

THE HONG KONG BIRD REPORT 1980



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c/o Zoology Department, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
(A registered society under the Hong Kong Societies Ordinance)

Records compiled by M.L. Chalmers
Report edited by C.A. Viney

Officers of the Society (1980)

Chairman	M.A. Webster
Hon. Secretary	Dr. J.F.S. Batson
Hon. Treasurer	M.A. Webster
Hon. Records	G.C.H. Cooper & M.L. Chalmers

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman: M.A. Webster

Membership continues to increase by leaps and bounds; at the end of 1980 there were 173 members, of whom 124 were local residents. By contrast, our outings seem to have been less well attended, but this is doubtless only a phase. It is indeed difficult to find places to take outings, as people do not always want to go to Mai Po, and the alternatives, where a party of, say, twenty people can go without driving away every bird within miles, are few. In recent years, Tai Long Wan has proved itself, Lantau has at times provided a good range of birds, while Lai Chi Wo, which would seem promising, has so far failed to live up to expectations. Of the older localities, Mai Po itself continues to shrink in size, but still produces the birds, Tai Po Kau Forestry Reserve is unpredictable as always, but excellent on a good day, while Mong Tseng is only a shadow of its former self. But the Recorder's report will demonstrate that all is not yet lost.

One of our oldest members, Fred Hechtel, left during the year, to study in England with a view to taking a degree in ornithology. It was a surprise to find that Fred was not a founder member, as he had been associated with the Society for as long as anyone could remember. In fact, he had been in turn Hon. Secretary and Chairman, and had done a great deal for the Society in perhaps less obvious ways.

Fred's contributions can be summed up under three categories. He started the first ringing scheme in Hong Kong in 1965, and for some time devoted himself to it full-time. While this produced no startling recoveries, it did increase our knowledge of many species; for example, he discovered just how common the Rubythroat is, which nobody would ever have guessed either from the very few sightings, or even the rather more frequent occasions when the call is heard. He did a great deal of work on the rehabilitation of birds of prey which had been imported into the Colony for food; some members will remember Willy the Black Vulture, which lived for a while in the spare amah's room of his old flat in Branksome Towers. I believe Willy is still alive, in Bristol Zoo, where he was sent when it became clear that he was too fond of humans ever to be released.

The third category is wildlife conservation. Fred was talking, and doing things, about conservation before most of us had realised what it meant. He sat on the Provisional Council on the Use and Conservation of the Countryside in the late sixties, and before and after this, bombarded the Government with good advice which rarely seemed to be heeded. He had an uncanny aptitude for being subsequently proved to have been right, which did not endear him to those in authority. His totally unselfish approach to wildlife conservation was simply not understood by the many who could not understand how a man could spend so much time on these things without thought of personal gain.

In the course of time, many of the things for which Fred fought have been achieved, as Government belatedly realised that he was right ... for

example the current much tighter control on the trade in wildlife, especially birds of prey, and the recent ban on hunting. The protection of the remnants of his beloved Mai Po Marshes hangs in the balance.

We wish Fred every success in his studies, and we hope it will not be long before he comes back here; after all, if we need any further reason why he fought so hard for Hong Kong's countryside, it is his home.

Wildlife conservation in general has progressed in 1980. I have already mentioned the ban on hunting, a barbaric 'sport' at best, and one in no way suited to the tiny territory of Hong Kong. The remnants of the marshes are now fenced on two sides, to keep out illegal immigrants from China, but this will make it far easier to create a properly managed nature reserve or park, as much of the initial expense has already been incurred, if for different reasons. The importance of Mai Po has not declined in proportion to its reduction in size.

Professor Geoffrey Matthews' report on the marshes, submitted to the Government in 1978, stated that Mai Po was not 'a Wetland of International Importance'. This phrase seems to be the one part of the Matthews report which has been remembered, and, since it has almost invariably been misunderstood, it is worth explaining again. A Wetland of International Importance (capital letters W.I.I.) is a technical category fulfilling certain requirements laid down by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance. To say that a marsh is not a Wetland of International Importance does not mean that it is not internationally important; it only means that it does not fit certain criteria which are mainly based on size (it is hardly surprising that the years of neglect have reduced Mai Po to a size where it can never qualify!). In fact, as subsequent visitors have realised, Professor Matthews did international conservation in general, and Hong Kong in particular, a disservice by ever using this terminology, which a layman could have been expected to misunderstand.

Conditions have changed since Professor Matthews' report, and the conversion of an area of marsh into a wildlife park, suggested many times over the years, now comes closer to reality. But the danger of final destruction of the marsh is also not far away, and can only be averted by positive action on the part of the authorities. They will, as always, receive as much support as this Society is able to give them.

(The above address was given to members at the Annual General Meeting of the Society on 7th April, 1981.)

REPORT ON THE BIRDS 1980

Hon. Recorder: M. L. Chalmers

A total of 259 species was accepted for the year excluding the suspected escapes under Category E and all those not positively identified. Two new species were added to Category A, both in November. These were a Lanceolated Warbler at Mai Po and a White-legged Falconet at Cheung Chau. The latter was formerly in Category F. The year was also notable for the number of other rare warblers or related species recorded, several of which were only second or third sightings for Hong Kong. In addition one new species was added to the escapes in Category E, Fischers' Lovebird. After a lengthy review, Blyth's Leaf-warbler was also added to Category A as a result of sightings in February and December 1978.

Swinhoe's Egrets were again confirmed as breeding at Yim Tso Ha. There were also summer records of Hainan Blue Flycatchers and Scarlet Minivets at Tai Po Kau, Black Bazas and Red-winged Crested Cuckoos at She Shan, and Chinese Babax, Vinous-throated Parrotbills and David's Hill Warblers at Tai Mo Shan, with the latter also at Sunset Peak. Hopefully many of these sightings represent breeding attempts.

A monthly summary of sightings is given below:—

January

The White Stork, which had been first seen in October 1979, remained at Mai Po throughout the winter and was seen regularly up to 9 April. Waders and duck were numerous in the Deep Bay area with over 400 Shelduck, 70 Yellow-nib Duck and 70 Grey Plovers. Up to eight European Spoonbills and six Lesser Egrets were also present. A sub-adult Common Gull was seen at Pak Nai on 14th, and several Brown-headed Gulls were reported in both January and February. At Mount Nicholson four Grey-headed Parrotbills were seen on 5th and one Vinous-throated Parrotbill on 13th. Woodlands held wintering Grey-headed, Black-naped Monarch and Verditer Flycatchers. Plumbeous Water-redstarts were in residence at Bride's Pool and Ho Chung. A Black Vulture remained in the Lok Ma Chau area until February.

February

The first twelve days were very cold with the lowest temperature of the year being recorded on 9th. An absence of Yellow-browed Warblers was noted after this prolonged cold spell. A Red-breasted Parakeet was seen in the Botanical Gardens on 6th. Thrushes were widespread especially Grey-backed, Grey, Pale, Dusky, White's and Blackbirds. On 11th a flock of 17 Vinous-throated Parrotbills was seen at Mount Nicholson. In Deep Bay 278 Shoveler were counted and Curlews reached a maximum of 120 on 11th. The first four Dalmatian Pelicans were sighted at Deep Bay on 18th. Also on 18th one Japanese Quail and 26 Red Turtle-doves were seen at Mong Tseng and a pair of Scaup were sighted in Starling Inlet. On 24th in Tai Po

Kau a flock of over 50 Black Bulbuls and one Yellow-eyed Flycatcher-warbler were reported, the latter being only the third record for Hong Kong.

March

Red-flanked Bluetails and Daurian Redstarts remained widespread until the beginning of this month. On 2nd the Black Bulbuls were still present at Tai Po Kau and a flock of over 70 Scarlet Minivets was also seen there. At the end of the month one Grey-throated Minivet was also reported. Also on 2nd a probable Short-eared Owl and over 40 Saunders' Gulls were seen at Mai Po. Fog persisted over the first nine days and parts of the New Territories experienced hail storms on 5th and 6th. On 8th Tai Po Kau was alive with warblers including one Chestnut-crowned Warbler, the second for Hong Kong. In Deep Bay a maximum of 27 Dalmatian Pelicans was reported and by the end of the month migrant waders were widespread. Two Black Vultures were seen at Lok Ma Chau on 16th.

April

A male Orange-headed Ground-thrush was reported at Kowloon Park on 8th and at the Royal Observatory on 25th. Up to three Ashy Minivets were seen at Ho Sheung Heung on 5th and 15th. Another owl, possibly the same bird seen in March, was reported at San Tin on 4th. The wader passage was in full swing at San Tin and up to 25 species, many in breeding plumage, could be seen together. Good numbers of Red-necked Phalaropes were reported in flocks of up to 200 in coastal waters. Three Painted Snipe were at Long Valley on 12th and one or two Little Whimbrel were seen at Little Sai Wan from 16th to 20th. Two Swinhoe's Egrets were seen at a nest at Yim Tso Ha Egretty on 19th. Heavy raptor passage was evident on 26th when a visit to Tai Long Wan produced at least five Horsfield's Goshawks, at least five Hobbies, three Grey-faced Buzzard Eagles, a Sparrowhawk and a further flock of 500 — 1000 unidentified birds of prey over Tap Mun. The weather at the time was cloudy with rain, with a cold front centred over Hong Kong, and strong easterly winds had been experienced the previous night. Single Cuckoos and Red-winged Crested Cuckoos were also seen at Chek Keng the same day. On 27th four White-throated Needletails and one Black Bittern were recorded at Mai Po.

May

On 5th an unidentified frigate-bird was seen soaring over Green Island and three Swinhoe's Egrets were sighted on a buoy off Tsing Yi. An exceptionally large flock of 200-500 Sand Martins was seen at San Tin on 10th after strong easterlies the night before. Chinese Babax and David's Hill Warblers were recorded at Tai Mo Shan. Single Watercock were seen at Luk Keng on 11th and 25th. Although Asiatic Dowitchers were fewer than usual, with only up to four, a new maximum of 150 Terek Sandpipers was recorded at San Tin on 24th and five Spoon-billed Sandpipers were seen there the next day. Large numbers of White-winged Black Terns occurred towards the end of the month with 500 on 24th, and a very late Fantail Snipe was recorded on 28th.

June

This month was hotter and sunnier than usual. A pair of Hainan Blue Flycatchers was seen both at the beginning of the month and at the end of May in Tai Po Kau and raised hopes of renewed breeding. Seven Chinese Babax and two Vinous-throated Parrotbills were recorded at Tai Mo Shan on 7th. One or two Black Bazas were seen along Sek Kong Catchwater in addition to regular sightings at She Shan. Two Red-winged Crested Cuckoos were also at She Shan on 16th.

July

In addition to one in June, two Scarlet Minivets were recorded this month at Tai Po Kau. A maximum of five Black Bazas was seen at She Shan. Common Sandpipers summered at San Tin. The only gale or storm signals of the year were hoisted on 22nd for Typhoon Joe. Several late records of waders resulted.

August

On Lantau three or four David's Hill Warblers* were recorded at Sunset Peak, the first time the species had been seen away from Tai Mo Shan. Doubts have been cast over the correct identification of this species in Hong Kong, and it is hoped that these will be resolved next year.¹

September

Arctic Warblers and Brown Shrikes were widespread in mid-month. There were several reports of Japanese, Ince's and Tricolour Flycatchers. On 19th a Greater Spotted Woodpecker was seen at Hong Kong University and again in November. On 20th 23 Red-rumped Swallows were recorded at She Shan.

October

A Ferruginous Flycatcher was seen at Ho Man Tin on 3rd and two Goshawks at Route Twisk on 7th. On 26th a male Japanese Nightjar was found dead at Tai Mei Tuk.

November

The month began with two new Category A records for Hong Kong. These were a Lanceolated Warbler at Mai Po on 2nd and a White-legged Falconet at Cheung Chau on 5th. Sightings of rarities continued with a White-bellied Yuhina at Tai Po Kau on 15th (the first since 1953) and a Pale-legged Willow Warbler at Mong Tseng the same day. A Baer's Pochard was seen at San Tin from 15th and remained until December and up to four Tufted Duck, 50 Wigeon and four grey geese were also reported.

* A bird trapped and examined in the hand in 1981 was identified as a Large Grass Warbler *Graminicola bengalensis*. It was concluded that there are no satisfactory records of David's Hill Warbler in Hong Kong. Details will be given in the 1981 Annual Report.

On 22nd an Ancient Auk was found injured at Repulse Bay. At least two Collared Sivas were seen at Mount Nicholson on 25th and a series of bee-eater sightings were reported from Repulse Bay Road. Single Watercock were present at Ha Tsuen on 15th and Hoi Ha on 22nd, and a maximum of 64 Avocets was seen at San Tin at the end of the month.

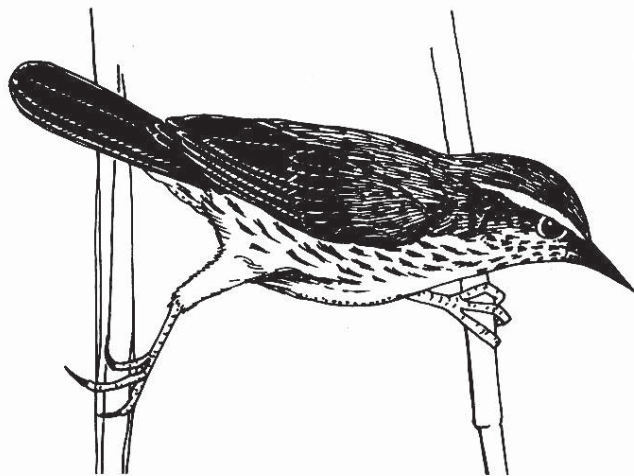
December

On 6th a Bull-headed Shrike was seen in the hills near Lok Ma Chau, with up to five Imperial Eagles in the same area. Two Yellow-eyed Flycatcher-warblers were seen, one at Cheung Chau on 16th and one at Stanley on 28th. Duck numbers rose with about 50 Falcated Teal at Mai Po and 650 Shoveler, 250 Pintail, 17 Tufted Duck and seven grey geese in Deep Bay on 20th. At the end of the month three Streaked Shearwaters were found for sale at a hawkers' stall in Kowloon.

The Systematic List incorporates records from the following observers:—

H.G. Ackford; J.E. Baker; M.A. Barker; C.P. Barnes; E.A. Barnes; R.J. Barnes; J.F.S. Batson; I.D. Bell; D.P. Carthy; M.L. Chalmers; A. Cheung; O.F. Clark; K.K. Chiu; M.J. Cleary; J.E.A. Cleary; G.C.H. Cooper; R. Ferguson; D.J. Galloway; F.O.P. Hechtel; W.R. Johnson; P.R.A. Kelly; D.S. Melville; D. Milne; R. Milne; J. Scharringa; R.M. Spowage; G.E. Stevens; A. Strutt; R.P. Tipper; C.A. Viney; Y.F. Wan; M.A. Webster; C.D. Weidemann; B.D. Wilson.

My thanks are also due to M.A. Webster and G.C.H. Cooper who, as the other members of the Records Committee, assisted in the vetting of records.



Lanceolated Warbler (*Locustella lanceolata*)
Drawn: Karen Phillipps

SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 1980

A. SPECIES WHICH HAVE BEEN RECORDED IN AN APPARENTLY WILD STATE IN HONG KONG WITHIN THE LAST FIFTY YEARS.

2. Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*)

Single birds at High Island Reservoir on 8 March and at Mai Po on 12 November.

4. Little Grebe (*Podiceps ruficollis*)

Regularly recorded in the Mai Po/San Tin area with maximum of five up to 19 April and seven from 14 September. Also seen at Plover Cove with five on 2 January and two on 1 March, nine at Ho Pui Reservoir on 27 March, and two at Tsing Tam Upper Reservoir above Sek Kong on 30 September.

7. Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*)

Four over Mong Tseng on 18 February, 27 at Mai Po on 2 March and nine there on 23 March. Unidentified pelicans, which were probably this species, were seen in Deep Bay as follows:— two on 13 and 23 February, 11 on 12 March and three on 20 December.

8. Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

Recorded in large numbers in the Deep Bay area up to 21 April and from 2 November with maximum counts of over 700 in February and December. Over 100 wintered at Plover Cove up to 30 March and from 15 October. Also seen in smaller numbers of up to 20 at Hei Ling Chau, Lantau, Tai Lam Chung Reservoir and Luk Keng. Further evidence of regular movements between Deep Bay and Starling Inlet/Plover Cove was provided by flocks of 100, 80 and over 40 flying west over Dill's Corner on 20, 21 March and 29 December respectively.

[9/10. Frigate-bird sp. (*Fregata* sp.)

One seen soaring over Green Island with Black-eared Kites (*Milvus migrans*) on 5 May. Head and neck pale brown, white patch on belly rest of body dark. Probably an immature in sub-adult plumage (DSM).]

12. Yellow Bittern (*Ixobrychus sinensis*)

Regularly recorded at Mai Po from the end of March until October with maximum of about 20 in May. Single wintering birds were seen on 1 and 2 January, 9 November and 26 December. One dead bird was found on 11 February. Elsewhere two at San Tin on 29 June and one at Tung Chung, Lantau on 22 March.

13. Chestnut Bittern (*Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*)

Single birds at Pui O and Tung Chung, Lantau on 22 March and Luk Keng on 10 May, and three at Tung Chung on 21 August. One flew into a garden wall in Plunkett's Road, Peak on 3 May and broke its lower mandible (BDW, CAV). The bird was subsequently destroyed and the skin sent to the British Museum, Tring.

- 14. Black Bittern** (*Dupetor flavicollis*)
One seen perched in the mangroves at Mai Po on 27 April.
- 16. Bittern** (*Botaurus stellaris*)
Up to three wintered at Mai Po until 21 April and one was seen there on 14 December.
- 17. Night Heron** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)
Regularly reported from Mai Po up to 25 May and from 7 September with flocks of about 200 on 1 January and 31 March, and over 150 on November. Elsewhere over 50 recorded during April at Yim Tso Ha Egretty, where breeding occurred, with six there in August and 20 in September, a single bird at She Shan in June, August and September, and several at Shuen Wan on 20 September.
- 18. Chinese Pond-heron** (*Ardeola bacchus*)
Common throughout the year in the northern New Territories with breeding colonies at Mai Po and Yim Tso Ha. Also noted on Lantau and in the Sai Kung area. On 23 February a mass easterly movement of about 200 birds was noted at Mai Po. For the second year a leucistic bird was present at Lok Ma Chau on 26 January, 11 February and 22 December. Single birds noted in Kowloon Park on 9 and 26 April during spring passage.
- 19. Cattle Egret** (*Bubulcus ibis*)
Regularly seen in low-lying areas of the northern New Territories and Sai Kung Peninsula, typically in groups of up to 50, but over 80 at San Tin on 18 February and over 100 in flight there on 15 June. As usual, several hundred pairs bred at the Yim Tso Ha Egretty. One at Tung Lung Island on 20 May.
- 20. Little Green Heron** (*Butorides striatus*)
One or two recorded at Mai Po between 29 March and 25 May, with over ten present on 27 April. Elsewhere single birds seen south of Kowloon Peak on 20 January and at Shuen Wan on 20 September, Ho Chung on 16 November and Plover Cove on 28 December. Also one or two along the Sek Kong catchwater during October and November.
- 21. Little Egret** (*Egretta garzetta*)
Several hundred present throughout the year in the Deep Bay area, with breeding colonies at Mai Po Village and, to a lesser extent, at Yim Tso Ha Egretty. Three seen at Hebe Haven on 7 December. One grey bird with white on the primaries was seen at Mai Po on 12 March and thus continues the sightings of such birds over recent years.
- 22. Lesser Egret** (*Egretta intermedia*)
Recorded from Mai Po and San Tin only with six on 20 January and single birds on 15 February, 31 March and 19 April. In the autumn one or two reported in the same localities from 9 November.

- 23. Swinhoe's Egret** (*Egretta eulophotes*)
Single birds seen at Yim Tso Ha Egretty on 5, 12 and 27 April, and two observed at a nest there on 19 April. An unusual record of three adults in breeding plumage seen resting on a buoy off Tsing Yi Island on 5 May (DSM).
- 24. Reef Egret** (*Egretta sacra*)
Recorded throughout the year in small numbers along rocky shores of Starling Inlet, Sai Kung Peninsula, Lantau and offshore islands. Typically between one and three birds together but six seen at Hebe Haven on 7 December. One closely watched feeding at Sha Tau Kok on several occasions had an average success rate of one fish every three "stabs" (DJG). Two nests found on Kau Yi Chau on 19 May; one empty, the other with two eggs (DSM).
- 25. Great Egret** (*Egretta alba*)
Reported in Deep Bay up to 7 June and from 9 November with over 60 present towards the end of year. Two birds in breeding plumage were seen at Yim Tso Ha on 27 April where this species has bred in former years. Nearby at Luk Keng one was seen on 2 January and nine on 27 July, a single bird at Starling Inlet on 22 August and 20 September, and three at Hebe Haven on 7 December. Eight egrets seen flying east over Victoria Harbour on 21 April were probably this species.
- 26. Grey Heron** (*Ardea cinerea*)
Present in the Deep Bay area up to 30 April and from 7 September with maximum wintering numbers of about 300 in January and December, and an exceptionally large number of 750 seen in the early morning over the outer bund at Mai Po on 30 April (DJG). Also one adult at Lei Uk (Ting Kok Road) on 20 May and one being harried by a White-bellied Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) off Green Island on 13 September.
- 27. Purple Heron** (*Ardea purpurea*)
Noted in small numbers at Mai Po and San Tin with maximum of five up to 10 May, and eight from 7 September. Also one at Shuen Wan on 20 September.
- 28. White Stork** (*Ciconia ciconia*)
The bird first reported in October 1979 at Mai Po remained in the same area throughout the winter months and was sighted regularly by many observers. It was last seen on 9 April. Its black bill confirmed that it belonged to the Japanese race *C.c. boyciana*. This is only the second Hong Kong record of this species, the first being in February 1967.
- 30. White Ibis** (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*)
One immature at San Tin at 12 November. All other records are from Mai Po up to 27 April and from 2 October. Usually only one or two seen, but four reported on 27 April.
- 31. European Spoonbill** (*Platalea leucorodia*)
All records are from Mai Po at the beginning of the year up to 31 March with maximum of eight on 5 January.

32. Lesser Spoonbill (*Platalea minor*)

Up to seven at Mai Po until 27 April and two there from 14 December. On 2 March seven occurred in a mixed group with two European Spoonbills (*P. leucorodia*). Two flying overhead at San Tin on 25 May. Reports of unidentified spoonbills were as follows:— seven on 23 February, one on 15 March and six on 19 April at Mai Po, and three in Deep Bay off Tsim Bei Tsui on 27 December.

33. Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

Single females at Mai Po on 31 March, 13 and 14 December, and one male there on 26 December.

34. Yellow-nib Duck (*Anas poecilorhyncha*)

Apart from one at San Tin on 12 April and five there on 15 November all other records are from Mai Po up to 12 April and from 25 August. Maximum counts were about 70 on 5 January and over 100 on 9 November.

36. Falcated Teal (*Anas falcata*)

Three pairs at Mai Po on 22 November, two females at San Tin on 30 November, and about 50 at Mai Po on 13 and 31 December.

37. Teal (*Anas crecca*)

Common in the Deep Bay area up to 19 April and from 14 September. Maximum counts were over 1000 at San Tin on 2 March and a similar number at Mai Po on 9 November. Several hundred were seen off Tsim Bei Tsui on 26 December. Elsewhere six were recorded at Lei Uk (Ting Kok Road) on 27 February.

39. Garganey (*Anas querquedula*)

Reported in spring from Mai Po and San Tin between 15 March and 7 June with maximum of over 300 at San Tin on 12 April. The only autumn records were from Mai Po with over 200 on 19 October and single drakes on 2 and 16 November.

40. Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)

Recorded at Mai Po and San Tin up to 21 April and from 19 October mostly in groups of less than 20 birds, but 30 at Mai Po on 2 November rising to over 50 on 9 November. Elsewhere one drake flushed from rocky sea-shore at 17 miles Castle Peak Road on 26 December.

41. Pintail (*Anas acuta*)

Regularly recorded in the Deep Bay area up to 15 March and from 2 November. Maximum counts were 26 in Deep Bay on 18 February for the first half of year and over 200 at Mai Po on 20 December for the second half.

42. Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)

All reports were from the Deep Bay area up to 31 March and from 2 November. Maximum counts were 278 on 18 February, about 650 on 20 December and over 300 on 27 December. The total on 20 December is a new high for this species and referred to a large concentration which was regularly seen at the mouth of Yuen Long Creek.

