Chinese Starling (*Sturnus sinensis*)

Fairly widespread in the New Territories with one or two reports from Hong Kong Island. Most records are from the beginning of the year until 1 May and again from 19 September onwards. One summer record of six at Lau Fau Shan on 12 June.

216. Silky Starling (*Sturnus sericeus*)

20+ at Long Valley on 3 January, one there on 14 November and two there on 29 November; regular reports from the Mong Tseng/Ping Shan area up until 14 February, three at Kings Park on 27 February and 20+ at Lok Ma Chau on 19 December.

217. Grey Starling (*Sturnus cineraceus*)

All records are from the Mong Tseng/Ping Shan area, 13 there on 27 January, 30+ on 14 February and up to 20 from 19 December until the end of the year.

217x. European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

The first report of this species in the Colony was of two at Lok Ma Chau on 7 November (MAW) mixing with a flock of Crested Mynahs; from then on this species was seen at the same place six times. Reports are: 14 November (two), 25 November (one), 27 November (three), 11 December (two), 14 December (five+), 19 December (four); (MAW, TS, MSD, RPW, JFSB).

218. Black-necked Starling (*Sturnus nigricollis*)

Often seen in the New Territories in small numbers; main strongholds are Mong Tseng—up to 11 birds, Three Fathoms Cove—12, and Sek Kong—one or two pairs. Other records come from She Shan, Lok Ma Chau, Ho Chung, Tai Po Kau and Mai Po Woods, each with one pair.

219. Common Mynah (*Acridotheres tristis*)

This bird has become rare at Mong Tseng, once its main stronghold, but now containing no more than two or three pairs. Some birds have been seen outside this area in places where they have not formerly been recorded: San Tin (one pair), Tai Om (one pair), Lok Ma Chau (one pair) and Sek Kong Catchment Road (one bird).

220. Crested Mynah (*Acridotheres cristatellus*)

Common and widespread, especially so on Lantau where it appears to be the commonest species.

221. Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*)

At least two pairs apparently stayed throughout the year in the Colony, one in Tai Po Kau and the other in She Shan. Up to five birds were present in Tai Po Kau on 31 October, other records are of single birds at Jubilee Reservoir on 9 and 22 December and a pair at Wong Chuk Yeung on 20 November.

222. Blue Magpie (*Urocissa erythrorhyncha*)

Common in flocks of up to ten in wooded areas throughout the Colony.

223. Magpie (*Pica pica*)

Common and widespread.

224. Treepie (*Crypsirina formosae*)

Three records as follow: one at Sai Kung on 5 February, two at She Shan on 11 March and c5 at Tai Po Kau on 9 April.

226. Jungle Crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos*)

Common over most of the Colony; mainly in pairs but occasionally in flocks of up to 14.

227. Collared Crow (*Corvus torquatus*)

Nearly all records come from the Deep Bay marshes, up to ten birds throughout the year. Other records are: Fanling Golf Course—four on 17 September, Sek Kong—one on 1 May, foot of Ma On Shan—four on 14 April, Plover Cove—one on 20 November, Three Fathom Cove—two on 21 November and Tai Mong Tsai—two on 3 October.

228. Black Winged Cuckoo Shrike (*Coracina melaschistos*)

Much commoner this year with frequent reports from the beginning of the year until 18 June from Bethanie, Mai Po Wood, Sek Kong, Mount Austin and Stanley. The only reports for the latter part of the year are of one at She Shan on 28 November, one at Ting Kok Road on 5 December and one at Clear Water Bay on 29 December.

231. Ashy Minivet (*Pericrocotus divaricatus*)

Only two records, a single bird at Sek Kong Village on 7 November and one at Castle Peak on 18 February.

233. Scarlet Minivet (*Pericrocotus flammeus*)

All records are from 9 November until the end of the year. Most sightings are from Tai Po Kau where two males and up to 25 females were seen on four occasions. All other records are of single females from the following areas; Castle Peak Monastery, Sek Kong Village, Shing Mun, Clear Water Bay and Aberdeen Reservoir.

234. Chestnut Bulbul (*Hypsipetes flavala*)

All four records are from Tai Po Kau (DGR); on 2 January several were heard; 6 February one seen and others heard; 16 March several heard and 17 April one heard.

236. Crested Bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus*)

Common and widespread.

237. Chinese Bulbul (*Pycnonotus sinensis*)

Common and widespread.

238. Red Vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus aurigaster*)

Not as common as the Crested and Chinese Bulbuls but still very common in the rural areas, generally higher up the hillsides.

243. Black-faced Laughing Thrush (*Garrulax perspicillatus*)

Common and widespread.

244. Black-throated Laughing Thrush (*Garrulax chinensis*)

One at Pipers Hill in June is the only record for the mainland, all other records coming from Hong Kong Island: Headland Road—one or two seen or heard until 16 August; Bowen Road—one heard on 30 May; Ridge Court—two often heard from 31 May until 4 August; two present on Lugard Road all the year round.

245. Hwamei (*Garrulax canorus*)

Many reports from Hong Kong Island with several from the mainland. They are: Jubilee Reservoir—one on 19 January, 25 July and 22 December; Tai Po Kau—three on 8 February, two on 16 March, three on 20 June and 21 November; Kings Park—one or two on five occasions; Sek Kong—one on 10 January; Clear Water Bay—one on 7 November and two on 19 December; Kun Tong Police Station—one on 18 June.

