

HONG KONG BIRD REPORT

1995

香港鳥類報告



一九九五年香港鳥類報告

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紀錄委員會報告

一九九五年內錄得的品種分別為A類347種，D類9種。前一年分別為342種及9種；而一九九三年則為最高紀錄的354種及8種。年中新增的A類有五種，情況簡介如下：

新增A類品種：

1. 褐鰹鳥 *Sula leucogaster*：五月廿八日，在鶴咀發現一隻成鳥。
2. 赭紅尾鵯 *Phoenicurus ochruros*：四月廿三日，在平洲發現一隻初次渡夏的雄鳥。
3. 白喉林鵯 *Rhinomyias brunneata*：有一隻於九月十六至廿一日，米埔錄得一隻；九月十七至二十日，米埔附近續有發現；九月廿三日及十一月一日，松柏塢也有紀錄。
5. 黑頭鵯 *Emberiza melanocephala*：十月廿七日，在甩洲發現一隻初次渡冬的雄鳥；十一月八至十二日，再發現一隻成鳥，估計是雌鳥。

至於首次錄得的 *Cacatua alba* 白鳳頭鸚鵡及白腰鵯 *Copsychus malabaricus* 均歸入F類。

一個被迫認的紀錄是一九九四年二月廿五至廿八日，在米埔發現的一隻屬北美亞種的海鷗 *Larus canus* (或者 *L.c. brachyrhynchus*)，當中涉及的問題是應否列為另一個品種。

此外，年中值得一提的紀錄還包括二月初在梧桐寨的三隻日本歌鵯 *Erithacus akahige*；六月尾至七初，在西貢有一隻普通夜鷹 *Caprimulgus indicus*，似乎已穩佔了活動範圍；與及七月廿三日，在大帽山唱著歌的一隻高山短翅鶯 *Bradypterus seebohmii*。

至於一些有關大鵯 *Butor hemilasius*、白喉班秧雞 *Rallina eurizonoides*、草鵯 *Tyto capensis*、褐魚鵯 *Ketupa zeylonensis* 及北蝗鶯 (指名亞種) *Locustella ochotensis* 的紀錄則尚在審議中。

至於以下的品種，原屬呈交報告時需附帶詳細說明的系列，現已由該系列名單中剔除：灰背燕尾 *Enicurus schistaceus*、黃頭扇尾鶯 *Cisticola exilis*、栗頭鳳凰 *Yuhina castaniceps* 與及白眶雀 *Alcippe morrisonia*。

繁殖鳥類調查繼續進行，但仍需在九六年進行一定數量的觀察活動才能完滿結束。冬季的水禽調查在三月至十一月間每月也有進行。

紀錄委員會正積極籌備出版最新的《香港鳥類名錄註釋》，預期將於九七年出版，屆時亦將公佈繁殖鳥類調查的結果及其他進一步紀錄，以及雀鳥分類的覆核結果。

首次發現的 *L.c. brachyrhynchus* 將有助增加認識本地鷗類的羽飾特點，本期年報中亦介紹了三個 *L. canus* 亞種，初步資料顯示其中可能涉及兩種以至三種鷗類。

近年《香港鳥類報告》收到越來越多會員投稿，提供以往未被紀錄的雀鳥行為的短文，實在是一個可喜的現象。由於本地有關雀鳥的認識十分有限，各觀鳥會會員可藉此機會分享經驗，編輯十分歡迎日後各會員踴躍投稿。

委員會的成員名單維持不變，包括 Mike Chalmers（觀鳥紀錄委員）、Geoff Carey、Paul Leader 及 Mike Leven。

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Officers of the Society (1995)

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Treasurer	J.C.M. Webster
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Front cover: Asiatic Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus*
Long Valley, Hong Kong, October 1995 (Ray Tipper)

EDITORIAL NOTE

Yet again, the length of the report increases and this is easily the longest so far. Aside from the regular contents, an over 50-page paper on the birds of Southeast China is the centrepiece and will provide a standard reference for some time. The paper on the review of frigatebird records has again been held over but with good reason, and it is hoped that when it is eventually published in the next Report, it will be more definite with regard to some of the more problematic records.

I am very grateful to Jeremy Pearse for his continued provision of high-quality illustrations despite his busy schedule and residence in USA. Chan Ming Ming has kindly translated text into Chinese, the amount of which has increased in this report, and C.Y. Lam helped with the choice of Chinese names for some species. Idy Wong and my wife Selina helped me through the intricacies of desktop publishing software. Very much assistance with Chinese character text has been provided by Paula Lee and other help has come from Ralph Leonard at WWF-HK; that organisation has also provided much-appreciated support in the form of photocopying and other facilities. I would also like to thank David Melville, Mike Leven, Martin Hale, Verity Picken, Paul Leader and Cheung Ho Fai for help with proofreading.

A review of *HKBR 1994* rightly pointed out the anomalous English names used for some Hong Kong birds. The Records Committee is aware of this, but has been waiting for publication of the new *Annotated Checklist* to correct it, when checklists and advances made by others in the area of English bird name standardisation could be taken into consideration.

Our maintenance of the Report in its present format is due in no small part to the advertising and sponsorship that is included. I am very grateful for this support provided by Swarovski (HK) Ltd., Cezet Optical Co. Ltd. (agent for Carl Zeiss binoculars), Shiro Hong Kong Ltd. (Nikon distributor), Schmidt and Co. Ltd. (Leica distributor), Pro Cam-Fis, Government Information Services and Woods Photo Supplies. Those who avail themselves of their services are encouraged to mention the Society and the Report when doing so. John Holmes again organised the advertising and sponsorship, as well as distribution, for which many thanks.

Geoff Carey

REPORT ON THE BIRDS 1995

RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT

G.J. Carey

During 1995 the number of species recorded was 347 in Category A and eight in Category D. This compares with 342 in Category A (including one included only in this report) and nine in Category D in 1994, and 354 in Category A and eight in Category D in 1993 (the peak year).

During 1995 five species were added to Category A. The changes are summarised below while the categories used are defined in the Systematic List.

Additions to Category A

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*. An adult at Cape D'Aguilar on 28 May.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*. A first-summer male at Ping Chau on 23 April.

Brown-chested Flycatcher *Rhinomyias brunneata*. One at Kap Lung during 16-21 September.

Manchurian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus tangorum*. One at Mai Po during 7-20 January, followed by others near Mai Po during 17-20 September, and at Long Valley on 23 September and 1 November.

Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala*. A first-winter male near Lut Chau on 27 October, followed by an adult female at Mai Po during 8-12 November.

The first records of White Cockatoo *Cacatua alba* and White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus* were added to Category E.

In addition, the first record of the distinctive American form of Common Gull *Larus canus*, the so-called 'Mew' Gull *L.c. brachyrhynchus*, which may well be a separate species, was recorded during 25-28 February 1994 and has now been accepted.

Other notable records during the year included up to three Japanese Robins *Erithacus akahige* at Ng Tung Chai in early February, a Japanese Nightjar *Caprimulgus indicus* apparently holding territory in Sai Kung during late June and early July and a Russet Bush Warbler *Bradypterus seebohmii* in song on Tai Mo Shan on 23 July.

Records of Upland Buzzard *Buteo hemilasius*, Slaty-legged Crake *Rallina eurizonoides*, Grass Owl *Tyto capensis*, Brown Fish Owl *Ketupa zeylonensis* and Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella ochotensis* are still under consideration.

The following species were removed from the list of species requiring descriptions to be submitted: Slaty-backed Forktail *Enicurus schistaceus*, Bright-capped Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*, Striated Yuhina *Yuhina castaniceps* and Grey-checked Fulvetta *Alcippe morrisonia*.

The Breeding Bird Survey continued in 1995 but requires a limited amount of work to be carried out in 1996 to bring it to final completion. The Winter Waterfowl Census continued monthly counts from March to November. Progress with a new edition of the *Checklist* continues and it is hoped that publication will occur in 1997. Results of the Breeding Bird Survey and any further record or category reviews will be presented at that time.

Further progress has been made in understanding plumage features of gulls in the region. Prompted by the first record of *L.c. brachyrhynchus*, plumage characters of the three Asian forms of *L. canus* are presented in this Report; it is of interest that preliminary evidence indicates that two (or perhaps even three) full species may be involved.

A welcome trend in the HKBR in recent years has been the increase in the number of notes submitted concerning previously unrecorded aspects of bird behaviour. Given how relatively little is known regarding birds of the region, all members of the Society have the opportunity to make a contribution in this respect and the Editor very much welcomes submission of such notes in the future.

The Records Committee remained unchanged during the year, comprising Mike Chalmers (Recorder), Geoff Carey, Paul Leader and Mike Leven.

The systematic list was compiled by G.J. Carey (1-56, 88-153 and rarities), M.L. Chalmers (57-87), P.R. Kennerley (156-177), R.W. Lewthwaite (179-229), D.A. Diskin (230-279), P.J. Leader (280-321), M.R. Leven (321.2-end) and V.B. Picken (Category D and E). Thanks are due to the following observers who submitted records for inclusion in this report:

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MONTHLY SUMMARIES

G.J. Carey and C.Y. Lam

January

A fairly normal month although cloudier than usual. A northerly surge of the monsoon brought an exceptionally early thunderstorm on 3rd and temperatures fell below 10°C on 5th. An easterly surge on 10th was followed closely by a cold front on 12th. Another cold front arrived on 23rd, bringing cold and rainy weather that persisted until the end of the month. Temperatures fell below 10°C again on 31st.

1995 began with a Brown-headed Gull at Mai Po on 1st, followed by a female Citrine Wagtail at Kam Tin on 2nd. At Mai Po single Great Black-headed Gulls were noted on 6th and 9th and 26th and a male hybrid wigeon on 7th and 14th may have first visited the previous winter. The star of the month, however, was the first Manchurian Reed Warbler for Hong Kong, at Mai Po on 8th, on which date a Bittern was also seen. A count of 5845 Dunlin there the following day was a new high.

Up to four Siberian Thrushes were present at Ng Tung Chai between 14 January and 7 February, the first signs of what was to become a very good winter for thrushes and chats. A roost count of Black Kites on 15th recorded 1220-1270 birds, apparently little changed in the last 30 years. A male Orange-headed Ground Thrush was first noted at Tai Po Kau on 15th, remaining until 18 February. An unseasonal Radde's Warbler was at Ng Tung Chai on 17th, and a Lapwing and a Spoon-billed Sandpiper were at Mai Po on 18th. At Kam Tin 11 Painted Snipe on 19th was the month's highest count, and on the same day an Eagle Owl was at Chau Tau. On 20th a Ringed Plover was at Mai Po.

The annual waterfowl count on 21st recorded 62,357 waterbirds of 65 species, with new highs of 6590 Cormorants, 8082 Shovelers and 18,729 Black-headed Gulls. Also on 21st a male White-throated Rock Thrush was at Lion Rock CP and an unseasonal Black-naped Oriole was seen at Nam Sang Wai. On 24th there was a pair of Eagle Owls at Chung Hom Kok; Dalmatian Pelicans in Deep Bay increased to 18 on 25th; the same date 1730 Spotted Redshanks were noted at Mai Po, a new high. Two Buff-bellied Pipits were seen at Kam Tin on 26th and a Northern Skylark was there during 26-29th. On 28th the only Common Gull of the winter was noted at Mai Po; the following day Falcated Teal peaked at 101. A type one swiftlet (possibly Himalayan) was at Tin Shui Wai during 29-30th, as was a male Citrine Wagtail. A Ruddy Crake was present there during 29 January to 1 February, another Lapwing was seen at Kam Tin during 29th to 5 February; the month finished with an unseasonal Pale-legged Leaf Warbler on Cheung Chau on 30th and a Plain Flowerpecker at A Ma Wat on 31st.

February

On the whole slightly cooler and drier than usual. It was generally fine and dry up to 12th. A northerly surge arrived on 4th and the lowest temperature of the month was recorded on 6th. An easterly surge on 12th made no difference to the fine weather, but a weak cold front accompanied by thunderstorms arrived in the evening of 13th, marking the beginning of a long cool and rainy spell that lasted till the end of the month.

A new high for Avocet was set when 1002 were counted at Mai Po on 1st; a male Chestnut Bittern at Mui Wo on the same date was the only winter record, and a Watercock at Mai Po the following day was unseasonal. Dalmatian Pelican numbers peaked at 19 on 3rd and a Scaup was seen at Mai Po on 4th.

During late January and early February the woodlands in Hong Kong filled with thrushes and chats, bringing with them large numbers of common winter visitors, higher than usual numbers of scarcer visitors and a number of vagrants. A Rufous-gorgetted Flycatcher that was at Ng Tung Chai during 1-11th marked the beginning of a purple patch for that site during the first half of the month. The influx included Red-tailed Robins and Red-flanked Bluetails, for which the highest single locality count were eight Robins on 6th and 20 Bluetails on 7th, both at Ng Tung Chai. Daurian Redstart, though not a forest chat, attained a record count of 30 at Pak Sha O, Sai Kung CP, on 5th. Although White's Thrushes had occurred in good numbers during January, highest overall numbers (at least 45 different birds at 17 sites) were recorded during the last week of January and the first week of February. The period 31 January to 11 February brought eight different Brown Thrushes, 13 Eye-browed Thrushes, and over fifty Dusky Thrushes, a species that enjoyed a very good winter generally. The other highlights at Ng Tung Chai were three Japanese Robins and a Fukien Niltava present during 4-7th.

Two Asian House Martins at Kam Tin during 6-7th were rather early and the only Bright-capped Cisticola of the first part of the year was at Sha Lo Tung on 7th; Hong Kong's fifth Yellow-streaked Warbler was at Ho Chung on the same date. A Bittern was at Shuen Wan on 10th and a Slaty-legged Crake was at Wu Kau Tang on 12th; 18th saw the first major arrival of swifts of the spring with 100 Pacific and 500 House being recorded. Two Crested Kingfishers were at Bride's Pool on 11th and 26th and gull highlights at Mai Po included four Great Black-headed from 18th to the end of the month.

March

Cooler than usual while rainfall was only half the normal amount. A northerly surge on 3rd brought fine and dry weather that lasted till 10th when overcast conditions took over on the arrival of another surge of the monsoon. Two more significant northerly surges reached Hong Kong on 17th and 25th, both preceded by a couple of foggy days. The last surge of the month arrived on 31st together with rain.

The month began with a female White-throated Rock Thrush at Mount Nicholson that remained until the 28th. The last Oriental White Stork was seen on 4th at Mai Po where there was also a Scaup on the same day. A Kittiwake was at Mai Po on 8th, the fourth record. The first Large Hawk Cuckoo of the spring was heard on 13th. Four Oriental Plovers were present at Kai Tak during 15-19th and another was seen briefly at Mai Po on 29th, both records somewhat earlier than recent years. A White Ibis was in Deep Bay from 18th into April, and three *lugens*, or Black-backed, Wagtails were at Tsim Bei Tsui on 20th. The first calling Savannah Nightjar was heard on 21st, and 43 Oriental Pratincoles on 25th was the highest count of the spring. A Whiskered Tern at Ma Tso Lung on 28th was very early; a Grey Bushchat was at Lo Wu on the same day.

April

Rainfall was again only about half of then normal amount while the number of sunshine hours was some thirty percent above normal. There were only two surges of note. An easterly surge arrived on 3rd and, as the monsoon moderated, mist and fog were reported between 6th and 14th. The second surge manifested itself as a trough of low pressure crossing the coast on 19th in the company of thunderstorms, quickly followed by cool easterlies reaching Hong Kong on 20th. Fine weather then persisted until 30th.

The easterly surge that arrived on 3rd brought a period of fairly cool and cloudy weather, and contained the most obvious passage of the month. The first spring sighting of Hainan Blue Flycatcher occurred in Tai Po Kau on the first day of the month and the passage of Ferruginous Flycatchers consisted of at least five birds in the first week of the month. A count of 150 White-vented Needletails at Kam Tin on 2nd equalled the record high, the same day as a Yellow-browed Bunting at Tsim Bei Tsui and a Siberian Blue Robin at Mai Po; the latter species was also seen in Kowloon Park on 7th, 11th and 12th. The period 2-5th brought most of the year's records of Japanese Yellow Bunting and the spring's three Eastern Crowned Warblers occurred during 3-8th. The first Japanese Paradise Flycatcher occurred on 3rd and five Japanese Grosbeaks were at Lam Tsuen Valley on 5th.

A Great Black-headed Gull in Deep Bay on 7th was the latest-ever spring record, as were two Chestnut-flanked White-eyes in the ZBG on the same date. The first Red-winged Crested Cuckoo and Broad-billed Roller of the spring occurred 8th and the first Indian Cuckoo came the day after. A Brown Hawk Owl was at The Peak, also on 9th. A count was made of 13 Red-tailed Robins singing on Ping Chau on 14th, the same date and site as the only spring record of Red-breasted Flycatcher.

There were eight Blue-tailed Bee-eaters at Mai Po on 14th, with nine present at Lin Barn Tsuen on 19th. The only spring records of Black-naped Oriole occurred on 16th and 19th. Records of Silky Starling during 16-18th were all later than the previous latest spring record. The first Black Bazas were seen on 17th and the first Swinhoe's Egret of the spring was seen on 19th; this was followed

by another from 26th to the end of the month. On 21st 31 Chinese Goshawks flew north at Tsim Bei Tsui, and a Sparrowhawk was at Tai Po Kau the next day. Two Brown-breasted Bulbuls were at Tai Mo Shan on 24th, a Pectoral Sandpiper was at Ma Tso Lung on 25th and, finally for the month, a Little Stint was at Mai Po on 30th.

May

This was the second driest May on record since 1884, the total rainfall being only 7% of normal. The month was characterised by the repeated arrival of weak surges, each bringing cooler and cloudier weather for a couple of days. The surge arrival dates were 5th, 11th, 16th and 22nd. In both the first and last cases, thunderstorms occurred the previous day as a trough of low pressure approached the coast from the north.

There were four Watercocks during the month, beginning with one on 3rd, and two Swinhoe's Egrets were at Mai Po on 4th with one remaining the following day. The second Little Stint of the spring was seen on 5th. A Stonechat at Mai Po on 6th was the latest spring record. A Pechora Pipit was at Mai Po on 8th and a Citrine Wagtail was at Long Valley on 10th; another unidentified swiftlet was seen at Ma Tso Lung on the same date.

A series of new late dates were established in the next few days: Great Crested Grebe in Deep Bay during 11-12th, a female Pintail at Mai Po on 12th, a Cormorant there on 13th and an Ashy Minivet at Ping Chau on 13th. There were four Schrenck's Bitterns in the second half of the month, and two Crimson-legged Crakes were present at Shuen Wan from 17th to 6 June. A male Pheasant-tailed Jacana was at Ma Tso Lung on 24th, and on the same date a female Black-naped Oriole was seen carrying food at Lok Ma Chau. Finally, another Swinhoe's Egret was noted during 26-27th.

June

It was unusually warm and dry. The mean temperature was the third highest for June on record, while rainfall was 65% of normal. A weak easterly surge affected Hong Kong on 6th as Tropical Storm Deanna remained quasi-stationary south of Taiwan. Another weak easterly surge took place briefly on 11th. The southwest monsoon became well-established from 14th.

At Fung Kat Heung on 2nd and Tai Mo Shan on 11th singing Crested Buntings were noted. A male Japanese Nightjar was at Yung Shue O on 22nd; also on that date, at least 100 Pacific Swifts were present at the Ninepins, still the only site in Hong Kong where breeding has been proven.

July

The month's rainfall was double the normal amount making it the first month in 1995 with above normal rainfall. Southwesterlies prevailed most of the time but, towards the end of the month, Severe Tropical Storm (STS) Gary

approached from the southeast and brought two days of northeasterlies during 29-30th. Gary eventually crossed the coast some 300km to the east of Hong Kong.

The Japanese Nightjar at Yung Shue O was again seen on 1st and 17th. Also on 17th there were two Bridled Terns in Mirs Bay. A Russet Bush Warbler was heard singing at 800m asl at Tai Mo Shan on 23rd, the first summer record. The first ever midsummer record of European Spoonbill concerned one on 25th.

August

The wettest on record, rainfall exceeding 1000mm. The Gale signal no. 8 was hoisted on 11th and 12th for STS Helen which came in from the south and landed about 50km to the east. The signal was hoisted a second time on 31st for Typhoon Kent which approached from the east-southeast and landed roughly 100km to the east.

A total of 74 Bridled Terns was noted during 10-13th in association with the close approach of STS Helen. A Black Bittern was at Mai Po during 20-23rd, and the highest count of Chestnut Munias there during the summer was 25 on 22nd. A Watercock was at the same locality on 28th. A Schrenck's Bittern at Lut Chau on 29th was notably earlier than previous autumn records. Finally, Typhoon Kent on 31st brought 31 Aleutian Terns.

September

Another month of rainfall below normal. The winter monsoon season started as a brief spell of fresh easterlies on 12th. The next spell commenced on 17th and brought a gentle fall in temperature. Winds were strong easterlies offshore between 18th and 20th as STS Ryan developed to the southeast of Hainan. The month ended with a third spell of fresh easterlies starting on 27th.

The month began with Typhoon Kent bringing 65 Aleutian Terns to Cape D'Aguilar on 1st and three to Mirs Bay the following day. A Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler at Long Valley on 2nd was the first of the autumn. A Black Bittern was again seen at Mai Po, on 3rd, and two Schrenck's Bitterns were at Luk Keng on 9th. Up to three Orange-headed Ground Thrushes were present at Kap Lung during 10-16th. Two Siberian Thrushes were there on 16th, a new early date by 13 days, and on the same date at the same site a Sulphur-breasted Warbler was also the earliest ever autumn record.

Two Purple-backed Starlings at Ma Tso Lung on 17th were the earliest ever in autumn. Another Schrenck's Bittern was at Nam Sang Wai on 19th and single White-throated Needletails near Fairview Park on the same date and at Long Valley on 24th were the first autumn records. Three Lanceolated Warblers were recorded in the last ten days of the month. A Barred Buttonquail was at Mai Po on 22nd, and two Pallas's Warblers at Kuk Po on 23rd were exceptionally early. A Besra was at Fung Kat Heung and a Pechora Pipit was near Mai Po on 27th, and on the same day single Bluethroats at Long Valley and Mai Po were the

earliest autumn records. Finally, on 30th, a Citrine Wagtail was at Long Valley and a White's Thrush was at Fanling Golf Course, the latter the earliest autumn record by ten days.

October

Heavy rain brought by Typhoon Sibyl and its remnant made it the fifth wettest October since records began in 1844. Gale signal no. 8 was hoisted on 3rd when Sibyl was heading towards the Guangdong coast some 300km to the west. A strong easterly surge prevailed during 11-12th, followed by a weaker one during 16-17th. The first northerly surge of note of the winter arrived on 24th.

The month began with a Yellow-legged Buttonquail at Long Valley on 1st. It was a bumper autumn for Purple-backed Starling with counts of up to 19 reported on ten dates until the final record on 24th. On 3rd Typhoon Sibyl produced a new autumn high of 1572 Red-necked Phalaropes at Cape D'Aguilar, as well as five Heuglin's Gulls, the earliest record since 1977. Interesting terns also featured in the form of one Aleutian, 12 Bridled and one Sooty, the latter a juvenile at Tin Shui Wai.

A White Ibis at Kam Tin on 4th was unusual. The only records of Little Whimbrel for the year were two at Long Valley on 6th, one at Mai Po on 8th and one at Kam Tin on 28th. Two more Citrine Wagtails were recorded during the month, one on 7th and 14th at Long Valley and another near Fairview Park during 27-28th. A Schrenck's Bittern was at Tai O on 8th and the second Pechora Pipit of the autumn was seen on 9th. A Pied Harrier and two Japanese Sparrowhawks flew south along the north Lantau coast on 10th. On 15th a Bittern was at Mai Po, and there were four records of Lanceolated Warbler during the last half month.

An Asiatic Dowitcher at Mai Po during 21-22nd was the latest autumn record, and a Brown-headed Gull at Mai Po on 21st was the earliest ever. Two Chestnut-flanked White-eyes were trapped at KARC on 21st and singles were trapped there on 28th and 31st. The period 21-24th brought at least four Grey Bushchats. Two Chestnut-checked Starlings were at Kam Tin on 23rd and two Northern Skylarks flew southwest near Fairview Park on 28th.

November

A nearly rainless month and relative humidity dropped to 17% on 24th, the lowest on record for November. Northerly surges arrived on 7th, 14th, 20th and 23rd. An easterly surge arrived on 11th.

The month began with a Black Baza at Fei Ngo Shan on 1st, the latest ever recorded. A Radde's Warbler was present at Sha Lo Tung on 5th; at least five more were seen during the month. A Pheasant-tailed Jacana was at Ma Tso Lung on 9th, a Scaup was seen intermittently at Mai Po from 12th until mid-December and a Black Stork was seen over Tai Mei Tuk on 14th. A Baikal Teal was at Kam Tin on 18th, the first record away from Deep Bay.

A Brown Bush Warbler and a Two-barred Greenish Warbler were at Sha Lo Tung on 18th, and single Bitterns were recorded at Mai Po on during 18-19th and on 28th. The number of Black-faced Spoonbills increased to 99 on 23rd, a new high and 25% of the world population. A Brown-headed Gull was at Lin Barn Tsuen on 24th.

December

Rainfall was significantly below normal again owing to a fairly persistent winter monsoon which brought generally fine and dry conditions. Dry northerlies prevailed during 4-8th. A cold front arrived on 17th followed by a spell of northerlies up to 22nd. Another northerly surge then arrived on 24th, bringing fine and dry weather that lasted till the end of the year.

A Baikal Teal was at Tsim Bei Tsui and a hybrid male Wigeon x American Wigeon was at Mai Po on 2nd. A total of 363 Grey Starlings, a new high for Hong Kong, was at Nam Sang Wai on 2nd, and the following day four Dalmatian Pelicans were seen, building up to six on 16th and ten by 25th. A party of eight Chestnut-flanked White-eyes, the largest group ever recorded in Hong Kong, was at Lead Mine Pass on 3rd; singles were also at Shing Mun on 5th and at KARC on 30th. Two slightly unseasonal Asian House Martins were at Luk Keng on 7th.

At Nam Sang Wai on 9 December, there was a Spotted Eagle of the form *fulvenscens*, and an Oriental White Stork was seen in Deep Bay on the same date, remaining until the end of the year. Also on 9th Tufted Duck numbers built up to 251 and then 291 on 31st, a new high. The highest count of Red Turtle Doves during the year was 27 at Tsim Bei Tsui on 10th, and a Water Rail was found freshly dead at Ma Tso Lung on 11th.

By 16th the number of European Spoonbills had increased to nine; on the same date 80 Fantail Warblers, a new high, were recorded at Long Valley. An unseasonal Oriental Pratincole was at Kau Sai Chau on 19th, and a Citrine Wagtail was at Lut Chau on 26th remaining into 1996. There was plenty of gull interest in the last few days of the year with single Great Black-headed and Slaty-backed Gulls on 27th and a Brown-headed on 30th. A Styan's Grasshopper Warbler was at Ma Tso Lung on 30th, and, finally, a Brown Thrush was at Ng Tung Chai on 31st.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

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In the interests of brevity, records for species which are generally common and widespread throughout the year are not listed unless significant reports were received. The dates of the waterfowl counts referred to are 21 January, 18 February, 18 March, 11 November and 9 December, although it should be noted that these may include counts made up to a week either side. Species listed in Collar *et al.* (1994) are indicated by the appropriate categories in parentheses: C = critical; E = endangered; V = vulnerable; N = near-threatened. Other abbreviations used: HKU = Hong Kong University; KARC = Kadoorie Agricultural Research Centre; NT = New Territories; ZBG = Zoological and Botanical Gardens, CP = Country Park.

Category A

*Species which have been recorded in an apparently wild state
in Hong Kong in the last fifty years*

1 Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* 小鸕鶿

Waterfowl count totals for Deep Bay in the early part of the year were 137 in January, 180 in February and 95 in March. There were no reports of breeding in the early part of the summer, though there were relatively late reports in October of one bird still incubating at Nam Sang Wai on 2nd and a pair with four or five-day old young at Tsim Bei Tsui on 7th. The November waterfowl count recorded 92 in the Deep Bay area and the December count 156. Away from Deep Bay, reports of up to five birds came from Tai Mei Tuk, Shing Mun, Shuen Wan, Kam Tin, Chung Mei and Kau Sai Chau (Sai Kung) in winter.

2 Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* 鳳頭鸕鶿

Waterfowl count totals for Deep Bay in the early part of the year were 70 in January and 115 in February; 77 were present at Tsim Bei Tsui on 12 March. In addition, 206 were counted at Tsim Bei Tsui on 25 February, the highest count of the year. Subsequent records were five on 22 March, one on 1 April, nine on 8 April and, finally, one during 11-12 May (RWL,YYT); this latter record constitutes a new late date, eight days later than the previous latest. In the second winter period the earliest record concerned 35 at Tsim Bei Tsui on 11 November; subsequently, 146 were counted on 10 December, with 161 there on 16th.

5.5 Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster* 褐鯨鳥

An adult was seen at Cape D'Aguilar on 28 May (JNP,RWL). This is the first record for Hong Kong (see Pearse and Lewthwaite 1996).

6 Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* 鸕鶿

The increase in numbers recorded in Deep Bay in recent years continued with a total of 6590 counted at the Mai Po and Nam Sang Wai roosts during the January waterfowl count, a new high. The February waterfowl count recorded

5800 and the March count 4086. Numbers declined in the second half of the month to reach 600 by 3 April, 14 on 12 April and, finally, one on 13 May (GAW), a new late date for spring. The earliest record in the second half of the year concerned one over Luk Keng on 30 September. Subsequently, 800 were counted at Nam Sang Wai on 20 October, 1701 were logged during the November waterfowl count, 4957 were counted at roost on 2 December and 6550 were recorded on 9th. Away from Deep Bay up to 400 were noted at Shuen Wan in the first winter period, 210 were at Plover Cove Reservoir on 11 February, 203 were seen at Three Fathoms Cove flying toward Plover Cove on 22 December and single figure counts were made in the Chek Lap Kok/Brothers area and at Kam Tin in both winter periods.

7 Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus* (N) 卷羽鵜鶘

The two birds present at the beginning of the year increased to 18 on 25 January and 19 on 3 February. These remained until at least 20 March with numbers subsequently declining to three on 1 April and two on 8 April, the final record of the spring. In the second half of the year four were seen on 3 December, building up to six on 16th and ten by 25th. Numbers in the past three winters have held fairly steady and one or two first-winter birds continue to appear each winter.

9 Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel* 白斑軍艦鳥

An immature was in a pre-roost gathering with Black Kites at Magazine Gap on 15 June (MRL).

[**Frigatebird sp.** *Fregata* sp. 軍艦鳥類
1994: one at Magazine Gap, HK Island, on 22 March (CAV).]

10 Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* 大麻鵞

Singles were recorded at Mai Po on 8 January, 15 October, 18-19th and 28 November and 5th and 28 December. Elsewhere, one was at Shuen Wan on 10 February and one was at Nam Sang Wai on 14 December.

11 Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis* 黃斑葦鵞

The only report in the first winter period concerned one at Nam Sang Wai on 12 January. The earliest spring record concerned two at Mai Po on 4 April; this was also the highest spring count there and one of only ten reports in the Mai Po area at this time. Elsewhere, six were at Long Valley on 16 May, up to four were at Shuen Wan from 21 May to 3 June, up to three were at Luk Tei Tong, near Mui Wo, during 21-24 May and up to five were at Shuen Wan until 8 June. In early summer breeding was possibly indicated by a female at Tai Lam Chung Reservoir on 10 June. Midsummer counts at Mai Po did not exceed three; the only record at this time away from Mai Po concerned one at Kau Sai Chau on 22 July. In autumn recorded on thirteen dates during August and September, and on three further days up to 22 October. Most of these records were in the Deep Bay area apart from one at Long Valley on 22 September, one at Tai O, Lantau, on 8 October and one at Kam Tin on 22 October. The final record of the year was one at Mai Po on 16 December. Generally, a rather poor year for this species.

12 Schrenck's Bittern *Ixobrychus eurhythmus* 紫背葦鵞

There were four spring records: one at Long Valley on 16 May (RWL), one at Kat O Chau on 20th (PJH,RWL), one at Mui Wo on 21st (PA) and one at Shuen Wan from 26 May to 5 June (RWL *et al.*). In autumn there were also four records: one at Lut Chau on 29 August (PJL), two at Luk Keng on 9 September (JSRE,CAV), one at Nam Sang Wai on 19th (PJL) and one at Tai O on 8 October (PJH). All previous autumn records have occurred in the period 23 September to 9 October.

13 Chestnut Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus* 栗葦鵞

A male at Mui Wo on 1 February was the only evidence of overwintering; the status of one at Tsim Bei Tsui on 23 March is unclear. The first definite spring migrant was a male at Long Valley on 16 May; this was followed by one at Shuen Wan on 22nd, a male at Mui Wo on 24 May and a female at Shek O on 2 June. At Mui Wo one or two birds were seen regularly throughout June and July but there was no evidence of breeding. In autumn singles were seen at Mai Po on 2 August and 3rd and 24 September, at Tsim Bei Tsui on 30 August, at Nam Sang Wai on 19 September, and at Long Valley on 27 September and 5 October. Two males were at Mui Wo on 27 August.

14 Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis* 黑鵞

One was at Mai Po during 20-23 August (DAD,MH); it or another was seen on 3 September (PJL).

16 Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* 夜鷺

Waterfowl count totals in the Deep Bay area during the first part of the year were 452 in January and 177 in February. Also in the first winter period up to 27 were seen at Shuen Wan. Breeding was confirmed at Mai Po village (three pairs), Tsim Bei Tsui (200 pairs), Stonecutters (58 pairs), Tai Po (one pair), Centre Island (30 birds), Shuen Wan (11 birds), A Chau (137 pairs) and Tai O (three pairs). At Aberdeen about ten adults probably nested and, joined latterly by five immatures, roosted in large trees to the north of Aberdeen Marina Club. In the second part of the year 45 were flushed from a roost at Mui Wo on 1 October, up to three were at Kam Tin from 22 October to 2 December, one was at Kai Tak on 18 November, a maximum of 47 was recorded at Kowloon Park on 5 December (where birds had been present from at least 30 August), up to eight were at Shuen Wan and, rather unusually, 101 were roosting on a fish pond bund at Ma Tso Lung on 26 December.

17 Little Green Heron *Butorides striatus* 綠鷺

Single wintering birds were reported at Tai Po Kau on 5th, 7th and 14 January, Kowloon Hills catchwater on 29th (possibly the same bird was seen on 15 April) and Lam Tsuen Valley on 11 February. Spring passage was noted from 25 March when one was at Nam Chung; the next report concerned one at Mai Po on 19 April. The highest spring count at Mai Po was three on 30 April. On Lantau two were seen at Shui Hau Wan on 22 April and also at Mui Wo during 21-22

May, with three there on 24th. The highest summer count at Mai Po was 13 on 30 July; at Shuen Wan two were seen on 12 June and at the Ninepins one was seen on rocks on 22 June. Autumn records included five at Mai Po on 13 August and at least eight there on 27 August; subsequently, there was one on 19 September, two during 29-30 September and again on 6 October. Other records consisted of a juvenile at Shuen Wan during 5-21 September, two at Mui Wo on 1 October, three at Shing Mun Reservoir on 15 October with one there on 24 October, one at Wu Kau Tang and one on Wong Lung Hang stream, Lantau, on 4 November, one at Lam Tsuen on 18th and one at Pak Tam Chung on 25 November.



18 Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus* 池鹭

Waterfowl count totals for Deep Bay in the early part of the year were 337 in January, 365 in February and 258 in March; 613 were recorded on 13 July. Breeding was confirmed at Sha Ling, Ho Sheung Heung (65 pairs), Mai Po village (65 pairs), Tsim Bei Tsui (five pairs), Pak Nai, Ko Po (25 pairs), Ho Pui village (12 pairs), Tai Po, Shuen Wan (64 birds) and Tai O (ten pairs). At Shuen Wan the highest counts were 37 on 27 January, 64 on 14 August and 53 on 15 November. Other notable counts included 44 adults at Long Valley on 25 June and 12 at Kowloon Park on 24 October.

19 Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* 牛背鹭

Highest counts at the main sites were as follows: Deep Bay, 198 on 13 July, 48 on 19 September; Long Valley, 26 on 17 April, 80 on 8 October; Luk Keng, 100 on 23 April; Kam Tin, 52 on 14 January, 70 on 25 July, 55 on 9 September; Shuen Wan, 30 on 23 April, 52 on 27 May, 73 on 14 August. Elsewhere, 80 were at Tin Shui Wai on 3 October, 25 were at Ma Wan on 15 May, three were at Mui Wo on 1 October, three were seen off Cape D'Aguilar during Typhoon Sibyl on 3 October, one was at Tung Chung on 22 October and one was in Kowloon Park on 2nd and 11 October, 4 November and 5th and 8 December. Breeding was confirmed at Ho Sheung Heung (five pairs), Mai Po village (four pairs), Tsim Bei

Tsui (20 pairs), Ho Pui village (four pairs), Stonecutters (five pairs), Tai Po (one pair), Shuen Wan (50 birds) and A Chau (34 pairs).

20 Swinhoe's Egret *Egretta eulophotes* (E) 黄嘴白鹭

One on 19 April (RWL,MDW) was the first of the spring; this was followed by one from 26 April to 1 May with two on 4th and one the following day (JSRE,RWL *et al.*). Single birds were also seen on 11th and 26-27 May (YYT,RWL). All records were in Deep Bay.

21 Reef Egret *Egretta sacra* 岩鹭

Up to five birds were noted at Deep Water Bay (HK Island), Cape D'Aguilar, Sandy Bay, Ap Lei Chau, Stonecutters, Kau Sai Chau, Tolo Harbour, Lamma, Tai O, Tung Chung/Chek Lap Kok, Shui Hau Wan (Lantau), Soko Islands, Ninepins, Gau Tau and Tap Mun. The highest count was six on 10 August at Cape D'Aguilar where three juveniles were seen begging for food from an adult on 17 June.

22 Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* 小白鹭

Peak monthly counts in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1860	1326	627	243	418	774	2295	-	51	113	1220	1879

Away from Deep Bay 65 were at Tai O on 22 January and a dark phase bird was there on 14 January, six were at Ping Chau on 22 April, one was at Kowloon Hills catchwater on 28 May, one was at Cape D'Aguilar on 3 October during Typhoon Sibyl, 100 were at Long Valley on 8 October, 24 were at Tung Chung on 14 November and 129 roosted at Tai Po Market KCR station on 22 November. At Shuen Wan the highest counts were 85 on 11 January, 56 on 15 June, 137 on 6 August and 33 on 20 November. Breeding was confirmed at Sha Ling, Ho Sheung Heung (12 pairs), Mai Po village (30 pairs), Tsim Bei Tsui (300 pairs), Pak Nai, Ho Pui village, Stonecutters (14 pairs), Tai Po (32 pairs), Centre Island (55 birds), Shuen Wan (141 birds), A Chau (18 pairs) and Tai O (20 pairs).

23 Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia* 中白鹭

Peak monthly counts in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
7	16	18	7	4	2	-	1	4	12	11	1

At Shuen Wan up to two were seen from 15 April to 17 May, and three birds were present until 23rd; up to two were then seen until 1 July. In autumn up to three were seen from 3 August to 16 September, followed by four on 23rd, five four days later and on 7th and 13 October; subsequently no more than three were recorded until the end of the year. Higher counts elsewhere were one at Tai O on 22 January, two at Nam Chung on 19 February and 5 August, five at Luk Keng on 30 September, 11 flying northeast at Cape D'Aguilar on 5 October and three at Kam Tin on 13th and 22 October.

- 24 Great Egret** *Egretta alba* 大白鷺
Waterfowl count totals for Deep Bay in the early part of the year were 553 in January, 481 in February and 356 in March. A Deep Bay count on 13 July recorded 234. Breeding was confirmed at Tsim Bei Tsui (five pairs), Shuen Wan (44 birds) and A Chau (23 pairs). Later in the year 190 were at Nam Sang Wai on 20 October and the November and December waterfowl counts recorded 584 and 634 respectively in Deep Bay. At Shuen Wan up to 43 were present until mid April, 36 was the highest midsummer count and up to 42 were present at the end of the year. Elsewhere, recorded at Stonecutters (three on 6 January), Yung Shue O (ten on 20 July), Tung Chung (one on 9 October), Kowloon Park (one on 11 October), Kam Tin (one on 22 October) and Long Valley (one on 18 November).
- 25 Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea* 蒼鷺
Waterfowl count totals for Deep Bay in the early part of the year were 1054 in January, 1693 in February and 785 in March. Numbers then declined to 150 on 1st and 3 April, 60 on 12th, 25 on 4 May and 14 on 25 May. Up to five birds seem to have over-summered at Mai Po. In Deep Bay the November and December waterfowl counts recorded 815 and 1380 respectively. Away from the Deep Bay area, at Shuen Wan the highest count in the first winter period was 31 and the final record was on 14 April; in the second winter period noted there from 7 October, numbers reaching 34 on 1 December. On Lantau one was at Tai O on 14 January and one flew east along the coast at Tung Chung on 10 October; this species is unusual on that island. Elsewhere, four were at Kam Tin on 13 October, 16 flew south over Ping Chau on 15th and six flew over Kowloon Park on 24 October.
- 26 Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea* 草鷺
Monthly totals of individuals in the Deep Bay area were as follows:
- | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 4 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 3 |
- Four young juveniles at Mai Po on 6 August are further evidence of breeding locally. Away from the Deep Bay area, one was seen at Long Valley during 7-8 October and, very unusually, two were seen flying over Kowloon Park on 24 October.
- 27 Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra* 黑鶴
One was seen over Tai Mei Tuk on 14 November (WY).
- 28 Oriental White Stork** *Ciconia nigra* 東方白鶴
The two present at the end of 1994 were joined by another three on 15 January (RWL) but this was the only date of the winter when five were seen. Subsequently, no more than three were seen on any one day up to 1 March, and the last record concerned one on 4 March. In the second winter period one bird was present from 9 December until the end of the year (RWL,GJC). This is the tenth record for Hong Kong and the sixth consecutive winter of occurrence in Deep Bay. However, there has been a steady decline in numbers and it seems likely that the species will revert to its former vagrant status.

- 30 White Ibis** *Threskiornis melanocephalus* (V) 白鷺
An adult was recorded in Deep Bay from 18 March to 25 April. The second part of the year brought an unusual record of an adult at Kam Tin on 4 October, followed by an adult (possibly the same bird) in Deep Bay from 14 October to 25 December.
- 31 European Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia* 白琵鷺
During the first winter period a maximum of three were noted on 22 January and 8 March, with the final record of the season being one on 15 April. The first ever midsummer record concerned one on 25 July (DAD). The earliest record in autumn was of three on 18 November, numbers building up to nine by 16 December. All records at Mai Po.
- 32 Black-faced Spoonbill** *Platalea minor* (C) 黑臉琵鷺
The highest count in the first part of the year was 73 on 28 January; 63 were still present on 9 March, declining to 58 on 21st, 31 on 8 April, 14 on 16th and, finally, eight on 26 April. Three immatures oversummered however, and were the source of all records from 26 May to at least 8th and possibly 21 October. The first wintering birds had certainly arrived by 28 October when 17 were seen in Deep Bay. Numbers increased to 99 on 23 November (RWL), a new high, constituting approximately 25% of the world population.
- 33 Lesser Treeduck** *Dendrocygna javanica* 栗樹鴨
Up to two free-flying birds were noted in the waterfowl collection at Mai Po from 1 April to 20 August (DAD,RWL).
- 37 Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna* 翹鼻麻鴨
Waterfowl count totals for Deep Bay in the early part of the year were 980 in January, 1012 in February and 491 in March, though 850 were still present on 28 February. The only subsequent record concerned two at Mai Po on 2 April. The only record in the second half of the year concerned five on 5 December.
- 39 Mandarin Duck** *Aix galericulata* 鴛鴦
In addition to single full-winged males seen at the Mai Po waterfowl collection in April and December, an immature male was at Yuen Chau Kok Park, Sha Tin, on 6 November. It is probable that all these birds are feral.
- 40 Wigeon** *Anas penelope* 赤頸鴨
Waterfowl count totals for Deep Bay in the early part of the year were 1819 in January, 1282 in February and 367 in March. One hundred were still present on 8 April but the only subsequent spring records were four on 25 April and one on 25 May (RWL), a new late date. Both the latter records concerned full-winged birds in the waterfowl collection, though they are assumed to be wild.
The first record in the second part of the year concerned 15 on 8 October, with numbers subsequently increasing to 489 by the November waterfowl count and 2096 in the December count. All records were in the Deep Bay area apart

from one at Shuen Wan on 12 November and 29 December, and two at Kam Tin on 2 December.

There were further records of hybrid Wigeon x American Wigeon *A. americana*, with males noted on 7th and 14 January, 24 November and 2 December in the waterfowl collection at Mai Po (RWL,GJC,MRL). It is probable that the January records refer to the same bird; based on plumage features, it is also possible that this bird is one of those noted in winter 1993-94 and illustrated in plate 3 of *HKBR 1993*.

41 Falcated Teal *Anas falcata*

羅紋鴨

The highest count in the first winter period was 101 on 29 January; 82 were still present on 22 February and 22 remained during the March waterfowl count. Subsequently, 20 were seen during 1-4 April, ten remained on 8th, and an assumed wild, full-winged male, presumed to be the same bird, was seen flying around the waterfowl collection at Mai Po on 25 April, 8 June and 29 September (RWL); this is the first record of oversummering. Otherwise, the first record in the second winter period was 18 on 11 November, numbers then building up to 39 by 3 December and 54 on the final day of the year. All records were in the Deep Bay area.

42 Gadwall *Anas strepera*

赤膀鴨

The highest monthly counts in the early part of the year were nine on 15 January, ten on 4 February, 24 on 8 March and four on 3 April, followed finally by two on 8 April. The earliest record in the second part of the year concerned six on 5 November; what were probably the same birds were seen until 14 December, with two seen on 17th. All records were in the Deep Bay area.

43 Baikal Teal *Anas formosa*

花臉鴨

A female was at Kam Tin on 18 November (MRL,PJL), the first record away from Deep Bay, and an adult male was seen at Tsim Bei Tsui on 2 December (RWL,GJC).

44 Teal *Anas crecca*

綠翅鴨

Peak monthly counts in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2437	2943	2100	520	-	-	-	-	100	300	721	2716

January waterfowl count totals continue to exhibit the relative consistency shown since 1984. Higher counts away from the Deep Bay area were: 48 at Nam Chung on 2 January, 39 at Kam Tin on 8th, five at Shing Mun reservoir on 8 February, 11 at Shuen Wan on 11 February with nine there on 11 March and one on 1 April, and one at Long Valley on 12th and 15 April. The latter was the latest spring record, and the earliest in autumn occurred on 18 September. In the second part of the year maxima of 66 at Kam Tin on 11 November, 40 at Long Valley on 23 November, 29 at Sha Po on 16 December and 33 at Shuen Wan on 29th were recorded.

45 Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

綠頭鴨

Deep Bay numbers reached 17 on 7th and 14 January increasing to 27 in the February waterfowl count; 26 were seen at Kam Tin on 27 January (possibly the same flock). Five were noted in the March waterfowl count. Subsequently, the only record in the first part of the year was a pair on 21 March. The earliest record in the second winter period concerned ten at Long Valley on 8 October; this was followed by three at Mai Po on 4 November with numbers in Deep Bay increasing to 18 on 10 November and 25 on 30 December. Elsewhere, in November a pair was at Kam Tin on 5th and a male was at Sha Po on 11th.

46 Yellow-nib Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha*

斑嘴鴨

Waterfowl count totals (including both *zonorhyncha* and *haringtoni*) in the early part of the year were as follows: January - 161; February - 390; March - 148. The highest midsummer counts were 15 *haringtoni* on 25 July and 13 *haringtoni* on 2nd and 6 August; these were the year's highest counts for this form. Waterfowl count totals for both forms together in November and December were 214 and 242 respectively. All records were in Deep Bay, primarily Mai Po, except for three records at Kam Tin (31 on 5 November, 13 on 8 November and 12 on 2 December), two birds at Nam Chung on 29 October and nine at Sha Po on 11 November.

1994: a hybrid Mallard x Yellow-nib was at Tsim Bei Tsui on 12 February.

47 Pintail *Anas acuta*

針尾鴨

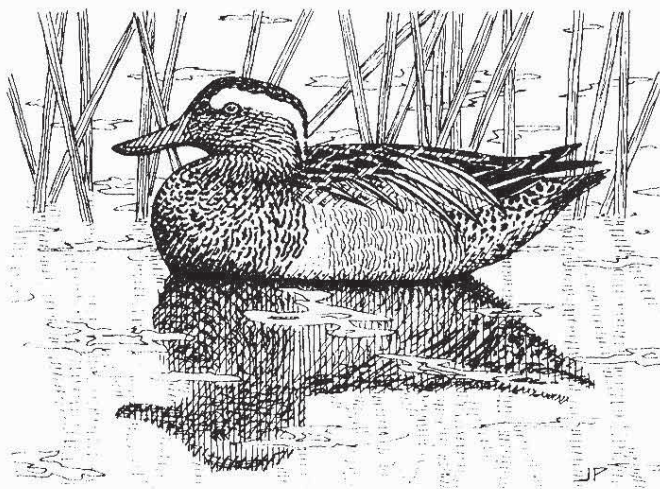
Waterfowl count totals for Deep Bay in the early part of the year were 3481 in January, 3685 in February and 412 in March; the January count is about 1000 below the average of the past five years. Fifteen hundred were counted on 28 February. The only spring records concerned up to four birds during 2-4 April, one on 12th, two full-winged birds in the waterfowl collection on 25 April and a female at Mai Po on 12 May (RWL); this latter record is a new late date by eight days. The earliest record in the second winter period concerned two in the waterfowl collection on 29 September, followed by 16 at Tsim Bei Tsui the following day. Subsequently, numbers increased to 184 on 21 October, 1473 during the November waterfowl count and 1180 in the December count. Other records away from Inner Deep Bay and Mai Po were two at Kau Sai Chau, Sai Kung, during 20-21 October; ten at Kam Tin on 5 November with two there on 26 November and five on 2 December, two at Ma Tso Lung on 9 November, 14 at Sha Po on 11 November, three at Kowloon Reservoir on 30 November, one at Nam Sang Wai on 14 December and one at Sha Po on 16 December.

48 Garganey *Anas querquedula*

白眉鴨

The January waterfowl count recorded 30, followed by 75 in the February count. After 41 on 22 February there was then a dearth of records until eight were logged during the March waterfowl count. Spring numbers peaked at 90 on 3 April; ten were still present on 19th and the latest spring record concerned a full-winged pair in the waterfowl collection on 25 May. Thirty-four on 6 September was the first autumn record, and numbers then increased to 710 on 7 October

(PJL,MRL), a new high; 540 were still present on 22 October. Numbers then declined sharply as subsequent counts were no higher than 13 until 2-3 December when 21 were noted. Apart from up to two birds recorded on four dates at Kam Tin from 22 October to 2 December, all records were in the Deep Bay area.



49 Shoveler *Anas clypeata* 琵嘴鴨

Waterfowl count totals for Deep Bay in the early part of the year were 8082 in January, 7610 in February and 641 in March; the January count is a new high, exceeding the previous highest set last year by 1169. At the end of February 2500 still remained. Subsequent to the March count the next record concerned 12 on 3 April, numbers then declining to one on 12th and 14 April. A full-winged bird was in the waterfowl collection on 16 May. The earliest record in the second winter period concerned 22 on 7 October; numbers then increased to 266 on 21 October, 3695 during the November waterfowl count and 2837 in the December waterfowl count. All records, except that of a female at Nam Chung on 2 January, were from the Deep Bay area.

50 Pochard *Aythya ferina* 紅頭潛鴨

The only records in the first part of the year concerned singles on 8th and 14 April, possibly the same bird. In the second part of the year one was seen on 5 November and three were noted on 11th. During December up to three males and one female or immature male were noted. All records came from Mai Po and Tsim Bei Tsui.

52 Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* 鳳頭潛鴨

Recorded on five dates in January, the highest count being 14 on 5th; thereafter, three were seen at the Mai Po boardwalk on 4 March. The first record

in the second part of the year concerned one at Tsim Bei Tsui on 10 November; subsequently, numbers built up to 251 on 9th and 291 on 31 December (RWL), a new high. The previous highest count was 155 in 1986.

53 Scaup *Aythya marila* 斑背潛鴨

What was presumably the same female was seen twice in the early part of the year at Mai Po, on 4 February and 4 March (CAV,DAD). An immature male was in the Mai Po waterfowl collection on 12th and 16 November, and 5th, 10th and 16 December (RWL,WY *et al.*). Finally, on 30 December two were seen at Tsim Bei Tsui, with 13 there the day after (RWL,PA).

56 Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* 紅胸秋沙鴨

A male was seen from the Mai Po boardwalk on 4 March; this was followed by four birds at Tsim Bei Tsui on 18th, 27 flying northeast over Mai Po on 19th and, finally, 22 heading east off Cape D'Aguilar on 20 March. An interesting set of records marking the main spring passage period.

57 Black Baza *Aviceda leucophotes* 鳳頭鵲隼

The first spring records were one at Wu Kau Tang and two at Luk Keng on 17 April, followed by two at Tai Po Kau on 19 April and two at Cape D'Aguilar on 23 April. Up to four were seen at Shuen Wan between 23 April and 18 June including three displaying on 6 June, and further singles were at Wu Kau Tang between 23 April and 25 May, and up to two were at Luk Keng up to 21 May. Other spring and early summer records between 29 April and 19 July were four at Tuen Mun, Tai Lam Chung, Kuk Po, Tsim Bei Tsui and Sha Tau Kok, singles at Tung Chung, Sha Lo Tung, Yung Shue Au, Ma Kwu Lam (Three Fathoms Cove), Kau To Shan and Ho Pui. One was seen displaying over Castle Peak Road at Wah Sing Tsuen on 2 June and a pair was apparently feeding young (though these were not seen) near Hang Tau Tsuen, near Sheung Shui, on 8 July (JGH).

As usual, family parties and flocks were recorded in autumn with five at Cloudy Hill on 9 September, two at Ng Tung Chai on 21 September, and six at Kuk Po on 30 September. At Mui Wo 13 dropped into a wood in heavy typhoon rain on 2 October and were seen to depart southwest the next day (PJH), when there were seven at Mong Tseng. Three were at Mui Wo on 7 October, four were at Ho Chung on 15 October, and the final record of the year, a new late date, was one at Fei Ngo Shan on 1 November (PA).

58 Crested Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus* 鳳頭蜂鷹

One was at Mai Po on 22 October (RWL).

59 Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus* 黑翅鳶

Regular in the Mai Po area with singles on 22 January, between 4 March and 26 May, and 1st to 29 October; two were there on 25 April, 18 May and 8 October. Breeding is strongly suspected as display was noted on 17th and 19 April and copulation was observed on 25 April. Elsewhere, singles were seen at Long Valley between 16th and 26 January and during 8-18 March, Chau Tau on

22 January, Ma Tso Lung on 15th and 21 March, Lead Mine Pass on 19 March, Nam Sang Wai on 13 April, Tsim Bei Tsui on 14 April and 30 June, Kau Sai Chau on 19 April, Kadoorie Farm on 26 June and Ma Tso Lung on 17 July.

In autumn, singles were noted thus: at Tin Shui Wai between 26 August and 14 October, with one on 3 September identified as immature, at Tsim Bei Tsui on 20 September, Kam Tin on 23 October and 24 November, Nam Sang Wai on 27 November and Shuen Wan on 14 December.

60 Black Kite *Milvus migrans* 鳶

Roost counts at Magazine Gap and Stonecutters combined included 1220-1270 on 15 January, 255 on 26 March, 125 on 25 June, 630 on 8 October and 580 on 30 December. The January count is very similar to one made on 30 December 1959, suggesting little change in numbers over the years (see Carey 1996). A small roost was discovered at Tai O that held 29 birds on 24 June, 31 on 8 October and 28 on 30 December. Daytime counts at Tsim Bei Tsui included 68 on 14 January and 82 on 10 February, and at the Southeast NT landfill there were 112 on 21 August. Breeding records included one downy young in a nest at Yi Pak Wan, Lantau, on 17 April. On 8 October, three dived repeatedly at a Black-tailed Godwit on the Mai Po Scrape.

61 White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* 白腹海鵟

Records in the Deep Bay area were as follows: a sub-adult and an immature seen intermittently between 12 January and 4 February, up to two immatures between 4th and 27 April, one or two adults on 15th and 21 April, one sub-adult on 28 October, and one or two adults on 10th, 11th and 19 November and 17 December. In the Victoria Harbour area three adults were displaying at Mount Davis on 30 September and single adults were there on 15 October and at Victoria Peak on 9 November and North Point on 15 November. Up to three were noted in widespread traditional coastal areas including an immature at Chek Lap Kok on 26 January, an adult at Nam Chung on 17 April, and an immature at Tai Lam Chung on 10 June. Unusually, an adult was seen over the inland site of Kadoorie Farm on 12 January. Breeding activity was noted at a nest in Tolo Harbour which had one young on 23 January and two adults there again on 22 December, and in western waters where a pair was seen copulating on 18 October and repairing an old nest two days later.

63 Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela* 蛇鵟

Between one and three were reported in all months from widespread locations: central and northeast NT, Tsuen Wan, Deep Bay area, Long Valley, Eagle's Nest Nature Trail, Tai Long Wan, Ho Chung, Tai Lam Chung, Mui Wo and Victoria Peak. Display was noted at Ng Tung Chai on 11 February and Nam Chung on 5 April. Single immatures were noted at Lam Tsuen Valley on 14 May and Lai Chi Wo on 20 December.

64 Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* 白頭鵟

Most records concerned one to three birds in the Deep Bay area up to 15 April and from 21 September. Higher numbers in April and October indicate passage periods with at least five on 3 April, including two males, four on 7 October, and up to six on 10 October. There were four on 9 December and, elsewhere, singles at Chau Tau on 22 January and Luk Keng on 5 April, and two at Ma Tso Lung on 9 November.

66 Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucos* 鵟鵒

A juvenile flew southwest along the north Lantau coast on 10 October (GJC).

68 Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis* 日本松雀鷹

An adult male was at Mai Po on 29 January (PJJ), a female was at Mai Po on 8 October (PJJ), an adult male and a juvenile female flew southwest along the north Lantau coast on 10 October (GJC) and an adult male was seen at Yung Shue O on 1 November (DAD).