44. Scaup (*Aythya marila*)

A pair on the sea at Starling Inlet on 18 February (WRJ). This is the first definite record of this species since 1966.

45. Baer's Pochard (*Aythya baeri*)

A single male seen at San Tin on 15 November and 6 and 13 December (GCHC, RF, MJC).

46. Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

Four at Mai Po on 12 November (OFC) and seven seen there in flight on 16 November (MAW). A group of 17 including four adult males was seen on the water off Tsim Bei Tsui on 20 December (MLC).

[**45/46. Baer's Pochard/Tufted Duck** (*Aythya baeri/fuligula*)

Single birds not specifically identified were reported at Mai Po on 2 November and 21 December and San Tin on 12 November.]

49. Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*)

One female in Starling Inlet on 12 April was the only record of this usually regular winter visitor.

50. Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*)

One female at the mouth of Yuen Long Creek on 29 May is a new late date. Otherwise, recorded in the Deep Bay area up to 8 April and from 2 November. At the beginning of the year the highest count was over 400 during January and February. Numbers were much less at the end of the year with a maximum of over 50 at Mai Po on 9 November.

[**53/54. Grey Goose sp.** (*Anser anser/fabalis/albifrons*)

Two reports were submitted of unidentified grey geese in flight. Four were seen over San Tin on 15 November (MJC), when orange leg colour was noted indicating that the birds were probably Bean (*A. fabalis*) or White-fronted Geese (*A. albifrons*), and seven were seen over Mai Po on 20 December but at too great a distance for any details to be distinguished (RF, CDW).]

55. Black-eared Kite (*Milvus migrans*)

Common and widespread throughout the year with increased wintering population. The traditional sites on Stonecutter's Island remain by far the largest roosting areas. One mobbed by a Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) in Wanchai on 28 March, and one seen chasing a Serpent Eagle (*Spilornis cheela*) in Tai Long Valley on 15 April. Twig collecting and display noted at Mount Nicholson in December suggested early breeding nearby.

56. Black Baza (*Aviceda leuphotes*)

In accordance with the pattern of sightings in recent years several birds were again seen in late spring at two locations. At She Shan one or two were regularly observed from 27 April until 10 July with five together on 27 May mobbing a Serpent Eagle (*Spilornis cheela*). One of the two seen on 27 April was performing the undulating display flight. One or two were also regularly reported from the woods along the Sek Kong Catchwater between 18 and 29 June.

57. Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*)

Frequently reported in ones and twos from widespread areas of the New Territories, offshore islands and Hong Kong island, including the urban areas, up to 7 April and from 1 November.

58. Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*)

Single birds seen at Sek Kong on 28 January and 16 March, Mount Nicholson on 10 March (male) and Tai Long on 26 April (immature male).

[**59. Japanese Sparrowhawk** (*Accipiter gularis*)

Single birds which were either this species or the closely related Besra (*A. virgatus*) were seen at Mount Nicholson on 20 January and Tai Mei Tuk on 3 October, and two (male and female *A. virgatus* or adult and immature *A. gularis*) were observed together in Tai Po Kau on 8 October. The bird at Tai Mei Tuk attacked some cage birds on a verandah (DJG).]

[**58/59/61. Sparrowhawk sp.** (*Accipiter nisus/gularis/virgatus/soloensis*)

Reports of single individuals at Lamma Island on 27 January, Mai Po on 27 April and She Shan on 20 December, and seven circling over Chung Hom Kok on 21 September.]

60. Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)

Two together near Route Twisk on 7 October (GCHC).

61. Horsfield's Goshawk (*Accipiter soloensis*)

At least five separate birds were seen between Chek Keng and Ham Tin in the Tai Long area of Sai Kung Peninsula on 26 April (CAV, FOPH, CDW).

63. Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*)

Frequently seen in the border hills between Lo Wu and Lok Ma Chau and over Mai Po/San Tin up to 29 March and from 26 October. Most records refer to one or two birds but higher numbers were occasionally observed with maximum of five together on 9 and 27 December. Most were in juvenile/immature plumage but single adults or sub-adults were seen on 19 February and 27 December.

[**63/64/65. Eagle sp.** (*Aquila heliaca/rapax/clanga*)

Reports of one or two eagles belonging to the above group, but not specifically identifiable, were submitted for the Deep Bay area and northern New Territories up to 12 April and from 1 November.]

65. Spotted Eagle (*Aquila clanga*)

At least one immature was regularly seen in the area from Mai Po to the hills near Lok Ma Chau between 2 November and 26 December.

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

Single birds or pairs recorded in January, February, March, April and November from the northern New Territories, Lantau and offshore islands. On 11 February two adults were seen with one immature near Fanling.

67. White-bellied Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*)

Seen in all months except June usually in the Sai Kung and Plover Cove areas, southern part of Hongkong Island, around Mount Nicholson and the offshore islands. Most reports are of single adults or pairs, but one immature was seen in the Sai Kung Peninsula on 15 April and one at Tai Tam on 25 November. A nest with two eggs was found on 27 January.

68. Grey-faced Buzzard Eagle (*Butastur indicus*)

Two adults and one immature seen at Ham Tin, Tai Long Wan on 26 April (CAV, CDW, FOPH). Earlier the same day a spiralling flock of 500-1000 raptors, seen moving northward over Tap Mun by the same observers, was thought to contain some birds of this species. The day was remarkable for the number and variety of birds of prey sighted (see also 58, 61, 75 and 76) and indicates the extent of diurnal raptor passage through Hong Kong under favourable conditions.

69. Serpent Eagle (*Spilornis cheela*)

At She Shan two adults on 24 February and one on 4 May, 16 June, 27 July and 13 September. The bird seen on 27 July was in moult and was harassed and driven off by five Black Bazaes (*Aviceda leuphotes*). Two also seen together at Tsing Tam Upper Reservoir, Sek Kong on 21 March. Single birds at Tai Po Kau on 2 January and 9 March, Tai Long Valley on 15 April and Route Twisk on 19 April. The Tai Long bird was being mobbed whilst perched by a Rufous-backed Shrike (*Lanius schach*) and Black-eared Kite (*Milvus migrans*).

70. Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*)

All reports are from the Mai Po/San Tin area up to 5 April and from 19 October. Highest numbers were four on 2 March, two on 16 November and six on 22 November. As usual most records were of females or immatures but single adult males were seen on 2 March and 22 November.

73. Black Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*)

Single birds in the Lok Ma Chau/Fanling area on 5 and 20 January and 11 February, and at Mai Po on 16 November. Two at Lok Ma Chau on 16 March.

74. Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Regularly recorded in the Deep Bay area between Nim Wan in the west and San Tin in the east. Most sightings refer to one or two birds but maximum of four seen on 16 November. Extreme dates were up to 25 May and from 4 October, except for one at Mai Po on 25 August and one at Plover Cove on 3 September. Also one at Chung Hom Kok on 2 November.

74.1. White-legged Falconet (*Microhierax melanoleucos*)

One seen in flight and perched at close quarters in a wood on Cheung Chau on 5 November (CDW). The description noted the very small size (7"), dark brown/black and white appearance with white superciliary and forehead, blackish crown, nape and cheeks, white underparts, blackish tail with white spots, and black and white spots on wings.

The only previous record of this falconet in Hong Kong was of a single bird near Sha Tau Kok on 26 November 1952. Because some doubt exists over this record the species was relegated to Category F (809) in the 1975 Checklist. The Cheung Chau sighting above thus becomes the first new Category A record.

The White-legged or Pied Falconet is a resident or summer visitor to south and south-east China.

75. Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*)
Single birds seen at Mai Po on 14 March, Long Valley on 29 March, Tai Long Valley, Sai Kung on 15 April and Sek Kong on 30 September. On 26 April three in flight near Sharp Peak, Sai Kung and at least two more nearby at Tai Long. One at Mount Nicholson the next day.

76. Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)
In the spring one at Lok Ma Chau on 19 April, one at Chek Keng and a female at Tai Long on 26 April and single males at Tin Liu Ha, Lam Tsuen on 27 April and Tai Mo Shan on 27 May. Autumn records are for single birds at Sek Kong on 4 October, Tai Po Kau on 11 October, Mai Po on 19 October (male) and 30 December, and Mount Nicholson on 26 November.

78. Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)
Widespread sightings of one, two or three birds up to 15 April and from 10 September including the urban areas. The male of a pair seen at Lok Ma Chau on 20 January had a broken leg.

79. Chinese Francolin (*Francolinus pintadeanus*)
Seen, but more usually heard only, in widespread parts of the New Territories, Lantau and Hong Kong Island with most records in the spring.

80. Japanese Quail (*Coturnix japonica*)
One flushed near Mong Tseng on 18 February.

84. Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*)
One at Mai Po on 28 December.

85. Banded Rail (*Rallus striatus*)
Single birds at Mai Po/San Tin in January, June and November, Pui O, Lantau on 22 March, and Lam Tsuen Valley on 22 August.

89. White-breasted Waterhen (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*)
Common and widespread in marshy areas of the New Territories in all months. Downy young recorded with adults at San Tin on 21 April, Lo Wu on 3 May and Mai Po on 25 May. One at Lower Aberdeen Reservoir on 29 January.

90. Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)
Regularly reported from the Deep Bay area and Starling Inlet in most months, with maximum of 40 at San Tin on 19 April.

91. Watercock (*Gallicrex cinerea*)
Single males at Luk Keng on 11 and 25 May. One female/immature at Ha Tsuen on 15 November and one at Hoi Ha, Sai Kung on 22 November.

92. Coot (*Fulica atra*)
Present in the Mai Po/San Tin area up to 24 May and from 10 September. Several hundred present during the winter months with a maximum count of 560 on 10 February. Elsewhere one at Starling Inlet on 2 January and up to 12 at Plover Cove until 25 March.

94. Painted Snipe (*Rostratula benghalensis*)
Three males in Long Valley on 12 April.

97. Grey-headed Lapwing (*Vanellus cinereus*)
One at Lok Ma Chau on 5 January, and between six and nine in the Lok Ma Chau/San Tin area from 6 to 21 December. Up to 14 in Long Valley between 19 February and 5 April, and up to ten there between 30 September and 9 November, when one was also seen at Mai Po.

99. Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*)
Regularly reported from the Deep Bay area in all months except August with isolated records from Starling Inlet, Tai Long Wan, Sek Kong, Long Valley, Siu Lam Bay, and Tolo Harbour. Weekly visits to San Tin showed no birds present from 6 July to 7 September. However, two were seen at Lei Uk (Ting Kok Road), after Typhoon Joe on 25 July, and seven were present there the next day. Maximum count was 30 at Mai Po on 29 March.

100. Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*)
One of the commonest waders in the Deep Bay area with maxima of about 1000 on 15 March at San Tin, and over 1000 at Mai Po on 9 November. Extreme dates were up to 28 June and from 30 September. There were no sightings at San Tin during July and August although weekly visits were made up to 7 September. Elsewhere two at Tai Long Wan on 26 April, ten at Long Valley on 30 September and one at Hebe Haven on 7 December.

101. Greater Sand-plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*)
In spring recorded at Mai Po/San Tin between 28 March and 8 June with maximum numbers of 60 on 17 April and over 50 on 27 April, 24 and 25 May. Also five at Tai Long Wan on 26 April. The only autumn records were from Mai Po with five on 19 October and one on 21 December.

102. Mongolian Sand-plover (*Charadrius mongolus*)
Two in full breeding plumage at Nim Wan on 27 March. Up to 15 present in the Mai Po/San Tin area between 28 March and 6 July. The only autumn record was one at Long Valley on 30 September.

[**101/102. Greater/Mongolian Sand-plover** (*Charadrius leschenaultii/mongolus*)
Reports of unidentified sand-plovers in the Deep Bay area fell between 15 March and 7 June with maximum of over 100 on 5 April at Mai Po and on 5 and 24 May at San Tin.

104. Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)

Present in the Deep Bay area up to 7 June and from 9 November. Maximum numbers occurred between January and March with over 70 in Deep Bay on 20 January. Not more than ten recorded in other months.

105. Asiatic Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominicus*)

One at Tai O on 9 March. Single birds also at Mai Po on 23 February, and between 30 March and 24 May with over five there on 10 May. Four at Luk Keng on 19 April and nine at Tai Sang Wai on 25 September.

106. Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)

All records are from Lok Ma Chau or San Tin in the spring. Extreme dates were from 12 April to 31 May, with typical numbers up to ten and maximum of 12 on 12 April and 25 on 15 May.

107. Fantail Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)

Recorded from widespread areas of Deep Bay, Sek Kong, Lantau, Luk Keng and Ha Tsuen up to 27 April, except for one exceptionally late single bird at San Tin on 28 May (DSM), and from 30 September. Peak numbers of over 20 were counted at Mai Po and San Tin during January and February.

[**108/109. Snipe sp.** (*Gallinago stenura/megala*)

Snipe not specifically identified, but not Fantail Snipe, were reported as follows:— one at Lok Ma Chau on 16 March, one at San Tin on 30 March, one at Tai Long Wan on 11 October and one at Lok Ma Chau on 6 December. Two large heavy greyish birds seen at Sek Kong Woods on 24 September were probably Swinhoe's Snipe (*G. megala*) (MAW) and one which when flushed at San Tin on 30 November gave a high pitched call was probably a Pintail Snipe (*G. stenura*).]

112. Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*)

Single birds reported at Sek Kong Woods on 24 January and 18 March, Tung Chung, Lantau on 2 February, Tai Long on 9 February, Little Sai Wan on 10 February, Lam Tsuen Valley on 18 February and Mid-levels on 27 December.

113. Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)

Large numbers seen at Mai Po in the first three months of the year with over 85 on 20 January, 120 on 11 February and 80 on 2 March. Maximum at the end of the year was over 20 on 19 October. Extreme dates were up to 10 May and from 19 October. Apart from the Deep Bay area, one was seen at Starling Inlet on 26 April.

114. Australian Curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*)

One at Mai Po on 19 April and two at San Tin on 10 May.

115. Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)

One at Sha Tau Kok on 3 and 6 September. All other records are from Mai Po. Extreme spring dates were between 19 April and 10 May, with maximum of five on 10 May. Only autumn records at Mai Po were two on 25 August and over five on 9 November.

116. Little Whimbrel (*Numenius minutus*)

One on the playing fields at Little Sai Wan between 16 and 18 April and two there on 19 and 20 April (IDB, MAW).

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

All records refer to either Mai Po or San Tin. Reported in spring between 15 March and 25 May with maximum of 70 on 30 March. In the autumn sightings were between 19 October and 21 December with the highest count of eight on the last date.

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

One at San Tin on 20 April.

119. Asiatic Dowitcher (*Limnodromus semipalmatus*)

Between one and four reported at San Tin on several dates between 4 and 25 May.

120. Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*)

Widespread in the New Territories and Lantau up to 27 April and from 20 September. All reports refer to ten or less birds. An unusual summer record of two at Lei Uk (Ting Kok Road), on 26 July after Typhoon Joe.

121. Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*)

Widespread in the Deep Bay area, Long Valley, Ha Tsuen, Lantau and Wu Kau Tang up to 6 July and from 7 September, except for a single bird at Lei Uk on 24 July after Typhoon Joe. There were no sightings during late July at San Tin although weekly visits were made. Maximum numbers reported at San Tin were 50 on 30 March, over 300 on 19 April, over 100 on 7 September and 50 and 13 December.

122. Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)

All records refer to Mai Po, San Tin or Long Valley except for one seen at Tsim Bei Tsui on 22 July while No. 8 typhoon signal was hoisted. Most other sightings were between 29 March and 21 June, except for 20 on 26 July and 50 on 4 August at San Tin, and one at Mai Po on 2 November. In spring, highest monthly counts were over 300 in April, 200 in May and ten in June.

A Redshank (DR 44060) ringed by David Melville at San Tin on 5 May 1979 achieved fame for itself and its ringer by being the first bird with a B.T.O. ring to be reported from China. It was recovered on 27 April 1980 at Taishan Xian, Guangdong Province; a movement of 136 km WSW.

123. Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*)

Present in the Deep Bay area up to 17 May and from 7 September. Highest monthly counts from January to May were 130, over 50, over 200, over 300 and 300 respectively, and in September to December were 40, over 150, over 200 and over 150 respectively.

124. Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)

All reports were from Mai Po or San Tin. Four on 5 January and over six on 9 November. All other records are between 8 March and 28 June with maximum of over 50 on 4 April.

125. Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*)

Mai Po and San Tin provided all the records. Several birds wintered with sightings of 11 on 5 January, one on 19 January, three on 23 February, two on 30 November, one on 13 and 11 on 20 December. Spring records were between 15 March and 28 June, with maximum of about 150 on 30 March. The only autumn records were five on 19 and 26 October. The June sightings are a new late date.

127. Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

Widespread in groups of up to 20 and present in all months of the year. July and August records were from San Tin only.

128. Grey-rumped Sandpiper (*Heteroscelus brevipes*)

Reported in small groups of up to eight birds between 24 April and 25 May at Nim Wan, Tai Long Wan, Mai Po, Tai Po, Sharp Island (Sai Kung) and San Tin. No autumn records.

129. Terek Sandpiper (*Xenus cinereus*)

All records are for Mai Po and San Tin, mostly the latter, in spring only. Extreme dates were from 4 April until 17 June with over 60 on 25 May and over 100 in the last week of May and first week of June. The maximum count, a new high, was 150 on 24 May.

130. Knot (*Calidris canutus*)

Apart from one sighting at Mai Po all other reports were from San Tin. Numbers rose to a maximum of 25 on 4 May with extreme dates between 17 April and 28 June. No autumn records.

131. Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*)

Recorded only at San Tin with eight on 17 April, over five on 19 April, 20 on 21 April and three on 27 April.

132. Eastern Little Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*)

All records are from the Deep Bay area between Lok Ma Chau and San Tin. Most numerous in the spring from 29 March until the end of May with maximum of over 200 in April rising to over 1000 at San Tin on 10 May with 500 still present on 25 May. An interesting series of summer records from San Tin with up to ten during June, four on 6 July, two on 26 July and 16 on 4 August. All but one of the July birds and all the August birds were in non-breeding plumage. The only winter records were about 12 on 22 November and 14 December at San Tin. On 28 May at San Tin a total of 80 departed flying north between 1900 and 1930 hours.

One ringed 12 May 1980 at San Tin was controlled on 22 November 1980 at Pipeclay Lagoon, Tasmania, Australia (DSM).

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

Spring reports fell between 15 March and 27 April with maximum of over 30 on the latter date. All sightings were between Lok Ma Chau and Mai Po. Three on 14 December at San Tin.

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

One at Long Valley on 1 January. All other records are from Lok Ma Chau to Mai Po up to 27 April and from 17 October. Most sightings refer to less than 15 birds but up to 60 were seen at Mai Po on 2 March.

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

Reported from Lok Ma Chau and San Tin between 30 March and 7 June with numbers increasing to about 50 on 19 April and 42 on 20 April. Also one at Chek Keng on 26 April. No autumn records.

136. Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)

Seven at Tai Po on 1 January and one at Mai Po on 20 January. About 40 at Mai Po on 2 March, one at Tai O on 9 March and over 20 at San Tin on 15 March. Single birds at San Tin between 19 and 27 April and on 17 and 18 May. Largest numbers occurred in late autumn with over 20 at San Tin on 26 October rising to over 100 on 9 November at Mai Po.

137. Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)

Recorded in spring on the Deep Bay Marshes between 15 March and 15 June (a new early and late date respectively). Monthly maxima were over 30 on 30 March, over 300 on 19 April, over 500 on 10 May and 36 on 17 June. One in winter plumage at San Tin on 6 July, 12 there in summer plumage on 26 July and one on 4 August. At 1130 h on 4 May a group of about 60 was seen to circle several times and then climb up and fly out of sight in an E to ENE direction, presumably commencing the next leg of their migration flight.

One caught at San Tin on 11 April 1980 had been ringed at The Spit, Werribee, Victoria, Australia on 24 March, 1979 (DSM).

138. Sanderling (*Crocethia alba*)

At least one at San Tin on 13 April and over two there on 10 May. Five at Nim Wan on 24 April and one at Tai Long Wan on 26 April.

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

All records are from San Tin. Single birds seen between 13 April and 17 May with two on 17 April, four on 24 and five on 25 May. One was caught (mist-netted) and ringed on 15 April and another on 12 May (DSM). The first was probably adult in non-breeding plumage whereas the second was first-summer with a trace of breeding plumage on its back.

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

Reported in spring at Lok Ma Chau/San Tin between 15 March and 8 June with highest numbers in the second half of April, the maximum being over 50 on 21 April. Three at San Tin on 13 December.

141. Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)

One at Mai Po on 18 October.

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

Seen in spring between 5 April and 7 June at San Tin, Lok Ma Chau, Luk Keng, Starling Inlet, Tolo Harbour, Hebe Haven, East and West Lamma Channels. Highest numbers were 200 off Cape D'Aguilar on 6 April, and over 200 in West Lamma Channel on 15 April and in Tolo Harbour on 26 April. The only autumn record was one at Long Valley on 24 September.

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

Present between Long Valley and Mai Po, mainly at San Tin, up to 25 May and from 7 September. Monthly maxima for the first five months were 25, 25, 30, over 20 and 2, and for the last four months were 20, over 20, 40 and 21. Apart from the high in November, it would appear that there was a resident wintering flock of 20 to 30 birds. One bird with a broken leg was seen on 13 April and two on 13 December. A single bird was seen at Lei Uk (Tin Kwong Road), between 9 and 13 September.

144. Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*)

Recorded in the Deep Bay area between 15 February and 10 May and from 26 October until the end of the year. Maximum count in the spring was 24 at San Tin on 12 March. Numbers rose to 60 on 15 November and 64 on 30 November, and fell to 36 on 20 December. Elsewhere, one immature at Luk Keng between 3 and 5 February.

145. Oriental Pratincole (*Glareola maldivarum*)

Six at Kai Tak on 14 March, one immature at Sek Kong airfield on 4 June and one at Mai Po on 2 November.

146. Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)

Recorded from widespread offshore and coastal areas including Victoria Harbour and Deep Bay. Most reports are of small groups up to 25 except for counts at the regular beach roost at Pak Nai which reached over 100 on 18 February and 120 on 28 December. Extreme dates were up to 4 April and from 19 October. A large brown unidentified gull seen over San Tin on the late date of 5 May may have been this species.

147. Common Gull (*Larus canus*)

One sub-adult at Pak Nai on 14 January (DSM).

151. Brown-headed Gull (*Larus brunnicephalus*)

Single adults recorded at Victoria Harbour on 7 January and 2 February, Lau Fau Shan on 14 January, Kai Tak on 14 March and Cheung Chau on 11 November.

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

Two at Sha Tau Kok on 2 February and three there on 3 February. Three at Mong Tseng on 18 February and one seen from the Lantau ferry on 1 March. As usual, all birds whose age was reported were immatures.

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

Widespread and numerous. Extreme dates were up to 5 April and from 21 October except for one very late bird in winter plumage at San Tin on 5 May. Shortly after the first arrivals, over 1600 were counted at dusk from the Cheung Chau ferry on 2 November, with about 90% adults. Other high counts were 1800 in the Victoria Harbour on 18 January, over 650 at Sha Tau Kok on 13 February, "several thousand" in Deep Bay on 18 February and over 1000 there on 27 December.

154. Saunders' Gull (*Larus saundersi*)

Recorded in the Deep Bay area up to 15 March and from 9 November with maximum of over 40 at Mai Po on 2 March. Five out of seven at Mai Po on 23 February and six out of ten at San Tin on 15 March were in full breeding plumage. An immature in Victoria Harbour on 28 November.

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

Large numbers reported in the spring at Mai Po/San Tin with over 100 on 9, 10 and 11 May, 500 on 24 May, 200-250 on 28 May (90 to 95% immatures) and over 250 on 31 May. Elsewhere, 50 seen off Tsing Yi on 10 May and 25 off Green Island on 19 May. Most of the birds seen on 31 May and 7 June were in non-breeding plumage whereas most seen earlier were in full breeding plumage. A similar pattern was observed in 1978. Extreme dates were 21 April to 14 June with only one autumn record of at least ten at San Tin on 20 September.

157. Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*)

All sightings refer to San Tin with ten on 19 April, three on 21 April, four on 5 May, one on 9 May, two on 21 May, one on 17 June, one on 20 September, and two on 25 and 26 October.

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

Seven in West Lamma Channel on 9 April and a flock of 12 in Tolo Harbour on 26 April. All others seen at Mai Po/San Tin between 4 April and 28 June and on 24 September. Highest counts were 20 on 19 April and over 30 on 25 May, but only up to six in June and two in September.

159. Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*)

Recorded in the Deep Bay area in all months except September, and October. Highest numbers over 50 occurred on spring passage in April and May with peaks of 100 at Mai Po on 27 April and 65 at San Tin on 15 May. Most records of wintering birds referred to less than ten individuals except for 50 at Mong Tseng on 17 February and 19 at Pak Nai on 18 February.

[**160. Common Tern** (*Sterna hirundo*)]

Five "sterna" terns on the shore at Nim Wan on 24 April and one at San Tin on 6 December were probably this species.]

162. Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*)

AT Mai Po/San Tin numbers rose to a maximum of over 50 on 19 April with up to ten seen from then until early June when 30 were counted on 8 June. Three off Green Island on 19 May. Extreme dates were 4 April to 8 June.

164. Ancient Auk (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*)

One was picked up with a broken wing at Repulse Bay on 22 November and subsequently put down by Dr. Searle (MAW).

166. Rufous Turtle-dove (*Streptopelia orientalis*)

Up to three at Beas River until 16 March. Single birds at Red Hill, Tai Tam on 2 November, Mount Nicholson between 4 November and 8 December, Mai Po on 9 November and Cheung Chau on 11 November. Fifteen at Mong Tseng on 15 November and 20 there on 27 December. Six at Luk Keng on 16 November.

167. Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*)

Common and widespread at all times of year. One with large aberrant symmetrical white patches on inner primaries was seen on several occasions throughout the year at Mount Nicholson.

168. Red Turtle-dove (*Streptopelia tranquebarica*)

A flock of 26 seen near Mong Tseng on 18 February and four in the same area on 8 March. Two at Shuen Wan on 20 September.

169. Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*)

A single adult at Chek Keng on 26 April (CAV, FOPH, CDW).

171. Indian Cuckoo (*Cuculus micropterus*)

First heard on 12 April at Tai Mei Tuk. Subsequently seen or heard in ones or twos in widespread parts of the New Territories up to 7 June.

[**169/170/171. Cuckoo sp.** (*Cuculus canorus/saturatus/micropterus*)]

Records of cuckoos not specifically identified were as follows:—single birds at Long Valley on 29 March, Ho Sheung Heung on 19 April and 15 May, and Hong Kong University on 26 May.]

172. Large Hawk-cuckoo (*Cuculus sparverioides*)

The trend over recent years for this species to be more frequently recorded has continued. Between one and three birds seen or heard between 20 March and 15 June at Tai Po Kau, Lam Tsuen Valley, Sek Kong and Tai Mo Shan.

174. Plaintive Cuckoo (*Cacomantis merulinus*)

Quite common and widespread. First heard calling on 17 February at Hang Tau, and thereafter in most parts of the New Territories. Recorded in all months except August and December. Winter records of single birds were as follows:—two in November, one in January, and four in February. At Fanling a juvenile was being fed by a Long-tailed Tailor-bird (*Orthotomus sutorius*) on 26 July (GCHC), and at Pat Heung on 14 September two juveniles were seen with one hepatic adult.

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

One at Chek Keng on 26 April and two together at She Shan on 16 June. A “probable” had earlier been seen there on 7 June. The characteristic call of this species has now been identified as two separate whistled notes, in a monotone, repeated at regular intervals. The alarm note is a harsh chatter.

177. Koel (*Eudynamis scolopacea*)

Widespread with most records between March and July. However, one or two birds also seen in widespread areas in all other months except December. Although most reports are from the New Territories birds were also seen or heard in the Zoological and Botanical Gardens, Conduit Road, Mount Nicholson and Hong Kong University during the summer months.

178. Greater Coucal (*Centropus sinensis*)

Common and widespread with records in all months except August including one in Kowloon Park from 14 February to 19 June.

179. Lesser Coucal (*Centropus bengalensis*)

Not as common as the previous species but still recorded in all months from widespread areas of New Territories, Lantau and Lamma Island.

182. Collared Scops Owl (*Otus bakkamoena*)

Heard calling in every month of the year at Tai Mei Tuk. Also heard regularly and occasionally seen at Mount Nicholson up to the end of May and from early September, and heard in Mid-levels in February, April and May.

[**184. Short-eared Owl** (*Asio flammeus*)]

A large owl, probably this species, was flushed at Mai Po by a quartering Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) on 2 March (RPT). The owl spiralled to a considerable height and then flew off towards Deep Bay.

On the night of 4/5 April a large owl, equal in size to this species and possibly the same bird as seen in March, was observed over reed-beds, ponds and grassy areas at San Tin (DSM).]

188. Japanese Nightjar (*Caprimulgus indicus*)

An adult male was found dead on the road at Tai Mei Tuk on 26 October (DJG).

[**188/189. Nightjar sp.** (*Caprimulgus indicus/affinis*)]

Two seen on the main road at Pat Heung at 0500h on 10 October.]

189.1. White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*)

Four were seen flying with other swifts over Mai Po on 27 April (MAW, JFSB). This is the fifth record since the first sighting in April 1977.

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

One at Lamma Island on 27 January and about 12 at South Ninepin Island on 15 June. All other sightings are between 10 March and 17 May from widespread areas with flocks of about 50 at Mai Po on 8 and 27 April.

191. House Swift (*Apus affinis*)

Widespread with largest numbers in May. Several breeding colonies in the urban areas.

192. Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*)

Seen on several occasions at Yim Tso Ha in spring with two on 6, one on 12 and five on 19 April and one on 31 May. A pair nearby at Luk Keng on 22 August and three on 14 September. Single birds at Mai Po on 19 April and 21 September.

194. Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

Widespread in suitable locations in all months including one or two in Kowloon Park between March and May, and one at HMS Tamar on 27 November. One juvenile seen at San Tin on 17 May. Two adults feeding one young bird at Tai Mei Tuk on the same day and at Sha Tau Kok on 9 August.

195. White-breasted Kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrenensis*)

Common and widespread in all months including one in Kowloon Park on 26 April.

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

Fairly common and widespread but not as widely distributed as above species.

[**197. Blue-tailed Bee-eater** (*Merops philippinus*)

A series of sightings (about ten) of small groups of up to four bee-eaters were reported from Repulse Bay Road between May and November (AS). Because of possible confusion with other species which may occur here these records have been accepted as bee-eater sp.]

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

One at Tai Long Wan, Sai Kung on 15 April. Two at Lin Au in Lam Tsuen Valley on 10 May. One at Chung Hom Kok on 14 September and up to six there until 13 October. One at Mong Tseng on 4 October.

200. Great Barbet (*Megalaima virens*)

Regularly reported in suitable wooded areas in most months, with Tai Po Kau being the apparent stronghold. One immature seen on north side of Kowloon Peak on 28 May.

202.1 Greater Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus major*)

An immature male seen at Hong Kong University on 19 September, (DPC). Probably the same bird was seen again briefly on 19 November. This is only the second record for Hong Kong, the first also having been seen at the University on 9 or 10 September 1978.

203. Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*)

Single birds seen at Ma Tso Lung on 6 January and 16 March, Mai Po on 20 January. 31 November and 20 December, Mong Tseng on 18 February, Kowloon Park on 12 March and 8 and 17 April, She Shan on 30 March and Cheung Chau on 25 November.

206. Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

Common and widespread in all months with highest numbers in April. Four fledged young being fed on overhead wires at Mai Po on 20 April were the first recorded this year. At Tai Mei Tuk two clutches of eggs were taken by a Rufous-backed Shrike in April/May.

207. Red-rumped Swallow (*Hirundo daurica*)

One soaring around Sharp Peak, Sai King on 15 April and 23 on wires at San Tin on 20 September.

209. Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*)

Exceptionally large numbers estimated at 200-500 seen over San Tin ponds on 10 May after strong easterlies following the passage of a cold front on 8 May (CAV, GCHC). Single birds at San Tin on 2 November and Mai Po on 21 December.

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

Common and widespread throughout the year including reports from Hong Kong University, Conduit Road and Mount Nicholson near the urban areas. As usual, Dusky Shrikes (the melanistic form) were recorded from widespread areas including one at Mong Tseng on 26 December which was entirely black.

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

An immature/female was seen in the border hills between Lok Ma Chau and Crest Hill on 6 December (GCHC, MJC, JEAC). Although this species was formerly thought to be an occasional visitor, this is the first record since 1970.

213. Brown Shrike (*Lanius cristatus*)

Recorded in small numbers from widespread areas up to 12 May and from 24 August. Maximum count was ten separate birds on Cheung Chau on 18 September. At least three were seen in Kowloon Park on various dates in April, May and September. Several birds seen on 26 April in the Tai Long area and one at Ho Sheung Heung on 10 May were considered to be of the Philippine race *L.c. lucionensis* (CAV).

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

A male at Sek Kong on 1 and 2 January. Recorded in May and June from the Lam Tsuen Valley and Tai Mei Tuk. Autumn sightings from widespread areas of the New Territories and also at Cheung Chau and Mount Nicholson between 4 September and 14 December with most records, mainly of immatures, in October and early November.

215. Black Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocerus*)

Recorded in all months from widespread areas, mainly between April and December, but several reports of single birds between January and March. At Tai Mei Tuk a pair began nest building about 8m up a pine tree on 4 May, and at least one young bird had fledged by 24 June. During the breeding season adult birds were seen chasing off Jungle and Collared Crows (*Corvus macrorhynchus* and *torquatus*), coucals (*Centropus sp.*) and Indian Cuckoos (*Cuculus micropterus*).

216. Ashy Drongo (*Dicrurus leucophaeus*)

Single birds at Victoria Peak between 16 and 22 February (white-checked race *D.c. leucogenis*), Lamma Island on 2 March, Cheung Chau on 18 September (race *D.c. salangensis*) and Sek Kong Woods on 26 October.

217. Hair-crested Dongo (*Dicrurus hottentottus*)

Unusual wintering records of up to four at She Shan and Sek Kong Woods between January and March, and up to three at Fanling in March. All other sightings are between 15 April and 2 November from widespread wooded areas including various parts of Hong Kong Island and Cheung Chau. Birds were seen carrying nesting material at Mount Nicholson on 29 April, at a nest at She Shan on 29 May and with two young there on 7 June. 40 birds were reported in a roost along Sek Kong Catchwater on 30 September.

218. Chinese Starling (*Sturnus sinensis*)

Reported in most months from widespread areas of the northern and western New Territories with maximum of 20 at San Tin on 20 September, and Lok Ma Chau on 15 November. Also one at Kowloon Park on 10 May and one at Chung Hom Kok on 29 December.

219. Silky Starling (*Sturnus sericeus*)

Regularly reported in the New Territories up to 16 March and from 1 November. Flocks of over 50 seen at Long Valley, Nam Hang (Yuen Long) and Mong Tseng, with over 100 at Mong Tseng during November and December. Also two at Ocean Park on 21 November.

220. Grey Starling (*Sturnus cineraceus*)

At Mong Tseng three on 8 February, four on 8 March, six on 26 December and two on 27 December. Elsewhere, two at Sek Kong Woods on 3 February, one at Lok Ma Chau on 2 March and 15 at Tai Mei Tuk on 9 November.

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

Fairly common and widespread in all months throughout the New Territories. Also recorded from U.S.R.C., Kowloon and Tung Chung, Lantau.

223. Crested Mynah (*Acridotheres cristatellus*)

Common and widespread in all months.

224. Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*)

Apparently becoming more widespread with reports of small numbers (up to four) in most months from wooded areas at Sek Kong Catchwater, Lam Tsuen Valley, Fanling, Ma Tseuk Leng, Plover Cove area, Wong Chuk Yeung (Sai Kung) and Chek Keng. On 20 June, one was seen chasing a Black Baza (*Aviceda leuphotes*) in Sek Kong Catchwater Woods.

225. Blue Magpie (*Urocissa erythrorhyncha*)

Daily sightings on Hong Kong Island including Mid-levels and University area. Also regularly reported in widespread wooded areas of the New Territories in most months with up to four together. Also between two and four in Kowloon Park on several occasions.

226. Magpie (*Pica pica*)

Common and widespread including the urban areas.

228. Jungle Crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos*)

Widespread in small numbers (up to nine) including records from urban Kowloon, Cheung Chau, Hong Kong University, Mount Nicholson, and Aberdeen Country Park. Usually seen singly or in pairs but maximum of over 50 seen at the rubbish tip along Ting Kok Toad (Tolo Harbour) on 3 October.

229. Collared Crow (*Corvus torquatus*)

Regularly reported from the Deep Bay area and Starling Inlet with over 15 at Mai Po on 16 March. Elsewhere, single birds seen at Kowloon Park on 5 January, Tap Mun on 9 February and Hebe Haven on 7 December.

230. Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike (*Coracina melaschistos*)

One or two birds reported from Lam Tsuen Valley, Sek Kong area, Mong Tseng, Beas River, Ho Sheung Heung and Tai Long Valley up to 1 March and from 14 September. Also one at Mount Nicholson on 28 March and 3 April, and one at Chung Hom Kok on 21 September.

233. Ashy Minivet (*Pericrocotus divaricatus*)

Three at Ho Sheung Heung on 5 April and two there on 15 April. One at Mong Tseng on 4 October.

234. Grey-throated Minivet (*Pericrocotus solaris*)

An adult male at Tai Po Kau on 30 March (CPB, EAB, RJB).

235. Scarlet Minivet (*Pericrocotus flammeus*)

Recorded in most months from various parts of the New Territories including Tsung Pak Long, Tai Po Kau, She Shan, Sek Kong, Ho Chung and Ma Tseuk Leng.

Highest numbers occurred at Tai Po Kau where a flock of up to 32 birds including up to seven males was seen in January, November, and December, and at She Shan, where up to 12 including two males were seen between January and March. Summer records were of an immature male on 21 June and two females on 2 August, both at Tai Po Kau.

237. Black Bulbul (*Hypsipetes madagascariensis*)

Two in Lam Tsuen Valley on 20 February. All other records from Tai Po Kau between 22 February and 5 April with a flock of over 50 birds present between 24 February and 30 March. Many birds in this flock had completely white heads and several were intermediates.

238. Crested Bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus*)

Very common and widespread.

- 239. Chinese Bulbul** (*Pycnonotus sinensis*)
Abundant and widespread in all habitats.
- 240. Red-vented Bulbul** (*Pycnonotus aurigaster*)
Locally common in favoured areas.
- 241. Black-faced Laughing-thrush** (*Garrulax perspicillatus*)
Common and widespread.
- 242. Black-throated Laughing-thrush** (*Garrulax chinensis*)
Two to five present in Kowloon Park between 5 January and 29 April and one there on 11 June. Seen or heard throughout the year at Mount Nicholson, with maximum of five seen together. Most vociferous there in April, May, June and November. Single birds also seen at Chung Hom Kok on 30 May and 3 July.
- 243. Hwamei** (*Garrulax canorus*)
Seen, but more usually heard only, in widespread parts of Hong Kong Island, Kowloon, New Territories and offshore islands. One brood just out of the nest seen in Mid-levels on 9 May.
- 244. Greater Necklaced Laughing-thrush** (*Garrulax pectoralis*)
Maximum of over 25 in Tai Po Kau between 12 January and 22 February and at least five there on 29 and 30 November. Also two free-flying birds in the Zoological and Botanical Gardens on 14 January but presumed escapes as near cages.
- 245. Chinese Babax** (*Babax lanceolatus*)
Four on Tai Mo Shan on 17 May and seven there on 7 June. At least one on Cheung Chau on 18 September associating with White-cheeked Laughing-thrushes (*Garrulax sannio*), and two there on 20 September.
- 246. Collared Siva** (*Yuhina castaniceps*)
At least two at Mount Nicholson on 25 November appeared to be part of a large flock (CAV).
- 247. White-bellied Yuhina** (*Yuhina zantholeuca*)
One watched feeding with Pallas's Warblers (*Phylloscopus proregulus*) and White-eyes (*Zosterops japonica*) at Tai Po Kau on 15 November (MLC). The only previous Hong Kong records of this species are a series of sightings by Dove and Goodhart in the autumn of 1953.
- 248. Asian/Ince's Paradise Flycatcher** (*Terpsiphone paradisi*)
A male at Kowloon Park between 12 and 16 April, a female at Ho Sheung Heung on 17 April, and one at Ho Man Tin on 28 April. One at Sek Kong Woods and two at Cheung Chau on 18 September and one at Tai Po Kau on 8 October.
- 249. Japanese Paradise Flycatcher** (*Terpsiphone atrocaudata*)
A male at Ho Sheung Heung on 5 April. One at Sek Kong Catchwater on 17 September, a female at Sek Kong Woods on 18 September, and two at Tai Po Kau on 27 September.

- 250. Grey-headed Flycatcher** (*Culicicapa ceylonensis*)
Up to two seen regularly at Sek Kong Woods from 1 January until 14 February, when one was found dead shot by an air-gun pellet. Elsewhere single birds at Tai Po Kau on 12 January and Cheung Chau on 16 and 17 January. Also heard at Ho Sheung Heung on 15 March.
- 251. Black-naped Monarch Flycatcher** (*Hypothymis azurea*)
A female at Sek Kong Woods on 1 and 20 January. At least two heard calling and a female/immature seen at Aberdeen Country Park on 29 January. Another female at Volunteer Slopes, Fanling on 11 February, and a pair at Cheung Chau on 5 November.
- 252. Brown Flycatcher** (*Muscicapa latirostris*)
Widespread in small numbers with up to four together until 17 May a new late date, and from 11 September.
- 253. Grey-spotted Flycatcher** (*Muscicapa griseisticta*)
Single birds recorded in the spring between 17 April and 12 May from Ho Sheung Heung, Cheung Chau, Mid-levels, Mount Nicholson, She Shan and Sek Kong. In the autumn, one at Ma Tseuk Leng on 20 September.
- 255. Ferruginous Flycatcher** (*Muscicapa ferruginea*)
One at Ho Man Tin Hill, Kowloon on 3 October.
- 256. Verditer Flycatcher** (*Muscicapa thalassina*)
A male at Mount Nicholson on several dates between 16 January and 12 February. Single males also seen at She Shan and Mong Tseng on 2 and 15 November respectively.
- 257. Red-breasted Flycatcher** (*Muscicapa parva*)
Fewer records than usual. Recorded in ones and twos from widespread areas including the Zoological and Botanical Gardens up to 1 March and from 4 October. Two males in Sek Kong Woods on 15 February were apparently in full breeding plumage.
- 258. Robin Flycatcher** (*Muscicapa mugimaki*)
An adult male at Tai Mei Tuk on 2 November and a female/immature at Tai Po Kau on 20 December.
- 260. Tricolour Flycatcher** (*Ficedula zanthopygia*)
Single females at Sek Kong Woods on 17 August and 24 September. One female/immature at Ho Man Tin Hill on 6 September.
- 261. Hainan Blue Flycatcher** (*Cyornis hainana*)
A male at Ho Man Tin on 16 and 20 April. Single males seen at Tai Po Kau between 28 May and 7 June, and heard singing on two occasions, and a male and female there on 29 May and 1 June. These summer records indicate that this species probably once again bred at Tai Po Kau.

263. Chinese Bush Warbler (*Cettia diphone*)

Regularly recorded in small numbers from widespread areas up to 29 April and from 15 November. Appeared to be more common in the autumn. Birds in song reported in January, March and November.

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

One at Sek Kong on 6 January, two at Cheung Chau on 7 January, one at She Shan on 16 February and one at Ho Sheung Heung on 15 March. Up to five present at Tai Po Kau from 29 November until the end of the year. Also two at Cheung Chau on 18 November and one at Mount Nicholson on 16 December. Recorded from Kowloon Hills in December.

265.1. Lanceolated Warbler (*Locustella lanceolata*)

One flushed almost from underfoot in thick grass at Mai Po on 2 November (RF). The following description was noted:— "Length 4¾"-5". Upperparts dull brown with heavy broad blackish streaking from crown to upper tail coverts. Dull brown medium length rounded tail with no obvious markings. Head streaked blackish without evident eyebrow or eyestreak. Bill and eyes dark. Lower parts white with yellowish/buffy flanks; streaked from breast to ventral area, with streaks becoming progressively broader and rounder on lower flanks. Belly pure white unstreaked. Head acutely sloped to fine pointed bill."

This species is separated from Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler (*L. certhiola*) by its slightly smaller size, streaked rump with no rufous colouration, uniform tail without dark patches or white tips, heavily streaked breast and flanks (sometimes streaking confined to breast-band), and less conspicuous supercilium.

Lanceolated Warbler breeds in north-east China and easternmost Russia, and occurs in southern China as a passage migrant on its journey to wintering areas in India and south-east Asia.

267. Von Schrenck's Reed-warbler (*Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*)

Present at Mai Po between 9 April and 17 May with at least five there on 19 April. No autumn records.

268. Great Reed-warbler (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*)

Smaller than usual numbers reported of this common passage migrant. Extreme dates were from 2 March to 21 April on spring passage and from 20 September until 16 November in the autumn. Most records are for Mai Po/San Tin but one seen in Kowloon Park on 3 and 6 October.

269. Dusky Warbler (*Phylloscopus fuscatus*)

Particularly common and widespread up to 21 April and from 20 September. One at Ho Sheung Heung on 12 April was in full song.

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

Fairly common and widespread up to 19 April and from 16 October. The autumn arrival was several weeks later than usual. Seen daily around Mount Nicholson until the intense cold period and strong northerlies experienced on 4/5 February after which it was absent until 11 March. Similarly, daily sightings at Hong Kong University until 25 January and then none until 3 March.

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

Widespread with records up to 16 March and from 15 November. However, probably under-recorded as this species appeared relatively common in the autumn. At least five at Ho Sheung Heung on 16 March, some of which were in full song.

272. Arctic Warbler (*Phylloscopus borealis*)

Widespread in small numbers on passage. Single birds in the spring between 14 and 27 May and up to three together in the autumn from 18 September to 28 October. Several seen on the last date at Cheung Chau may have been Swinhoe's Warblers (*P. b. xanthodryas*) because of their single high-pitched call and skulking behaviour.

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

One at Mong Tseng near Tsim Bei Tsui on 15 November (GCHC, CAV, RF).

[**274.1 Blyth's Leaf-warbler** (*Phylloscopus reguloides*)]

A single bird which was either this species or White-tailed Leaf-warbler (*P. davisoni*) was seen in Tai Po Kau on 31 December (WRJ).]

276. Yellow-eyed Flycatcher-warbler (*Seicercus burkii*)

Single birds reported at Tai Po Kau on 24 February (RMS, MAB), Cheung Chau on 16 December (CDW), and Stanley Wood on 28 December (HGA).

As more than one sub-species may occur in this area it is interesting to note that although all had complete yellow eye-rings only the February bird had a yellow wing-bar.

This "rush" of sightings represents only the third, fourth and fifth Hong Kong records of this species. The previous two sightings were on 5 December 1960 and 30 December 1976.

277. Chestnut-crowned Warbler (*Seicercus castaniceps*)

One at Tai Po Kau on 8 March (HGA). This is the second and record for Hong Kong, the first was also seen at Tai Po Kau in February and March 1972.

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

Very common and widespread.

280. David's Hill Warbler (*Prinia polychroa*)

One or two seen near the summit of Tai Mo Shan between 17 May and 1 July. Also recorded for the first time elsewhere with three or four at Sunset Peak on 25 August and one there on 18 October (CDW).

Recently, considerable doubt has been cast on whether the birds seen in Hong Kong are *Prinia polychroa*. It is hoped to resolve this question during the next year and publish the findings in the next annual report.*

281. Brown Wren-warbler (*Prinia subflava*)

Common on the Deep Bay Marshes between Mong Tseng and Lok Ma Chau. Single birds also seen at Long Valley, Sha Tau Kok and Ho Chung.