246. White Cheeked Laughing Thrush (*Garrulax sannio*)

Four above Pokfulam on 25 June, five on 27 June, four on 19 September, three on 6 October, four again on 24 October; three at Ridge Court on 13 June; one at Lugard Road on 9 September (RPW, HDS). These are the first records for five years, possibly escapes.

246x. Greater Necklaced Laughing Thrush (*Garrulax pectoralis*)

This is the third year that this species has been recorded in Tai Po Kau where up to 40 were present from the beginning of the year until 16 March. There is one other record of a single bird seen and others heard on 14 August.

248. Pekin Robin (*Leiothrix lutea*)

A single bird stayed in the area of Po Shan from the beginning of the year until 7 January; a pair were seen at Kowloon Reservoir on 18 January; another bird was seen at Shing Mun on 28 December. All these records are probably of escapes.

251. Ince's Paradise Flycatcher (*Terpsiphone paradisi*)

A male was seen at Tai Po Kau on 17 April and a female on 10 October. Other records are of a female/immature at Sek Kong on 19 September, a female at Lin Tong Mei on 24 August and one at Lantau Peak on 12 April.

252. Japanese Paradise Flycatcher (*Terpsiphone atrocaudata*)

The only two records are of females, one at Tai Po Kau on 9 October and one at Pokfulam on 16 September.

254. Black Naped Monarch Flycatcher (*Hypothymis azurea*)

An immature was present in Pokfulam on 31 January and again on 7 March, another immature was seen at Lok Ma Chau on 4 April.

255. Brown Flycatcher (*Muscicapa latirostris*)

Frequent reports from wooded areas from the beginning of the year until 14 March and again from 16 September onwards. It has not been as common as usual this year, only one or two birds being seen in one day.

256. Grey Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa griseisticta*)

This species has been unusually rare this year with only six reports: one at Severn Road on 23 May; one in Mai Po Woods on 3 October; one in Sek Kong Woods on 10 October; one at Mong Tseng on 17 October; two in Pokfulam on 24 October and one in Sek Kong Village on 8 November.

257. Ferruginous Flycatcher (*Muscicapa ferruginea*)

One at Lugard Road between 8 and 11 April (BDW, HDS) and one in Tai Po Kau on 17 December (TPG).

258. Verditer Flycatcher (*Muscicapa thalassina*)

Altogether there are 24 reports, all of single birds from widespread areas of the Colony except for three males and one female that were in Sek Kong Village from the beginning of the year until 8 March and again from 8 November until the end of the year. These birds were sighted on almost every day at approximately 4 p.m., sitting on telegraph wires.

259. Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa parva*.)

One at Sek Kong on 14 February; one at Shouson Hill on 17 April; one at Ping Shan on 14 February; one in Sek Kong Woods on 7 February and two at Mai Po Mei on 21 November.

260. Robin Flycatcher (*Muscicapa mugimaki*)

Seen in small numbers up to 15 April and again from 21 November. Most records from Tai Po Kau and Sek Kong Village.

261. Narcissus Flycatcher (*Muscicapa narcissina*)

A male was seen at Lok Ma Chau on 12 April.

262. Tricolour Flycatcher (*Muscicapa zanthopygia*)

Two females were seen at Chi Ma Wan on 20 and 22 September (IWH).

263. Hainan Blue Flycatcher (*Niltava hainana*)

A bird probably of this species was seen in Tai Po Kau on 21 January.

263x. Orange-bellied Niltava (*Niltava sundara/davidi*)

An adult male was seen on Po Shan Road on 29 December (TPG, RPW) but was probably an escape as its tail feathers were badly abraded.

264. Blue And White Flycatcher (*Cyanoptila cyanomelana*)

There is only one record of this normally common flycatcher, a male was seen at Bethanie on 5 April.

265. Chinese Bush Warbler (*Cettia diphone*)

One at Mong Tseng on 23 January; one at Tai Po Kau on 27 January; one in She Shan on 13 March and one in Sek Kong on 14 March are the only spring records. In autumn up to five were seen from various areas from 16 September onwards.

267. Short Tailed Bush Warbler (*Cettia squameiceps*)

One or two birds in the following areas up to 16 March and again from 21 November; Clear Water Bay, Tai Po Kau, Pokfulam, Sek Kong, Lau Fau Shan, the Peak and Po Shan.

269. Styan's Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella ochotensis pleskei*)

One was seen at Silvermine Bay on 5 December (MAW, RPW).

270. Von Schrenck's Reed-Warbler (*Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*)

Common on the Deep Bay marshes between 4 April and 9 May but there is only one record in autumn on 3 October at Mai Po north; there is an unusual record of a single bird seen at Mai Po on 6 February (JFSB).

271. Great Reed-Warbler (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*)

Common between 14 April and 16 May and again from 30 August to 14 November. All reports come from the Deep Bay marshes.

273. Dusky Warbler (*Phylloscopus fuscatus*)

Seen up until 9 May and again from 3 October mainly on Deep Bay marshes but also at Silvermine Bay and Sek Kong.

274. Yellow-Browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus inornatus*)

Common and widespread up until 9 April and again from 3 October onwards.