1994: a female was trapped at KARC on 29 October (DPC).

68.1 Besra *Accipiter virgatus* 松雀鷹

An adult male was at Sha Lo Tung during 14-15 January (RWL), an adult male was at Tai Po Kau on 25 January (RWL), a male was at Wu Kau Tang on 23 April (RWL), a female was at Sha Lo Tung on 8 May (RWL), a male was at Hok Tau on 18 May (RWL), a male and female were at Shuen Wan during 4-9 June (RWL), an immature male was at Kadoorie Farm on 11 July (GWJA,RH), a female or immature was at Shouson Hill on 25 July, a female or immature was at Shing Mun on 6 September and a juvenile male was at Fung Kat Heung on 27 September (GJC).

1994: At KARC males were trapped on 1 January, 26 February 3 September, and a male and a female were trapped there on 29 October (DPC), and at Hang Tau Tsuen a second-year male was photographed eating a Spotted Dove during June.

[**Sparrowhawk sp.** *A. gularis/virgatus/nisus* 雀鷹類

Small unidentified accipiters were reported as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	6	3	4	1	3	1	-	10	24	13	5

June to September records are most likely to have concerned *A. virgatus*.

70 Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus* 鳳頭鷹

Between one and three were recorded in all months from widespread areas, mostly wooded parts of the central and eastern NT, Hong Kong Island and Lantau. Display flights or calling birds were noted at Tai Po Kau between 13th and 25 January and on 8th and 17 April, Sha Lo Tung on 15 January, Chau Tau on 22 January, Ng Tung Chai during 1-6 February, Mount Austin on 9 February, 21

March and 21 October, Lam Tsuen Valley on 11 February, Shuen Wan on 23 April, Cheung Chau on 1 April, Ping Chau on 22 April, Magazine Gap on 3 May, Chek Nai Ping on 24 September and Shek Pik on 23 December. Also, a pair were noted copulating in Tai Po Kau on 1 April, and single juveniles were at Tai Po Kau on 17 August and Sha Lo Tung on 14 October. One killed a Spotted Dove feeding in a garden at Mount Nicholson on 25 February.

71 Chinese Goshawk *Accipiter soloensis* 赤腹鷹

On 21 April 31 flew north at Tsim Bei Tsui in groups of not more than four, and a party of seven flew south (MDW). The same day an adult was seen at Mai Po. Other spring records were an immature at Tai Mo Shan on 24 April, an adult female at Shuen Wan on 7 May, a male at Mount Nicholson on 13 May and an immature at Ng Tung Chai on 23 May. The only autumn report was an immature at Mai Po on 22 October.

72 Grey-faced Buzzard Eagle *Butastur indicus* 灰臉鵟鷹

The first spring records concerned three flying northeast at Chek Lap Kok on 17 March, one at Tai Po Kau on 19 March and three at Cape D'Aguilar the next day. The highest count was 42 flying east at Mai Po between 1100h and 1400h on 3 April. Other reports were 20 at Tsim Bei Tsui on 4 April, three at Chek Lap Kok on 7 April, singles at Kowloon Point, Mount Davis and Kam Tin, with two at Tsim Bei Tsui and ten at Nam Chung, all on 8 April, singles at Magazine Gap on 9 April and Tsim Bei Tsui on 19 April, and two at Cape D'Aguilar on 23 April. In autumn, there were singles at Mount Nicholson on 1 September, Mai Po on 19 September and Victoria Peak on 9 November.

73 Buzzard *Buteo buteo* 普通鵟

Widespread up to 5 April and from 14 October. Most records refer to single birds, occasionally two, except for three at Mai Po on 18th, 22nd and 26 November and 9 December, and Kam Tin on 19 November, and four at Tsim Bei Tsui on 3 February. The majority of reports were from the Deep Bay area, central NT and Hong Kong Island. Relatively uncommon on outlying islands with only isolated single birds at Chek Lap Kok during 26-27 January, Tung Chung on 5 November and Kau Sai Chau on 20 December.

74 Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga* (V) 烏鵟

One or two were recorded in the Deep Bay area up to 6 April and from 3 November; exceptions were three at Mai Po on 1 February. An immature at Mai Po on 9 December had a dangling damaged leg; another the same day was the morph *fulvescens*. In addition, one was at Kam Tin on 11 November. Of birds specifically aged, 8 (33%) were adults and 16 (67%) were immatures.

75 Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca* (V) 白肩鵟

Present up to 13 April and from 21 September in Deep Bay and the border area east as far Lo Wu and Long Valley. Maximum monthly counts at roosts in the Lok Ma Chau or Ma Tso Lung areas were: six in January, seven in February, five

in March, one in April, one in September, two in October, seven in November and five in December. Also seen away from Deep Bay with one to three at Kam Tin between 1 January and 25 February, and a juvenile at Ng Tung Chai on 17 January. Of birds specifically aged, 12 (41%) were adults and 17 (59%) were immatures. At San Tin on 15 January at least three were feeding on domestic ducks.

76 Bonelli's Eagle *Hieraetus fasciatus* 白腹山鵟

Between one and three were recorded in all months except August in widespread parts of the NT and Lantau, with one record on Hong Kong Island. Many reports refer to pairs of adults, occasionally with single immatures, in presumed breeding areas. These included Nam Sang Wai, Lok Ma Chau/Lo Wu, Robin's Nest, Nam Chung, Kuk Po, Kat O Chau, Hok Tau/Wu Kau Tang, Tolo Channel, Tai Mo Shan, Shing Mun/Kwai Chung, Tai Po Kau/Chinese University, Yung Shue O, Lamma Island, Mui Wo, and Lantau Peak/Ngong Ping/Tung Chung. Two were seen at a nest in the central NT on 19 April and a pair were noted in display flight at Lok Ma Chau on 19 November.

76.1 Mountain Hawk Eagle *Spizaetus nipalensis* 鷹鵟

Singles were at Long Valley on 5 October (RWL) and at Wong Chuk Hang on 4 November (MT). These are the third and fourth records for Hong Kong, the last having occurred in 1989.

77 Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* 鵟

Up to fourteen were noted in the Deep Bay area until 26 May and from 29 August, with the maximum count occurring during the January waterfowl count. Elsewhere, singles were at Mui Wo on 13 February and then daily from 26 October to the end of the year, Tolo Harbour on 21 March, Luk Keng on 6 April and 29 October, Plover Cove on 23 May, Tolo Harbour on 21 March and 7 October, and two were at Shuen Wan from 25 November to 15 December. Occasional summer records continued as in previous years with single birds at Double Haven on 20 May, Shuen Wan on 21 June, and Mai Po/Tsim Bei Tsui on 25-26th and 29 June and 2nd and 16 July.

79 Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* 紅隼

Usually singles, but occasionally up to two birds, were noted until 2 April and from 23 September in widespread areas, mostly in the NT but also at Lai Chi Kok in Kowloon, Cape D'Aguilar and Mount Austin on Hong Kong Island, and Ngong Ping and Mui Wo on Lantau.

82 Hobby *Falco subbuteo* 燕隼

Between one and five were observed in widespread areas, mostly in the central and northern NT, during the passage periods between 1 April and 20 May and from 20 August to 24 October. Outside of these periods, single summering or breeding birds were noted at Tai Mo Shan on 11 June, Chau Tau on 25 June (at an old Magpie's nest on a pylon) and 6 July, Crest Hill on 27 June, Tsim Bei Tsui on 29 June and Shuen Wan on 5 July.

- 83 Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus* 游隼
Usually singles, but occasionally two together, were recorded in all months. One at Mai Po on 20 January was a migrant form, not the local breeding form *F.p. peregrinator* (PRK). There were regular sightings in the Deep Bay area, and prey items there included Black-capped Kingfisher, Wood Sandpiper, White-breasted Kingfisher and Black-headed Gull; elsewhere Crested Myna, feral pigeons and bulbuls were taken. Other locations outside the breeding season included Cape D'Aguilar, Quarry Bay, Admiralty, Kowloon Park, Kau Sai Chau, Shuen Wan, Sha Lo Tung, Lau Fau Shan, Tin Shui Wai, Tsim Bei Tsui, Mong Tseng, Kam Tin, Kadoorie Farm, Cheung Chau, Tai O and Long Valley. Talon grasping was noted between two birds at Tsim Bei Tsui on 5 March, and a pair was in aerial display at a traditional breeding site in Mirs Bay.
- 84 Chinese Francolin** *Francolinus pintadeanus* 鸨
There were widespread reports from hill areas including Mount Austin, Pok Fu Lam Reservoir and Cape D'Aguilar on Hong Kong Island, and the NT and Lantau. Birds were heard calling from 25 March to 25 November. The maximum count was five at both Sha Lo Tung on 14 May and Fung Kat Heung on 2 June.
- 85 Japanese Quail** *Coturnix japonica* 鹑
There were numerous reports of single birds and small groups between 2 January and 6 May, and between 1 October and 19 December. Exceptionally high numbers were at Long Valley with up to 15 in January and April (the highest count since 1960), 14 in February and 11 in March. Elsewhere, there were singles at Cheung Chau and Nam Chung in January, at Tin Shui Wai in February, April and October, Nam Sang Wai in October, Ma Wan in September, Lin Barn Tsuen in November and Tai Ho Wan in December; there were two at the landfill area near Mai Po in October, three at Long Valley in October and November, six at Sha Lo Tung in November and December and two at Kau Sai Chau in December. In addition, one was found freshly dead at the Royal Observatory, Tsim Sha Tsui, on 19 November.
- 86 Yellow-legged Buttonquail** *Turnix tanki* 黃腳三趾鵝
One was at Long Valley on 1 October (PJL) and one was near Tin Shui Wai on 28 October (RWL).
- 87 Barred Buttonquail** *Turnix suscitator* 棕三趾鵝
One was at Mai Po on 22 September (RWL).
1994: a male was trapped at KARC on 1 October (DPC).
- Buttonquail sp.** *Turnix* sp. 三趾鵝
Single unidentified buttonquails were noted as follows: in October, at Long Valley on 1st and 15th, Tin Shui Wai on 3rd, 14th and 21st, Chek Lap Kok on 9th and 23rd, Sha Lo Tung on 19th and Tai Mo Shan on 24th; in November, at Sha Lo Tung on 5th, 17th and 19th and at Lead Mine Pass on 10th.]

- 88 Slaty-legged Crane** *Rallina eurizonoides* 白喉斑秧雞
One was at Wu Kau Tang on 12 February (MT,DAD,MH).
- 89 Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus* 普通秧雞
One was at Tsim Bei Tsui on 23 March (GAW) and another was found freshly dead at Ma Tso Lung on 11 December (PJL).
- 90 Banded Rail** *Rallus striatus* 藍胸秧雞
Up to four birds were reported from various sites in the Deep Bay area. Elsewhere, one was in coastal mangrove at Lai Chi Wo on 31 January, two were at Shuen Wan on 15 June and, on Lantau, up to seven birds in total were reported from Mui Wo, Pui O and Tai O.
- 92 Ruddy Crane** *Porzana fusca* 紅胸田雞
One was seen at Tin Shui Wai from 29 January to 1 February (PJL,MH,RWL).
- 94 Crimson-legged Crane** *Amaurornis akool* 紅腳苦惡鳥
One was seen on Kat O Chau on 20 May (GAW) and two were present at Shuen Wan from 17 May to 6 June (RWL *et al.*); this species has appeared every three years since 1986.
- 95 White-breasted Waterhen** *Amaurornis phoenicurus* 白胸苦惡鳥
No significant reports.
- 96 Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* 黑水雞
Waterfowl count totals for Deep Bay in the early part of the year were 82 in January, 170 in February and 63 in March. The latest spring record concerned three at Sha Po on 18 May; the only midsummer record concerned two at Tsim Bei Tsui on 16 July, although an adult was attending a chick at Tsim Bei Tsui on 17 October. The November and December waterfowl counts produced 22 and 59 birds respectively. Away from the Deep Bay area 13 were at Nam Chung on 2 January with eight there on 19 February and two on 17 April, two were at Luk Keng on 19 February and two were at Kam Tin on 7 May.
- 97 Watercock** *Gallicrex cinerea* 董雞
Winter records are unusual and so one at Mai Po on 2 February (PJH) is of interest. There were four spring records, all in May: one at Ma Tso Lung on 3rd (PJL), a male at Kam Tin on 7th, a female at Mai Po on 11th (GAW) and a female at Shuen Wan on 21st and 27th (RWL,DAD). In autumn a female or immature was at Mai Po on 28 August (SS), and singles were at Long Valley on 27 September, 14 October and 1 November (DAD,PJL).
- 98 Coot** *Fulica atra* 白骨頂
Waterfowl count totals for Deep Bay in the early part of the year were 611 in January, 711 in February and 65 in March. Numbers subsequently dropped to ten on 25 March, nine on 1 April, one on 30th, one on 5 May and, finally, three on

16 May. Summer records involved one at Tsim Bei Tsui on 14 June and one at Mai Po on 25th and 28 July. Two were at Mai Po on 20 August, one was at Tsim Bei Tsui on 30 September with two there on 14 October. The November and December waterfowl counts recorded 524 and 1285 respectively. Away from Deep Bay eight were at Nam Chung on 2 January and 19 February, up to two were seen at Shuen Wan until 10 February and one was at Kam Tin on 8th and 18 November, and 2 December.

- 100 Pheasant-tailed Jacana** *Hydrophasianus chirurgus* 水雉
The only reports were of a male at Ma Tso Lung on 24 May and a juvenile there on 9 November (both PJL).

- 101 Painted Snipe** *Rostratula benghalensis* 彩鷸
In the first half of the year higher counts at Long Valley were six on 2 January, 11 on 19 January, 16 on 4 March and four on 7 April, 16 May and 25 June. The autumn was also productive with 12 on 15 September being the earliest record, followed by higher counts of 18 on 23 September and 35 on 29 October. The final record of the year was three on 2 November. At Kam Tin the higher counts in the first part of the year were 15 on 15th and eight on 29 January, 26 on 18 February and four on 12 March; in autumn there were singles on 19 August and 13th and 22 October, and four on 23 September. The only other record concerned one at Wu Kau Tang on 4 November.

- 103 Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus* 黑翅長腳鷸
The first record of the year concerned three at Mai Po on 8 March, with three again seen on 1 April. At Ma Tso Lung 150 were noted on 15th and 21 March, and 100 on 28th; this was followed by 67 on 25 April and 3 May. Singles were at Nam Sang Wai on 30 May, Mai Po on 8th and 15 June and Tsim Bei Tsui (an adult) on 30 June. The first record of the autumn was of ten at Mai Po on 29 August. Subsequently, numbers in the Deep Bay area built up to 13 on 27 August, 39 on 6 September, 169 on 29 September, 204 on 22 October and 229 (at Ma Tso Lung) on 26th, the highest count of the year. Away from the Deep Bay area two were at Long Valley on 2 September and 60 were there on 8 October in the aftermath of Typhoon Sibyl. At Shuen Wan two were seen on 8 September followed by a single during 12-23 September.

- 104 Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta* 反嘴鷸
The highest count of the year was 1002 on 1 February (PJL), a new high. Numbers subsequently declined to 872 in the February waterfowl count, 865 in the March count, 700 on 3 April, 194 on 14th, 83 on 17th, 30 on 22nd and two on 30th; the latter two remained until 7 May, though one lacked a foot. An uninjured bird was seen to 17 May. The first record in the second winter period concerned four on 8 October; subsequent numbers increased to seven on 21 October, 154 on 4 November, 212 on 11th, 517 on 5 December and 710 on 9th.

- 105 Oriental Pratincole** *Glareola maldivarum* 普通燕鴒
The first record of the spring concerned one on 26 February. Subsequently, in March there were three on 5th, singles on 11th, 12th, and 15th, eight on 20th, two on 21st, 43 on 25th and two on 27th. In April there were 14 on 1st, five on 5th, five on 6th, three on 7th, five on 8th, one on 12th, two on 15th, four on 20th and one on 21st. In May three were seen on 2nd, four were present on 9th and the final record was one on 16th. All these records were in the Deep Bay area, Long Valley and Kam Tin. The only autumn records concerned 12 heading southwest at Long Valley on 5 October and a non-breeding adult at Kau Sai Chau, Sai Kung, on 19 December.

- 106 Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius* 金眶鸻
Waterfowl count totals for Deep Bay in the early part of the year were 300 in January, 62 in February and 108 in March. The highest spring counts were 56 at Sha Po on 11 March and 54 at Nam Sang Wai on 5 April. There was no proven breeding but summer records came from Kau Sai Chau, Sai Kung, Tsim Bei Tsui and Shuen Wan, and a juvenile was seen at the latter locality on 22 July. In autumn one was at Cape D'Aguilar on 31 August; subsequently, the higher counts were 45 near Mai Po on 18th and 20 September and 50 at Long Valley on 15 October. Totals for Deep Bay in the November and December waterfowl counts were 47 and 62 respectively, though 71 were also noted at Tsim Bei Tsui on 2 December. The highest Shuen Wan count in the first part of the year was 17 on 11 March and in the second part, 14 on 15 November.

- 107 Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula* 劍鸻
One was seen from the boardwalk hide at Mai Po on 20 January and 1 February (PRK, PJL). It is assumed to be the same individual as that seen there in late 1994.

- 108 Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus* 環頸鸻
The highest count of the first winter period was 2700 on 9 January. Waterfowl count totals for Deep Bay were 1600 in February and 147 in March. Spring passage through Deep Bay did not produce more than three on any of the ten dates present except for five on the latest, 12 May. Elsewhere, three were at Shui Hau Wan, Lantau, on 22 April and two were at Ping Chau on 14 April and 13 May. The first record in autumn concerned one near Mai Po on 18 September. The only significant Deep Bay counts in the remainder of the year were 1000 on 21 November and 852 during the December waterfowl count. Away from Deep Bay, in October five were on Ping Chau on 7th with two there on 15th, and one was at Long Valley on 7th and 15th; at Shuen Wan nine were seen on 13 November with two on 15 December, and at Shui Hau Wan three were seen on 26 December.

- 109 Lesser Sand Plover** *Charadrius mongolus* 蒙古沙鸻
During the January waterfowl count 36 were seen in Deep Bay; the only other winter report concerned 24 on 1 February. Spring passage was noted from 29 March to 25 May, numbers peaking at 60 on 2 May. The earliest autumn record

concerned two on 13 August; passage continued until 30 September with the highest count being four on 6th. An influx of birds in the second half of November marked either a second pulse of migrants or arriving winter visitors. Fifty were counted on 18th and 36 on 28th. The final record of the year was of three on 5 December. Away from the Deep Bay area one was at Shui Hau Wan, Lantau, on 7 May and two were at Ping Chau on 13 May.

110 Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* 鐵嘴沙鴉

Two on 18 March marked the commencement of spring passage which continued until 25 May. The highest count was 300 on 12 April; at least 21 remained on 12 May. Away from Deep Bay one was at Chek Lap Kok on 6 April, five were at Shuen Wan on 9 April with 11 there on 15th, three were at Shui Hau Wan, Lantau, on 22 April and 7 May and two were at Ping Chau on 13 May. Return passage was noted from 25 July to 10 October, the highest count being seven on 27 August and 6 September; the other seven records consisted of singles.

111 Oriental Plover *Charadrius veredus* 紅胸鴉

Four (two males, two females) were present at Kai Tak during 15-19 March (GJC, VBP *et al.*) and a female was seen at Mai Po on 29 March (GJC).

112 Asiatic Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* 太平洋金斑鴉

The highest count in the first winter period was 209 on 18 January. The February and March waterfowl counts both recorded 160; 162 were seen on 1 April. Subsequent spring counts reached 200 on 8 April and peaked at 514 at Lin Bam Tsuen on 19th. Further spring counts did not exceed 50, the latest being four on 17 May. Away from the Deep Bay area one was at Kai Tak on 17th and 19 March, with two there on 2 April. Reported in autumn from 13 August, numbers rising to 56 on 27 August, 77 on 23 September, 82 on 8 October (including a grey bird somewhat reminiscent of American Golden Plover *P. dominica*) and 197 on 28 November. Away from Deep Bay one was at Ta Kwu Ling on 24 September, three were at Ma Tso Lung on 26th, three were at Long Valley on 30 September with six there on 7 October and two on 14th.

113 Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* 灰斑鴉

The January waterfowl count total for Deep Bay was 597; 559 were noted on 1 February and 548 were still present on 4 March; 120 remained on 18th. Numbers declined to 16 on 29 March and 14 April, 15 on 27 April and 7 May and, finally, four on 26 May. Autumn records were as follows: singles on 13 August, six on 6 September, one on 28th, 12 on 8 October, 55 on 7 November and 25 on 11th and 18th. The December waterfowl count recorded 456 and 556 were seen on 25th. All records were in the Deep Bay area.

114 Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus* 灰頭麥雞

The wintering flock at Tsim Bei Tsui numbered four with two on 7 April being the last report. At Kam Tin it reached 15 with the last report being three on 8 April. Elsewhere, singles were at Mai Po on 3 March and 6 May. In the second winter period first noted at Kam Tin on 23 September, numbers reaching 15 on 28

October. At Tsim Bei Tsui one was noted on 28 October, four were seen on 11 November with five on 26th, and two were seen on 30 December. Elsewhere, two were at Mai Po on 5 October, one was at Long Valley on 8th with three there on 17 October, and one was on Beas River on 22 November.

115 Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* 鳳頭麥雞

The first winter period brought one at Mai Po on 18 January and one at Kam Tin from 29 January to 5 February. The second winter period saw singles at Kam Tin on 12 November and 10 December, and at Long Valley on 18 November and 17 December, as well as 12 at Mai Po on 6 December and three at Nam Sang Wai on 9th.

116 Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* 細嘴濱鷸

The wintering flock numbered eleven during the January waterfowl count and seven on 22 January and 2 February. Spring passage was noted from 20 March to 25 May with numbers reaching 95 on 29 March, 172 on 31st and the spring high of 225 on 3 April. Seventy were seen on 12 April, 26 were still present on 7 May, with 14 on 16 May. Away from Deep Bay two were at Ping Chau on 14 April and one was at Shui Hau Wan, Lantau, on 22 April. Return passage was noted from 13 August, numbers peaking at 38 on 6 September; 22 were still present on 28 September and 14 were noted on 7 October. The wintering flock was probably established by 22 November when 12 were noted.

117 Red Knot *Calidris canutus* 紅腹濱鷸

Up to five birds were noted in the first winter period until 18 March. Spring passage was first noted on 3 April when two birds were seen, and continued until 26 May. Up to 27 April numbers were no higher than eight but then an influx saw 30 on 29th; another influx in early May raised numbers to 62 on 7th, the highest count of the year. Fifty were noted on 12th, 16 on 16th and then singles were present on 25th and 26th. Return passage was noted from 6 September to 4 November with the peak count being eight on 7th and 9 October. All records in Deep Bay or at Mai Po.

118 Sanderling *Calidris alba* 三趾鷗

Spring records were as follows: in April, singles on 1st and 8th, two during 25-26th and one during 29-30th; in May, one on 4th, two on 12th and three on 18th. All these were in Deep Bay or at Mai Po. The sole autumn record concerned two at Ping Chau on 7 October.

119 Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis* 紅胸濱鷸

In the first winter period up to three birds were noted from 18 January to 3 February. Spring passage noted from 25 March, numbers building up to an initial peak of 150 during 3-6 April. Numbers then generally remained below 50 until 27th by which date another influx was noted and 100 birds were recorded. Numbers increased to 269 on 5 May and 620, the peak spring count, on 12th. On 16th 500 were still present and the final record was 110 on 18 May. Return passage was noted from 13 August, numbers reaching 25 on 6 September and 19 on 8

October. Three on 10 October seem to have marked the end of autumn passage as the only subsequent records concerned up to two birds during 18-28 November; these were possibly wintering birds. The only records away from Deep Bay were four at Starling Inlet on 5 April, two at Shui Hau Wan, Lantau, on 7 May and two on Ping Chau on 13 May.

119.1 Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

小濱鷸

Two birds were noted: one on 30 April and another on 5 May (RWL), both from the Mai Po boardwalk.

120 Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

烏腳濱鷸

Waterfowl count totals for Deep Bay in the early part of the year were seven in January, 26 in February and 51 in March. The highest spring counts concerned six at Ma Tso Lung on 10 April and Tsim Bei Tsui four days later. The latest spring record was one at Mai Po on 20 April. First noted in the second part of the year on 18 September. The highest autumn counts were ten near Mai Po on 20 September and 15 at Lin Barn Tsuen on 17 October. Subsequently, four or less were noted until wintering birds became established toward the end of the year, when counts reached sixteen at Lau Fau Shan on 16 November, eleven at Mai Po on 22nd and ten at Mong Tseng on 3 December. Away from the Deep Bay area three were at Long Valley on 7 October with seven there on 15th.

121 Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*

長趾濱鷸

There were two records in the first winter period: three at Kam Tin on 2 January and six at Mai Po on 18 January. Spring passage was noted from 8 April to 17 May with the highest counts being 20 on 20 April and 23 on 7 May; other counts were eight or below. Noted in autumn from 9 August to 14 October the highest count being seven on 20 September. The wintering flock was established by 10 November when 16 were at Lau Fau Shan. Away from Deep Bay singles were at Long Valley on 9 September and 14 October, with five there on 7 October, three the day after and two on 10th.

121.1 Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

斑胸濱鷸

One was on a drained fish pond at Ma Tso Lung on 25 April (PJL). This is the seventh record for Hong Kong and the first away from Mai Po and Tsim Bei Tsui.

122 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*

尖尾濱鷸

Recorded in spring from 1 April to 17 May, the highest count being 138 on the last date. Numbers in April remained at a handful until 29-30th when up to 12 were noted. An influx in the first half of May saw counts increase to 30 on 6th and 109 on 16th before the final record the following day. Return passage noted from 9 August to 15 October but recorded on only eight dates with numbers never exceeding two. The latest record concerned one at Long Valley during 14-15 October, the only one away from Deep Bay.

123 Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

彎嘴濱鷸

The first spring record was on 18 March with a single at Mai Po. Subsequently, numbers built up to 27 on 29th, which was followed by an influx that saw 500 present on 1 April. Counts did not exceed this figure until 22 April when 2000, the highest count of the year, were present. There was then a sharp decline to 250 by the end of the month and 100 on 5 May. The final spring record concerned 15 on 28 May. Seventeen on 18 July were either over-summering individuals or the first birds of a return passage that saw numbers peak at 47 on 9 August. On 23 August 28 were recorded but numbers subsequently declined to eight on 6 September. Four juveniles were present on 28th and 30 September, up to six birds were present during 8-10 October, two were noted during 21-22nd with a final single on 28 October. All records came from Mai Po.

124 Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

黑腹濱鷸

The peak count of the first winter period was 5845, a new high, on 9 January (PJL), the previous highest was 4000 in January and February 1992. The February waterfowl count recorded 1500 on 18th and there were no more records until spring passage was first noted on 1 April when two were present. The only other spring records were singles on 4 April and 5 May. The first autumn record concerned 13 birds on 7 October; 124 were present on 10th with 48 on 22 October. The November waterfowl count logged 1135, the highest count in the second half of the year. Apart from three at Long Valley on 8 October, all records were at Mai Po.

125 Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Eurynorhynchus pygmaeus* (V)

勺嘴鷸

In a very poor year for this species the only records were one on 18 January, one on 21 April and a juvenile on 6 August (MRL). The latter is the first record in early autumn and the first of a bird in juvenile plumage. All records at Mai Po.

126 Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*

闊嘴鷸

The only winter record concerned two on 3 February. Spring passage was first noted on 27 March; numbers built up to 25 on 1 April, though this was followed by an apparent relative dearth of records until 19th when 20 were seen. Another influx at the end of the month brought 27 on 30 April, 42 on 4 May and 51, the highest count of the year, on 12 May. The final spring record concerned 12 on 17 May. In autumn there were two on 6 September, 12 on 7 October, nine on 10th and, finally, one on 22 October. Apart from one at a small high tide roost at Shui Hau Wan, Lantau, on 7 May, all records were from Deep Bay.

127 Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

流蘇鷸

The only spring records concerned singles on 3rd and 31 March. In autumn two juveniles were present during 18-19 September with one on 22nd; subsequently, one juvenile was present during 8-10 October followed by up to three birds (two adult males and a juvenile female) from 21 October to 22 November.

129 Fantail Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* 扇尾沙錐

Waterfowl count totals for Deep Bay in the early part of the year were 56 in January, 49 in February and 38 in March. Other counts in this period included 23 at Kam Tin on 2 January. The highest spring count was 20 at Long Valley on 5th and 12 April. The final spring record concerned one at Mai Po on 7 May, although eight were at Long Valley the day before. In the second part of the year noted from 2 September, higher counts being 21 at Mai Po on 18 September, up to 40 at Long Valley during 6-7 October with 32 there on 14th. Elsewhere, one was at Shuen Wan on 23 September with two there on 7 October, three were at Luk Keng on 30 September and, unusually, one was at Ho Chung on 13 October. Twenty were noted in the December waterfowl count and the highest count at Long Valley in that month was ten on 30th.

130 Pintail Snipe *Gallinago stenura* 針尾沙錐

Five were recorded at Lok Ma Chau during the January waterfowl count with ten there the following month and six in March. Six at Long Valley was the only subsequent March count. In April the highest counts were ten at Long Valley on 2nd with eight there on 7th; one there on 29th was followed by the final spring record of one there on 10 May. Noted in autumn from 26 August when one was at Mai Po; the highest counts were 12 at Long Valley on 2 September, 16 at Kam Tin on 9th, 11 near Mai Po on 18th, ten at Luk Keng on 30th, up to 12 at Long Valley during 6-7 October and 20 at Kam Tin on 14 October. After 9 November the only records were singles at Long Valley on 5th and 16 December with two there the following day and five on 30th.

131 Swinhoe's Snipe *Gallinago megala* 大沙錐

In spring recorded in April from 2nd to 15th with a maximum of six at Long Valley on 7th; at Kam Tin there were singles on 2nd and 13th. Return passage noted in autumn from 23 August to 15 October with the highest counts being 15 at Long Valley on 15 September and twelve there on 2 September. Singles were at Kam Tin on 9 September and 4 October, with five there on 14th, and two were at Luk Keng on 9 September.

133 Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* 長咀半蹼鷸

One was seen from the Mai Po boardwalk on 19th, 29th and 31 March and again during 3-4 April (RWL,GJC); two were present there on 22 November (PJJ,GJC).

134 Asiatic Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus* (N) 半蹼鷸

First noted on 29 March, numbers failed to exceed four in April and peaked at a mere 22 birds on the final date of occurrence, 6 May, in what was a very weak passage of this species. Recorded in autumn from 6 August to 22 October, with singles noted on all dates apart from two on 22 August and 30 September. The final record of an adult during 21-22 October (GJC) is the latest autumn record. Apart from an adult at Long Valley during 6-8 October, all records were from Deep Bay.

135 Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* 丘鷸

Singles were noted as follows: Ng Tung Chai on 20th and Mui Wo on 28 January, Shuen Wan on 5th and Pak Nai on 18th and 20 March, Mount Austin on 1st and 3 April, Mount Austin on 28 September and 28 October, Sha Lo Tung on 5th and Cloudy Hill on 18 November, Aberdeen Country Park and Hong Kong University on 28 November and Sha Lo Tung on 28 December. In addition, single birds were found dead at the Royal Observatory, Tsim Sha Tsui, on 23 October and at Ng Tung Chai on 26 December.

136 Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* 黑尾塍鷸

The first three waterfowl counts of the year brought totals of 200 in January, 230 in February and 192 in March. Spring passage numbers built up to 528 on 29 March and 1147, the highest count of the year, on 1 April. Seven hundred were noted on 14th and 273 on 26 April. The highest count in May was 29 on 5th and the final spring record was 15 on 26 May. Up to two possibly over-summering birds were noted on 25th and 28 July. The highest August count was 22 on 24th after which there seems to have been a paucity of birds until 22 September when 93 were noted; numbers subsequently increased to 146 on 7 October and a very high autumn count of 350 on 9 October. On 4 November 311 were counted, with 288 recorded on 2 December and 131 on 25th. All records were at Mai Po.

137 Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* 斑尾塍鷸

A single on 27 February was the first record of the year, and what was presumably the same individual continued to be seen during the first three weeks of March. Spring passage was evident from 29 March to 17 May with main passage occurring from 30 March to 4 April, numbers peaking at 13 on 4th. Eight on 14 April marked a smaller second influx; five on 22nd and three on 12th and 17 May were the only other counts of note. Singles on 6th, 24th and 27 August were the first records of the autumn; these were followed by up to eight during 6-7th and then up to 29 during 28-30 September. Subsequently, three were noted during 7-9th, two were present during 21-22 October, one was seen on 22 November and, finally, a single was recorded on 9 December. All records were at Mai Po.

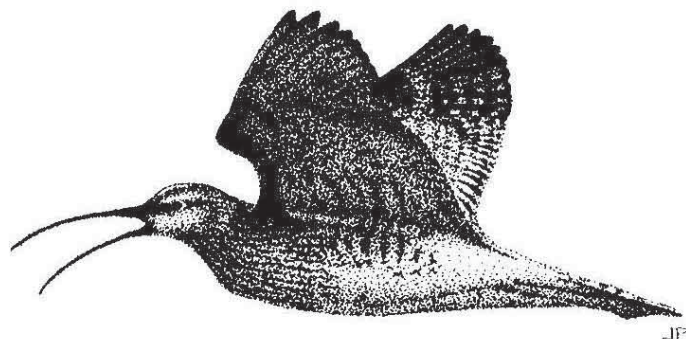
138 Little Whimbrel *Numenius minutus* 小杓鷸

Unusually, the only records of the year were in autumn, all in October: two at Long Valley on 6th (PJJ), one at Mai Po on 8th (DSM) and one at Kam Tin on 28th (DAD).

139 Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* 中杓鷸

One was present in Deep Bay during 18-25 February. Spring passage was first noted on 18 March and continued to 27 May, numbers increasing to 25 on 19 April and 43 on 30th before falling to 35 on 6 May and ten on 17th. Four were seen on 25 July with possibly the same four seen on 13 August. Numbers increased to 58 on 26th before declining to 44 on 6 September, 20 on 9 October and nine on 30 October, the final record of the autumn. Away from Deep Bay nine were seen at Ping Chau on 22 April, four were at Cape D'Aguilar on 31 August with 17 the

next day (during and after Typhoon Kent) and three there on 3 October (during Typhoon Sibyl), all flying west; in addition, three were at Shuen Wan on 5 September with five there on 17 September.



140 Curlew *Numenius arquatus* 白腰杓鹬

Peak monthly counts in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
691	636	615	49	19	15	30	40	43	98	243	153

The March count was made on 3rd and subsequently numbers declined to 346 in the waterfowl count for that month and then 38 at the end of the month. The summering population seems to have been established at the beginning of May, or possibly even as early as mid-April. All records were from Deep Bay.

141 Australian Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis* (N) 紅腰杓鹬

One was noted in the first winter period on four dates to 3 March. Spring passage was recorded from 30 March to 17 May and involved single birds, except for two on 1st, 5th and 25 April, four on 4th May, two on 6th, three on 12th and two on 17 May. In autumn singles were at Mai Po during 8-9 October, on 22 October and 11 November.

142 Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* 鵲鹬

On 25 January 1730 were noted (PJL), a new high. The February waterfowl count recorded 1216 and the March count, 1484. Subsequent spring counts included 1290 on 31 March, 673 on 27 April and 490 on 6 May. The final spring record concerned 201 on 16 May. Noted in autumn from 9 August, when one was seen; this was followed by singles on three dates until 27 August. The next record concerned ten on 8 October, followed by 12 in the November waterfowl count.

The final and highest count in the second half of the year was 900 on 3 December. Apart from two at Lin Barn Tsuen on 7 November, all records were at Mai Po.

143 Redshank *Tringa totanus* 紅腳鵲

Waterfowl counts in the first half of the year recorded 650 in January, 405 in February and 141 in March. Subsequent spring counts were lower than recent years, the highest counts being 900 on 4 May and 375 on 16 May. On 18 July 236 were presumed over-summering birds; subsequent early autumn counts included 1190 on 2 August, 1207 on 13th and 707 on 23 August. There were no records for the three weeks prior to 20 September when two were noted. Sixteen on 30 September increased to 500 on 9 October. The December waterfowl count recorded 132. All records apart from the following were in Deep Bay: three at Shuen Wan on 3 May, one at Ping Chau on 13 May, up to four at Long Valley from 30 September to 8 October, with one there on 4 November.

144 Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* 澤鵲

Waterfowl counts in the first winter period recorded 350 in January, 393 in February and 250 in March. Spring numbers then built up to 1180 on 29th, falling to 1000 on 31 March and up to 600 present in the first few days of April. There were few other April counts and May brought a maximum of only 15 on 16th; the final spring record concerned one on 8 June. One on 9 August was the first record of the autumn; counts then did not exceed four until 18 September when 12 were noted. Numbers increased to 71 by 27 September and 570 on 8 October, the highest count of the second half of the year, followed by 466 on 21st. Subsequent counts did not exceed ten. All records were in Deep Bay apart from one at Shuen Wan on 6 June, and up to 25 at Long Valley during 7-15 October.

145 Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* 青腳鵲

Waterfowl counts in the first winter period recorded 883 in January, 309 in February and 193 in March. Spring numbers then peaked at 800 on 2 May, followed by 356 on 16 May, somewhat lower and later than previous years due to the difficulties of wader observation during April. The final record of the spring concerned one on 8 June. Nine on 18 July was the first record in the second half of the year; numbers subsequently built up to 127 on 2 August, 397 on 23 August, and then declined to 228 on 6 September. There were few other September records before an influx in early October brought 800 on 9th, followed by 374 on 21st. Subsequently, the only double-figure counts were 13 and 54 in the November and December waterfowl counts respectively. All records were in Deep Bay apart from two at Long Valley on 7 October and one at Shuen Wan on 10th, 15th and 20 November.

146 Nordmann's Greenshank *Tringa guttifer* (E) 小青腳鵲

Recorded in spring from 30 March to 26 May, the highest count being 20 on 8 April. Other April records were singles on 16th, 19th and 30th, with two on 5th. In May two were seen during 2-3rd, one during 5-6th, two on 7th, up to eight during 16-18th, three on 25th and two on 26th. Not a good year for this species.

147 Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

白腰草鵞

Waterfowl count totals for Deep Bay in the early part of the year were 13 in January, 18 in February and 15 in March. Seven at Tsim Bei Tsui on 20 February was the highest count for an individual site during this period. Two at Mai Po on 5 April was the highest spring count. Return passage was noted from 25 July when one was at Kam Tin; this was followed on 19 August by nine at Long Valley and eight at Kam Tin, the highest counts of the autumn. The November waterfowl count recorded nine and the December count 34. In addition there were 13 at Kam Tin on 10 December. Away from the northern NT, one was at Cape D'Aguilar on 25 August.

148 Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

林鵞

Waterfowl count totals for Deep Bay in the early part of the year were 106 in January, 58 in February and 32 in March. Noted in spring until 17 May with the highest count being 47 at Long Valley on 7 April. Recorded again from 13 July when eight were at Long Valley; counts increased to 50 at Mai Po on 9 September, 90 near Mai Po on 20th, and 140 at Long Valley on 27th with 50 there on 8th and 14 October. The November waterfowl count recorded 106 and the December count 95. Away from the Deep Bay area, at Kam Tin the highest count in the first winter period was 120 on 17 January, the highest spring count was 25 on 25 March, the highest autumn count was 60 on 9 September and the highest count in the second winter period was 127 on 24 November. At Shuen Wan the highest count for the year was three on 1 April.

149 Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

翹嘴鵞

The first spring record was one on 31 March. Numbers subsequently increased to 12 on 14 April, though with no records for the rest of the month. An influx in early May brought 32 on 4th and 55, the highest count of the year, on 16th; 53 remained on 28th, the final record of the spring. A first-summer bird was present on 25 June. The first record of the autumn concerned one on 26 July, followed by four on 2 August. Numbers increased to 12, the highest autumn count, on 13th. There were two September records, eight on 6th and three on 30th, and the final record of the year concerned a single on 9 October. All records were in Deep Bay apart from one in a small high tide roost at Shui Hau Wan, Lantau, on 22 April and 7 May, and one at Cape D'Aguilar on 11 August.

150 Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

磯鵞

Waterfowl count totals for Deep Bay in the early part of the year were 73 in January, 50 in February and 37 in March. Noted in spring until 18 May with the highest count being 12 at Tsim Bei Tsui on 4 April. Summer records involved singles at Mai Po on 25 June, at Tsim Bei Tsui on 6 July and at Long Valley on 13th. Presumed migrants were noted from 18 July and the highest autumn counts were four at Shuen Wan on 28 August, and 3rd and 8 September. The November waterfowl count recorded 45 and the December count 44. Away from the northern NT singles were seen at Ping Chau on 13 May and 7 October and up to two birds were noted at Cape D'Aguilar on 5th, 12th and 27 August and 3 October.

152 Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

翻石鵞

Recorded at Mai Po in spring from 1 April to 17 May. Ones and twos were noted on six dates until 27th when 17 were present. Counts then rose to 86 on 29 April and 250 on 2 May, continuing the run of relatively high spring counts in the last three years. Numbers then dropped to 126 on 4th, 58 on 12th and 13 on 17th. Away from Deep Bay one was at Ping Chau on 13 May. The only autumn record concerned one at Mai Po on 6 September.

153 Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

紅頸瓣蹼鵞

Low numbers were recorded in spring from 18 March to 13 May. The first record of a single at Deep Bay was followed by one at Long Valley on 2 April, two in Deep Bay on 8th, seven between Aberdeen and Cape D'Aguilar on 10th, ten in Tolo Harbour on 14th, six in Mirs Bay on 22nd and one in Deep Bay on 27 April, followed by ten near Ping Chau on 13 May. The showing in autumn was relatively better thanks to the passage of Typhoon Sibyl which produced a new autumn high of 1572 at Cape D'Aguilar on 3 October (GJC *et al.*). Elsewhere, 11 were at Long Valley on 20 September, two were on the sea near Cheung Chau on 3 October, and at Long Valley four were present on the same date, with 11 on 6th, six on 8th and one on 15th.

156 Great Black-headed Gull *Larus ichthyæetus*

魚鵞

Another very good year for this species although not matching the record numbers recorded in 1994. The pattern of occurrences in Deep Bay is now well established with occasional wintering birds being seen in January and early February followed by a distinct passage in the second half of February and the first half of March. All records are from the boardwalk hide at Mai Po. In January there was an adult in winter plumage on 6th and a second-winter bird on 9th and 26th (PJL). A first-winter bird was present on 18 February (GJC,MLC,PJL), followed by a breeding plumage adult during 20-25th (MLC,PJL,RWL), a second-winter also on 25th (MLC) and a third-summer with complete hood on 28th (PJL). Another breeding plumage adult was present on 12 March (MLC) followed by a third-winter on 30th and 31 March (RWL,VBP). In April a second-summer was present at Mai Po on 1st (GJC) and what is assumed to be the same bird was at Tsim Bei Tsui on 7th (RWL); this is the latest ever by 17 days, the previous latest being 21st March 1994. In the second winter period a winter plumaged adult was present on 27th December (PJL). It is considered that a minimum of ten individuals occurred in Hong Kong in 1995.

157 Saunders' Gull *Larus saundersi* (E)

黑嘴鵞

During January and early February the wintering population numbered approximately 80 birds of which at least 29 were first-winter and 51 adults, somewhat less than the 102 in 1994. By mid-February numbers began to swell due to the arrival of north-bound migrants with 112 present on 18th. The high count of the year was 131 on 3 March and the maximum count of first-winter birds was 35 on 4th when there were also 87 adults present. Numbers declined to

25 on 22nd and nine on 1 April. A group of seven birds remained until 5 April and a flock of 15 dropped in on 8th. The last report in the spring was of a single at Mai Po on 14 April. The first autumn record concerned 20 on 9 November. Numbers increased rapidly after this date, reaching 97 on 9 December, some of which may have been migrants, before dropping slightly to 74, including 18 first-winter birds, on 25th December.

158 Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

紅嘴鷗

The year's highest count was recorded during the January waterfowl count when 18,729 were noted in Deep Bay; the February and March counts recorded 16,860 and 8080 respectively. Over 2000 were still present on 31 March but numbers declined to 1000 on 1st, 500 on 4th and ten on 12 April. Two first-summer birds remained at Mai Po until 30th April. The earliest autumn report was of three at Mai Po on 30 September which increased to 17 by 21 October and 170 on 11 November. The waterfowl count on 9 December recorded 7434 in the Deep Bay area. Away from Deep Bay the only reports were of up to 92 at Shuen Wan in January and February and, in the sea channel north of Lantau, up to 700 during spring migration from 11 February to 16 March, and 250 on 16 November. It is considered that this species is still being under-recorded.

159 Brown-headed Gull *Larus brunnicephalus*

棕頭鷗

The only report during the first winter period was an adult at Mai Po on 1 January (GJC,PJL). In the second winter period an adult at Mai Po on 21 October was the earliest ever (GJC,RWL). Other single adults were seen at Lin Barn Tsuen on 24 November and Ma Tso Lung on 30 December (PJL).

160 Black-tailed Gull *Larus crassirostris*

黑尾鷗

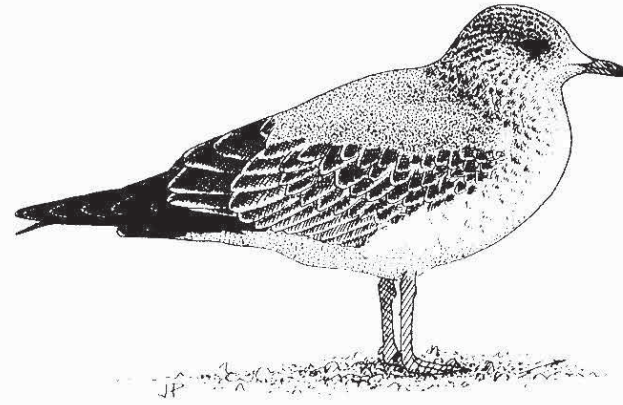
Present in Deep Bay from January to March when suitable tidal conditions brought birds close to the boardwalk hide. All reports from the Deep Bay area were of first-winter birds. In January three were present on 5th, dropping to only a single during 8-22nd but increasing to seven on 29th. In February a single bird was present until the 18th when six were seen, but numbers dropped to three on 22nd. A single first-winter bird was present for the whole of March, and what may have been the same individual was seen at Tsim Bei Tsui on 7 April and at Mai Po on 15 April. Away from the Deep Bay area the only report was of ten seen from the ferry to Ping Chau on 4 February. In the second winter period the only report was of a first-winter bird in Deep Bay on 31 December.

161 Common Gull *Larus canus*

東方海鷗

A first-winter was at Mai Po on 28 January (PJL) and another was there on 22 March (RWL).

1994: A first-winter 'Mew' Gull *L.c. brachyrhynchus* was present off the Mai Po boardwalk during 25-28 February. This is the first record for mainland Asia of this North American form (see Carey and Kennerley 1996).



161.5 Heuglin's Gull *Larus heuglini*

太梅爾鷗

This species remains by far the most numerous of the large gulls wintering in Deep Bay; adults outnumber first-winter birds by at least ten to one. All adult birds were referable to the form *L.h. taimyrensis*. In January the highest count was 275 on 9th although the waterfowl count on 21st found only 86 birds. The February peak of 641 on 18th was also the highest count of the year. In March numbers gradually declined to 288 on 12th and 248 on 18th; most had departed by the end of the month. Five at Mai Po on 1 April increased to 11 on 3rd but declined to four by the next day and three on 14th. The last report in the first winter period was of a single at Mai Po on 19 April. Five that flew past Cape D'Aguilar on 3rd October during Typhoon Sibyl represent the earliest record for Hong Kong since 1977. The first report from Deep Bay during the second winter period came on 18 November and numbers then increased to 30 on 9th and 57 on 31 December.

162.2 Vega Gull *Larus vegae*

紅腳銀鷗

The only reports of this species were of two adults at Mai Po on 4 March and at least ten adults there on 19 March (MLC).

162.3 Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans*

黃腳銀鷗

Two adults showing the characters of the form *L.c. mongolicus* were recorded at Mai Po on 4th and again on 19 March (MLC), and in April another adult was there on 7th. In addition, a first-winter was at Mai Po on 4 March. In the second winter period an adult was present at Mai Po on 31 December (MLC).

Single adults of the highly distinctive small, dark-eyed form, tentatively assigned to *L.c. barabensis*, were recorded at Mai Po on 18 February and 4 March (MLC).

163 Slaty-backed Gull *Larus schistisagus* 灰背鷗

Another good series of records from the Deep Bay area. A better understanding of the identification criteria of immatures has demonstrated that this former vagrant is in fact a regular winter visitor. Single first-winter birds were present on 3rd and 29 January (PJL,RWL). What is assumed to be the same bird was still at Mai Po on 1st and 3 February (GJC,MLC,PJL). Numbers then increased to three first-winter birds on 11th and four first-winters on 20th (PJL) but declined to a single on 22nd (RWL). The only March report was a first-summer bird at Mai Po on 18th (DAD,RWL). In the second winter period the only report was a first-winter at Mai Po on 27 December (MLC). It is considered that a minimum of six individuals occurred in Hong Kong in 1995.

166 Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* 三趾鷗

A bird in adult plumage was seen at Mai Po on 8 March (RWL,MH,MLC). This is the fourth record for Hong Kong.

167 Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* 鸚嘴噪鷗

The first report concerned a single bird at Mai Po on 29 March. Numbers increased rapidly to 108 on 12 April but then declined to 80 on 15th and 13 on 20th. A large arrival occurred on 22nd when 120, the peak count of the year, was recorded. This was followed by a gradual decline to 30 on 26th and 17 on 30 April. Small numbers continued to be seen in early May with a peak of 14 on 5th. No birds were recorded during 7-24 May but three, including one first-summer bird, were present at Mai Po on 25th. The only reports in the autumn were two, including one first-winter, at Mai Po on 7th October and one there the next day. There were no reports away from the Deep Bay area.

168 Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia* 紅嘴巨鷗

A poor year for this species. For the first time since 1972 there were no records in the first winter period. The first report was of a single bird on 18 March at Mai Po, and numbers subsequently increased to eight on 29th and 11 on 30th. The peak count of 40 on 2 April was the lowest since 1986 and numbers then declined to 20 on 4th and ten on 12th. An arrival on 15th increased numbers to 20 but most birds had departed by the next day when only two remained. The only report in May was of seven at Mai Po on 16th. Midsummer reports of this species are not unusual and single birds at Tsim Bei Tsui on 30 June and Mai Po on 6 August fall into the established pattern. The only reports in the autumn were of two at Mai Po on 30 September and one there on 9 November. All reports were from Deep Bay, primarily Mai Po, apart from a single bird migrating past Cheung Chau on 2 April.

169 Greater Crested Tern *Sterna bergii* 大鳳頭海燕

One was seen at Tsim Bei Tsui on 15 April (PA). This is the seventh record in Hong Kong.

170 Black-naped Tern *Sterna sumatrana* 黑枕燕鷗

The first report of the year came on 27 May when 15 were seen in Long Harbour, near Tap Mun. Breeding was not proven on Kung Chau near Tap Mun but 65, including nine juveniles, were seen on the Kung Chau beacon in Long Harbour on 19 August. The only visit to the established breeding site in eastern waters was on 22 June when 35 adults and at least two pulli were reported. Successful breeding also occurred at a former breeding site in Mirs Bay when 12 adults and a single pullus were seen on 19 August. This is the first report of breeding at this site since 1987. Away from the breeding sites three flew past Cape D'Aguilar on 2 June and six were there on 12 August during STS Helen. The last report of the year was of three at Cheung Chau on 3 October during Typhoon Sibyl which was also the second latest record ever.

171 Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* 粉紅燕鷗

Compared to recent years a rather poor showing. At the established breeding site in eastern waters there were only three birds present on 22 June with no indication of breeding. During a visit to Mirs Bay on 19 August 12 adults and two juveniles were at the Kung Chau beacon and four were found at a former breeding site. However, there was no indication of breeding at this site which last occurred in 1987.

172 Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* 普通燕鷗

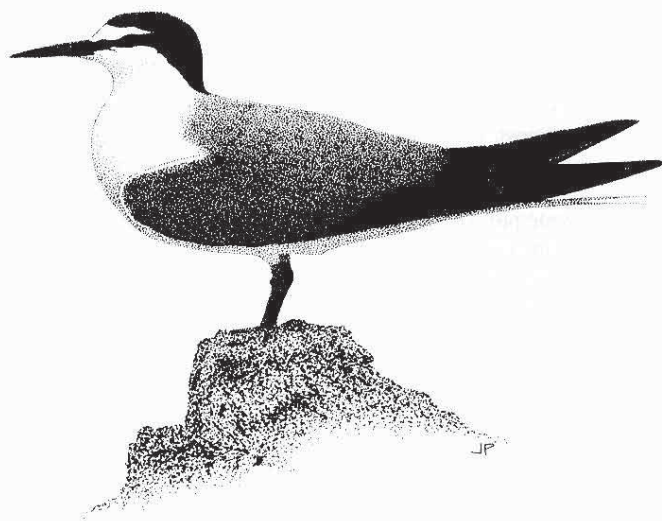
Two breeding plumage adults of the distinctive race *S.h. longipennis* seen from the Mai Po boardwalk hide on 27th April was the only spring record. The earliest south-bound migrant was one from the Ping Chau ferry on 13 August. At least ten, including one juvenile, were seen at Cape D'Aguilar on 31 August during Typhoon Kent and six were there the next day. There were no further reports until 3 October when six flew past Cape D'Aguilar, three flew past Cheung Chau and at least 400 were sheltering in the small bay at Tai O during Typhoon Sibyl.

172.1 Aleutian Tern *Sterna aleutica* 白腰燕鷗

There were no spring reports. In autumn ten adults flew past Cape D'Aguilar on 10 August (DAD,RWL) and again on 12 August during STS Helen (DAD,MRL,RWL). A single bird was seen from the Ping Chau ferry on 13 August (PA) and one in Mirs Bay on 19th was associating with terns at a breeding site. Typhoon Kent on 31 August brought 26 to Cape D'Aguilar (PJL,MRL,RWL) and five past Cheung Chau (MDW). Numbers at Cape D'Aguilar increased to 65 (all adults), the highest count of the year, on 1 September (PJL,MRL). Three were seen from the Ping Chau ferry on 2 September (RWL). There were no further reports until 3 October when one flew past Cheung Chau during Typhoon Sibyl (MDW); this represents the second latest ever.

173 Bridled Tern *Sterna anaethetus* 褐翅燕鷗

The first report of the year concerned two in Mirs Bay on 17 July (PRS). The approach of STS Helen brought four past Cape D'Aguilar on 10 August, six on 11th and 63 on 12th, 45 of which passed between 0700h and 0800h (DAD,MRL,RWL *et al.*). One was seen from the Ping Chau ferry on 13 August



(PA). A boat trip into Mirs Bay on 19 August recorded 88, including one flying juvenile, near Shek Ngau Chau and a further eight away from the island. Since the island was not visited earlier in the year it is not known if birds actually bred there. During Typhoon Sibyl on 3 October ten flew past Cape D'Aguilar (GJC,MRL,RWL *et al.*), one was seen from Cheung Chau (MDW) and, most notably, there was an adult inland at Long Valley (DAD).

174 Sooty Tern *Sterna fuscata* 烏燕鷗

A juvenile was seen at Tin Shui Wai on 3 October shortly after the passage of Typhoon Sibyl (DAD). This is the fifth record for Hong Kong but the first away from the sea.

175 Little Tern *Sterna albifrons* 白額燕鷗

Recorded at Mai Po on seven dates during April; a single on 1st was followed by the maximum of 18 on 8th. Thereafter, only singles were seen apart from six on 27th. Two at Mai Po, one of which was a first-summer bird, on 25 May was the only report that month. A single flew past Cape D'Aguilar on 12 August and a juvenile was at Mai Po on 27th. There were no September reports but on 3 October one flew past Cheung Chau during Typhoon Sibyl. Another disappointing year but slightly better than 1994.

176 Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus* 鬚浮鷗

Although spring numbers were not particularly high, there was a protracted passage through the Deep Bay area. The first report concerned a single at Ma Tso Lung on 28 March (GAW) which is the second earliest spring date ever. There were no further reports until three at Mai Po on 8 April followed by 16 moving north there on 21st. Thereafter, recorded almost daily at Mai Po with counts of ten

on 26th, 12 on 27th and four on 30 April. Numbers dwindled to two by 5 May followed by singles on 12th and 17th.

Reports in August came from Ping Chau, where two were seen on 13th, and Mai Po, where there was an adult on 27th. Birds were then recorded from a number of localities in the Deep Bay area on six dates during September including four at Mai Po on 4th, ten near Fairview Park on 19th and 31 at Lin Barn Tsuen on 27th. Typhoon Sibyl on 3 October brought at least 100 *Chlidonias* terns, either this species or White-winged Black Tern to Tai O, Lantau, while positively identified birds included 15 past Cheung Chau and a single in Long Valley on the same day. This storm also brought several to Mai Po and Deep Bay with 13, including five adults, at Mai Po and a further 36 *Chlidonias* terns, considered most likely to be this species, in Deep Bay on 7th. Most of these birds were still present in Deep Bay on 10th but still remained too distant to positively identify although one was identified over the marsh on this date. A further four were seen at Mai Po on 22 October and the last record of the year concerned two juveniles there on 4 November.

177 White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* 白翅浮鷗

Recorded on 11 dates during May with high counts of 76 at Mai Po on 5th, at least 400 in Tolo Harbour and 80 near Shek Ngau Chau, Mirs Bay, on 13th and 200, mostly in breeding plumage, in Starling Inlet the next day. Numbers declined after this until a small influx occurred on 27th with 30 in Long Harbour and 19 at Mai Po. The first record of the autumn was of five at Lin Barn Tsuen on 27 September. On 3 October Typhoon Sibyl brought 30 to Cape D'Aguilar and 300 to Long Valley (DAD), this being by far the highest autumn count ever. These birds had moved on by 6th when only one remained but small numbers continued to be seen at a number of localities in the Deep Bay area, and the last report of the year was of two at Lin Barn Tsuen on 17 October.

179 Red Turtle Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica* 火斑鳩

In the first winter period recorded on only six dates between 18 February and 10 May at Ma Tso Lung and Lin Barn Tsuen, with counts not exceeding four. Autumn passage noted from 18 September to 20 October in the Deep Bay area, Cheung Chau and Kowloon Park with maxima of 15 at Lin Barn Tsuen on 27 September and 16 at Mai Po on 29 September. Later reports included 12 at Ma Tso Lung on 9 November and 27, the highest count of the year, at Tsim Bei Tsui on 10 December.