* See footnote on page 5

- 282. Yellow-bellied Wren-warbler** (*Prinia flaviventris*)
Common and widespread. One carrying nesting material on 16 March in the Deep Bay area, and a nest with one egg found at Mai Po on 17 May about 0.5m above ground level.
- 283. Fantail Warbler** (*Cisticola juncidis*)
Fairly common and widespread with records up to 15 June and from 20 September. As usual, more numerous in winter months.
- 285. Red-tailed Robin** (*Erithacus sibilans*)
Single birds at High Island Reservoir and Cheung Chau on 8 and 13 March respectively, and two at Cheung Chau on 21 October. One at Tai Po Kau Forest on 2 December.
- 286. Bluethroat** (*Erithacus svecica*)
Most reports are from Mai Po with up to three birds, at least one of which was male, between 1 January and 27 April. Also single males at Lok Ma Chau on 5 January and Long Valley on 19 January.
- 288. Rubythroat** (*Erithacus calliope*)
Seen, but more often heard, in widespread areas up to 10 May and from 7 November. Most sight records are for males.
- 289. Red-flanked Bluetail** (*Tarsiger cyanurus*)
Regularly recorded in ones and twos from widespread areas up to 20 March and from 15 November.
- 290. Magpie Robin** (*Copsychus saularis*)
Common and widespread. Nest building in a rainwater down-pipe commenced on 16 March at Tai Mei Tuk, and two young fledged on 17 May. Fledged young also seen at Fanling on the previous day.
- 291. Daurian Redstart** (*Phoenicurus aureus*)
Fairly common and widespread. Seen in ones or twos up to 22 March and from 4 November.
- 292. Plumbeous Water-redstart** (*Rhyacornis fuliginosus*)
A pair seen regularly at Bride's Pool up to 19 April, when two pairs were present. Previously two females had been seen there on 12 January. A pair also reported from Ho Chung Valley up to 9 February, with one female still present on 23 March. Elsewhere, a male at Tai Chung Ho, Sai Kung on 27 December.
- 294. Stonechat** (*Saxicola torquata*)
Common and widespread. Extreme dates were up to 21 April and from 30 September. Particularly numerous during November and December with over ten together at Mong Tseng and Lok Ma Chau.
- 295. Grey Bushchat** (*Saxicola ferrea*)
A male and two females at Volunteer Slopes, Fanling on 11 February. Single males at Pui O, Lantau on 9 March, and near Chau Tau Grenade Range on 16 March and 27 December.
- 296. Blue Rock-thrush** (*Monticola solitaria*)
Sightings from widespread areas including Kowloon Park, Mid-levels and the Peak up to 19 April and from 18 September. Five out of 13 males reported were of the red-bellied race (*M. s. philippensis*). Evidence of movement is provided by a flock of ten birds at Cheung Chau on 2 October.
- 298. Violet Whistling Thrush** (*Myiophonus caeruleus*)
Locally common with most sightings in the winter months. From observations over four years considered to be a winter visitor to Cheung Chau (CDW). An adult with a fledged young bird was seen at Tai Po Kau on 29 May.
- 299. Pale Thrush** (*Turdus pallidus*)
Up to three seen in widespread areas until 30 March. No records for the end of the year.
- 300. Eye-browed Thrush** (*Turdus obscurus*)
Single females at Cheung Chau on 7 January and Sek Kong Woods on 22 March. Two near Lead Mine Pass on 15 November.
- 301. Brown Thrush** (*Turdus chrysolaus*)
A female at Kowloon Peak on 20 January and a male at Ho Sheung Heung on 15 and 17 April.
- 302. Grey-backed Thrush** (*Turdus hortulorum*)
Widespread up to 30 March and from 9 December, the latter date being later than usual. Most reports were in January and February with a maximum of six males at Mong Tseng on 18 February.
- 303. Dusky Thrush** (*Turdus naumanni*)
Family common and widespread at the beginning of the year up to 30 March. Highest numbers seen at Lok Ma Chau with maximum of 14 on 23 March. One of red-tailed race (*T.n. naumanni*) seen there on 2 March. No autumn records.
- 304. Blackbird** (*Turdus merula*)
Widespread with frequent sightings up to 9 April and from 2 November. Small flocks of up to ten seen in several areas, with maximum of 41 counted flying over Lam Tsuen Valley at Tai Om on 26 December.
- 305. Grey Thrush** (*Turdus cardis*)
Widespread in ones and twos up to 8 April. One at Tai Po Kau on 9 December is the only autumn record. The majority of records refer to males.
- 307. Orange-headed Ground-thrush** (*Zoothera citrinus*)
One at Kowloon Park on 8 April was of the race having two dark vertical bands on the ear coverts (AC). A male seen nearby at the Royal Observatory on 25 April appeared to have only one dark line behind the eye (MAB).

308. White's Thrush (*Zoothera dauma*)

Single birds at Cheung Chau on 17 January and Pak Nai on 18 February and Tai Po Kau on 20 March. In the autumn one killed at Deep Water Bay Golf Course by colliding with a wire fence whilst being pursued by an unidentified raptor. Single birds also seen at Mount Nicholson from 20 November and Tai Po Kau on 29 and 30 November and 6 December. Three at Tai Po Kau on 9 December.

310. Great Tit (*Parus major*)

Common and widespread.

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

Common and widespread with reports of over ten in spring and winter. Extreme dates were until 15 June and from 30 September. The only May and June records, of up to three birds, came from Tai Mo Shan where this species probably breeds.

314. Indian Tree-pipit (*Anthus hodgsoni*)

Common and widespread up to 19 April and from 26 October.

315. Red-throated Pipit (*Anthus cervinus*)

Present in the Lok Ma Chau/San Tin area up to 5 April and from 13 December. Maximum number was 30 at Lok Ma Chau on 27 December. Also one at Tung Chung, Lantau on 9 March.

318. Upland Pipit (*Anthus sylvanus*)

Fewer reports than usual with only one at Sharp Peak on 15 April and one or two at Tai Mo Shan in May and June.

319. Forest Wagtail (*Dendronanthus indicus*)

Single birds at Cheung Chau on 30 September and 15 October and Tai Po Kau on 27 September and 4 October.

320. White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*)

Common and widespread up to 27 April and from 28 September. As in some previous years, many were noted roosting around Star Ferry, Central in October.

321. Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)

Fairly common and widespread up to 5 May and from 7 September. A flock of several hundred birds settled in trees and on the ground in the hills near Lok Ma Chau in the late afternoon of 6 December. One summer record of a single bird at Victoria Peak on 22 July during Typhoon Joe.

322. Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*)

Locally common in marshy areas up to 10 May and from 14 September. A large easterly movement involving several hundred birds was noted at dusk on 16 March at Mai Po. Several of the blue-headed race (*M.f. similima*) were seen at Little Sai Wan between 17 and 19 April and two of the grey-headed race (*M.f. macronyx*) at Chek Keng on 26 April.

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

Regularly reported throughout the year at Tai Mei Tuk, Tai Po Kau, Victoria Peak, Mid-levels, Mount Nicholson and Hong Kong University. Also seen at Chung Hom Kok, She Shan, Wu Kau Tang and Wong Chuk Shan (Sai Kung) in November and December. A recently fledged young bird at Lugard Road on 9 May and a female at Cheung Chau on 18 November.

325. White-eye (*Zosterops japonica*)

Very common and widespread.

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

Recorded in small numbers from widespread wooded areas, including Mid-levels and Hong Kong University, with sightings in most months.

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

Single males in Tai Po Kau on 10 May and 6 December.

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

Sightings of single birds and flocks of typically up to 20 birds in widespread areas up to 4 April and from 16 November. Maximum was over 30 at Sek Kong Woods on 28 December. Regular in Kowloon Park.

329. Chinese Greenfinch (*Carduelis sinica*)

Recorded in small groups (up to 17 together) in widespread areas including urban Kowloon and Hong Kong up to 22 March and from 18 August. A large flock of between 100 and 150 was seen at Victoria Park on 10 November.

331. Common Rosefinch (*Carpodacus erythrinus*)

Seen in widespread parts of the New Territories, but most frequently at Sek Kong, up to 16 March and from 4 October. Most reports are for up to eight together but 33 seen at Sek Kong on 13 January. Also one at Saint Georges Mansions, Kowloon on 8 November.

332. Masked Bunting (*Emberiza spodocephala*)

Common and widespread up to 27 April and from 1 November.

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

A female at Starling Inlet on 6 January and a male at Mount Nicholson on 27 January. All other reports are from Tai Po Kau with up to 12 between 3 January and 30 March.

334. Chestnut Bunting (*Emberiza rutila*)

At least five females/immatures at Tai Po Kau on 22 November.

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

Seen at Mai Po/San Tin/Lok Ma Chau between 5 and 27 April, with maximum of seven on the latter date. Two at Mong Tseng on 27 December.

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

A male at Mong Tseng on 2 March, two females at Tung Chung, Lantau on 22 March, and one immature male at Mong Tseng on 15 November.

337. Little Bunting (*Emberiza pusilla*)

Widespread in small numbers until 2 May, when one was seen in Kowloon Park, and from 9 November. Flocks of at least 15 and 20 birds were seen at She Shan on 19 January and Lantau on 22 March.

339. Crested Bunting (*Melophus lathamii*)

Winter and spring records of up to five birds at Lam Tsuen Valley, Sek Kong, Lead Mine Pass, Tung Chung and Sharp Peak. Reported from Tai Mo Shan in May, June and July. A male at George Island, on the north side of Lamma, appeared to be claiming territory on 31 May.

340. Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

Very common and widespread.

341. Chestnut Munia (*Lonchura malacca*)

All records are for Mai Po with over 15 on 25 August, nine on 23 November, and at least four and two on 20 and 28 December respectively.

342. Spotted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*)

Fairly common and widespread in flocks of up to 50 birds throughout the year. Nest building at Fanling on 6 August.

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

Reported in every month of the year from widespread areas of Hong Kong Island and New Territories. Largest flock seen was 15 birds in the Zoological and Botanical Gardens on 14 January.

C. SPECIES WHICH, ALTHOUGH ORIGINALLY INTRODUCED BY MAN, HAVE NOW ESTABLISHED A REGULAR FERAL BREEDING STOCK WHICH APPARENTLY MAINTAINS ITSELF WITHOUT NECESSARY RECOURSE TO FURTHER INTRODUCTION.

501. Emerald Dove (*Chalcophaps indica*)

Up to three regularly seen at Tai Po Kau and one or two at Sek Kong throughout the year. One found dead on Lam Kam Road, Sek Kong on 22 March after having been struck by a vehicle. Elsewhere single birds at Tai Mei Tuk in February, Yim Tso Ha in May, She Shan in June, Nam Chung in July and Cheung Chau in November. Although some birds have been released in the past, it seems likely that the widespread resident population is mainly composed of wild birds and as such would justify transfer to Category A status.

502. Rose-ringed parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*)

Fairly common and widespread, usually in flocks of up to ten birds, but maximum counts of 60 at She Shan on 19 January, 30 in Kowloon Park on 14 April, over 30 at Chung Hom Kok on 28 September and over 40 at Lam Tei (Yuen Long) on 15 December.

503. Common Mynah (*Acridotheres tristis*)

A family of up to seven birds at Sek Kong Camp throughout the year. Breeding was successful, the nest being located in the control tower. Also up to three at Dills Corner in all months. Several records of one or two in the Sek Kong area, one at Mong Tseng on 19 February, two at Lok Ma Chau on 24 August, and one at Ho Sheung Heung on 20 December.

504. White-cheeked Laughing-thrush (*Garrulax sannio*)

Single birds and flocks of up to ten birds regularly seen in Mid-levels, Zoological and Botanical Gardens and Mount Nicholson, with incidental records from Cheung Chau, Kowloon Peak, Sek Kong Catchwater and Tai Po Kau. This is another species whose status should be reconsidered for possible transfer to Category A.

D. SPECIES INTRODUCED BY MAN, OF WHICH THE FERAL POPULATIONS MAY OR MAY NOT BE SELF-SUPPORTING.

601. Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua sulphurea*)

Regularly seen on a daily basis between Victoria Barracks and Hong Kong University with maximum of 14 on 17 January. Occasionally seen as far east as Mount Nicholson.

602. Indian Grackle (*Gracula religiosa*)

Single birds at Marine Police Headquarters, Tsim Sha Tsui on 15 and 16 September and Hong Kong University between 22 September and 7 October.

E. SPECIES OF WHICH ALL PUBLISHED RECORDS ARE SUSPECTED OF BEING OF BIRDS ESCAPED OR RELEASED FROM CAPTIVITY

707. Vinous-throated parrotbill (*Paradoxornis webbiana*)

One at Mount Nicholson on 13 January and a flock of 17 there on 11 February (CAV). Two at Tai Mo Shan on 7 June may have been breeding as one was carrying a grub in its bill (GCHC).

708. Pekin Robin (*Leiothrix lutea*)

A male at Sek Kong Woods on 19 January, four at Tai Po Kau on 27 May and one at Tai Mo Shan only 150m below the summit on 16 June.

710. Java Sparrow (*Padda oryzivora*)

Single birds at Kowloon Park on 22 January and 12 May and at the Zoological and Botanical Gardens on 18 November.

- 714. Red-breasted Parakeet** (*Psittacula alexandri*)
One at the Zoological and Botanical Gardens on 6 and 20 February.
- 715. Budgerigar** (*Melopsittacus undulatus*)
Single birds seen at She Shan on 17 May and at Wanchai Waterfront on 24 and 25 September.
- 716. House Crow** (*Corvus splendens*)
One seen on the outer bund at Mai Po on 15 November. (MJC, JEAC).
- 718. Golden-fronted Leafbird** (*Chloropsis aurifrons*)
One at Hong Kong University on 17 November and 2 December (DPC).
- 723. Rainbow Lorikeet** (*Trichoglossus haematodus*)
One at Victoria Barracks on 22 January and a probable at She Shan on 19 July. A flock of five or six unidentified lorikeets was seen in the area between Repulse Bay and Wong Nei Chong Gap during November and December.
- 725. Azure-winged Magpie** (*Cyanopica cyanus*)
Regularly recorded at the Zoological and Botanical Gardens with maximum of eight on 20 February. Birds carrying nesting material seen in February and March.
- 726. Pied Bushchat** (*Saxicola caprata*)
Single males at Little Sai Wan on 25 January and Tsz Wan Shan on 9 March.
- 727. Yellow-fronted Canary** (*Serinus mozambicus*)
One at Kowloon Park on 12 May and two there on 22 May.
- 730. Streaked Shearwater** (*Puffinus leucomelas*)
Three for sale by a hawker in Bowring Street, Kowloon on 28 December were apparently caught in a fishing net from vessels operating in or out of Tolo Harbour. This record further suggests that this species is regularly captured in small numbers by fishing vessels around December each year, perhaps because the birds move closer inshore at this time.
- 732. Grey-headed Parrotbill** (*Paradoxornis gularis*)
A flock of four feeding in bushes at Mount Nicholson on 5 January. One at Kowloon Park on 30 November and a flock of at least ten on the Eagles Nest Nature Trail on 11 December.
- 735. White-vented Mynah** (*Acridotheres javanicus (grandis)*)
Two at Mong Tseng on 5 March.
- 740. Fischer's Lovebird** (*Agapornis fischeri*)
At least four in Kowloon Park on 6 October (AC).

ADDENDUM TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 1979.

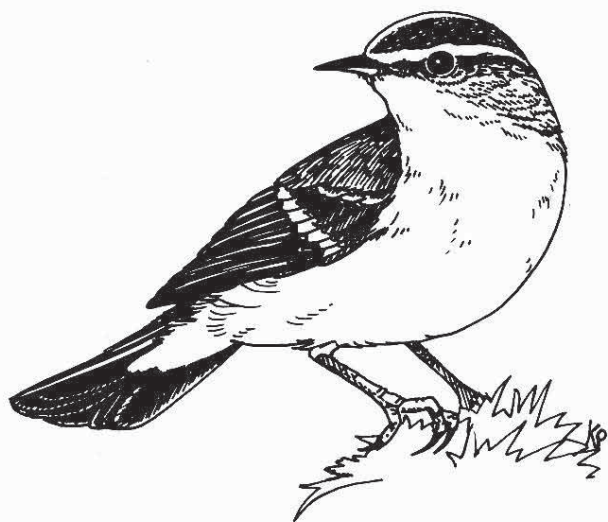
- 730. Streaked Shearwater** (*Puffinus leucomelas*)
About eight for sale in Bowring Street, Kowloon on 4 January.

ADDENDUM TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 1978

- 137. Curlew Sandpiper** (*Calidris ferruginea*)
Recorded in spring at Lok Ma Chau and Mai Po between 25 March and 14 May with a maximum of 57 on 23 April. Also one at Shuen Wan on 30 April. The only autumn record was three at Lok Ma Chau on 10 September.
- 274.1 Blyth's Leaf-warbler** (*Phylloscopus reguloides*)
One watched at close quarters at Ho Sheung Heung after a society outing on 26 February 1978 (MAW, HGA, CAV, MLC et al.) and about five seen in Tai Po Kau Forestry Reserve on 28 December 1978 (HGA).
After considerable deliberation by the Records Committee the above sightings have been accepted as the first and second records of this species for Hong Kong. Comprehensive descriptions were submitted which satisfactorily ruled out all possibilities other than the closely related White-tailed (*Ph. davisoni*) or Blyth's Leaf-warblers (*Ph. reguloides*). The extent of white noted in the tail was not conclusive. Size and build indicated *reguloides*. However, the records were finally accepted on the basis of the characteristic three-note call which one observer reported as "chiff-chiff-chaff". La Touche states that the song of *Ph. reguloides fokiensis* is "chi-chi-chi", and this is repeated by both Ticehurst and Williamson. The Records Committee has not been able to locate any descriptions or recordings of the calls of *davisoni*, but if that species is subsequently shown to have a similar call the above records should be reviewed.
Blyth's Leaf-warbler has several races which occur from Kashmir east through the Himalayas to Nepal and south-west China, and from there across to the mountains of north-west Fujian and possibly further. In winter it descends to the lower elevations with some birds moving south into India, Burma and Indo-China. Cheng indicates that the race *fokiensis* is the most likely to winter in our area.

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Blyth's Leaf-warbler (*Phylloscopus reguloides*)
 Drawn: Karen Phillipps

FIELD IDENTIFICATION OF JUVENILE EAGLES

M. L. Chalmers

There are four species of "*Aquila*" eagles given by Webster (1975) as winter visitors to Hong Kong, viz. Imperial (*A. heliaca heliaca*), Steppe (*A. rapax nipalensis*), Spotted (*A. clanga*) and Golden (*A. chrysaetos daphanea*). Sub-specific races are taken from Cheng (1976). Juveniles of the first three can be confused and the following guidelines should assist field identification of birds seen in flight. Flight photographs of juvenile Imperial and Spotted Eagles taken at San Tin and Mai Po respectively are included in this report to illustrate the salient features. Although usually distinctive, juvenile Golden Eagles are also discussed briefly.

According to Cheng and Brown and Amandon (1968) this area is within the wintering range of Imperial and Spotted Eagles, and Steppe Eagles may pass through en route to wintering quarters further south-west. Golden Eagles are resident in the mountains of north, central, west and south-west China and may wander this far. Local records in recent years indicate that Imperial Eagles are by far the most frequently seen.

Table 1 Measurements

	Imperial	Steppe	Spotted	Golden	Ref.
Wing span	1900-2100*	1740-2600(?)	1550-1820*	2040-2200	4
	1900-2110	1920-2080	1585-1820		5
Wing	540- 634*	565- 645	482- 552*	600- 720	4
	540- 645	540- 650	490- 545		5
	562- 648	595	488- 552	630- 650	6
	554- 665	540- 650	485- 560	600- 720	8
Tail	260- 311*	-	233- 275*	305- 371*	4
	305	300	250- 265	333- 355	6
	244- 330	250- 290	218- 272	315- 365	8

* indicates juveniles or immatures only.

Note that adults are generally larger than juveniles or immatures, and females are generally larger than males.

Flight Silhouette

Wing and tail measurements are summarised in Table 1 from Cramp et al. (1980), Dementev and Gladkov (1969), La Touche (1931-34) and Weick and Brown (1980). There are broad over-laps in the shapes and sizes of the races of Imperial and Steppe Eagles occurring in south-east Asia, but Spotted is noticeably smaller. In flight its head projects less, the wings appear shorter and

broad, usually with a pronounced “secondary bulge” along the trailing edge and a marked indentation at the junction with the inner primaries, and the tail looks short in comparison and sometimes wedge-shaped. In active flight the wing beats according to Porter et al. (1978) are more pronounced with deeper down-strokes, and when gliding the wings are usually bowed with the primaries drooping below the horizontal. Even when soaring some wing droop is usually evident whereas Imperial and Steppe Eagles soar on level wings.

There is also a difference in wing formula which may be used if the spread primaries are examined carefully. The wing point on all three species is usually the fourth primary (measured ascendantly), but whereas the second longest primary is normally the third in Steppe and Imperial, it is usually the fifth in Spotted (Cramp et al., Dementev and Gladkov). The relatively shorter third primary in Spotted makes the wing tips appear more rounded than the squarer-cut of Imperial and Steppe Eagles.

However, these features must be used with caution as moult and wear, especially of the tail in these ground perching species, can be misleading. As an example, the photograph of the Imperial Eagle shows the left wing in moult with the first three new primaries not fully grown. Furthermore, the secondary bulge, often pronounced in juveniles, is usually absent in adults who tend to have more parallel-sided wings.

Golden Eagles differ from the other species in having relatively longer wings and tail. The tail almost equals the wing width, but the head does not protrude quite as much as the Imperial Eagle's. When soaring the wings appear oval-shaped due to the narrower hand, bulging secondaries and pinched effect near the body. Golden Eagles also tend to soar and glide with wings slightly raised and pressed forward in a shallow “V”.

Flight Pattern

Juvenile Golden Eagles are very distinctive in flight with dark brown upperparts and underparts and conspicuous white patches at the base of the inner primaries and outer secondaries and on the basal half of the tail. The white on the wing is usually more extensive below than above. At close range, the yellowish crown and nape are visible and contrast with the dark body plumage.

Juveniles of the other three species have similar striking patterns on their upperparts consisting of broad yellowish or whitish edges to the secondaries, greater and median coverts and tail which contrast with the dark brown flight feathers and greater coverts to give two or three parallel whitish bands across the upper surface of the wing together with whitish patches at the bases of the primaries and on the lower back, rump or upper tail. Although there is considerable variation between individuals, Steppe Eagles generally have the broadest and whitest bands and patches. However, the key to separating these species lies not in their upperparts but in their underwing and body patterns (fig. 1).

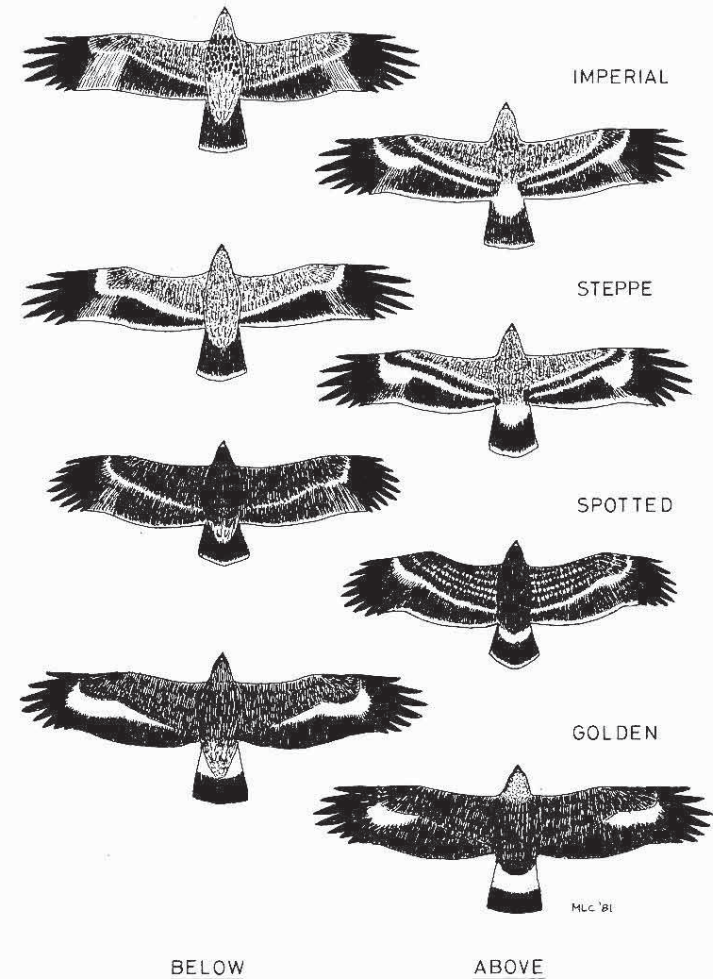


Fig. 1 Flight Patterns of Juvenile Eagles



Juvenile Imperial Eagle at San Tin (above) and
Juvenile Spotted Eagle at Mai Po (below)
Photo: (M.L. Chalmers)

Juvenile Imperial Eagles have a characteristic underwing pattern with the coverts *paler* than the underside of the flight feathers except for a lighter panel along the full length of the inner primaries. The head and body are pale yellowish-brown with broad dark *streaking* across the nape, sides of neck, breast and flanks. This is usually evident from below in good light as a broad streaked breast band. The back and both upper and lower wing coverts are also mottled or streaked.