275. Pallas's Warbler (*Phylloscopus proregulus*)

Commoner than in most years but still not as a common as 274. Recorded up until 28 March and again from 21 November.

276. Arctic Warbler (*Phylloscopus borealis*)

All records, except one at Lady Clementis Ride on 2 May, are for the period 19 September to 17 October with a maximum of c20 on 19 September.

277. Pale Legged Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus tenellipes*)

One in Tai Po Kau on 18 February (KVT) and a single bird again on 10 October (MAW), 31 October (MAW, DGR) and again on 21 November (MAW, RPW). These are the first records of this species for six years.

282. Long Tailed Tailor Bird (*Orthotomus sutorius*)

Common and widespread.

285. Brown Wren Warbler (*Prinia subflava*)

Although this bird is not often recorded I believe it is fairly common on the Deep Bay marshes but is not often reported because of the difficulty in identification. There are two unusual records, one of a bird at Aplichau and the other of two at Tai Po Kau.

286. Yellow Bellied Wren Warbler (*Prinia flaviventris*)

Common and widespread, especially on the marshes.

287. Fantail Warbler (*Cisticola juncidis*)

Common on the Deep Bay marshes and not uncommon at Silvermine Bay and Long Valley.

289. Red Tailed Robin (*Luscinia sibilans*)

All reports fall between the beginning of the year and 16 March. One at Tai Po Kau on 4, 18 and 24 January, three there on 6 February, two on 8 February and one there on 16 March; one at Po Shan from 1 to 7 January; one at Bethanie on 31 January and one at Sek Kong on 7 February; one at Ho Chung on 31 January and 7 February.

290. Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*)

One at Mai Po on 21 January and again on 14 March.

291. Rubythroat (*Luscinia calliope*)

Common up to 7 March and again from 31 October onwards, reported from widespread localities.

292. Red Flanked Bluetail (*Tarsiger cyanurus*)

The end of the year has seen a large invasion of this species; it was common up until 10 March, but more so from 14 November onwards; from records submitted it seems as though there were at least five females and one male in the spring and 29 females and five males in the winter.

293. Magpie Robin (*Copsychus saularis*)

Common and widespread.

294. Daurian Redstart (*Phoenicurus aureus*)

Common up until 23 April and again from 26 September onwards.

295. Plumbeous Water Redstart (*Rhyacornis fuliginosus*)

Two female/immatures at Tai Lam Chung on 17 January and one female on 15 February, two females on 6 December and one there on 23 December. One at Ho Chung on 28 November.

296. Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*)

Common up to 18 April and again from 30 August especially on the Deep Bay marshes. Rare on Hong Kong Island.

297. Grey Bushchat (*Saxicola ferrea*)

One male and four females at She Shan on 3 January, three females and two males there from 31 October onwards; one male and one female on the Sek Kong catchment road on 15 February and one there on 6 March; a male and a female at Ho Chung on 28 November; a male at Wong Chuk Yeung on 20 November; a female at Castle Peak Monastery on 19 December; and a male and a female at Lamma Island on 31 December.

298. Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitaria*)

Both forms of this species were common up until 12 April and again from 21 September onwards; there is one record of a single bird on 30 August.

299. Chestnut Breasted Rock Thrush (*Monticola rufiventris*)

Three records; one of a single bird on Lamma Island on 7 February (DGR) and one on Mount Austin on 29 October (IWH); two at Severn Road up to 28 February (JMR).

300. Violet Whistling Thrush (*Myiophonus caeruleus*)

This bird is common over most of the Colony in areas where running water is available.

301. Pale Thrush (*Turdus pallidus*)

One at Bethanie on 31 January, two there on 7 March and one there on 13 March; one on Mount Austin on 5 April and three at Po Shan from 16 to 31 December.

302. Eye Browed Thrush (*Turdus obscurus*)

One at Tai Po Kau on 2 January, one at Po Shan from 5 to 7 January and one there on 16 December; one at Kowloon Reservoir on 18 January, one on the Peak on 22 January, one in Sek Kong on 4 May and one at Mong Tseng on 27 December.

304. Grey Backed Thrush (*Turdus hortulorum*)

Common in wooded areas from the beginning of the year until 12 April and from 24 November onwards.

306. Blackbird (*Turdus merula*)

Up to 15 in Long Valley on 17 January and up to 10 there from 14 November onwards; one in Sek Kong on 10 January and 21 February, one at Castle Peak Bay on 10 January. Other records are of single birds up to 7 March and again from 14 December in the following areas: Castle Peak Bay, Long Valley, Sek Kong, Pokfulam, Silvermine Bay and Sai Kung.

307. Grey Thrush (*Turdus cardis*)

Common in the wooded areas of the Colony, although not as common as 304. Seen up until 9 April and again from 28 November. Unusually scarce in the latter part of the year.

310. White's Thrush (*Turdus dauma*)

One at Ho Chung on 31 January (JMR), one at Severn Road on 25 March (JMR). One at Clearwater Bay on 20 and 26 December (CCL).

312. Brown Dipper (*Cinclus pallasii*)

A bird of this species was seen on three occasions on a stream just below Sunset Peak, Lantau between 1 and 6 August (RRM); this is only the second record of this bird in the Colony.

313. Great Tit (*Parus major*)

Common and widespread; a nest with eight eggs was found in Tai Po Kau on 16 March (DGR).