180 Rufous Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis* 山斑鳩

High counts in the first part of the year included 40 at Aberdeen CP on 22 January, 53 at Ng Tung Chai on 2 February and 44 at Lin Barn Tsuen on 2 May. The occurrence of up to six at Cheung Chau during 1-6 March was considered unusual. One at Nam Sang Wai on 18 May was the first juvenile to be recorded in Hong Kong (PJJ), though there was no indication that it had been reared locally. Two at Ho Pui on 21 May were the last in spring. The first in autumn were three at Nam Sang Wai on 20 October, and the highest counts were all in December,

with 60 at Mai Po on 6th, 200 between Ta Kwu Ling and Sha Tau Kok on 15th, and 40 at Shuen Wan also on 15th.

- 181 Spotted Dove** *Streptopelia chinensis* 珠頸斑鳩
No significant records.

- 183 Emerald Dove** *Chalcophaps indica* 綠背金鳩
Noted in all months apart from March. All records were of singles, except for three at Tai Lam Reservoir on 10 June, three at Yung Shue O on 1 July, two at Tau Po Kau on 2 September, and two to three at Ng Tung Chai on 14 January, 8 February and 21 December. Other sites where this species was recorded were Mui Wo, Yi Pak Wan (Lantau), Cheung Chau, Sok Kwu Wan (Lamma), Ping Chau, Tsim Bei Tsui, Route Twisk, Kap Lung, Kadoorie Farm and ARC, Shing Mun, Tai Wai, Fan Kam Road, Sha Lo Tung, Bride's Pool, Ho Chung, Kowloon Park and Kowloon Hills Catchwater.

- 185 Red-winged Crested Cuckoo** *Clamator coromandus* 紅翅鳳頭鵒
Recorded in ones and twos from 8 April to 5 July. Noted on three or more dates at Mount Austin from 8 April to 7 May, Bride's Pool during 15-24 April and Lok Lo Ha from 20 April to 13 June; in May noted at Shuen Wan during 2-27th, Aberdeen CP during 6-25th and Ng Tung Chai during 24-28th, and present at Sha Lo Tung from 8 May to 5 July. Also reported at Mui Wo, Tsim Bei Tsui, Tai Lam Chung, Ho Pui, Shing Mun, Sha Tin Pass, Ping Shan Chai, Hok Tau, Ho Chung, Yung Shue O and Tai Tam. A recently-fledged juvenile accompanying Greater Necklaced Laughing Thrushes at Sha Lo Tung on 5 July (RWL) was the only confirmed breeding record.

- 187 Large Hawk Cuckoo** *Hierococcyx sparveroides* 鷹鵒
First recorded on 13 March at Chek Nai Ping and noted calling throughout the spring and early summer until 1 July. Apart from three at Tai Po Kau on 3 April and five at Lam Tsuen Valley on 7 May, all records referred to one or two birds. Regularly recorded at Shuen Wan from 21 March to 1 July, Lam Tsuen Valley from 29 March to 14 May, Tai Po Kau during 2-17 April, Ng Tung Chai from 5 April to 28 May and Lok Lo Ha from 17 April to 17 June. There were also scattered reports from mid March to late June at Tai Lam, Tsim Bei Tsui, Beas River, Tai Mo Shan, Shek Kong, Shing Mun, Lead Mine Pass, Chinese University, Kowloon Hills Catchwater, Sha Lo Tung, Ping Shan Chai, Hok Tau, Tai Mei Tuk, Plover Cove, Bride's Pool, Wu Kau Tang, Luk Keng, Kuk Po, Yung Shue O, Fei Ngo Shan, Ho Chung, Aberdeen CP and Mui Wo. One heard at Kap Lung Forest Trail on 10 September and one seen at Mount Austin on 5 October were rare autumn records.

- 189 Plaintive Cuckoo** *Cacomantis merulinus* 八聲杜鵑
Heard calling from 19 March to 9 August and noted in all months of the year. The bulk of records fell between 19 March and 25 May with just a handful during January-February and October-December. Apart from three at Tsim Bei

Tsui on 14 April and three at Lam Tsuen on 7 May, all reports were of one or two birds. Most records were from Mai Po, but this species was also regularly noted at Long Valley, Lam Tsuen and Shuen Wan, with scattered reports from the central and northern NT and Mui Wo. Single juveniles were trapped at Mai Po on 14 May and 24 September.

- 190 Indian Cuckoo** *Cuculus micropterus* 四聲杜鵑
Up to two were heard regularly at Shuen Wan between 9 April and 28 June, and one or two were reported sporadically between 14 April and 2 June at Tung Chung, Mui Wo, northern NT, Sai Kung, Soko Islands, Ping Chau, Shek O and Shek Wu Wai.

- 192 Oriental Cuckoo** *Cuculus saturatus* 中杜鵑
Singles at Mount Davis on 5 April, Hatton Road on 6 April, Mai Po (hepatic female) on 4 May, Long Valley during 5-6 May and Kowloon Park on 13 May constituted spring passage. Autumn passage was more evenly spread with singles at Long Valley on 15 September, Lin Barn Tsuen on 18 September, Kam Tin on 23 September, Tung Chung on 24 September, Lam Tsuen Valley on 1 October, Tsim Bei Tsui on 7 October and Mui Wo on 15 October.

- 193 Koel** *Eudynamis scolopacea* 噪鵒
The only noteworthy records concerned up to two birds at Cheung Chau, where this species was formerly absent, between April and June and again in December, and two juveniles being fed by a pair of Black-necked Starlings at Ping Yeung on 16 September (JGH).

- 194 Greater Coucal** *Centropus sinensis* 褐翅鴉鵂
No significant reports.

- 195 Lesser Coucal** *Centropus benghalensis* 小鴉鵂
No significant reports.

- 196 Collared Scops Owl** *Otus bakkamoena* 領角鴞
Regularly heard calling from January to June at Aberdeen CP and from March to December at Mui Wo. Also reported calling in the first half of the year at Tsim Bei Tsui, Chek Nai Ping, Sha Lo Tung, Yung Shue O, Mid Levels, Tai Tam and Tung Chung. One adult and two fledged young were seen at Yung Shue O on 1 July (PA,MT).

- 198 Eagle Owl** *Bubo bubo* 鵂鴞
One was seen on 19 January at Chau Tau (DAD) and a pair was seen at Chung Hom Kok on 24 January (CAV).

A large owl, probably this species which has previously been recorded at the site, was seen at Chau Tau on 26 March (DSM).

- [199 **Brown Fish Owl** *Ketupa zeylonensis* 褐魚鴞
A large owl, probably this species which has previously been recorded at the site, was seen at Yung Shue O on 8 July (MT).]
- 200 **Barred Owlet** *Glaucidium cuculoides* 斑頭鸛鵂
Noted in all months apart from August and September at a record 13 sites, though not at any one site on more than three dates. Except where indicated, all records were of single birds: Shek Kong on 8 January, Hang Tau Tsuen on 15 January and 9 November, Chau Tau on 19 January, Shing Mun on 31 January, 7 February (two) and 18 October, Ping Yeung on 3 February, Lam Tsuen Valley on 27 March, 7th and 14 May, Sha Lo Tung on 15th and 29 April, Lower Shing Mun on 19 April, Ho Sheung Heung on 1 May and 31 December, Kam Tin on 2 June (two), Yung Shue O on 22 June, Shuen Wan on 29 October and near Mai Po on 18 December. A nest at Lam Tsuen that was occupied on 7 May was found destroyed on 2 July.
- 201 **Brown Hawk Owl** *Ninox scutulata* 鷹鴞
One was at Magazine Gap Road on 7 April (GAW) and what was presumably the same bird was seen at Barker Road two days later on 9th (MT).
1994: one was at Mount Nicholson on 12 April (CAV).
- 204 **Japanese Nightjar** *Caprimulgus indicus* 普通夜鷹
A male was at Yung Shue O on 22 June, 1st, 8th and 17 July (MLC,PA,MT), only the third record since 1989. The date and the fact it was holding territory recall the breeding record quoted by Herklots (1939) of an adult female on a nest with two eggs at Ma On Shan in April 1938. In addition, one was found freshly dead at Cape D'Aguilar on 2 November (MRL).
- 205 **Savannah Nightjar** *Caprimulgus affinis* 林夜鷹
Singles heard at Kau To Shan on 21 March and at Tung Chung on 24 March were the first noted in the year. Subsequently, at least four were calling at Tin Shui Wai reclamation on 7 April, singles were reported at Chau Tau on 12th and 23 April and at Chek Nai Ping on 15 April and 18 May, and two were heard at Shuen Wan on 21 May. There were no midsummer reports. Singles were seen at Robin's Nest (Hung Fa Leng) on five dates between 16 September and 26 November and over the scrape at Mai Po on 9 October.
- 206 **White-throated Needletail** *Hirundapus caudacutus* 白喉針尾雨燕
A thin scattering of spring reports: singles at Mai Po on 2nd and 5 April, one at Mount Austin on 10 April, four there the next day, and finally, one at Chek Lap Kok on 26 April. This was compensated for in the second part of the year by single birds near Fairview Park on 19 September (PJL) and at Long Valley on 24 September (MRL,PJL), the first autumn records of this species. An unidentified needletail was seen at Long Valley during a thunderstorm on 5 October.

- 207 **White-vented Needletail** *Hirundapus cochinchinensis* 灰喉針尾雨燕
In contrast to the previous species, record spring numbers occurred with all reports in the first half of April: 20 at Tsim Bei Tsui and singles at Mai Po and Ng Tung Chai on 1st, 150 at Kam Tin, 20 at Au Tau and eight at Mong Tseng on 2nd, 32 at Tsim Bei Tsui and nine at Tai Po Kau on 4th, 22 at Mai Po and still nine at Tai Po Kau on 5th, six at Mai Po and three at Tai Po Kau on 6th, 100 at Tsim Bei Tsui, nine at Long Valley, five at Kam Tin and one at Chek Lap Kok on 7th, 11 at Tai Po Kau on 8th, two at Mount Austin and one over the West Lamma Channel on 10th and one at Tsim Bei Tsui on 13th. The count at Kam Tin on 2nd equals the record high of 150 at Mai Po on 7 April 1992. The first summer record concerned one over the summit of Ma On Shan on 21 July (DSM). An adult found dead on 8 Oct 1992 at Kadoorie Farm, not KARC as stated in the 1992 Report, remains the sole autumn record of this species.
- 208 **Pacific Swift** *Apus pacificus* 白腰雨燕
Following two at Mai Po on 5 February, the first of the year, and 15 there on 17 February, the first major arrival of spring migrants was noted on 18 February with 100 at Ma Tso Lung. Smaller numbers were then seen at Tsim Bei Tsui, Mai Po and Chek Lap Kok until 20 March when a count of 120 at Mai Po indicated a second pulse. There were again smaller numbers at Tsim Bei Tsui, Mai Po and Chek Lap Kok until the third and strongest pulse during 1-4 April. Following counts of 100 at Mai Po, 150 at Tsim Bei Tsui and 70 at Tin Shui Wai on 1st, there were 50 at Mai Po on 2nd, 75 there on 3rd and 200, the highest count of the year, on 4th, also at Mai Po. Numbers there then fell to 20 the next day and subsequently the only double figure counts of the spring were 20 at Mount Austin on 11 April, 20 at Shek O on 14 April, ten at Tsim Bei Tsui on 30 April and 12 at Mai Po on 5 May. Four at Ping Chau on 13 May and three at Cape D'Aguilar on 28 May were either migrants or over-summering birds. On 22 June at least 100 were present at the Ninepins and there were over 50 at Waglan Island. Small numbers were present over Hong Kong Island throughout May and June and at Yung Shue O and Lamma in July. Ten at Cape D'Aguilar on 12 August, three there on 31 August and singles at Mai Po on 1st and 27 September, the last of the year, were the only autumn migrants.
- 209 **House Swift** *Apus affinis* 小白腰雨燕
Passage flocks early in the year included 500 at Mai Po on 15 January, 800 there on 26 January, and 500 at Tsim Bei Tsui on 18 February. As in previous years, large numbers passed through in the third week of March with 500 at Mai Po on 17th, 3000 there on 18th, and separate flocks of 1000 at Mai Po, Tsim Bei Tsui and Tin Shui Wai on 19th. After a lull passage was again heavy during 1-5 April, with 1000 at Tin Shui Wai, 500 at Tsim Bei Tsui and 400 at Mai Po on 1st, 500 at Mai Po on 2nd and 3rd, 1000 there on 4th and 2000 there on 5th. Smaller influxes were subsequently noted at Tsim Bei Tsui, Shuen Wan and Ping Chau up to 13 May. No influxes were reported during the autumn. At the Chinese University, up to 300 birds were present throughout the year, 244 nests were counted under the eaves of the University Library on 15 October, and a freshly-dead pullus found

beneath a storm-hit nest on 1 September indicates that the breeding season for this species goes on later than was previously believed.

[**Swiftlet sp.** 金絲燕類
Single unidentified swiftlets corresponding to type 1 in Hale and Kennerley (1995) were seen at Tin Shui Wai during 29-30 January (PJL,GJC,MH) and at Ma Tso Lung on 10 May (PJL).

An unidentified swiftlet not assignable to type was at Mai Po on 7 April (KEV).]

210 White-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis* 白胸翡翠
The only confirmed breeding record was at Shuen Wan where a pair held territory from 14 April, food-carrying was evident during 18-26 May and a fully-fledged juvenile was seen on 17 June. This species is now absent from Cheung Chau, where it was formerly fairly common.

211 Black-capped Kingfisher *Halcyon pileata* 藍翡翠
One at Mai Po on 16 May was the only report received for the entire Deep Bay area; as this is not a widespread or resident species, it would be useful to receive more records. Elsewhere, up to two were noted at Shuen Wan in January, April to June, August, September and December, there were singles at Yung Shue O on 1 July, Kowloon Park on 27 September and 19th and 21 October, Kau Sai Chau on 22 October and 20 December and Pok Fu Lam on 29 October, and four were present at Tai Ho Wan, Lantau, on 10 December.

212 Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* 普通翠鳥
Very few records received, the most significant concerning up to three in Kowloon Park between 19 August and 5 October. As with the previous species, observers are reminded that as a passage migrant and winter visitor, increased record submission would allow a better understanding of its distribution and status.

213 Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* 斑魚狗
Noted in all months of the year. Counts of four together at Tai Lam Chung Reservoir on 10 June and at Shuen Wan on 27 June indicate that breeding may have taken place at or near these sites. Also recorded at Mai Po, Nam Chung, Long Valley, Ma Wan, Mong Tseng, Kam Tin, Ping Chau, Ho Pui, Yim Tso Ha, Tin Shui Wai, Luk Keng and Tsim Bei Tsui.

214 Crested Kingfisher *Ceryle lugubris* 冠魚狗
Recorded at Chung Mei, Bride's Pool, on five dates as follows: two on 11th and 26 February, one on 5th and 8 April and one on 23 May (CAV,JSRE *et al.*). Also, one was seen at Nam Chung on 5 August (PA).

215 Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus* 栗喉蜂虎
Noted on just three dates, but in unprecedented numbers on the last date. In spring, eight at Mai Po on 14 April were observed feeding on chironomids over

fish ponds, and nine were present at Lin Barn Tsuen on 19 April. In autumn, an aggregate of 51 birds on 15 October was a new high and comprised flocks of 33 at Long Valley, 15 at Mai Po and three at Sha Tin Sewage Works (YYL,RWL,MRL). Previous peak counts were 16 in spring (17 May 1979) and 14 in autumn (5th and 9 October 1994).

216 Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus orientalis* 三寶鳥
Spring passage was noted between 8 April and 19 May, with two at Tai Po Kau on 8 April, one in Aberdeen CP on 19 April, one at Shuen Wan on 23 April, three at Sha Lo Tung on 18 May and one at Hatton Road on 19 May. Autumn passage took place between 14 September and 20 October and involved about 20 birds, all records being of one or two birds except for four at Long Valley on 23 September and three at Shek Kong on 24 September. Other sites where this species was recorded in autumn were Lead Mine Pass, Sha Lo Tung, Hok Tau, Ho Chung, Ping Chau, Lung Fu Shan, Mount Nicholson, Mount Austin and Tung Chung.

217 Hoopoe *Upupa epops* 戴勝
Early in the year one was seen at Kam Tin on 15th, 27th and 29 January and 2 February. One at Signal Hill, Tsim Sha Tsui, on 10 April was both the only spring and only urban record of the year. In summer one was present at Mount Nicholson on 28 June and 17 July. Autumn records consisted of singles at Ta Kwu Ling on 25 September, Ho Chung on 21 October and Long Valley on 29 October. One at Long Valley on 18th, 19th, 22nd and 25 November was joined by a second bird on the latter date. In December, singles were noted at Kam Tin on 16th and at Long Valley again on 16th and 17th.

218 Great Barbet *Megalaima virens* 大擬啄木鳥
Heard between 6 January and 17 September. Most reports came from Tai Po Kau, but also noted at Shing Mun, Ng Tung Chai, Kuk Po, Ho Chung, Luk Keng, Lam Tsuen, Yung Shue O, Kap Lung and Sha Lo Tung.

1994: a tree hole nest discovered at Kadoorie Farm on 14 May was still occupied in early June.

219 Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* 蟻鴲
Singles trapped at Mai Po on 22 January and seen at Kowloon Park on 30 January and Tung Chung on 28 February were the only reports in the first winter period. In the second winter period recorded on 17 dates from 18 September to 20 December; all records were of single birds except for two at Tsim Bei Tsui on 30 September. Other sites where this species was recorded in autumn were Kowloon Park, Nam Sang Wai, Tin Shui Wai, Long Valley, Lam Tsuen, Sha Lo Tung and Tan Shan Valley.

225 Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula* 小雲雀
Reports in the first half of the year were all from Tin Shui Wai, with one on 19 February, five on 20 March including two singing birds, two on 1 April including one in song flight, and two on 22 April. In the second half of the year,

except for one at Tsim Bei Tsui on 30 July, all reports were again from Tin Shui Wai, with four on 30 September, six on 14 October, two on 21 October, four on 7 November and two on 17 December.

225.1 Northern Skylark *Alauda arvensis* 雲雀

One was at Kam Tin during 26-27th and on 29 January (DAD, MH *et al.*), two flew southwest near Fairview Park on 28 October (PJL, MRL), two flew east over Mai Po on 11 November (MRL) and one was at Kam Tin on 18 November (PJL, MRL).

226 Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* 灰沙燕

Spring passage was noted from 25 March to 10 April and during 4-18 May. Counts during the earlier period were low, with two at Kam Tin on 25 March, one at Mai Po on 30 March and 1 April, two there on 3rd and 5 April and one on 8 April, and singles at Tsim Bei Tsui on 1 April, Lin Barn Tsuen on 7 April and Ma Tso Lung on 10 April. Passage was considerably heavier during 4-18 May with ten at Lut Chau on 4th, five at Mai Po on 5th, 20 there and 20 at Lin Barn Tsuen on 9th, 30 at Mai Po on 10th, 25 at Lut Chau on 11th, 200, the highest count of the year, at Lin Barn Tsuen on 17th and two at Mai Po on 18th. Main autumn passage was noted on ten dates between 30 September and 9 November. Apart from ten at Tsim Bei Tsui on 7 October, eight at Long Valley on 14 October and 20 at Mai Po on 28 October, all sightings involved fewer than five birds. One was seen at sea near The Brothers on 20 October. Two at Lin Barn Tsuen on 24 November and one at Mai Po on 28 November were the final records of the year. Other sites with autumn records of this species were Lut Chau, Tsim Bei Tsui and Tin Shui Wai.

227 Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* 家燕

Reports early in the year included up to four at Mai Po during 8-25 January, up to 25 at Tin Shui Wai on 29 January and 1 February, and up to five at Kam Tin from 29 January to 12 February, with nest-building noted on the latter date. On 17 March there were 50 at Kam Tin and 150 at Lin Barn Tsuen. The first large passage flocks were recorded on 25 March when 550 were at Tsim Bei Tsui. Passage was heaviest during 1-5 April with 1500 at Tsim Bei Tsui on 1st, at least 3000 at Mai Po on 2nd, 1500 there on 3rd, 1500 at Tsim Bei Tsui on 4th and 1000 at Lin Barn Tsuen on 5th. The only sizeable autumn flocks were 120 at Cape D'Aguilar and 50 at Shuen Wan on 12 August. Up to 40 were seen at Lin Barn Tsuen throughout December.

228 Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* 金腰燕

Spring passage was most evident during 1-7 April. Mai Po was a favoured site, with ten on 1st, 50 on 2nd, 16 on 3rd and two on 4th and 5th. There were also seven at Tsim Bei Tsui on 1st and one there on 4th, up to two at Long Valley on 2nd and 6th, singles at Chek Lap Kok on 5th and 6th, and one at Lin Barn Tsuen on 7th. The only other spring records were of one at Mai Po on 20 March, the first of the year, ten at Mui Wo on 23 April and three at Ma Wan on 15 May. Autumn passage was the most intense recorded so far in the 1990s. More than 175 bird-

days were reported between 28 September and 31 December, mostly from 28 September to 17 October and during 19-24 November. Double-figure counts were 40 at Long Valley on 7 October, 11 at Chek Lap Kok on 14 October, ten at Mai Po on 11 November, 20 at Long Valley on 19th and 23 November and 12 at Kam Tin on 24 November. The final reports of the year were nine at Long Valley on 5 December and one at Mai Po on 31st.

229 Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus* 煙腹毛腳燕

Spring passage was first noted during 6-7 February when two birds were present at Kam Tin. There were no further reports until 18 March when one at Mui Wo heralded a small flurry of records during 19-20th which included 22, the peak count of the year, at Mai Po on 20th. Also reported during this period were five at Tsim Bei Tsui and up to two at Nim Wan, Tin Shui Wai and Mai Po on 19th, and six at Tin Shui Wai and one at Lin Barn Tsuen on 20th. Subsequent March reports concerned one at Mui Wo on 23rd, two at Tsim Bei Tsui on 25th and one at Sha Tin Pass on 31st. Reports continued into April with one at Tsim Bei Tsui and two at Mai Po on 1st, one at Long Valley on 2nd and two at Mai Po, the last of the spring, on 8th. Autumn passage involved 12 at Mai Po on 21 September, ten at Long Valley on 24 September, one there on 7-8 October and then a gap of two months until the final record of the year, two at Luk Keng on 7 December.

230 Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae* 田鸛

In the early first winter period the only count of note was 13 at Long Valley on 8 January. High counts during spring passage were 30 at Tin Shui Wai on 1 April with 80 there on 13 April, ten at Mai Po on 2 April (including one very richly-coloured individual), ten at Long Valley on 17 April and 13 at Kam Tin on 6 May (including one markedly orange-tinged bird). The final record concerned three at Long Valley on 16 May. Reports of the breeding race *A.n. sinensis* came from three elevated areas: the Kai Lung Leng range, Lam Tsuen CP, where it was common on 2 June, Tai Mo Shan, where 28 birds were counted on 3 June, and Kowloon Peak, where three were seen on 4 June.

The first presumed autumn migrants were two at Tin Shui Wai on 30 August (although one or two birds were heard there on 28 July). Peak counts during migration in October were 40 at Long Valley on 1st and 20 at Tin Shui Wai on 14th. Fifteen were at Long Valley on 15 November with ten there on 5 December. One small, bright buff bird was seen there on 18 November. As with the two spring records above, this record leads further credence to the idea that a race of *novaeseelandiae* distinct from both *richardi* and *sinensis* is a scarce passage migrant through the Territory.

231 Upland Pipit *Anthus sylvanus* 山鸛

There were two pairs and a further singing male at Ngong Ping on 11 April, two birds were singing at Kowloon Peak on 18 April and two were there on 4 June, two birds were singing at Tai Mo Shan on 18th and 23 April and singles were also heard there on 3 June (above Lead Mine Pass) and 23 July, three were

in song flight at Sharp Peak on 20 May and two were singing at the highest point of the Kai Lung Leng range, Lam Tsuen CP, on 2 June.

1994: a total of 29 singing males was recorded in central Lantau during 2-3 July.

232 Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* 樹鵲
As usual, common and widespread in small scattered parties during both winter periods. High total counts in the first part of the year were 21 at Tai Po Kau on 6 January, 21 at Mai Po on 8 January, 22 heading to roost at Cheung Chau on 18 January, 23 - including a single flock of 20 - at Shuen Wan on 28 January and 25 at Long Valley on 2 April. The last spring record concerned one at Mai Po on 29 April. The first autumn record was of two birds at Sha Lo Tung on 14 October. High counts in the second winter period were 20 at Tung Chung on 22 October, 30 at Sha Lo Tung on 16 November, 32 at Long Valley on 16 December and 25 in Tai Lam CP on 30 December.

233 Pechora Pipit *Anthus gustavi* 北鵲
Singles were at Mai Po on 8 May (PJL), near Mai Po on 27 September (GJC) and at Mai Po on 9 October (PJL).

234 Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* 紅喉鵲
Present in the northwest NT from the beginning of the year until 17 April, although in seemingly reduced numbers during most of February and March compared to January and April. Peak counts at Long Valley were 20 on 4 January, ten on 29 January, 20 on 12 April and 23 on 15 April. Peak counts at Kam Tin were 15 on 2nd and 29 January with 30 on 2 February. The highest count at Mai Po was 20 on 2 April. The only record away from the northern NT was of eight at Chek Lap Kok on 6 April. Four at Long Valley on 22 September were the first in autumn. Thereafter, recorded in the northwest NT until the end of the year, with numbers peaking in the second half of October; comparatively scarce in December. High counts at Long Valley were 30 on 30 September, 40 on 8 October, 30-40 on 17 October and 35 on 23 November. Peak counts at Kam Tin were 12 on 28 October and 20 on 18 November. Thirty were at Nam Sang Wai on 20 October and 80, the highest count of the year, were at Tung Chung on 22 October. Two or three at Luk Keng on 30 September was the only other report away from the northwest NT.

235 Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens* 水鵲
Two were seen at Kam Tin during 26-27 January (DAD,MH), what was presumably one of these was seen on 4 February (MH) and one was at the same locality on 18 November (RWL).

236 Forest Wagtail *Dendronanthus indicus* 林鵲鵲
There was one spring record of a single bird at Lin Barn Tsuen on 11 April. In autumn there were five records, all of single birds: at Sha Lo Tung on 27 August, Sandy Bay on 13 September, Tsim Bei Tsui on 20th, Lung Fu Shan on

28th and Long Valley on 30 September. Finally, there was an unusual winter record of one at Shing Mun on 10th and 28 November and 8 December (GAW).

237 Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* 黃鵲鵲
In the first half of the year the highest counts of unasccribed *flava* wagtails were made in the northwest NT during spring migration. There was a series of records from the fishponds at Lin Barn Tsuen with 100 birds on 11 April, 250 on 19 April, 200 on 2 May and 300 on 17 May, although the peak count during this period was of 600 at Mai Po on 9 May. The race *taivana* was recorded from the beginning of the year until 6 May. High counts in winter were 32 at Long Valley on 8 January and 100 at Kam Tin on 2 February. During spring, 24 were at the former site on 15 April and 80 were there on 6 May. A single bird of the race *macronyx* was at Long Valley on 4 January, and two were at Kam Tin on 2 January and 2 February. There was a series of records of this subspecies in April with one to two birds being recorded at Mai Po, Tsim Bei Tsui and Long Valley; there was a high count of 20 at the last-named site on 30 April. The migrant race *simillima* was recorded from 1 April to 24 May. High counts came from Long Valley where there were 60 birds on 29 April, 70 on 10 May and 60 on 16 May, from Tsim Bei Tsui where there were 50 on 30 April and 20 on 7 May, from Shui Hau Wan, Lantau, where there were 28 on 7 May, and from Shuen Wan where 200 were counted on 7 May with 20 on 14 May. The last record of this species in the spring was a single bird showing features of what was presumed to be a variant type of *macronyx* at Shuen Wan on 3 June.

The first autumn records concerned two or three birds at Nam Sang Wai and Kam Tin on 26 August. During the passage of Typhoon Kent, five were noted flying in off the sea at Cape D'Aguilar on 31 August and 12 flew in from the south and headed north over Cheung Chau on 1 September. High counts of unasccribed birds during the autumn migration period were 100 at Lin Barn Tsuen on 18 September, 60 near Fairview Park on 19 September, 40 at Tsim Bei Tsui on 20 September, 40 at Long Valley during 23-24 September, and 50 at Lut Chau on 25 October. The race *taivana* was first identified at Long Valley on 2 September and birds of this subspecies were recorded from the northwest NT until the end of the year with the highest counts being 140 at Long Valley on 8 October and 40 at Kam Tin on 18 November. The first autumn record of the race *macronyx* concerned five birds near Mai Po on 18 September; up to 30 were at Long Valley between 30 September and 15 October, with further singles there on 18 November and 5th and 16 December, and the majority of 80 *flava* wagtails seen at Nam Sang Wai on 20 October were of this subspecies. Most records of the race *simillima* came from Long Valley where birds were present between 2 September and 8 October, with maximum counts of 15 on 1st and 7 October, and a rather late bird was present on 22 November. Seven were near Mai Po on 17 September and one was at Nam Sang Wai on 20 October.

238 Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* 黃頭鵲鵲
In the first part of the year a female was at Kam Tin on 2nd and 14 January and again on 2 February (DAD,PJL), a first-winter, presumably that first seen on

28 October 1994, was at Long Valley on 8 January (GJC), a male in winter plumage was at Tin Shui Wai during 29-30 January (GJC,PJL,MH) and a female was at Long Valley on 10 May (PJL). In the second part of the year a first-winter was at Long Valley on 30 September and 1 October (PJL,MRL), another was seen there on 7th and 14 October (PJL,MRL,DAD), an adult female was near Fairview Park during 27-28 October (PJL,MRL,VBP), an adult female was at Kam Tin on 11th and 18 November (DAD,PJL,MRL), with a different female there on 10 December (DAD), and a female was at Lut Chau on 26 December (PJL), remaining into 1996. It would appear that this species is a regular passage migrant and winter visitor to Hong Kong, albeit in very small numbers.

239 Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* 灰鶺鴒
Forty were at Mai Po on 2 April and 9 May. The last spring record was of one at Shuen Wan on 24 May. The first autumn record was of one flying south over Cheung Chau on 25 July. A flock of 50 was seen at dusk at Mai Po on 29 September.

240 White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* 白鶺鴒
Counts early in the year were rather low with maxima of 25 at Long Valley on 8 January (consisting of 21 *leucopsis* and four *ocularis*) and 50 at Kam Tin on 17 January (equal numbers of *leucopsis* and *ocularis*). Numbers increased in spring with a maximum of 200 (all *ocularis* except for ten *leucopsis*) on drained fishponds at Tsim Bei Tsui on 25 March. The last spring record of *ocularis* concerned 12 birds at Shuen Wan on 14 April. Breeding records of the race *leucopsis* came from the northwest NT with six pairs at Ma Tso Lung and two pairs at Nam Sang Wai; a bird seen collecting nest material at Lin Barn Tsuen was actually nesting on the Chinese side of the Shen Zhen River. Four juveniles were seen at Long Valley on 16 May and six were there on 25 June; these were possibly the offspring of the Ma Tso Lung birds referred to above. Additional reports of juveniles concerned one with an adult male at Mai Po on 26 May, two at Shuen Wan on 13 June and one with two adults at Mui Wo on 10 July. Numbers reported during the second winter period were again low, the highest count by far concerning 300 birds at Mai Po on 28 November.

Three adult males of the race *lugens*, known as Black-backed Wagtail, were at Tsim Bei Tsui on 20 March (DAD).

242 Black-winged Cuckoo Shrike *Coracina melaschistos* 暗灰鵲鵙
On Hong Kong Island during the first part of the year, single birds were seen at Hatton Road on 6 January and 6 April, at Mount Austin on 7 February, at Mansfield Road on 18 February and 5 April, and at Hong Kong University on 12 March. In the NT two were at Lead Mine Pass on 1 February with three there on 14 April, three were at Shing Mun on 18 February, and up to two were at Tai Po Kau between 12 March and 5 April. The first record in the second part of the year was of one at Tsim Bei Tsui on 17 September. Thereafter, reported from 16 widespread sites, all records of single birds apart from those of two at Kowloon

Park on 30 September, at Hok Tau on 8 October and at Sha Lo Tung on 11th and 26 November; noted regularly at the last-named site between 5 November and the end of the year.

244 Ashy Minivet *Pericrocotus divaricatus* 灰山椒鳥
As usual, most spring records occurred in April: a flock of 12 that moved quickly through Cheung Chau on 2nd and a party of six there on 14th; 20 in Lam Tsuen Valley and two in Kowloon Park on 3rd, four at Mai Po on 5th, six over Chek Lap Kok on 7th and ten at Sha Tin Pass on the same day, one at Lok Ma Chau on 8th, seven in Aberdeen CP on 9th, ten in Tai Po Kau on 11th, seven at Mount Davis on 15th and a single on Ping Chau on 23rd. Finally, one at the latter locality on 13 May (DAD) was a new late date for the Territory by ten days. As usual this species was much scarcer in autumn: six were at Kam Tin on 14 October, one was at Yuen Long on 16th, five were at Sai Kung and one flew over Mai Po on 29 October, three were seen at Sha Lo Tung on 5 November and one was on Cheung Chau on the same day.

245 Grey-throated Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris* 灰喉山椒鳥
Reported from Tai Po Kau, Shing Mun and Lead Mine Pass throughout the year. High counts were 25 at Tai Po Kau on 25 January, 26 at Shing Mun on 18 February with 20 there on 3 December, and 20 at Lead Mine Pass on 6 August with 18 there on 19 August. Other reports came from Kap Lung, where one was seen on 10 September, and from Kowloon Hills catchwater where there were two on 23 November and six on 21 December.

246 Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus* 赤紅山椒鳥
Reported from Tai Po Kau, Shing Mun and Lead Mine Pass in small numbers throughout the year. High counts were 25 at Tai Po Kau on 6 January and 12 at Shing Mun on 1 February. A pair was observed with a begging juvenile in Tai Po Kau on 8 June. Elsewhere, two males were at Peel Rise, Hong Kong Island, on 2 February, a female was at Fo Tan during 9-18 February, and up to three birds were reported from Kap Lung between 16th and 24 September.

247 Crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus* 紅耳鶇
No significant reports.

248 Chinese Bulbul *Pycnonotus sinensis* 白頭鶇
No significant reports.

249 Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster* 白喉紅臀鶇
One in a mixed bulbul flock at Mount Austin on 25 March is the first known record from this site.

250 Chestnut Bulbul *Hypsipetes castanotus* 栗背短腳鴨

Reports indicate that this species is an established resident at the following sites: Tai Lam CP, Kap Lung, Ng Tung Chai, Shing Mun, Lead Mine Pass, Tai Po Kau, Kowloon Hills catchwater, Ho Chung and Wu Kau Tang. High counts were 20 at Shing Mun on 14 January and 8 February, and 12 at Kap Lung on 12 September. Juveniles were recorded at Tai Po Kau in August and September and at Shing Mun in September. Other records involved three at Mount Austin on 9 February, three at A Ma Wat on 12 February, one or two at Kuk Po on 26 February with two there on 19 April, one or two at Chung Mei on 19 April and one at Shuen Wan on 7 May.

251 Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes madagascariensis* 黑短腳鴨

In spring four were at Pak Nai on 18 March, 13 were at Ho Chung on 26 March with three at Mount Austin on the same date, one was at Tsim Bei Tsui on 1 April, six were in Tai Po Kau on 2 April with two there on 8 April, and one was at Shing Mun on 14 April. In the second winter period there was a report of a single bird at Tai Mo Shan on 11 December.

251.1 Orange-bellied Leafbird *Chloropsis hardwickii* 橙腹葉鴨

The highest count at Tai Po Kau, where birds were present throughout the year, was four on 8 October. Elsewhere, singles were in Lam Tsuen Valley on 14 January and 9 November, two were at Shing Mun on 14 January with three there on 1 February, three were at Ng Tung Chai on 9 September and one was at Kap Lung on 10 December.

254 Japanese Robin *Erithacus akahige* 日本歌鴉

Up to three birds, two males and a female, were present at Ng Tung Chai during 4-7 February (MLC,MT,MRL *et al.*), coincident with the influx of other Turdidae into the Territory.

255 Red-tailed Robin *Luscinia sibilans* 紅尾歌鴉

By far the highest numbers ever to occur in Hong Kong were recorded during the first winter period, with a minimum of 88 individual birds being reported from 37 different sites. There was an apparent influx into the Territory during the first week of February, most notably at Ng Tung Chai where six birds were seen on 3 February and at least eight on 6th; other records of note during this period came from Aberdeen CP where three birds were seen on 2nd, Pak Sha Ho, Sai Kung CP, where at least four were present on 5th, and from Ma Wan where three were seen on 6th. The species was also particularly widespread during the first week of April; records then usually involved single birds, although several were reported from Wu Kau Tang on 5 April. The final record of the spring concerned 13 birds singing on Ping Chau on 14 April (DAD), a new high count for a single site. The first record in autumn concerned a single bird at Yung Shue O on 1 November, after which at least 43 birds were recorded from 12 sites. Maximum numbers at Tai Po Kau were three on 11 November and 9 December, but most records came from KARC where 32 different birds were trapped between 3 November and 23 December and peak passage occurred during 17-19 November.

256 Rubythroat *Luscinia calliope* 紅點類

In the first winter period at least 40 birds were recorded from 19 widespread sites. Most reports were of single birds, although up to eight were present at Sha Lo Tung during the first two weeks of January. High counts in spring were three at Chek Lap Kok on 7 April and three on Ping Chau on 14 April. The last record of the spring concerned two at Chek Lap Kok on 21 April. The first record in autumn was of one at Mount Austin on 19 October. Passage was intense during the first three weeks of November when there were high counts of 13 at Sha Lo Tung on 6 November with 11 there on 14 November, and ten at KARC on 19 November. Smaller numbers were present during December with maximum counts of four at Sha Lo Tung on 2 December and at Shuen Wan on 3 December.

257 Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* 藍點類

Recorded at Long Valley until 21 April, the maximum count being six on 21 January and 9 February. Elsewhere, singles were at Nam Sang Wai on 18 February and 6 March, one was at Tin Shui Wai on 29 January with two there on 1 February, one was at Lin Barn Tsuen on 27 February and two were there on 5 March, singles were at Tsim Bei Tsui on 9 March, 14th and 19 April, one was at Ma Tso Lung on 11 March with two there on 21 March and four on 10 April, and singles were at Mai Po on 18 March and 5 April. The last spring record was of a bird at Mai Po on 25 April. The first autumn records were of single birds at Long Valley and Mai Po on 27 September (DAD,GAW), a new early date by ten days; up to four birds were seen at Long Valley in November and December. The only other record was of a single bird at Ma Tso Lung on the last day of the year.

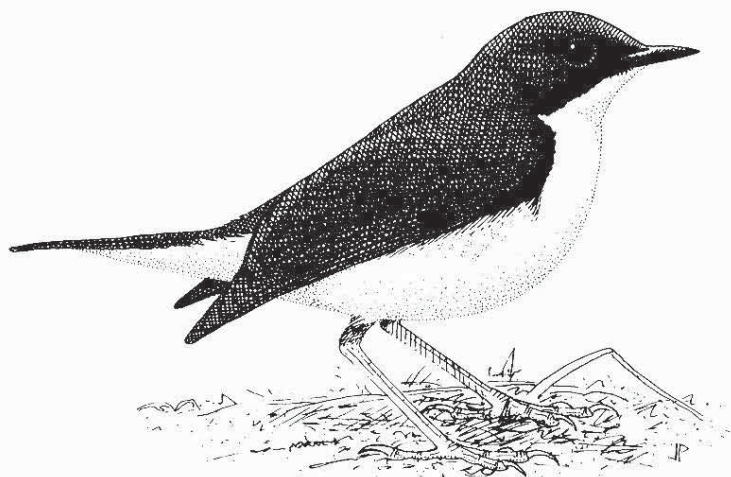
258 Siberian Blue Robin *Luscinia cyane* 藍歌鴉

On spring passage single first-winter males were seen at Mai Po on 2 April and in Kowloon Park on 7th, 11th and 12 April. Autumn passage was the best on record for this species, with all reports being in September: a female at Ho Chung on 14th and an adult male the following day, a female and two immature males at Ngong Ping on 17th, single females at Kap Lung on 17th (first-winter), Ng Tung Chai on 21st and Mount Austin on 22nd (adult), a female and a first-winter male trapped at KARC on 23 September, single first-winter males at Kap Lung on 23rd and Mount Austin and Mai Po (trapped) on 24th and, finally, a first-winter female at Sha Lo Tung on 27th.

259 Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* 紅脅藍尾鴉

Widespread in January with high counts of 15 trapped at KARC on 7th, seven at Shing Mun on 14th, 13 at Ngong Ping on 30th and eight at Ng Tung Chai on 31st. As with Red-tailed Robin, there was evidence of an influx into the Territory during the first week of February, especially at Ng Tung Chai where 12 were seen on 1st, rising to a high of 20 on 7th. Elsewhere during this period, ten were at Kadoorie Farm on 4th, 12 were seen at Kowloon Hills catchwater on 5th, ten were seen at Pak Sha O, Sai Kung CP, on 5th and nine were at Mount Austin on 7th. Smaller numbers were recorded during the remainder of the first winter period and the final record was of a rather late bird at Sha Tin Pass on 7 April.

In autumn two very early birds were reported from Ng Tung Chai on 2 October, after which it was recorded in the Territory from 31 October to the end of the year. At KARC 71 different individuals were trapped in November and December, the highest number processed on a single day being 13 on 25 November and 22 December. High counts elsewhere were seven at Mount Austin on 4 November, 18 in the Yung Shue O/Cheung Sheung area on 25 November, and seven at Ng Tung Chai and at Ngong Ping on 23 December.



- 259.5 Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros* 赭紅尾鶇
A first-summer male was at Ping Chau on 23 April (JJ). This is the first record for Hong Kong (see Jantunen 1996).

- 260 Daurian Redstart** *Phoenicurus auroreus* 北紅尾鶇
As usual, widespread in small numbers during the first winter period. This species was involved in the early-February influx of Turdidae into the Territory when eight were counted in the Tai Long Wan/Sai Wan area on 1 February and there was a record count of 30 at Pak Sha O, Sai Kung CP, on 5 February (MLC). The last record of the spring concerned a male at Cape D'Aguilar on 9 April. Single females at Mount Austin and Lut Chau on 28 October constituted the first records of the second winter period, after which birds, usually singles, were seen at widespread sites; the highest count was four at Sha Lo Tung on 11 November.

- 261 Plumbeous Water Redstart** *Rhyacornis fuliginosus* 紅尾水鶇
Two females and a male were present at Chung Mei, Bride's Pool, between 31 January and 4 March. Single females were present in Lam Tsuen Valley during 3-8 February and at Shing Mun on 8th and 11 February.

- 262 Magpie Robin** *Copsychus saularis* 鵲鴝
No significant reports.

- 263 Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata* 黑喉石鶇
Counts during the first part of the year were generally low, the highest being 20 at Long Valley on 8 March and 11 at the same site on 15 April. The last spring record concerned a male at Mai Po on 6 May (VBP), a new late date by two days. The first autumn sighting was of two at Long Valley on 23 September. High counts in the second winter period were 15 at Long Valley on 7 October with 14 there on 16 December, and 17 at Sha Lo Tung on 19 October.

- 264 Grey Bushchat** *Saxicola ferrea* 灰林鶇
Single females were seen near Cheung Sheung and Sha Lo Tung on 14 January, at Pok Fu Lam on 15 January and at Lo Wu on 28 March. In autumn a single female was at Mount Austin on 21 October, one to two birds were seen at the same site on 23 October, a first-winter female was trapped at Mai Po on 22 October and a female was seen at Shing Mun on 24 October.

- 265 White-capped Redstart** *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus* 白頂溪鶇
A male that had escaped or been released from captivity was present at Ng Tung Chai during 27-28 May (RWL,PA). This record has not been added to the total for this species.

- 265.1 White-throated Rock Thrush** *Monticola gularis* 藍頭磯鶇
A male was seen at Lion Rock Country Park on 21 January (MT) and a female was present on seven dates from 1st to 28 March at Mount Nicholson (CAV). These are the sixth and seventh records for Hong Kong.

- 267 Blue Rock Thrush** *Monticola solitarius* 藍磯鶇
In the first winter period at least 18 birds were reported from nine sites. The last record was of a female at Mount Austin on 14 May. There was one summer sighting of a female at Shek O on 15 July. In the second half of the year at least 17 birds were reported from ten locations, the first sighting being of one at Mount Austin on 16 September. There was a high count of five at Cape D'Aguilar on 5 October; one male of the race *philippensis* was seen at Lockhart Road, Wanchai, in the heart of urban Hong Kong on 16 October, and a bird took up residence on Ma Wan from 16 October to the end of the year, alternating between the concrete towers of the Kap Shui Mun and Tsing Ma bridges.

- 268 Violet Whistling Thrush** *Myiophonus caeruleus* 紫嘯鶇
Bred at Hong Kong University and had fully fledged young by 26 April. Also nested on the external part of an air-conditioner on the first floor of a village house at Fo Tan; three well-grown young were in the nest on 25 June. One was seen in Kowloon Park, an unusual location for this species, on 17 November.

- 269 Orange-headed Ground Thrush** *Zoothera citrina* 橙頭地鶇
One was seen regularly at Tai Po Kau between 15 January and 18 February

(JGH,MT *et al.*). Up to three, including an adult male and a first-winter bird, were present at Kap Lung during 10-16 September (RWL,PJH *et al.*).

270 White's Thrush *Zoothera dauma*

虎斑地鸲

In the first half of the year at least 76 birds were recorded from 36 sites, making the 1994/95 winter a truly exceptional one for this species. There were high counts of seven at Tai Po Kau on 4 January, five at Shing Mun on 14 January, eight at Ngong Ping on 30 January, five in the Bride's Pool/Wu Kau Tang area on 31 January and six at Mount Austin on 6 April. Highest overall numbers (at least 45 different birds at 17 sites) were recorded during the last week of January and the first week of February, coinciding with the influx of other Turdidae into the Territory. The last record was of three on the Peak on 13 April. In contrast to the above, the second winter period produced records of single birds at only seven sites, the first being at Fanling Golf Course on 30 September (MLC), a new early date by ten days.

271 Siberian Thrush *Zoothera sibirica*

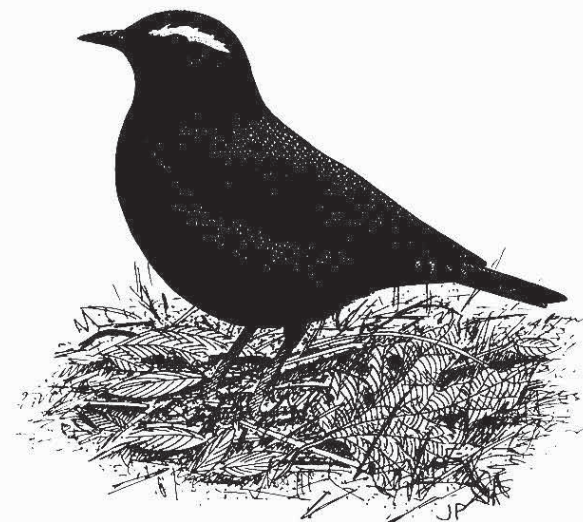
白眉地鸲

At least four (an adult male, two first-winter males and a female) were recorded at Ng Tung Chai between 14 January and 7 February (TRC,PA,PJL *et al.*), a female/immature was at Nam Chung on 11 February (CAV), a first-winter male was at Sha Tin Pass on 1st and 7 April (JJ,FW,JK), a male was at Bride's Pool on 5 April (CAV) and a female was at Mount Austin on 8 April (RWL). In the second part of the year, two different first-winter females were at Kap Lung on 16 September (PJL,PJH *et al.*), a new early date by 13 days, three males were at Ng Tung Chai on 2 December (PA) and a female was in Tai Lam CP on 30 December (DAD). This total of 14 birds in one year is exceptional (the previous highest annual totals were five birds in 1992 and 1993), as are the records in winter. Of the 27 records of this species in Hong Kong between 1958 and 1994, only one was in December, none were in January and two were in February. Interestingly, one of these records (7 February 1989) was at Ng Tung Chai, the most productive site for this species in both winter periods in 1995.

272 Grey Thrush *Turdus cardis*

烏灰鸲

In January and February at least 28 birds were reported from 17 localities, the highest counts being four at Hatton Road on 5 January and at Tai Po Kau on 2 February. The distinction between wintering and spring passage birds was less clear-cut this year as there was a spread of records throughout March, totalling eleven birds at nine localities. However, 14 birds, presumably migrants, were reported during the first week of April, the highest weekly total of the year. Migration was evident at Mount Austin from 26 March until 8 April with maxima of three birds on the first date and four on 6 April, and four birds were present in Kowloon Park on 5 April with two there on 13 April. The last record of the spring concerned one trapped at Mai Po on 16 April. In the second winter period at least 29 birds were seen at 13 widespread locations, the first record being of five trapped at KARC on 17 November. High counts were a further three trapped at KARC on 18 November, five at Sha Lo Tung on 25 November and three at Tai Po Kau on 9 December.



273 Blackbird *Turdus merula*

烏鸲

In the first winter period recorded in small numbers from widespread sites, the only double-figure counts being of parties of 12 at Magazine Gap on 15 January, and at Bride's Pool on 5th and 12 February. The last record of a migrant bird came from Kowloon Park on 7 April. A male and a moribund female were recorded at Fung Yuen on 22 May (RWL), where two adults and a juvenile on 6 August (JAH) indicated for the first time in Hong Kong that breeding had occurred. The first sighting in autumn was of a single bird at Tin Shui Wai on 14 October, after which greater numbers were recorded than in the first part of the year, with high counts of 48 at Sha Lo Tung on 18 November, 100 at Lam Tsuen Valley on 28 November, 70 at Long Valley on 16 December and 30 at Mui Wo on 25 December.

274 Brown Thrush *Turdus chrysolaus*

紅腹鸲

The first winter period proved to be excellent for this species. One was at Beacon Hill on 14 January and 4 March (GET), one was at Yung Shue O on 14 January (CAV), two males were at Wu Kau Tang on 31 January (JSRE), single females were at the same site on 5th, 6th and 8 February (GJC,PJL) and a male was seen there on 11 February (CAV), one was at Kowloon Hills catchwater on 5 February (GET), one was at Shing Mun during 8-9 February (RWL,MDW), two females were at Long Valley on 9th (GAW), one was at Ngong Ping on 11 February (PJH) and a female was at Hatton Road on 1 March (GAW). There was one record in the second winter period, a single bird at Ng Tung Chai on 31 December (PA).

275 Grey-backed Thrush *Turdus hortulorum*

灰背鸲

Small numbers were recorded from widespread localities during the first winter period with the greatest numbers occurring in the first week of February. High counts at individual sites were 30 at Shing Mun on 14 January, 16 at Ng

Tung Chai on 17 January and 40 at Wu Kau Tang on 8 February. A hundred thrushes present at Aberdeen CP on 2 February comprised mostly this species. Eight at Mount Austin on 4 April was the highest count of a good spring passage and the last bird of the season was seen in Kowloon Park on 13 April. The first record of the autumn was of four birds at Tai Po Kau and two at KARC on 17 November, after which it was again widespread but far less numerous than in the first winter period, the highest count being seven at Mount Austin on 2 December.

276 Pale Thrush *Turdus pallidus*

白腹鸫

The number of birds that occurred in the Territory during the first winter period made this the second best year since 1976 (the best being 1992). At least 38 birds were recorded from 19 sites, the highest count being five at Ng Tung Chai between 15 January and 8 February. Long-staying birds were reported from Mount Nicholson, where one was seen between 14 February and 8 April with two on 25 February and 8 March, and Mount Austin where two were regularly recorded from 10 March to 7 April with three on 15 March. The last reports in the spring occurred on 8 April when, apart from the bird at Mount Nicholson, one was also seen in Tai Po Kau. The only record in the latter part of the year concerned one in Tai Po Kau on 22 December.

1994: One was seen at Mount Nicholson on 24 January, and singles were trapped at KARC on 1 January, and 9th and 17 December.

277 Eye-browed Thrush *Turdus obscurus*

眉鸫

One was in Tai Po Kau on 4 January, up to six were at Ngong Ping between 8 January and 1 February, up to three were at Wu Kau Tang between 31 January and 12 February, two were in Aberdeen CP on 2 February, and four were at Shing Mun on 8 February with two there the following day. The only birds reported on spring passage were singles at Mount Austin on 24th and 26 March, and at Lam Tsuen Valley on 11 April. In the second winter period singles were recorded at Mount Parker Road on 23 October, KARC on 5th and 17 November (both trapped), Lung Fu Shan on 18th and Mount Austin on 24 November, Cheung Sheung on 25 November with two there on 22 December, and one was at Hong Kong University on 1 December.

278 Dusky Thrush *Turdus naumanni*

斑鸫

The records at Mount Austin and Mai Po in December 1994 marked the beginning of the first major influx of this species into the Territory since 1984. The first winter period in 1995 saw a total of at least 147 birds at 25 widespread sites. These were as follows: seven at Tai Po Kau on 5 January with one there on 6th, 15-20 at Mount Austin on 5 January with up to two there during 24-26 March, 13 at Sha Lo Tung on 6 January with four there on 14 January, one trapped at KARC on 7 January with 30 there on 8th, one at Cheung Sheung on 14 January, a maximum of 11 at Kam Tin between 15 January and 12 February, singles at Ng Tung Chai and Mai Po on 20 January, one at Chek Lap Kok from 26 January to 4 February, up to two at Tin Shui Wai between 30 January and 9 March, ten at Sam A Chung and two at Lai Chi Wo on 31 January, five in the Tai Long Wan/Sai Wan

area on 1 February, a maximum of 19 at Tsim Bei Tsui between 3 February and 3 March, ten at Nam Sang Wai on 4 February, a maximum of four at Long Valley from 4 February to 21 April, one at Lau Fau Shan on 18 February, two at Luk Keng on 19 February with five there on 26 February, and singles on Cheung Chau on 24 February, at Tsung Pak Long on 25 February and 12 March, at Pak Hok Chau and Sam Po Shue on 5 March, at Lin Barn Tsuen on 12 March, at Victoria Park on 25 March and at Mong Tseng on 4 April. All records were of the race *eunomus* except for one at Kam Tin on 15 January which appeared to be a *eunomus/naumanni* intergrade. There were no reports during the second winter period.

279 Slaty-backed Forktail *Enicurus schistaceus*

灰背燕尾

A pair was present at Ng Tung Chai, apparently all year (MRL,MT,MH *et al.*).

280 Short-tailed Bush Warbler *Cettia squameiceps*

鱗頭樹鶯

During the first part of the year recorded regularly at usual widespread sites, with a maximum of five at Shing Mun and Ng Tung Chai during January, and eight at Tai Po Kau on 4 January. The last record in spring was six at Tai Po Kau on 8 April. The first in autumn was rather later than in recent years, at Mount Austin on 21 October. Thereafter, recorded in lower numbers than normal, with the highest count during the second half of the year being four at Kowloon Hills catchwater on 30 November.

280.1 Pale-footed Bush Warbler *Cettia pallidipes*

淡腳樹鶯

1994: one was trapped at KARC on 30 December (DPC). This is the sixth record for Hong Kong.

281 Chinese Bush Warbler *Cettia diphone*

短翅樹鶯

Recorded at eleven sites during the first winter period with the highest count being six singing males at Mai Po on 22 March. The last records in spring were two on Ping Chau on 14 April and one at Mai Po on 17 April. Recorded in autumn from 4 November when singles were present at Mai Po, Sha Lo Tung and Wu Kau Tang. Subsequently recorded at a total of sixteen sites, with high counts of ten at Sha Lo Tung on 25 November and seven at Shuen Wan on 1st and 29 December.

282 Mountain Bush Warbler *Cettia fortipes*

山樹鶯

One or two were present during the early part of the year at Hatton Road, Ngong Ping, Sha Lo Tung and Kuk Po; the last record for this period was at the latter site on 26 February. In the second part of the year recorded from 18 November at Ngong Ping, Sha Lo Tung, Hok Tau, Lung Kwu Shan, Ng Tung Chai, and KARC; all were singles except two at Sha Lo Tung on 26 November.

282.5 Russet Bush Warbler *Bradypterus seebohi*

高山短翅鶯

Recorded until 11 March and from 22 October at the following sites: Pok Fu Lam Reservoir, Mount Austin, Chek Lap Kok, near Tai Po Kau, Sha Lo Tung, Mai Po, Wu Kau Tang, Tsim Bei Tsui, Kuk Po, Yung Shue O, Tan Shan Valley,

Shuen Wan and Heung Yuen Wai. The vast majority of records refer to single birds. The peak count was seven at Sha Lo Tung on 18 November. The first autumn record, one at Mount Austin on 22 October, is the earliest ever in autumn (MT). In addition to the above records, one was heard singing at 800m asl at Tai Mo Shan on 23 July (MRL); this is the first summer record.

282.6 Brown Bush Warbler *Bradypterus luteoventris* 棕褐短翅鶯
One was trapped at Sha Lo Tung on 18 November (PJL,MRL) and one was seen there on 19th and 25 November (PA). These are the third and fourth records for Hong Kong; all have been at the same site.

283 Fantail Warbler *Cisticola juncidis* 棕扇尾鶯
Recorded in good numbers at Long Valley with 28 present there on 8 January, and 53 there on 13 January. Singing males were present at Mai Po (three birds), Mai Po landfill and Tsim Bei Tsui. None was recorded from 25 June to 6 July when one was at Tsim Bei Tsui. Thereafter recorded regularly from the beginning of September. Other than 26 at Tin Shui Wai on 30 September, Long Valley again held the highest numbers: 30 on 30 September; 44 on 5 December; and 80, a new high, on 16 December (PJL). Recorded at fourteen sites.

283.1 Bright-capped Cisticola *Cisticola exilis* 黃頭扇尾鶯
One was at Sha Lo Tung on 7 February (DAD). There was a series of records at Sha Lo Tung in late autumn/early winter: three on 26 October were followed by three on 5 November, up to four birds until 18 November and then the maximum of nine on 26 November, with one two days later (RWL,GJC,DAD). Subsequently, one was at Yung Shue O on 1 November and 22 December (DAD), two were present at Wu Kau Tang on 24th and 30 November (DAD,RWL), one was at Sha Lo Tung on 2 December and two were there on 30th (RWL).