Juvenile Steppe Eagles are similar except that the pale panel on the inner primaries is less distinct and the body and underwing coverts are *uniform* pale earthy brown ("café au lait") with *no streaking*. Probably the best field mark according to Porter et al. is the broad white line along the centre of the underwing formed by white tips to the greater and primary coverts. Juvenile Imperials and Spotted sometimes show pale lines in the same place but these are not usually so broad or distinct.

Spotted Eagles show an entirely different pattern from below with the underwing coverts slightly *darker* than the flight feathers and the head and body black-brown with a paler area around the vent. The body plumage has some buff streaking and a purplish sheen when seen in strong light. From above the head, back and wing coverts are black-brown compared to the pale brown of the other species, and the lesser upper wing coverts are marked with rows of whitish spots. There is also a rare pale form ("fulvescens") which is not considered here.

Soft Parts

All have yellow legs, feet and ceres, but these appear brighter in Spotted because of its darker background colouration. In particular, the yellow cere is often conspicuous.

Behaviour and Habitat

Golden Eagles are usually restricted to remote mountain areas whereas the other three species prefer lowland, marsh or estuarine habitats in winter and frequently rest on the ground for long periods. Here in Hong Kong most records refer to birds over the Deep Bay Marshes or in the border hills between Lok Ma Chau and Lo Wu.

Ageing

These eagles take at least five years to reach maturity. During this period there is a gradual transition from the juvenile to the darker and more uniform adult plumage. Intermediate plumages can be confusing and particular caution must be exercised when identifying such birds.

Conclusions

Of the four species considered, juvenile Golden and Spotted are the most distinctive and should normally be identifiable on size, shape and plumage. Juvenile Imperial and Steppe Eagles are more difficult to separate and careful examination of the underwing and body plumage is required in consideration with other features. Finally, it must be stressed that immature eagles are notoriously variable and it must be accepted that there will always be some birds which defy positive identification.

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FIELD IDENTIFICATION OF SNIPE IN HONG KONG

C.A. Viney

The three species of snipe considered in detail are:—

Fantail Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)
Pintail Snipe (*G. stenura*)
Swinhoe's Snipe (*G. megala*)

The Fantail Snipe is also known as the 'Common Snipe' or just 'Snipe' in Europe.

Two other species of snipe, the Jack Snipe (*Lymnocyptes minimus*) and Solitary Snipe (*G. solitaria*), have also rarely occurred in Hong Kong but are sufficiently distinctive and do not warrant detailed study. The Jack Snipe is small and has a relatively much shorter bill, whereas the Solitary Snipe is larger and paler than other snipe with virtually no black in the plumage. Latham's Snipe (*G. hardwickii*) migrates from Japan to Australia but has not been recorded with certainty on the Chinese mainland and is therefore disregarded.

Until 1976 most specific records of snipe published in the Hong Kong Bird Reports were of shot birds found in hunters' bags — sight records of the three species being lumped together. With the recent total hunting ban there have been virtually no satisfactory records of either Pintail or Swinhoe's Snipe for the past two or three years. During the seventies bird-watchers in Hong Kong became increasingly aware that Fantail Snipe could be identified in flight by the white trailing edge to the wing. This led to the somewhat erroneous assumption that snipe not clearly having this field mark were either Pintail or Swinhoe's Snipe.

The recognised method of specifically identifying snipe is by examination in the hand of the tail feathers. Pintail Snipe has a most distinctive tail consisting of 26 feathers, of which the outer eight or nine pairs are remarkably narrow and pin-like. Swinhoe's Snipe, apart from being considerably larger and heavier in the hand, has a similar tail but there are only six or seven pairs of narrow feathers which are less pin-like (see King et al. for a full summary of tail structures). Unfortunately moulting birds may lack full sets of feathers and without considerable experience it is sometimes difficult to be sure of the identity of a bird in this condition. Furthermore, it must be taken into account when examining birds in hunters' bags that tail feathers are often damaged or lost in shooting.

FIELD IDENTIFICATION

This is taken in three stages:—

- (1) Separation of Fantail Snipe.

- (2) Identification of Pintail and Swinhoe's Snipe as a group.
- (3) Pointers to the specific identification of Pintail and Swinhoe's Snipe in the field.

(1) FANTAIL SNIPE

The principal field identification points for Fantail Snipe are:—

- (i) clear white trailing edge to secondaries in flight
- (ii) white area on underwing in flight
- (iii) conspicuous pale longitudinal lines on the back
- (iv) heavily spotted breast
- (v) zigzagging flight when flushed, usually accompanied by a dry rasping call on rising.

The above points are subject to three reservations:—

- (a) Fantail Snipe (identified in the hand by tail structure) have been found without an obvious white trailing edge to the secondaries. This may be due to plumage variation or perhaps in the spring worn flight feathers. Plumage variation in snipe is well known, e.g. a well defined melanistic variety of the Fantail Snipe is the so-called 'Sabine's Snipe'.
- (b) Both Pintail and Swinhoe's Snipe have a very narrow white trailing edge to the secondaries which should just be visible in the field, particularly in the autumn.
- (c) The longitudinal lines on the back are known to be variable as in juveniles they are considerably narrower than in adults.

(2) PINTAIL/SWINHOE'S SNIPE GROUP

The common field characteristics of these two species when compared to Fantail Snipe are:—

- (i) heavy less rapid flight with little or no zigzagging
- (ii) lack of conspicuous white trailing edge to secondaries although under favourable conditions a very thin edge may be visible
- (iii) densely barred underwing
- (iv) duller upperparts with less conspicuous longitudinal lines on the back
- (v) tertiaries nearly reach the end of the primaries on the closed wing
- (vi) flanks heavily barred
- (vii) buffish breast narrowly and indistinctly barred brown

(3) SWINHOE'S SNIPE FROM PINTAIL SNIPE

The following points separate Swinhoe's Snipe from Pintail Snipe:—

- (i) larger size
- (ii) slower, very heavy flight with no zigzagging
- (iii) yellowish legs to a varying degree (as against dark greenish for both Pintail and Fantail Snipe)
- (iv) paler head markings
- (v) white sides to the tail visible on some birds
- (vi) invariably silent when flushed

Additionally, La Touche states that the buff-brown edges to the scapulars are very broad when compared to Pintail Snipe and this is also suggested by Madge but as stated under Fantail Snipe this is likely variable with age. Herklots implies that there is less contrast on the wing of Swinhoe's Snipe (only the primary coverts narrowly tipped white) but this is at variance with Madge who says that the wing coverts are as pale as those of Pintail Snipe. La Touche describes the upper plumage of Swinhoe's Snipe as duller than Pintail Snipe and duPont describes it as grey-brown but Madge considers that Swinhoe's Snipe would have a more contrasting appearance in flight. Field observations of Swinhoe's Snipe in Hong Kong during April have indicated distinctly grey-brown upperparts, including the flight feathers, lacking any obvious rich or dark colouration.

The following points help to distinguish Pintail Snipe:—

- (i) although the flight is direct it will often zigzag briefly on rising
- (ii) often calls when flushed — 'rasping, rather nasal squak' (King)
- (iii) paler rump than Fantail Snipe
- (iv) most Pintail Snipe have suspended primary moult (Prater et al. and skins in the collection of Dr. Boonsong Lekagul, per D.S. Melville). This could be seen as a contrast in primary feathers in flight, i.e. dark inner primaries as against light outer primaries in autumn/early winter.

HABITAT

Herklots states that Swinhoe's Snipe have a fondness for drier ground and are not usually found in paddyfields preferring marshy ground and the borders of streams. Several recent records of Swinhoe's Snipe in Hong Kong have in fact been from drier ground. Pintail Snipe are catholic in their choice of habitat occurring both on drier ground, particularly favouring fields of crops, and in very wet areas such as paddyfields. Fantail Snipe occur mostly in wet marshy areas and especially along the edges of fish ponds. However, analysis of the records indicates that during migration habitat preference is not a particularly reliable key to identification.

OCCURRENCE IN HONG KONG

An examination of the records of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society has provided the following information:—

1. FANTAIL SNIPE. Extreme dates are until 28 May and from 23 August. Records are generally well spread within this period and this species may be regarded as a winter visitor and passage migrant. Usually arrives in late August and odd birds linger into May.
2. PINTAIL SNIPE. Extreme dates are until 30 April and from 13 August. Most definite records (dead birds) are for the autumn (late August to mid-October) suggesting a strong passage particularly in the first two weeks of September, but it should be stressed that this coincides with the start of the old hunting season. However, there are comparatively few April records and even fewer winter records.
3. SWINHOLE'S SNIPE. Extreme dates are 25 March to 4 May (15 definite records) and 15 August to 18 October (11 definite records). A clear passage migrant — there are no satisfactory records outside of these periods.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My thanks to M.L. Chalmers, G.C.H. Cooper, R. Ferguson, D.S. Melville and C.D. Weidemann for providing information on personal field observations and reading over the text and making valuable comment.

SUMMARY

With a good view field identification of Fantail Snipe should not cause any problems. However, specific identification of non-Fantail Snipe is much more difficult but with experience Swinhole's Snipe should be separable in the field from Pintail Snipe by:—

- (i) larger size
- (ii) heavier more direct flight
- (iii) duller upperparts
- (iv) yellowish legs and
- (v) lack of call when flushed (usually).

Habitat preference is apparently not a reliable identification factor. In Hong Kong Swinhole's Snipe is a passage migrant.

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RECORDS

Recording

One of the most important functions of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society is the publication of the Hong Kong Bird Report. The value of this publication depends entirely on members submitting records and all members are encouraged to submit records at the end of each year.

The Society provides 152×106mm record cards for use by members and it will greatly facilitate analysis and storage if these are used rather than pieces of paper or other cards. Cards are available from the Hon. Recorder. Completed cards are stored in a species-indexed filing system at the Zoology Department, *Hong Kong University* and members wishing to look at past records are asked to contact the Hon. Recorder. It is hoped that the ease with which records can be retrieved will result in interested people analysing migration patterns and population trends and undertaking other studies.

Nest Record Card are also available from the Recorder for reporting breeding data.

The Society also maintains a Register of Ornithological Sites. Standard forms are available to record the numbers and varieties of birds seen throughout the year at sites of special interest.

Recently it has also been agreed that the Recorder will maintain a collection of reports submitted by members on birds seen during their visits to other parts of South-east Asia to assist others in planning overseas trips.

Rarities

While the birds of Hong Kong are better known than those of many other areas of the Far East, new species are continually being added to the Hong Kong list and the status of many other species is uncertain.

Field identification techniques for species in the area still need refining and the Society has a Records Committee to assist the Hon. Recorder in the unenviable task of assessing records and ensuring that a high standard of observation is maintained. A list of species considered by the Committee is given below. The list may seem dauntingly long and to include some unmistakable species such as Oystercatcher. However, all members are requested to submit field descriptions of the birds listed.

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

- (a) Date, time, location of sighting.
- (b) Power of binoculars/telescope used, distance of bird from observer, weather and light conditions.

- (c) Description of habitat and what other birds (if any) it was associated with.
- (d) Whether you saw it from different angles; at rest, in flight, swimming etc.; from above or below. (The more varied the conditions the better).
- (e) What were its actions and what was the character of its flight compared with other birds.
- (f) Its general shape and structure as compared with other birds e.g. size and shape of bill, length of legs, shape of wing, length of tail.
- (g) Colour of bill, legs, feet and iris.
- (h) So far as possible, an exact description of the whole plumage of the bird, not only those parts which you think may help in identifying it. A rough sketch or diagram is a great help.
- (i) Any calls or notes, indicating especially the quality of the sound (harsh, rattling, shrill, hoarse, liquid etc.) and comparison with notes of other species.
- (j) Note on previous experience with the species or species with which it may be confused.

If possible try and get someone else to see the bird as two descriptions are better than one. *Make sure that you take full field notes on the spot* — it is all too easy to imagine field marks after consulting a book!

Even if you do not know what the bird is please send in the description as it may be possible for the Committee to identify it for you. It should be remembered that many species of cage birds have been recorded as escapes in Hong Kong and they may not be included in any of the local books.

The increasing number of field guides on the market often make positive identification appear all too easy, but it must be remembered that there are still many difficult species and groups of birds and it is only by careful painstaking observation that such species can be identified.

Species for which written descriptions of all sightings must be submitted to the Recorder for consideration by the Records Committee

The following list is based on An Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Hong Kong, Webster 1975, and subsequent Hong Kong Bird Reports up to 1980. In many cases brief notes added to the record cards describing the salient features, ranges and viewing conditions will suffice. However, full descriptions are required for the rarer or more difficult species, or any new species not yet on the Hong Kong list. In addition the Recorder may request descriptions of other species under unusual circumstances. Records submitted without descriptions may not be considered.

CATEGORY A

Red-throated Diver
Red-necked Grebe
Swinhoe's Fork-tailed Petrel
Spotted-billed Pelican
all frigate-birds
Von Schrenck's Little Bittern
Japanese Night Heron
Lesser Egret
Swinhoe's Egret (away from Yim Tso Ha)
White Stork
Glossy Ibis
Baikal Teal
Mandarin
Scaup
Baer's Pochard
Tufted Duck
Common Pochard
Goldeneye
Ruddy Shelduck
Lesser Whistling Teal
Cotton Teal
all geese
Japanese Sparrowhawk
Goshawk
Horsfield's Goshawk
Golden Eagle
Steppe Eagle
Spotted Eagle
Grey-faced Buzzard Eagle
Pied Harrier
Hen Harrier
White-legged Falconet
Merlin
all button-quails
all crakes
Oystercatcher
Common Ringed Plover
Oriental Plover
Harting's Ringed Plover
Little Whimbrel
snipe (other than Fantail)
Asiatic Dowitcher
Bar-tailed Godwit
Common Gull
Nordmann's Greenshank
Glaucous Gull
Slaty-backed Gull
Brown-headed Gull
Great Black-headed Gull
Saunders' Gull
all skuas
Common Tern
Black-naped Tern
Greater Crested Tern

Sooty Tern
Ancient Auk
Bar-tailed Cuckoo-dove
Cuckoo
Himalayan Cuckoo
Hodgson's Hawk-cuckoo
Drongo-cuckoo
all owls (other than Collared Scops)
all nightjars
White-throated Needletail
Crested Kingfisher
Blue-tailed Bee-eater
all woodpeckers
Chinese Pitta
Small Skylark
all house martins
Chinese Great Grey Shrike
Tiger Shrike
Bull-headed Shrike
Chestnut-cheeked Starling
Purple-backed Starling
Greater Cuckoo-shrike
Grey-throated Minivet
Rosy Minivet
Sooty Flycatcher
White-bellied Yuhina
Lanceolated Warbler
Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler
Pale-legged Willow-warbler
Styan's Grasshopper Warbler
Crowned Willow-warbler
Blyth's Leaf-warbler
Yellow-eyed Flycatcher-warbler
Yellow-breasted Willow-warbler
Fulvous-faced Flycatcher-warbler
Chestnut-crowned Warbler
David's Hill-warbler
Japanese Robin
White-capped Redstart
Pallas's Blue Robin
Chestnut-breasted Rock-thrush
Slaty-backed Forktail
Brown Dipper
Siberian Thrush
Red-headed Tit
Wren
Water Pipit
Petchora Pipit
Siskin
Citrine Wagtail
Reed Bunting
Yellow-browed Bunting
Yellow-throated Bunting

CATEGORY B

all

CATEGORY C

none

CATEGORY D

none

CATEGORY E

all, other than most obvious escapes

CATEGORY F

all

A PRELIMINARY SURVEY OF THE BIRD TRADE IN HONG KONG

David S. Melville *

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* Formerly: Fauna Conservation Section, Agriculture and Fisheries Department, Hong Kong.

Present address: 44 The Ridgeway, Tonbridge, Kent TN10 4NJ, England.

All opinions expressed in this report are those of the author and must not be taken as the official views of the Agriculture and Fisheries Department.

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INTRODUCTION

Hong Kong has long been known as an important centre for the trade in live animals. Public interest was aroused following a B.B.C. radio documentary broadcast in the U.K. in December 1973 which focused on the trade and in particular the cruelty which was associated with it (Penn 1973). Other reports (Llewellyn 1973, Webster 1975a, 1975b, 1975c, 1977) have considered both the problems of cruelty and the wider conservation aspects.

In recent years new legislation and stricter enforcement have resulted in a somewhat improved situation (I.U.C.N. 1979) although there is still room for improvement. There are loopholes in some of the legislation and there is a shortage of trained enforcement staff.

The following report, which summarises current knowledge concerning the bird trade in and through Hong Kong, is based on observations by a number of interested people and on information collected by the Agriculture & Fisheries Department during routine licensing and enforcement activities. It is far from complete as there are many aspects of the trade for which there is little information available but it is hoped that it will form a basis for future studies.

LEGISLATION RELATING TO THE BIRD TRADE

The Public Health (Animals and Birds) Ordinance Cap. 139 and the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations give legislative control of the animal trade. Any person trading in animals (including birds) requires a licence issued by the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries and may only trade from a licenced premises — hawking of animals is prohibited.

The Public Health (Animals and Birds) Regulations and the 'Code of Standards for Licensed Animal Traders' govern the conditions under which the animals must be kept (adequate food, potable water, shelter, perches etc.) and these are reinforced by the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance Cap. 169 and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations.

With the exception of those arriving from China, animals being imported to Hong Kong can only be landed in accordance with a 'special permit' issued under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) Regulations and must be accompanied by a health certificate from the country of origin. All shipments requiring a special permit are inspected on arrival.

Animals for export are only covered by a health certificate if the importing country requires one. Health certificates are issued by private veterinarians, and endorsed by a government veterinarian if requested. Shipments for export are not usually inspected at the point of departure, unless specifically required by the importing country (e.g. U.S.A.).

Species listed under the Animals and Plants (Protection of Endangered Species) Ordinance Cap. 187 may only be imported, possessed or exported in accordance with a licence issued by the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries. This legislation, which is based on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Washington 1973 (C.I.T.E.S.) was introduced in August 1976. Following the C.I.T.E.S. meeting in Berne (1976) the schedules of species were revised in June 1978 (Anon no date), however, as yet, the additional revisions to the C.I.T.E.S. Appendices agreed at "The second meeting of the Conference of the Parties" in San Jose, 19-30 March 1979 have not been incorporated into the Hong Kong legislation. Prior to the introduction of this Ordinance some control had been exercised under the Animals and Birds (Restriction of Importation and Possession) Ordinance which listed over 100 bird species including *Falco peregrinus*, the rarer pheasants and cranes and all birds of paradise.

In Hong Kong all wild birds, their nests and eggs are fully protected under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance Cap. 170.

ORIGINS AND DESTINATIONS OF BIRDS

A certain amount of illegal trapping occurs in Hong Kong. For example waterbirds (egrets, ducks, rails, waders) are caught in monofilament nylon mist nets, *Garrulax canorus* and *Francolinus pintadeanus* are snared and *Zosterops japonica* is caught in Chardonneret traps. Nonetheless, it is considered that the total number of local birds entering the market must be a very small proportion of the total volume of trade.

The majority of birds entering Hong Kong come from China, but there are imports of varying quantity from South-east Asia, Africa, South America and Europe. A number of Australian parrots have been recorded despite a ban on exports from that country.

Almost all birds entering Hong Kong appear to be wild caught. In November 1979 the 'special permit' for the importation of animals and birds was revised to include the following:—

TERMS

The animals/birds must be accompanied by an official veterinary health certificate from the country of origin dated not more than 72 hours before departure from that country, and signed by a veterinary officer in the full time employment of the Government of the country of origin, which must include the following certification in English:—

- (e) that the animals/birds were ALL BRED AND REARED IN CAPTIVITY; and in the case of birds the eggs from which they were hatched were laid in captivity by parents which had been reared in captivity; and in the case of mammals that they had been born to parents which had been reared in captivity;
- (f) that the export of these animals/birds from the country of origin does not contravene any laws of that country;

These permit terms are not enforced at present but a number of exporters are starting to comply with the requirements. Examples of the sort of certification being submitted are given in Appendix IV*. The terms of the special permit are currently under review and certain revisions are anticipated, especially with regard to allowing the importation of wild caught birds captured under licence in the country of origin.

Most birds recorded as being exported from Hong Kong go to Taiwan. Smaller numbers go to Europe, the Middle East, Africa, South Africa, South America and South-east Asia. Previously small numbers also went to the U.S.A. (Appendix II). Large numbers are exported to Japan but at present it is not possible to quantify this trade (see below).

SPECIES TRADED

Over 400 species have been recorded as being traded in or through Hong Kong — these are listed in Appendix I. Some of these species are regularly imported in large numbers (e.g. *Garrulax canorus* and *Zosterops japonica*), while others may have only been recorded once (e.g. *Grus monacha*, one of which was imported in April 1974 with a shipment of *Grus grus*, apparently by mistake (Webster 1975b)). Over the years there have been a number of changes in the species traded, some of which are listed by Webster (1975b).

Webster (1975b) noted that “an enquiry for Lord Derby’s Parakeets *Psittacula derbiana* (Fraser) produced the reply that the minimum order would be 5,000 birds, as a special expedition would have to be mounted to get them”. In October 1975 one local trader wrote to a dealer in the U.S.A. stating that China could supply 10,000 *Psittacula derbiana* per ‘season’ (apparently the winter), but that it would only be possible to obtain this species if buyers could be found to take the whole consignment. It was claimed that “they never export this birds to Hongkong from 1956 to now”. This species appeared in Hong Kong in late 1978 and has been recorded subsequently in numbers totalling several hundred (one shipment of 100 was exported to France in 1979). This species “is endemic in the Sino-Himalayan region as it is distributed only from western Szechuan and northwestern Yunnan, (about 1,700 km from Hong Kong), west to south-eastern Tibet as far as the Tsangpo Valley and the Passum Tso” (Vaurie 1972). Due to the remoteness of this area little is known about the ecology of the species and thus it is not possible to assess the likely impact of trapping on wild populations.

Recently *Mergus squamatus* was offered for sale by one local dealer at US\$500/pair, but there is no evidence that this species has ever been traded through Hong Kong. It is described as “very rare” by Cheng *et al.* (1979).

Another notable feature has been the increase in terms of numbers of both species and individuals of South American parrots imported in the late 1970’s.

*Footnote: Since these terms only relate to ‘special permits’ they do not cover animals/birds imported from China.

VOLUME OF TRADE

The number of animal traders licenced to sell birds increased from 135 in 1976 to 181 in 1979. Most traders only deal in birds but some are also licenced to trade in mammals and reptiles.

There are a variety of ways of assessing the number of birds entering and leaving Hong Kong but all are unsatisfactory.

- (a) The ‘special permits’ required for landing animals state the number and species to be imported but, as already noted, they are not required for species arriving from China and frequently the number of birds stated on the permit is far in excess of the numbers actually imported.
- (b) All shipments covered by ‘special permits’ are inspected on arrival and the inspecting officer records the number of each type of bird. This presents a fairly accurate assessment of the number of birds imported from countries other than China, with the exception of some shipments arriving by sea, when only the larger shipments are normally reported to the Agriculture and Fisheries Department by the Customs and Excise Service.
- (c) When health certificates are issued for export the number of each species is declared and is probably fairly accurate, but will tend to be on the high side — certification fees being charged per certificate rather than related to the number of birds or species covered. As noted earlier, certificates are only issued if required by the importing country. Conversations with local traders indicate that Japan is a major market for birds from Hong Kong, however health certificates were issued for only 506 birds in 1979 (Table 3). Commercial shipments of birds from Hong Kong to Japan are quarantined in Japan and Hong Kong Government health certificates are not required.
- (d) The Code of Standards for Licensed Animal Traders requires that:—
“A register will be kept of all animals & birds which are taken into stock by breed and species and the register will be in the form as follows.

Date	Species of animals or birds	No. taken into stock	From whom purchased	No. sold	No. died
------	-----------------------------------	-------------------------	------------------------	----------	----------

This register will be available for inspection by any authorised officer at all reasonable times.”

This requirement is only enforced with respect to importers and wholesalers. It is not enforced for small traders (one reason being that it is claimed that a number of these traders are illiterate and so unable to keep records).

The Code of Standards also requires that:—

“A quarterly return will be submitted to the Director (of Agriculture and Fisheries) on 31st March, 30th June, 30th September, 31st December of all animals & birds imported by the licensee from areas outside the colony of Hong Kong including China using the following form.