315. Richard's Pipit (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*)

Common up to 18 April and again from 19 September onwards. A bird of the subspecies *sinensis* was seen at Long Valley on 25 April.

316. Indian Tree Pipit (*Anthus hodgsoni*)

Common up to 27 April and again from 17 October onwards.

317. Red-Throated Pipit (*Anthus cervinus*)

Up to 50 on the Mai Po marshes until 12 April and three at Long Valley until 7 February; five plus at Lok Ma Chau from 7 November onwards; four plus at Silvermine Bay on 5 December and five at Shek Pik on 30 December.

317x. Petchora Pipit (*Anthus gustavi*)

The first Colony record of this species is of one in a flock of 50 Red-throated Pipits on 20 February (MAW); it could be distinguished from the other pipits by the two pale streaks going from nape to rump; in other respects it looked very similar to the Red-throated Pipits.

319. Upland Pipit (*Anthus sylvanus*)

Two on Tai Mo Shan on 28 April and one there on 24 July and 9 August. One on Sunset Peak from 24 July to 7 August and seven at Sheung Tsan Muk Kui on 30 December.

320. Forest Wagtail (*Dendronanthus indicus*)

One at Pokfulam on 16 September, one at Sek Kong Catchment Road on 10 September, one at Findley Road on the same date and one at Tong Fuk on 21 September.

321. White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*)

Very common up to 25 April and again from 8 September onwards.

322. Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)

Small numbers often seen, mainly near streams. Seen up until 25 April and again from 10 October with one early record of a single bird at Ting Kau catchment on 4 August.

323. Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*)

Very common mainly on the Mai Po marshes up until 9 May and again from 4 September.

324. Fork Tailed Sunbird (*Aethopyga christinae*)

Most records come from Tai Po Kau with up to four birds throughout the year; other areas from which recorded are Ridge Court, She Shan, Headland Road, Sai Kung, Sek Kong Village and Ho Chung.

325. White Eye (*Zosterops japonica*)

Common and widespread.

326. Scarlet-Backed Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum cruentatum*)

Most records come from Tai Po Kau and She Shan, mainly of single birds, throughout the year; other records are also of single birds in the following areas: Sek Kong Village, Sai Kung, Tai Hang Road and Kings Park.

327. Fire Breasted Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum ignipectus*)

Records are as follows:—a female at Castle Peak Bay on 17 January, a male at Kings Park on 28 January, a female at Tai Po Kau on 28 February, a male at Sai Kung on 21 March, five plus on 31 October in Tai Po Kau and one in Sek Kong Village on 8 November.

328. Black Tailed Hawfinch (*Eophona migratoria*)

Up to 12 birds in flocks scattered over the northern part of the New Territories up until 4 April and smaller flocks from 7 November onwards; there is one record of 32 at Mong Tseng on 6 March and up to three at Kings Park on four occasions.

329. Chinese Greenfinch (*Chloris sinica*)

All records are given. The distribution of this species is so patchy that it is impossible to say anything definite. Most of the birds are probably resident and wander over the Colony.

Sek Kong:—up to five throughout the year.

Long Valley:—six on 3 January, five on 12 August and one on 10 October.

Castle Peak:—two on 10 and 17 January, a single bird on 27 January.

King George V School:—up to two throughout the year.

Mid Levels:—up to four between 25 and 29 May.

Fanling Golf Course:—one on 22 March, two on 3 April and a flock of 150+ on 17 September, which is by far the largest flock ever seen in the Colony.

Mong Tseng Peninsula:—up to 20 on five occasions during the year.

Stanley:—three on 5 April and two on 14 April.

Clear Water Bay:—11 on 24 August and one on 24 November.

Happy Valley:—two on 30 May and one on 13 June.

Tsing Lung Tau:—one on 6 June.

Caldecott Road:—five on 2 and 4 September and heard on many other occasions.

Lantau:—four on 1 August, two on 22 and 23 June and 30 December.

She Shan:—one on 28 March.

Ridge Court:—one on 29 June and one on 4 July.

Ho Man Tin:—two on 19 October.

Mai Po:—one on 9 December.

Sai Kung:—six to eight on 5 February.

Victoria Peak:—three on 27 October.

Pokfulam:—up to six on three occasions.

331. Common Rosefinch (*Carpodacus erythrinus*)

Three plus on 10 January and four plus on 17 January at Sek Kong Wood.

332. Masked Bunting (*Emberiza spodocephala*)

Common up until 18 April and again from 31 October.

335. Tristram's Bunting (*Emberiza tristrami*)

Most records come from Tai Po Kau up to 16 March and again from 6 December; other records are from She Shan of up to five birds between the same dates. At Shing Mun, four on 28 December; Castle Peak Monastery five on 19 December; the Hong Kong Cricket Club two on the playing field on 5 April and one at Sheung Tsan Muk Kin on 30 December.

336. Chestnut Bunting (*Emberiza rutila*)

A bird of this species was seen at Old Peak Road on 22 June and is almost certain to have been an escape. A male at Severn Road on 10 and 11 April was also probably an escape.

337. Yellow Breasted Bunting (*Emberiza aureola*)

Three in Tai Po Kau on 2 January, two on Middle Gap Road on 12 February and three there on 19 June, this being the first summer record of this species. One at Mong Tseng on 17 October, four at Long Valley on 14 November and one on Sek Kong Catchment on 20 November. Almost all records of this species are outside the normal pattern of occurrences, and therefore probably refer to escapes.