284 Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata* 褐頭鵯鶯
No significant reports.

285 Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris* 灰頭鵯鶯
No significant reports.

286 Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella certhiola* 小蝗鶯
One at Long Valley on 2 September was the first record of the year. Almost half the records came from the Lin Barn Tsuen, Lut Chau, Nam Sang Wai and Ma Tso Lung, areas which have not normally been covered in previous years. The peak count, eight at Lin Barn Tsuen on 18 September, was rather low. In addition to the above named sites, recorded at Mai Po, Pak Hok Chau, Luk Keng, Ma Wan and Tung Chung. The final autumn record was of one at Nam Sang Wai on 20 October.

287 Styan's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella pleskei* 北蝗鶯
One was at Ma Tso Lung on 30 December (PJL), the first record away from Mai Po. Deep Bay remains the only known wintering site of this species.

288 Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata* 矛斑蝗鶯
Recorded as follows: Kowloon Park on 21 September; trapped at Long Valley on 24th; Tin Shui Wai on 30 September; Ma Wan on 16th, 18th, and 26 October; Mount Austin on 21 October; and Sha Lo Tung on 5th and 11 November. Other than two at Tin Shui Wai, all records were of singles.

289 Black-browed Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps* 黑眉葦鶯
Present during January at Mai Po on three dates and at Long Valley on one date. The first spring records were two at Sam Po Shue on 5 April and one at Mai Po on 17th; then recorded regularly until 17 May. The only counts exceeding ten were 20 at Ma Tso Lung on 3 May, 15 at Lin Barn Tsuen on 9 May, and 12 at Lut Chau on 11 May. The first in autumn were two at Nam Sang Wai on 19 September. Passage was heaviest during the second half of October, including 20 at Ma Tso Lung on 19th, while 30 were at Tung Chung and 12 at Mai Po on 22 October. The last of the year was at Mai Po on 11 November. The vast majority of records came from the Deep Bay area.

289.08 Manchurian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus tangorum* 東北稻田葦鶯
One at Mai Po during 7-20 January (RWL *et al.*) was followed by singles near Mai Po during 17-20 September, and at Long Valley on 23 September and 1 November (PJL,MRL). These are the first records for Hong Kong (see Leader and Lewthwaite 1996).

290 Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* 大葦鶯
Singles were present at Mai Po on 15 January, 26 February, and 3 March, with two there on 12 March. The first migrant was probably one there on 22 March. Recorded from Deep Bay in small numbers throughout April, then in higher numbers throughout May, with the highest count of the spring being twenty-five at Ma Tso Lung on 3 May. None was recorded during June, but one was at Mai Po on 29 July. The next record was of one at Nam Sang Wai on 26 August; thereafter, common throughout September and October, with almost all high counts coming from fish pond areas: 80 at Lin Barn Tsuen on 18 September; 40 at Nam Sang Wai on 19 September; 80 at Mai Po on 24 September; 80 at Lin Barn Tsuen on 27 September; and 120 at Ma Tso Lung on 19 October; this last count included 50 on the bunds of a single pond. Away from the Deep Bay area records included a series in Kowloon Park between 20 September and 14 November, the last record of the year.

291 Thick-billed Warbler *Acrocephalus aedon* 蘆鶯
One was at Kowloon Park on 20 September (PA), singles were trapped at Mai Po on 24 September and 22 October (PJL,MRL) and another was present at Nam Sang Wai on 18 October.

[291.5 Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata* 靴襠鶯
The bird recorded in 1994 was of the race *rama*, and not as stated in the systematic list for that year.]

292 Yellow-eyed Flycatcher Warbler *Seicercus burkii* 金眶鶯鶯

Singles were recorded at Hatton Road on 5 January and 7 February (MT), Tung Chung on 1 February (MDW), Ng Tung Chai on 6th and 8 February (PJL,MT), HKU on 29 March (GW) and Tai Po Kau on 10 December (CYL, PA).

295 Large Grass Warbler *Graminicola bengalensis* 大草鶯

Recorded at Tai Mo Shan during March, April, June and July, with a peak count of seven there on 3 June. One was at Sha Lo Tung on 21 October, and up to three were at Sha Lo Tung during 5-25 November.

296 Long-tailed Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius* 火尾縫葉鶯
No significant reports.

297 Sulphur-breasted Warbler *Phylloscopus ricketii* 黃胸柳鶯

During the first half of the year recorded at Tai Po Kau from 4 January until 11 March with a maximum of three on 3 January. One was on Cheung Chau during 30-31 January, 24 February and 1 March, singing on the latter two dates. One was at Ng Tung Chai on 20th and 31 January. One at Kap Lung on 16 September was the earliest ever (DAD). The next record was not until the more typical date of 11 November when two were present in Tai Po Kau, the only subsequent records from that locality occurring on 18th and 29 November. Two were present at Kowloon Hills catchwater on 23 November, one was at Ng Tung Chai on 26 December and one was at Pok Fu Lam Reservoir Road on the final day of the year.

298 Blyth's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides* 冠紋柳鶯

Recorded at Ng Tung Chai, Tai Po Kau, Kowloon Hills catchwater, Shing Mun, Lai Chi Wo, and Lion Rock CP until 27 March. The highest count was three at the first named site on 17 January. In the second winter period the only records were of two in Tai Po Kau on 22 November, and singles at HKU on 29 November and at Wanchai Gap Road on 9 December. As noted in *HKBR 1994*, scarcer than in recent years.

299 Eastern Crowned Warbler *Phylloscopus coronatus* 冕柳鶯

During spring singles were recorded at Mai Po during 3-8 April, Kowloon Park on 3 April and Mount Austin on 5 April. There were two records in August, both in Tai Po Kau: one on 17th, and two on 28th. Recorded in small numbers until 21 September at Mai Po, Kap Lung, Ng Tung Chai, Tai Po Kau and Shing Mun, with no more than two on any date. A typical year.

300 Pale-legged Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus tenellipes* 灰腳柳鶯

A bird that had originally been trapped at KARC on 5 November 1994 was retrapped there on 8 January (MRL), and up to two were present on Cheung Chau on twelve dates until 15 March (MDW,PJH), one of which was first noted on 18 December 1994. During passage in April, singles were on Cheung Chau on 1st, at Mount Davis on 5th and in Tai Po Kau on 8th. First recorded during the

latter half of the year at Ng Tung Chai on 9 September. Widespread during the second half of September and the first half of October, with high counts of twelve at Kap Lung on 16 September and ten there on 23 September, ten at Mai Po on 24 September, and thirteen in Tai Po Kau on 26 September. The only records after 18 October were one at Shing Mun on 7 November, one at Mount Davis on 24 December (MRL,PJL) and one at Tai Tam CP on 30 December (FNYL).

300.2 Two-barred Greenish Warbler *Phyllosc. plumbeitarsus* 雙斑綠柳鶯
One was present at Sha Lo Tung on 18 November (PJL,MRL).

1994: two were trapped at KARC on 15 October (DPC).

301 Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* 極北柳鶯

Present in spring on six dates between 24 March and 13 May, all single birds except for 38 on Ping Chau (DAD), a new high for a single site and a new spring high, on the latter date. Present during autumn from 28 August, and particularly common and widespread during the second half of September with high counts as follows: ten at Shing Mun on 17 September, twelve at Pak Nai on 20 September, ten at Kap Lung on 23 September, 31 between Mai Po and Lok Ma Chau on 24 September and, on the same date, 21 at Mai Po (PJL), making a day total of 52 which is a new high. The last record of the year was two on Cheung Chau on 16 October.

302 Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* 黃腰柳鶯

High counts during the first winter period were 20 at Tai Po Kau on 4th and 15 January, 22 at Ng Tung Chai on 17 January, 30 at Lion Rock CP on 21 January and 30 at Ng Tung Chai on 8 February. Very few were reported during March, but a small passage occurred during 5-10 April when there were records at Tai Po Kau, Kowloon Hills catchwater and Kowloon Park. In autumn two at Kuk Po on 23 September were exceptionally early (DAD). The next record was not until the more typical date of 11 November; thereafter, recorded in very low numbers, with the only count exceeding ten being 20 at Ng Tung Chai on 2 December.

303 Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* 黃眉柳鶯

Present at widespread localities until 24 April when one was in song in Tai Po Kau. The highest count during this period was 27 in Tai Po Kau on 14 January. The first in autumn was at Tai Mo Shan on 23 September; recorded thereafter until the end of the year but in notably lower numbers than usual, with 20 at Ng Tung Chai on 22 December being the highest count.

304 Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* 巨嘴柳鶯

One was at Ng Tung Chai on 17 January (PJL). In autumn, singles were present at Sha Lo Tung on 5th, 14th, 17th and 18 November with two there on 19 November. One was at KARC on 19 November, two were at Cheung Sheung on 25 November and, finally, one was at Nam Sang Wai on 27 November and 2 December.

304.5 Yellow-streaked Warbler *Phylloscopus armandii* 棕眉柳鶯
One was at Ho Chung on 9 February (MH); this is the fifth record for Hong Kong.

305 Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* 褐柳鶯
Present, mainly in the Deep Bay area, in low numbers until 17 May when one was at Mai Po. One at Mai Po on 19 September was the first in autumn. Much more abundant and widespread during the second half of the year with counts of 20 at Long Valley on 1 October, Ma Tso Lung on 19 October, Pok Fu Lam on 29 October and again at Long Valley on 4 November; the highest count of the year was 50 at Tung Chung on 22 October.

305.5 Brown-chested Flycatcher *Rhinomyias brunneata* 白喉林鶯
One was along the Kap Lung trail during 16-21 September (PJH,MH,RWL,PJL *et al.*). This is the first record for Hong Kong (see Hopkin *et al.* 1996).

306 Fukien Niltava *Niltava davidi* (N) 棕腹大仙鶯
In February a first-winter male was at Ng Tung Chai during 3-7th (PA,MLC *et al.*), presumably the same as was seen there in late 1994, and a female was present there during 4-5th (MT,JB).

Male niltavas *Niltava* sp. were seen at Ng Tung Chai on 14th and 21 January (TRC,SB,PA) and a female was there on 10 December (PA).

307 Hainan Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis hainana* 海南藍鶯
One was singing at Shing Mun on 7 February. Singing males in Tai Po Kau were first recorded on 1 April and at least two males were holding territory there, with one still singing, on 8 June. A female at Mai Po on 2 April was undoubtedly a migrant and the first record there. At Kadoorie Farm a pair were seen on 1 May, a nest was found on 17th and four almost-fledged young were present on 24 May (GA,RG). One was at Tai Tam Reservoir on 10 June, and summer records from Tai Po Kau included juveniles on 20th and 28 August. During autumn, an adult male was at Kap Lung during 16-17 September, a female was at Shing Mun on 17 September and one was at Ho Chung Wood on 31 October.

308 Blue and White Flycatcher *Muscicapa cyanomelana* 白腹鶯
Spring passage was very widespread, with one or two recorded from 26 March to 14 April at the following locations: Shing Mun, Lam Tsuen Valley, Mai Po, Pak Nai, Lok Ma Chau, Tai Po Kau, Ng Tung Chai, Wu Kau Tang, Shuen Wan, Kowloon Park, Mount Nicholson, Chek Lap Kok, Mount Davis, HKU, Aberdeen CP, Ping Chau and Cheung Chau. Autumn records comprised singles at Ng Tung Chai on 9 September, Lead Mine Pass on 22 September and Tai Mo Shan on 23 September.

309 Verditer Flycatcher *Muscicapa thalassina* 銅藍鶯
During the first half of the year singles were recorded at Hatton Road on

5 January, HKU on 7 January, Chinese University on 7th and 16 January, Tai Po Kau on 14 January (with two present there the following day), Mui Wo on 15 January, Chai Wan catchwater on 23 February, Shing Mun on 16 February, Wan Chai Gap Road on 16 March and, finally, a singing male at Ng Tung Chai on 5 April. In the latter half of the year one was in Tai Po Kau on 18 November, a male was trapped at KARC the following day, and singles were noted at Lam Tsuen Valley and Shing Mun on 3 December.

310 Ferruginous Flycatcher *Muscicapa rufilata* 紅褐鶯
Singles were in Tai Po Kau during 1-3rd and 5 April, on Cheung Chau on 2nd and 5 April, and at Kowloon Hills catchwater, Hatton Road and Kowloon Park on 6 April.

311 Sooty Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica* 烏鶯
All records in what was to prove to be the best-ever autumn for this species came during September: one at Tai Mo Shan on 9th, one at Kap Lung on 10th, and two (one adult and one first-winter) there during 12-13th, one in Kowloon Park on 16th, one at Ngong Ping on 17th, an adult at Pak Nai on 20th, a first-winter in Lam Tsuen Valley on 21st, one at Shing Mun on 22nd, two first-winter birds at both Sha Lo Tung and Tai Mo Shan on 23rd, two at Route Twisk campsite area and a first-winter at Ta Kwu Ling on 25th, one at HKU on 27th and one at Lung Kwu Shan on 30th.

312 Grey-streaked Flycatcher *Muscicapa griseisticta* 斑胸鶯
In April two were at both Ping Chau and Yung Shue O on 22nd, and two were again at Ping Chau on 29th; in May three were at Long Valley on 6th, singles were at Mai Po on 6th and 10th, two were at Kam Tin on 7th, five were on Ping Chau on 13th and, finally, one was at Mai Po on 16th. In autumn recorded from 20 September on seven dates at five sites. The last records of the year concerned one at Mai Po and two at Mount Austin on 7 October.

313 Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa latirostris* 北灰鶯
In the first half of the year recorded at 21 sites, the highest counts being three at Lam Tsuen Valley on 11 February and 5 April, three at Pak Nai on 15 April and five on Ping Chau on 22 April. The last spring record was of one at Sha Lo Tung on 10 May. Present in autumn from 3 September when one was at Mai Po. Recorded from 27 sites, the highest count being 15 at Mai Po on 24 September.

314 Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* 紅喉鶯
Singles were recorded during the first two months of the year at Mai Po, Ping Yeung, Shing Mun, Nam Sang Wai, Chinese University, Cheung Sheung and Ping Chau up to 9 February. The only spring record was of one on Ping Chau on 14 April. Present in autumn from 22 September when two were at Mount Austin. Noted thereafter until the year end at Mount Austin, Kam Tin, Mai Po, Kowloon Park, Sha Lo Tung and Ng Tung Chai, with a maximum of three at Mai Po on 22 November.

315 Mugimaki Flycatcher *Ficedula mugimaki* 鸚鵡

The female at Chinese University first seen in December 1994 was present again on 7 January and 2 February; further singles were at Pok Fu Lam CP on 22 January, Bride's Pool on 31 January and 11 February, and Wu Kau Tang on 12 February. In spring a male was at Chek Lap Kok on 5th and 6 April, and a male was in Kowloon Park on 7 April with a female there the next day. The first in autumn was at Sha Lo Tung on 11 November, after which numbers were generally low with a maximum of only four at Kap Lung on 19 November, where the last of the year was seen on 10 December.

316 Yellow-rumped Flycatcher *Ficedula zanthopygia* 白眉鸚

Present from 28 August, when one was at Tai Po Kau, until 24 September. Passage was heaviest from 13 September, when up to five were present on the Kap Lung trail on 12th, 13th and 16th, with an adult male present on the first two dates. Also recorded at Kowloon Park, Pak Nai, Tai Mo Shan, Mount Austin and Tsim Bei Tsui.

317 Narcissus Flycatcher *Ficedula narcissina* 黃眉鸚

All records occurred during April, were of males and, unless otherwise stated, concerned single birds. Recorded at Lam Tsuen Valley on 2nd and 5th (two), Tai Po Kau on 3rd, 5-6th, 8th (two) and 16th, Kowloon Park on 3rd, 5-7th and 8th (two), Hatton Road on 4th (two), Lam Tsuen Valley and Discovery Bay on 5th, and Cape D'Aguilar on 9th. An excellent year.

318 Grey-headed Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonsis* 方尾鸚

Present during the early part of the year until 19 March; recorded at Tai Po Kau, Lam Tsuen Valley, Kowloon Hills catchwater and Mong Tseng. One was in Tai Po Kau on 13 April. The first in autumn concerned one in Lam Tsuen Valley on 22 October. Noted then at the Royal Observatory, Tai Po Kau, Kowloon Hills catchwater, Ng Tung Chai and Cheung Chau. No more than two were recorded at any site.

319 Asian Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi* 壽帶鳥

None were reported during the first half of the year. Present in autumn from 17 August when one was in Tai Po Kau, until 18 October, when one was at Shing Mun. Also recorded at Pak Nai, KARC, Kap Lung, Ng Tung Chai, Lam Tsuen Valley, the Royal Observatory and Kowloon Park; all were singles, except for two in Tai Po Kau on 2 September.

320 Japanese Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone atrocaudata* 紫壽帶鳥

The first report of the year was of two at Kowloon Park on 3 April. Present then until 14 April when one was seen at Lead Mine Pass. Also recorded at Hatton Road, Hang Tau (near Sheung Shui) and Tai Po Kau. During autumn noted from 2 September when one was in Tai Po Kau. Also noted at Kap Lung, Lead Mine Pass, Lam Tsuen Valley, Kowloon Hills catchwater, Ng Tung Chai and, finally, one trapped at Mai Po on 22 October.

321 Black-naped Monarch Flycatcher *Hypothymis azurea* 黑枕王鸚

One wintered at Long Valley, and was present until 18 February. Also reported during the early part of the year from Shing Mun, Tuen Mun, Bride's Pool and Sai Kung CP. One was at Tai Po Kau on 8 April. During the latter half of the year first recorded at Mount Davis on 7 October. In addition, seen at Ng Tung Chai, Sha Lo Tung, Mong Tseng, Long Valley, Kowloon Hills catchwater, Lamma Island and Cheung Chau. All reports refer to single birds.

321.2 Rufous-necked Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficollis* 棕頸鉤嘴鸚

On Hong Kong Island up to three were recorded at Mount Austin, Pok Fu Lam CP, Aberdeen CP, Magazine Gap and Mount Nicholson throughout the year, with most reports during January to April. In addition, seven were in Tai Tam CP on 29 January and one was at Mount Davis on 3 December. In the NT up to three were reported at Shing Mun/Lead Mine Pass from January to April and in November, and there were two at Kowloon Reservoir on 2 February. Apart from that at Mount Davis, all observations came from sites where this species has been recorded in previous years.

321.5 Vinous-throated Parrotbill *Paradoxornis webbianus* 棕頭鸚雀

Up to five were seen at Tai Mo Shan between April and August, two were in Sha Tin Park on 21 April, nine were on the upper slopes of Ng Tung Chai on 3 June and three were at 200m asl at Lead Mine Pass on 14 September. Those at Sha Tin Park were doubtless escapes and some doubt must also attach to the origin of the birds at Lead Mine Pass.

322 Chinese Babax *Babax lanceolatus* 矛紋草鸚

One was at Tai Mo Shan on 18 April, two were there on 24 April, eight on 30 July and one on 28 September. A party of four was observed at 350m asl at Lead Mine Pass on 4 November.

323 Greater Necklaced Laughing Thrush *Garrulax pectoralis* 黑領噪鸚

The only report from Hong Kong Island concerned 12 at Peel Rise on 24 December. In the NT records came from Kowloon Hills, Ho Chung, Shing Mun/Lead Mine Pass, Tai Po Kau, Ng Tung Chai, KARC, Kap Lung, Sha Lo Tung, Plover Cove and Wu Kau Tang, with the largest flock comprising 20 at Tai Po Kau on 26 September.

324 Black-throated Laughing Thrush *Garrulax chinensis* 黑喉噪鸚

Probably under-reported on Hong Kong Island where the only records came from Lung Fu Shan, Mount Davis and Mount Austin where it was regular, Cape D'Aguilar where five were noted on 20 May and Tai Tam CP where there was one on 13 December. In the NT up to five were regularly recorded in the Kowloon Hills and up to four were at Shing Mun, with one at KARC on 8 January, two at Tai Po Kau on 6 August and one at Kap Lung on 23 September.

325 Hwamei *Garrulax canorus* 畫眉
The highest count from Kowloon Park was six on 30 January, but apparently absent there during the summer months (PA).

326 White-cheeked Laughing Thrush *Garrulax sannio* 白頰噪鵲
On Hong Kong Island one was in the ZBG on 6th and two were there on 8 April, one was at Telegraph Bay on 7 September, singles were trapped at Cape D'Aguilar on 1st and 16 November, two were at Wah Fu on 8th and one was at Tai Tam CP on 13 December. In the NT eight were at Chau Tau on 19 January and smaller numbers were seen there all year, two were on Cheung Chau on 12 March, six were at Cheung Luk Village, near Sheung Shui, on 8 July, six were at Lead Mine Pass on 6 September and three were at Shing Mun on 18 October.

327 Black-faced Laughing Thrush *Garrulax perspicillatus* 黑臉噪鵲
A party was observed unsuccessfully trying to kill a distended Asian Painted Frog *Kaloula pulchra* at Kam Tin on 4 February (see Aston 1996). Two birds were observed flying over Victoria Harbour from Wanchai Reclamation to Kowloon on 25 March (PA), an observation that may cast some light on the vexed question of the dispersive ability of this species' more localised congeners.

328 Pekin Robin *Leiothrix lutea* 紅嘴相思鳥
Most reports came from the central NT where maxima included 19 at Shing Mun on 31 January, 20 at Ng Tung Chai on 4 February, 20 at Tai Mo Shan on 23 April and ten at Tai Po Kau on 26 September. Smaller numbers were recorded at Ho Chung, Kap Lung, KARC and Ngong Ping, Lantau. There were six near HKU on 24 January and up to two in Kowloon Park from September to October.

329 Striated Yuhina *Yuhina castaniceps* 栗頭鳳鶯
In the first winter period a flock of ten was seen at the Kowloon Hills catchwater on 1 January (GET), a flock of up to five was present at Ng Tung Chai from 15 January to 2 February (MT *et al.*) and one was at Bride's Pool on 24 April (MDW). In the second part of the year four were at Ng Tung Chai on 9 September (DAD) and ten were there on 21 December (GJC). Whilst this species is a naturally occurring irruptive migrant, the temporal and geographic pattern of records suggests that birds of captive origin may be the source of some records in recent years.

330 White-bellied Yuhina *Yuhina zantholeuca* 白腹鳳鶯
Present throughout the year in Tai Po Kau where a party of three on 2 September included one dependent juvenile; a maximum of five was seen there on 11 November. Up to two were seen at Shing Mun in January, February and September, two were at Kowloon Hills catchwater on 21 January and up to five were at Ng Tung Chai from 4th to 14 February.

331 Red-headed Tit *Aegithalos concinnus* 紅頭山雀
In the first winter period two were at Shing Mun on 7 February and up to five were regularly reported from Tai Po Kau until 8 April with ten there on 2

February. In the second winter period up to four were seen in Tai Po Kau from 14 September, four were at Kowloon Hills catchwater on 23 November and one was at Tai Tam CP on 30 December.

332 Yellow-bellied Tit *Parus venustus* 黃腹山雀
In the first winter period there was one at Hatton Road, Hong Kong Island, on 6 January, one (perhaps the same) at nearby HKU on 15 February, three at Lead Mine Pass on 18 February, one at Man Kei Toi, Sai Kung, on 26 February, two at Lok Ma Chau Lookout on 2 April and three there on 5 April. In the second winter period three in Tai Po Kau on 2 September (JSRE,CAV) were, by one week, the earliest ever in autumn; three were seen near Tai Po Kau on 13 October and one was there on 18 November. This is the greatest number of records of this species since the irruption of 1990/91.

333 Great Tit *Parus major* 大山雀
On Cheung Chau the increase first noted in 1994 continued: up to three birds were noted in a day and at least five individuals were present during the course of the year.

333.1 Yellow-cheeked Tit *Parus spilonotus* 黃頰山雀
Up to three were seen in Tai Po Kau from January to April and singles were noted there from September to the year end. One was at Victoria Gap/Pok Fu Lam CP from early in the year to 17 April; one was at Shing Mun on 14 January and 7 February, an adult and two juveniles were there on 14 September with three birds on 18 October; two were at Lead Mine Pass on 1 February with singles there on 18 February, 16 April and 6 May; one was at Kowloon Hills catchwater on 6 April and two were there on 23 November; one was in Kowloon Park during 7-8 April; up to two were at Kap Lung during 16-23 September; and singles were at Ng Tung Chai on 21 September and 26 November. Limited observer coverage may explain the absence of summer reports.

334 Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus* 攀雀
At Mai Po there were five on 1st and 12 on 10 January but no further reports until 23 were seen on 22 March. Thereafter, there were frequent sightings until 19 April but the only counts of more than ten were of 35 on 1st and 12 on 12 April. Elsewhere, there were 12 at Ma Tso Lung on 21 March, four there on 12 April, five at Tin Shui Wai on 1 April and two at Tsim Bei Tsui on 14 April. In the second winter period there were three at Mai Po on 29 October (PJL), the earliest in autumn by three days, and up to 14 were recorded there until 22 November. Also recorded at Ma Tso Lung from 4 November until the year end, with a peak of ten there on 30 December, at Lin Barn Tsuen where there were three on 7 November and at Lut Chau which held five on 14 December.

335 Fork-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga christinae* 叉尾太陽鳥
On Lamma Island, where this species is very scarce, one was heard on 8 January, while on Cheung Chau, where it appears to be a non-breeding migrant,

there was one on 1 March and two on 31 December. Unlike 1993, this species was present at Shuen Wan in summer.

336 Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus* 紅胸啄花鳥

In the first winter period there were six singing males (and one female) at A Ma Wat on 12 February, and up to two males were recorded at Tai Po Kau and three were trapped at KARC. During the summer there was a curious record of a male at Cape D'Aguilar on 20 May. In the second winter period up to two were reported at Tai Po Kau from 8 October, one was at Kowloon Peak on 2 December and eight were trapped at KARC between 17 October and the year end. More unusually, a female was in Kowloon Park on 30 November and single males were reported from Hatton Road, Hong Kong Island, on 27th and 31 December and nearby Lung Fu Shan on 29 December.

337 Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum* 朱背啄花鳥
No significant reports.

337.1 Plain Flowerpecker *Dicaeum concolor* 純色啄花鳥
One was at A Ma Wat on 31 January (MLC), two were trapped at KARC on 17 December (PRK,MRL,PJL) and one was at Ngong Ping, Lantau, on 29 December (BEP). These are the sixth to eighth Hong Kong records; the previous records occurred in 1988 and 1991.

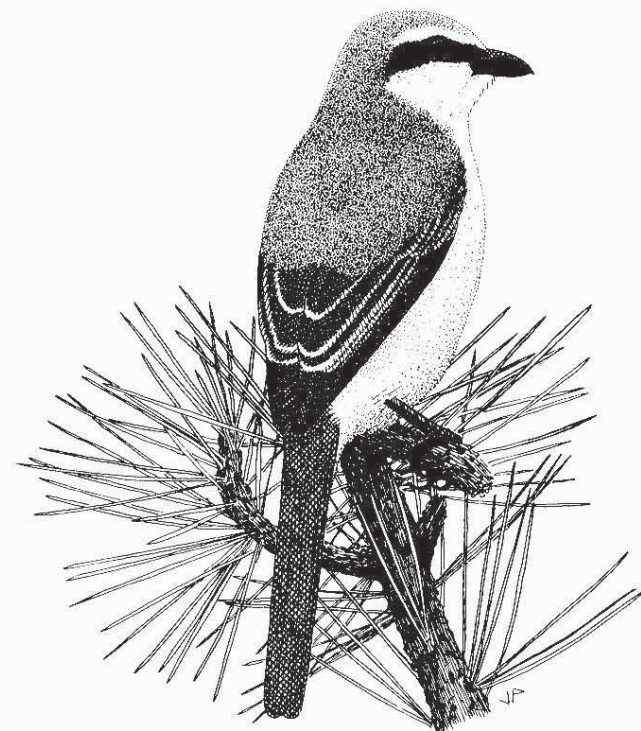
338 Chestnut-flanked White-eye *Zosterops erythropleura* 紅脅嘯眼鳥
Two seen in the ZBG on 7 April were, by six days, the latest recorded in spring (JJ,JK). In the second winter period two were trapped at KARC on 21 October and singles were trapped there on 28th and 31 October and 30 December (DPC,MRL), a party of eight (the largest group ever recorded in Hong Kong) was at Lead Mine Pass on 3 December (PA) and one was at Shing Mun on 5th (GAW).

339 White-eye *Zosterops japonica* 暗綠嘯眼鳥
No significant reports.

340 Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis* 黑枕黃鸝
One at Nam Sang Wai on 21 January (GAW) was the first recorded in January since 1988 when one wintered at Island House. The only spring reports were of one at Long Valley on 16 April and two (possibly a pair) at Rennie's Mill on 19 April. There was one confirmed breeding record: a female seen carrying food on 24 May at Lok Ma Chau, where there had probably also been a pair the previous year (PJL). Autumn passage was noted from 23 August when there was one at Mai Po. Subsequently, one or two were reported from there and nine other sites (mostly in the northern and central NT but also Kowloon Park and Tung Chung) until 17 October. The only higher count was of ten at Ta Kwu Ling on 25 September which coincided with the peak passage period at other sites. There was one late record: an adult at Tai Mo Shan on 18 December.

341 Tiger Shrike *Lanius tigrinus* 虎紋伯勞
1994: one was trapped at KARC on 10 September (DPC). This is the eighth record for Hong Kong.

341.1 Bull-headed Shrike *Lanius bucephalus* 牛頭伯勞
A probable female remained at Tsung Pak Long from 1994 until 4 March (GJC,DAD); single immatures or females were at Tung Chung on 22 October (PJH), Ho Chung during 15-16 November (MH) and Ng Tung Chai on 23 December (PA).



342 Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus* 紅尾伯勞
One at Wu Kau Tang on 11-12 February was trapped on the first date, and another (considered not to be *L.c. lucionensis*) was at Tan Chuk Hang on 25 February. The first spring record concerned one eating a White-eye in Kowloon Park on 3 April; the next did not come until 22 April when one was at Tsim Bei Tsui. Thereafter, up to five birds were noted at sixteen sites until 18 May, the only higher counts being eight at Mount Austin on 7 May and ten at Mai Po on 9 May. Autumn passage commenced on 2 September when one was seen on Ping Chau; subsequently, one or two were present at fifteen sites until 24 October, with six at

Mount Austin on 6 September being the only higher count. One at Kowloon Park on 17 October was considered to be of the race *L.c. cristatus*. In November three were in Victoria Park on 4th, one was at Cape D'Aguilar on 9th and, finally, one was in Victoria Park on 21st. Except as stated above, all birds ascribed to a race were considered to be *L.c. lucionensis*.

- 343 Rufous-backed Shrike** *Lanius schach* 棕背伯勞
Apparently declining on Cheung Chau, where formerly regular.

- 345 Black Drongo** *Dicrurus macrocercus* 黑卷尾
As usual there were a few records in the first winter period: one on Stonecutters on 6 January, a flock of 11 at Nam Sang Wai on 12 January, one at Mai Po on 16 January and one at Tin Shui Wai on 29 January. The next report was of three at Mong Tseng on 5 March; unusually, the highest count in spring was 18 at Tsim Bei Tsui as early as 19 March but, more typically, reports were not widespread until the first week of April. Ten were recorded on the Soko Islands on 7 May. In autumn 43 were counted at Ma Tso Lung on 26 September, 19 were at Ta Kwu Ling on 25 September, 15 passed high over Long Valley heading southwest on 8 October, 20 passed over Chek Lap Kok on 9 October, 50 were at Discovery Bay Golf Course on 13 October and 25 were at Tin Shui Wai on 14 October. Singles were at Mount Davis on 29 October and Kowloon Park on 31 October; subsequent records comprised ones and twos at Kam Tin and in the Deep Bay area until the year end.

- 346 Ashy Drongo** *Dicrurus leucophaeus* 灰卷尾
In the first winter period up to four birds, at least three of which were of the race *salangensis*, were at Tai Po Kau until 15 April and up to three birds (one of the race *leucogenis* and two *salangensis*) were at Shing Mun until 14 April. The only other report was of one of the race *leucogenis* at Pak Nai on 15 April. In the second winter period one of the race *leucogenis* at Ho Chung on 15 October was the first record of this species from the site. On the same date two (race unknown) were at Mount Davis and one of the race *salangensis* was seen there on 25 November. Up to two of the race *leucogenis* were at Tai Po Kau from 30 October and one of the race *leucogenis* was at Shing Mun on 12 November and 5 December.

- 347 Hair-crested Drongo** *Dicrurus hottentottus* 髮冠卷尾
The largest flocks reported were 12 at Sha Lo Tung on 29 May and 15 at Long Valley on 2 September.

- 348 Jay** *Garrulus glandarius* 松鴉
This species was seen at Shing Mun/Lead Mine Pass throughout the year; maxima were seven on 31 January and nine on 12 November. Elsewhere singles were recorded at Bride's Pool on 11 February, Long Valley on 17 April, Ling Tong Mei Tsoi Yuen on 10 May and Sheung Che on 20 May, whilst two were seen at both Ling Tong Mei Tsoi Yuen on 21 October and Kap Lung on 10 December.

- 349 Blue Magpie** *Urocissa erythrorhynchus* 紅嘴藍鵲
Regularly recorded on Cheung Chau where five individuals were probably present and two pairs possibly bred; as noted in *HKBR 1994*, this species has only recently become established there.

- 350 Treepie** *Dendrocitta formosae* 灰樹鵲
Present throughout the year on northwest Hong Kong Island with records from Mount Davis, Hatton Road, Lung Fu Shan and Mount Austin; a maximum of ten was reported from the first of these sites on 3 December. Also seen throughout the year at Yung Shue O where there were at least three in January, and present in Tai Po Kau between March and September with a maximum of five in August. Elsewhere, there were five at Sam A Chung on 31 January, at least three at Tan Chuk Hang on 25 February, two at Chung Mei on 19 April, one near Luk Keng on 30 July, nine at Ho Chung on 13 August and seven there on 1 November, two at Liu Pok on 6 September and two in Lam Tsuen Valley between 24 November and 2 December.

- 351 Magpie** *Pica pica* 喜鵲
No significant records.

- 352 Jungle Crow** *Corvus macrorhynchus* 大嘴烏鴉
Fifty-nine were counted at a pre-roost gathering at Magazine Gap on 15 June and a pre-roost count of 107 was made at Shuen Wan on 3 July.

- 353 Collared Crow** *Corvus torquatus* 白頸鴉
The largest counts in the Deep Bay area were 23 at Mai Po on 7 January, 28 at Tsim Bei Tsui on 29 August and 19 at Mai Po on 16 December. At Shuen Wan there were maxima of 46 on 13 June and 40 on 24 November, and a partially albinistic bird was there on 28th and 31 May. Elsewhere, there were two on Stonecutters on 6 January, up to three on Ping Chau (including a juvenile) on 29 April and two at Kam Tin on 11 November.

- 354 Silky Starling** *Sturnus sericeus* (N) 絲光椋鳥
Following the high numbers recorded in late 1994, counts in the first winter period were rather lower: 250 at Mai Po on 1 January, 360 at Kam Tin on 21 January, 300 there on 25 February, 32 at Shuen Wan on 5 March, 460 at Ma Tso Lung on 11 March, 330 there on 21 March and 630 at Mai Po on 12 March. Away from the northern and central NT the only report was of one at Mui Wo on 15 January. Three were still present at Shuen Wan on 16 April, one was at Long Valley on 17 April and the latest in spring was at Pak Hok Chau on 18 April (GAW). These three records are all later than the previous late date for this species (11 April 1987).

During October there was one at Lin Barn Tsuen on 9th, 12 at Kam Tin and eight at Ma Tso Lung on 13th, 100 at Nam Sang Wai on 20th and 130 at Kam Tin and 150 at Sha Po on 22nd. There were 400 at Ma Tso Lung on 4 November and there was a pre-roost count of 1450 at Mai Po heading towards Tsim Bei Tsui

on 9 November. However, the roost at the Fence did not appear to reach the size of the previous two winters; indeed, no more than 200 were recorded there in November and December, though 800 were present at Lut Chau on 27 November. Away from the northern NT, there were five at Chek Lap Kok on 13 November, one in Kowloon Park on 14 November, one at Tung Chung on 25 November and a maximum at Shuen Wan for the second winter period of 40 on 29 December.

355 Purple-backed Starling *Sturnus sturninus* 北椋鳥

Two at Ma Tso Lung on 17 September (PJJ) were the earliest ever in autumn. Other records were: one in Kowloon Park on 22 September and two there on 30 September (PA), one at Ta Kwu Ling on 25 September (GJC), 15 at Tai Po on 28 September (RWL), one at Mai Po on 29 September (RWL), three at Long Valley on 1 October with seven there on 7th and one on 8 October (PA,MRL,PJJ *et al.*), 19 at Nam Sang Wai on 20 October with six there on 21st and two on 22 October (PJJ,RWL *et al.*), 11 at Kam Tin on 22 October with three there on 23rd and one on 25 October (DAD,RWL,VBP *et al.*), and one at Shuen Wan on 24 October (RWL). This is the greatest ever number of reports of this species but the largest flock remains that of 35 in 1977.

356 Chestnut-checked Starling *Sturnus philippensis* 紫背椋鳥

In October one was at Nam Sang Wai on 21st (RWL), a first-winter male was there on 22nd (PJJ) and up to three males were at Kam Tin during 22-25th (DAD,PA *et al.*). These are the ninth and tenth records.

357 Chinese Starling *Sturnus sinensis* 灰背椋鳥

In the first winter period there were two at Kam Tin on 1 January, one at Nam Sang Wai on 12 January, one at Kam Tin on 29 January and one at Mai Po during 26 February to 3 March. Spring passage appeared to commence on 18 March when there was a group of five at Mai Po, but reports were not widespread until the first week of April. Most records were of fewer than ten birds, but there were 20 at Mount Davis and 45 at Shuen Wan on 1 April, 18 at Diamond Hill on 6 April and 15 in Kowloon Park and 20 at Mai Po on 8 April.

Breeding records included a pair feeding young at Nam Sang Wai as early as 1 April in addition, at least ten adults bred at three separate sites in Mui Wo. Other summer reports suggestive of breeding came from Tung Chung, Pak Nai, Tsim Bei Tsui, Mai Po, Castle Peak Monastery, Lok On Pai, Kam Tin and Shek O.

Autumn passage is hard to distinguish from dispersal of local breeding birds but there was a flock of 30 at Lut Chau on 29 August and small flocks were widespread in September and October. Larger groups included 25 at Tsim Bei Tsui on 20 September, 16 in Kowloon Park on 30 September, 65 at Nam Sang Wai on 20 October, with 68, a new high for Hong Kong, there on 21 October (RWL) and 50 at Kam Tin on 22 October. Numbers dropped rapidly thereafter; there were up to two at Kam Tin in early November and the last record of the year was of two at Nam Sang Wai on 27 November.

358 European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* 紫翅椋鳥
Four at Kam Tin on 5 November (RWL,MRL) was the only record.

360 Grey Starling *Sturnus cineraceus* 灰椋鳥

In the first winter period the largest flocks were 163 at Tsim Bei Tsui on 22 January and 50 at Tin Shui Wai on 3 February. Generally rather scarce with the only records away from Deep Bay being up to 32 at Kam Tin in January. The latest reports were of a single at Lin Barn Tsuen/Pak Hok Chau on 19 April. In the second winter period the first two were at Kam Tin on 13 October, and six were at Nam Sang Wai on 20 October. Apart from 15 at Lut Chau on 3 November and two at Long Valley on 4 November, all subsequent records came from these two sites with a peak of 178 at Kam Tin on 5 November and 363, a new high for Hong Kong, at Nam Sang Wai on 2 December (RWL).

361 Black-necked Starling *Sturnus nigricollis* 黑領椋鳥

The only high count reported was 182 (including a single flock of 150) at Long Valley at dusk on 15 September. A flock of 13 on Cheung Chau on 5 November appears to be a new maximum count for the island. At Kam Tin on 4 February one was observed robbing a party of Black-faced Laughing Thrushes of an Asiatic Painted Frog *Kaloula pulchra* and subsequently attempting to kill it (see Aston 1996).

362 Crested Mynah *Acridotheres cristatellus* 八哥
No significant reports.

363 Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* 麻雀
Thirteen on Ping Chau on 2 September was the only report of significance.

364 White-backed Munia *Lonchura striata* 白腰文鳥

High counts included 32 at Mount Nicholson on 8 May, 41 in Tan Shan Valley on 4 November and 44 in Kowloon Park on 17 December. As in 1994, recorded at Mai Po where this species is rare, with singles seen on 12 January and 30 April. Also recorded for the first time for at least eight years on Cheung Chau where two were seen on 31 August and five were present on 30 December.

365 Spotted Munia *Lonchura punctulata* 斑文鳥

In the northern and central NT recorded from Tsim Bei Tsui where 580, a new high, was recorded on 29 August (RWL); also noted at Tin Shui Wai, Mai Po, Long Valley, where the highest count was 50 on 2 April, Kam Tin, Tan Shan Valley, Sha Lo Tung and Shuen Wan. Elsewhere, one on Cheung Chau on 22 March and three there on 24 June appear to be the second and third records for the island whilst one at Mount Austin on 9 October was also unusual.

366 Chestnut Munia *Lonchura malacca* 栗腹文鳥

Recorded at Mai Po between 24 June and 6 October, with maxima of nine adults and five juveniles on the first date and 25, mostly adults, on 22 August (WLC,DAD,RWL *et al.*).

366.1 Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* 燕雀
One at Tai Mo Shan on 11 June (PA) is not considered to have been wild and will not be added to the totals for this species.

367 Chinese Greenfinch *Carduelis sinica* 金翅雀
Seven were at Kam Tin on 1 January (PA), one was at Chi Fu on 19 February and 26 March (JSRE), four were at Wu Kau Tang on 5 April (CAV), three (two adults and a begging juvenile) were at Sha Tin Park on 21 April with the two adults again on 23 April (RWL), one (with damaged plumage, probably an escape) was at Cape D'Aguilar on 16 November (MRL) and one was in Pok Fu Lam CP on 25 December (JSRE). The record at Sha Tin Park is the first breeding record since a bird was reported nest-building at the same site in 1992.

369 Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* 朱雀
One was at Cheung Sheung, Sai Kung West CP, on 14 January (CAV), two were at Mui Wo on 17th with three there on 25 January (PJH), one was at Chek Lap Kok on 3 February (GJC), 15 were at Ng Tung Chai village on 11 February (JSRE,CAV) and one was at Shuen Wan on 29 December (RWL).

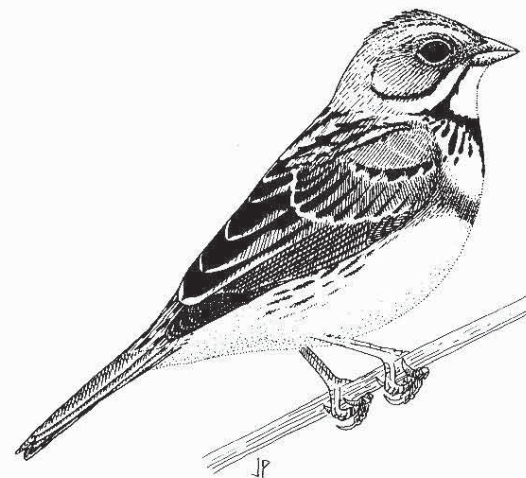
370 Black-tailed Hawfinch *Coccothraustes migratorius* 黑尾蜡嘴雀
In the first winter period there were eight at Kam Tin on 1 January, with three there on 15 January, ten at Mai Po on 26 January, singles at Tsim Bei Tsui and Ma Tso Lung on 18 February, one at Mai Po village on 4 March, 15 at Tsim Bei Tsui on 5 March and one at Kam Tin on 8 April. Scarce in the second winter period with one at Sha Lo Tung on 11 November, one at Mai Po, two at Tsim Bei Tsui and seven in Lam Tsuen Valley on 26 November and 40 at Nam Sang Wai on 27 November.

370.1 Japanese Grosbeak *Coccothraustes personatus* 黑頭蜡嘴雀
Five were at Lam Tsuen Valley on 5 April (RWL). This is the seventh record for Hong Kong, all except one having been at Lam Tsuen Valley.

371 Black-faced Bunting *Emberiza spodocephala* 灰頭鷀
Widespread in the first winter period, ten at Mai Po on 12 January being the highest count until passage commenced in mid-March. As has been the pattern in the last few years, spring passage was weak, maxima at Mai Po being 15 on 22 March and 20 on 29 March and 1st and 14 April. Elsewhere, the highest count was 40 at Ma Tso Lung on 25 April, whilst passage at Mount Austin peaked at ten on 25 March and 1 April. The last report was of one at Lut Chau on 11 May. In the second winter period the first was trapped at KARC on 3 November; there were two at both Sha Lo Tung and Wu Kau Tang and one in Tan Shan Valley on 4 November, and seven were trapped at Mai Po the next day. Subsequently, the highest counts were ten at Sha Lo Tung on 11th and 18 November, 25 at Ho Chung on 15 November and ten at Kam Tin on 21 November. One at Kowloon Park on 17 November seems to be the first record of a bunting there.

372 Japanese Yellow Bunting *Emberiza sulphurata* (V) 硫黃鷀
All records were in April, as follows: one at Mai Po on 2nd (RWL *et al.*), three at Mong Tseng (GAW) and one at Mai Po on 4th (JJ,FW), three at Mai Po (RWL,GET *et al.*), one at Long Valley (DAD) and one at Shuen Wan (CAV), all on 5th, and three at Long Valley on 13th (JJ,JK). After exceptionally high numbers in 1993 and only one record in 1994, this was, perhaps, an average year for this species.

373 Grey-headed Bunting *Emberiza fucata* 赤胸鷀
Not recorded during the first winter period until one was seen at Ma Wan on 23 March. Subsequently, there was one at Mai Po during 1-4 April, one at Kam Tin on 2 April with three there on 5 April, one at Long Valley on 6th and 8 April and one on Tai Mo Shan on 18 April. In the second winter period there was one at Lut Chau on 25 October, three at Ma Tso Lung on 26 October and one there on 11 November, one at Yung Shue O on 1 November, one at Sha Lo Tung on 4-5th, 16th and 19 November, one at Kam Tin during 18-19 November and two at Tung Chung on 25 November.



373.2 Yellow-browed Bunting *Emberiza chrysophrys* 黃眉鷀
A female was at Tsim Bei Tsui on 2nd and 3 April (DAD,VBP).

374 Tristram's Bunting *Emberiza tristrami* 白眉鷀
As in late 1994, rather scarce during the first winter period: up to six were seen in Tai Po Kau until 5 April, up to two were at Ng Tung Chai between 15 January and 8 February and up to five were at Shing Mun from 7 February until 11 March. The only report from Hong Kong Island was of one in Tai Tam CP on 27 March; there were singles at Ngong Ping on 30 January and at Wu Kau Tang on 8 February. Scarce again in the second winter period; the first single was at

Mount Austin on 12 November; subsequently, up to three were recorded at Cheung Sheung, Ng Tung Chai, Pak Tam Chung, KARC, Tai Po Kau and Ngong Ping, the only higher count being six on the Kap Lung Trail on 30 December.

375 Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica* 田鵲

A male was present in Kowloon Park on eight dates from 22 November to 28 December (PA,DAD,RWL). Given the very unusual location, this record has not been added to totals for this species.

376 Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* 小鵲

Counts of wintering birds were rather low early in the year, maxima being 17 at Long Valley on 26 January and 13 at Wu Kau Tang on 12 February. Slightly higher numbers occurred on passage with 20 at Mui Wo on 18 March, at least 20 present at Mai Po on 20 March, increasing to 30 during 2-3 April. Twelve were there on 15 April with smaller numbers thereafter until the last single seen on 30 April. Widespread counts elsewhere in early April did not exceed seven birds at any one site except for ten at Long Valley on 1 April. In the second winter period the first was seen at Ho Chung on 21 October, where there were 25 on 15 November. A large flock built up at Sha Lo Tung from 5 November when 20 were seen, increasing to 200 (a new high count for Hong Kong) on 11 November (MT), then declining to 70 on 26 November with 40 present on 30 December. Elsewhere, the highest counts were 15 at Long Valley on 12th and 23 November, 35 at Tung Chung on 25 November and 25 at Luk Keng on 26 November.

377 Chestnut Bunting *Emberiza rutila* 栗鵲

The only record in the first winter period concerned one at Tai Po Kau on 4 February and the only spring records were of single males at Mai Po on 30 March, 20 April and 8 June (this last seems likely to have been an escape). As in 1994, the first in autumn were early, singles being seen at Mount Austin on 29 September, Tsim Bei Tsui on 30 September and Mount Austin on 4 October. All other records fell into the period 20 October to 2 December, though reports came from widespread localities (including Tung Chung where there have been very few records of this species); the only place where more than six were seen was Sha Lo Tung where there were 20 on 19 November.

378 Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola* 黃胸鵲

Wintering birds were more widely reported than usual with up to two at Long Valley from 2 January to 9 February, three at Chek Lap Kok during 12-13 January, one at Kam Tin on 14th and 26-27 January, one at Tin Shui Wai on 29 January and two at Sam Po Shue on 27 February. There were four at Tam Kon Chau on 5 March, with 22 there on 12th and 24 on 30 March; up to three were at Mai Po between 20 March and 30 April, singles were at Kam Tin on 5 April and Tsim Bei Tsui on 16 April, five were at Long Valley on 6 May and the last two were there on 16 May. The first autumn record concerned one at Long Valley on 21 September; three were there on 27 September but all other records fell between 14 October and 18 November. Passage was weak with peak counts of 20 at Tin

Shui Wai on 14 October and 12 at Kau Sai Chau and 20 at Nam Sang Wai on 20 October; up to six were recorded at six other sites.

379.1 Pallas's Reed Bunting *Emberiza pallasi* 葦鵲

A first-winter female was trapped near Mai Po on 8 November (MRL,PJL) and a male was seen north of Mai Po on 20 November (PJL). These are the second and third Hong Kong records.

379.5 Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala* 黑頭鵲

A first-winter male near Lut Chau on 27 October (PJL) was followed by an adult, probably female, near Mai Po during 8-12 November (PJL,MRL *et al.*). These are the first records of the species pair Black-headed- and Red-headed Bunting *E. bruniceps* that have been identified with certainty (see Leader 1996).

1994: Single unidentified individuals, either Black- or Red-headed Bunting *E. melanocephala/bruniceps*, were at Tsim Bei Tsui during 12-27 October (RWL *et al.*), Mong Tseng on 24 October (PJL) and Tan Shan Valley on 26 November (RWL).

380 Crested Bunting *Melophus lathami* 鳳頭鵲

One was trapped at KARC on 4 February, one was at Mai Po San Tsuen on 27 February, single males were seen on Tai Mo Shan on 24 April and 11 June, two singing males and a singing bird in female plumage were at Fung Kat Heung on 2 June, one was on Mount Davis on 10 September; in November two were at Cape D'Aguilar on 9th, up to three were at Sha Lo Tung during 11-26th, one was Ma Tso Lung on 11th with three there on 18th and, finally, one was at Tung Tsz on 14 December. A typical showing for recent years in contrast to the large number of summer records in 1994.

CATEGORY B

*Species which have been recorded in an apparently wild state
in Hong Kong but not in the last fifty years*

501 Ring-necked Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* 雉雞

An escaped or released female was at Long Valley on 27 January.

CATEGORY C

*Species which, although originally introduced by man, have now established a
regular feral breeding stock that may or may not be self-supporting*

601 Feral Pigeon *Columba livia* 野鴿

No significant reports.

602 Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus* 虹彩吸蜜鸚鵡

Up to five were seen at Shouson Hill throughout the year, six were at Victoria Park on 4 November and four were there on 21 November.

603 Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua sulphurea* 小葵花鳳頭鸚鵡
No significant reports.

604 Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* 紅領綠鸚鵡
Away from the usual location of Hong Kong Island, up to six were seen at Kam Tin and up to four were present in Kowloon Park.

605 Common Mynah *Acridotheres tristis* 家八哥
Present at Kam Tin throughout the year, the maximum count being 36 on 1 January. Elsewhere, five were at USRC, Kowloon, on 2 February, one was in Kowloon Park on 25 March and 7 April, two were at Mai Po on 30 March and 10 June, up to two were at Long Valley on 2 April, 16 May and 16 December, two were at Tsim Bei Tsui on 7 May and one was at Pak Nai on 20 August.

[606 Azure-winged Magpie *Cyanopica cyana* 灰喜鵲
Not reported in 1995; it seems that the population in the ZBG may have finally died out.]

CATEGORY D

Species that have occurred in an apparently wild state but for which the possibility of escape or release from captivity cannot be satisfactorily excluded

705.1 Brown-breasted Bulbul *Pycnonotus xanthorrhous* 黃臀鵲
Two were seen at Ma Tso Lung on 28 March (GAW) and two were at Tai Mo Shan on 24 April (RWL). These are the third and fourth records, the first two having been found on 24 January 1990 and 23 February 1991.

706.6 Rufous-gorgetted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophliata* 橙胸鵲
One was at Ng Tung Chai during 1-11 February (EMSK *et al.*). This is the third record for Hong Kong.

706.7 Blue-throated Flycatcher *Cyornis rubeculoides* 藍喉仙鵲
A male was at Shing Mun from 31 January to 2 February (PA,RWL). This is the third record for Hong Kong.

709 Rufous-capped Babbler *Stachyris ruficeps* 紅頭穗鵲
At the now traditional site of Shing Mun six were present on 8 February, four were noted on 6 August, two were there on 18 October, one was seen on 12 November and one was there on 5 December (RWL,PA,GAW).

712 Grey-checked Fulvetta *Alcippe morrisonia* 灰眶雀鵲
Singles, unless otherwise stated, were noted at Ng Tung Chai on 20 January (two), 1 February, 23 May, 19 July, 9 September and 21 December (RWL,DAD,GJC); at least two, possibly five, were at Tai Po Kau on 4 February (MT) and two were at Kowloon Hills catchwater on 18 August (DAD).

712.1 Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis* 絨額鵲
Up to ten were reported at Tai Po Kau throughout the year, two were at Shing Mun in January and February and up to four were there in September, two were at Lead Mine Pass on 1 February, singles were at Kowloon Hills catchwater on 6 April, 23 November and 21 December and one was seen at Kap Lung during 23-24 September.

712.5 Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnus malabaricus* 灰頭棕鳥
Two were seen at Mai Po on 12 January, with one of these noted on 26 January and 26 February (PJL,RWL). This is the second record for Hong Kong. The pair at Kowloon Park were reported in January, March, April, September, October and December (PA *et al.*), though were no doubt present all year.

712.7 Ruddy Sparrow *Passer rutilans* 山麻雀
A female was at Ho Chung on 16 November (MH).

716 Yellow-throated Bunting *Emberiza elegans* 黃喉鵲
A male at Cape D'Aguilar on 28 December (MRL) had obvious tail damage and was rather tame, and is presumed to be an escape. It has not been added to the total for this species.

CATEGORY E

Species for which all published records are suspected of being birds that have escaped or been released from captivity

800.5 Wood Duck *Aix sponsa* 林鴛鴦
801.5 Red Lory *Eos borneo* 紅色吸蜜鸚鵡
802.3* White Cockatoo *Cacatua alba* 白色雞尾鸚鵡
804 Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus* 雞尾鸚鵡
805 Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria* 亞歷山大鸚鵡
805.1 Red-breasted Parakeet *Psittacula alexandri* 緋胸鸚鵡
812 Gold-fronted Leafbird *Chloropsis aurifrons* 金額葉鵲
812.5 Blue-winged Leafbird *Chloropsis cochinchinensis* 藍翅葉鵲
813 Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata* 白斑黑石鵲
813.5* White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus* 白腰鵲
814.7 Red-winged Laughingthrush *Garrulax formosus* 麗色噪鵲
816 Silver-eared Mesia *Leiothrix argentea* 銀耳相思鳥
816.01 Blue-winged Minla *Minla cyanoptera* 藍翅希鵲
818 Asian Pied Starling *Sturnus contra* 斑椋鳥
819 Vinous-breasted Starling *Sturnus burmannicus* 紅嘴椋鳥
820.1# Jungle Mynah *Acridotheres fuscus* 林八哥
822 Indian Grackle *Gracula religiosa* 鷓鴣
824 Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus* 黃胸織布鳥
826 Red Bishop *Euplectes orix* 紅寡婦鳥
828.1 Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava* 紅梅花雀
831 Yellow-fronted Canary *Serinus mozambicus* 黃額絲雀

Species marked * were first recorded in 1995. The species marked # was recorded in 1994 but not in 1995.

There were 23 Silver-eared Mesias at Chek Nai Ping on 1 February, and up to 27 at Shing Mun, up to 31 at Lead Mine Pass and up to 20 at Ng Tung Chai throughout the year. This species is also becoming established in the Hatton Road/HKU area where up to six singing males were seen in summer and 15 birds were recorded in winter. Blue-winged Minla records included up to ten (including juveniles) in Tai Po Kau, up to four at Ng Tung Chai, up to ten in Lion Rock CP and a single at Hatton Road. Baya Weaver bred at Mai Po where five nests were found on 13 August and the largest count was 50 on 17 October.

The 1993 record of Rufous Laughing Thrush *Garrulax poecilorhynchus* has now been withdrawn by the observer.