Date Imported	Species of animal or bird	Number	Country of Origin
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Since the keeping of a register is not strictly enforced it is clear that not all traders will be in a position to submit quarterly returns. In recent years only the four largest importers of animals from China (Shing Lee Hong, Hip Shing Hong, Kenton and Kung Lee Laan) have been required to submit monthly returns — all other traders have been exempt. Since late 1979 the situation has been tightened and currently nine bird traders are required to submit monthly returns (Tak Fung, Hong Kong Bird Shop, Lau Bing Cheung, Ying Kee, Hip Shing Hong, Jordan Bird Shop, Summer Palace, Shing Lee Hong and Kowloon Zoo — Kenton has been closed).

The problem of trying to identify the species involved is universal. Officers inspecting shipments can reasonably be expected to identify the more common species but lack of suitable training and adequate reference material preclude identification of many of the less common species. Most traders are seldom able to identify more than the most common species, and then only using Chinese names. This is reflected in the registers and returns, thus for example all ducks are listed as “wild duck” or “teal”, no attempt being made to identify species. For the less common species the situation is even more hopeless, for example a specimen of *Foudia eminentissima* was simply described as “Red Bird”. In another case a trader wrote on an invoice for an overseas shipment “If above birds are not Goshawk, please deduct the amount ...”.

A study of the inspection reports for 1979 revealed that 72,933 birds entered Hong Kong from countries other than China (Table 1 and Appendix III). Imports of “food” birds from China in 1979 totalled 298,146 (Table 2), but figures for song birds are not available. During the same period health certificates were issued for the export of 614,248 birds, almost all the which were song birds (Table 3 and Appendix V). (These figures exclude small numbers of birds imported and exported by two local zoological gardens: Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens and Ocean Park).

Rounding off these figures and assuming that all birds imported (other than food birds) were re-exported it would appear that imports of song birds from China totalled 540,000 (614,000 — 74,000). However it must be remembered that only 506 birds were recorded as being exported to Japan, whereas the actual number must have been very much higher than this *. Also there were probably additional exports to other countries which do not require a Hong Kong Government health certificate **. Additionally considerable numbers of song birds imported from China are sold locally



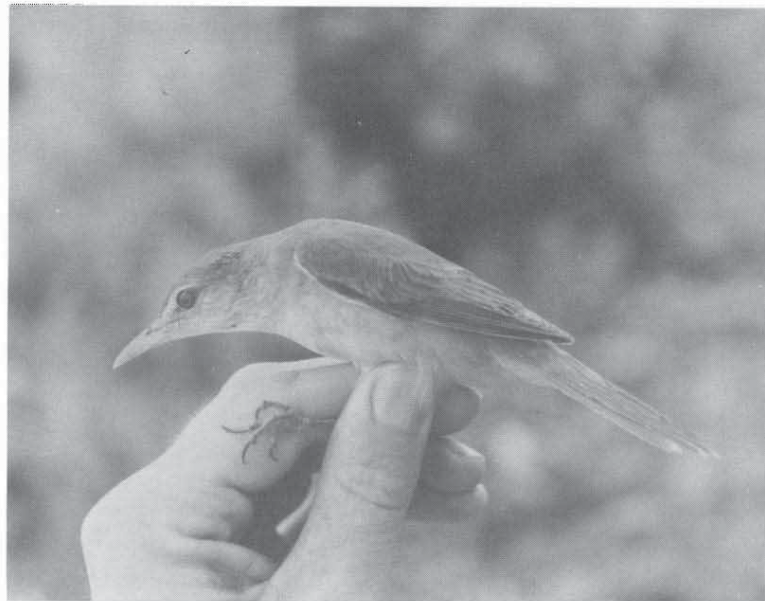
Fantail Warbler (*Cisticola juncidis*) at San Tin
Photo: (H.G. Ackford)



Baer's Pochard (*Aythya baeri*) at Arundel Wildfowl Trust
Photo: (J. Swift)



White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia boyciana*) at Mai Po
Photo: (R.P. Tipper)



Great Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*) mist-netted at Mai Po
Photo: (M.L. Chalmers)

(in the order of tens of thousands) and not all birds imported from elsewhere are re-exported. It seems likely that total imports from China during 1979 (including food birds) were at least 1,000,000 birds and, depending on the number going to Japan, could have been considerably larger. This places China amongst the largest exporters of birds in the world (cf. Inskipp & Gammell 1979). It is noteworthy that Chinese scientists recently expressed concern over the current exploitation of wildlife resources in their country (Appendix VIII).

In 1975 it was reported that a total of 695,000 birds were imported into Hong Kong, 95% of which came from China (Agriculture and Fisheries Department figures quoted by Webster in Inskipp & Thomas 1976). The apparent increase in the volume of trade between 1975 and 1979 may be real, as evidenced by the increase in licensed traders but, as noted above, the methods of assessing the trade are very crude and comparable methods were not used in both years.

UTILIZATION

A popular Chinese saying is "If an animal moves with its back to the sky it is edible". Beside their basic food value and flavour many animal species have been traditionally accredited with medicinal properties. Examples have been given by Herklots (1967) and Webster (1975d, 1975b, 1975c) and can be found in books concerning Chinese traditions (e.g. Williams 1941). Although animal-based medicines appear to be unimportant in popular medicine in modern China (Anon 1977), they do still feature in modern medical texts (Anon 1980c), and still seem to have a considerable following in Hong Kong (Anon 1980a).

Most waterfowl are imported as food (medicine), it being believed that wild duck contain more "goodness" than their domestic progeny. *Aix galericulata* and *Tadorna ferruginea* are sold as ornamental waterfowl.

Most of the birds of prey (Falconiformes and Strigiformes) formerly imported were for consumption in Hong Kong although small numbers were re-exported (enquiries were received by a local trader from two dealers in Palma de Mallorca and one in Madrid wishing to purchase Accipiters and falcons). Since the import, possession and export of all birds of prey

* "Mr. Yoshii (Japan) reported that the number of birds annually imported into Japan ran into millions" (Anon 1979). In 1976 Japan imported 268,121 birds from Hong Kong, 9% of the total birds imported (Wild Bird Society of Japan 1978 — details in Appendix VII).

** The limitations of using issued health certificates to monitor exports is indicated by figures for *Leiothrix lutea*: in 1979 health certificates were issued for the export of 40,451 (Appendix V), however in November 1979 (the main month for imports) three of the largest traders imported just over 60,000 (information from stock registers inspected in 1980). It is considered most unlikely that the balance of about 20,000 birds was absorbed by the local market as this species is not a popular cage bird in Hong Kong.

was restricted in November 1976 few have appeared on the local market but a number have been smuggled through Hong Kong to Japan. In 1975 (before trade was restricted) a shipment of 300 *Falco cherrug* was sent to Japan "for falconry". However, in 1977 there were only three members of the Hawking Club of Japan and none were known to have specimens of *F. cherrug* — presumably the birds were re-exported or kept as pets/status symbols.

Small numbers of *Grus grus* are eaten in Hong Kong and a number are exported. The rarer *Grus* species are smuggled out for public and private zoological collections.

Pheasants may be imported for food or ornamental purposes, while rails, herons, egrets, shorebirds, doves and coucals are imported for food.

Most other species are imported as cage/song birds, however buntings and munias may also be eaten — the early winter delicacy "rice birds" are traditionally *Emberiza aureala* but now probably include a variety of other species. The keeping of cage birds is a popular pastime in Hong Kong and many of the birds imported end up in local homes. Some, especially *Garrulax canorus* and *Copsychus saularis*, are used for "bird fighting" (Rocha 1976). Large numbers of cage/song birds are also exported (cf. Webster 1975b).

TRANSPORT

Birds arriving from China arrive by land or sea (one shipment by air in 1979). Most other imports come by air except for a few birds, mostly parrots, which are brought in by ships' crew members (one shipment of 3,000 "Green Singing Finch" (probably *Serinus mozambicus*) arrived by sea in 1979). Exports are almost entirely by air but some birds may be sent by sea to Japan.

During 1979 eleven airlines were recorded as transporting birds into Hong Kong:—

Airline		I.A.T.A. Status
AI	Air-India	Issuing
BA	British Airways	Issuing
CNAC	China National Aviation Corporation	—
CI	China Airlines	Participating
CX	Cathay Pacific	Participating
GA	P.N. Garuda Indonesian Airways	Issuing
KL	KLM Royal Dutch Airlines	Issuing
LH	Deutsche Lufthansa	Issuing
SA	South African Airways	Issuing
SQ	Singapore Airlines	Participating
TG	Thai Airways International	Participating

Six of these airlines are Issuing International Air Transport Association (I.A.T.A.) Carriers and four are parties to the "I.A.T.A. Interline Traffic Agreement-Cargo", and thus bound by the provisions of the I.A.T.A. Live Animals Regulations (I.A.T.A. 1978), compliance with which is also a legal requirement under the 'special permit' issued under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) Regulations*.

MORTALITY

There is little information concerning mortality among birds traded through Hong Kong. This information should be available from the stock registers kept by the traders but, as already noted above, not all traders keep registers, and in any case they are not required to advise the enforcement agency of the numbers of birds dying.

Mortality among birds arriving in Hong Kong by air is usually slight (one exception in 1979 being a consignment of 100 Guineafowl from Japan, 47 of which were dead on arrival), but it is not uncommon to find dead birds in the shops. Not surprisingly, nestlings and recently fledged birds (many of which are imported from Indonesia), suffer the most. Malnutrition is probably not uncommon. Even rare, and thus valuable, birds such as *Grus vipio* have been found to be very emaciated.

Higgins (1972) and Llewellyn (1973) found that birds of prey arriving in Hong Kong were suffering from sinusitis, Newcastle disease, pasteurellosis, salmonella, aspergillosis, Arizona and pneumonia.

Physical injury is most common among 'food' species. In the mid-1970s most wild geese arriving in Hong Kong had broken wings and this appeared to result from deliberate actions, presumably to prevent the birds from flying if they escaped. Raptors commonly had their bills intentionally broken.

As noted earlier export shipments are not usually checked at the airport. On one occasion when a check was made (on 17 December 1976) a total of four crates containing 20 *Grus grus* were found. The crates were inadequately constructed and food and water was not provided. The two traders responsible (China Wildlife and Kowloon Zoo) were subsequently fined HK\$900 and HK\$350 respectively.

Casual observations in the past two years suggest that most shipments are in I.A.T.A. recommended style crates but overcrowding is common and mortality still occurs, sometimes on a large scale. One dealer had considerable mortality among shipments of *Zosterops* sp. to Japan, apparently because he was providing unsuitable food. One *Grus vipio* sent to Tokyo in February 1978 "have injured on his legs when arrived and dead soon . . ." and crates for shipping cranes seldom have any padding on the

* Term 3. "The animals/birds must be carried and packed (with labels) in accordance with the current Live Animals Regulations of IATA (International Air Transport Association) and in such a way as to ensure humane treatment at all times."

inside of the roof, thus increasing the likelihood of the birds receiving scalp injuries. Other examples of mortality among birds sent to Japan and England are given in Appendix V.

Clapp & Banks (1973b) did not record any dead birds arriving in the U.S.A. from Hong Kong in 1971 (total number shipped = 5991). Figures given by Nilsson (1977) for birds imported into the U.S.A. in 1976 show that 103,814 birds were either refused entry, were dead on arrival or died in quarantine. This figure represented 36.7% of the total number of birds offered for importation in that year and included a total of 726 *Leiothrix lutea* (probably originating from Hong Kong), of which 213 died in quarantine.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

A detailed summary of the trade in 'endangered' bird species has been presented elsewhere (Melville 1980).

The most notable effect of the introduction of trade controls under the Animals and Plants (Protection of Endangered Species) Ordinance has been the stopping of imports of birds of prey for food. In 1975 traders reported importing 7,075 Falconiformes and 9,486 Strigiformes, and figures for 1976 were 4,273 and 3,816 respectively — some of which will have been imported before the legislation became effective on 6 August 1976. In 1977 235 Falconiformes and 33 Strigiformes were reported to have been imported. Since 1977 there have been no reports of imports, and birds of prey are no longer for sale openly but at least one trader has been involved in smuggling considerable numbers to Japan — nearly 300 being exported in a 14 month period.

The importation of the rare *Grus* species has been controlled since 1 January 1974 but there has been a flourishing illicit trade, especially in *Grus vipio*. At least 21 are known to have been smuggled through Hong Kong to Japan and Holland between 1976 and 1978 and another 21 have been confiscated in Hong Kong. One bird described as *Grus monacha* was sent to Japan. (Two birds described as *Grus nigricollis* sent to Holland were, in fact, *Grus grus*, G. Archibald pers. comm.).

Live specimens of *Pitta brachyura* and *Leucopsar rothschildi* have been confiscated as have skins of *Paradisaea apoda* and *P. minor* and casques of *Rhinoplax vigil*, but the volume of trade in these species appears to be small.

DEAD BIRDS, PARTS AND DERIVATIVES

Little attention has been paid to the trade in dead birds, parts and derivatives. At present it is not possible to quantify this trade (except for feathers — see below) but details of species recorded for sale are given in Appendix VII.

As with the live bird trade, a number of species are imported from China for food/medicine and can be found for sale quite commonly. In the past few years an increasing number of mounted bird skins have been

imported from China to be sold as educational aids — the standard of taxidermy is generally poor and the specimens unlabelled.*

Hong Kong has a large trade in feathers and feather products. Details of imports, exports and re-exports for 1978 and 1979 are given in Appendix X. Unfortunately there is no information available on the species involved and this requires further study, but it is considered that most feathers come from domestic ducks, geese and chickens.

Formerly feathers from wild birds were exported from China in large quantities (Cheng, Pao-lai 1963). As recently as the mid-1970's bird of prey feathers were advertised and sales lists included most of the raptors known to occur in China. Primary feathers of *Buteo buteo* were exported to Japan for making arrow flights for archery. The uses of other raptor feathers is unknown, but Cheng Tso-hsin (1963) notes that many can be used for making fans and for ornamental purposes.

SUMMARY

Hong Kong has long had a flourishing trade in live birds, which are imported principally for food (most of which are consumed locally) and as cage birds (many of which are re-exported). Over 400 species have been recorded in trade in Hong Kong. In 1975 it was estimated that 695,000 birds were imported, 95% of which came from China.

In 1979 298,146 "food birds" were reported to have been imported from China and 72,933 birds (mostly cage birds) were imported from countries other than China. It is estimated that an absolute minimum of 540,000 cage birds were imported from China. Taking into account the local market for cage birds and the very large, but as yet unquantified, trade with Japan it is probable that at least 1,000,000 birds were imported from China in 1979 and, depending on the number re-exported to Japan, this figure could have been considerably larger. This places China among the largest exporters of birds in the world.

In 1979 birds were imported from at least 20 countries and re-exports were recorded to 19 countries. Some illegal trading of C.I.T.E.S.-listed species continues.

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* Although 200 frozen *Gypaetus barbatus* and 300 *Aegypius monachus* have been exported from China to West Germany for taxidermy (Anon 1980b), there is no evidence that these birds passed through Hong Kong (R. Faust, pers. comm.). Zhang and Yang (1980) found *Gypaetus barbatus* to be more beneficial than harmful in Gansu Province, but noted that (in 1964/65) the local people considered it to be vermin, and that numbers had declined due to persecution.

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Fischer's Lovebird (*Agapornis fischeri*)
Drawn: Karen Phillipps

TABLE 1

BIRDS IMPORTED INTO HONG KONG IN 1979*

Country of origin	Number of birds	% Total
Indonesia	14,804	20.3
Senegal	13,700	18.8
Philippines	9,260	12.7
Malaysia	7,067	9.7
Taiwan	6,158	8.4
Singapore	5,464	7.5
Tanzania	4,728	6.5
South Africa	3,000	4.1
Thailand	2,921	4.0
India	2,582	3.5
Pakistan	1,000	1.4
Japan	650	0.9
Ghana	562	—
Paraguay	286	—
Argentina	272	—
Bolivia	230	—
Guyana	185	—
Belgium	44	—
Holland	20	—
Total	72,933	
	=====	

* information from inspection reports — excludes all imports from China

TABLE 2

IMPORTS OF FOOD BIRDS FROM CHINA 1976 — 1979*

	1976	1977	1978	1979	TOTAL
"Francolin"@	61,167	52,622	88,308	97,728	299,825
"Teal"	27,846	3,679	38,084	45,173	114,782
"Spotted Dove"	47,808	40,007	51,174	45,211	184,200
"Turtle Dove"	103,088	24,302	46,605	95,886	296,881
"Crow Pheasant"	38	60	37	61	196
"Pheasant"	214	0	383	2,469	3,066
"Bamboo Pheasant"	3,432	2,355	5,066	6,194	17,047
"Moorhen"	2,485	1,121	9	34	3,649
"Bittern"	882	735	1,339	2,820	5,776
"Night Heron"	346	432	447	1,293	2,518
"Wild Goose"	61	1,538	255	47	1,901
"Egret"	292	5,252	0	10	5,554
"Crane" +	26,179	2,548	5,995	1,220	35,942
TOTAL	273,838	134,651	237,702	298,146	944,337
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

* data from monthly returns submitted by Shing Lee Hong, Hip Shing Hong, Kenton and Kung Lee Laan.

@ names used by traders.

+ most of these are Ardeidae and not Gruidae, both groups being known in Cantonese as "Hok" (鶴).

TABLE 3

BIRDS EXPORTED FROM HONG KONG IN 1979*

Country of destination	Number of birds	% Total
Taiwan	501,415	81.6
Italy	34,446	5.6
Spain	21,960	3.6
Indonesia	19,054	3.1
Malaysia	16,468	2.7
Kuwait	8,770	1.4
Israel	5,740	0.9
Belgium	2,406	—
France	1,400	—
Austria	1,350	—
Japan +	506	—
Argentina	386	—
Kenya	240	—
Greece	55	—
Philippines	40	—
Thailand	6	—
Singapore	3	—
Brunei	2	—
French Guiana	1	—
Total	614,248	=====

* information from Health Certificates

+ this is a major underestimate — see text

APPENDIX I

LIST OF BIRDS RECORDED AS BEING TRADED IN OR THROUGH HONG KONG 1965-1980

Casuarus casuarus
Podiceps cristatus
Calonectris leucomelas
Pelecanus crispus
Pelecanus philippensis
Ardea cinerea
Ardea purpurea
Ardeola bacchus
Bubulcus ibis
Egretta alba
Egretta garzetta
Nycticorax nycticorax
Gorsachius goisagi
Botaurus stellaris
Ixobrychus sinensis
Dendrocygna javanica
Cygnus bewickii
Cygnus olor
Anser albifrons
Anser anser
Anser cygnoides
Anser erythropus
Anser fabalis
Tadorna ferruginea
Tadorna tadorna
Anas acuta
Anas clypeata
Anas crecca
Anas falcata
Anas formosa
Anas penelope
Anas platyrhynchos
Anas poecilorhynchos
Anas querquedula
Anas strepera
Aythya baeri
Aythya ferina
Aythya fuligula
Aythya marila
Aix galericulata
Bucephala clangula
Mergus albellus
Mergus serrator
Elanus caeruleus
Milvus migrans
Haliaeetus indus
Haliaeetus albicilla
Haliaeetus leucogaster
Neophron percnopterus
Aegypius monachus
Spilornis cheela
Circus aeruginosus
Accipiter gentilis
Accipiter gularis
Accipiter nisus
Accipiter trivirgatus
Accipiter virgatus
Butastur indicus

Australian Cassowary
Great Crested Grebe
White-faced Shearwater
Dalmatian Pelican
Spot-billed Pelican
Grey Heron
Purple Heron
Chinese Pond Heron
Cattle Egret
Great Egret
Little Egret
Black-crowned Night Heron
Japanese Night Heron
Eurasian Bittern
Chinese Little Bittern
Lesser Whistling Duck
Bewick's Swan
Mute Swan
White-fronted Goose
Greylag Goose
Swan Goose
Lesser White-fronted Goose
Bean Goose
Ruddy Shelduck
Shelduck
Pintail
Shoveler
Teal
Falcated Teal
Baikal Teal
Wigeon
Mallard
Spotbill Duck
Garganey
Gadwall
Baer's Pochard
Common Pochard
Tufted Duck
Scaup
Mandarin Duck
Goldeneye
Smew
Red-breasted Merganser
Black-shouldered Kite
Black Kite
Brahminy Kite
White-tailed Eagle
White-bellied Sea Eagle
Egyptian Vulture
Black Vulture
Crested Serpent Eagle
Marsh Harrier
Goshawk
Japanese Sparrowhawk
Sparrowhawk
Crested Goshawk
Besra
Grey-faced Buzzard Eagle

Buteo buteo
Buteo lagopus
Aquila chrysaetos
Aquila clanga
Aquila heliaca
Aquila rapax
Hieraetus fasciatus
Microhierax caeruleus
Falco cherrug
Falco columbarius
Falco peregrinus
Falco subbuteo
Falco tinnunculus
Falco vespertinus
Alectoris chukar/magna
Francolinus pintadeanus
Perdix daurica
Coturnix chinensis
Coturnix coturnix
Bambusicola thoracica
Lophura nympha
Phasianus colchicus
Chrysolophus pictus
Pavo sp.
Numida meleagris
Turnix tanki
Grus grus
Grus leucogeranus
Grus monacha
Grus nigricollis
Grus vipio
Rallus striatus
Porzana fusca
Porzana pusilla
Amurornis akool
Amurornis phoenicurus
Gallinula chloropus
Porphyrio porphyrio
Fulica atra
Rostratula benghalensis
Pluvialis dominica
Pluvialis squatarola
Charadrius lescheaultii
Numenius minutus
Xenus cinereus
Tringa erythropus
Tringa nebularia
Tringa totanus
Gallinago gallinago
Gallinago megala
Gallinago stenura
Arenaria interpres
Calidris canutus
Glareola maldivarum
Larus crassirostris
Larus ridibundus
Columba livia
Streptopelia chinensis
Streptopelia decaocto
Streptopelia orientalis
Streptopelia tranquebarica
Chalcophaps indica
Chalcopsitta duivenbodei
Eos bornea

Buzzard
Rough-legged Buzzard
Golden Eagle
Spotted Eagle
Imperial Eagle
Steppe Eagle
Bonelli's Eagle
Red-thighed Falconet
Saker Falcon
Merlin
Peregrine Falcon
Hobby
Kestrel
Red-footed Falcon

Chinese Francolin
Daurian Partridge
Painted Quail
Common Quail
Chinese Bamboo Partridge
Silver Pheasant
Ring-necked Pheasant
Golden Pheasant
Peafowl
Helmeted Guineafowl
Yellow-legged Button Quail
Crane
Siberian White Crane
Hooded Crane
Black-necked Crane
White-naped Crane
Banded Rail
Ruddy Crane
Baillon's Crane
Brown Crane
White-breasted Waterhen
Water Cock
Moorhen
Purple Swamp Hen
Coot
Painted Snipe
Lesser Golden Plover
Grey Plover
Greater Sandplover
Little Whimbrel
Terek Sandpiper
Spotted Redshank
Greenshank
Redshank
Fantail Snipe
Swinhoe's Snipe
Pintail Snipe
Turnstone
Knot
Oriental Pratincole
Black-tailed Gull
Black-headed Gull
Domestic Pigeon
Spotted Dove
Collared Turtle Dove
Rufous Turtle Dove
Red Turtle Dove
Emerald Dove
Brown Lory
Red Lory

Eos cyanogenia
Eos histrio
Eos reticulata
Eos squamata
Pseudeos fuscata
Trichoglossus flavoviridis
Trichoglossus goldiei
Trichoglossus haematodus
Trichoglossus ornatus
Trichoglossus rubiginosus
Lorius chlorocercus
Lorius garrulus
Lorius lory
Phigys solitarius
Charmosyna papou
Charmosyna pulchella
Probosciger aterrimus
Cacatua alba
Cacatua galerita
Cacatua goffini
Cacatua haematuropygia
Cacatua leadbeateri
Cacatua moluccensis
Cacatua sanguinea
Cacatua sulphurea
Nymphicus hollandicus
Opopsitta diophthalma
Opopsitta gulielmerti
Psittaculirostris desmarestii
Psittaculirostris edwardsii
Psittaculirostris salvadorii
Psittinus cyanurus
Geoffroyus simplex
Tanygnathus megalorhynchus
Tanygnathus sumatranus
Eclectus roratus
Alisterus amboinensis
Alisterus chloropterus
Aprosmictus erythropterus
Aprosmictus jonquilleaceus
Platycercus eximius
Platycercus flaveolus
Platycercus icterotis
Psephotus haematonotus
Melopsittacus undulatus
Psittacus erithacus
Poicephalus gulielmi
Agapornis cana
Agapornis personata
Agapornis roseicollis
Agapornis fischeri
Loriculus galgulus
Loriculus vernalis
Psittacula cyanocephala
Psittacula alexandri
Psittacula eupatria
Psittacula derbiana
Psittacula krameri
Psittacula roseata
Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus
Ara ararauna
Ara auricollis
Ara chloroptera
Ara macao
Ara maracana