338. Grey Headed Bunting (*Emberiza fucata*)

Five at Long Valley on 3 January, one there on 28 February and two there on 14 November; one at Mai Po on 21 February, one on 14 March and one on 28 March. One at Mong Tseng on 27 December.

339. Little Bunting (*Emberiza pusilla*)

Quite common in small numbers over most of the New Territories up to 6 April and again from 7 November. There is one unusual report of 30+ on Mai Po on 7 March.

340. Crested Bunting (*Melophus lathami*)

Not uncommon at Tai Mo Shan, She Shan, Ho Chung, Tai Mong Tsai and the surrounding Islands. Mostly of one or two birds but occasionally up to six. Also reported from Kowloon Peak, Three Fathom Cove, Cheung Uk and Mount Parker. About 60 in the Lam Tsuen Valley on 28 March.

341. Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

Exceedingly common.

343. Red Avadavat (*Estrilda amandava*)

Five at Long Valley on 3 January and 29 December. Three at Mai Po on 10 January, five on 14 March, four on 18 April and one on 9 May.

344. Java Sparrow (*Padda oryzivora*)

Six at Lin Tong Mai on 16 August and two at Clear-water Bay from 26 to 30 September.

345b. Chestnut Munia (*Lonchura malacca atricapilla*)

Up to 60 birds on the marshes between 21 March and 4 December. Breeding almost certainly took place as birds were seen with nest material and many young birds were present later on in the year.

346. Spotted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*)

Fairly common and widespread all the year round with flocks of up to 30 birds not unusual.

347. White Backed Munia (*Lonchura striata*)

This year produced the first breeding record of this bird when a pair attempted to nest at Ridge Court on 2 June and again on 31 July, although both attempts were unsuccessful. Another bird was seen carrying nesting material in late April on Bowen Road. Other records are: Happy Valley, two on 28 May, four on 13 June and one on 20 June; Pokfulam, three on 10 January; Po Shan, five birds between 16 and 21 December and again on 30 December; one at Tai Lam Chung on 17 January; one at She Shan on the same day, 20+ on 28 March, five on 16 June; three on Lugard Road on 17 April; six at Ho Chung on 31 January.

ESCAPES AND DOUBTFUL RECORDS.

Indian Mynah (*Gracula religiosa*)

Up to four at Severn Road from 18 April to 26 May (JMR). Two on Bowen Road on 30 May (RPW). Escapes.

Steller's Albatross (*Diomedea albatrus*)

An albatross, very possibly of this species, was seen off the southwest of Coloane after a typhoon (JFSB). This would not, of course, qualify for the Hong Kong list.

Geese sp.

Three were seen flying across Tai Lam Chung on 26 November (per DGR).

Sulphur Crested Cockatoo (*Kakatoe sulphurea*)

One at Ho Chung on 7 February and two on 21 February. Up to eight on various parts of Hong Kong Island between Happy Valley and the University. No formal proof of breeding yet.

THE EGRETRY AT SHA TAU KOK, 1970

by D. J. Bovey

The egretty at Sha Tau Kok was observed throughout the 1970 breeding season, the first observations being made in early April and the last in August. Observations were made from three points outside the wood, the north and south sides being observed from the road and the west from the village shrine. From each point a count was made first of all the birds visible followed by a count of individual species. To prevent any disturbance to the birds observers did not enter the wood. All counts were made in the morning, the majority between 9.00 and 10.30.

The organisers would like to thank all participants for their help; it is hoped to continue these counts over a period of years, so that a fairly complete record of breeding egrets can be kept.

Species Analysis

	Little Egret	Cattle Egret	Swinhoe's Egret	Chinese Pond Heron
First Nesting	3 May	3 May	24 May	3 May
Maximum Nest Count	25	92	3	15
Maximum Bird Count	185	256	6	189
Estimated number of Breeding Pairs	c 100	c 150	3	c 150

Minimum Species Count

Date	Grand Total	Little Egret	Cattle Egret	Swinhoe's Egret	Chinese Pond Heron
12 Apr.	196	110	73	3	3
19 Apr.	180	61	62	2	5
25 Apr.	340	75	154	1	28
3 May	446	36	158	—	54
10 May	491	Incomplete due to heavy rain.			
17 May	745	54	135	3	133
24 May	756	75	194	4	122
31 May	836	65	256	6	121
14 Jun.	939	67	220	4	94
20 Jun.	820	185	137	—	68
5 Jul.	1493	77	110	1	189
12 Jul.	782	38	113	3	91
19 Jul.	735	—	—	—	76
26 Jul.	501	15	30	—	27
2 Aug.	237	—	—	—	81
15 Aug.	89	—	—	—	31

REPORT ON KITE COUNTS-1970

By D. J. Bovey

The last recorded count of Black Eared Kites (*Milvus migrans*) was made in December, 1959 and reported by J H Humphreys in the 1959 report.

With the object of estimating the numbers of Kites in the Colony throughout the year four counts were made in 1970 on 28 March, 20 June, 19 September and 19 December. On each occasion counting started one hour twenty minutes before sunset and counts were continued at twenty minute intervals up to sunset and a final count made twenty minutes after sunset, thus six counts were made each evening. The time of sunset was 1837; 2010; 1924 and 1743 respectively.