*The following records were submitted to, but not accepted by,
the Records Committee.*

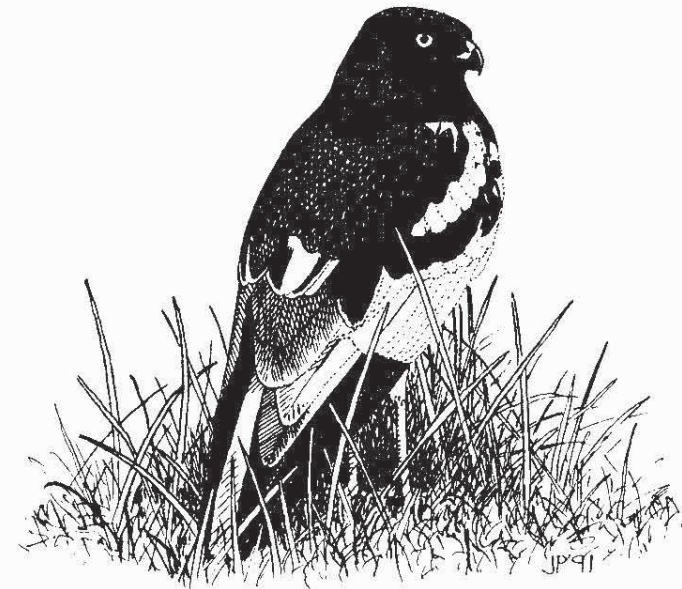
Frigatebird sp. *Fregata* sp. near Lamma, Island, 25 December; Lammergeier *Gyps barbaetus*, Tsim Bei Tsui, 3 February; Jack Snipe *Limnocyptes minimus* Mai Po, 7 October; Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucos* Mai Po, 7 October; Chinese Goshawk *Accipiter soloensis* Mai Po, 22 October; Northern Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* Long Valley, 15 October; Peregrine *Falco peregrinus calidus* Mai Po, 20 January; Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* Sha Tin, 28 October; Crimson-legged Crane *Amurornis akool* Mai Po, 26 June; Common Gull *Larus canus* Mai Po, 20 March; Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus* Mirs Bay, 23 July; Skua sp. *Stercorarius* sp. Tai O, 3 October; Grey Nightjar *Caprimulgus indicus* Mount Nicholson 7 July; Tai Tam CP, 14 July; Himalayan Swiftlet *Collocalia brevirostris* 50, Tsim Bei Tsui, 3 February; Greater Green Leafbird *Chloropsis sonnerati* Mount Nicholson, 7 July to mid-August; Pale-footed Bush Warbler *Cettia pallidipes* Ng Tung Chai, 2 February; Lead Mine Pass, 5 December; Brown Bush Warbler *Bradypterus luteoventris* Yung Shue O, 14 January; Fukien Niltava *Niltava vivida* male and female, Ng Tung Chai, 14 January; Tai Po Kau, 10 December (males accepted as *Niltava* sp.); Olive-backed Sunbird *Nectarinia jugularis* Sha Tin, 8 August to 8 September; Japanese Yellow Bunting *Emberiza sulphurata* Ho Chung, 15 November; Rufous-capped Babbler *Stachyris ruficeps* Mount Nicholson, 19 July.

1994: Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus* Mai Po, 19 November; Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis* KARC (trapped), 3 September (accepted as *Besra A. virgatus*); Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug* Mai Po, 19 February and 19 March, Tsim Bei Tsui; Grey Nightjar *Caprimulgus indicus* Mount Nicholson, 15 February.

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WINTER WATERFOWL COUNTS 1994-95

G.J. Carey

Coordinated mid-monthly counts of wintering waterfowl in Hong Kong were again carried out from November to March. These were conducted on 19 November, 18 December, 21 January, 18 February and 18 March. The January count was carried out as part of the Asian Waterfowl Census under the auspices of Asian Wetland Bureau (AWB), now Wetlands International. In accordance with guidelines provided by AWB, other counts, if higher, were included from the one week period either side of the coordinated count date. It should be noted that, for the majority of species, this means the single count must be higher than the total number provided by the coordinated count for it to be included. Coverage this winter was very good with only one site not counted in one month.

The results of the five counts are summarised in table 1. The January count is provided in full in table 2 to allow comparison with previous years. Full details of all counts can be obtained from the count coordinator.

Table 1. Winter 1994-95 Waterfowl Count totals by group and site

group	site	Nov	Dec ¹	Jan	Feb	Mar
Cormorants	DB	2937	4805	6590	5800	4086
	SI/SW	0	0	0	0	0
Ardeids	DB	3060	3112	4417	4172	2157
	SI/SW	531	410	505	498	844
Ducks and grebes	DB	10,249	15,306	18,645	19,093	5122
	SI/SW	10	16	0	84	17
Rails, Coot etc.	DB	454	234	727	918	157
	SI/SW	0	12	9	13	10
Waders	DB	8573	9481	13,107	7841	4289
	SI/SW	31	2	7	37	20
Gulls and terns	DB	6763	15,553	18,871	17,624	8360
	SI/SW	0	252	92	20	0
Total	DB	32,036	48,491	62,357	55,448	24,171
	SI/SW	572	692	613	652	891

DB = Deep Bay; SW = Shuen Wan; SI = Starling Inlet; 1 = Tin Shui Wai not counted

For the counts this winter a new site, Nam Sang Wai, was added. During the January count a total of 62,357 waterbirds of 65 species were recorded in the Deep Bay area, including Nam Sang Wai; excluding Nam Sang Wai, the total is

60,568. This latter count represents a new high and is 876 or 1.5% higher than the previous high of 59,692 attained in January 1994. In addition, 243 birds of 11 species were recorded at Shuen Wan and 370 birds of five species were recorded at Starling Inlet.

The number of Cormorants roosting in Deep Bay continues to increase, now to a level sufficient to cause a second roost to be formed at Nam Sang Wai. The number of Dalmatian Pelicans was the same as in 1994. Although Pintail numbers were well down on last year, Shoveler numbers climbed to a new high of 8082 in January, a jump of 17% beyond the previous highest. Wigeon numbers reached 4041 in December, a new high.

In January wader numbers increased to a new high for the second year in succession, this time registering a 12.5% increase. The count of 996 Avocets signals an almost doubling of numbers since 1993. A single Curlew Sandpiper was unusual, there having only been one previous record in a January waterfowl count. A count of 1730 Spotted Redshank is a new high and the totals for Redshank and Greenshank were both higher than in previous waterfowl counts. Black-headed Gull numbers in Deep Bay reached a new high of 18,729, over 500 higher than the previous highest in 1986.

If the highest Deep Bay counts in the winter period proper, defined as December to February, for each species are added together, the total is 65,990 or about 5.8% higher than the Deep Bay count for January. This is, perhaps, a more accurate reflection of the importance of Deep Bay as it is the minimum number of birds that utilise its resources for at least part of the winter.

Raptor species were again counted and the following January totals were obtained: Black Kite - 73; Marsh Harrier - 1; Buzzard - 6; Spotted Eagle - 4; Imperial Eagle - 8; Osprey - 14; Peregrine - 1; White-bellied Sea Eagle - 1.

The cooperation of staff at Fu Tian Nature Reserve and WWF-HK is gratefully acknowledged. The following observers participated in the counts: G.J. Carey (coordinator), J.A. & M.M. Hackett, Y.J. Wang, R.W. Lewthwaite, P.J. Leader, G.A. Walthew, M.L. Chalmers, M.R. & E.P. Leven, H.F. Cheung, D.A. Diskin, J.S.R. Edge, V.B. Picken, R.D.E. Stott, C.A. Viney, L. Young, M. Hale, P.J. Hopkin, P.R. Kennerley, C.Y. Lam, D.S. Melville, I. Tytzer, J. Webster, M.D. Williams, F. Wong and T. Woodward.

Table 2. Summary of Waterfowl Count January 1995

species	Shen-zhen River	Mai Po	Fu Tian	Deep Bay	TBT fish ponds	Nim Wan/LFS	Tin Shui Wai	Nam Sang Wai	Lok Ma Chau	Deep Bay Area	Shuen Wan	Starling Inlet	total
Little Grebe	6	57		4	30			43		137			137
Great Crested Grebe			50	20						70			70
Great Cormorant		5360						1230		6590			6590
Dalmatian Pelican				18						18			18
Night Heron		450	2							452	12	13	477
Chinese Pond Heron	40	75	46	16	25	102	2	24		337	37	1	375
Cattle Egret		56		2						58			58
Little Egret	140	553	80	791	102	184		11		1860	48	110	2018
Intermediate Egret		1	1	5						7			7
Great Egret	163	133	46	170	3	31		16		553	25	191	769
Grey Heron	66	442	94	408	5	3		85		1054	13	55	1122
Purple Heron								1		1			1
Oriental Stork				2						2			2
Eurasian Spoonbill		3								3			3
Black-faced Spoonbill		72								72			72
Shelduck				980						980			980
Eurasian Wigeon		207	874	733				5		1819			1819
Falcated Teal		58		5						63			63
Gadwall		3						9		12			12

Table 2 (cont.). Summary of Waterfowl Count January 1995

species	Shen-zhen River	Mai Po	Fu Tian	Deep Bay	TBT fish ponds	Nim Wan/LFS	Tin Shui Wai	Nam Sang Wai	Lok Ma Chau	Deep Bay Area	Shuen Wan	Starling Inlet	total
Teal	25	836	218	1222	7			130		2437			2437
Mallard		5		7						12			12
Spot-billed Duck		32		54				75		161			161
Northern Pintail		27	1319	2134				1		3481			3481
Garganey		30								30			30
Northern Shoveler		63	1543	6476						8082			8082
Tufted Duck			56							56			56
Duck sp.			1305							1305			1305
Banded Rail			1	5						6			6
Wh.-br'sted Waterhen	2	12	4	3	2	2		1	2	28	3		31
Moorhen	18	34		2	2			17	9	82	4		86
Coot	56	105	497		1			5		611	2		613
Avocet				996						996			996
Little Ringed Plover			24	20	1	123		132		300	5		305
Ringed Plover				1						1			1
Kentish Plover				1500						1500			1500
Lesser Sand Plover				36						36			36
Pacific Golden Plover				209						209			209
Grey Plover				597						597			597

Table 2 (cont.). Summary of Waterfowl Count January 1995

species	Shen-zhen River	Mai Po	Fu Tian	Deep Bay	TBT fish ponds	Nim Wan/LFS	Tin Shui Wai	Nam Sang Wai	Lok Ma Chau	Deep Bay Area	Shuen Wan	Starling Inlet	total
Northern Lapwing				1						1			1
Grey-headed Lapwing				4						4			4
Great Knot				11						11			11
Red Knot				3						3			3
Red-necked Stint				2						2			2
Temminck's Stint				7						7			7
Long-toed Stint				6						6			6
Curlw Sandpiper				1						1			1
Dunlin				4500						4500			4500
Spoon-billed Sand.				1						1			1
Common Snipe		5		11					40	56			56
Pintail Snipe									5	5			5
Black-tailed Godwit			2	200						200			200
Eurasian Curlew				689						691			691
Australian Curlew				1					1	1			1
Spotted Redshank		1730								1730			1730
Common Redshank		650								650			650
Marsh Sandpiper		350								350			350
Greenshank		883								883			883

Table 2 (cont.). Summary of Waterfowl Count January 1995

species	Shen-zhen River	Mai Po	Fu Tian	Deep Bay	TBT fish ponds	Nim Wan/LFS	Tin Shui Wai	Nam Sang Wai	Lok Ma Chau	Deep Bay Area	Shuen Wan	Starling Inlet	total
<i>Tringa</i> sp.		170								170			170
Green Sandpiper	4	2	2	2		3				13			13
Wood Sandpiper				91				1	14	106			106
Common Sandpiper	2	22	7	11	14	17	1			73	2		75
Wader sp.			4							4			4
Saunders' Gull				55						55			55
Black-headed Gull			465	18261						18729	92		18821
Black-tailed Gull				1						1			1
Large gulls				86						86			86
TOTAL	522	12,426	6640	40,361	192	465	3	1789	86	62,357	243	370	62,970

TBT = Tsim Bei Tsui; LFS = Lau Fau Shan; Deep Bay area comprises that part of Deep Bay outside the border fence within Hong Kong jurisdiction.

1995年內環志的雀鳥共2,526頭，屬124個品種。表一列出各個品種的總數，也有前幾年的數字可作參考。年中值得一提的是四隻屬於香港第一次錄得的東北稻田葦鶯；一隻黑頭鵪也是本港第一次確實無誤的紀錄。此外，環志的雀鳥中，和海外有關的紀錄有三個（其中兩個報告來自1994年）。當中涉及1994年在上海附近網獲的一隻灰尾鵪，是這個品種離開本港後，第一次被跟蹤到的。另外，被網獲的一隻大葦鶯，則是第四隻證實來自日本的紀錄。

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REPORT ON BIRD RINGING IN HONG KONG IN 1995

David S. Melville

A total of 2526 birds of 124 species was ringed in 1995. Species totals are provided in Table 1, together with those from previous years. The most recent report on bird ringing in the Territory is given by Melville (1995). Ringing activities continued to be concentrated at the WWF Hong Kong Mai Po Marshes Nature Reserve and the University of Hong Kong Kadoorie Agricultural Research Centre (KARC), near Shek Kong. In addition, Mike Leven has started ringing at a number of new sites as part of postgraduate studies on shrubland bird communities.

Notable captures during the year included four Manchurian Reed Warblers, the first records for Hong Kong of this enigmatic species (Leader and Lewthwaite 1996). A Black-headed Bunting was the first definite record of this species for the Territory (Leader 1996), there having been several field sightings of Black/Red-headed Buntings since the first record in 1992 (Hale 1993).

The identity of two birds provisionally identified as Middendorff's Grasshopper Warblers is under review, as is that of the first such bird caught in 1993. All three birds show plumage features characteristic of Middendorff's, but measurements overlap those of Styan's. All three were trapped in late September/early October, the only sight record of the species from Hong Kong being in February (Leader 1994).

The capture of two Plain Flowerpeckers was notable, there being only five previous sight records for this species in Hong Kong.

There were only three overseas movements of ringed birds reported during the year, with two from 1994 (table 2). The Knot controlled in Western Australia was our first record of a movement for this species. Barter (1992) noted that Knots spending the non-breeding season in New Zealand and southeast Australia had not been recorded passing through northwest Australia on either migration, and Jessop and Minton (1995) record only one bird leg-flagged in northwest Australia being sighted elsewhere in Australasia, at Miranda in New Zealand. These records suggest that there may be two non-breeding populations of Knot present in Australasia. This is supported by recent studies which indicate that Knot present in Western Australia are similar in both plumage and biometrics to Knots breeding on the Novosibirsk Islands, which are probably referable to the race *canutus* (Minton 1996), whereas those in Southeast Australia and New Zealand are of the race *rogersii* (Barter 1992).

The late report of a Grey-rumped Sandpiper recovered in 1994 near Shanghai was our first movement for this species, although there is a previous record of an Australian-ringed bird from Hong Kong (Melville 1990). The Great Reed Warbler record is the fourth Japanese bird controlled in the Territory - four Hong Kong-ringed Great Warblers also have been controlled in Japan. Great Reed

Warbler breeds throughout most of Japan, except the far north of Hokkaido and the far south of Kyushu (Brazil 1991).

The large-scale marking of shorebirds with leg-flags in Australia continues to result in sightings in Hong Kong, there being 11 reported during the year (table 3). A selection of the more interesting between-season recaptures of known migrants is given in table 4. Longevity records for a number of 'resident' species are given in table 5.

Data from our ongoing studies continue to make contributions to conservation as well as other scientific studies. Information on shorebird migration resulting from ringing studies made an important contribution towards the case for declaring Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay as a 'Wetland of International Importance' under the Ramsar Convention in September 1995. Our capture/recapture data are now being used by the Department of Statistics, University of Hong Kong, for the development of new population modelling techniques. Worldwide there is increasing interest in the use of blood samples for DNA studies and this year 17 samples from 14 species have been collected for researchers overseas.

In an attempt to determine whether Swinhoe's Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma monorhis* occurs in Hong Kong, four night-time tape luring sessions were undertaken at Cape D'Aguilar between July and September, but without success.

I wish to thank the Ringing and Migration Committee of the British Trust for Ornithology for permission to use their rings in Hong Kong. Trapping is carried out under permits issued by the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries. Ringing at KARC is conducted with kind permission of the University of Hong Kong, and we thank the Kadoorie Botanic Garden and Farm for permission to work on their land. I am grateful to fellow ringers David Carthy, Cheung Ho Fai, Paul Leader, Mike Leven, Fox Wong, Yu Yat Tung and Peter Kennerley. Many others assisted with ringing during the course of the year and I thank them all, especially Liz Leven, Vicky Melville and Lew Young. A great debt of gratitude is owed to Mike and Liz Leven for computerising the ringing records, and to David Carthy for identifying and correcting errors in the database. Geoff Carey kindly collated the leg flag records.

Bird ringing in Hong Kong is a WWF Hong Kong project made possible through the generous sponsorship of the Rotary Club of Hong Kong South. We are most grateful for their support.

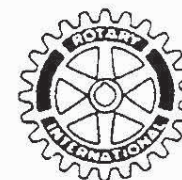


Table 1. Birds ringed in Hong Kong 1966-1995

species	MAPS*	1975-1994	1995	total
Little Grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		1		1
Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		1		1
Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>		1		1
Yellow Bittern <i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>	15	79	1	95
Schrenck's Bittern <i>Ixobrychus eurhythmus</i>		2		2
Chestnut Bittern <i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i>	1	3		4
Night Heron <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		6		6
Little Green Heron <i>Butorides striatus</i>		9	2	11
Chinese Pond Heron <i>Ardeola bacchus</i>		96	3	99
Cattle Egret <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>		2		2
Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>		6		6
Falcated Teal <i>Anas falcata</i>		1		1
Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i>			2	2
Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>		36	6	42
Yellow-nib Duck <i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>		3		3
Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>		2		2
Garganey <i>Anas querquedula</i>		8	1	9
Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i>		1	1	2
Black Kite <i>Milvus migrans</i>		40		40
Japanese Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter gularis</i>	1	24		25
Besra <i>Accipiter virgatus</i>		16	2	18
Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter nisus</i>		1		1
Chinese Goshawk <i>Accipiter soloensis</i>		1		1
Imperial Eagle <i>Aquila heliaca</i>	**1			1
Bonelli's Eagle <i>Hieraetus fasciatus</i>		1		1
Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	**4	2		6
Hobby <i>Falco subbuteo</i>		2		2
Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i>		1		1
Chinese Francolin <i>Francolinus pintadeanus</i>	**7			7
Japanese Quail <i>Coturnix japonica</i>	**2	1		3
Yellow-legged Button Quail <i>Turnix tanki</i>	**1	1		2
Barred Button Quail <i>Turnix suscitator</i>	1	2		3
Slaty-legged Crane <i>Rallus eurizonoides</i>		2		2
Banded Rail <i>Rallus striatus</i>		1		1
Baillon's Crane <i>Porzana pusilla</i>	1			1
White-breasted W'hen <i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	1	22	2	25
Moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		7		7
Watercock <i>Gallicrex cinerea</i>		1		1
Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>		5		5
Painted Snipe <i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>		10	13	23
Black-winged Stilt <i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		1		1
Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>		10	2	12

Table 1 (cont.). Birds ringed in Hong Kong 1966-1995

species	MAPS*	1975-1994	1995	total
Oriental Pratincole <i>Glareola maldivarum</i>		3		3
Little Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius dubius</i>		9		9
Kentish Plover <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>		45		45
Lesser Sand Plover <i>Charadrius mongolus</i>		68	1	69
Greater Sand Plover <i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>		268	13	281
Asiatic Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis fulva</i>		111	8	119
Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		84	3	87
Great Knot <i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>		95		95
Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>		105	2	107
Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i>		1		1
Red-necked Stint <i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	6	206	1	213
Temminck's Stint <i>Calidris temminckii</i>		1		1
Long-toed Stint <i>Calidris subminuta</i>		31		31
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper <i>Calidris acuminata</i>		46		46
Pectoral Sandpiper <i>Calidris melanotos</i>		1		1
Curlew Sandpiper <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	1	1096	15	1112
Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>		392	8	400
Spoon-billed Sand. <i>Eurynorhynchus pygmaeus</i>		3		3
Broad-billed Sandpiper <i>Limicola falcinellus</i>		117		117
Ruff <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>		3		3
Fantail Snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	1	119		120
Pintail Snipe <i>Gallinago stenura</i>		21		21
Swinhoe's Snipe <i>Gallinago megala</i>		13		13
Asiatic Dowitcher <i>Limnodromus semipalmatus</i>		27	1	28
Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>		63	1	64
Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>		82	1	83
Whimbrel <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>		454	5	459
Curlew <i>Numenius arquatus</i>		29		29
Australian Curlew <i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>		2		2
Spotted Redshank <i>Tringa erythropus</i>		18		18
Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>		1519	24	1543
Marsh Sandpiper <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>		112		112
Greenshank <i>Tringa nebularia</i>		64		64
Nordmann's Greenshank <i>Tringa guttifer</i>		2		2
Green Sandpiper <i>Tringa ochropus</i>		1	1	2
Wood Sandpiper <i>Tringa glareola</i>		204		204
Terek Sandpiper <i>Xenus cinereus</i>		576	10	586
Common Sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	4	145	1	150
Grey-rumped Sandpiper <i>Heteroscelus brevipes</i>		71		71
Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>		36		36
Grey Phalarope <i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>		1		1
Red-necked Phalarope <i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>		12		12

Table 1 (cont.). Birds ringed in Hong Kong 1966-1995

species	MAPS*	1975-1994	1995	total
Black-headed Gull <i>Larus ridibundus</i>		1		1
Black-naped Tern <i>Sterna sumatrana</i>		11		11
Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i>		6		6
Rufous Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>		46	3	49
Spotted Dove <i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	2	212	10	224
Emerald Dove <i>Chalcophaps indica</i>		16	2	18
Rose-ringed Parakeet <i>Psittacula krameri</i>	1			1
Budgerigar <i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>		4		4
Red-winged Cr. Cuckoo <i>Cacomantis coromandelianus</i>		3		3
Plaintive Cuckoo <i>Cacomantis merulinus</i>		10	5	15
Oriental Cuckoo <i>Cuculus saturatus</i>		2		2
Koel <i>Eudynamis scolopacea</i>		10	4	14
Greater Coucal <i>Centropus sinensis</i>		12	1	13
Lesser Coucal <i>Centropus benghalensis</i>	2	3	1	6
Grass Owl <i>Tyto capensis</i>			1	1
Collared Scops Owl <i>Otus bakkamoena</i>		1		1
Oriental Scops Owl <i>Otus (scops) sunia</i>	2	1		3
Barred Owlet <i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i>		**2		2
Short-eared Owl <i>Asio flammeus</i>	**2	1		3
Pacific Swift <i>Apus pacificus</i>		18		18
House Swift <i>Apus affinis</i>		47		62
White-breasted Kingfisher <i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	24	67	3	94
Black-capped Kingfisher <i>Halcyon pileata</i>	5	46	6	57
Common Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	104	984	47	1135
Pied Kingfisher <i>Ceryle rudis</i>		5		5
Hoopoe <i>Upupa epops</i>		1		1
Great Barbet <i>Megalaima virens</i>		2		2
Wryneck <i>Jynx torquilla</i>	21	32	2	55
Chinese Pitta <i>Pitta brachyura</i>		1		1
Oriental Skylark <i>Alauda gulgula</i>		3		3
Sand Martin <i>Riparia riparia</i>	1			1
Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	11	270	11	292
Asian House Martin <i>Delichon dasypus</i>		26		26
Richard's Pipit <i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>	13	9		22
Olive-backed Pipit <i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	86	74	8	168
Pechora Pipit <i>Anthus gustavi</i>		3		3
Red-throated Pipit <i>Anthus cervinus</i>		1		1
Forest Wagtail <i>Dendronanthus indicus</i>		2		2
Yellow Wagtail <i>Motacilla flava</i>		74		74
Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	6	5		11
White Wagtail <i>Motacilla alba</i>	18	495	1	514

Table 1 (cont.). Birds ringed in Hong Kong 1966-1995

species	MAPS*	1975-1994	1995	total
Black-winged Cuckoo Shrike <i>Coracina melaschistos</i>			1	1
Ashy Minivet <i>Pericrocotus divaricatus</i>		2		2
Collared Finchbill <i>Spizixos semitorques</i>		2		2
Crested Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	80	1674	214	1968
Chinese Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus sinensis</i>	895	2789	209	3893
Brown-breasted Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus xanthorrhous</i>		1		1
Red-vented Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus aurigaster</i>	95	25	2	122
Chestnut Bulbul <i>Hypsipetes castanonotus</i>	2			2
Black Bulbul <i>Hypsipetes madagascariensis</i>	1			1
White-tailed Robin <i>Cinclidium leucurum</i>		1		1
Red-tailed Robin <i>Luscinia sibilans</i>	6	75	37	118
Rubythroat <i>Luscinia calliope</i>	95	242	31	368
Bluethroat <i>Luscinia svecica</i>	9	33	2	44
Siberian Blue Robin <i>Luscinia cyane</i>		7	3	10
Red-flanked Bluetail <i>Tarsiger cyanurus</i>	30	321	100	451
Daurian Redstart <i>Phoenicurus auroreus</i>	16	17	2	35
Magpie Robin <i>Copsychus saularis</i>	2	84	16	102
Stonechat <i>Saxicola torquata</i>	48	91	2	141
Grey Bushchat <i>Saxicola ferrea</i>	1	2	1	4
Pied Bushchat <i>Saxicola caprata</i>		1		1
White-throated Rock Thrush <i>Monticola gularis</i>		1		1
Violet Whistling Thrush <i>Myiophonus caeruleus</i>	11	18	1	30
Orange-headed Ground Thrush <i>Zoothera citrina</i>		1		1
Siberian Thrush <i>Zoothera sibirica</i>		3		3
White's Thrush <i>Zoothera dauma</i>	2	7	2	11
Grey Thrush <i>Turdus cardis</i>	53	43	12	108
Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i>	1	10		11
Brown Thrush <i>Turdus chrysolaus</i>	1	1		2
Grey-backed Thrush <i>Turdus hortulorum</i>	209	241	46	496
Pale Thrush <i>Turdus pallidus</i>	15	6	3	24
Eye-browed Thrush <i>Turdus obscurus</i>		24	2	26
Dusky Thrush <i>Turdus naumanni</i>	3		1	4
Short-tailed Bush Warbler <i>Cettia squameiceps</i>	1	24	5	30
Chinese Bush Warbler <i>Cettia diphone</i>	19	384	44	447
Mountain Bush Warbler <i>Cettia fortipes</i>		25	7	32
Yellow-bellied Bush Warbler <i>C. acanthizoides</i>		2		2
Pale-footed Bush Warbler <i>Cettia pallidipes</i>		6		6
Russet Bush Warbler <i>Bradypterus seebohmii</i>		5	1	6
Brown Bush Warbler <i>Bradypterus luteoventris</i>		2	1	3
Fantail Warbler <i>Cisticola juncidis</i>		26	2	28
Bright-capped Cisticola <i>Cisticola exilis</i>		5		5

Table 1 (cont.). Birds ringed in Hong Kong 1966-1995

species	MAPS*	1975-1994	1995	total
Plain Prinia <i>Prinia inornata</i>	12	713	28	753
Yellow-bellied Prinia <i>Prinia flaviventris</i>	39	1276	67	1382
Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella certhiola</i>	5	43	1	49
Middendorff's G. Warbler <i>Locustella ochotensis</i>		1	2	3
Styan's Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella pleskei</i>	8	21		29
Lanceolated Warbler <i>Locustella lanceolata</i>		6	1	7
Black-browed Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus bistrigiceps</i>	21	410	29	460
Manchurian Reed Warbler <i>A. tangorum</i>			4	4
Blunt-winged Warbler <i>Acrocephalus concinens</i>		1		1
Great Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	251	2048	79	2378
Paddyfield Warbler <i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>		1		1
Blyth's Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>		4		4
Thick-billed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus aedon</i>		15	3	18
Yellow-eyed Flycatcher Warbler <i>Seicercus burkii</i>		5		5
Large Grass Warbler <i>Graminicola bengalensis</i>		3		3
Long-tailed Tailorbird <i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	11	264	25	300
Blyth's Leaf Warbler <i>Phylloscopus reguloides</i>		1		1
Eastern Crowned Warbler <i>Phylloscopus coronatus</i>		12		12
Pale-legged Leaf Warbler <i>Phylloscopus tenellipes</i>		70	16	86
Arctic Warbler <i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>	12	209	27	248
Pallas's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	5	97	25	127
Yellow-browed Warbler <i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	19	266	50	335
Radde's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i>		11	3	14
Dusky Warbler <i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>	104	1478	113	1695
Yellow-streaked Warbler <i>Phylloscopus armandii</i>		3		3
Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		3		3
Two-barred Greenish Warbler <i>P. plumbeitarsus</i>		9		9
Hainan Blue Flycatcher <i>Cyornis hainana</i>		2		2
Blue and White Flycatcher <i>Cyanoptila cyanomelana</i>		8	3	11
Verditer Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa thalassina</i>			1	1
Grey-streaked Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa griseisticta</i>		2		2
Brown Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa latirostris</i>	6	39	7	52
Red-breasted Flycatcher <i>Ficedula parva</i>	1	16	3	20
Mugimaki Flycatcher <i>Ficedula mugimaki</i>		63	15	78
Yellow-rumped Flycatcher <i>Ficedula zanthopygia</i>	2	83	3	88
Narcissus Flycatcher <i>Ficedula narcissina</i>		1		1
Grey-headed Flycatcher <i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>	1			1
Asian Paradise Flycatcher <i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>		3	1	4
Japanese Paradise Flycatcher <i>T. atrocaudata</i>		6	1	7
Black-naped Monarch <i>Hypothymis azurea</i>	1	6	1	8

Table 1 (cont.). Birds ringed in Hong Kong 1966-1995

species	MAPS*	1975-1994	1995	total
Rufous-capped Babbler <i>Stachyris ruficeps</i>		1		1
Greater-necklaced L. Thrush <i>Garrulax pectoralis</i>		31	8	39
Black-throated L. Thrush <i>Garrulax chinensis</i>	2			2
Hwamei <i>Garrulax canorus</i>	**7	116	9	132
White-cheeked L. Thrush <i>Garrulax sannio</i>			2	2
Black-faced L. Thrush <i>Garrulax perspicillatus</i>	18	23	1	42
Red-winged L. Thrush <i>Garrulax formosus</i>		1		1
Pekin Robin <i>Leiothrix lutea</i>	**9	129	8	146
Silver-eared Mesia <i>Leiothrix argenteauris</i>		70	7	77
Vinous-throated Parrotbill <i>Paradoxornis webbiana</i>		1		1
Black-headed Sibia <i>Heterophasia melanoleuca</i>		1		1
Red-headed Tit <i>Aegithalos concinnus</i>		1		1
Yellow-cheeked Tit <i>Parus spilonotus</i>		1		1
Great Tit <i>Parus major</i>	34	94	14	142
Penduline Tit <i>Remiz pendulinus</i>		202	29	231
Fork-tailed Sunbird <i>Aethopyga christinae</i>	1	51	15	67
Fire-breasted Flowerpecker <i>Dicaeum ignipectus</i>		13	11	24
Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker <i>D. cruentatum</i>		5		5
Plain Flowerpecker <i>Dicaeum concolor</i>			2	2
Chestnut-flanked White-eye <i>Zosterops erythropleura</i>		16	5	21
White-eye <i>Zosterops japonica</i>	217	5190	731	6138
Black-naped Oriole <i>Oriolus chinensis</i>		2		2
Tiger Shrike <i>Lanius tigrinus</i>		2		2
(Bull-headed Shrike <i>Lanius bucephalus</i> ***)	1			1
Brown Shrike <i>Lanius cristatus</i>	6	25	4	35
Rufous-backed Shrike <i>Lanius schach</i>	39	53	5	97
Black Drongo <i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>		7		7
Hair-crested Drongo <i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>	1	6	1	8
Jay <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		1		1
Blue Magpie <i>Urocissa erythrorhyncha</i>	4	7		11
Magpie <i>Pica pica</i>	**2	2		4
Silky Starling <i>Sturnus sericeus</i>		33	1	34
Purple-backed Starling <i>Sturnus sturninus</i>		1		1
Chinese Starling <i>Sturnus sinensis</i>	2	13		15
Grey Starling <i>Sturnus cineraceus</i>		1		1
Black-necked Starling <i>Sturnus nigricollis</i>		22	1	23
Crested Mynah <i>Acridotheres cristatellus</i>	2	16	1	19
White-vented Mynah <i>Acridotheres javanicus</i>		2		2
Ruddy Sparrow <i>Passer rutilans</i>		2		2
Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>	**92	559	4	655
Baya Weaver <i>Ploceus philippinus</i>		8	3	11

Table 1 (cont.). Birds ringed in Hong Kong 1966-1995

species	MAPS*	1975-1994	1995	total
White-backed Munia <i>Lonchura striata</i>		44	27	71
Spotted Munia <i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	34	717	10	761
Chestnut Munia <i>Lonchura malacca</i>	1	5		6
White-headed Munia <i>Lonchura maja</i>		1		1
Red Avadavat <i>Amandava amandava</i>	5	9		14
Yellow-fronted Canary <i>Serinus mozambicus</i>		9		9
Chinese Greenfinch <i>Carduelis sinica</i>	1			1
Siskin <i>Carduelis spinus</i>		1		1
Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		1		1
Common Rosefinch <i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	12	9		21
Black-tailed Hawfinch <i>Coccothraustes migratorius</i>	9			9
Black-faced Bunting <i>Emberiza spodocephala</i>	219	1097	71	1387
Japanese Yellow Bunting <i>Emberiza sulphurata</i>		6		6
Grey-headed Bunting <i>Emberiza fucata</i>	1	4		5
Yellow-browed Bunting <i>Emberiza chrysophrys</i>		2		2
Tristram's Bunting <i>Emberiza tristrami</i>	4	43	6	53
Little Bunting <i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	2	233	22	257
Chestnut Bunting <i>Emberiza rutila</i>		136	14	150
Yellow-breasted Bunting <i>Emberiza aureola</i>	28	40	6	74
Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>		7		7
Pallas's Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza pallasi</i>		1	1	2
Japanese Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza yessoensis</i>		1		1
Black-headed Bunting <i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>			1	1
Crested Bunting <i>Melophus lathami</i>		2	1	3
Total	3191	31,646	2526	37,363

* The Migratory Animals Pathological Survey (MAPS) programme ran from 1964 to 1971. Ringing was carried out in Hong Kong between 1965 and 1968. Details of MAPS birds are from McClure and Leelavit (1972) and from F.O.P. Hechtel's records. In the few cases where a discrepancy exists, the higher figure has been taken.

** Some or all of these birds released from captivity by the ringer.

*** The identification of all pre-1986 records of Bull-headed Shrike has been questioned by Chalmers (1986).

Table 2. Overseas movements of ringed birds during 1995

Knot *Calidris canutus*

XR81219 ringed: 9 September 1991, Mai Po, HK
 controlled: 11 September 1994, Broome, Western Australia
 distance: 4588km south

Grey-rumped Sandpiper *Heteroscelus brevipes*

XR62180 ringed: 3 October 1990, Mai Po, HK
 recovered: 10 April 1994, Chongming Island, Shanghai, China
 distance: 1165km northeast

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

3A95380 ringed: 29 May 1993, Mitsukaido, Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan
 controlled: 22 April 1995, Mai Po, HK
 distance: 2880km southwest

Table 3. Sightings during 1995 and autumn 1994 of waders marked in Australia with leg flags

Greater Sandplover *Charadrius leschenaultii*

yellow: 1 April (1)

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

yellow: 1 April (1)

orange: 21 April (1), 6 May (1)

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

yellow: 17 April (1)

orange: 1 April (1), 20 April (1), 6 May (2)

red*: 21 August 1994 (1)

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*

yellow: 18 September 1994 (1)

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

red: 29 April (1)

All birds were seen at Mai Po. There have been a number of sightings of birds reported to be carrying 'red' flags. No birds have been marked with red flags in Australia and none are known to have been so marked elsewhere on the flyway. Currently, all records of 'red' flags are being treated as orange by the Australasian Wader Studies Group (M. Barter *in litt.*).

* These records were submitted too late for inclusion in the 1994 report. They are the only records of colour flagged birds seen in autumn in Hong Kong.

Birds marked with yellow flags originate from northwest Australia, those with orange (red) flags originate from Victoria.

Table 4. Selected recaptures of known migrants in 1995*

Rubythroat *Luscinia calliope*

There were three recaptures, the oldest being:

VJ79781 ringed : 21 March 1992
 recaptured : 22 January 1995 (34 months, c.f. 25 months)

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

H367430 ringed : 24 November 1991
 recaptured : 4 April, 19 April 1992; 14 March 1993; 18 March 1995 (40 months, c.f. 26 months)

Grey-backed Thrush *Turdus hortulorum*

RS31808 ringed : 1 December 1991
 recaptured : 7 January 1995, KARC (37 months, c.f. 13 months)

Chinese Bush Warbler *Cettia diphone*

There were five recaptures, of which the oldest was:

H501573 ringed : 21 November 1992
 recaptured : 28 November 1992; 8 December 1993; 20 March, 17 December, 30 December 1994; 29 January, 4 February, 12 February 1995, KARC (27 months, c.f. 31 months)

Styan's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella pleskei*

J161911 ringed : 26 November 1994
 recaptured : 5 November 1995

This is the second record of between-season recapture for this species, for which Mai Po remains the only known wintering area.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

VK09465 ringed : 25 April 1993
 recaptured : 22 April 1995
 ringed : 27 February 1993
 recaptured : 22 October 1995

The similarity of dates for these two recaptures is noteworthy.

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

There were six recaptures, of which the oldest was:

3F2574 ringed : 1 January 1992
 recaptured : 1 January, 22 January 1994; 7 January 1995, KARC (36 months)

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

8S8796 ringed : 22 January 1994
 recaptured : 23 December 1995

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

There were 11 recaptures, the oldest two being:

8T4047 ringed : 14 November 1990
 recaptured : 6 February 1994; 17 April 1995 (53 months, c.f. 35 months)
 ringed : 1 December 1990
 recaptured : 8 December, 15 December 1990; 2 February, 2 March, 2 November, 9 November 1991; 19 January 1995

The reappearance of this bird after a gap of three years is interesting.

Black-faced Bunting *Emberiza spodocephala*

There were 16 recaptures of which the three oldest were:

H043084 ringed : 7 November 1991
 recaptured : 16 March, 21 November 1992; 21 November 1993; 14 January, 22 December 1995, KARC (50 months, c.f. 61 months)
 ringed : 23 March 1991
 recaptured : 12 March 1995
 ringed : 23 March 1991
 recaptured : 22 January 1995

* All records refer to Mai Po unless otherwise indicated. The interval between recaptures is given, compared with details of the longest surviving bird recorded in East/Southeast Asia during the MAPS programme (McClure 1984).

Table 5. Longevity records for some 'resident' Hong Kong birds

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

ER12061 ringed: 26 December 1991
 recaptured: 4 February 1995 (37 months, c.f. 80 months)

House Swift *Apus affinis*

SB64229 ringed: 12 February 1993
 recaptured: 3 March 1995 (25 months, c.f. 26 months)
 ringed: 12 February 1993
 recaptured: 3 March 1995 (25 months, c.f. 26 months)

Black-capped Kingfisher *Halcyon pileata*

DK65107 ringed: 29 October 1994
 recaptured: 16 December 1995 (14 months, c.f. 78 months)

Chinese Bulbul *Pycnonotus sinensis*

RX79398 ringed: 3 October 1987
 recaptured: 12 March 1995 (89 months, c.f. 26 months).

There is one other Hong Kong record of a bird surviving for 89 months (Melville 1994).

Crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*

RS04209 ringed: 9 December 1990
 recaptured: 11 November 1995 (59 months, c.f. 59 months)

Violet Whistling Thrush *Myiophonus caeruleus*

DA74753 ringed: 16 April 1993
 recaptured: 12 February 1995 (22 months, c.f. 12 months)

Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata*

6N3543 ringed: 26 December 1987
 recaptured: 16 December 1995 (96 months, c.f. 12 months)

Long-tailed Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*

7F0184 ringed: 2 October 1992
 recaptured: 17 November 1995 (38 months, c.f. 37 months)

* This table only includes those species not noted in previous reports or those where previous longevity records have been exceeded. Hong Kong data are compared with the longest surviving bird recorded in East/Southeast Asia during MAPS programme (McClure 1984).

本文介紹1994-95年度內，冬季的每月水禽調查的結果，表一是有關的撮要；表二顯示一月份調查所得的詳細資料。一月，於后海灣共錄得水禽六十五個品種，合共62,357隻，即使扣除從首次調查的南生圍地區所獲得的數量，總數為60,568，仍是一個歷來最高的紀錄（比1994年一月錄得的53,692多出876，亦即是1.5%的增幅）。此外，船灣方面錄得十一種，243隻；沙頭角海則有五個品種，370隻。翹鼻麻鴨、赤頸鴨、反咀鵝、鶴鵝和紅咀鵝的數目都是歷來最多的一次。若將十二月至二月間，在后海灣每個品種的最多的數量加起，則總數最大為65,990，比一月份的統計數字高出5.8%。

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BIRDS NEW TO HONG KONG

BROWN BOOBY: THE FIRST RECORD FOR HONG KONG

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At 0650h on 28 May 1995, while we were seawatching from the viewing rocks at Cape D'Aguilar, JNP found a Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster* which was flying southwest at a range of about 400 metres directly in line with Waglan Island. We both had good views of the bird through telescopes for the next few minutes as it continued to work its way southwest in a series of short flights interspersed with plunge-dives and brief periods of sitting on the sea. It remained at the same range throughout and was eventually lost to view behind the Kau Pei Chau islands which lie closer to the viewing rocks.

Light conditions were reasonably good on a generally overcast morning with a few dark, threatening clouds and the sun occasionally breaking through. The wind was moderate easterly, force 3-4, as had been forecast. Until the discovery of the booby, birding had been rather uneventful, the only migrants noted being three distant terns *Sterna* sp., three Pacific Swifts *Apus pacificus* and a single Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*. The description that follows is based on notes RWL dictated into a micro-cassette recorder during and shortly after the period of observation.

Structure It was a rather sturdy, heavy-looking Gannet-like bird, with a thick neck and an elongated body that was broadest around the breast. The head and neck projected well forward of the wings and carried a long, conical bill that tapered evenly to a pointed tip. The tail was long and appeared pointed when closed and wedge-shaped when spread. The wings were long, narrow and pointed. No other bird was present for direct comparison, but it was clearly within the expected size range of the species.

Upperparts The entire upperparts were uniformly chocolate brown and lacked any spotting, spangling or other areas of contrast.

Underparts The throat, neck and breast were uniform chocolate brown, the same as the upperparts. The breast was sharply demarcated from the belly, which was white and completely unmarked with no sign of sully. The white coloration extended to the undertail coverts and also through the axillaries and across the centre of the underwing in a broad, clear-cut, V-shaped band. This underwing band was bordered by dark secondaries and a dark margin on the forewing and did not reach the outerwing. The undertail was dark.

Bare parts The bill appeared to be very pale, almost whitish. An area of pale skin extended from the bill, around the eyes and onto the forehead where it was sharply demarcated from the feathering of the forecrown. At 400 metres the irides appeared

dark. The colour of the legs and feet was not noted, except that there was no obvious contrast with the white undertail coverts.

Behaviour The bird plunge-dived and also sat on the sea. When plunge-diving it dropped almost vertically from a height of about five metres, head-first into the sea with wings stretched back in a manner very reminiscent of Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*.



1 Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*

Jeremy Pearse

Identification on these views was straightforward. The size, behaviour and bill profile all indicated that the bird was a member of the Sulidae (gannets and boobies), while the uniformly dark brown head, neck and upperparts terminating in a clear-cut division at the junction with the white of the underparts is diagnostic of Brown Booby (Harrison 1987). The only other sulid showing unmarked brown upperparts with a white belly and underwing is Masked Booby *S. dactylatra* in juvenile plumage. This can be eliminated since it shows the following features, none of which were present on the Cape D'Aguilar bird: a white hindcollar, blackish-brown flight feathers contrasting with sandy-brown upperwing coverts, underwing coverts mostly white except for a dark band running from the carpal joint towards the axillaries, and dark undertail coverts (Harrison 1985, 1987). Also eliminated (on head pattern) was the distinctive eastern Pacific race of Brown Booby *S.l. brewsteri*, which shows a contrastingly pale grey to white head (Harrison 1985).

Ageing criteria for Brown Booby are given in Lewington *et al.* (1991). Juveniles have the pale areas sullied with brown and the bill and facial skin grey; transitional plumages between juvenile and adult can be seen during the approximately one and a half years that it takes to reach adult plumage. Similar differences between juvenile, immature and adult plumages are described in Harrison (1985), while a photograph of a juvenile in Harrison (1987) shows how obvious the sullying of the white underbody can be. The Cape D'Aguilar bird did not show any sullying of the underbody or grey tones on the bill, nor any other obvious signs of immaturity and so was an adult.

Brown Booby is known to disperse locally but not to be a long distance migrant (Cramp & Simmons 1977). It has a pantropical distribution with four races occurring: nominate *leucogaster* in the tropical Atlantic, *brewsteri* in the eastern Pacific, *etesiacae* also in the eastern Pacific, but with a more southerly distribution, and *plotus* with an extensive distribution from the Red Sea to the western Pacific (Harrison 1985). In Chinese waters, La Touche (1929-35) noted *plotus* as breeding on the Paracel Islands (Xisha), which lie off the coast of Hainan approximately 600km SSW of Hong Kong. La Touche considered it to occur in winter as far north as Shanghai, though very few examples had been obtained from the coast. De Schauensee (1984), presumably following La Touche, and Cheng (1987) likewise considered *plotus* to breed on the Paracel Islands and to be rare in winter along the coast from Hainan to Shanghai. Cheng also indicated *plotus* breeds on Lanyu Islet, which lies off the southern tip of Taiwan about 780km east of Hong Kong. While its current status on the Paracel Islands is unknown, it is still encountered in Taiwanese waters, more frequently to the north and northeast (Wang *et al.* 1991). In Japan, *plotus* breeds on several islands and is considered locally common, the closest site being Nakanogan-jima, almost the westernmost of the Ryukyu Islands (Nansei Shoto), about 950km east of Hong Kong, with an annual breeding population of 200-500 birds (Brazil 1991). Not surprisingly, then, Brown Booby had long been expected to turn up in Hong Kong waters, with *plotus* the only race likely to occur.

1995年5月28日，在鶴咀看到一隻褐鰹鳥 *Sula leucogaster*。這個品種有明的特徵：頭部、頸和上體是一致的深褐色，下體是截然不同的白色，其間的界限分明。褐鰹鳥有分散活動的紀錄，但不是長途遷徙的雀鳥。按文件紀載，紀錄雖然少，冬季最北曾在上海出現。就香港而言，已是期待已久的了。

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BLACK REDSTART ON PING CHAU: THE FIRST RECORD FOR HONG KONG

Jukka Jantunen

On 23 April 1995 I took the boat on a hot and sunny day to Ping Chau intending to look for migrants. Although the weather conditions were not promising, I was rewarded with the discovery of a first-summer male Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* at Ping Chau camp. The bird was fairly shy and rarely allowed approach closer than 10-15m; however, when I stood motionless beside its favoured feeding area, it once came down to six metres. I managed to take photographs, one of which is reproduced in plate 2. I watched the bird for almost an hour in the afternoon using 7x42 binoculars in good light and took the following description.

Size, structure and general appearance In size and structure very like Common (European) Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*. Apart from the lack of a pale wing panel, the general appearance was very similar to that of Black Redstart of the form *semitufus* which I have previously seen in Turkey.

Head Crown and neck greyish-black. Upper forehead silvery-grey continuing around above and just behind the eye. Rest of the head (cheeks, chin, throat, neck sides, loreal area and narrow lower forehead) black.

Upperparts Mantle and scapulars blackish-grey with a very slight bluish hue visible only in direct sunlight; when in the shade at a distance of more than 15 metres, appeared black. Tail brick red with dark brownish central tail feathers.

Wings Both lesser and median coverts same colour as the mantle. Greater coverts, tertials and remiges brown and worn indicating the bird was in its second calendar-year. The tips of the greater coverts were pale buffish. In some of my photographs there is a poorly-marked pale wing panel on the primaries but I did not notice this in the field. There was no paler area on the secondaries as is visible on the form *semitufus*, nor any white wing patch.

Underparts The upper breast was black; the rest of the underparts were brick red with a sharp demarcation between breast and belly.

Bare parts The bill was black; the legs and feet were greyish-black; the eyes were dark, probably blackish.

Behaviour Most of the time it spent feeding alongside the buildings of Ping Chau camp where it favoured perching on the roofs and a nearby concrete watercourse. Occasionally it flycatched but mostly it fed on the ground. It stood in a fairly upright position and shivered its tail in a distinctive manner.

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2 Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* first-summer male
Ping Chau, Hong Kong, 23 April 1995

Jukka Jantunen

Cheng (1987) states that three forms occur in China: *P.o. phoenicuroides* in extreme northwest China and western Xizang; *P.o. xerophilus* in the western parts of the Kunlun and Qilian Mountains in Xinjiang; and *P.o. rufiventris* in the rest of its range, which extends east across north China to central Inner Mongolia and northern Shanxi province, and from there southwest through southern Shaanxi, northern Sichuan and northern Yunnan. Stragglers are noted in Hebei, Shandong, Guizhou and Hainan provinces. Recent observations on the Hebei coast, however, have produced five spring records since 1985 (G.J. Carey *in litt.*), perhaps indicating that it is something more than a straggler to this part of China. The possibility exists that it breeds in small numbers in the mountains north of there.

A typical male *rufiventris* is characterised by largely black upperparts and rather deep rufous underparts. The uniform darkness of the upperparts and wing coverts of the Ping Chau bird fit this form and rule out *phoenicuroides*, which is generally paler and smaller. The literature is unclear as to the appearance of *xerophilus* and there is even uncertainty over its status as a subspecies (e.g. Cramp 1988). However, based on range and the fact that the literature indicates that in appearance *xerophilus* is likely to be intermediate between *rufiventris* and *phoenicuroides*, it seems highly likely that the bird seen on Ping Chau was of the form *rufiventris*.

With the provision of photographs, acceptance of this species by the Records Committee on to the Hong Kong list was straightforward. Due to its being a known long-distance migrant, wintering in the southern parts of its range and further south to India (de Schauensee 1984), it was accepted onto Category A.

在 1995 年四月廿三日，在平洲發現了一隻赭紅尾鶉 *Phoenicurus ochruros* 的 *rufiventris* 亞種。該鳥顯得格外小心，不過，最後還是靠近到可以給牠拍照。這個品種生活的範圍從中國西北，向東越過華北、內蒙中部，及山西省的東北部，並由此向西南擴展，經陝西省南部與四川省北部，到雲南省北部止。河北、山東、貴州及海南等省也曾有零星的紀錄，而河北省沿岸，近年更有穩定的紀錄。既然有照片作証，香港觀鳥會紀錄委員會隨即接納了是項紀錄，並由於該品種曾有長途遷徙的紀錄（遠至在印度越冬），所以載入於香港鳥類名錄 A 類。

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MANCHURIAN REED WARBLER: THE FIRST RECORDS FOR HONG KONG

Paul J. Leader and Richard W. Lewthwaite

On 7 January 1995 RWL was walking along the broad gravel track adjacent to Pond 24 near the southern end of Mai Po Nature Reserve (NR) when he heard a series of double *grik-grik* or *drik-drik* calls being uttered from a tall stand of phragmites growing at the edge of the fish pond. He started pishing and, over the next 5-10 minutes, in fading light, obtained tantalising and frustrating views of a small *Acrocephalus* warbler. The following details were noted.

A small *Acrocephalus* warbler, similar in size to Black-browed Reed Warbler *A. bistrigiceps*. The supercilium was distinctly pointed at the rear, and the lateral crown stripes, although blackish, were indistinct, unlike the square ended supercilium and distinct crown stripes of Black-browed Reed Warbler. The throat was white and neatly demarcated from a buffy breast. The flanks and undertail coverts were also buffy. The legs were orange-brown, the upper mandible dark, and the lower dull orange, probably with a dusky tip (although this later proved to be unmarked).

Soon after he met PJJ and, having discussed the bird, they concluded that it was probably either a Paddyfield Warbler *A. agricola* or a Manchurian Reed Warbler *A. tangorum*, and it was decided that an attempt should be made to trap it.

RWL returned with PJJ and M.R. Leven the following afternoon. A short net was erected and the bird trapped relatively easily. It was identified in the hand by PJJ as a Manchurian Reed Warbler, a species he had handled previously in China, and this was later confirmed by measurements. It remained in the same patch of phragmites until 20 January, and was seen by many observers during that time. Remarkably, during autumn 1995, no less than three more Manchurian Reed Warblers were found, all of which were subsequently trapped.

The first was on 17 September when PJJ was undertaking a regular survey of the fish ponds between the northern end of Mai Po NR and the village of Lin Barn Tsuen. It had been a day with good numbers of common migrants around the fish ponds, notably Great Reed Warblers *A. arundinaceus*. Whilst walking down an overgrown bund he flushed a small *Acrocephalus* warbler with stunning gingery-red upperparts and tail. He flushed it twice more and then left to fetch a net. He returned and trapped the bird after about 40 minutes, prior to doing so obtaining sufficient views to identify it as Manchurian Reed Warbler. It was also seen in the hand by J.A. Hackett, and later in the field by G.J. Carey, MRL and V.B. Picken. It was last seen on 20 September. The following field description was taken.

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A small *Acrocephalus* warbler, similar in size to Black-browed Reed Warbler, except for a distinctly longer tail that was almost like that of a prinia in proportions. The upperparts, including the tail, were a remarkable pale reddish-tinger. The supercilium was narrow and off-white, tapering to a point at the rear. Above the eye there was a narrow brownish border, shorter and thinner than on Black-browed Reed Warbler. The breast and flanks were sandy, and the throat white. The bill was long and broadly-based, similar to that of Blunt-winged Warbler *A. concinens*, the upper mandible being dark and the lower dull orange and unmarked. The legs were reddish-brown.

On 23 September at Long Valley, PJL was walking through an overgrown field when he flushed another remarkably warm, small *Acrocephalus* warbler, which both he and MRL (who was standing on a nearby bank) agreed was probably another Manchurian Reed Warbler, based on the long tail, size and ginger-red upperparts. Again, the bird was easily trapped and the identity confirmed in the hand.



3 Manchurian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus tangorum*
Long Valley, Hong Kong, 2 November 1995

Paul J. Leader

On 1 November, again whilst walking through an overgrown field at Long Valley, PJL flushed another interesting *acrocephalus* warbler. This bird however, was nothing like so bright as the preceding two and given the later date, the possibility that it was a Paddyfield Warbler was seriously considered. Eventually, prolonged perched views were obtained which showed an unmarked lower mandible, and a bill too bulky for Paddyfield Warbler. PJL returned the following afternoon with MRL, and trapped the bird. Measurements confirmed that it was a Manchurian Reed Warbler. It was photographed and the following field description was taken (see plate 3).

A small *Acrocephalus* warbler similar to Black-browed Reed Warbler. Upperparts slightly warmer than that species, but certainly not as bright as the two previous Manchurian Reed Warblers. The rump was slightly warmer than the rest of the upperparts. The supercilium was whitish, narrow and pointed at the rear, with a thin brown border above; the forecrown had indistinct dark mottling. The throat was white, contrasting with warmer breast and flanks. The tail was proportionately long and the wings short, recalling Blunt-winged Warbler. The primary projection was short. The legs were reddish brown. The bill was very large, being both long and broad, dispelling any thoughts of Paddyfield Warbler. The lower mandible was pale and unmarked.

Measurements and wing formula

	20 Jan	17 Sep	23 Sep	1 Nov
emarginations	3,4,5	2,4,(5)	3,4,(5)	3,4
notch on p2	13.5	12	14	12
notch on p3	12.4	10	11	10
wing	54	55	55	55
tail	57	51	51	55
tail difference	13	10	12	12
tarsus	22.5	21.8	-	22.2
bill (w)*	4.0	4.2	4.4	4.2
bill (s)	14.8	15.3	14.0	15.7
bill (f)	9.7	10.2	11.0	10.3
bill (d)*	2.9	3.1	3.4	3.1
weight (gm)	9.6	9.6	9.4	10.0
age	5	3	3	3

*measured at proximal edge of nostrils

	p1	p2	p3	p4	p5	p6	p7	p8	p9	p10
20 Jan	+2.5	-4	-0.5	wp	wp	-1	-1.5	-2.5	-5	-6
17 Sep	+2	-5	-1	wp	-1	-2.5	-5	-7	-8	-9.5
23 Sep	+2	-3.5	wp	wp	-1.5	-4	-6	-8	-9	-11
1 Nov	=pc	-5	wp	wp	-1	-2	-4	-6	-7	-9

The identification of Manchurian Reed Warbler and its congeners has been dealt with in detail by Kennerley and Leader (1992). It is only likely to be confused with Paddyfield and Black-browed Reed Warblers. Separation of Manchurian Reed Warbler from Black-browed Reed Warbler and Paddyfield Warbler is based on the following plumage features:

- brown rather than black lateral crown stripes
- narrow supercilium, tapering to a point at rear
- long tail and short wings (although similar to Paddyfield Warbler)
- large, broad-based bill
- unmarked lower mandible
- more rufous upperparts and warmer underparts
- mottling on forecrown

In terms of measurements, Black-browed Reed Warbler can easily be eliminated due to its tail/wing ratio of 0.89 ± 0.02 (Alström *et al.* 1991), as against 0.93-1.06 for the four birds in question. Separation from Paddyfield Warbler is based on bill width, with Paddyfield Warbler having a bill width less than 4mm and Manchurian Reed Warbler being greater than 4mm. The first bird was problematic in that the bill width was exactly 4mm, the tail difference was just outside the range for that of Paddyfield Warbler, the wing length was at the bottom end of the range for Paddyfield Warbler, yet the tail was in the middle of the range for that species, a combination that indicates Manchurian Reed Warbler. However identification of this individual on measurements alone is not possible.

Range and status

Manchurian Reed Warbler is still a poorly known species, with a status that has long been clouded by arguments over its true taxonomic position, and may well be globally at risk. Breeding in Heilongjiang province, China, it is known as a scarce migrant through Beidaihe, and in winter previously only from Thailand. The Mai Po bird then, is the first winter record away from Thailand, and these are the first records for southern China. It is undoubtedly very rare, but probably under-recorded, including in Hong Kong where more systematic coverage of the habitat that the autumn records occurred in may well produce more records. Given the consistent physical distinctiveness of the form in terms of bill size and plumage, *tangorum* is treated here as a full species.

The four records for 1995 were accepted by the Records Committee of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society into Category A of the Hong Kong List.

1995年1月7日，在米埔發現了一隻東北稻田葦鶯 *Acrocephalus tangorum*，被網獲和環志後，仍逗留至1月20日。同年秋季，再發現三隻，全部都環志了。這個品種在中國黑龍江省繁殖：北戴河曾有極少的過境紀錄。以往在泰國，才有冬季的紀錄，因此，一月初米埔的發現，是首次的例外；而全部四個紀錄，都是華南的第一輪紀錄。

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BROWN-CHESTED FLYCATCHER: THE FIRST RECORD FOR HONG KONG

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and Paul J. Leader

On 16 September 1995 we were looking for autumn migrants along the Kap Lung Forest Trail, Tai Lam Country Park. The first northeast monsoon of the season had already brought good numbers of migrants to the area, including Sooty Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica*, Yellow-rumped Flycatcher *Ficedula zanthopygia*, Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*, Pale-legged Leaf Warbler *P. tenellipes* and Siberian Thrush *Zoothera sibirica*. At about 0930h we were relaxing on the seat near marker post no. 14, watching a Pale-legged Leaf Warbler, when another bird landed on a horizontal branch close by whose identity was not immediately obvious. The first tentative suggestions included female Siberian Blue Robin *Luscinia cyane*, Narcissus Flycatcher *Ficedula narcissina*, Blue and White Flycatcher *Cyanoptila cyanomelana* and a species of *Niltava* *Niltava* sp. The bird was watched for about 30 minutes as it fed low down in the vegetation, in excellent morning light, at ranges down to about ten metres. After moving down into a deep gully, it re-emerged on the opposite slope, but was then lost to view.