Black-winged Lory
 Red-and-Blue Lory
 Blue-streaked Lory
 Violet-necked Lory
 Dusky Lory
 Yellow-and-Green Lory
 Goldie's Lorikeet
 Rainbow Lory
 Ornate Lory
 Ponape Lory
 Yellow-bibbed Lory
 Chattering Lory
 Black-capped Lory
 Collared Lory
 Papuan Lory
 Fairy Lory
 Palm Cockatoo
 White Cockatoo
 Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
 Goffin's Cockatoo
 Red-vented Cockatoo
 Major Mitchell's Cockatoo
 Salmon-crested Cockatoo
 Little Corella
 Lesser Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
 Cockatiel
 Double-eyed Fig Parrot
 Orange-breasted Fig Parrot
 Desmarest's Fig Parrot
 Edwards's Fig Parrot
 Salvadori's Fig Parrot
 Blue-rumped Parrot
 Blue-collared Parrot
 Great-billed Parrot
 Muller's Parrot
 Eclectus Parrot
 Amboina King Parrot
 Green-winged King Parrot
 Red-winged Parrot
 Timor Red-winged Parrot
 Eastern Rosella
 Yellow Rosella
 Western Rosella
 Red-rumped Parrot
 Budgerigar
 African Grey Parrot
 Jardine's Parrot
 Grey-headed Lovebird
 Masked Lovebird
 Peach-faced Lovebird
 Fischer's Lovebird
 Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot
 Vernal Hanging Parrot
 Plum-headed Parakeet
 Moustached Parakeet
 Alexandrine Parakeet
 Lord Derby's Parakeet
 Rose-ringed Parakeet
 Blossom-headed Parakeet
 Hyacinth Macaw
 Blue-and-Yellow Macaw
 Golden-collared Macaw
 Green-winged Macaw
 Scarlet Macaw
 Blue-winged Macaw

Ara militaris
Ara severa
Aratinga acuticauda
Aratinga aurea
Aratinga canicularis
Aratinga jandaya
Nandayus nenday
Cyanoliseus patagonus
Myiopsitta monachus
Pionites melanocephala
Pionus menstruus
Amazona aestiva
Amazona amazonica
Amazona barbadensis
Amazona farinosa
Amazona finschi
Amazona imperialis
Amazona ochrocephala
Cuculus sparverioides
Eudynamis scolopacea
Carpococcyx renauldi
Centropus bengalensis
Centropus sinensis
Tyto capensis
Otus bakkamoena
Otus scops
Bubo bubo
Glaucidium brodiei
Glaucidium cuculoides
Asio flammeus
Caprimulgus affinis
Caprimulgus indicus
Ceryle rudis
Alcedo atthis
Halcyon pileata
Halcyon smyrnensis
Rhinoplax vigil
Megalaima virens
Ramphastos toco
Picus canus
Picoides macei
Micropternus brachyurus
Phlegopsis nigrumaculata
Pitta brachyura
Pitta caerulea
Melanocorypha mongolica
Galerida cristata
Alauda arvensis
Alauda gulgula
Motacilla alba
Anthus hodgsoni
Anthus novaeseelandiae
Spizixos semitorques
Pycnonotus aurigaster
Pycnonotus finlaysoni
Pycnonotus jocosus
Pycnonotus sinensis
Pycnonotus zeylanicus
Hypsipetes castanotus
Hypsipetes indicus
Hypsipetes madagascariensis
Chloropsis aurifrons
Chloropsis cochinchinensis
Chloropsis cyanopogon
Chloropsis hardwickii

Military Macaw
 Chestnut-fronted Macaw
 Blue-crowned Parakeet
 Peach-fronted Parakeet
 Orange-fronted Parakeet
 Jandaya Parakeet
 Black-hooded Parakeet
 Patagonian Conure
 Monk Parakeet
 Black-headed Caique
 Blue-headed Parrot
 Blue-fronted Amazon Parrot
 Orange-winged Amazon Parrot
 Yellow-shouldered Amazon Parrot
 Mealy Amazon Parrot
 Lilac-crowned Amazon Parrot
 Imperial Parrot
 Yellow-headed Amazon Parrot
 Large Hawk Cuckoo
 Koel
 Coral-billed Ground-cuckoo
 Lesser Coucal
 Common Coucal
 Grass Owl
 Collared Scops Owl
 Scops Owl
 Eagle Owl
 Collared Owlet
 Barred Owlet
 Short-eared Owl
 Savannah Nightjar?
 Jungle Nightjar?
 Lesser Pied Kingfisher
 Common Kingfisher
 Black-capped Kingfisher
 White-breasted Kingfisher
 Helmeted Hornbill (casques)
 Great Barbet
 Toco Toucan
 Grey-headed Woodpecker
 Fulvous-breasted Pied Woodpecker
 Rufous Woodpecker
 Black-spotted Bare-eye?
 Blue-winged Pitta
 Great Blue Pitta
 Mongolian Lark
 Crested Lark?
 Skylark
 Oriental Skylark
 White Wagtail
 Olive-backed Pipit
 Richard's Pipit
 Collared Finchbilled Bulbul
 Red-vented Bulbul
 Stripe-throated Bulbul
 Crested Bulbul
 Chinese Bulbul
 Yellow-crowned Bulbul
 Chestnut Bulbul
 Yellow-browed Bulbul
 Black Bulbul
 Golden-fronted Leafbird
 Blue-winged Leafbird
 Lesser Green Leafbird
 Orange-bellied Leafbird

Chloropsis sonnerati
Irena puella
Lanius schach
Bombycilla garrulus
Bombycilla japonica
Luscinia cyane
Luscinia cyanurus
Luscinia calliope
Luscinia svecica
Tarsiger hyperythrus
Copsychus malabaricus
Copsychus saularis
Phoenicurus aureus
Rhyacornis fuliginosus
Saxicola caprata
Saxicola ferrea
Saxicola torquata
Saxicoloides fulicata
Chaimarrornis leucocephalus
Monticola solitarius
Monticola gularis
Myiophonus caeruleus
Zoothera dauma
Zoothera sibirica
Turdus cardis
Turdus hortulorum
Turdus naumanni
Turdus pallidus
Turdus obscurus
Eupetes macrocerus
Pomatorhinus ruficollis
Pnoepyga pusilla
Garrulax caeruleus
Garrulax cineraceus
Garrulax canorus
Garrulax chinensis
Garrulax leucolophus
Garrulax pectoralis
Garrulax perspicillatus
Garrulax moniliger
Garrulax sukatschewi
Garrulax sannio
Leiothrix lutea
Alcippe peracensis
Yuhina gularis
Panurus biarmicus
Paradoxornis gularis
Paradoxornis heudei
Paradoxornis webbiana
Bradypterus thoracicus
Acrocephalus arundinaceus
Orthotomus sutorius
Ficedula hodgsonii
Ficedula mugimaki
Ficedula narcissina
Ficedula sapphira
Ficedula zanthopygia
Muscicapa cyanomelana
Muscicapa striata
Muscicapa thalassina
Cyornis banyumas
Cyornis hainana
Cyornis rubeculoides
Philestoma pyrhopterum
Rhipidura Sp.

Greater Green Leafbird
 Fairy Bluebird?
 Rufous-backed Shrike
 Bohemian Waxwing
 Japanese Waxwing
 Siberian Blue Robin
 Orange-flanked Bluetail
 Rubythroat
 Bluethroat
 Rufous-bellied Bush Robin
 White-rumped Shama
 Magpie Robin
 Daurian Redstart
 Plumbeous Water Redstart
 Pied Bushchat
 Grey Bushchat
 Stonechat
 Indian Robin
 River Chat
 Blue Rock Thrush
 White-throated Rock Thrush
 Violet Whistling Thrush
 White's Thrush
 Siberian Thrush
 Grey Thrush
 Grey-backed Thrush
 Eye-browed Thrush
 Pale Thrush
 Eye-browed Thrush
 Rail Babbler
 Rufous-necked Scimitar Babbler
 Lesser Scaly-breasted Wren-babbler
 Grey-sided Laughing Thrush
 Moustached Laughing Thrush
 Hwamei
 Black-throated Laughing Thrush
 White-crested Laughing Thrush
 Greater Necklaced Laughing Thrush
 Black-faced Laughing Thrush
 Lesser Necklaced Laughing Thrush
 Black-fronted Laughing Thrush
 White-browed Laughing Thrush
 Peking Robin (Red-billed Leiothrix)
 Mountain Fulvetta
 Stripe-throated Yuhina
 Bearded Reedling
 Grey-headed Parrotbill
 Chinese Parrotbill
 Vinous-throated parrotbill
 Spotted Bush Warbler?
 Great Reed Warbler
 Common Tailorbird
 Slaty-backed Flycatcher
 Robin Flycatcher
 Narcissus Flycatcher
 Sapphire Flycatcher
 Tricolour Flycatcher
 Blue-and-White Flycatcher
 Spotted Flycatcher?
 Verditer Flycatcher
 Hill Blue Flycatcher
 Hainan Blue Flycatcher
 Blue-throated Blue Flycatcher
 Rufous-winged Flycatcher
 Fantail Flycatcher Sp.

Parus major
Parus venustus
Dicaeum cruentatum
Nectarinia asiatica
Aethopyga christinae
Zosterops erythropleura
Zosterops japonica
Zosterops palpebrosa
Melophus lathamii
Emberiza aureola
Emberiza bruniceps
Emberiza fucata
Emberiza hortulana
Emberiza pusilla
Emberiza rustica
Emberiza rutila
Emberiza tristrami
Cardinalis cardinalis
Passerina cyanea
Passerina ciris
Paroaria coronata
Paroaria gularis
Fringilla montifringilla
Serinus canaria
Serinus leucopygius
Serinus mozambicus
Carduelis ambigua
Carduelis sinica
Carduelis spinus
Carpodacus erythrinus
Loxia curvirostra
Eophona coccostrea
Eophona migratoria
Coccothraustes personata
Haematospiza sipahi
Pytilia melba
Estrilda troglodytes
Estrilda caerulea
Uraeginthus bengalus
Amandava amandava
Neochmia ruficauda
Poephila acuticauda
Poephila cincta
Poephila guttata
Erythrura trichroa
Chloebia gouldiae
Lonchura maja
Lonchura malabarica
Lonchura malacca
Lonchura molucca
Lonchura nana
Lonchura punctulata
Lonchura spectabilis
Lonchura striata
Erythrura prasina
Padda oryzivora
Amadina fasciata
Vidua macroura
Vidua paradisaea
Vidua regia
Euplectes jacksoni
Passer montanus
Passer flaveolus
Passer rutilans
Ploceus manyar

Great Tit
 Yellow-bellied Tit
 Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker
 Purple Sunbird
 Fork-tailed Sunbird
 Chestnut-flanked White-eye
 Japanese White-eye
 Oriental White-eye
 Crested Bunting
 Yellow-breasted Bunting
 Red-headed Bunting
 Grey-headed Bunting
 Ortolan Bunting?
 Little Bunting
 Rustic Bunting
 Chestnut Bunting
 Tristram's Bunting
 Red Cardinal
 Indigo Bunting
 Painted Bunting
 Red-crested Cardinal
 Red-capped Cardinal
 Brambling
 Canary
 Grey Canary
 Yellow-fronted Canary
 Black-headed Greenfinch
 Oriental Greenfinch
 Siskin
 Common Rosefinch
 Crossbill
 Hawfinch
 Black-tailed Hawfinch
 Japanese Hawfinch
 Scarlet Finch
 Green-winged Pytilia
 Black-rumped Waxbill
 Bluish Waxbill
 Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu
 Star Finch
 Star Finch
 Long-tailed Finch
 Black-throated Finch
 Zebra Finch
 Blue-faced Parrot-Finch
 Gouldian Finch
 White-headed Munia
 White-throated Munia (Indian Silverbill)
 Black-headed Munia
 Moluccan Mannikin
 Madagascar Mannikin
 Spotted Munia
 New Britain Mannikin?
 White-rumped Munia
 Long-tailed Munia (Pin-tailed Parrotfinch)
 Java Sparrow
 Cut-throat
 Pin-tailed Wydah
 Paradise Wydah
 Shaft-tailed Wydah
 Jackson's Widowbird
 Tree Sparrow
 Pegu Sparrow
 Cinnamon Sparrow
 Streaked Weaver

Ploceus philippinus
Quelea quelea
Foudia eminentissima
Euplectes orix
Euplectes progne
Aplonis panayensis
Sturnus burmannicus
Sturnus cineraceus
Sturnus nigricollis
Sturnus sericeus
Sturnus sinensis
Sturnus pagodarum
Sturnus vulgaris
Acridotheres cristatellus
Acridotheres fuscus
Acridotheres tristis
Mino dumonti
Leucopsar rothschildi
Gracula religiosa
Oriolus chinensis
Oriolus traillii
Dicrurus hottentottus
Dicrurus macrocercus
Seleucidis melanoleuca
Paradisaea apoda
Paradisaea minor
Garrulus glandarius
Urocissa erythrorhyncha
Pica pica
Cyanopica cyana
Dendrocitta formosae
Corvus splendens

Baya Weaver
 Red-billed Quelea
 Red-headed Fody
 Red Bishop
 Long-tailed Widow-bird
 Philippine Glossy Starling
 Vinous-breasted Starling
 Grey Starling
 Black-collared Starling
 Silky Starling
 Chinese Starling
 Brahminy Starling
 Common Starling
 Crested Mynah
 Jungle Mynah
 Common Mynah
 Yellow-faced Mynah
 Rothschild's Mynah
 Hill Mynah
 Black-naped Oriole
 Maroon Oriole
 Hair-crested Drongo
 Black Drongo
 Twelve-wired Bird of Paradise (skin)
 Greater Bird of Paradise (skin)
 Lesser Bird of Paradise (skin)
 Eurasian Jay
 Red-billed Blue Magpie
 Magpie
 Azure-winged Magpie
 Grey Treepie
 House Crow

APPENDIX II

BIRDS IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED STATES FROM HONG KONG*

Species	1970	1971	1972
<i>Casuaris cassuaris</i>	1		
<i>Ardeola bacchus</i>		45	
<i>Grus grus</i>	40	48	20
<i>Grus monacha</i>		2	
<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	1		
<i>Gallixrex cinerea</i>		6	
<i>Eos histrio</i>	2		
<i>Lorius lory</i>	1		
<i>Probosciger aterrimus</i>	1		
<i>Cacatua alba</i>		1	
<i>Cacatua galerita</i>	1		
<i>Cacatua moluccensis</i>		1	
<i>Cacatua sulphurea</i>	1	2	
<i>Eclectus roratus</i>	3	8	
<i>Psittacus erithacus</i>	3	4	
<i>Poicephalus gularis</i>	1		
<i>Psittacula krameri</i>		3	
Unidentified parrot	1		
<i>Carpococcyx renauldi</i>	10	2	
<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	16	5	
Unidentified owl	1		
<i>Pitta caerulea</i>	6	23	
<i>Hypsipetes indicus</i>		100	
<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	1		50
<i>Pomatorhinus ruficollis</i>	6		
<i>Garrulax canorus</i>	21	75	
<i>Garrulax caeruleus</i>			11
<i>Garrulax leucolophus</i>	20		
<i>Garrulax moniliger</i>	40		
<i>Leiothrix lutea</i>	3060	5515	1880
<i>Serinus canaria</i>			200
<i>Serinus mozambicus</i>	140		
<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>		95	
<i>Amandava amandava</i>			400
<i>Poephila guttata</i>	80		
<i>Lonchura striata</i>	80		
<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>	80		
<i>Oriolus traillii</i>	2		
<i>Urocissa erythrorhyncha</i>	2		
TOTAL	3621	5991	2586
% of total birds imported into U.S.	0.39	0.62	0.40

* data from Clapp & Banks (1973a, 1973b) and Clapp (1975).

As a result of outbreaks of exotic Newcastle disease a near complete ban on the importation of pet and exotic birds was declared, effective from 24 August 1972.

APPENDIX III

BIRDS IMPORTED INTO HONG KONG FROM COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA IN 1979 (based on information from inspection reports)

Declared name	Probable identity (where known, if different)
? Mute Swan Holland 2	<i>Cygnus olor</i>
? Mandarin Duck Holland 18	<i>Aix galericulata</i>
? Guineafowl Japan 100	<i>Numida meleagris?</i>
? Common Crane Taiwan 7	<i>Grus grus</i>
? Emerald Dove Thailand 60	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
? Red Lory Indonesia 248	<i>Eos bornea</i>
? Violet Net Lory Indonesia 162	<i>Eos squamata</i>
? Dusky Lory Indonesia 25	<i>Pseudeos fuscata</i>
<i>Trichoglossus Haematod</i> Indonesia 40	<i>Trichoglossus haematodus</i>
<i>Trichoglossus matus</i> Lorikeet Indonesia 50	<i>Trichoglossus ornatus</i>
? Chattering Lory Indonesia 155	<i>Lorius garrulus</i>
<i>Cacatua alba</i> Umbrella White-crested Cockatoo Indonesia 49	
? Molluccan, Rose-casted Cockatoo Indonesia 17	<i>Cacatua moluccensis</i>
? Lesser Sulphur-crested Cockatoo Indonesia 15	<i>Cacatua sulphurea</i>
? Cockatoo Singapore 138 Indonesia 52 Thailand 1 TOTAL 191	
? Eclectus Parrot Singapore 24	<i>Eclectus roratus</i>
? Muller Parrot Indonesia 20	<i>Tanygnathus sumatranus</i>
? Stanley Rosella Belgium 4	<i>Platycercus icterotis</i>
? Rosella Parakeet Belgium 20	<i>Platycercus</i> sp.
? Yellow-rumped Parakeet Belgium 10	<i>Platycercus flaveolus</i>

? Red-rumped Parakeet Belgium 10	<i>Psephotus haematonotus</i>
? Grey Parrot Ghana 562	<i>Psittacus erithacus</i>
? Fisher's Lovebird Tanzania 828	<i>Agapornis fischeri</i>
? Lovebird Tanzania 3900	<i>Agapornis</i> sp.
? Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot Singapore 200	<i>Loriculus galgulus</i>
<i>Loriculus fernalis</i> Lory Indonesia 25	<i>Loriculus vernalis</i>
? Hanging Parrot Singapore 1154	<i>Loriculus</i> sp.
<i>Psittacula alexandri</i> Indonesia 60	
? Ring-necked Parakeet India 1650	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
<i>Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus</i> Hyacinth Macaw Paraguay 2	
<i>Ara ararawa</i> Blue & Gold Macaw Paraguay 12 Guyana 4 TOTAL 16	<i>Ara ararauna</i>
? Yellow-naped Macaw Bolivia 35	<i>Ara auricollis</i>
<i>Ara chloroptera</i> Green & Red Macaw Paraguay 18 Guyana 4 TOTAL 22	
? Severe Macaw Bolivia 35	<i>Ara severa</i>
<i>Aratinga Jendais</i> Paraguay 30	<i>Aratinga jandaya</i>
? Sharp-tailed Conure Bolivia 50	<i>Aratinga</i> sp.
<i>Syanoliceous patagonus</i> Patagonian Conure Argentina 20	<i>Cyanoliseus patagonus</i>
<i>Myopsitta monachus</i> Quaker Parakeet Argentina 100	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>
<i>Pionites melanocephala</i> Black-headed Caiques Guyana 30	<i>Pionites melanocephala</i>
<i>Pionus menstruus</i> Bolivia 10	<i>Pionus menstruus</i>
<i>Pionus merstriuius</i> Blue-head Parrot Guyana 10	<i>Pionus menstruus</i>
<i>Amazona aestiva</i> Blue-fronted Amazon Parrot Argentina 72	
? Blue and Yellow Fronted Amazon Parrot Bolivia 60	<i>Amazona aestiva</i>
<i>Amazona amazonica</i> Orange-winged Parrot Guyana 25	

Amazona farinosa Mealy Parrot
Guyana 50

Amazona ochrocephala Yellow-fronted Amazon
Guyana 37

? Amazon Parrot
Paraguay 120
Bolivia 40
Argentina 30
Guyana 25
TOTAL 215

? Lory
Indonesia 840

? Lorikeet
Indonesia 523
Malaysia 70
TOTAL 593

? Parakeet
Thailand 180
Malaysia 20
TOTAL 200

? Parrot
Paraguay 100
Indonesia 30
TOTAL 130

? Toco Toucan
Paraguay 4

? Mongolian Lark
Taiwan 81

? Pipit
Malaysia 1000

? Gold-fronted Chloropsis
India 555
Indonesia 60
TOTAL 615

? Orange-bellied Chloropsis
India 148

? Leafbird
Indonesia 510
Thailand 5
TOTAL 515

Mynus polyglotus
Argentina 50

? Shama
Indonesia 70
Thailand 65
TOTAL 135

? Magpie Robin
Singapore 1569
Malaysia 1027
Indonesia 516
India 29
TOTAL 3141

? Pied Bushchat
Indonesia 3488

? Thrush
Thailand 100

Amazona sp.

Ramphastos toco

Melanocorypha mongolica

Lonchura sp. ?

Chloropsis aurifrons

Chloropsis hardwickii

Chloropsis sp.

Mimus sp.

Copsychus malabaricus

Copsychus saularis

Saxicola caprata

? Laughing Thrush
Thailand 60

Muscicapa ruberulodes Ferruginous
Flycatcher
Indonesia 559

? Niltava
India 24

Muscicapa thalassai Verditer Flycatcher
India 42
Indonesia 23
TOTAL 65

Philenpona Rufous-winged Flycatcher
Indonesia 150

? Flycatcher
Indonesia 3413
India 34
TOTAL 3447

? Flowerpecker
Thailand 125

? Sunbird
Thailand 25

? White eye
Thailand 300
Indonesia 120
India 100
TOTAL 520

? Canary
Taiwan 240

? Grey Singing Finch
Senegal 3200

? Green Singing Finch
Senegal 3500
South Africa 3000
TOTAL 6500

? Singing Finch
Senegal 2400

? Red Singing Finch
Senegal 1000

? Finch
Senegal 2800

? Strawberry Finch
Thailand 20

? Pin-tailed Nonpareil Finch
Thailand 400

? Zebra Finch
Taiwan 2200

? Grass Finch
Taiwan 180

Bathilda ruficauda Star Finch
Taiwan 310

? Gouldian Finch
Taiwan 490

? White-headed Nun
Malaysia 3700
Singapore 500
TOTAL 4200

Garrulax sp.

Cyornis banyumas?

Niltava sp.

Muscicapa thalassina

Philentoma pyrropteron

Dicaeidae

Nectariniidae

Zosterops sp.

Serinus canaria

Serinus leucopygius

Serinus mozambicus

Serinus sp.

Serinus sp.

Serinus sp.

Amandava amandava

Erythrura prasina

Poephila guttata

Poephila cincta

Neochmia ruficauda

Chloebia gouldiae

Lonchura maja

? Spotted Munia Thailand 300	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>
? Black-headed Nun Thailand 150	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>
? Munia Malaysia 1000 Thailand 800 TOTAL 1800	<i>Lonchura sp.</i>
? Green-headed Nun Indonesia 100	<i>Lonchura sp.</i>
? Tricolour Nun Indonesia 1000	<i>Lonchura sp.</i>
? Finch Malaysia 160	<i>Lonchura sp.</i>
? Tiger Finch Pakistan 1000	
? Bengalese Finch Taiwan 2000	<i>Lonchura striata?</i>
? Java Sparrow Philippines 9250 Taiwan 200 Indonesia 100 TOTAL 9550	<i>Padda oryzivora</i>
? Cut-throat Senegal 800	<i>Amadina fasciata</i>
<i>Sturnopastor jalla</i> Starling Mynah Indonesia 50	<i>Sturnus contra</i>
? Hill, Black-headed Mynah Indonesia 630 Thailand 160 Singapore 185 Japan 50 Malaysia 49 Philippines 10 TOTAL 1084	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>
? Mynah Singapore 1694 Indonesia 651 Japan 500 Taiwan 450 Thailand 170 Malaysia 41 TOTAL 3506	<i>Gracula/Acridotheres</i>
<i>Oriolus chinensis</i> Black-naped Oriole Indonesia 31	
? Oriole Indonesia 270	<i>Oriolus sp.</i>
? Birds assorted Indonesia 600	
? Bird Indonesia 152	

APPENDIX IV

ORIGIN OF BIRDS IMPORTED INTO HONG KONG 12 DECEMBER 1979 — 29 FEBRUARY 1980

Indonesia

All birds imported were accompanied by a health certificate issued by the Director General of Animal Husbandry, Department of Agriculture on the back of which was a typed declaration:—

“That the birds were all bred and reared in captivity”,
“That these birds does not contravene any laws of that country”

These declarations were not signed or stamped. The birds which were imported under these licences were:—

* <i>Padda oryzivora</i>	1000
<i>Muscicapa rubeculoides</i>	754
<i>Philentoma pyropterum</i>	280
<i>Saxicola caprata</i>	258
<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>	210
<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	210
<i>Gracula religiosa</i>	111
<i>Lorius garrulus</i>	100
<i>Eos bornea</i>	60
<i>Pseudeos fuscata</i>	50
<i>Trichoglossus haematodus</i>	49
“Mynah”	29
<i>Cacatua alba</i>	12
<i>Charmosyna pulchella</i>	9

Philippines

Birds were accompanied by a health certificate issued by the Bureau of Animal Industry, Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

a) On the back of some health certificates a declaration had been typed:

“The birds were all bred and reared in captivity”,
“The birds does not contravene any laws”.