Each individual count was commenced with the observer facing North, the count being made by quadrants in the order—NE—SE—SW—NW.

Observers were posted throughout the New Territories, Kowloon and Hong Kong Island. Few birds were seen in the New Territories, the main concentrations being in the harbour, particularly on Stonecutters Island, and around the Peak.

The following is a summary of the reports received.

Mong Tseng

Covered at the March count only, no birds seen.

Castle Peak/Brothers Point

Covered March, September and December counts, one bird seen in September.

Tai Mo Shan

Covered March, June, September—one bird seen in March.

St. Christopher's Home

Four seen in March, none in June, five in September. In December groups seen early in the period flying low and towards the south east, maximum number seen being 41. Activity ceased before sunset and no birds were seen after the fourth count.

Tates Cairn

One seen in March, this point was not covered in June or September. Ten birds seen early in the December count heading into the harbour but no activity in the last forty-five minutes.

Pipers Hill

Maximum figures—March 14, June 79, September 63 and December 112. On each occasion the greatest activity occurred early in the evening and lapsed around sunset. The general direction of flight was

from the East towards the South West i.e. Stonecutters Island.

Wanchai Seafront (observed from roof of 18 Fenwick Street)
Maximum figures—March 34, June 77, September 43 and December 49. Main line of direction is from the north-east with birds passing across the harbour towards the Peak or through the harbour and on to Stonecutters Island. Birds feeding in harbour up to dusk.

Stonecutters Island

This is obviously the main area of activity and the main roost. Maximum counts were March 200, June 201, September 135 and December 640. Observations were made from the old gun emplacement above Geisha House, the highest point in the centre of the island. This has the advantage of giving a good all round view of the area but birds tend to disappear below the line of vision while still well above sea level. The main roost, at the Western shore line of the island, is not visible; this is noticeable when low flying jet aircraft disturb the roosting birds and they rise en masse. At each count there was activity in all quadrants, incoming birds mainly in the eastern sector and a swirling spiral over the western end. Counting became difficult towards the end of the period as the birds tended to keep low and merge into the background of trees and shrubs.

An interesting point of comparison with the 1959 report is that Captain Humphreys observed 100 birds on the masts on Stonecutters, during the four 1970 counts only one bird was seen to perch on the masts.

Hotung Gardens

Maximum counts March 36, June 10, December 46. Birds mainly circling above the valley below Mount Cameron into which they eventually disappeared. It is considered there is a roost thereabouts.

The Peak/High West

Observations were made from High West, the ruins above the Upper Peak Tram Station, Mount Austin and the Compass table on Victoria Peak. Counts were March 26 High West, 7 Peak; June 3; September 25 Peak, 10 High West; December 30 Peak, 14 Mount Austin. Birds were observed circling high up and tended to move off either in the direction of Magazine Gap or across the harbour towards Stonecutters Island.

CONSERVATION 1970

All observations from Wanchai waterfront were by MAW and those at Stonecutters by DJB. Other observers were FOPH, RJB, ICO, RPW, RRM, DGR, JCP, IWH, EDW, JSD, DJG, JHCG, JFSB, MSD, FAWW, HDS, KVT and Mr. J. D. ROMER (Nat. History Society).

Maximum seen at the official counts

Month	March	June	September	December
No. of Observers	11	7	8	9
Time				
+ Sunset				
—				
— 80	134	261	91	156
— 60	108	340	248	355
— 40	113	85	137	346
— 20	86	76	97	397
Sunset	96	52	73	676
+ 20	119	33	42	643
Probable upper limit	333	370	282	942
lower limit	200	201	135	640

Probable Upper Limit is calculated by adding maxima reported during the count by each observer regardless of time. Lower Limit is maximum reported by any one observer at one time.

Conclusion

The count has suggested that large numbers of birds arrive in the Colony in the period October-December and leave between January and March. A monthly count from September to March would more clearly define this.

Apart from the apparent increase in the total numbers during winter, presumably due to migrant birds, very little can be deduced from the figures available. It has become apparent that more regular counts over a period of years would be necessary, as well as information on breeding.

Figures in December are comparable with figures estimated on a count in December 1959.

The organisers would like to thank all the participants for their help.

In April, the Agriculture and Fisheries Dept. forwarded to us a series of amendments to the Wild Birds and Wild Mammals Protection Ordinance, for our comments. As these involved considerable weakening of the law in certain respects, a joint General Meeting with the Natural History Society was held, and our joint comments were forwarded to Government.

On the credit side, full protection was proposed for the Grey and Golden Plovers, and for the egretty at Yim Tso Ha; no hunting would be permitted in the Plover Cove direct catchment area, and in other smaller areas.

However, the full protection now given to Francolin and the scheduled mammals, whereby it is illegal to possess them whatever their origin, would be replaced by a clause giving similar protection to the same species, *but only when of Hong Kong origin*. As these animals do not carry birth certificates, this is a very thinly disguised method of removing protection altogether; origin cannot normally be proved. Your Society has protested strongly.

The present prohibition on hunting in the Lam Tsuen Valley appears to have been withdrawn, though the amendment is not clear on this point. Other smaller points have also been noted, and forwarded to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Although we were given a very short space of time to give our comments, we did submit our comments early in June 1970; not a word has been heard about these amendments since.