Later that day we consulted Lekagul and Round (1991) and independently identified the bird as Brown-chested Flycatcher *Rhinomyias brunneata*; all the features tallied with published descriptions in other reference books, such as La Touche (1925-34), de Schauensee (1984) and Strange and Jeyarajasingham (1993).

The bird was seen the following day in the same area by Geoff Carey, Jim Hackett and C.Y. Lam, and by RWL and Mike Chalmers on 19th. It was only ever seen between 0915h and 1020h when the sun's rays first illuminated the slope. It was last seen on 21st September by Mike Leven. The following description is compiled from notes taken by those observers who submitted descriptions.

Size and structure Direct comparison was made with Brown *Muscicapa latirostris* and Yellow-rumped Flycatchers, and Pale-legged Leaf Warbler. The bird appeared full-bodied, longer than Hainan Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis hainana* and perhaps similar in size to a Blue and White Flycatcher. It looked large-headed, large-eyed and generally ungainly compared with the well proportioned structure of Blue and White. The bill was long and stout, parallel-edged for the basal half but sharply decurved at the tip. The wings were short (at most only five primary tips could be seen extending beyond the folded tertials) and the tail appeared rather long. At times it had a chat-like appearance.

Head The head was plain olive brown, with a slight rufous tone at some angles, and there was a well-defined pale loreal patch that was less obvious than on Brown Flycatcher. No supercilium or moustachial stripes were noted, nor any submoustachial line as shown by Brown-breasted Flycatcher *M. muttui*. The ear

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coverts were grey brown, merging into a darker grey-brown neck and breast sides. The eye ring was narrow and pale yellow or white, slightly paler than the lores, and more conspicuous behind the eye as a fine crescent. There were prominent rectal bristles.

Upperparts The overall colour of the upperparts was plain olive-brown, the mantle showing no contrast with head or nape. The remiges were dark plain brown, lacking any olive tinge, but the secondaries showed a paler panel. The tertials showed broad buffy or rusty-buff crescents at the tip and were edged rufous, and there were pale tips to the greater coverts. The rump, uppertail coverts and base of the tail were obviously more rufescent than the olive-toned mantle, and contrasted strongly with the cold brown at the distal part of the lower rectrices, which were the same colour as the remiges. In strong sunlight the rump and uppertail coverts appeared more olive, but still contrasted noticeably with the rest of the upperparts. From behind, the best features were the tertial fringes and the colour contrasts within the tail.

Underparts When the bird first appeared, it perched head on and showed a pale grey throat with indistinct dusky scaling, reminiscent of a female or immature Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus*. However, this feature was not visible when the bird was viewed from the side. There was a pure, medium brown upper breast band, lacking the olive tones of the upperparts; the breast sides, the flanks and the sides of the neck were darker. The transition from grey throat to brown upper breast and dingy cream lower breast was gradual, and there was a pinkish or orange wash in the middle of the lower breast. The belly was a dirty white colour, contrasting with clean white undertail coverts that were visible from above and behind.

Bare Parts The bill was long, and broadly-based, and disproportionate in size to the rest of the bird. The basal half of the lower mandible was pinkish-yellow or orange-yellow, contrasting strongly with the rest of the bill which was black. The legs and feet were pale orange-pink, and looked thin, weak and long. The eye was noted only as dark.

Behaviour, food items and habitat The bird was sluggish, sitting almost motionless for periods of a minute or more between aerial sallies, occasionally pumping (or possibly cocking) its tail. It also differed from other flycatchers in that it kept low in the undergrowth, and on 19th was seen over a two-minute period actually hopping on the ground, searching for food. It was seen to take fruit and grubs from the leaf litter, and on the 16th September disgorged a small pip or stone. It frequented a south-facing slope at about 420m asl where the forest comprises fairly mature secondary growth of widely-spaced, native trees and a relatively open understorey, though there are some dense tangles of low vegetation.



4 Brown-Chested Flycatcher *Rhynomyias brunneata*
Singapore, 23 October 1995

Peter Kennerley

Distribution and status

Cheng (1987) gives the breeding range as southern Jiangsu, northern Jiangxi, Zhejiang, northwestern Fujian, northern Guangdong and eastern Guangxi. Collar *et al.* (1994) class Brown-chested Flycatcher as 'Vulnerable', noting that it only breeds in southeast China, listing the same six provinces as Cheng (1987). De Schauensee

(1984) additionally records it for southern Henan. It has also been noted in southern Hunan in spring (Lewthwaite 1996). Collar *et al.* (1994), citing various references, record the species as a winter visitor to Peninsula Malaysia, a rare passage migrant and winter visitor to Thailand and Singapore, and a vagrant to Brunei (one record).

Identification

The plumage, structural and bare part features noted are consistent with published descriptions of first-winter Brown-chested Flycatcher. An adult of this species would not show the dark tip to the lower mandible or the rusty buff tips to the tertials (Lekagul and Round 1991).

The initial difficulty in identifying this bird highlighted recent problems in Hong Kong with some brown flycatchers in autumn. This prompted MH to examine a variety of species at the British Museum (Natural History), Tring. The collection included four specimens of immature Brown-chested Flycatcher, all taken in China. These skins confirmed the identification, although there were minor differences from the field description as follows. The specimens all showed more dark scaling on the whitish throat that was more extensive on first-winter birds than adults, causing the throat to appear darker. The upperparts of the specimens were brown to rufous-

brown in tone, lacking any olive, and none of the birds showed lores that were light or well-defined. Nor did any show contrasting white undertail coverts, and on two specimens the undertail coverts had a brown wash. The flanks of all specimens were off white and the legs were yellow, with a hint of orange. One immature failed to show the dark tip to the lower mandible.

A number of other flycatcher species share some of the plumage features described for the bird above. Whilst some of these species are not likely to be recorded from Hong Kong in a wild state, females of other regularly occurring species could easily be mistaken for Brown-chested Flycatcher.

Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa latirostris*. Structurally smaller and much more compact with a shorter, thinner bill, shorter tail and longer wings. The upperparts are generally paler and greyer. See Alström and Hirschfeld (1991) for a detailed discussion of this species.

Brown-breasted Flycatcher *Muscicapa muttui*. This species shows a rather long bill (slightly longer than Brown Flycatcher) with the lower mandible entirely yellowish, warm brown upperparts with rufescent edges to the flight feathers, slightly rufescent upper tail coverts, a brownish breast band, whitish lores and eye ring and a whitish throat. It therefore shows many of the features of Brown-chested Flycatcher. The best field marks to separate the two species would appear to be Brown-breasted Flycatcher's well-defined white submoustachial stripe, the rather white, well-defined lores, the fairly white throat and dark malar stripe, all combining to create a facial pattern totally different from that of Brown-chested Flycatcher, and a structure similar to Brown Flycatcher.

Niltavas *Niltava* sp. Females of Fukien *N. davidi* and Rufous-bellied Niltavas *N. sundara* show uniformly brown to brown-washed underparts, therefore lacking any discernible breast band. The bill appears to be in proportion to the rest of the bird, and is completely black. Furthermore, there is a white gorget and blue neck spot, although these can be difficult to see in the field. Fukien Niltava is larger than Brown-chested Flycatcher (18-19cm as against 15cm), but this might not be obvious on a lone individual in the field. Vivid Niltava *N. vivida*, though not on the HK List, is a candidate for addition and differs from Brown-chested Flycatcher in the same ways as the two other Niltavas apart from the lack of white gorget and blue neck spot.

Blue and White Flycatcher *Cyanoptila cyanomelana*. The best features to differentiate females of this species are the rufous as opposed to brown breast band, and the all dark bill which does not appear out of proportion to the rest of the bird. They also have rather rufous upperparts, and can have a rather white chin and throat, although this generally appears as a narrow wedge of white. The tertials can show a light margin on the outer webs, and the primary projection is rather long. This is also a large species, about 18cm in length.

Hainan Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis hainana*. Females show a rather red to orange wash on the breast and throat, and a well proportioned all black bill; thus, this species is not readily confused with Brown-chested Flycatcher.

Narcissus Flycatcher *Ficedula narcissina*. Females of the nominate race of this species share many plumage features with Brown-chested Flycatcher. The upperparts are olive-brown with a rufous tinge to the uppertail coverts and tail; the tertials can be edged a lighter rufous that is sometimes quite obvious. The underparts are off white, sometimes tinged yellow, with a brown breast band and a contrastingly white chin and throat. The latter sometimes shows indistinct dark speckling. The bill has a pale yellowish lower mandible, sometimes with a dark tip, that is proportionate to the head. The legs are pinkish. At 13cm in length, this species is smaller than Brown-chested Flycatcher. Of all the species examined at Tring, female Narcissus Flycatcher showed plumage and bare part features most closely resembling those of Brown-chested Flycatcher, and this is the most likely confusion species in Hong Kong. The best separation features are therefore the size and shape of the bird, and especially the bill. There have not been, as yet, any autumn records. Females of the North China form *F.n. elisae* have green upperparts and largely yellowish underparts.

Fulvous-chested Flycatcher *Rhinomyias olivacea*. The bill of this species is entirely black, whilst the breast band is brownish buff.

Grey-chested Flycatcher *Rhinomyias umbratilis*. This species shows a gleaming white throat contrasting with a grey or olive grey breast band, and an entirely black bill.

The record was accepted by the Records Committee of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society into Category A of the Hong Kong list.

1995年九月十六日廿一日，在大欖郊野公園的甲龍林徑上，發現了一隻白喉林鵯 *Rhinomyias brunncata*。這個品種在中國東南部（江蘇省南部到廣東省北部）一帶繁殖，越冬時會飛到泰國及馬來亞半島。辨別此雀的憑據：身型大小、咀長而厚、下咀帶粉黃色、上體純褐色而眼圈幼細、胸帶褐色、腹部暗白色、腳粉紅色。其他特點為動作較緩慢，覓食位置較接近地面。

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BLACK-HEADED BUNTING: THE FIRST RECORDS FOR HONG KONG.

Paul J. Leader

Introduction

Female or immature Black-headed Buntings *Emberiza melanocephala* and Red-headed Buntings *E. bruniceps* are notoriously difficult to separate in the field, a fact highlighted by the first records of this species pair involving three individuals in 1992 at Ho Chung on 17th and 19 October, and another at Mount Austin on 24 October (Hale 1993). Following this, similar birds were recorded at Ho Chung on 17 November 1993 and, in 1994, at Tsim Bei Tsui during 12-27 October (see plate 5), Mong Tseng on 24 October and Tan Shan Valley on 26 November. With all of these records identification was not considered to be proven, in most cases due to inconclusive descriptions, or, in the case of the well-watched Tsim Bei Tsui bird, disagreement amongst the observers regarding key, but relatively subtle plumage features.



5 Black/Red-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala/bruniceps*
Tsim Bei Tsui, Hong Kong, 24 October 1994

Geoff Carey

It was therefore with a mixture of excitement and dismay that I found a female or immature Black-headed/Red-headed Bunting between Lut Chau and Fairview Park on 27 October 1995. I had been in the middle of a regular survey of the fish ponds in the area when, at about 1100h, I noticed an odd-looking passerine feeding on the seed heads of a large clump of grass on the edge of a fish pond about 50m away. It was largely obscured from view and I initially thought it to be an atypically pale Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* I had recently seen in the area. However, it soon gave good views, and was clearly either a Black-headed or a

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Red-headed Bunting. Aware of the difficulties of separating the two, and also the key plumage features to look for, I attempted to get closer views. At this stage the obvious streaking on the crown and mantle, in conjunction with the conspicuous greyish hood, clearly favoured Black-headed. As I tried to obtain better views the bird suddenly flew, and landed out of sight, some 200-300m away. I was fortunately able to relocate it about 30 minutes later on some grass clumps on the edge of another fish pond. Here it appeared more settled, and gave views down to 15m allowing confirmation of the other critical features: forecrown streaking, primary projection and rump colour, all of which fitted Black-headed. The bird was also seen in the field by Mike Leven and Verity Picken, and was last seen at 1730h when it flew off strongly to the south. Despite extensive searches, it was not seen the next day.

Description

The following description was taken using 10x40 Zeiss binoculars and a 30x Kowa telescope.

A large bunting, similar in bulk to Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*, and considerably bigger than a Chestnut-eared Bunting *E. fucata* seen one hour earlier. Very large-billed for a bunting, and also large-headed and heavy-breasted with a large eye on an otherwise rather plain face; it was distinctly long-tailed in flight and the primary projection was obviously long. The head was grey-brown, cleanly demarcated from the paler throat, forming a distinct hood. The crown was streaked blackish from the nape to the base of the upper mandible. Indistinct greyish malar stripes were noted. The mantle was brown, heavily and quite broadly streaked black. The rump and uppertail coverts were rufous-brown. This latter feature was noticeable when the bird on the ground but was most obvious in close flight views, when it was the most notable feature on the bird. The uppertail was warm brown, duller than the rump and uppertail coverts, and lacked any white. Two off white wing bars, with the median covert wing bar slightly broader than that on the greater coverts, were present. An obvious pale panel was present in the closed wing. The underparts were off white, except for the undertail coverts which were lemon-yellow. The upper mandible was grey, the lower mandible grey-pink. The eye was dark and the legs grey-pink. The call was a deep *chvip* repeated 6-8 times during the course of observation. The entire plumage was very fresh with no evidence of wear or cage damage.

Identification

Lewington *et al.* (1991), Shirihai and Gantlett (1993) and Byers *et al.* (1995) use a combination of the following features to separate females and immatures of the two species.

Primary projection Red-headed has a slightly shorter primary projection, with four or sometimes five primary tips visible beyond the longest tertial, whereas Black-headed shows five or, rarely, six.

Head pattern Red-headed has a more uniform head, largely lacking the grey-hooded appearance typical of Black-headed. Most Red-heads exhibit limited crown streaking, with very little on the forehead and forecrown. Black-headed has very prominent and extensive head streaking that reaches the base of the bill.

Upperparts The upperparts of Red-headed tend to be paler and greyer olive-brown, and lack the rufous or chestnut mantle and rump of most Black-headed.

Underparts Red-headed tends to have less yellow on the underparts, especially the undertail coverts, and also tends to be less streaked below.



6 Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala* adult female
Mai Po, Hong Kong, 11 November 1995 Paul J. Leader

Thus, due to a combination of rufous rump, extensive crown streaking, a hooded appearance, the mantle colour and the primary projection, this bird has been accepted as the first record for Hong Kong. On the basis of previous records of the species pair which clearly suggest regular over shoots in late autumn, it has been placed in Category A.

Second record

Later that autumn, on 8 November, I was cycling along the single track road that leads from the Castle Peak Road to Mai Po, heading towards the reserve. As I did so, I flushed a large passerine from the edge of the road that was clearly either a Black-headed or Red-headed Bunting. Such was my surprise that, instead of stopping, I watched the bird over my shoulder as I cycled past and consequently almost fell off my bicycle! The bird remained in the same area until 12 November, spending most of its time feeding on the road despite the numerous vehicles and bicycles passing by, and was very approachable throughout. Together with Mike Leven, attempts were made to trap the bird on 10th and 11th, when we were successful. The following details were noted in the hand (see plate 6).

Description

A large, plain bunting with a large head, a heavy body and a long tail. Crown and nape cold brown, with thin blackish streaking on the crown. Very faint hood. Upperparts cold sandy-brown with extensive streaking. Tertiaries slightly but distinctly warmer than mantle. Tail cold sandy-brown, with the outer tail feathers having an off-white wedge. Rump distinctly yellow. Underparts off-white with some yellow on the belly; undertail coverts bright yellow. Upper mandible grey, lower mandible grey-pink. Legs grey-pink. The whole plumage was very heavily abraded, especially the remiges and rectrices. There was no evidence of cage damage to bill or feet. No wing formula could be taken due to extensive plumage wear.

Measurements

wing	95mm	tarsus	22.6mm
tail	71mm	weight	29.0g
bill (s)	17.7mm	fat (after Anon 1984)	2
bill (f)	13.2mm	emarginated primaries	3,4

Identification

The plumage of this bird favours Black-headed with its bright yellow undertail coverts and forecrown streaking. However, the yellow rump and relatively cold upperparts favour Red-headed. Svensson (1992) gives the following measurements for separating the two: wing <82 = *bruniceps*, >87 = *melanocephala*; bill(s) <15.8 = *bruniceps*, >16.8 = *melanocephala*. This bird fits Black-headed on both measurements. It is unlikely that identification of this bird on plumage alone is possible. The extent of wear is typical of adults in autumn (Svensson 1992), and on the basis of a lack of any male type plumage features, it was a female. However, the wing measurement is 1mm above that given for females by Svensson (1992), and the tail is 1mm above that given for females by Byers *et al.* (1995).

These two records have been accepted by the Records Committee of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society into Category A of the Hong Kong List.

Distribution

Black-headed Bunting breeds from southeastern Europe to Iran, and winters in western and central India. It has a propensity to overshoot into western Europe in spring, and there is evidence for widespread vagrancy to eastern Asia: one record from Thailand (Lekagul and Round 1991); twelve records up to 1991 from Japan, eight of which have occurred during October and November (Brazil 1991); and two records from Fujian Province (La Touche 1925-34). The occurrence of Black-headed Bunting in Hong Kong fits the now established pattern of vagrancy for species that usually winter in India.

1995年10月27日，在屯洲附近發現了隻黑頭鵪鶉 *Emberiza melanocephala* 的雌鳥或幼鳥。雖然要辨別這個品種並不容易，不過，這次發現的一隻清楚地有栗色的腰、頭頂廣泛有紋，有頭罩的感覺、上背棕色、初級飛羽也相當突出。因此，已獲接納為香港第一個紀錄。其後，在11月8日至12日，又發現了一隻，這次卻要拿到手上才能確認。黑頭鵪鶉繁殖地帶由東南歐伸延至伊朗，並在印度西部和中部越冬。此外，廣泛地方，一直到東亞（特別是日本）都偶有紀錄。

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**'MEW' GULL: THE FIRST RECORD FOR HONG KONG
AND THE IDENTIFICATION AND SYSTEMATICS OF
COMMON GULL FORMS IN EAST ASIA**

G.J. Carey and P.R. Kennerley

On 25 February 1994 W.L. Young found a first-winter individual of the North American race of Common Gull *Larus canus*, the so-called 'Mew' Gull *L.c. brachyrhynchus*, in front of the boardwalk hide at Mai Po. It was subsequently seen each day before last being noted on 28th. Other observers included P.J. Leader, who initially identified it, G.J. Carey, R.W. Lewthwaite and P.R. Kennerley, and the description that follows is compiled from notes submitted by GJC, PRK, PJJ and RWL.

The bird was seen at ranges down to 50 metres through telescopes of up to 60x magnification. The closest and most prolonged views were obtained on 28 February when the bird spent approximately 30 minutes in front of the boardwalk hide. A first-winter Common Gull of the regularly occurring form *L.c. kamtschatschensis* was present on 26th and 27 February, providing a useful comparison of plumage and structural features.

Structure At rest obviously larger than Black-headed Gull *L. ridibundus* though smaller than *kamtschatschensis*. Compared to the latter there was a more drawn-out appearance at the rear, probably caused by a longer primary projection; the bill was rather parallel-sided, and appeared relatively longer and finer to two observers and shorter to one observer; the head shape was rounder and 'gentler' than *kamtschatschensis*, the forehead less sloping; the wings were more narrowly-based. On the water it had the typical Common Gull-like posture with tail and wing tips raised high above the water surface; five evenly-spaced primaries were exposed beyond the tertials at rest with the longest tertial reaching short of the tip of the innermost visible primary. The tip of the tail appeared to reach the third longest primary.

Head The forehead, up to the fore part of the eye, was whitish and unstreaked; the mid and rear crown areas were finely spotted or streaked darkish brown; on the upper nape the streaking was slightly darker, whereas on the centre of the nape it was more smudged, and on the lower nape it was heavily smudged with little white visible. The lower half of the face was pale greyish-white. There was a distinctive dark spot on the side of the head at the rear of ear coverts below the level of the eye, with a slightly darker line of spots behind the eye giving just a hint of an eye stripe.

Upperparts The mantle was mid grey, darker, duller and less blue than adult Black-headed Gull but significantly paler than nearby adult Heuglin's Gulls *L. heuglini* of the form *L.h. taimyrensis*. Compared with first-winter *kamtschatschensis*, the extent of grey on the mantle was noticeably more restricted

as the lower rows of scapulars were brown. In addition, some of the lower mantle feathers had brownish subterminal spots with broad grey fringes, marginally paler than the grey base to the feather. The juvenile lower scapulars were retained, the rearmost being dark brown with a distinct pale brown fringe and the rest brown with darker shafts and a narrow white fringe; they appeared quite heavily abraded. The median coverts were brown-centred with a narrow whitish fringe while the greater coverts were paler, more faded and slightly greyer; both sets of coverts were abraded.

Remiges and rectrices The visible tertials were very dark-centred, becoming gradually paler brown towards the edge, and each had a distinct narrow pale fringe. The primaries were dark brown, slightly darker than the tertials, each narrowly tipped paler; the fifth innermost primary, however, was slightly lighter. When preening the upper surface of the tail was very dark, almost black apart from a slight brownish cast, though the tip of each tail feather was very narrowly tipped paler. From below however, the outer rectrices showed a paler, greyer base with an indistinct broad dark terminal band.

Underparts The undertail coverts were rather distinctive being heavily barred dark brown and white. There were five visible dark bars, each about 60% of the width of the intervening white bar; the terminal bar was white. This distinctive pattern has not before been noticed on either nominate *canus* or *kamtschatschensis*, the latter of which usually has prominent, dark v-shaped feather markings in this area. The rest of the underparts were generally whitish, spotted variably with grey-brown, more heavily on the sides of the breast near the bend of the wing but less heavily around the throat, centre of the breast and belly. The brown markings at the side of the breast around the carpal bend of the closed wing were not as heavy as those on most *kamtschatschensis*.

Bare parts The basal two-thirds of the bill was variously described as pale, dull pinkish-horn or dull yellowish-green; the distal third of the bill was blackish, slightly broader on the lower mandible, except for a very narrow pale pink tip. Because the tip to the inner edge of the gonys and the cutting edges of both mandibles were black, the dark tip was not as sharply demarcated as on first-winter *kamtschatschensis*. The legs were dull and variously described as yellowish-green, pale yellowish-grey or pale pink. Such a discrepancy in description of leg and bill colour is not considered abnormal as interpretation of the range of pinkish and yellowish tones often differs among observers and can vary according to light conditions. The eye appeared dark and quite large.

In flight The most distinctive feature was the tail which appeared almost wholly blackish and was the darkest part of the bird; there was a very narrow pale tip but no pale base to any of the tail feathers except the outermost. The rump and uppertail coverts were slightly paler than the mantle and the tail but not as contrastingly so as on *kamtschatschensis*; the ground colour was pale brownish with darker markings, densest on the longest uppertail coverts and slightly clearer on the rump.

The outer primaries and secondaries were dark brown and contrasted noticeably with paler greater and median coverts on the inner wing. The lesser coverts were somewhat darker and produced a dark leading edge to the wing. The inner primaries were pale but slightly less so than the inner wing coverts due to a browner coloration and darker feather tips. The underwing was generally rather dusky, though the inner primaries were noticeably pale and translucent; the underwing greater coverts were dull off-white with dark fringes.

In published photographs of *brachyrhynchus* the outermost tertial falls well short of the tip of p6 and the tip of the tail only reaches the tip of p7, or even falls between p6 and p7 (W. Hoogendoorn *in litt.*). However, examination of a series of photographs indicates that the longest tertial, while generally falling short of p6, may occasionally fall short of p5. Although the observed position of the tail tip does not match photographs of *brachyrhynchus*, the evidence of other aspects is overwhelmingly in favour of the Hong Kong bird being *brachyrhynchus*.

The record was submitted to Dennis Paulson and Claudia Wilds for comment and both concurred with the identification (*in litt.* to Records Committee). The Records Committee of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society has accepted the record and it appears to be the first documented occurrence of this form in mainland Asia. Stepanyan (1990) refers to its occurrence as a vagrant in the Komandor Islands, and an adult, photographed on 21 February 1987 at Choshi, Japan, is illustrated in Shigeta (1993). The identification of *brachyrhynchus* and the potential confusion forms is dealt with below.

Identification of Common Gull forms in East Asia

Consideration of the above record highlighted the fact that there was little available in the literature concerning the problem of separating Common Gull forms from an East Asian perspective. Tove (1993) deals with the subject from a North American viewpoint, where Ring-billed Gull *L. delawarensis* must be considered, but is less clear on the separation of *L.c. heinei* and *L.c. kamtschatschensis*.

The three forms of Common Gull that have been recorded in East Asia and are discussed below are *L. canus heinei* ('Common' Gull), *L.c. kamtschatschensis* ('Kamchatka' Gull) and *L.c. brachyrhynchus* ('Mew' Gull). In addition, the nominate form *L.c. canus* is found in western Europe but has not been recorded from the region and is not discussed in detail. Identification of first-winters of the three forms seems to be less troublesome than that of adults; structural features are, of course, consistent across all ages, though these are not necessarily distinct.

Size and structure

Although there is overlap, measurements clearly demonstrate that *kamtschatschensis* is consistently the largest form and *brachyrhynchus* the smallest with *heinei* being slightly smaller than *kamtschatschensis*. If seen alongside each

other the greater size and bulk of *kamtschatschensis* compared to *brachyrhynchus* should be very apparent.

Table 1. Comparison of wing length of Common Gull forms recorded in East Asia

form	wing length
<i>kamtschatschensis</i>	365-412 mm
<i>heinei</i>	351-395 mm
<i>brachyrhynchus</i>	328-366 mm

Source: Cramp and Simmons (1983), Dwight (1925)

Structure

L.c. kamtschatschensis has a deep, heavy-breasted structure and an obvious ventral angle. The head is distinctly angular with a sloping forehead and fairly flat crown. When combined with the pale irides the appearance of *kamtschatschensis* is rather fierce and thus it shows a greater resemblance to Ring-billed Gull (which it also overlaps in all measurements) than the other forms included within the Common Gull complex. This similarity was first pointed out by Stejneger (1885) who determined that *kamtschatschensis* was an Asiatic representative of *delawarensis*.

L.c. heinei is also a large, fairly deep-breasted form but shows a more rounded head than *kamtschatschensis* which gives it a gentler appearance, similar to that of nominate *canus*.

L.c. brachyrhynchus is the smallest of the group and, as would be expected, is a fairly lightly-built bird, lacking the deep-breasted structure and distinct ventral angle of the larger forms. It has a distinctly domed and rounded head with a large eye that enhances the gentle appearance.

Adult plumage

Separation in adult plumage is more difficult than in immature plumages. All forms share many characters including, in breeding plumage, entirely white head, nape and neck, rump, uppertail coverts, tail and underparts. In winter, the head, nape, neck and breast are white but variably mottled, spotted, streaked or smudged grey-brown in all races. The upperparts are mid grey, the shade and tone of which varies within and between the various forms and separation by this feature alone is probably unreliable for the identification of a lone individual.

The most useful features for the separation of the races are size and structure and the distinctive primary tip pattern of *brachyrhynchus* which sets it apart from *kamtschatschensis* and *heinei*, while the presence of a conspicuously pale iris appears indicative of, though is not unique to, *kamtschatschensis*.

At rest

At rest there are no plumage characters which can be used to separate the three forms with certainty. Johansen (1961) compared the mantle colour of museum specimens of adult *delawarensis*, *kamtschatschensis*, *brachyrhynchus*, *heinei* and nominate *canus*, and found that of *brachyrhynchus* and nominate *canus* to be similar, that of *kamtschatschensis* and *heinei* to be much like each other, while the Siberian pair of forms were, on the whole, significantly darker than *brachyrhynchus* and nominate *canus*. However, he points out that there is a cline of increasing size and darker mantle coloration within the *canus-heinei* group from western Europe to Siberia with no clear boundary between western *canus* and eastern *heinei*, though the palest are *canus* and extreme measurements are very different. Cramp and Simmons (1983), however, state that some *kamtschatschensis* are almost as light as nominate *canus*.

Tove (1993) also compared the upperpart colour of museum specimens. However, contrary to Johansen, he found the average mantle colour-value and also the range of tone to be the same for *kamtschatschensis* and *brachyrhynchus*; that of nominate *canus* was conspicuously paler. This is supported by Shepherd and Votier (1993).

Thus, there is a certain amount of confusion regarding the darkness of the grey mantle of adults. It seems certain, however, that *heinei* from the east of the range and *kamtschatschensis* lie at the darker end of the spectrum and overlap in colour and tone. Nominative *canus* is somewhat paler, especially birds at the western end of the range; the mantle grey of *brachyrhynchus* possibly varies from as pale as nominate *canus* to nearly as dark as *kamtschatschensis*.

Of all the forms, *kamtschatschensis* consistently displays a distinctive pale straw iris outside the breeding season which can appear as conspicuous as that of Heuglin's Gull or Ring-billed Gull and in our experience never appears dark. Even during the breeding season when the irides typically darken, they still appear pale on *kamtschatschensis* although they are then more likely to be somewhat darker and more golden than in winter. North American *brachyrhynchus* is described by Tove (1993) as showing an iris colour that varies from dull yellow to dark amber. When breeding the iris colour of *brachyrhynchus* is dull greenish-brown and appears much darker than that of *kamtschatschensis* but not as dark as that of European *canus* (PRK pers. obs.). Again, *heinei* appears to be somewhat variable. Some adult Common Gulls recorded in Europe in winter show pale irides, but this is unusual (e.g. Groot Koerkamp 1987, Vaughan 1991), and it is possible such birds are referable to *heinei*.

Although all forms show an unmarked bill during the breeding season, most, though not all, also develop a dark subterminal band outside the breeding season. This band is quite variable in width and colour in all forms.



7 'Kamchatka' Gull *Larus canus kamtschatschensis* adult
Magadan, Russia, July 1994

Peter Kennerley



8 'Kamchatka' Gull *Larus canus kamtschatschensis* adult. Note the upperwing where the white wedge between grey and black does not extend onto p8. On *brachyrhynchus* the pattern is very similar except that the white does extend onto p8.
Magadan, Russia, July 1994

Peter Kennerley

[The cost of production of plates 7-9 in colour has been subsidised by Shiro HK Ltd., agents for Nikon optical and photographic equipment]



9 'Mew' Gull *Larus canus brachyrhynchus* adult.
California, USA, November 1995

Don DesJardin

In flight

Although difficult to separate at rest, separation in flight becomes easier when the pattern of grey, black and white on the upper and under surfaces of the primary tips can be established.

Although *kamtschatschensis*, *brachyrhynchus* and *heinei* share a number of similarities in the pattern of the primaries, there are also significant differences that give each form its unique appearance. A close examination of the primary pattern is necessary to establish which form is under consideration. Generally speaking, *brachyrhynchus* has much less black in the wing tips than the other two forms and *heinei* has the most.

Both *brachyrhynchus* and *kamtschatschensis* show a distinctive white wedge that separates the grey bases from the black distal portions of the central primaries; this is lacking in *heinei*. In *brachyrhynchus* this white wedge is broad and extends from p8 to p5 while on *kamtschatschensis* it is narrower, less conspicuous and does not appear on p8.

A further difference between these two forms concerns the extent of black in the outer primaries. Although both forms show a black outer primary and a conspicuous white mirror on the outer two primaries (p10-9), p9 is black for most of its length on *kamtschatschensis*, becoming grey only close to the primary coverts, while on *brachyrhynchus* it becomes greyer closer to the tip (i.e. further away from the primary coverts). There are also significant differences in the pattern of p8. On *brachyrhynchus* the base of p8 is grey to the white wedge, while on

kamtschatschensis there is no white wedge and p8 is black for most of its length, gradually becoming grey toward the base. The tips of the inner primaries (p7-p1) are very similar in the two forms.

The primary tip pattern of *heinei* appears identical to that of nominate *canus*. Although it shares with *kamtschatschensis* the extensive black on the outer three primaries, it lacks the white wedge that separates the grey base and black subterminal band shown by *brachyrhynchus* and *kamtschatschensis*.

First-winter plumage

Although the three forms share similarities in general appearance, there are sufficient differences to enable all to be distinct in flight and at least two forms to appear distinct at rest.

At rest

Generally *kamtschatschensis* and *brachyrhynchus* are relatively dark and uniform in first-winter plumage and have extensive grey-brown head streaking that covers crown, nape and ear coverts; the breast and flanks are mottled grey-brown. The head and underparts of *brachyrhynchus*, however, have a greater tendency to uniformity of coloration. The longest undertail coverts and the sides of the vent and undertail coverts of *kamtschatschensis* have broad dark v-shaped tips, whereas on *brachyrhynchus* the undertail coverts are more heavily marked possessing more obvious dark barring.

L.c. heinei is distinguished by its distinctly whiter underparts and head which impart a correspondingly more contrasting appearance. There is dark streaking on the head, generally noticeably sparser, though also coarser, often with a concentration at the juncture of nape and mantle. There is no extensive streaking or mottling on the underparts of *heinei* in the manner of the other two forms. The undertail coverts of *heinei* are white and unmarked, or may have pale or restricted dark feather tips that lack any obvious pattern.

The partial body moult of all three forms from juvenile to first-winter plumage generally occurs from August to November (Tove 1993, GJC pers. obs.) when they acquire grey feathers on the mantle and scapulars, variation in the colour of which has been discussed under the section for adults. During the first winter wear and bleaching of feathers occurs and the underparts of the two darker forms lighten, sometimes to a point where they may approach those of *heinei* at the end of the winter. Identification at this time must be made carefully.

Tove (1993) describes differences in the pattern of the median and greater wing coverts whereby those of *brachyrhynchus* have rounded centres with narrow, rounded pale fringes, and those of *kamtschatschensis* have more v-shaped centres with slightly broader fringes. The covert pattern of *heinei* is similar to that of *brachyrhynchus*.



10 'Kamchatka' Gull *Larus canus kamtschatschensis* first-winter. Note rather angular head shape, heavily-marked underparts and extensive head streaking.
Hebei, China, November 1995

Geoff Carey



11 Common Gull *Larus canus heinei* first-winter. Note relatively unmarked white head and underbody compared to *kamtschatschensis*, and correspondingly more contrasting appearance.

Hebei, China, November 1995

Geoff Carey

[The cost of production of plates 10-12 in colour has been subsidised by Cezet Optical Co. Ltd., agents for Zeiss binoculars]



12 'Mew' Gull *Larus canus brachyrhynchus* first-winter. Note dusky, rather uniform underparts apart from bold barring on undertail coverts.
California, USA, December 1995

Don DesJardin

The bill of *kamtschatschensis* is pink, usually with a cleanly cut black tip covering slightly less than the distal half; that of *heinei* is similar but the pink can be duller and the black more diffusely bordered. On *brachyrhynchus* the base is dull flesh and the tip blackish and rather poorly demarcated, but is usually more extensive than *kamtschatschensis*, covering at least the distal half of the bill. The eye of *brachyrhynchus* is comparatively large and is always dark (W. Hoogendoorn *in litt.*).

In flight

Although the basic pattern in flight of dark brown outer primaries and secondaries, paler wing coverts and inner primaries, and grey mantle (depending on extent of moult) is the same for all three forms, separation in flight is aided especially by the pattern in detail of the tail, uppertail coverts and underwing coverts.

The tail of *brachyrhynchus* appears entirely dark in flight although it is actually slightly paler at the base of the outer two or three pairs of rectrices. The uppertail coverts are broadly barred and show little contrast with the tail. On the other Asian forms the tail and uppertail covert pattern is distinctive and conspicuously different from *brachyrhynchus*. Both *kamtschatschensis* and *heinei* have a broad, sharply-demarcated black terminal tail band. The base of the tail of *heinei* is white and unmarked, as are the uppertail coverts which show no more than restricted dark brown marks on the longest, and so do not contrast with the white tail base. Although *kamtschatschensis* may appear at any significant range



13 'Kamchatka' Gull *Larus canus kamtschatschensis* first-winter. Compare extensive dark markings on underbody and underwing coverts with those on *heinei* below.
Hebei, China, November 1995
Geoff Carey



14 Common Gull *Larus canus heinei* first-winter. Compared with plate above, note the almost white underbody and less distinct dark areas on underwing coverts.
Hebei, China, November 1995
Geoff Carey

[The cost of production of plates 13-15 in colour has been subsidised by Cezet Optical Co. Ltd., agents for Zeiss binoculars]



15 'Mew' Gull *Larus canus brachyrhynchus* first-winter. Note the darkness and uniformity of both underbody and underwings.
Alaska, USA, August 1994
Matt Heindel

in the field to have a white base to the tail, at close range it can be seen that the inner webs have some brownish on them. The uppertail coverts of *kamtschatschensis* are barred but are usually less obviously so than shown in *brachyrhynchus* and therefore contrast quite markedly with the pale tail base.

The underwing coverts of *brachyrhynchus* are the darkest of the three forms: the lessers and medians are largely brownish, the greater dull whitish with broad brownish tips. Generally speaking, the fringes to the lesser and median underwing coverts of *kamtschatschensis* are typically darker and more extensive and the centres duller on average than those of *heinei* but there is some overlap. Neither of these two forms have the brownish feather centres to the underwing coverts of *brachyrhynchus*, though there is often darker barring, usually only faint, on the axillaries of *kamtschatschensis*; this is probably not shown by *heinei*.

Second-winter plumage

Separation of birds in second-winter plumage is, perhaps, most problematic. The wing tip and bill patterns of adults are absent whereas features shown by first-winters, such as tail bar and the presence or lack of head and body streaking, are either not present or subdued. Size and structural features noted above apply but these should be used with care on lone birds.

A complete moult during autumn of the second calendar year results in a superficially adult-like plumage apart from browner primary coverts, more extensive head streaking and remnants of a black tail band depending on the form;

any brown barring on the under- and uppertail coverts disappears and the wing tips either lack white or only show one white mirror on the outer primary. The bare parts are similar to, but duller than those of adults. Some second-winter *kamtschatschensis* show an iris as pale as that of adults.

A vestigial tail band is generally present on both *brachyrhynchus* and *kamtschatschensis*; on *heinei* it seems that the tail is usually all white. However, there are probably exceptions to the rule in all three forms. Grant (1986) notes that extensive dark markings on the underwing coverts may be a regular feature of *kamtschatschensis*. Shepherd and Votier (1993), in their account of an apparent *brachyrhynchus* in Norfolk, UK, refer to extensive and obvious brown fringing and tipping to the axillaries and underwing coverts; assuming this is consistent, it may be a useful feature for separating these forms from *heinei* if the latter, as might be expected, is similar to nominate *canus*. Obviously, further research is required into the appearance of the three forms at this age.

Distribution

L.c. kamtschatschensis

Breeds from Kamchatka and the shores of the Sea of Okhotsk westwards through northeast Siberia and presumably meets and overlaps with *heinei* in east Siberia. Intermediates with *heinei* have apparently been found in the Yakutia and Lena river region (Cramp and Simmons 1983). It has been recorded in western Alaska as a very rare to casual visitor (Tove 1993). It winters on the coasts of Japan, the Korean peninsula and coastal China south to Hong Kong (where it is relatively rare) but appears to be unusual inland.

Birds of both forms *heinei* and *kamtschatschensis* are recorded on autumn migration at Beidaihe, Hebei province, China, extreme dates being 2 September to at least 20 November. The bulk of passage, however, occurs from the last week in October. Until recently it was not certain whether one or both forms were involved or what the proportions of each were. Observations in autumn 1995, however, indicated that, on average, *heinei* passes through earlier than *kamtschatschensis* (GJC pers. obs.) but further research is required to clarify the extent to which this occurs.

L.c. heinei

Breeds in northern and eastern zones of European Russia east to the basin of the Lena River (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1957), although the eastern extremities of its range and extent of overlap (if any) with *kamtschatschensis* are not fully established. Birds showing the primary tip pattern associated with *heinei* have been found breeding on the Omolon River 158°30'E, 68°30'N, approximately 200km southwest of Chersky (PRK pers. obs.) which is considerably further east than this form is considered to occur. The regular wintering range includes the Baltic Sea eastwards to the Black Sea and southern shores of the Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf, while birds of this form have been recorded in the United Kingdom and Pakistan. In east Asia it has been recorded on migration in October



16 Kamchatka Gull *Larus canus kamtschatschensis* The base of the tail is darker than that of *heinei* but paler than *brachyrhynchus*; *heinei* also lacks the dark barring on the uppertail coverts.

Hebei, China, November 1995

Geoff Carey



17 'Mew' Gull *Larus canus brachyrhynchus* Note dark tail.

Texas, USA, 13 February 1988

Louis R. Bevier

[The cost of production of plates 16-17 in colour has been subsidised by Shiro HK Ltd., agents for Nikon optical and photographic equipment]

at Beidaihe, Hebei province, China (see above). It is possible that birds also winter on the east coast of China (the evidence for this is by no means conclusive) and occasional birds suspected of being *heinei* have reached Hong Kong.

L.c. brachyrhynchus

Breeds in Alaska and western Canada, and winters on the coast of western North America south to northern Baja California (Tove 1993). Ujihara and Ujihara (1992) consider small numbers of this race have been seen in Japan in winter. It seems that this form is less prone to wandering; for instance, most records of Mew Gull from east coast America concern nominate *canus* (Tove 1993), and there are no reports as yet from Europe.

Systematics

Until recently, the three forms *brachyrhynchus*, *kamtschatschensis* and *heinei* have been treated as subspecies of *Larus canus* (e.g. Grant 1986). However, differences in plumage at all ages have prompted a recognition of the possibility that nominate *canus* and *brachyrhynchus* at least are separate species. As far as *kamtschatschensis* is concerned, Johansen (1961) seems to have been the first to suggest that it should be regarded as a separate species and, as noted above, Stejneger (1885) considered *kamtschatschensis* to be the Asiatic representative of *L. delawarensis*. Recent comparative mitochondrial DNA work on *kamtschatschensis* and *brachyrhynchus* by Zink *et al.* (1995) suggests that two species are represented, a possibility also raised by Sibley and Monroe (1990). This is supported by the fact that *Larus canus* is highly differentiated within its extensive breeding range when compared to other *Larus* species and the taxa have had a relatively long independent history on either side of the Bering Strait (Avisé and Zink 1988).

The morphological differences noted above for first-winter and adult birds of the three forms and the results of preliminary mtDNA work regarding *brachyrhynchus* and *kamtschatschensis* provide evidence in support of the notion that two or more species are involved.

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1994年2月25日,在米埔發現了一隻屬北美亞種的海鷗*Larus canus brachyrhynchus*,是隻首次渡冬的幼鳥。本文討論了有關這個品種和其他在亞洲區品種*L.c. heinei*及*L.c. kamtschatschensis*的辨別問題:成鳥方面,分辨的關鍵是大小和體型結構,此外,還要特別留意*brachyrhynchus*成鳥初級飛羽尖端的特徵;而*Kamtschatschensis*的淺色虹膜也是非是突出的。至於初次渡冬的幼鳥,三個品種都很相似,不過飛行時就各有特色,而其中兩種在靜立時,也可從下體、尾部和尾上覆羽的情況加以區別。分辨第二年渡冬的,就困難得多,還需進一步研究。從首次渡冬雀鳥和成鳥間形態上的分別,與及對*brachyrhynchus*和*kamtschatschensis*的其他科學分析結果,可佐証當中涉及的是兩個或以上的品種。

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FOREST BIRDS OF SOUTHEAST CHINA: OBSERVATIONS DURING 1984-1996

Richard W. Lewthwaite
Illustrated by Jeremy Pearse

Introduction

Despite the monumental efforts of Cheng (1987) in mapping the distribution of 1186 species with 953 subspecies, the birds of China remain relatively poorly known. The era of war and internal politics that lasted from the mid 1930s to the early 1980s severely limited ornithological research in China and led to a situation where the main sources of distribution data that are cited by Cheng (1987) for the sites under consideration in this paper all date back to the 1920s and 1930s. These are La Touche (1925-34), Stresemann (1929a,b, 1930a,b,c), Yen (1930, 1932, 1933-34) and Caldwell and Caldwell (1931). All were pioneers in their time, but their coverage was patchy and their findings were almost entirely based on specimens that had been shot by themselves or their collectors. Inevitably, 60 to 70 years later, some of their findings are as out of date as their methodology.

Since 1984 a wealth of data has been accumulated during birdwatching surveys of forest sites in Southeast China by local and overseas HKBWS members. Preliminary surveys of Yi Shan, Wu Yan Ling, Nan Kun Shan and Hei Shi Ding have already been described (King 1987, King and Zheng 1988, Viney 1987a,b). Nothing, however, has been published concerning subsequent visits to the latter two sites nor, more importantly, on visits to other forest sites in Southeast China.

To fill this gap and also to demonstrate the conservation value of these sites, this paper documents the findings of survey visits to nine forest sites and their environs during the period 1984-1996. The sites, which are all located within an area termed for convenience 'Southeast China', are Hei Shi Ding, Ding Hu Shan, Ba Bao Shan, Che Ba Ling and Nan Kun Shan (all Guangdong), Yao Shan (Guangxi), Mang Shan (Hunan), Guan Shan (Jiangxi) and Wu Yi Shan (Fujian). They are described below and their locations are shown on figure 1. Practical advice on birdwatching in Guangdong can be found in Woodward and Carey (1996).

The nine sites and their environs were surveyed on a total of 263 days in the field during 60 trips made between March 1984 and June 1996. Unusual records were checked with the observers concerned and those that were not satisfactorily substantiated have not been included. In all, 322 species were recorded, including 18 species considered globally threatened or near-threatened (Collar *et al.* 1994), 25 species that are nationally protected in China, six to eight species that are endemic to China, four species that breed only in China, 14 species whose range outside China is so restricted that they may be considered as near-endemics (distribution data from de Schauensee 1984) and over 100 species for which range

extensions were found compared to the standard literature (Cheng 1987). Further details of these are given in the annotated list below. Data on the seasonal abundance at each site of all 322 species are given in table 1. Common and scientific names and species order generally follow the provisional order at present under consideration for the next edition of the *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Hong Kong*, with Beaman (1994) and de Schauensee (1984) as secondary sources. Scientific names of species not listed in table 1 are given in the main text.

Southeast China is an area of steeply-sloping valleys and rugged hills dominated by two ranges of hills, the Nan Ling rising to 1922 metres and the Wu Yi Shan, with peaks up to 2158 metres. Limestone formations are found in eastern Guangxi and also in isolated outcrops in western and northern Guangdong. The Yangtze (Chang Jiang), the West River (Xi Jiang), the Min Jiang and their tributaries are the major rivers. A subtropical monsoon climate with warm and wet summers and dry and cool winters has enabled the area's flora to become very diverse, but at the same time has made it vulnerable to hill fires in the dry season. The fertile lowland valleys were long ago completely deforested, and forests now only occur in areas that are specially protected or are remote on slopes too steep for agriculture (and hence are hill forests). The percentage of total land area that is forested, though this by no means necessarily means primary or even mature secondary forest, is 22% in Guangxi, 27% in Guangdong, 34% in Hunan, 41% in Fujian (half of which is plantation forests) and 36% in Jiangxi (Mackinnon *et al.* 1996).

Human pressure on forests has long been intense in Southeast China. Earlier this century, La Touche (1925-34) lamented the felling of the forest at Guadun, Wu Yi Shan, during the 1890s, while Vaughan and Jones (1913) noted that it took a system of armed guards organised by monks to protect the forest at Ding Hu Shan. Smil (1984) quoted directly from Chinese newspapers and publications to paint a depressing picture of deforestation and environmental damage, particularly during 1956-76, the period of chaos and social disorder spanning the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution. According to Smil, the direct causes of deforestation during this period were illegal felling and quarrying as well as Maoist policies, most notably the attempt at rapid rural industrialisation during the Great Leap Forward which entailed the felling of accessible forests and *fung shui* woodlands for fuel, and agricultural policies ('taking grain as the key link'), which instituted the conversion of forests to cereal croplands. In southern China the loss of 620,000ha of tropical forest reduced forest cover on Hainan Island from 25.7% to 7.2%, forest reserves in Zhejiang declined from 29 million m³ to 18 million m³ and damage to Xishuangbanna in Yunnan, in part attributed to vandalism, was considered irreversible (Smil 1984, Li and Zhao 1989). Yao Shan was also severely damaged. Smil considered that the central government was aware of the scale and seriousness of the problem, but was unable to enforce protection locally. Since 1976 the number of reserves, including forest reserves, has greatly increased in China (Li and Zhao 1989), though levels of protection vary greatly from reserve to reserve. The present period of economic boom in China has maintained pressure on forests.

In addition to habitat loss, forest birds face other threats, most significantly from the pet trade and the demand for live wild animals for food, especially in winter. Melville (1982) estimated that a minimum of 540,000 cage-birds were imported to Hong Kong from China for re-export to other countries in 1979, mostly for the pet trade. During the period 1990-1992, this figure dropped to 370,000-490,000 annually, probably due to some birds being exported directly from China (Nash 1993). In a 12-month survey of food markets in Hong Kong and three cities in Guangdong, 280 species of birds were found for sale (Lau *et al.* 1996), including 121 that are treated in this paper. Hunting and trapping for the pet trade and the food markets and also recreational shooting, usually with air-rifles, have almost certainly resulted in local extinctions. Among other threats are the heavy load of pesticides and rodenticides on crops, which was thought to account for the scarcity of corvids and open country birds recorded on Hainan Island in April 1988 (King and Liao 1989), and Maoist-style campaigns such as the notorious nationwide campaign to eliminate the 'four pests'. During 1955-1958 these were categorised as 'sparrows' (effectively passerine birds), mice, mosquitoes and flies. Yang (1995) describes how gongs and drums were beaten day and night for three days in winter 1955 driving sparrows from their roosts until they fell exhausted to their deaths; nets and poisoned bait were also used. Boswell (1986) quotes figures of 800,000 small birds killed in one year and speculates on widespread damage to crops by insects in the following years. Timely research by Cheng (1957) demonstrated the benefits of sparrows in controlling insects and by 1959 'bugs' had replaced sparrows as one of the 'four pests' (Yang 1995).

Forest birds in Southeast China do, of course, escape these threats and survive. Indeed, good numbers are found at sites where they are effectively protected. About 40 resident species occur at more than five of the forest sites under consideration and might be thought of as characteristic birds of the region. Among these are Crested Serpent Eagle, Crested Goshawk, Mountain Hawk Eagle, Chinese Bamboo Partridge, Silver Pheasant, Great Barbet, Crested Kingfisher, Bay Woodpecker, Grey-throated Minivet, Chestnut Bulbul, Plumbeous Redstart, White-crowned and Slaty-backed Forktails, Rufous-necked Scimitar-Babbler, Rufous-capped Babbler, Greater-necklaced Laughingthrush, Red-billed Leiothrix, Grey-cheeked Fulvetta, Striated Yuhina, Yellow-cheeked Tit, Blue Magpie and Grey Treepie. Characteristic wintering species are Red-flanked Bluetail, Daurian Redstart, Pallas's Warbler and Tristram's Bunting, while Black Baza, Large Hawk Cuckoo and Dollarbird are among the more obvious summer visitors.

Sites and dates of visits

Guangxi Province (Kwangsi Province)

Yao Shan (Da Yao Shan) (23°40'-24°24'N, 109°50'-110°25'E)

Yao Shan, or Da Yao Shan, lies in Jin Xiu County, eastern Guangxi, about 120km south of Guilin and 450km west-northwest of Hong Kong. It covers an area of 36,000ha and has an altitudinal range of 110-1900m (Mackinnon *et al.* 1996). The area was extensively surveyed by K.Y. Yen, S.S. Sin and others between

May 1928 and May 1930 when over 4000 specimens representing some 260 species were collected (Stresemann 1929a,b, 1930a,b,c, Yen 1930, 1933a, 1933-34). Among these were Golden Pheasant *Chrysolophus pictus* at or close to the southernmost extent of its range, and seventeen other species at the easternmost extent of their ranges, namely Malayan Night Heron *Gorsachius melanophus*, Shikra, White-browed Piculet *Sasia ochrasia*, Blue-rumped Pitta *Pitta soror*, Rosy Minivet *Pericrocotus (roseus) roseus*, Grey-bellied Tesia, Brown-breasted Flycatcher, White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis*, Eye-browed Wren Babbler, Spot-necked Babbler, Chestnut-capped Babbler *Timalia pileata*, Yellow-eyed Babbler *Chrysomma sinense*, Chestnut-fronted Shrike Babbler *Pteruthius oenobarbus*, Red-tailed Minla *Minla ignotincta*, Gold-fronted Fulvetta *Alcippe variegaticeps*, Burmese Shrike *Lanius collurioides* and Yellow-breasted Magpie *Cissa hypoleuca*. Among other species collected were White-eared Night Heron *Gorsachius magnifica*, Rickett's Hill Partridge, Band-bellied Crake *Porzana paykulli*, Fairy Pitta, Swinhoe's Minivet, Brown-chested Flycatcher, Fukien Niltava, Japanese Paradise Flycatcher *Tersiphone atrocaudata* and Silver Oriole, all now considered threatened or near-threatened. Quite clearly, Yao Shan was at that time a site of major ornithological importance. Since then, however, the luxuriant forests and bamboo woods referred to by Yen have been severely damaged. Smil (1984) quoted figures of 21,300ha of forest lost to deforestation and 13,300ha lost to fires at Yao Shan during the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution.

Field observations were made on one visit in summer (Carey *et al.* 1994):
Summer: 9-15 June 1994

Only six of the 27 species mentioned above were recorded. Little primary forest remained, except on inaccessible higher peaks, and most remaining vegetation was 20-30 year old secondary regrowth with a few, isolated relict trees. Although 87 species were recorded in all, local extinctions have almost certainly occurred.

Despite the loss of so much habitat, the Yao Shan reserve remains important as the only known site where the Black-browed Barbet taxon *sini*, endemic to Southeast China, has been found in reasonable numbers. Observations of Brown-chested and Brown-breasted Flycatchers, both listed in Collar *et al.* (1994), and Chinese Bamboo Partridge, Chestnut Bulbul, Vinous-throated Parrotbill, Hwamei and Fork-tailed Sunbird, all endemic or near-endemic to China, were also made.

A survey of Mao Er Shan, also in eastern Guangxi (550km northwest of Hong Kong and 60km north of Guilin) during 9-11 June 1992 found 58 species, including Grey-winged Blackbird *Turdus boulboul*, Blue-winged Minla *Minla cyanuroptera*, Red-tailed Minla *M. ignotincta*, and Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus*. (Vuilleumier 1993).

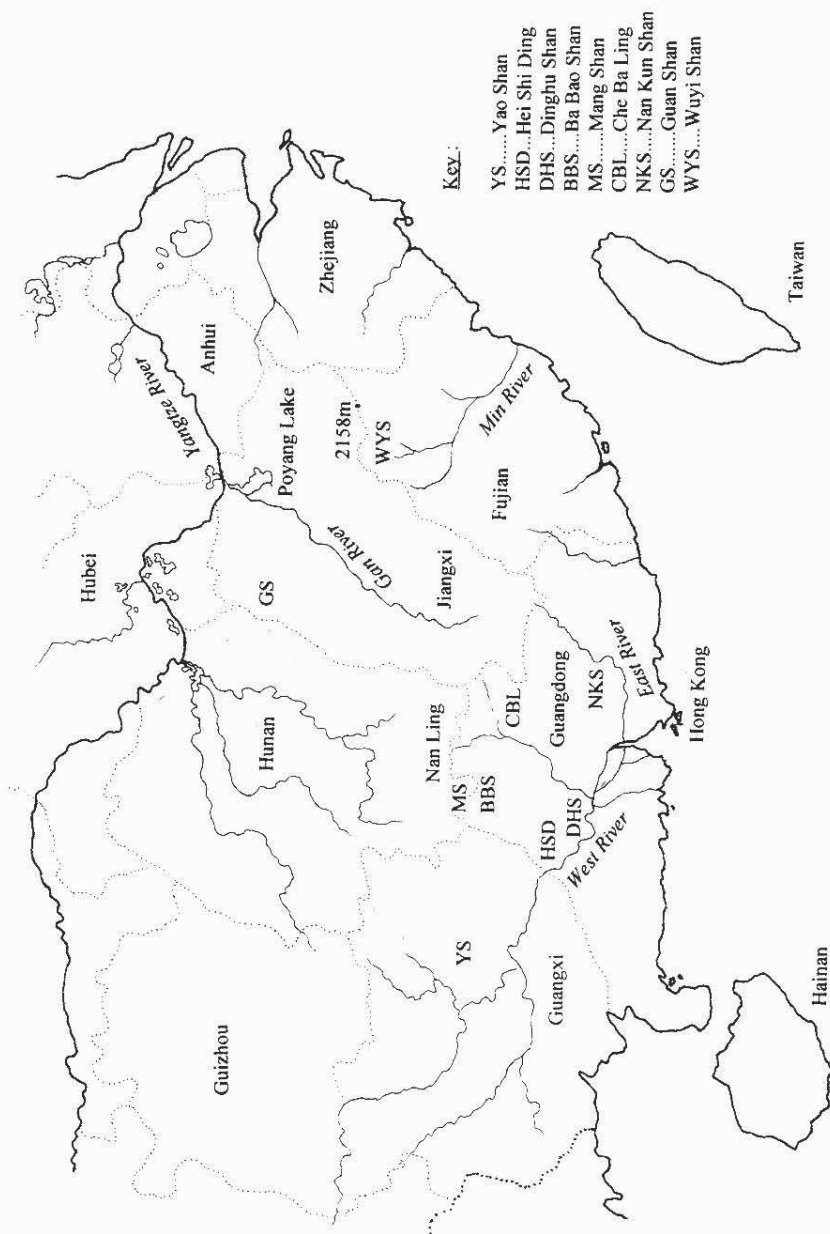


Figure 1. Location of forest sites in 'Southeast' China (Jeremy Pearse)

Guangdong Province (Kwangtung Province)

Hei Shi Ding (23°30'N, 112°00'E)

Situated in Feng Kai county, western Guangdong, about 280km west-northwest of Hong Kong, the reserve covers an area of 4200ha over an altitudinal range of 200-1200m and was created to protect subtropical evergreen broadleaf forest (Mackinnon *et al.* 1996). Viney (1987b) noted that the habitat consists of primary forest (on steep ground), secondary regrowth, logged areas, scrubland, open cultivation and a reservoir. Several fast-flowing rivers with good riverine habitat intersect the reserve.