The declarations had not been signed or stamped and had been typed with a different typewriter from that used for completing the health certificate. Birds imported with these declarations were:—

<i>Padda orizivora</i>	2000
<i>Lonchura malacca</i>	800
“Mannikins”	500

* Names are those used on the certificates, with obvious spelling mistakes corrected. Identification not confirmed.

- b) One shipment was accompanied by a Wildlife Export Special Permit issued by the Parks, Range and Wildlife Division, Bureau of Forest Development, Ministry of Natural Resources which stated "According to the permittee Mr. _____ these birds had been caught in the Province of Samar during the month of November 1979 ...".

<i>Padda oryzivora</i>	500
<i>Lonchura maja</i>	600
<i>Lonchura malacca</i>	800

- c) A note had been typed on one health certificate (with a different typewriter) "N.B. Birds are not protected".

<i>Padda oryzivora</i>	1500
<i>Lonchura malacca</i>	800

- d) One shipment of 1000 *Padda oryzivora* was only accompanied by a health certificate.

Taiwan

The only shipment imported was accompanied by an Export Quarantine Certificate issued by the Bureau of Commodity Inspection and Quarantine, Ministry of Economic Affairs, which included the statement "The birds and their parents are bred and reared by humans".

<i>Bathilda ruficauda</i>	50
<i>Poephila cincta</i>	50
<i>Poephila castanotis (guttata)</i>	800 (white)
<i>Poephila castanotis (guttata)</i>	800 (grey)
<i>Lonchura striata</i>	600

Singapore

Most shipments from Singapore were accompanied by an Outward Customs Declaration which included a typed statement "We hereby certify that the birds are all breed and reared in captivity", which appeared to have been added by the exporter. Such statements covered shipments of 160 *Copsychus saularis*. 150 *Copsychus saularis* were imported without any documents other than a health certificate.

Malaysia

48 *Copsychus saularis* were imported with only a health certificate. One shipment of 32 *Copsychus saularis* was accompanied by a document in Bahasa Malaysia issued by Jabatan Perlindungan Hidupan Liar Dan Taman Negara stating that the export was not contrary to local wildlife protection legislation.

Argentina

The only shipment, of 100 *Amazona aestiva*, was accompanied by a document from the Secretaria de Estado de Agricultura y Ganaderia,

Ministerio de Economia stating "I, Wildlife Director hereby certify that the shipment of wildlife (or plants) covered by this document is in accordance with the laws of Argentine Republic; will not be detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild; ...".

Paraguay

The only shipment, of 30 *Aratinga jandaya*, was accompanied by a health certificate issued by The State Veterinary, Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadeira on which had been typed "That the birds were all bred and reared in captivity", "That the exportation of these birds does not contravene any law of Paraguay".

APPENDIX V

BIRDS EXPORTED FROM HONG KONG IN 1979 (based on information from Health Certificates)

Declared name	Probable identity (where known, if different)
<i>Anas acuta</i> Pintail Italy 56	
<i>Anas penelope</i> American Wigeon Italy 60	
? Mandarin Duck Indonesia 4	<i>Aix galericulata</i>
<i>Coturnix coturnix</i> Chinese Quail Italy 860	<i>Coturnix chinensis</i> ?
<i>Phasianus colchicus</i> Common Pheasant Indonesia 5	
<i>Grus grus lilfordi</i> Lilford's Crane Italy 30	
<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i> Spotted Dove Taiwan 300	
? Red Lory Greece	<i>Eos bornea</i>
? Goldia Lorikeet Greece 5	<i>Trichoglossus goldiei</i>
? Chattering Lory Greece 4	<i>Lorius garrulus</i>
? Umbrella Cockatoo Greece 3	<i>Cacatua alba</i>
<i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i> Budgerigar Taiwan 47,540 Spain 18,340 Malaysia 10,800 Kuwait 7,000 Israel 3,740 Italy 2,560 Japan 503 Kenya 200 TOTAL 90,683	
? Lovebird Taiwan 225 Greece 20 TOTAL 245	<i>Agapornis</i> sp.
<i>Psittacula derbyana</i> Derbyan Parakeet France 100	
? Golden Crowned Conure Greece 3	<i>Aratinga aurea</i>
<i>Anodorhynchus hyacinthus</i> Hyacinth Macaw Taiwan 2	
<i>Ara ararauna</i> Blue and Gold Macaw Taiwan 2	
<i>Ara chloroptera</i> Green-winged Macaw Taiwan 12	

<i>Amazona aestiva</i> Blue-fronted Amazon Parrot Taiwan 25	
? Blue-fronted Amazon Parrot Greece 3	<i>Amazona aestiva</i>
? Blue/Yellow-fronted Amazon Parrot Taiwan 12	<i>Amazona aestiva</i>
<i>Amazona ochrocephala</i> Yellow-fronted Amazon Parrot Taiwan 40	
<i>Podargus strigoides</i> Frogmouth Taiwan 300	
<i>Rhamphastos toco</i> Toco Toucan Taiwan 3	
? Skylark Taiwan 1,200 Indonesia 10 TOTAL 1,210	<i>Alauda</i> sp.
? Lark Taiwan 1,240 Indonesia 42 TOTAL 1,282	<i>Alauda/Melanocorypha</i> sp.
? Pipit Indonesia 1	
<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i> Bulbul Taiwan 780 Kuwait 400 Argentina 50 TOTAL 1,230	
<i>Garrulax canorus</i> Hwamei, Spectacled Thrush Taiwan 77,070 Indonesia 16,245 Malaysia 1,048 Philippines 40 Thailand 4 Singapore 3 Brunei 2 French Guiana 1 TOTAL 94,413	
<i>Garrulax chinensis</i> Black-throated Laughing Thrush, Black Laughing Thrush Indonesia 1,556 Taiwan 360 Malaysia 60 TOTAL 1,976	
<i>Garrulax leucolophus</i> White-crested Laughing Thrush Argentina 50	
<i>Garrulax perspiculatus</i> Black-faced Laughing Thrush Indonesia 300	
<i>Garrulax sannio</i> White-cheeked Laughing Thrush Indonesia 300 Italy 100 TOTAL 400	
? Rufous Laughing Thrush Taiwan 300	<i>Garrulax canorus</i> ?
? Bamboo Thrush Taiwan 400	
? Song Thrush Taiwan 5,800	<i>Garrulax canorus</i> ?

? Thrush
Taiwan 23,590
Malaysia 2,760
TOTAL 26,350

Leiothrix lutea Peking Robin, Song Bird
Taiwan 15,642
Italy 17,350
Spain 2,520
Malaysia 1,400
Belgium 1,130
France 1,120
Austria 750
Indonesia 486
Kuwait 50
Japan 3
TOTAL 40,451

Paradoxornis gularis Tit
Taiwan 19,270

Paradoxornis webbiana Tit
Taiwan 36,500

? Tit
Taiwan 9,300

? Black Tit
Taiwan 4,800

Bradypterus thoracicus Spotted Bush Warbler
Taiwan 90

? White-eye
Austria 200
Belgium 2
TOTAL 202

Emberiza aureola Yellowhammer
Taiwan 37,150

Emberiza citrinella Yellowhammer
Taiwan 9,643

Emberiza hortulana Ortolan Bunting
Taiwan 16,640

Emberiza pusilla Ortolan Bunting
Taiwan 41,280

? Ortolan Bunting
Taiwan 100

? Bunting
Italy 400

? Canary
Israel 2,000
Spain 1,100
Italy 800
Kuwait 600
Taiwan 402
Malaysia 400
Indonesia 105
Kenya 40
Thailand 2
Greece 1
TOTAL 5,450

? Green Singing Finch
Taiwan 1,670

Carduelis chloris Song Bird
Taiwan 38,400

Garrulax canorus?

Paradoxornis sp.

Paradoxornis sp.

Zosterops sp.

Emberiza aureola? or *Serinus canaria?*

Emberiza aureola? or *Serinus canaria?*

Emberiza sp.

Emberiza sp.

Serinus canaria

Serinus mozambicus?

Leiothrix lutea?

Carduelis sinica Golden-winged Finch
Kuwait 200
Austria 200
TOTAL 400

Carduelis spinus Peking Green Singing Finch
Belgium 60

? Greenfinch *Carduelis* sp.
Italy 850

Euphonia migratoria Black-tailed Hawfinch
Italy 420

Euphonia personata Black-headed Finch
Taiwan 700

? Hawfinch *Euphonia (Coccothraustes)* sp.
Taiwan 640

? Common Zebra Finch *Poephila guttata*
Belgium 200

? White Zebra Finch *Poephila guttata*
Belgium 350

Lonchura ferruginosa Ricebird, Rice Finch *Lonchura malacca*
Taiwan 450

Lonchura maja White-headed Munia, White-headed Nun
Italy 1,000
Argentina 200
TOTAL 1,200

Lonchura punctulata Spotted Nun
Italy 7,000

Lonchura punctulata Yellow Singing Canary ?
Italy 400

Lonchura striata Common Finch
Kuwait 400

? Ricebird *Lonchura* sp.
Taiwan 4,400

? Rice Finch *Lonchura* sp.
Taiwan 800

? Spice Finch *Lonchura* sp.
Taiwan 800

? Nutmeg Mannikin *Lonchura* sp.
Austria 200

? White Bengalese
Belgium 350

? White-eyed Finch
Belgium 200

Padda oryzivora Java Sparrow, Rice Bird
Taiwan 45,996
Italy 1,800
Belgium 100
TOTAL 47,896

Passer domesticus Sparrow *Passer montanus/rutilans?*
Taiwan 4,800

? Sparrow *Passer/Padda* sp.
Taiwan 2,000

Acridotheres cristatellus Crested Mynah, Mynah
Taiwan 8,840
Italy 400
Greece 10

Sturnus javanicus Crested Mynah

Taiwan 700
Italy 200
France 180
Argentina 50
TOTAL 1,130

Gracula religiosa Common Mynah

Taiwan 120
? Hill Mynah
Taiwan 600
Argentina 20
TOTAL 620

? Common Mynah

Taiwan 10,000
Kuwait 120
TOTAL 10,120

? Mynah

Taiwan 21,280

Oriolus chinensis Black-naped Oriole

* Belgium 14

Oriolus oriolus Golden Oriole

Taiwan 1,600
Italy 40
TOTAL 1,640

Garrulax glandarius Jay

Italy 100
Taiwan 1
TOTAL 101

Urocissa erythrorhyncha Red-billed Blue Pie, Magpie

Italy 20
Argentina 16
TOTAL 36

? Song Bird

Taiwan 7,600

Acridotheres fuscus? / *A. cristatellus*?

Gracula religiosa

Acridotheres/Gracula sp.

Oriolus chinensis

Garrulax glandarius

APPENDIX VI

SOME EXAMPLES OF MORTALITY AMONG BIRDS DISPATCHED BY AIR TO JAPAN AND ENGLAND

(a) Hong Kong to Japan

Species	No. sent	No. dead
"Grey Grog Hawk"*	12	2
"Goshawk"	12	3
"March Harrier"	4	3
"Hen Harrier"	4	2
"Merlin"	19	2
"Hoppy"	14	2
"Sunbird"	35	7
"White-eye"	500	167

"RCVD YR SHPT TODAY PEKING ROBINS 2160 HDS ABOUT MORE THAN 600 HDS DEAD ARRIVED OUR SHOP, FIFTY PERCENT NO TAIL, NO WING N BROKEN HDS"
(Cable from Japan to dealer in Hong Kong).

* Names used by Hong Kong dealer.

(b) Hong Kong to Heathrow Airport, London, England*

Airline	Date	No. birds	No. dead	% dead	Species/groups identified
British Airways	24-12-75	117	46	39.3	<i>Leiothrix lutea</i> , <i>Zosterops palpebrosa</i> , <i>Pycnonotus sinensis</i> , <i>Eophona</i> sp., <i>Parus/Paradoxornis</i> sp.
P.A.A.	17-4-76	434	166	38.2	<i>Carduelis sinica</i> , <i>Pycnonotus sinensis</i> , <i>P. jocosus</i> , <i>Paradoxornis gularis</i> , <i>Garrulax sannio</i> , <i>G. perspicillatus</i> , <i>G. cineraceus</i> .
British Airways	27-2-76	118	24	20.3	<i>Cacatua galerita/sulphurea</i> , <i>Aprosmictus erythropterus</i> , <i>Parus major</i> , <i>Leiothrix lutea</i> , <i>Pycnonotus</i> sp., <i>Turdus naumanni</i> .

*from Inskipp & Thomas (1976) and Inskipp *in litt*.

APPENDIX VII

NUMBERS OF BIRDS IMPORTED INTO JAPAN FROM HONG KONG IN 1976*

	Shipments	No. of birds
Duck	3	72
Bird of Prey	20	286
Pheasant	1	6
Crane	8	62
Parrot	185	137,092
Hill Mynah	1	1
Finch	175	124,389
Canary	8	2,122
Others	14	4,091
TOTAL	415 ===	268,121 =====

* Data from Wild Bird Society of Japan (1978)

APPENDIX VIII

NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY REPORT, DALIAN, 7 NOVEMBER 1980

110724 — Chinese zoologists call for preservation of bird and beast species

Dalian, November 7 (xinhua) — half of the 130 precious bird and beast species in China are on the brink of extinction — this warning came from 120 zoologists at a recent national forum on vertebrate animals (birds and beasts) held in Dalian.

The alarmingly high death rate of the precious bird species is due to reckless killing, said the scientists.

In some of the natural reserves, they said, local forestry workers and rangers go game-hunting as if they were in their own "private hunting grounds". Some research institutions, animal specimen workshops and zoo keepers also frequent the reserves, either hunting themselves or purchasing the precious rare animals at high prices.

The scientists claimed that in their quest for foreign currency, some foreign trade corporations freely export China's rare birds and animals without any consideration to animal preservation.

Strong measures are needed to check current negative practices. It is imperative, the scientists suggested, for the state council to promulgate a law on the preservation of wild animal resources and to set up a national preservation committee comprising senior government officials and scientists. They proposed that a college dealing with natural preservation be established, related departments be set up in existing higher educational institutions, and research efforts be strengthened in the preservation and rational utilisation of animal resources. End item.

APPENDIX IX

DEAD BIRDS, PARTS AND DERIVATIVES FOR SALE IN HONG KONG

		Unit Price (HK\$)*
a. Frozen birds for food		
<i>Lophura nymthemera</i>	Silver Pheasant	
<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Ring-necked Pheasant	
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Moorhen	
<i>Fulica atra</i>	Coot	
<i>Gallinago sp.</i>	Snipe sp.	
<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	Woodcock	35
<i>Emberiza sp.</i>	"Rice birds"	
<i>Lonchura sp. ?</i>		
b. Tinned birds for food		
<i>Emberiza aureola</i>	Yellow-breasted Bunting (formerly tinned in China for export, Vaughan & Jones 1913)	
c. Pickled birds for medicine		
<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Buzzard	
d. Mounted skins		Unit Price (HK\$)*
<i>Anas penelope</i>	Wigeon	100
<i>Accipiter virgatus?</i>	Besra Sparrowhawk	250
<i>Accipiter sp.</i>	Sparrowhawk sp.	190
<i>Francolinus pintadeanus</i>	Chinese Francolin	85
<i>Bambusicola thoracica</i>	Chinese Bamboo-Partridge	75
<i>Lophura nymthemera</i>	Silver Pheasant	
<i>Pucrasia macrolopha</i>	Koklas Pheasant	120
<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Ring-necked Pheasant	250 (pr.)
<i>Chrysolophus pictus</i>	Golden Pheasant	250 (pr.)
<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	Woodcock	
<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	Spotted Dove	
<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>	Rufous Turtle Dove	60
<i>Cuculus canorus/saturatus</i>	Cuckoo/Oriental Cuckoo	
<i>Cuculus sparverioides</i>	Large Hawk Cuckoo	60
<i>Tyto capensis</i>	Grass Owl	
<i>Picus canus</i>	Grey-headed Woodpecker	40
<i>Acridotheres cristatellus</i>	Crested Mynah	65
<i>Oriolus chinensis</i>	Black-naped Oriole	
<i>Pica pica</i>	Magpie	90
e. Unmounted skins/feathers		
<i>Paradisaea minor</i>	Lesser Bird of Paradise	
<i>Paradisaea apoda</i>	Greater Bird of Paradise	
<i>Falconiformes</i>	Birds of prey	
f. Miscellaneous		Price (HK\$)*
<i>Rhinoplax vigil</i>	Helmeted Hornbill	Uncarved casque 1,000 Carved casque 1,500

* 1979/1980

APPENDIX X

FEATHERS IMPORTED, EXPORTED AND RE-EXPORTED TO/FROM HONG KONG IN 1978 AND 1979

All data from Hong Kong Trade Statistics, Census and Statistics Department.

IMPORTS				
"Downs"	Wt kg		Value HK\$	
	1978	1979	1978	1979
USA	4536	22045	742090	3260781
Canada		3944		583030
Taiwan	15499	12374	1997180	1556462
China	21013	12734	2314723	2124080
North Korea	9620		206830	
TOTAL	50668	51097	5260823	7524353
	==	==	==	==
"Bird feathers and skins with feathers on"				
	Wt kg		Value HK\$	
	1978	1979	1978	1979
USA	75334	93630	1241783	2560463
Canada	3621		718210	
Switzerland	1000		43620	
West Germany		9700		489840
Belgium		1000		4955
France		1097		20858
Italy	184	666	11701	35181
Israel		435		10800
Taiwan	68632	5369	1471748	401530
Indonesia	22450		372671	
Macau	38017	65078	933105	920720
Philippines	16320		296893	
Thailand	1800	4050	36000	40500
Burma		10000		132000
Japan	8505		978948	
China	192003	111159	10269416	4091758
North Korea	79366		1587460	
Vietnam	4255	390915	87900	6335616
India	111		16663	
West Malaysia	3983	3811	97787	70729
Singapore	73198	54185	1706108	857639
Zaire	2430		1028376	
South Africa	339	514	144657	153696
TOTAL	591548	751609	21043046	16126285
	==	==	==	==

“Prepared feathers and feather articles”

	Value HK\$	
	1978	1979
USA	24522	54806
UK	71283	10700
Taiwan	79436	894240
Macau	35626	19762
Japan	119387	107061
China	2729942	2655841
Singapore	1652237	527441
South Africa	21859	22915
Australia	31217	
TOTAL	4765509	4292766
	== ==	== ==

EXPORTS

“Downs”

	Wt kg		Value HK\$	
	1978	1979	1978	1979
USA	31666	25476	3528221	2058545
Canada		3500		337000
West Germany		6690		643680
Taiwan	324	680	34086	300000
Japan	20000	19129	1798620	1800455
Australia	2399	3600	219920	204500
TOTAL	54389	59075	5580847	5344180
	== ==	== ==	== ==	== ==

“Bird feathers and skins with feathers on”

	Wt kg		Value HK\$	
	1978	1979	1978	1979
USA	26848	10885	1738016	439515
Canada		3282		316662
Denmark	190100	153583	8516412	3424552
West Germany	111200	147110	4594032	5017173
Belgium	1077	68	55608	10701
UK	71500	85000	2715800	1432162
Taiwan	10291	11526	220115	759770
Macau		754		7800
Thailand	2200	2005	44000	40100
Japan	3000	24600	383200	1594620
China		9689		54300
India	71	159	2500	5000
Singapore	421824	527925	8777000	6736000
Australia	2960	1700	233000	139000
New Zealand	1500	91	56130	8000
TOTAL	842571	978377	27335813	19985355
	== ==	== ==	== ==	== ==

“Prepared feathers and feather articles”

	Value HK\$	
	1978	1979
USA	3001702	4853855
Canada	32612	89280
Sweden	4900	401500
Norway	4400	
Denmark	64192	255847
Switzerland	7000	8500
Austria	5990	14461
West Germany	44591	576340
Netherlands	148781	412954
France		6000
Peninsular Spain		23124
Italy	17325	
Greece	50243	98865
UK	544737	665051
Dominican Republic		10000
Panama	28978	42139
Lebanon	71766	111646
Syria	15650	47222
Taiwan	28125	140426
Philippines	14841	8272
South Korea	40600	30940
Thailand	6000	26200
Japan	2238360	1307707
China		55180
West Malaysia	76658	81567
Singapore	458159	339129
Somaliland	4560	
South Africa	55443	80950
Australia	150383	345674
New Zealand	616239	185171
TOTAL	7732235	10218000
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RE-EXPORTS

“Downs”

	Wt kg		Value HK\$	
	1978	1979	1978	1979
West Germany	6000	4000	940000	436100
Taiwan		2638		226136
Japan	5630	7981	1183526	1322356
TOTAL	11630	14619	2123526	1984592
	== ==	== ==	== ==	== ==

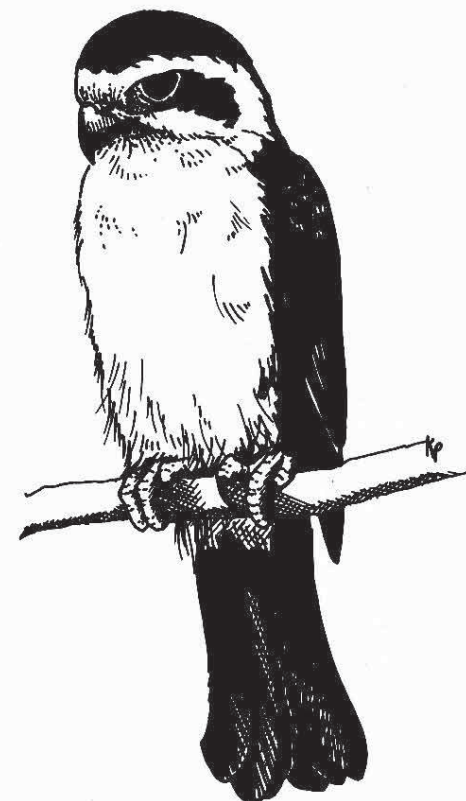
“Bird feathers and skins with feathers on”

	Wt kg		Value HK\$	
	1978	1979	1978	1979
USA	4032	8565	482106	709811
Denmark		111		7828
West Germany		378681		5865743
Netherlands	3893	617	149741	82900
Belgium	392	16902	34200	459700
France		70		3800
UK	1173	4396	65642	420643
Taiwan	5656	17354	164245	807869
Macau	24008	64728	634185	1437291
Philippines		238		85400
Thailand	700	1836	8400	38930
Japan	27281	3529	1903191	484687
China		4088		186855
West Malaysia	111	46	45016	24650
South Africa		2149		82967
Botswana		59		5000
Australia		8405		125174
New Zealand	27	346	2400	27120
TOTAL	67273	512120	3489126	10856368
	== ==	== ==	== ==	== ==

“Prepared feathers and feather articles”

	Value HK\$	
	1978	1979
USA	255563	609697
Canada		22923
Sweden	13400	11980
Norway	690	
Denmark		262430
West Germany	149399	147049
Netherlands	52114	211650
France	1210	
UK	81835	871107
Panama	12604	6382
Kuwait	3896	24425
UAE	13075	13910
Bahrain	1175	
Jordan	1473	
Philippines	15935	
South Korea	7000	
Thailand	28757	
Taiwan		41479
Japan	1496250	866712
China		20760
West Malaysia	31948	
Singapore	56270	37653
Malagasy Republic	5177	
US Oceania		3126
Australia		19265
New Zealand	4422	133750
Papua New Guinea	9602	
TOTAL	2241795	3304298
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White-legged Falconet (*Microhierax melanoleucos*)
Drawn: Karen Phillipps