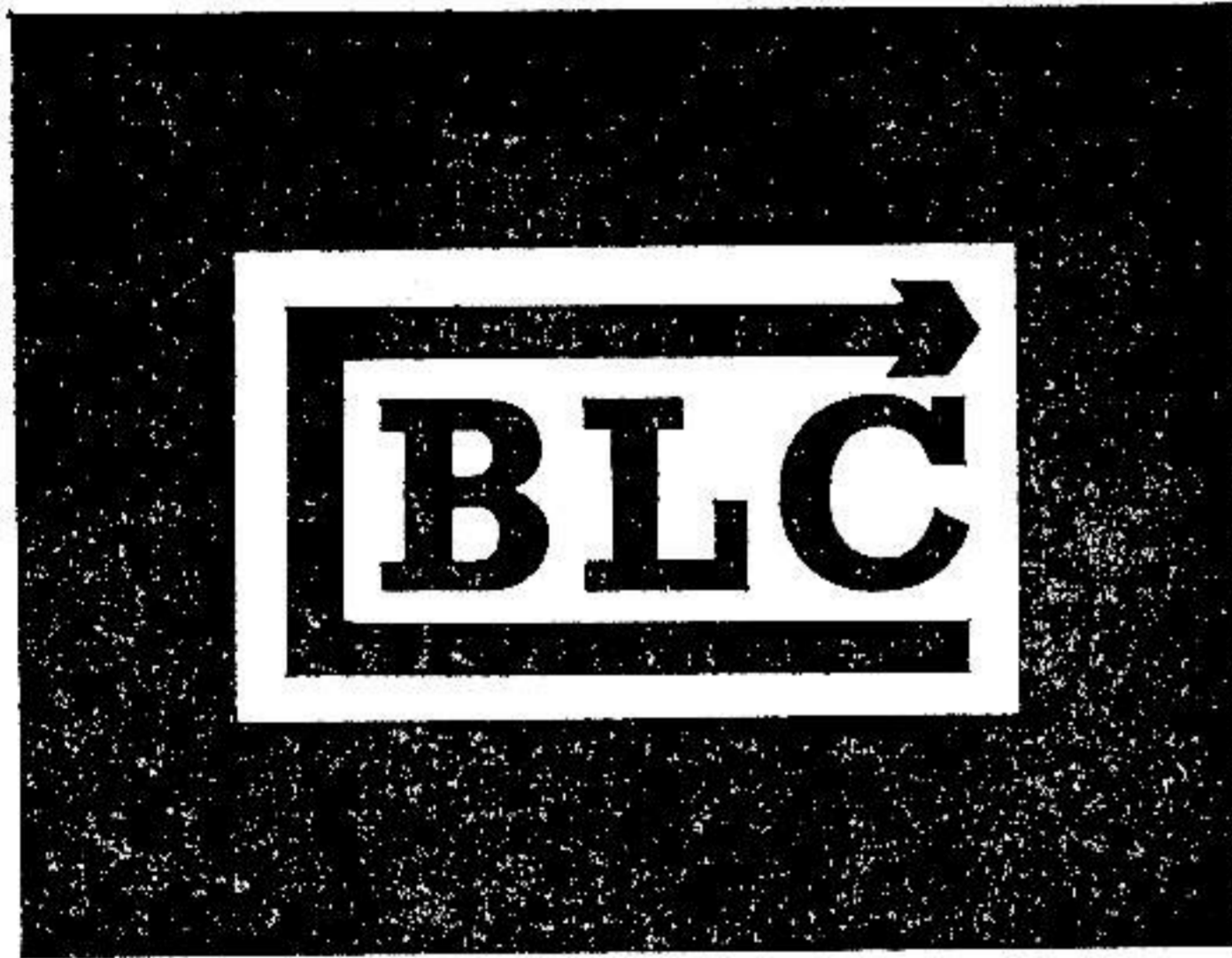
At the end of July, the Report of the Provisional Council for the Use and Conservation of the Countryside was published, two years after the Council submitted its Report to Government. It was rejected by Government as being insufficiently close to its terms of reference, a curious comment since the Council was headed by the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, who, one must assume, was told by Secretariat what was wanted.

Two new conservation committees were set up, one for Hong Kong Island, and one for the New Territories; at the time of writing, they are still deliberating.

We received information from Government that 20,000 civet cats are imported annually from China. Though this does not concern birds directly, we felt it was worthwhile publicising this fact, as it is illegal to be in possession of these animals . . . yet Government is fully aware of the number of breaches of the law involved. With this fact, and the knowledge that most wild mammals and birds imported here are imported by left-wing dealers, members can judge for themselves how much importance it attaches to the people whom the law might offend.

MAW

A sign of the times.



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KITE COUNT ON TAI MO SHAN

The swifts and the swallows
Are wheeling in flight
Crow pheasants are calling
To left and to right

But in spite of the height
Not a kite is in sight
It doesn't seem right
I do think they might

What a desolate plight
Not a sup not a bite
My vigil is wasted
Well nearly, not quite
In the last of the light
I am filled with delight
For *one kite* is in sight!