Field observations were made on 13 days during three visits (Viney 1987b,c, Woodward 1994):

Spring: 28-31 March 1986

Autumn: 16-20 September 1994

Winter: 22-26 January 1986.

A total of 98 species have been recorded, including Mandarin Duck, a near-threatened species, Brown Wood Owl, Black-browed Barbet and Blue-throated Bee-Eater, the latter in quite large numbers. In addition, Chinese and Chestnut Bulbuls, Hwamei, Yellow-bellied Tit and Fork-tailed Sunbird, which are endemic or near-endemic to China, were noted.

Ding Hu Shan (23°15'N, 112°00'E)

Ding Hu Shan, which rises beside the West River in Zhao Qing County, western Guangdong, about 180km west-northwest of Hong Kong, has been a centre of Buddhism since at least the 7th Century. One result of this is that its forests have received protection and ancient trees survive, including some which are thought to be 400 or even 1300 years old (Reels *et al.* 1996a). Vaughan and Jones (1913), who knew it as 'the sacred forest at Howlik', considered it to be ornithologically the most interesting place on the West River and estimated that there were 'four square miles of virgin forest' (about 1000 ha). They also noted that the monks kept the forest intact only by a well-organised system of armed forest guards. Vaughan and Jones collected over 50 species at Ding Hu Shan, including Eagle Owl and Crested Kingfisher, neither of which have subsequently been found, and also made observations at nearby Zhao Qing (Shui Qing).

A reserve covering 1100ha and an altitudinal range of 200-850m was created as early as 1956 in order to preserve a wet monsoonal forest system and in recognition of the fact that a subtropical forest ecosystem could be found in China on the Tropic of Cancer, a latitude that in other parts of the world supports desert. The reserve was declared an IUCN Man and Biosphere Reserve in 1979 (Li and Zhao 1989, Mackinnon *et al.* 1996). Nowadays, the lower altitudes still support rich forest, including ancient trees and patches of riverine forest interspersed with mature secondary forest. The habitat at higher altitudes, though, is a relatively impoverished mixture of plantations, shrublands and scrubby grasslands, and there are problems of fire and human disturbance throughout. At Zhao Qing City, 10km

west of the reserve, the parkland, open water and marshy edges associated with Seven Stars Lake have also been visited.

Field observations were made on 51 days during thirteen visits covering all four seasons (Aston 1992a,b, Hayward 1995, Kazmierczek 1989, Lewthwaite 1990, Williams 1991, 1992, 1994, Wilson 1995, Woodward 1992, 1995a). Visits were made at the following times:

Spring: 7-9 April 1995, 16-21 April 1992, 20-22 April 1994, 26-28 April 1991

Summer: 1-4 June 1995, 10-14 June 1994, 12-16 June 1993

Autumn: 2-4 October 1992

Winter: 18-21 December 1989, 25-28 December 1991, 10-14 February 1991, 2-4 March 1990 and 18-20 March 1992.

In all, 154 species were recorded in the reserve and in the Seven Stars Lake area. The most notable records were Cotton Pygmy Goose, Silver Pheasant, Black-browed Barbet and Fukien Niltava. In addition, Chinese Bamboo Partridge, Chinese and Chestnut Bulbuls, Hwamei, Yellow-bellied Tit and Fork-tailed Sunbird, all endemic or near-endemic to China, were noted.

Ba Bao Shan (24°52'N, 112°58'E)

Ba Bao Shan is situated in Ru Yuan County, northern Guangdong, about 350km north-northwest of Hong Kong. The area, which originally comprised a reserve of the same name established in 1984, is now part of the much larger Nan Ling National Nature Reserve which also includes four other formerly self-standing reserves. This enlarged national level reserve was set up in 1994 and covers an area of 53,100ha at altitudes from 500m to 1922m at the summit of Shi Keng Kong (part of Ba Bao Shan), the highest peak in the Nan Ling (Mackinnon *et al.* 1996). The upland areas support the richest forest and most diverse habitat, including at least 10,000ha of primary forest. *Pinus kwantungensis* is one of a number of tree or plant species that occur. The lower hills have largely been cleared and are either maintained as grassland or planted with pine and bamboo, though a small stand of mature forest survives above Ruyuan township (Melville 1988). Snow is found on the higher slopes nearly annually and in exceptional years is heavy enough to cause widespread damage to trees. Although very few signs of illegal logging have been noted, illegal hunting and recreational shooting were evident to varying degrees during 1991-1995.

Ornithological surveys have been conducted in northern Guangdong since the early part of this century. Surveys of the Long Tou Shan area found Silver Oriole, then new to science, and also such species as Rickett's Hill Partridge, Cabot's Tragopan, Tawny Fish Owl, Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*, Fairy Pitta, Large Grass Warbler *Graminicola bengalensis* and Orange-headed Thrush (Mell 1925). In 1930-31 a survey led by S.S. Sin collected 160 species, including Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*, Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis*, Elliot's Pheasant, Barred Cuckoo Dove and Japanese Robin *Erithacus akahige* at an unnamed site in northern Guangdong, though the latitude and longitude coordinates strongly suggest that it

was in fact the Ba Bao Shan area (Yen 1932). More recent findings were summarised by Viney (1993) in a systematic list that contained useful data on breeding status and altitude.

Field observations were made on 70 days during fourteen visits, covering all four seasons (Carey 1994, 1995, 1996, Davidson and Farrow 1995, Kennerley 1987a, Kirwan and Martins 1995, Lewthwaite 1993b, Stott 1987a,b, 1988a,b, Viney 1987d, 1991, 1993, Williams 1995, 1996). Visits were made at the following times:

Spring: 27-30 March 1996, 7-9 April 1995, 8-12 April 1994, 9-12 April 1995, 12-14 April 1996, 2-7 May 1995, 17-26 May 1994

Summer: 9-14 June 1988, 11-16 June 1987, 12-15 June 1992, 14-18 June 1991, 7-11 July 1987

Autumn: 9-13 October 1993

Winter: 5-10 December 1987.

In all, 221 species were recorded in the reserve and its environs, including eight species that are considered threatened or near-threatened. These are Rickett's Hill Partridge, Cabot's Tragopan, Fairy Pitta, Brown-chested Flycatcher, Swinhoe's Minivet, Grey Laughingthrush, Red-tailed Laughingthrush and Silver Oriole. In addition, there were observations of Chinese Bamboo Partridge, Collared Finchbill, Chinese and Chestnut Bulbuls, Chinese Babax, Masked and Moustached Laughingthrushes, Hwamei, Vinous-throated and Golden Parrotbills, Yellow-bellied Tit, Fork-tailed Sunbird and Collared Crow, all endemic or near-endemic to China. Recently, Varied Tit has been found in mature forest in the reserve.

Che Ba Ling (24°42'N, 114°10'E)

Situated in Shi Xing county, northern Guangdong, about 300km north of Hong Kong, the reserve covers an area of 7600ha and was created in 1981 to protect the subtropical evergreen broadleaf forest and rare fauna and flora, including Tiger *Panthera tigris* (Mackinnon *et al.* 1996). Although there are three peaks over 1000m, including one at 1255m, much of the reserve covers forested valleys and low hills between 375m and 600m. The river running through the reserve is important in two respects. Its water quality, which is thought to be unusually good, provides food for such stream specialists as Blyth's Kingfisher and Brown Dipper, both of which occur in good numbers. Secondly, it has a measurable economic value. Farmers and hydroelectric producers immediately downstream of the reserve, whose own incomes depend on year-round water levels that are directly related to the extent and quality of forest in the reserve, have contributed to a fund which compensates villagers inside the reserve for the loss of certain timber rights. This admirable arrangement has greatly reduced pressure on the forest. The absence of hunting and illegal felling, certainly in the core areas of the reserve, are further evidence of the effectiveness of the reserve management. Birds are generally present in higher densities at Che Ba Ling than elsewhere in Southeast China. Immediately outside the reserve there are large areas of forest which have not yet been given reserve status but clearly merit it.

The reserve was not visited by HKBWS members until 1995. Since then field observations have been made on 28 days during six visits (Cheung 1995a, b, Leven 1996a, Lewthwaite 1996, Tung 1996, Walthew 1996) as follows:

Spring: 9-14 May 1996

Summer: 1-3 June 1996, 17-21 June 1996

Winter: 17-20 January 1995, 16-19 March 1996, 24-29 December 1995.

A total of 154 species has been recorded in the reserve and its environs, including five threatened or near-threatened species. These are Mandarin Duck, Tawny Fish Owl, Blyth's Kingfisher, Fukien Niltava and Slaty Bunting. Specimens collected in the reserve and displayed in the reserve museum are evidence of the occurrence of a further four threatened or near-threatened species, namely Rickett's Hill Partridge, Cabot's Tragopan, Swinhoe's Minivet and Fairy Pitta. In addition, Chinese Bamboo Partridge, Collared Finchbill, Chinese and Chestnut Bulbuls, Masked Laughingthrush, Hwamei, Yellow-bellied Tit and Fork-tailed Sunbird, all of which are endemic or near-endemic to China, were noted.

Nan Kun Shan (23°35'N, 113°45'E)

Situated in Long Men county, central Guangdong, about 150km north of Hong Kong, the reserve covers an area of 1900ha over an altitudinal range of 200-1100m and was created to protect subtropical evergreen broadleaf forest and rare fauna and flora (Mackinnon *et al.* 1996). Viney (1987a) noted areas of primary forest, plantations of bamboo and pine, cultivation, scrubland, grassland, a reservoir and riverine habitat.

Signs of hunting and trapping have been noted on several visits. During the period March 1984 to January 1986 there was evidence that Rickett's Hill Partridge and Chinese Pangolin *Manis pentadactyla* were trapped, though sightings of large deer identified as Sambar *Cervus unicolor* suggested that trapping was not then an overwhelming problem (Viney 1987a); other targets that have been noted are Common and Silver Pheasants, and Chinese Bamboo Partridge. In 1991 shotguns were available for hire in the reserve and recreational shooting was widespread (Ng 1991). In December 1993 and June 1994 shooting parties were frequently encountered and the village restaurants (within the reserve) displayed four or five species of owl for sale as food items. Obviously, hunting is a significant problem.

This was the first reserve in Southeast China to be surveyed by HKBWS members. Field observations have been made on 45 days during 11 visits (Aston 1994, Cooper 1989, Holmes 1993, Lewthwaite 1989b, Ng 1991, Turnbull 1989, Viney 1987a, Woodward 1995b) as follows:

Spring: 26-29 April 1991, 3-6 May 1985

Summer: 24-29 May 1989, 10-14 June 1994

Autumn: 26-28 August 1995, 9-12 November 1984

Winter: 24-27 December 1993, 16-20 January 1986, 24-26 January 1993, 23-26 March 1984, 23-28 March 1989.

A total of 159 species was recorded during these visits, including fivethreatened or near -threatened species. These are Schrenck's Bittern, Mandarin Duck, Rickett's Hill Partridge, Swinhoe's Minivet and Fairy Pitta. In addition, seven endemic or near-endemic species were noted, namely Chinese Bamboo Partridge, Chinese and Chestnut Bulbuls, Masked Laughingthrush, Hwamei, Yellow-bellied Tit and Fork-tailed Sunbird.

Hunan Province

Mang Shan (24°53'N-25°03'N, 112°43'-113°00'E)

Situated in Yi Zhang county, southern Hunan, about 360km north-northwest of Hong Kong, the reserve covers an area of 20,000ha over an altitudinal range of 452-1902m and was created to protect subtropical evergreen broadleaf forest and rare flora and fauna, including Sambar and Stump-tailed Macaque *Macaca arctoides* (Mackinnon *et al.* 1996). In the areas visited in April 1995 the habitat was predominantly broadleaved primary forest with little evidence of human disturbance. There were also areas of scrub that had recently been planted with low-density conifers, riverine forest, upland bamboo plantations and a reservoir (M.D. Williams pers. comm.).

Field observations have been made on four dates (Williams 1995, 1996, Carey 1996) :

Spring: 29 March 1996, 10th, 11th and 13 April 1995.

A total of 52 species have been recorded, including two threatened or near-threatened species, Brown-chested Flycatcher and Slaty Bunting. Up to eight Varied Tits have been seen here. In addition, there were records of Chestnut Bulbul, Vinous-throated Parrotbill, Golden Parrotbill and Yellow-bellied Tit, all of which are endemic or near-endemic to China. Recently, Short-tailed Parrotbill has been found breeding in the reserve (Poole 1996).

Two sites in southern Hunan, 'Woo-kang' and 'Chin-tung-chan' at coordinates given as 'toward 26° north and between 112° and 113° east', thus indicating a location 100km to the north of Mang Shan, were surveyed by S.S. Sin and others, mostly during 5 April to 10 May 1930 (Yen 1933b). Among 89 species collected were Temminck's Tragopan *Tragopan temminckii*, Golden Pheasant *Chrysolophus pictus*, Swinhoe's Minivet and Silky Starling *Sturnus sericeus*, all now considered threatened or near-threatened, and also Lesser Yellow-nape *Picus chlorophus*, Blue-winged Minla *Minla cyanuroptera*, Red-tailed Minla *Minla ignotincta* and Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus*. Cheng (1987) appears to have discounted or overlooked the woodpecker record.

Jiangxi Province (Kiangsi Province)

Guan Shan (28°33'N, 114°35'E)

Situated in Yi Feng county in the Jiu Ling Shan range, northwestern Jiangxi, about 660km north of Hong Kong, the reserve covers an area of 2200ha over an altitudinal range of 500-1400m and was created to protect central subtropical

evergreen broadleaf and deciduous forest and Elliot's Pheasant *Syrnaticus ellioti* (Mackinnon *et al.* 1996). Sadly, by 1993 logging was underway in a valley which had been favoured by pheasants. The open country in the Yi Feng area, about 60km from Guan Shan, has also been covered by birdwatchers.

Very little is known or has been published about the avifauna of Jiangxi which is the province in which Poyang Lake remained undiscovered as a wintering site for cranes and other wildfowl until the early 1980s.

Field observations were made on 20 days (Beaman 1993, Bryant 1994, Lewthwaite 1991, Lewthwaite and Hackett 1993, Stevens and Smith 1992) during five visits as follows:

Autumn: 11-16 November 1992, 20-23 November 1993

Winter: 21-23 December 1991, 24-27 December 1992, 24-26 December 1994.

In all, 118 species were recorded inside the reserve and in the Yi Feng area, including two threatened or near-threatened species, Mandarin and Elliot's Pheasant. Silver Pheasants were recorded in good numbers on some visits. In addition, there were records of Chinese Bamboo Partridge, Collared Finchbill, Chestnut Bulbul, Masked Laughingthrush, Vinous-throated Parrotbill and Yellow-bellied Tit, all of which are endemic or near-endemic to China.

Fujian Province (Fukien Province)

Wu Yi Shan (27°35'-27°55'N, 117°24'-117°51'E)

Situated in Jian Yang, Chong An and Guang Ze counties, northwestern Fujian, about 700km north-northeast of Hong Kong, the reserve covers an area of 56,500ha over an altitudinal range of 700-2158m and was created to protect a subtropical forest ecosystem and its rare fauna and flora (Mackinnon *et al.* 1996.).

La Touche (1925-34) gave detailed descriptions of over 750 taxa occurring in East China, including 120 species found in the Wu Yi Shan area. A favoured locality was the hamlet of Guadun (Kuatun), where Pere David collected during October-November 1873, though the forest here appears to have been felled by the turn of the century.

Surveys have covered altitudes from 400m to 2158m in the reserve and its environs (Kennerley 1986, Lewthwaite 1993a, Stott 1990, Viney 1986). Field observations were made on 25 days during four visits as follows:

Summer: 27 May to 2 June 1990, 30 May to 6 June 1986

Autumn: 9-14 November 1986

Winter: 30 December 1992 to 2 January 1993.

A total of 176 species has been recorded inside the reserve and in the nearby lowlands. Rickett's Hill Partridge, Cabot's Tragopan, Swinhoe's Minivet, Brown-chested Flycatcher and Short-tailed Parrotbill, all threatened or near-threatened, were recorded, as well as Chinese Bamboo Partridge, Collared

Finchbill, Chinese and Chestnut Bulbuls, Masked and Moustached Laughingthrushes, Hwamei, Yellow-bellied Tit and Fork-tailed Sunbird, all endemic or near-endemic to China.

Elsewhere in Fujian, two other wooded areas have been visited. At Gu Shan (Drum Hill), Fuzhou, 41 species were noted during visits in January and June (Lewthwaite 1993, Stott 1990, Viney 1986), including Hume's Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus humei humei*, apparently the first record for Fujian and the third for China of this form following two records in Hong Kong (Leader 1990, 1992b). Among 64 species recorded at Xiamen during 1-3 May 1992 were a Crested Goshawk, three Blue-tailed Bee-eaters *Merops philippinus* and a singing male Hainan Blue Flycatcher (Lewthwaite 1992).

Annotated list of forest birds of Southeast China

The following annotated list covers species that are listed in Collar *et al.* (1994), species that have been afforded national protection in China, species for which recent observations have produced a range extension as against the standard literature or for which noteworthy observations have been made.

Symbols used: V = vulnerable; N = near-threatened (based on Collar *et al.* 1994), I, II - Category I and II nationally protected species in China; Ch = Chinese endemic; Ch* = breeds only in China though recorded elsewhere in the non-breeding season; R = near Chinese endemic with restricted range outside China (based on de Schauensee 1984). Where it is considered relevant, the status of species in Hong Kong is also provided.

Schrenck's Bittern *Ixobrychus eurhythmus* (N)

One at 600m near a stream at Nan Kun Shan on 4 May 1985. A scarce passage migrant through Hong Kong.

Cotton Pygmy Goose *Nettapus coromandelianus*

One at Seven Stars Lake, Zhao Qing, 3 June 1995. Stated by Vaughan and Jones (1913) to be somewhat irregular but noted at all times of year on the West River and in the Pearl River Delta; considered a summer visitor to Guangdong and Fujian by La Touche (1925-34) and stated to be a fairly common resident in Guangdong and Guangxi by Cheng (1987). In Hong Kong it is a vagrant with four records, the last on 30 October 1976 (Chalmers 1986). Given increased observer coverage in Hong Kong and Southeast China in recent years, the relative lack of records indicates that this species has suffered a major decline in the region.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata* (N,II)

Observed at four sites in winter: three on 28 March 1986 at Hei Shi Ding, five on 11 December 1984 at Nan Kun Shan, six on 27 December 1995 at Che Ba Ling, six on 22 November 1993 at Guan Shan and up to ten there during 24-26 December 1994. La Touche (1925-1934) considered it common and that it possibly bred on the Min Jiang in central Fujian.

Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes*

Recorded at six sites, with the highest count being a flock of 50 at Ba Bao Shan on 16 October 1993. Observations at Wu Yi Shan during late May and early June 1986 and 1990, including two pairs seen at 900m during the latter visit, extend the known range of

this species northeast by about 500km. Cheng (1987) notes this species as a summer visitor and possible resident in Yunnan, Guangxi and Guangdong. Since these birds display frequently and obviously in May, often quite low over open areas near forest edges (pers. obs.) where they would have been very easy to collect, and given that the species was first confirmed breeding in Hong Kong only in 1989 (Croft 1990), it seems likely that a genuine range expansion has occurred, rather than birds being overlooked in the past.

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* (II)

Recorded at Ding Hu Shan (two on 4 March 1990 and one on 20 April 1992) and Guan Shan (one on two dates during 11-16 November and one on 27 December).

Shikra *Accipiter badius* (II)

A male at 1000m at Yao Shan on 10 June 1994. Stated by Cheng (1987) to be a rare resident in Yunnan, Guizhou, Guangxi and southwest Guangdong.

Besra *Accipiter virgatus* (II)

Noted only in Guangdong. Single birds at Zhao Qing on 18 December 1989 and at Ba Bao Shan on 11 June 1987 and 6 December 1987, two at Che Ba Ling on 17 March 1996 and one there on 10 May 1996, and one at Nan Kun Shan on three dates during 3-6 May 1985. Vaughan and Jones (1913) recorded this species only once, at Zhao Qing on 10 March.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* (II)

Singles at Ba Bao Shan on 9 October 1993, Nan Kun Shan on 16 January 1986 and Guan Shan on 12 November 1992 were the only records. Vaughan and Jones (1913) considered this species to be a common winter visitor from mid October to mid April on the Guangdong coast and also along the West River.

Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus* (II)

Regularly recorded at all Guangdong sites, Guan Shan and Wu Yi Shan, with the maximum daily count being five at Che Ba Ling; also recorded at Xiamen, Fujian. These records extend the known range east by over 800km. Cheng (1987) notes the mainland distribution of this species as Sichuan, Guizhou, Yunnan and Guangxi. In Hong Kong it was first noted in 1983, though it was thought probable that birds previously reported as *gentilis* had been confused with this species (Chalmers 1986). Therefore, rather than undergoing a massive range expansion, it seems more likely that this species has for a long time been widely distributed in Southeast China, but had evaded collection and, when seen in the field, had been confused with other *Accipiter* species.

Chinese Goshawk *Accipiter soloensis* (II)

At Ba Bao Shan two to four daily, including a pair, have been recorded at 700-1500m during visits from May to mid July; at Che Ba Ling up to eight daily have been seen at 400-600m during visits in May and June; and at Nan Kun Shan one to four have been recorded on eleven dates during 26 April-14 June. At Wu Yi Shan one to four have been noted at 700-1500m on dates in May and June. There were no autumn or winter records. The only specimen collected by Vaughan and Jones (1913) was at Ding Hu Shan on 6 May. In Hong Kong this species is a passage migrant, with the majority of sightings between mid April and mid May (Chalmers 1986). Although Cheng (1987) considers this species to be resident in Guangdong, the above records clearly indicate that it is a migrant and summer visitor.

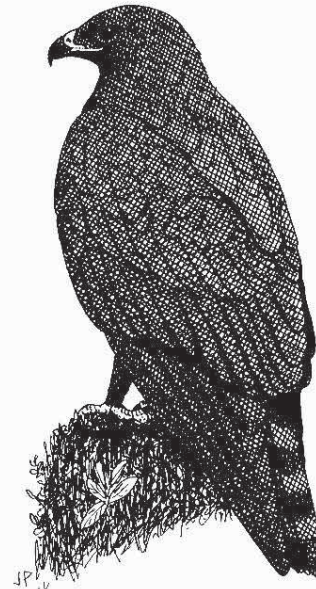
Grey-faced Buzzard *Butastur indicus*

Seen on three dates during 9-15 June 1994 at Yao Shan (singles at 800m and 1000m and three at 500m, including a displaying pair). These summer observations in eastern

Guangxi are more than 1600km southwest of this species' known breeding season range in Northeast China.

Asian Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis*

Two over forest at 600m on 26 December 1995 and 12 May 1996 and one on 2 June 1996, all at Che Ba Ling. The birds on 12 May were observed close to a massive nest in a large pine tree. At Wu Yi Shan, singles were seen at 1400m on 1 January 1993 and 30 May 1990. Cheng (1987) considered this species to be rare and noted it as occurring only in Fujian and Taiwan. The observations from Che Ba Ling therefore extend its known range southwest by almost 600km.



Asian Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis*

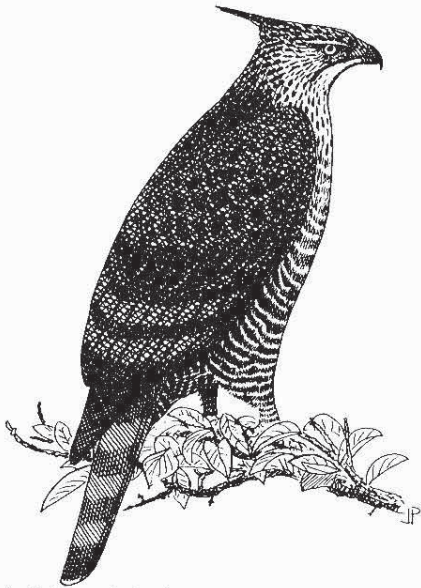
Jeremy Pearse

Mountain Hawk Eagle *Spizaetus nipalensis*

One on 10 April at Mang Shan and one to two on nine dates in November and December at Guan Shan appear to be the first records for Hunan and Jiangxi, and extend the range of this species into the interior of China by up to 300km. In Southeast China considered resident in the coastal provinces of Guangdong, Fujian, Anhui and Zhejiang and a possible migrant in Guangxi (Cheng 1987). Vagrant to Hong Kong with four records.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* (II)

Recorded only in Guangdong at Ba Bao Shan (singles on 8 April 1995, 10th and 12 June 1988 and 14 June 1987, and two on 11 October 1993) all at 600m near Ruyuan township, and at Nan Kun Shan (one just outside the reserve on 23 March 1989). In considering this species to be only a winter visitor to Guangdong, Cheng (1987) may have overlooked Vaughan and Jones' (1913) report of eggs being taken from a nest on the North River on 29 April. The June records at Ba Bao Shan are further evidence that this species may breed or over-summer in northern Guangdong.



Mountain Hawk Eagle *Spizaetus nipalensis*

Jeremy Pearse

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo* (II)

Up to three recorded at 600-1700m at all sites in Guangdong except Hei Shi Ding between 10 April and 2 June. Vaughan and Jones (1913) considered this species to be resident on the West River and inland generally and uncommon in winter at the coast. They also reported finding a nest in the city of Zhao Qing and observing a flock of more than 40 birds over a hill close to Ding Hu Shan on 5 September. Cheng (1987) also considered this species to be resident in Guangdong. Breeding was first recorded in Hong Kong in 1994 (Walthew 1995).

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (II)

Infrequently recorded at Ding Hu Shan (19 December), Ba Bao Shan (8 April 1995 at 600m and 12 June at 1300m), Che Ba Ling (24 December), Nan Kun Shan (26 December) and Wu Yi Resort (a pair on 6 June and one on 10 November). Considered a fairly common winter visitor to Hong Kong, Macau and the West River, with one collected at Ding Hu Shan on 23 April thought to be late (Vaughan and Jones 1913). Breeding has been confirmed in Hong Kong (Chalmers 1986).

Rickett's Hill Partridge *Arborophila gingica* (V, Ch)

Recorded infrequently in small numbers at only three sites. At Ba Bao Shan up to five seen and heard at 1400-1600m on 14 April 1996, 2-7 May 1995, 22-24 May 1994 and 13 October 1993. Two at Nan Kun Shan on 27 December 1993 were 200km south of their known range. Viney (1987a) had earlier found evidence that this species was shot in winter at this site. At Wu Yi Shan, singles heard daily during 29-31 May 1990 in primary forest at 1200-1500m and on 5 June 1986 at Guadun at 1500m. Cheng (1987) noted this species as resident in eastern Guangxi, central and northwest Fujian and northern Guangdong. Specimens said to have been collected in the reserve are on display in the museum at Che Ba Ling.

Chinese Bamboo Partridge *Bambusicola thoracica* (Ch)

Recorded at most sites, with counts of ten at Ding Hu Shan in March, 30 at Che Ba Ling in December and 50 at Guan Shan in November. Vaughan and Jones (1913) observed chicks at Ding Hu Shan on 31 May.

Cabot's Tragopan *Tragopan caboti* (V, I, Ch)

Resident in or close to mature forest at two sites, though noted on only 18 out of 95 days. At Ba Bao Shan recorded from 29 March to 17 June and also on 7 December with the highest count being 11 birds over five days in May. Two young (at least 10-14 days old) were seen on 20 May. At Wu Yi Shan recorded on four dates from 28 May to 3 June and on 11 November. In contrast to this rather meagre collection of recent records, La Touche (1925-1934) stated that it was 'common enough' in the woods near Guadun, Wu Yi Shan. This species is restricted to northeast Guangxi, northern Guangdong and central and northwest Fujian (Cheng 1987). Specimens said to have been collected in the reserve are on display in the Che Ba Ling museum.

[Koklass Pheasant *Pucrasia macrolopha* (II)

King (1987) reported up to three at Yi Shan during 3-6 December 1986, apparently the first for Jiangxi. Cheng (1987) gave the range of this species in Southeast China as northern Guangdong, northwest Fujian, Anhui and Zhejiang. The only record at the sites under consideration concerns specimens said to have been collected at Che Ba Ling that are on display in the reserve museum.]

Silver Pheasant *Lophura nycthemera* (II)

Recorded at all Guangdong sites (including up to 21 at Ding Hu Shan at 250m in March 1990), as well as Wu Yi Shan and Guan Shan where the highest day count was 16 males and 39 females in a valley close to reserve HQ. This valley was reported to have been logged by 1993 and the only subsequent counts were 13 on 21 November 1993 and seven on 24 December 1992. Records at Ding Hu Shan and Guan Shan extend the range of this species by about 180km south and 300km northwest, respectively. In Southeast China stated to be resident in Guangxi, northern and eastern Guangdong and northwest Fujian (Cheng 1987).

Elliot's Pheasant *Syrnaticus ellioti* (V, I, Ch)

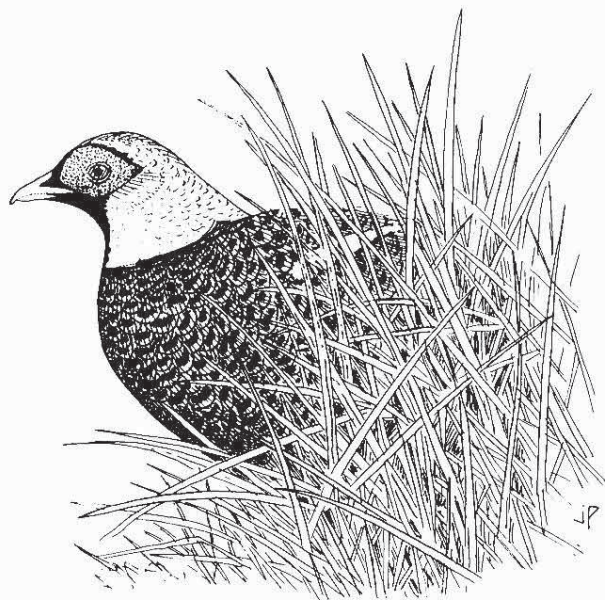
Recorded only at Guan Shan where up to five birds have been noted on four dates in November and December. King (1987) recorded up to three at Yi Shan (Jiangxi) during 3-6 December 1986. These observations extend the range into northwest Jiangxi. La Touche (1925-1934) stated that this species was not easily met with in Zhejiang or Fujian. Cheng (1987) considers it to be a rare resident in northern Guangdong, northwest Fujian, eastern Jiangxi, southern Anhui and western Zhejiang.

Brown Crane *Amaurornis akool*

Recorded at four sites, including Yi Feng (Jiangxi) where up to two between 20 November and 24 December extend the range of this species northwest by about 250km. Cheng (1987) noted this species as resident in Southeast China in Guangxi, Guangdong and Fujian and a summer visitor to Hunan, Anhui and Jiangsu.

Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*

Recorded in spring or winter at all sites in Guangdong and at Guan Shan and Wu Yi Shan. Although the distribution map in Cheng (1987) indicates a number of specimens taken in Southeast China, these are not mentioned in the text and might be understood to refer to vagrants, rather than to indicate resident or wintering populations. Several earlier authors (e.g. La Touche 1925-34) had in fact described this species as a resident and migrant throughout China, including the southeastern provinces. A winter visitor to Hong Kong.



Elliot's Pheasant *Syrmaticus ellioti*

Jeremy Pearse

Barred Cuckoo Dove *Macropygia unchall* (II)

Recorded only at Wu Yi Shan with three to four daily during 28-30 June 1990 and 'small parties' during 29 May-5 June 1986. Stated to occur at Long Tou Shan (northern Guangdong) by Mell (1925). In Southeast China considered by Cheng (1987) to be resident in Guangdong and northwest Fujian. Vagrant to Hong Kong with two winter records (Chalmers 1986, 1989).

Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*

One to two on nine dates throughout the year at Ding Hu Shan and one on 25 May 1989 at Nan Kun Shan extend the range of this species inland by about 120km. Cheng (1987) considered this species to occur only on the coast in Guangdong.

Lesser Cuckoo *Cuculus poliocephalus*

Up to seven recorded at Yao Shan, Ba Bao Shan, Nan Kun Shan and Wu Yi Shan from 20 May to 11 July. These observations represent range extensions of up to 400km east into Guangdong and 250km southeast into Fujian. In Southeast China stated to be a summer visitor to Guangxi and the lower and middle Yangtze (Cheng 1987).

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis* (II)

Recorded at all five Guangdong sites and at Wu Yi Resort. Vaughan and Jones (1913) state that it was exceedingly common on the Guangdong coast (including Hong Kong and Macau), but less abundant further inland. La Touche (1925-34) describes it as a very common throughout the southeastern provinces. Common and widespread in Hong Kong.

Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis* (II)

Recorded at Yao Shan, all Guangdong sites, Gu Shan and Wu Yi Resort. Considered a common bird of 'grass-jungle' in South China by La Touche (1925-34). Vaughan and Jones (1913) note it as occurring on the outskirts of the forest at Ding Hu Shan.

Collared Scops Owl *Otus lempiji* (II)

[Treated by Cheng (1987) as *Otus bakkamoena*]

Recorded only at night at Hei Shi Ding (September), Ding Hu Shan (February, April and December), Ba Bao Shan (April-June), Nan Kun Shan (January, March and May), Guan Shan (November-December) and Wu Yi Resort (late May-early June).

Oriental Scops Owl *Otus sunia* (II)

[Treated by Cheng (1987) as *Otus scops*]

Mainly daytime records at Ding Hu Shan (2 June), Ba Bao Shan (up to five, 8 April-11 July), Che Ba Ling (up to five, 16-17 March) and Wu Yi Resort (1-2 June).

Eurasian Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo* (II)

One after dark at Ba Bao Shan on 8 December 1987. A fully-fledged juvenile was collected at Ding Hu Shan in early May (Vaughan and Jones 1913).

Tawny Fish Owl *Ketupa flavipes* (N, II)

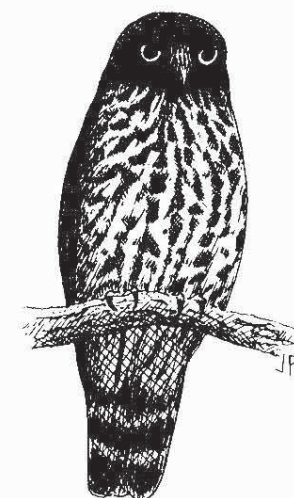
A feather was found at 400m below a large Sweet Gum *Liquidambar formosa* tree beside the main stream at Che Ba Ling on 12 May 1996. Also one said to have been collected in the reserve in the Che Ba Ling reserve museum. Although Mell (1925) stated that one was collected from a large *Liquidambar* at 250m at Long Tou Shan (northern Guangdong), Cheng (1987) appears to have overlooked or discounted this in giving the range in Southeast China as coastal Guangdong only.

Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodiei* (II)

Recorded at Yao Shan (June), Ding Hu Shan (February-April and October), Ba Bao Shan (March-April, June, when breeding proven, October and December), Che Ba Ling (March and December) Nan Kun Shan (April-May), Guan Shan (December) and Wu Yi Shan (June).

Brown Hawk Owl *Ninox scutulata* (II)

Singles recorded at Ding Hu Shan on 3 March 1990, Ba Bao Shan on 13 October 1993 and Nan Kun Shan on 26 April, 3 May and 26 May. A rare spring migrant in Hong Kong, mainly during early to mid April.



Brown Hawk Owl *Ninox scutulata*
Jeremy Pearse

Asian Barred Owl *Glaucidium cuculoides* (II)

Recorded at Yao Shan (June, breeding proven), all Guangdong sites (January, March-June and December), Guan Shan (November-December) and Wu Yi Resort (January, May-June, when breeding proven, and November).

Brown Wood Owl *Strix leptogrammica* (II)

A call attributed to this species was heard nightly at Hei Shi Ding during 22-25 January 1986. Three specimens, including a juvenile, said to have been collected at Che Ba Ling are on display in the reserve museum. In Southeast China considered resident in central Guangxi, eastern Jiangxi and central Fujian, but not known for Guangdong (Cheng 1987). At Yao Shan, where at least three specimens were collected, considered rare (Yen 1930).

White-vented Needletail *Hirundapus cochinchinensis* (II)

Observed at Yao Shan (counts of up to 40 during 9-15 June), Ding Hu Shan (up to 24 during 26-28 April 1991), Ba Bao Shan (up to four during 4-5 May 1995 and one at 1900m on 9 October 1993) and Che Ba Ling (up to 100 during 12-13 May 1996). The birds at Yao Shan were possibly summer visitors, those at the other sites, migrants. These observations extend the range of this species north and northeast by 500-750km and are consistent with records in Hong Kong where flocks of up to 150 have been recorded in early April. Considered resident on Hainan but not previously considered to occur in Guangxi or Guangdong by Cheng (1987).

Red-headed Trogon *Harpactes erythrocephalus*

Recorded in Guangdong at Ba Bao Shan, Che Ba Ling and Nan Kun Shan, where there were up to six during 28-29 May 1989. The latter observations extend the range of this species south by 150km. In Southeast China considered by Cheng (1987) to be a resident in northern Guangxi, northern Guangdong and central and northwestern Fujian.

Blyth's Kingfisher *Alcedo hercules* (V)

Recorded only at Che Ba Ling where one to seven were seen daily during 16-19 March, including three pairs holding territory on an eight km section of river that ranged from two to thirty metres wide (Leven 1996c). Up to seven, including five males, were also recorded during 10-14 May 1996. In January, June and December up to two were noted daily. The discovery of a population in northern Guangdong extends the range of this species east by 600-900 km. Stated to be resident in southern Yunnan and Hainan Island by Cheng (1987).

Crested Kingfisher *Ceryle lugubris*

Recorded at six sites including the Guan Shan area where singles inside the reserve and between the reserve and Yi Feng on 11th and 16 November 1992 respectively appear to be the first records for Jiangxi. In Southeast China considered by Cheng (1987) to be resident in southern Guangxi, Guangdong and Fujian.

Blue-throated Bee-Eater *Merops viridis*

A total of 134 migrating south or southwest in small flocks were counted at Hei Shi Ding on 17 September 1994 following a replenishment of the northeast monsoon; two were noted the next day and five on 19th. Elsewhere, this species has been recorded at Ba Bao Shan (up to three on five dates, 9 June-11 July; breeding confirmed), Che Ba Ling (six on 11 May 1996 and thirteen the next day), Nan Kun Shan (one, 28 May 1989) and Wu Yi Resort (up to six on three dates in early June). In Hong Kong, this species is a vagrant with two records (Holmes 1992, Leven and Carey 1993).

Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

Noted in Guangdong as follows: at Ba Bao Shan up to three on just two dates in April and up to 12 on many dates from 2 May to 11 July; at Che Ba Ling 2-12 daily during 9-14 May and up to six daily in June; at Nan Kun Shan up to two on four dates during 3-29 May, with at least ten on 4th. The pattern of records indicates that this species is a passage migrant and summer visitor to Guangdong, rather than a resident as stated by Cheng (1987).

Black-browed Barbet *Megalaima oorti sini* (taxon endemic to Southeast China)

Recorded at four sites in Guangxi and Guangdong: up to ten daily at 500-1200m during 10-14 June at Yao Shan, one on 19 September at Hei Shi Ding, one to five on 18 dates throughout the year at Ding Hu Shan, mostly at 250m, and one on 16 March and three on 12 May at Che Ba Ling at 400m. The observations from Guangdong extend the range of this species southeast by 250km and east by over 400km. Cheng (1987) states that *sini* occurs only at Yao Shan, Guangxi. Yen (1933-34) states that it was resident in the forests at Yao Shan at 500-2000m and that a long series of specimens had been collected.

The taxonomy of the three endemic Chinese forms, *faber* (Hainan), *sini* (Guangxi and Guangdong) and *nuchalis* (Taiwan), is usually considered in relation to the extralimital *oorti* (Malaysia) and *annamensis* (Indochina). Berlioz (1936) recognised two species in China, *faber* (including *sini*) and *nuchalis*, both distinct from *oorti*, which included *annamensis*. Later, all five taxa were lumped into a single species, *M. oorti* (Ripley 1945). When recent recordings of birds singing in Guangxi, Guangdong, Taiwan and South Annam made by RWL, T.J. Woodward, A. Hayward, V.B. Picken and B. King were compared with published recordings from Malaysia (White 1984), the songs of *sini* and *nuchalis* were found to differ from each other and from those of *annamensis* and *oorti*, which in turn resembled each other. A recording of the song of *faber* could not be obtained. When skins of all five taxa were examined at the British Museum (Natural History), Tring, UK, *faber* and *sini* were found to have entirely black crowns and to resemble each other apart from minor differences, *nuchalis* showed a blue-green crown with a yellow forehead, while *annamensis* was overall very similar to *oorti*, with both showing pale yellow crowns. The taxonomy of this group is under review (Lewthwaite and Williams in prep.).

Pale-headed Woodpecker *Gecinulus grantia*

One at Wu Yi Shan on 10 November 1986 is the only record. La Touche (1925-1934) stated that it was rare at Wu Yi Shan and that Mell had recorded one in northern Guangdong.

White-backed Woodpecker *Picoides leucotos*

Recorded at Guan Shan (singles on 20 November 1993 and 21 December 1991) and Wu Yi Shan (one or two at 1500-2000m on four dates in late May and early June). In Southeast China considered resident only in northwestern Fujian (Cheng 1987). These observations from Guan Shan therefore extend its known range northwest by 300km.

Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis*

The most frequently observed woodpecker, recorded at all sites except Yao Shan. Two during 12-14 November 1992 and one on 21 December 1991 at Guan Shan extend the range of this species east by about 100km. In Southeast China considered resident in Guangxi, Guangdong, Hunan and Fujian (Cheng 1987). Vagrant to Hong Kong with records dating back to 1992 (Edge 1994, Carey *et al.* 1995).

Fairy Pitta *Aviceda leuphotes* (V, II)

Recorded in Guangdong at Ba Bao Shan (up to three at 1400m during 5-7th and 18-23 May, singles on 8th and 10 July) and Nan Kun Shan (one in primary forest 26-28

May 1990). Specimens said to have been collected in the reserve were on display in the Che Ba Ling reserve museum. Although Yen (1933-34) stated that this species was resident at Yao Shan, all of at least nine specimens collected there were taken during April and May (Yen 1930, 1932, 1933-34; Stresemann 1930c). This species is a very rare migrant through Hong Kong.

Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus*

[Treated by Cheng (1987) as a form of *D. urbica*]

Recorded at seven sites. In Guangdong noted on 18 dates during 16 March-12 October with no winter records. This species is, therefore, better considered a migrant and summer visitor to Guangdong, rather than a resident, as stated in Cheng (1987), although there a few winter records from Hong Kong.

Upland Pipit *Anthus sylvanus*

Recorded at Wu Yi Shan and Hei Shi Ding where two during 28-31 March 1986 extend the range of this species inland by almost 200km. In Guangdong this species was not thought to occur inland by Cheng (1987). It has presumably been under-recorded in Southeast China as a result of limited attention being paid to steep grassy slopes, its preferred habitat elsewhere (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). Resident in Hong Kong (Chalmers 1986).

Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus*

Observations of up to 20 displaying over montane grassland at 2000m on 29th and 31 May 1990 at Wu Yi Shan constitute a range extension southeast of at least 800km. This species is stated by Cheng (1987) to breed in southwest, central and northeast China including Yunnan, Sichuan, Guizhou, western Hubei and Hebei.

Large Cuckoo Shrike *Coracina macei*

[Treated by Cheng (1987) as conspecific with *Coracina novaehollandiae*]

Only recorded at Wu Yi Shan where singles at 1800m on 29 May 1990 and at 1200m on 31 December 1992 are apparently the first for northwest Fujian. In Southeast China considered by Cheng (1987) to be an uncommon resident in western Guangxi, Guangdong and central and eastern Fujian.

Swinhoe's Minivet *Pericrocotus cantonensis* (N, Ch*)

[Treated by some authors as conspecific with Rosy Minivet *P. roseus* and Stanford's Minivet *P. stanfordi*, the latter often considered a hybrid.]

Recorded at Ba Bao Shan (singles on 8 April 1994 and 10-11 October 1993), Nan Kun Shan (at least three during 23-26 March 1986) and Wu Yi Resort (a pair at 400m on 30 May 1986); all were considered to be *cantonensis*. Vaughan and Jones (1913) state that *stanfordi* was a summer visitor to the Guangdong coast and along the Guangdong section of the West River between Tak Hing and Sam Shui (either side of Zhao Qing), arriving from the first week of April, with 'a great many' present by the middle of the month, and nesting in banyans and firs; it was replaced by *roseus*, also a summer visitor, from Tak Hing west into Guangxi. These authors found *cantonensis* only once, on the North River, and considered that its range lay further to the east and north. La Touche (1925-34) considered *cantonensis* one of the most characteristic summer birds at Fuzhou (southern Fujian), arriving April. Yen (1933-34) did not find *stanfordi* in Guangxi, but considered both *cantonensis* and *roseus* to be common there, the former occurring from March to early June and the latter 'during the warm season'. Cheng (1987) treated *cantonensis* as a race of *roseus*, with *stanfordi* a hybrid population. Stating that it was common in the south, Cheng gave the breeding ranges of *roseus* as west and southwest China to Guangxi and southwest Guangdong and *cantonensis* as west and central China east to Guangxi, Guangdong and Fujian. The paucity of records

of *cantonensis* indicates that numbers have declined significantly in Southeast China, while the absence of records of *stanfordi* at Ding Hu Shan and Zhao Qing (western Guangdong) despite 14 days coverage of these sites in April indicates that this form has suffered a drastic decline.

Grey-throated Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris*

Recorded at all sites except Yao Shan. Observations at Guan Shan, where up to 40 have been recorded on nine dates in November and December, extend the range of this species east by 350km and northwest by 300km. In Southeast China considered resident in Guangxi, Guangdong, southern and central Hunan and Fujian (Cheng 1987).

Short-billed Minivet *Pericrocotus brevirostris*

Recorded in small numbers at four sites in Guangdong and Hunan. Observations of up to three on eight dates throughout the year at Ding Hu Shan and one at Mang Shan on 29 March 1996 extend the known range of this species south by 200km and north across a provincial border by about 15km. Although Vaughan and Jones (1913) state that a male was collected at Ding Hu Shan on 15 January 1906, Cheng (1987) omitted western Guangdong from the range of this species in Southeast China, giving it as eastern Guangxi and northern Guangdong.

Collared Finchbill *Spizixos semitorques* (R)

Recorded at four sites in northern Guangdong, Jiangxi and Fujian, with counts of up to 85 at Che Ba Ling and 50 at Guan Shan.

Brown-breasted Bulbul *Pycnonotus xanthorrhous*

Recorded only at Yao Shan (three at 1200m on 10 June) and Nan Kun Shan, where four at 600m on 18 January extend the range of this species south by about 150km. In Guangdong stated to be resident only in the northern parts (Cheng 1987). There have been four records in Hong Kong, the first in 1990 (Carey 1991), though they are not considered certainly to be wild birds.

Chinese Bulbul *Pycnonotus sinensis* (R)

Recorded at eight sites, with evidence of irruptive and seasonal movements. At Ding Hu Shan none were recorded in the winters of 1989 and 1991, but flocks of up to 50 were present in March 1990. At Wu Yi Shan, described as common up to 1500m in May-June 1986, but not recorded in May or June 1990, apart from small numbers at low altitudes outside the reserve. At Che Ba Ling, flocks of 30-40 were seen during December-March, but none were recorded in May and June, apart from two on 19 June 1996. Earlier this century, La Touche (1925-34) noted migration of this species through the offshore island of Sha Wei Shan, Shandong.

Mountain Bulbul *Hypsipetes maclellandii*

Noted at all sites, including Guan Shan where up to ten on seven dates in November and December extend the range of this species northwest by 200km. In Southeast China considered to be resident in Guangxi, Guangdong, southern Hunan, Fujian and Anhui (Cheng 1987). Not recorded in Hong Kong.

Chestnut Bulbul *Hypsipetes castanonotus* (R)

[Treated by Cheng (1987) as a race of *Hypsipetes flavala*]

The most frequently recorded forest bulbul. Seasonal fluctuations at Ding Hu Shan and Nan Kun Shan (where counts are higher in winter than in summer), and Wu Yi Shan (where the reverse applies) suggest that it is a partial migrant as well as a resident in Southeast

China. Up to 40 daily at Guan Shan in November and December add to the discovery by King (1987) that this species occurs in Jiangxi. In Southeast China stated to be resident in Guangxi, Guangdong, southern Hunan and Fujian (Cheng 1987).

Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes madagascariensis*

Recorded as a summer visitor at three sites and irruptively in autumn and winter at five other sites. Day counts of up to 50 in November and December in three years out of four at Guan Shan fill an obvious distributional gap, since this species was known to occur in all peripheral provinces, but not in Jiangxi itself (Cheng 1987).

Orange-bellied Leafbird *Chloropsis hardwickii*

Recorded at six sites, including Guan Shan where up to four in November and December and also ten on 13 November 1992, possibly migrants, extend the range of this species inland by 300km. In Southeast China stated to be resident in Guangxi, Guangdong and Fujian (Cheng 1987).

Northern Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Observed only at Guan Shan, with up to three during 11-16 November 1992. One was previously seen in Jiangxi in the Poyang Lake area on 29 December 1985 (Kennerley 1987b). These observations extend the range of this species inland by 300km. Cheng (1987) considered this species to occur in winter in Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Fujian and Guangdong. Vaughan and Jones (1913) obtained a specimen at Ding Hu Shan on an unknown date.

Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophrys*

Recorded at only three sites: a singing male on 13 June at Yao Shan, up to two, including a singing male, above 800m during 18-21 May at Ba Bao Shan and a singing male at forest edge at 900m during 26-27 May at Nan Kun Shan. The latter observation extends the range of this species south into Guangdong, though perhaps only by 100km. Yen's (1933b) statement that a male was collected at 'Chin-tung-chan', southern Hunan, on 19 May 1930 may refer to the closest known site. In Southeast China stated to be a rare resident in Guangxi, Hunan and northwest Fujian (Cheng 1987).

White-browed Shortwing *Brachypteryx montana*

Recorded at only two sites: up to 50 at 1500-1800m on at least twelve dates during 8 April-11 July at Ba Bao Shan and up to five at 1500-2000m in May at Wu Yi Shan. The closest known site to Guangdong for this species may be 'Chin-tung-chan' (southern Hunan), 100km to the north, where an adult male was collected in May (Yen 1933b). In Southeast China considered by Cheng (1987) to be resident in Guangxi, Hunan and northwest Fujian, but not known for Guangdong.

Siberian Blue Robin *Luscinia cyane*

Only recorded at Ba Bao Shan, where a female on 30 March 1996 extends the range of this species inland by 250km. In Guangdong stated by Cheng (1987) to be a migrant to the estuaries of the Pearl River (Zhu Jiang).

Blue-fronted Redstart *Phoenicurus frontalis*

A female at Guan Shan on 25 December 1992, following the observation by King (1987) of one at Yi Shan in December 1986, suggests that this species may occur regularly in northwest Jiangxi. Cheng (1987) considered this species to be resident from west China as far east as Hubei, the province immediately to the north of Jiangxi.

White-tailed Robin *Cinclidium leucurum*

Single singing males at 1400m on 3rd and 7 May 1995 at Ba Bao Shan extend the range of this species east by 300km. In Southeast China stated to be resident only in Guangxi (Cheng 1987).

Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

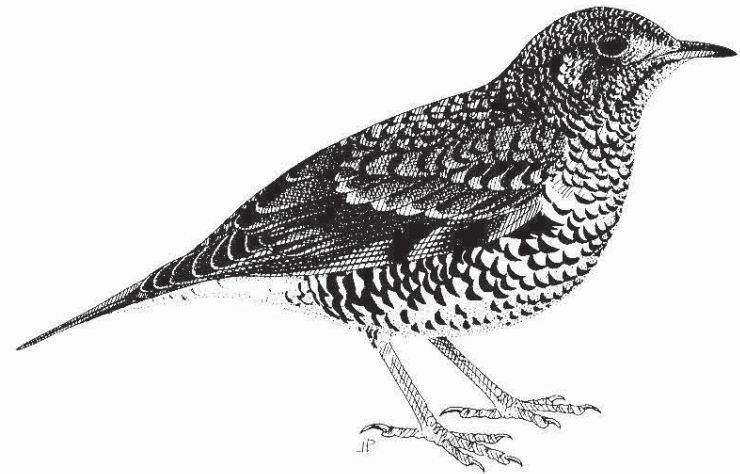
Recorded at most sites, all between 9 October and 14 April except for three at 2100m on 30 May 1990 at Wu Yi Shan. One at Yi Feng on 21 December 1991 appears to be the first for Jiangxi. Cheng (1987) noted this species as occurring in all the peripheral provinces, but not in Jiangxi itself. All observations refer to the well-marked eastern forms *maura* and/or *stejnegeri*, which have been considered as two forms of a full species *S. maura*.

Orange-headed Thrush *Zoothera citrina*

Recorded at two sites: a male in song at Ding Hu Shan on 22 April 1994 and a pair at 1400m at Ba Bao Shan during 21-24 May 1994. The observation at Ding Hu Shan appears to be the first for western Guangdong and constitutes a range extension southwest by 250km. Inland in China considered to be a summer visitor to Anhui and a migrant in Yunnan, Guizhou, Guangxi and northern and coastal Guangdong (Cheng 1987). In considering this species a migrant in Guangxi, Cheng appears to have overlooked references to three specimens collected at Yao Shan between 10th and 20 June (Stresemann 1929a, Yen 1933-34). La Touche (1925-34) reported that Mell found it a common migrant at Long Tou Shan, northern Guangdong, and collected seven specimens during 29 September-4 October 1907.

White's Thrush *Zoothera dauma*

Recorded at seven sites from 12 October to 16 April, except for up to three at 1400m during 20-23 May 1994 at Ba Bao Shan. One or two at Guan Shan on five dates in November and December extend the range of this species into Jiangxi. Cheng (1987) noted this species as occurring in all the peripheral provinces, but not in Jiangxi itself.



White's Thrush *Zoothera dauma*

Jeremy Pearse

Plain-backed Thrush *Zoothera mollissima*

One was seen at Ba Bao Shan at 1400m on 5 May 1995. This observation in northern Guangdong is over 1100 km to the east of this species' known range. Stated by Cheng (1987) to occur in summer in southern Tibet, central and southwest Sichuan and northwest Yunnan.

Siberian Thrush *Zoothera sibirica*

Recorded at four sites, including Guan Shan where three on 20 November 1993 appear to extend the range of this species into Jiangxi. Noted as occurring in all the peripheral provinces, but not in Jiangxi itself (Cheng 1987).

Spotted Forktail *Enicurus maculatus*

Records at Ba Bao Shan (up to two on at least twenty dates during April-December) where breeding was confirmed, and Mang Shan (one on 11 April) extend the range of this species southwest by 600km. Also singles at Wu Yi Shan in May and December. In Southeast China considered to be resident only in northwest Fujian (Cheng 1987).

Slaty-backed Forktail *Enicurus schistaceus*

Recorded throughout the year at all sites except Mang Shan. One at Guan Shan on 11 November 1992 extends the range of this species northwest by 300km. In Southeast China stated to be resident only in Guangxi, Guangdong and Fujian (Cheng 1987).

Short-tailed Bush Warbler *Cettia squameiceps*

Recorded in small numbers at three sites, including Guan Shan where counts of up to five during 9-23 November and one on 21 December appear to be the first observations for Jiangxi. In East China, Cheng (1987) considered this species to be a migrant through Jiangsu, Hunan and Fujian and to winter in Guangdong.

Manchurian Bush Warbler *Cettia canturians*

[Treated by Cheng (1987) as a race of *Cettia diphone*]

Recorded at eight sites during November-April. Two at Guan Shan during 24-25 December 1994 appear to be the first for Jiangxi. This is another species noted by Cheng (1987) as occurring in peripheral provinces, but not in Jiangxi itself.

Russett Bush Warbler *Bradypterus seebohi*

Observations at Yao Shan, Ding Hu Shan, Nan Kun Shan and Mang Shan from 2 March to 14 June extend the range of this species into western Guangxi, southern Hunan and western Guangdong. Round (1992b) reported the occurrence of this species during the breeding season at Ba Bao Shan and Nan Kun Shan. The continental distribution was stated by Cheng (1987) to be restricted to northern Guangdong and northwest Fujian.

Rufescent Prinia *Prinia rufescens*

Recorded at Ding Hu Shan (up to eight on six dates in March-April, June and October) and Nan Kun Shan (one on 24 December 1993); most observations are of summer-plumaged birds. Also, one at Luo Fu Shan, central Guangdong, on 28 November 1992 (T. Woodward *in litt.*). These observations extend the range of this species southeast by 800km into Guangdong. Formerly considered resident in Tibet, Yunnan and southern Guizhou (Cheng 1987). In view of the difficulties of separating winter-plumaged *rufescens* from Grey-breasted Prinia *P. hodgsoni* in the field, it is possible that five to ten prinias seen at Hei Shi Ding during 23-24 January 1986 were *rufescens*, rather than *hodgsoni* (Vincey 1987b).

Hill Prinia *Prinia atrogularis*

Recorded at six sites, including Hei Shi Ding (up to four in January, March and September), Ding Hu Shan (up to four throughout the year) and Nan Kun Shan (up to 13 between March and November). These observations extend the range of this species into western and central Guangdong. In Southeast China previously considered resident in western Guangxi, northern Guangdong and central Fujian (Cheng 1987).

Blunt-winged Warbler *Acrocephalus concinens*

[Treated by Cheng (1987) as a race of Paddyfield Warbler *A. agricola*]

One singing and subsequently trapped at Ba Bao Shan at 1400-1500m during 10-13 June 1988 (Kennerley and Leader 1992) and two in montane grassland at 2000m at Wu Yi Shan on 31 May 1990. The late dates of both records suggest over-summering or attempts to breed. In Southeast China stated by Cheng (1987) to breed in Guangxi and northern Jiangxi and to be a migrant or winter visitor to Fujian and Guangdong. There has been one Hong Kong record (Leader 1992a).