E. D. W.

EARLY DAYS

In the late summer of 1957, I was persuaded by Mollie Ramplin-Jones, the Governor's private secretary, to attend a meeting in the British Council library. Although there were just enough present to form a rigger side, the meeting seemed to be about birds and how best to watch them. Prime movers were Sergeant Frank Walker, R.A.F., who had already organised the Cyprus bird watchers, and Arthur Walton who became the first chairman.

The most important question at the inaugural meeting was whether to call ourselves a bird watching or an ornithological society. I for one have always been thankful that "bird watching" won the day. In a place like Hong Kong there is such a continual turn-over of members that at any moment one may have a sudden doubt "are we really quite up to being ornithological?" The objects of the Society were drawn up and have remained virtually unchanged ever since.

At the start there was quite a lot of talent, mostly from the Services; Lieutenant Jeremy Sergeant, who was the first Hon. Secretary, Captain Brian Webster, Captain Ian Young and Sergeant Woodhams. Being in the Pay Corps, Woodhams was a natural choice for Hon. Treasurer, but before ever he had opened his accounts it was found that regulations forbade him to look after private funds. So I was asked to take over what seemed a cushy job and so it was, to start with.

Among the ladies, Maura Benham was in the field from the beginning. She had the advantage of having gone out with Walker and John Romer for some time before the Society was founded and systematically built up the knowledge which enabled her to take on the job of Hon. Recorder a few years later. Jean Walton came on nearly all the Outings and with the chairman was a splendid hostess. Other early lady members were Mollie Hewson and Mamie McCorkindale.

Walker had lately been shifted from Ping Shan to Hong Kong Island, which he thought a poor substitute. He offered to conduct beginners on one or two evenings a week. At first there were me and four others, then me and two others and finally just me. I realised I was on to a very good thing and hung on tight. Walker had eyes in the back of his head and all-round ears. He knew every least call note and could imitate many birds so well that they came out of hiding. We saw a Philippine Red-tailed Shrike (as we were allowed to call them then), a Forest Wagtail and a sea eagle at Tai Tam, Rollers at Pokflum and yellow wagtails and several buntings in the old Chinese cemetery on what is now the Wah Fu Estate.

The first time I was taken to Mai Po, we entered the marshes abreast the Gurkha camp where Woodhams cast his accounts. From close quarters we saw seventeen different waders and I got mental indigestion. At Ping Shan I was given a glimpse of Von Schrenk's Little Bittern retiring hurriedly into the paddy, a sight never to be repeated.

Mai Po had a good many less fishponds in those days and a lot more sedge. When you approached the marshes by the track leading to the police post, then the standard route, you could be sure of plenty of company, for the tap near the police post had not been installed and there was a constant stream of children, and a few grown-ups fetching water from the well at Mai Po village. There was no trouble about closed areas and you could go where you liked. Mai Po wood had many more trees and Pond Herons still nested there.

On the Ping Shan outings, we started from the police station where the woods were as full of flycatchers and other excitements as they were in Herklots' day and unhampered by chicken farms and wire. Again there were far fewer fishponds both at the Lau Fau Shan end and by the Luen Tak causeway. As a result there were many more waders to be seen. We usually had lunch on a rounded hill to the south of Luen Tak and could often watch a pair of Pied Kingfishers hovering and diving over the river.

The Lam Tsuen valley had more paddy and less vegetables, flowers and chicken and duck farms. There were very few picnickers and no transistors. The egretty at Hang Ha Po wood had already been deserted, except by Pond Herons, owing to the army huts being plumped right in the middle of the wood. But there was a lot of open ground nearby, with hedges and bushes, which we called "the common" and where Rubythroats, Grey (now Ashy) Minivets, Daurian Redstarts and Blackbirds could be watched in season. Tai Om wood had many more trees but She Shan wood was much the same as now.

Taipo Kau forestry reserve was not visited much in the very early days. There were a lot of egrettries in use, including two near Yuen Long. Here also were the "Yuen Long fishponds" which produced many waders and terms. In his garden near Castle Peak, the Rev. E. G. Jansen, a founder member, could show you a Tailor Bird's nest and explain how it was made.

On Hong Kong Island, "Bethanie" had not yet become popular although it was well covered by Martin Rowlands, a founder or very early member. The University area in town had fewer buildings and there was a nice piece of waste ground where the library now stands. Cuckoo shrikes, hawfinches, orioles and flycatchers were to be seen and thrushes were all around. Jack Cranmer-Byng arrived and you could soon be sure of a telephone call to come and look at the latest rarity.

Jeremy Sergeant was a wader enthusiast and produced a set of notes in diary form which were useful for showing what you might expect to see on any particular date. Walker was an all-rounder and contributed "Field Observations" and a current check list. I suppose he was the first Hon. Recorder but unfortunately he left the Colony very soon after the Society was formed and Lieutenant Sergeant not long after. Their places were taken by Captain Maxwell Macfarlane and Commander Jim Humphreys who between them compiled and published the first Hong Kong Bird Report, for 1958. Costs were low in those days and with a fair number of advertisements it started at a profit, before going on sale—at two dollars.

By then, Flight Sergeant Macdonald had arrived, in time to collaborate with Macfarlane in compiling the first "Annotated Check List of the Birds of Hong Kong", published by the South China Morning Post. A useful library had been built up, membership was rising and in less than three years the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society was fully fledged.

E. D. W.

SIGHT-RECORDS OF RARE BIRDS

(Extracted from the editorial in "British Birds",

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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 life.
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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.