Mountain Tailorbird *Orthotomus cucullatus*

Recorded at Ding Hu Shan (one or two on four dates 20 December-12 February and ten, presumably migrants, at 250m on 3 March 1990), Ba Bao Shan (up to 35 at 1200-1800m between 8 April and 11 July) and Wu Yi Shan (two at 1500m during 28-29 May 1990). These observations extend the range of this species by up to 800km through western and northern Guangdong into northwest Fujian. Considered by Cheng (1987) to be resident in Yunnan and eastern Guangxi.

Golden-spectacled Warbler *Seicercus burkii*

Recorded at three sites, including Ba Bao Shan where up to 12 on at least four dates between 17 May and 10 July constitute the first summer records for northern Guangdong; up to 20 males in song have been recorded during the second week of April. In Southeast China considered to breed in northwest Fujian and to be a winter visitor to Guangdong (Cheng 1987). As yet it is not known which of the three forms of this taxon is concerned.

White-spectacled Warbler *Seicercus affinis*

Recorded only at Ba Bao Shan (up to five on at least ten dates between 19 May and 10 July) and Wu Yi Shan (two on 28 May 1990). The observations in northern Guangdong extend the known summering range of this species southwest by 600km. In Southeast China considered to be very rare, breeding in northwest Fujian and wintering in central Fujian and Guangdong (Cheng 1987).

Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Seicercus castaniceps*

Records at Yao Shan (up to 14 in June), Ding Hu Shan (singles in February and March), Mang Shan (up to ten in April) and Ba Bao Shan (up to six during May-July, with breeding proven) constitute the first summer records for Guangxi and Guangdong, the first spring records for Hunan and the first winter records for western Guangdong. In Southeast China considered by Cheng (1987) to breed in northwest Fujian and to winter in central Fujian and northern and coastal Guangdong.

Rufous-faced Warbler *Abroscopus albogularis*

Recorded at three sites, including Guan Shan where up to 30 on ten dates in November and December extend the range of this species inland by 300km. In Southeast China considered resident in Guangxi, Hunan, coastal Guangdong, Fujian and Anhui (Cheng 1987).

Buff-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus subaffinis*

Two on 10 June 1988 and two on 10 July 1987 at 1300-1900m at Ba Bao Shan appear to be the first summer records for Guangdong. Also recorded at 2000m at Wu Yi Shan with up to ten during 29-31 May 1990. In Southeast China considered by Cheng (1987) to breed in Guangxi, northwest Fujian and southern Anhui and to be a winter visitor to Guangdong and Fujian.

Blyth's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides*

Recorded at six sites, including all in Guangdong. At Ba Bao Shan, up to five regularly noted from 28 March to 11 July (breeding proven) below 1700m; also singles in October and December; up to four at Hei Shi Ding, Ding Hu Shan, Che Ba Ling and Nan Kun Shan during November-March. Already known in winter in Hong Kong (Chalmers 1986), these observations extend the range of this species into northern, western and central Guangdong. In Southeast China considered by Cheng (1987) to breed in Guangxi and northwest Fujian and to be a migrant in southern Anhui and a winter visitor to Fujian.

White-tailed Warbler *Phylloscopus davisoni*

Recorded at Ba Bao Shan (two on 9 April, 'fairly common' in dry forest during 2-7 May 1995 and present in mid June 1987 and 1988 at 1600-1800m) and Wu Yi Shan (up to ten at 1000-1800m regularly in late May to early June 1986 and 1990). The observations from northern Guangdong extend the range of this species southwest by 600km. In Southeast China considered to occur only in northwest Fujian (Cheng 1987).

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Recorded at eight sites in spring and winter. A surprisingly hardy species: at Che Ba Ling up to 120 birds were noted daily during 24-29 December 1995 and again during 16-19 March, despite the fact that in mid February temperatures dropped to -6°C in the lowest lying areas and over 20cm of snow settled during a cold spell that lasted 14 days (Leven 1996b). Since the number of warblers recorded remained constant and no influxes were evident in Hong Kong during this period, it seems likely that the warblers had remained at Che Ba Ling through the cold spell, presumably feeding on dormant insects in tree crevices.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

One seen on 30 March 1996 at Ba Bao Shan was at least 2500km east of its known range in China. Considered to breed in Xinjiang and to migrate through Tibet (Cheng 1987). Vagrant to Hong Kong with four records, most recently on 6 February 1993 (Leven *et al.* 1994).

Brown-chested Flycatcher *Rhynomyias brunneata* (V, Ch*)

Recorded in primary forest and secondary regrowth at Yao Shan (up to four daily at 850-1100m during 9-14 June), Ba Bao Shan (up to six, including a pair with four fledged young on 25 May, between 11 April and 10 July at 600-1200m), Mang Shan (one at 1000m on 11 April) and Wu Yi Shan (up to six at 1000-1200m during 27 May-2 June). The observation from Mang Shan appears to be the first for Hunan and extends the known range of this species north by about 15km. Considered by Cheng (1987) to breed only in Guangxi (Yao Shan), northern Guangdong, northwest Fujian, northern Jiangxi, Zhejiang and southern Jiangsu. Vagrant to Hong Kong with one record (Hopkin *et al.* 1996).

Small Niltava *Niltava macgregoriae*

Recorded at five sites. Observations at Ba Bao Shan (summer records of up to five singing males during the period 8 April-10 July), Mang Shan (two on 11 April 1995) and Wu Yi Shan (a male on 3 June 1986 and a male and a pair during 29-30 May 1990) extend

the range of this species northeast up to 800km. In Southeast China considered by Cheng (1987) to be resident in Guangxi and to winter in Guangdong, though uncommon in summer and rare in winter.

Fukien Niltava *Niltava davidi* (N, Ch)

Records at Ding Hu Shan (a male on 28 December 1991) and Che Ba Ling (an adult male at 400m on 16 March 1996) extend the winter range of this species by up to 800km into western and northern Guangdong. Formerly thought to occur in winter only in northwest Fujian (Cheng 1987); a vagrant to Hong Kong with 12 records as of 1995.

Pale Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis unicolor*

[Treated by Cheng (1987) as *Nilava unicolor*]

Recorded only at Yao Shan (a singing male at 1100m on 13 June 1994) and Ba Bao Shan (a singing male at 1400m during 6-7 May 1995). The latter observation extends the range of this species into northern Guangdong. In Southeast China formerly known to occur only in eastern Guangxi (Cheng 1987). One record in Hong Kong (Round 1992a), though this is not considered to have certainly involved a wild bird.

Hainan Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis hainana*

[Treated by Cheng (1987) as *Niltava hainana*]

Recorded at Ba Bao Shan (May), Che Ba Ling (June) and Ding Hu Shan where up to eight between 7 April and 13 June, including a fledgling being fed by a female on the latter date, confirm Vaughan and Jones' (1913) statement that it was a migrant through Ding Hu Shan with a few remaining to breed. Cheng (1987) may have overlooked this in giving the breeding range in Southeast China as eastern Guangxi and northern Guangdong. A singing male at Xiamen in early May 1992 appears to be the first record for Fujian. It breeds in mature woodland in Hong Kong.

Chinese Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis glaucicomans*

[Treated by Cheng (1987) as a race of Blue-throated Flycatcher *Niltava/Cyornis rubeculoides*].

Only recorded at Hei Shi Ding where an immature male on 23 January 1986 extends the range of this species southeast by 400km. In Southeast China stated by Cheng (1987) to be uncommon in Yunnan, Sichuan and southeast Guizhou. Vagrant to Hong Kong with three records (Hale and Hackett 1994, Carey *et al.* 1995, 1996), though not considered certainly to involve wild birds.

Blue and White Flycatcher *Cyanoptila cyanomelana*

[Treated by Cheng (1987) as *Ficedula cyanomelana*].

Recorded on passage at the five Guangdong sites, more frequently in spring, though large numbers have occasionally been noted in autumn. During 10-13 October 1993 counts of up to 40 were made on successive days at Ba Bao Shan, the largest consisting entirely of males that were emerging from a roost at 1700m early in the morning (K.D.P. Wilson pers. comm.). Birds seen at Che Ba Ling during 16-19 March 1995, although entered as winter observations in table 1, were almost certainly early spring migrants. Vaughan and Jones (1913) describe this species as 'exceedingly common' in spring, on the coast and inland, with fresh flocks continually arriving throughout the first three weeks of April, but never observed it in autumn. Much scarcer in autumn than in spring in Hong Kong.

Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassina*

[Treated by Cheng (1987) as *Muscicapa thalassina*].

Recorded at Ba Bao Shan and Wu Yi Shan, where one at 1800m on 30 May 1986 and a pair at 1700m on 31 May 1990 extend the summering range of this species east by 400km. In Southeast China considered by Cheng (1987) to breed in Hunan and Guangdong and to winter in Fujian.

Ferruginous Flycatcher *Muscicapa ferruginea*

Records at Ba Bao Shan (one during 28-29 March 1996) and Wu Yi Shan (up to two during 29-31 May 1990) extend the range of this species west and north by up to 300km. In Southeast China formerly considered to occur as a breeding species or migrant only in coastal Guangdong and eastern Fujian (Cheng 1987), though Vaughan and Jones (1913) stated that one was collected at Sam Shui on the West River in April. A scarce passage migrant in spring in Hong Kong.

Brown-breasted Flycatcher *Muscicapa muttui* (N)

Only recorded at Yao Shan, where up to three birds were seen at 850-1100m during 9-15 June 1994.

Rufous-gorgetted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophilata*

One at Ding Hu Shan during 3-4 March 1990 extends the range of this species east by 100km. In Southeast China formerly thought to occur only in Guangxi and considered rare (Cheng 1987). Vagrant to Hong Kong with three records (Wong 1994, Carey *et al.* 1995, 1996).

Mugimaki Flycatcher *Ficedula mugimaki*

Recorded at six sites, including Guan Shan where up to five on four dates during 11-22 November appear to be the first records for Jiangxi. In Southeast China considered to be a migrant in Hunan and Fujian and a winter visitor to Guangxi and Guangdong (Cheng 1987).

Grey-headed Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*

Recorded at four sites, including Ba Bao Shan where up to 22 at 1000-1600m during June and July, with breeding proven, extend the breeding range of this species east by 300km. In Southeast China, this species was thought to winter in Guangdong and to breed only in eastern Guangxi (Cheng 1987).

Spot-breasted Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus erythrocnemis*

[Treated by Cheng (1987) as *Pomatorhinus erythrogenys*].

Recorded at five sites, including Nan Kun Shan where two at 1800m on 18 January 1986 extend the range of this species south by 150km. In Guangdong considered by Cheng (1987) to be resident only in the northern parts.

Spotted Wren Babbler *Spelaornis formosus* (N)

Recorded only at Guan Shan (one at 900m on 11 November 1992) and Wu Yi Shan (two males at 1500m on 31 May 1986). The observation from Jiangxi extends the range of this species west by 300km. In China considered by Cheng (1987) to be resident only in southeast Yunnan and northwest Fujian.

Rufous-capped Babbler *Stachyris ruficeps*

Recorded at nine sites. Counts of ten or more at Hei Shi Ding, Ding Hu Shan and Nan Kun Shan appear to be the first for western and central Guangdong. The range of this species in Guangdong is stated by Cheng (1987) to extend to the northern parts only.

Vinous-throated Parrotbill *Paradoxornis webbianus* (R)

Recorded at five sites, typically in scrubby habitat above 600m, with the highest count being 150 at Wu Yi Shan in November. Five at Mang Shan on 11 April and up to 30 at Yi Feng, Jiangxi, on 11 November extend the range of this species north or northwest by up to 250km. In Southeast China considered by Cheng (1987) to be resident in Guangxi, Guangdong and Fujian, and doubtfully for Jiangxi.

Golden Parrotbill *Paradoxornis verreauxi* (R)

[Treated by Cheng (1987) as a form of Black-throated Parrotbill *P. nipalensis*].

Up to 12 at 1300-1800m at Ba Bao Shan during April-July and up to 26 in April at Mang Shan fill a distributional gap between eastern Guangxi and northwest Fujian, where this species is considered resident by Cheng (1987).

Short-tailed Parrotbill *Paradoxornis davidianus* (V)

Recorded only at 400m at Wu Yi Resort with unspecified numbers present on 6 June 1986 and counts of up to eighteen during 9-14 November 1987. Despite concerted efforts, not found there on subsequent visits in May-June 1990 and January 1993. Recently found breeding in Mang Shan reserve (Poole 1996).

Grey-headed Parrotbill *Paradoxornis gularis*

In November and December up to 30 at Guan Shan and up to 60 at Wu Yi Shan. The observations from Jiangxi extend the range of this species inland by 250km. In Southeast China considered by Cheng (1987) to be resident in eastern Guangxi, northern and coastal Guangdong and northwest and central Fujian.

Chinese Babax *Babax lanceolatus* (R)

Only recorded at Ba Bao Shan, with up to four on two dates in April and June.

Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax pectoralis*

The most frequently recorded laughingthrush. Records from Ding Hu Shan, Hei Shi Ding, Nan Kun Shan and Guan Shan appear to extend the range of this species south by up to 200km and east by 100km. In Southeast China considered by Cheng (1987) resident in Guangxi, Hunan, northern Guangdong, Fujian and Anhui. Resident in Hong Kong.

Grey Laughingthrush *Garrulax maesi* (N, R)

Only recorded at Ba Bao Shan where up to five at 1000-1400m on nine dates in May 1994 and 1995 extend the range of this species east by 300km. In Southeast China considered resident in Guangxi by Cheng (1987).

Moustached Laughingthrush *Garrulax cineraceus* (R)

At Ba Bao Shan, up to three on six dates, including an adult with two fledglings at 1400m on the surprisingly late date of 11 October. At Wu Yi Shan, up to three on two dates in late May. La Touche (1925-34) described the nest and eggs of this species in northwest Fujian but did not mention dates; Baker (1922-30) stated that nests were taken in March and April in the Chin Hills, Burma, and in May and June in the Naga Hills, Assam.

Rusty Laughingthrush *Garrulax poecilorrhynchus* (?Ch)

[Treated by Cheng (1987) as a full species comprising three races, all endemic to China. Howard and Moore (1991) and de Schauensee (1984), however, consider it conspecific with Grey-sided Laughingthrush *G. caeruleatus* whose range extends to Nepal and the Himalayas (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991).]

Recorded at Ba Bao Shan (up to seven at 1400m in May 1994 and 1995) and Wu Yi Shan (up to six at 1400-1800m in January, May and June). The records from Ba Bao Shan

extend the range of this species southwest by 600km. In Southeast China Cheng (1987) considers it resident in northwest Fujian and southern Anhui.

Hwamei *Garrulax canorus* (R)

Recorded at eight sites, with 15 at Guan Shan in November the highest count.

Masked Laughingthrush *Garrulax perspicillatus* (R)

Recorded at five sites with high counts of ten at Ba Bao Shan in July and 20 at Wu Yi Shan and Wu Yi Resort in November.

Red-tailed Laughingthrush *Garrulax milnei* (N)

Only recorded at Ba Bao Shan at 1600-1900m, where up to 12 on at least ten dates extend the range of this species east by 300km. In Southeast China considered by Cheng (1987) to be resident in eastern Guangxi and northwest Fujian.

White-browed Shrike Babbler *Pteruthius flaviscapis*

Only recorded at Ba Bao Shan (up to eight at 1000-1800m) and Wu Yi Shan, (up to five below 1000m). The records at Ba Bao Shan fill a distributional gap between Guangxi and Fujian in Cheng (1987).

Golden-breasted Fulvetta *Alcippe chrysotis*

Only recorded at Ba Bao Shan where up to 50 at 1500-1800m from April to July extend the range of this species east by at least 350km. In China considered by Cheng (1987) to be resident in Yunnan, Sichuan, Guizhou and northwest Guangxi.

Grey-checked Fulvetta *Alcippe morrisonia*

The most abundant babbler in the region. Recorded at all nine sites, including Hei Shi Ding, Ding Hu Shan and Nan Kun Shan, with counts of up to 300 per day at the latter two sites. These observations appear to be the first for western and central Guangdong. The only information on the distribution of this species in Guangdong given by Cheng (1987) is that intergrades between two races occur in northeastern parts of the province.

Striated Yuhina *Yuhina castaneiceps*

The most frequently observed yuhina, recorded at nine sites including Guan Shan where flocks of up to 60 in November and December extend the range of this species northwest by 250km. In Southeast China stated by Cheng (1987) to be resident in Guangxi, Guangdong and Fujian.

White-bellied Yuhina *Yuhina zantholeuca*

Much less abundant than the previous species, but still noted at all sites. Two at Mang Shan on 13 April and four at Guan Shan on 21 December extend the range of this species north or northwest by up to 250km. In Southeast China considered resident in Guangxi, Guangdong and Fujian (Cheng 1987).

Yellow-bellied Tit *Parus venustus* (Ch)

Recorded as a winter visitor at all sites except Yao Shan, with flocks of up to 50 at Guan Shan. In summer only found at Ba Bao Shan and Wu Yi Shan, where present in small numbers.

Yellow-cheeked Tit *Parus spilonotus*

[Treated by Cheng (1987) as a form of *Parus xanthogenys*].

Recorded at seven sites, with day counts reaching double figures at Ding Hu Shan

and Ba Bao Shan. These records extend the range of this species south by 250km. In Southeast China considered resident in eastern Guangxi, southern Hunan and northwest Fujian by Cheng (1987). First recorded in Hong Kong in 1988 (Chalmers and Kennerley 1989) and now appears to be well-established (e.g. Carey *et al.* 1995).

Varied Tit *Parus varius*

Found to occur at Ba Bao Shan (up to seven during 7-22 May and two on 11 October at 1400m) and Mang Shan (up to eight from 29 March to 13 April at 1000m). Harrap (1996) raises the possibility of their being escapes due to the proximity to Hong Kong. However, this is only one of several forest or montane species area to have evaded detection in a poorly known area (e.g. Grey, Rusty and Red-tailed Laughingthrushes, Golden-breasted Fulvetta, Golden Parrotbill, Yellow-browed Tit and Crow-billed and Bronzed Drongos) and so this seems unlikely. Its discovery in Southeast China involves a range extension of 750km across the Taiwan Straits or 1800km south through continental China. Considered to be resident in Northeast China (Liaoning), Korea, Japan and Taiwan (Cheng 1987, de Schauensee 1984).

Yellow-browed Tit *Sylviparus modestus*

Only recorded at Ba Bao Shan (up to two in May, June and December) and Wu Yi Shan (up to eight during May-December). The records from northern Guangdong and an observation of two birds of this species at 1900m at Mao Er Shan (eastern Guangxi) by Vuilleumier (1993) appear to fill a distributional gap between eastern Guizhou and northwest Fujian (Cheng 1987).

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis*

One in mature forest at 200m at Ding Hu Shan on 3 October 1990. Although an apparently wild bird, associating with tits, white-eyes and warblers, it was seen in the vicinity of a Buddhist temple, a possible release site. This observation of a resident species 500km southeast of its known range led to a review of its status in Hong Kong, where it had recently become established (Leven 1993). However, evidence that it is traded in China and Hong Kong (at least 85 birds in 1994) (Lau *et al.* 1996) and the subsequent lack of records at Ding Hu Shan and other sites, despite increased observer familiarity with the species, has cast doubt upon the origins of the Ding Hu Shan bird. Stated by Cheng (1987) to be resident in Yunnan, central and southern Guizhou and southwest Guangxi.

Gould's Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae*

Up to three at 1300-1600m at Ba Bao Shan in May and June extend the range of this species south by up to 100km. In Southeast China considered resident in eastern Guangxi and southern Hunan by Cheng (1987).

Fork-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga christinae* (R)

Recorded throughout the year at all sites in Guangxi, Guangdong and Fujian, with counts of up to 30 at Ding Hu Shan.

Silver Oriole *Oriolus mellianus* (V, Ch*)

Recorded at two sites in small numbers: up to three on eight dates between 20 May and 11 July at Ba Bao Shan, mostly at 1000-1300m where breeding was proven in June, and a female/immature, presumably a migrant, associating with a flock of over 30 Hair-crested Drongos at Nan Kun Shan on 27 August 1995. This latter appears to be the first record for central Guangdong. Considered by Cheng (1987) to breed only in Sichuan, eastern Guangxi and northern Guangdong and to be very rare.

Crow-billed Drongo *Dicrurus annectans*

Only recorded at Ba Bao Shan where breeding was proven in June. Up to ten at 800-1200m on eight dates between 17 May and 11 July and also one there on 11 October. These observations extend the breeding range of this species northeast by 700km. In continental China considered by Cheng (1987) to breed in Yunnan and southwest Guangxi.

Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus*

Only recorded at two sites: one at Yao Shan at 1000m on 14 June and unspecified numbers present at Ba Bao Shan at 1100-1300m on four dates in June 1987 and 1988, with breeding proven. In continental China not previously known to breed east of Yunnan or southwest Guangxi (Cheng 1987).



Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus*

Jeremy Pearce

Collared Crow *Corvus torquatus* (R)

Only recorded at Ba Bao Shan, with up to three at 600m in June and December.

Chinese Starling *Sturnus sinensis*

Only recorded at two sites: two near Yao Shan on 15 June and one at Yi Feng on 16 November, the latter apparently the first record for Jiangxi. In Southeast China stated by Cheng (1987) to breed in Guangxi, southern Hunan and south and east Fujian, and to be resident in Guangdong; its status is decreasing.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Up to 100 on 11th and 14 November at Guan Shan and up to three on 21st and 24 December at Yi Feng are the only records and appear to be the first for Jiangxi. In Southeast China stated by Cheng (1987) to occur as a migrant or winter visitor to Fujian, Anhui and Zhejiang.

Eurasian Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Recorded at three sites, including Guan Shan where a flock of 40 was noted during 24-25 December 1994. These appear to be the first records for the province. In Southeast China considered a winter visitor to Guangxi, Guangdong and Fujian and a migrant to Jiangsu (Cheng 1987). Scarce winter visitor to Hong Kong.

Japanese Grosbeak *Euphonia personatus*

Up to four in January at Che Ba Ling and up to ten in December at Guan Shan, the latter observations apparently the first for Jiangxi. In Southeast China a winter visitor to Hunan, Guangdong and Fujian and a migrant to Jiangsu (Cheng 1987). Vagrant to Hong Kong with seven records as of 1995 (Carey *et al.* 1996).

Slaty Bunting *Latoucheornis siemsseni* (N, Ch)

[Treated by Cheng (1987) as *Emberiza siemsseni*].

A singing male at 1000m at Mang Shan on 11 April and a female at 450m at Che Ba Ling on 17 March were the only records. The former appears to be the first record for Hunan. Stated to breed in Gansu, Shaanxi and Sichuan and to winter in Guizhou, western Hubei, northern Guangdong, northwest Fujian and southern Anhui (Cheng 1987).

Meadow Bunting *Emberiza cioides*

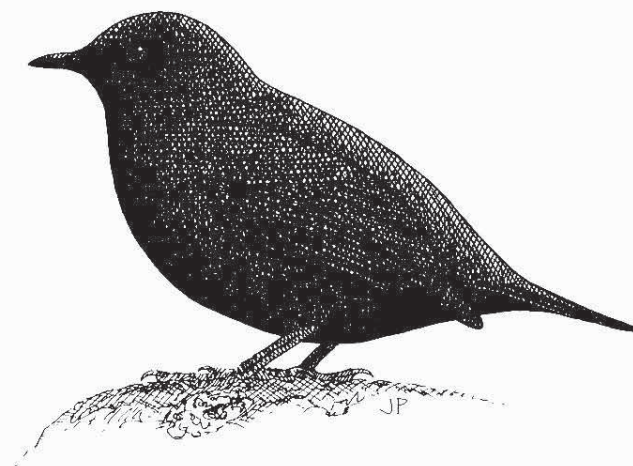
Only recorded at Ba Bao Shan. Breeding was proven at 500-600m during 9-14 June 1988, apparently the first such record for Guangdong, and unspecified numbers were present during 4-10 December 1987. In Southeast China stated to breed in Hunan, Fujian and Anhui (Cheng 1987).

Yellow-throated Bunting *Emberiza elegans*

Up to two recorded at Ba Bao Shan (6 December at 1800m), Che Ba Ling (27 December at 400m) and Guan Shan (during 11-23 November and on 26 December). The latter records are further evidence that this species occurs in Jiangxi (see King 1987). In Southeast China occurs in southern Hunan, migrates through Jiangsu and Zhejiang and winters in Guangdong and Fujian (Cheng 1987).

Tristram's Bunting *Emberiza cioides*

Recorded at eight sites, including Guan Shan where up to ten between 11 November and 27 December appear to be the first for Jiangxi. In Southeast China migrates through Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Anhui and winters in Hunan, Guangxi, Guangdong and Fujian (Cheng 1987).



Brown Dipper *Cinclus pallasi*

Jeremy Pearce

Notes to Table 1

Table 1 summarises observations of birds at the nine forest sites and their environs during the period March 1984 to June 1996. Year-round altitude of occurrence and confirmed breeding records are also indicated. In order to retain as much raw data as possible, the highest count made in a day is given for each season at each site where a species has occurred. The seasons are defined as follows: 'spring' - late March to late May; 'summer' - late May to late July; 'autumn' - August to November; 'winter' - December to late March. In periods of overlap the behaviour and composition of species has determined the season to which the data is assigned. See the site descriptions for the dates of visits to each site, the season to which the data for a visit is assigned and information on the environs of a site. The author would be very grateful to receive records from these and other forest sites in Southeast China, both past and future, for further updates of this paper.

Key

For each site the highest day-counts for each season are presented in the sequence spring, summer, autumn, winter. Counts in parentheses were made in the reserve environs, not inside the reserve. The following symbols are also used:

- Y unspecified numbers present
- site not covered during that season
- * confirmed breeding record
- V,N vulnerable or near-threatened according to Collar *et al.* (1994); (see annotated list)
- I,II Category I and II nationally protected species in China; (see annotated list)
- Ch Chinese endemic; (see annotated list)
- Ch* Chinese breeding endemic; (see annotated list)
- R restricted range outside China (based on de Schauensee 1984); near endemic; (see annotated list)
- # see annotated list

本文綜合簡介了自1984年以來，主要由香港觀鳥會會員到中國東南部樹林觀鳥取得的一些數據，地點包括廣西省的瑤山；廣東省的黑石頂、鼎湖山、八寶山、車八嶺和南昆山；湖南省的莽山；江西省的官山；福建省的武夷山。較為罕有的品種，與及註明分佈範圍的品種，在文內所附的名錄中詳細介紹。另外，表一列出了在不同季節中，各地區內錄到每個品種的最高數量。

Table 1. Species recorded at hill forest sites in 'Southeast China' 1984-1996

	Yao Shan	Hei Shi Ding	Ding Hu Shan	Mang Shan	Ba Bao Shan	Che Ba Ling	Nan Kun Shan	Guan Shan	Wu Yi Shan	Altitude (metres)
Little Grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> 1	87 spp.	97 spp.	153 spp.	51 spp.	221 spp.	154 spp.	159 spp.	117 spp.	176 spp.	300
Great Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>			0,(12),0,(2)	1,-,-,-		0,0,-,(3)			-(Y),(1),(1)	
Yellow Bittern <i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>			0,0,0,(7)						-(2),0,0	400
Schrenck's Bittern <i>Ixobrychus eurhythmus</i> N							1,0,0,0			
Chestnut Bittern <i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i>	-1,-,-				(1),2,0,0	4,6,-,1	1,0,0,0		-(6),0,0	400-600
Black Bittern <i>Dupetor flavicollis</i>									-(2),0,0	400
Sriated Heron <i>Butorides striatus</i>		1,-,0,0		1,-,-,-	0,Y,1,0	2,0,-,1	3,1,3,3		-(2),0,0	400-600
Chinese Pond Heron <i>Ardeola bacchus</i>			1,0,1,0		1,0,0,0	1,0,-,0	2,0,0,0		-(6),0,0	400
Cattle Egret <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>							1,0,0,0			
Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>					28,0,0,0	0,(2),-,0				
Great Egret <i>Egretta alba</i>			0,0,0,(100)						-(2),0,0	400
Purple Heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i>								-,-,1,0		
Cotton Pygmy Goose <i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i> #			0,(1),0,0							50
Mandarin Duck <i>Aix galericulata</i> N, II		3,-,0,0				0,0,-,6	0,0,5,0	-,-,6,10		400
Eurasian Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i>			0,0,0,(1)							
Falcated Duck <i>Anas falcata</i>			0,0,0,(10)							
Common Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>			0,0,0,12							
Goosander <i>Mergus merganser</i>		5,-,0,5								
Black Baza <i>Aviceda leucophotes</i> #	-2,-,-		12,2,0,0		5,3,50,0	10,5,-,0	7,4,0,0		-4,0,0	400-1500
Crested Honey Buzzard <i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>				1,-,-,-	1,0,0,0					
Black Kite <i>Milvus migrans</i> 2		0,-,0,1	1,0,0,3		1,0,0,0		3,0,3,0		-0,1,0	
Crested Serpent Eagle <i>Spilornis cheela</i>	-2,-,-	2,-,0,1	3,0,1,1	1,-,-,-	2,Y,2,Y	5,7,-,5	5,1,1,1		-2,(1),0	500-1400

Table 1. (cont.) Species recorded at hill forest sites in 'Southeast China' 1984-1996

	Yao Shan	Hei Shi Ding	Ding Hu Shan	Mang Shan	Ba Bao Shan	Che Ba Ling	Nan Kun Shan	Guan Shan	Wu Yi Shan	Altitude (metres)
Northern Goshawk <i>Accipiter gentilis</i> II			1,0,0,2					-,-,1,1		
Shikra <i>Accipiter badius</i> II	-1,-,-									1000
Besa <i>Accipiter virgatus</i> II			0,0,0,(1)		0,1,0,Y	1,0,-,2	1,0,0,0			600-1700
Eurasian Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter nisus</i> II					0,0,1,0		0,0,0,1	-,-,1,0		
Crested Goshawk <i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i> II	-1,-,-	0,-,1,1	3,1,1,2		1,1,3,Y	5,3,-,3	2,1,2,2	-,-,2,1	-1,1,1	200-1200
Chinese Goshawk <i>Accipiter soloensis</i> II					4,1,0,0	8,4,-,0	3,4,0,0		-,-4,0,0	400-1500
Grey-faced Buzzard <i>Buteo indicus</i> II	-,-,3,-,-									500-1000
Common Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>			0,0,0,2		0,0,1,Y			-,-,1,0	-,-,0,2,1	
Asian Black Eagle <i>Ichthyophaga malayensis</i> #						2,1,-,2			-,-,1,0,1	600-1400
Bonelli's Eagle <i>Hieraetus fasciatus</i> 3		1,-,0,1			0,2,0,Y		2,0,1,1		-,-,1,0,0	600-1800
Mountain Hawk Eagle <i>Spizaetus nipalensis</i> #	-1,-,-,-			1,-,-,-	3,2,3,1	1,0,-,2	1,1,0,2	-,-,2,2	-,-,1,0,1	400-1200
Common Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> II					1,1,2,0		(1),0,0,0			600
Eurasian Hobby <i>Falco subbuteo</i> II			3,1,0,0		1,0,0,0	1,0,-,0	3,2,0,0			200-500
Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i> II			0,0,0,1		1,1,0,0	0,0,-,1	0,0,0,1		-,(2),(1),0	400-1300
Chinese Francolin <i>Francolinus pintadeanus</i>	-1,-,-		4,0,0,0		0,Y,0,0				-,(2),0,0	400-700
Japanese Quail <i>Coturnix japonica</i> 4					1,0,0,0					
Rickett's Hill Partridge <i>Arborophila gingica</i> V,Ch					5,0,2,0		0,0,0,2		-,-,1,0,0	1200-1500
Chinese Bamboo Partridge <i>Bambusicola thoracica</i> Ch	-5,-,-		4,0,4,10		3,2,7,Y	6,4,-,30	4,9,2,1	-,-,50,7	-,-,3*,14,0	400-700
Cabot's Tragopan <i>Tragopan caboti</i> V,1,Ch					4,2,0,1				-2,1,0	1000-1800
Silver Pheasant <i>Lophura nycthemera</i> II		1,-,0,2	3,4,8,21		1,3,0,2	0,0,-,1	0,0,0,1	-,-,55,7	-,-2,0,0	250-1600
Elliot's Pheasant <i>Symaticus ellioti</i> V,1,Ch								-,-,5,5		
Common Pheasant <i>Phasianus colchicus</i>					0,Y,0,0	1,0,-,2		-,-,3,0	-,(1),0,0	400-1000
Slaty-breasted Rail <i>Rallus siriatus</i>								-,-,1,0		
Brown Crane <i>Anaouornis akool</i> #					0,Y,0,0	(2),0,-,(2)		-,-,(2),(2)	-,(10),(3),0	350-500

Table 1. (cont.) Species recorded at hill forest sites in 'Southeast China' 1984-1996

	Yao Shan	Hei Shi Ding	Ding Hu Shan	Mang Shan	Ba Bao Shan	Che Ba Ling	Nan Kun Shan	Guan Shan	Wu Yi Shan	Altitude (metres)
White-breasted Waterhen <i>Anaouornis phoenicurus</i>	-1,-,-	1,-,0,1			2,Y,0,0	2,1,-,2	2,8,2,2		-,(4),0,(2)	400-1200
Watercock <i>Gallinix cinerea</i>									-,(3),0,0	400
Eurasian Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>			0,0,0,(10)		1,0,0,0					
Little Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius dubius</i>										
Pintail Snipe <i>Gallinago stenura</i>				1,-,-,-						
Eurasian Woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>		0,-,0,1					0,0,0,1	-,-,1,0	-,-,0,(1),0	
Green Sandpiper <i>Tringa ochropus</i>						0,0,-,1				400
Wood Sandpiper <i>Tringa glareola</i>					2,0,0,0					
Common Sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> 6					1,0,0,0	1,0,-,1				400
White-winged Tern <i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>									-,(19),0,0	
Red-Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>							0,(17),0,0			<300
Oriental Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia orientalis</i> #		20,-,0,2	5,0,0,1		2,1,0,1	2,1,-,50	6,0,2,2	-,-,6,10	-,-,5,10,0	400-1100
Spotted Dove <i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	-,(1),,-	4,-,0,1	4,0,1,1			2,3,-,9	1,1,1,3	-,-,(1),1	-,(10),2,0	350-500
Barred Cuckoo Dove <i>Macropygia unchall</i> II									-,-4,0,0	1400
Emerald Dove <i>Chalcophaps indica</i> #			2,2,0,2				0,1,0,0			250-500
Chestnut-winged Cuckoo <i>Clamator coromandus</i>			2,0,0,0		2,1,0,0	7,1,-,0	3,2,0,0			350-1200
Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo <i>Cuculus fugax</i>	-1,-,-		1,0,0,0		1,1,0,0					600-1300
Large Hawk Cuckoo <i>Hierococcyx sparverioides</i> 7	-,-,6,-,-	1,-,0,0	11,1,0,0		2,Y,0,0	5,1,-,3	10,11,0,0		-,-2,0,0	250-1300
Plumative Cuckoo <i>Cacomantis merulinus</i> 8			1,0,0,0		1,0,0,0					
Indian Cuckoo <i>Cuculus micropterus</i>	-1,-,-		1,1,0,0		0,1,0,0	2,0,-,0	1,0,0,0		-,(2),0,0	250-1800
Common Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	-2,-,-				1,1,0,0				-2,0,0	400-2150
Oriental Cuckoo <i>Cuculus saturatus</i>	-1,-,-			1,-,-,-	4,Y,0,0				-1,0,0	800-1600
Lesser Cuckoo <i>Cuculus poliocephalus</i> #	-2,-,-				3,7,0,0		0,5,0,0		-,-7,0,0	500-1800
Drongo Cuckoo <i>Surniculus lugubris</i>	-2,-,-		3,0,0,0		2,Y,0,0					500-1600

Table 1. (cont.) Species recorded at hill forest sites in 'Southeast China' 1984-1996

	Yao Shan	Hei Shi Ding	Ding Hu Shan	Mang Shan	Ba Bao Shan	Che Ba Ling	Nan Kun Shan	Guan Shan	Wu Yi Shan	Altitude (metres)
Common Koel <i>Eudynamis scolopacea</i>			2,0,0,0				1,1,0,0		-,(1),0,0	350-500
Greater Coucal <i>Centropus sinensis</i> II		1,-,0,0	1,0,0,1		0,Y,0,0	2,3,-,4	1,3,1,1		-,(1),0,0	350-600
Lesser Coucal <i>Centropus bengalensis</i> II	-,3,-,-	0,-,0,1	0,1,0,1		0,1,0,0	0,3,-,0	2,4,0,1		-,(1),0,0	200-1200
Mountain Scops Owl <i>Otus spilocephalus</i>		0,-,2,0			0,1,0,0		0,0,3,0			800
Collared Scops Owl <i>Otus lempiji</i> II		0,-,1,0	1,0,0,2		2,Y,0,0		1,6,0,1	-,-,1,1	-,(1),0,0	250-1400
Oriental Scops Owl <i>Otus sunia</i> II			0,1,0,0		5,1,0,0	0,0,-,5	1,0,0,0		-,(1),0,0	250-1400
Eurasian Eagle Owl <i>Bubo bubo</i> II					0,0,0,1					
Tawny Fish Owl <i>Ketupa flavipes</i> N,II						1,0,-,0				400
Collared Owllet <i>Glaucidium brodiei</i> II	-,1,-,-		1,0,1,2		1,Y*,1,1	0,0,-,1	1,1,0,0	-,-,0,1	-,(1),0,0	400-1300
Asian Barred Owllet <i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i> II	-,2*,,-,-	0,-,0,1	1,0,0,2		1,Y,0,1	1,1,-,3	1,1,0,0	-,-,(1),1	-,(1*),,(1),(1)	400-1000
Brown Wood Owl <i>Ninox scutulata</i> II		0,-,0,1	0,0,0,1		0,0,1,0		1,1,0,0			400
Brown Wood Owl <i>Strix leptogrammica</i> II										
Grey Nighthawk <i>Caprimulgus indicus</i>	-,1,-,-				2*,Y*,0,0				-,(1),0,0	600-1500
White-vented Noddy <i>Hirundapus cochinchinensis</i> II	-,40,-,-		24,0,0,0		4,0,1,0	100,0,-,0				700-1200
Pacific Swift <i>Apus pacificus</i>	-,200,-,-	2,-,0,0		5,-,-,-	200,50,300,0				-,20*,0,0	400-2000
House Swift <i>Apus affinis</i>	-,1,-,-	10,-,0,0	60,5,8,2		4,Y,500,0	(8),3,-,1,	(5),(20),0,0		-,50*,(25),0	200-2000
Red-headed Trogon <i>Harpactes erythrocephalus</i> #					2,0,2,2	1,5,-,4	0,6,0,1			400-700
White-breasted Kingfisher <i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	-,2,-,-	1,-,0,0	0,1,0,1		2,Y,1,Y	1,(5),-,0	2,(3),1,0	-,-,(1),(1)	-,8,(4),0	200-1400
Black-capped Kingfisher <i>Halcyon pileata</i>					1,Y,0,0	2,0,-,0	4,2,0,0		-,1*(1),0	350-800
Blyth's Kingfisher <i>Alcedo hercules</i> V						7,2,-,7				400-500
Common Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	-,(1),,-,-	1,-,0,1	1,(1),1,2		5,2,0,0	2,3,-,8	7,0,2,2	-,-,(1),(1)	-,2,(1),(2)	50-800
Pied Kingfisher <i>Ceryle rudis</i>			0,0,0,(3)			0,0,-,(1)	0,(2),0,0	-,-,(6),(2)	-,(3),(2),(1)	50-400
Crested Kingfisher <i>Ceryle lugubris</i> #		1,-,0,1			2,2,1,1	1,3,-,2	4*,1,6,1	-,-,1,0	-,4,5,2	350-1800
Blue-throated Bee-eater <i>Merops viridis</i> #		0,-,134,0			0,3*,0,0	13,0,-,0	0,1,0,0		-,(6),0,0	400-1500

Table 1. (cont.) Species recorded at hill forest sites in 'Southeast China' 1984-1996

	Yao Shan	Hei Shi Ding	Ding Hu Shan	Mang Shan	Ba Bao Shan	Che Ba Ling	Nan Kun Shan	Guan Shan	Wu Yi Shan	Altitude (metres)
Dollarbird <i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>	-,10,-,-				8,12,0,0	12,6,-,0	10,2,0,0		-,6,0,0	400-1500
Great Barbet <i>Megalaima virens</i>		1,-,0,1	20,3,5,4		5,2,6,Y	10,7,-,10	2,2,1,1	-,-,5,1,5	-,2,0,0	200-1500
Black-browed Barbet <i>Megalaima oorti sinii</i> #	-,10,-,-	0,-,1,0	5,3,2,1			3,0,-,1				200-1200
Speckled Piculet <i>Picumnus innominatus</i>		1,-,0,0	3,0,1,2		1,Y,1,1		1,0,1,2		-,2,4,1	900-1200
Grey-headed Woodpecker <i>Picus canus</i>					3,1*,1,0	1,1,-,0	0,1,0,0	-,-,3,2	-,1*,4,2	600-1900
Pale-headed Woodpecker <i>Gecinulus grantia</i> #									-,0,1,0	
Rufous Woodpecker <i>Ceolus brachyurus</i> 9					0,Y,0,0	0,2,-,0	1,0,0,0			800
Great Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos major</i>					3,2,3,Y	1,0,-,0		-,-,5,4,		600-1600
White-backed Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i> #								-,-,1,1	-,2,2,0	1500-2000
Grey-capped Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos canicapillus</i>				3,-,-,-	2,1*,3,1	0,0,-,2	0,2,0,0	-,-,6,5	-,0,2,0	500-1600
Bay Woodpecker <i>Blythipicus pyrrhotis</i> #		1,-,2,1	4,1,1,6	1,-,-,-	3,Y,2,0	6,3,-,5	2,4,1,1	-,-,2,1	-,2,0,2	200-1900
Fairy Pitta <i>Pitta nympha</i> V,II					3,1,0,0		0,1,0,0			600-1200
Sand Martin <i>Riparia riparia</i>									-,0,4,0	
Barn Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	-,1,-,-	1,-,0,0	6,(5),1,2		20,1,2,0	25,30,-,12	3,3,0,0		-,Y*,0,0	400-2000
Red-rumped Swallow <i>Hirundo daurica</i>	-,12,-,-	2,-,0,0	70,2,15,20		100,30*,8,0	30,50,-,2	3,(6),0,0		-,4*,0,0	400-600
Asian House Martin <i>Delichon dasypus</i> #	-,10,-,-	10,-,0,0	2,0,0,2		35,Y,20,0	6,0,-,6	12,0,0,0		-,100*,15,0	400-1800
Richard's Pipit <i>Anthus richardi</i> 10		1,-,0,0	0,0,0,(3)				3,0,0,0		-,(1),0,0	400
Upland Pipit <i>Anthus sylvanus</i> #		2,-,0,0							-,20*,0,0	2150
Olive-backed Pipit <i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>		1,-,0,5	7,0,2,17	1,-,-,-	7,0,20,Y	0,0,-,45	15,0,1,10	-,-,4,20	-,0,1,(12)	400
Rosy Pipit <i>Anthus roseatus</i> #									-,20,0,0	2150
Red-throated Pipit <i>Anthus cervinus</i>					3,0,0,0					
Buff-bellied Pipit <i>Anthus rubescens</i> 11		100,-,0,0	0,0,0,(1)		2,0,0,0	0,0,-,2				400
Yellow Wagtail <i>Motacilla flava</i>			0,0,0,1			(30),0,-,0				300
Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		1,-,2,1	0,0,3,5		5,1,2,Y	2,2,-,10	2,0,1,6	-,-,1,0	-,5,(2),0	400-2000

Table 1. (cont.) Species recorded at hill forest sites in 'Southeast China' 1984-1996

	Yao Shan	Hei Shi Ding	Ding Hu Shan	Mang Shan	Ba Bao Shan	Che Ba Ling	Nan Kun Shan	Guan Shan	Wu Yi Shan	Altitude (metres)
White Wagtail <i>Motacilla alba</i>	-,(4),-,-	1,-,0,1	4,1,2,10	1,-,-,-	3,1,* 3,Y	1,3,-,4,	4,(2),3,3	-,-,(1),1	-,(10)* 8,6	50-1500
Black-backed Wagtail <i>Motacilla lugens</i> 12								-,-,1,0		
Large Cuckoo Shrike <i>Coracina maciei</i> #									-,(10),1	1200-1800
Black-winged Cuckoo Shrike <i>Coracina melaschistos</i>										
Swinhoe's Minivet <i>Pericrocotus cantonensis</i> N, Ch*				1,-,-,-	1,Y*,0,0	1,0,-,3			-,(2*),0,0	400
Grey-throated Minivet <i>Pericrocotus solaris</i> #		5,-,200,5	12,0,40,25	15,-,-,-	24,Y*,30,Y	15,2,-,30	15,30,20,35	-,-,31,40	-,(12),0,3	400-1700
Short-billed Minivet <i>Pericrocotus brevirostris</i> #			2,0,3,3	1,-,-,-	1,2*,0,0	0,0,-,3				500-1700
Scarlet Minivet <i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>		5,-,0,1	4,0,1,12		2,1*,0,0	10,1,-,18	5,10,5,5			350-1200
Black Bulbul <i>Pericrocotus divaricatus</i>			20,0,0,0	4,-,-,-	25,0,30,0		2,0,0,0			
Ashy Minivet <i>Pericrocotus divaricatus</i>					8,2,2,Y	15,7,-,85		-,-,21,50	-,(10),21,5	400-1400
Collared Finchbill <i>Spizixos semitorques</i> R		5,-,0,5	12,2,0,70			0,0,-,1	6,12,3,1			200-500
Crested Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>							0,0,0,4			600-1200
Brown-breasted Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus xanthorrhous</i> #	-,(3),-,-									
Chinese Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus sinensis</i> R	-,(10),-,-	0,-,0,5	3,0,0,50		70,12,30,Y	0,2,-,40	20,0,10,10	-,-,0,2	-,(10),100,(50)	400-1600
Sooty-headed Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus aurigaster</i>			1,0,0,0				0,2,0,0			350-500
Mountain Bulbul <i>Hypsipetes ncllendalii</i> #	-,(2),-,-	5,-,5,2	10,2,12,50	5,-,-,-	10,6,6,Y	5,0,-,6	10,3,3,4	-,-,10,6	-,(10),33,18	400-1600
Chestnut Bulbul <i>Hypsipetes castanotus</i> R	-,(10),-,-	10,-,21,10	50,10,40,100	6,-,-,-	25,90*,30,Y	30,15,-,150	300,10,10,100	-,-,30,40	-,(30),6,6	200-1600
Black Bulbul <i>Hypsipetes madagascariensis</i> #		30,-,0,100	21,0,0,30	1,-,-,-	40,42*,9,Y	50,0,-,100	100,0,0,100	-,-,50,50	-,(10),0,0	400-1800
Orange-bellied Leafbird <i>Chloropsis hardwickii</i> #			3,0,0,3		0,Y,0,Y	2,0,-,4	2,2,0,6	-,-,10,4	-,(1),4,3	200-1800
Brown Dipper <i>Cinclus pallasi</i>	-,(1),-,-				2,2,1,3	8,10,-,14	4,1,4,2	-,-,4,2	-,(4),8,5	300-1300
Northern Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> #								-,-,2,0		
Lesser Shortwing <i>Brachypteryx leucophrys</i> #	-,(1),-,-				2,0,0,0		0,1,0,0			800
White-browed Shortwing <i>Brachypteryx montana</i> #					50,7,0,0				-,(5),0,0	1500-2000
Red-tailed Robin <i>Luscinia sibilans</i>		1,-,0,0	0,0,0,1		2,0,0,0	0,0,-,1	1,0,0,1			
Siberian Rubythroat <i>Luscinia calliope</i>								-,-,(4),0		

Table 1. (cont.) Species recorded at hill forest sites in 'Southeast China' 1984-1996

	Yao Shan	Hei Shi Ding	Ding Hu Shan	Mang Shan	Ba Bao Shan	Che Ba Ling	Nan Kun Shan	Guan Shan	Wu Yi Shan	Altitude (metres)
Bluethroat <i>Luscinia svecica</i>			0,0,0,(1)		1,0,0,0					
Siberian Blue Robin <i>Luscinia cyane</i> #					10,0,0,20	0,0,-,30	1,0,0,10	-,-,50,15	-,(10),38,4	400-500
Red-flanked Bluetail <i>Tarsiger cyanurus</i>		0,-,0,3	1,0,0,20					-,-,0,1		
Blue-fronted Redstart <i>Phoenicurus frontalis</i> #								-,-,1,2	-,(10),8,0	400
Daurian Redstart <i>Phoenicurus aureus</i>		1,-,0,1	0,0,0,2		6,0,0,Y	0,0,-,10	2,0,0,2	-,-,1,5	-,(10),8,0	400
Plumbeous Redstart <i>Rhyacornis fuliginosus</i>	-,(2)*,-,-	3,-,0,15	2,0,0,2	1,-,-,-	4,6*,4,Y	4,1,-,10	3,0,2,3	-,-,10,5	-,(20),2,2	300-1600
White-tailed Robin <i>Cinclidium leucurum</i> #					1,0,0,0					1400
Common Stonechat <i>Saxicola torquata</i> #		2,-,0,1	0,0,0,2		10,0,2,Y	0,0,-,4	2,0,1,1	-,-,0,(1)	-,(2),4,(1),1	300-2100
Grey Bushchat <i>Saxicola ferrea</i>	-,(1),-,-			1,-,-,-	5,2*,0,0	0,0,-,2	2,0,2,5	-,-,1,0	-,(4),0,0	500-2100
White-capped Redstart <i>Chaimarrornis leucocephala</i>							2,0,0,2	-,-,1,0		
Oriental Magpie Robin <i>Copsychus saularis</i>	-,(10),-,-	1,-,0,0	2,(2),0,1		2,Y,0,0	0,1,-,1	(1),0,0,0	-,-,(1),0	-,(2),1,2	50-1000
White-throated Rock-thrush <i>Monticola gularis</i> 13					0,0,1,0					
Chestnut-bellied Rock-thrush <i>Monticola rufiventris</i>					2,2*,0,1				-,(10),0,0	1000-1600
Blue Rock-thrush <i>Monticola solitaria</i>					1,1,0,0	0,0,-,(1)				300-1000
Blue Whistling Thrush <i>Myiophonus caeruleus</i>	-,(1),-,-		3,2,1,4	1,-,-,-	10,10,12,Y	6,4,-,12	4,6,2,1	-,-,4,3	-,(6),4,1	200-1400
Orange-headed Thrush <i>Zoothera citrina</i> #			1,0,0,0		2,0,0,0					
White's Thrush <i>Zoothera dauma</i> #		1,-,0,0	1,0,0,3		3,0,1,1	0,0,-,4	2,0,0,2	-,-,2,2	-,(10),2,1	
Plain-backed Thrush <i>Zoothera mollissima</i> #					1,0,0,0					
Siberian Thrush <i>Zoothera sibirica</i> #			1,0,0,1		1,0,4,0	3,0,-,0		-,-,3,0		400
Grey Thrush <i>Turdus cardis</i>			1,0,0,1		2,0,0,0	0,0,-,1				
Common Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i> 14			1,0,0,(12)		2,Y,0,0	0,0,-,4			-,(20),4,(10)	400-500
Grey-backed Thrush <i>Turdus hortulorum</i>		0,-,0,1	0,0,0,20		4,0,0,1	0,0,-,12	3,0,0,15	0,0,30,1	-,(15),80	400
Pale Thrush <i>Turdus pallidus</i>			7,0,0,1			0,0,-,1	2,0,0,1	-,-,0,1	-,(10),1,0	
Eye-browed Thrush <i>Turdus obscurus</i> 15			30,0,0,0		0,0,1,0	1,0,-,0	0,0,3,0	-,-,1,0	-,(10),3,0	

Table 1. (cont.) Species recorded at hill forest sites in 'Southeast China' 1984-1996

	Yao Shan	Hei Shi Ding	Ding Hu Shan	Mang Shan	Ba Bao Shan	Che Ba Ling	Nan Kun Shan	Guan Shan	Wu Yi Shan	Altitude (metres)
Dusky Thrush <i>Turdus naumanni</i>					0,0,0,30	0,0,-,5	1,0,0,0	-,-,30,1	-,-,0,6,20	400
Little Forktail <i>Enticurus scouleri</i>		0,-,0,2			1,2,1,Y			-,-,0,1	-,-,1,0,1	700-1400
White-crowned Forktail <i>Enticurus leucenaulti</i>	-,1,-,-	0,-,0,2	0,0,0,1		1,2,0,0	2,0,-,2	4,1,2,3	-,-,6,5	-,-,1,3,2	400-1200
Spotted Forktail <i>Enticurus maculatus</i> #				1,-,-,-	2,1*,1,2				-,-,1,0,1	700-1600
Slaty-backed Forktail <i>Enticurus schistaceus</i> #	-,4,-,-	2,-,2,2	6,4,5,7		3,1*,4,Y	8,3,-,10	8,4,1,5	-,-,1,0	-,-,2,2,1	400-1200
Grey-bellied Tesia <i>Tesia olvea</i>	-,2,-,-									1000-1200
Short-tailed Bush Warbler <i>Cettia squameiceps</i> #			1,0,0,3				1,0,0,0	-,-,5,1		
Manchurian Bush Warbler <i>Cettia canturians</i> #		0,-,0,1	0,0,0,10		3,0,0,0	0,0,-,13	10,0,3,3	-,-,0,2	-,-,0,(3),0	400-500
Mountain Bush Warbler <i>Cettia fortipes</i>	-,8,-,-		0,0,0,6	3,-,-,-	15,Y,1,1	0,0,-,8	3,11,0,0	-,-,15,15	-,-,20,15,1	400-1800
Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler <i>Cettia acanthizoides</i>									-,-,3,10,0	1500-2100
Russet Bush Warbler <i>Bradypterus seebahni</i> #	-,3,-,-		0,0,0,1	2,-,-,-	10,Y,3,0		2,5,0,0			500-1600
Brown Bush Warbler <i>Bradypterus luteoventris</i>					4,5*,0,0				-,-,30,0,0	1800-2100
Fanail Warbler <i>Cisticola juncidis</i>			0,0,0,(5)		2,1,0,Y		0,0,0,1			
Yellow-bellied Prinia <i>Prinia flaviventris</i>	-,(1),,-		4,(2),2,10		2,Y,3,Y	1,3,-,3	5,15,2,2		-,(10),(6),(4)	50-600
Rufescent Prinia <i>Prinia rufescens</i> #			3,7,8,3				0,0,0,1			
Plain Prinia <i>Prinia inornata</i> 16	-,1,-,-	2,-,0,2	4,0,0,1		2,8,2,0	0,(1),,-,1	1,0,0,0	-,-,1,0	-,-,3,(6),2	400-1800
Brown Prinia <i>Prinia polychroa</i>					0,Y*,1,0					500
Hill Prinia <i>Prinia atrogularis</i> #	-,11,-,-	1,-,4,1	4,2,3,4		6,1,4,Y	3,3,-,4	2,13,2,0			400-1200
Black-browed Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus bistrigiceps</i>								-,-,(1),0	-,-,1,0,0	
Blunt-winged Warbler <i>Acrocephalus concinens</i> #					0,2,0,0				-,-,2,0,0	1400-2100
Thick-billed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus aedon</i> 17							1,0,0,0			
Common Tailorbird <i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>		5,-,2,5	6,1,7,6		1,0,0,0	1,1,-,0	10,4,1,1			200-400
Mountain Tailorbird <i>Orthotomus cucullatus</i> #			0,0,0,10		2,5,3,0,0				-,-,1,0,0	1200-1800

Table 1. (cont.) Species recorded at hill forest sites in 'Southeast China' 1984-1996

	Yao Shan	Hei Shi Ding	Ding Hu Shan	Mang Shan	Ba Bao Shan	Che Ba Ling	Nan Kun Shan	Guan Shan	Wu Yi Shan	Altitude (metres)
Golden-spectacled Warbler <i>Seicercus burkii</i> #			0,0,0,1		35,12*,2,0				-,-50*,0,0	900-1800
White-spectacled Warbler <i>Seicercus affinis</i> #					5,1*,0,0				-,-2,0,0	1000-1400
Chestnut-crowned Warbler <i>Seicercus castaneiceps</i> #	-,14,-,-		0,0,0,1	10,-,-,-	40,10*,2,1	0,0,-,3			-,-100*,0,0	400-1800
Rufous-faced Warbler <i>Abroscoptes albigularis</i> #	-,10*,,-,-							-,-,30,12	-,-4*,20,(2)	400-700
Sulphur-breasted Warbler <i>Phylloscopus ricketti</i>	-,5,-,-			2,-,-,-	20,1,1,0		1,0,1,0		-,-12*,0,0	800-1700
Buff-throated Warbler <i>Phylloscopus subaffinis</i> #					0,2,0,0				-,-10,0,0	1300-1900
Blyth's Leaf Warbler <i>Phylloscopus reguloides</i> #		1,-,0,1	0,0,0,4		5,2*,1,Y	0,0,-,4	0,0,1,0		-,-50,0,0	400-1800
White-tailed Warbler <i>Phylloscopus davisoni</i> #					1,2,0,0				-,-10,0,0	1000-1800
Eastern Crowned Warbler <i>Phylloscopus coronatus</i>		0,-,10,0	2,0,1,0		12,0,0,0					
Pale-legged Leaf Warbler <i>Phylloscopus tenellipes</i>			4,0,0,0		0,0,1,0					
Arctic Warbler <i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>		0,-,20,0	1,0,3,0		4,0,0,0	1,0,-,0				
Pallas's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i> #		5,-,0,5	2,0,0,100	3,-,-,-	35,0,1,Y	0,0,-,120	4,0,1,15	-,-,32,5	-,-0,30,(4)	400-600
Yellow-browed Warbler <i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>		5,-,0,0	30,0,6,20	5,-,-,-	15,0,10,Y	0,0,-,20	2,0,2,2	-,-,4,1	-,-,0,20,0	
Raddie's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i>					0,0,1,0		0,0,3,0			
Dusky Warbler <i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>			3,0,2,(3)		1,0,0,0	1,0,-,1	0,0,3,0	-,-,1,0		400
Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i> #					1,0,0,0					
Brown-chested Flycatcher <i>Rhinomyias brunneata</i> V.Ch*	-,4,-,-			1,-,-,-	6,1,1,0				-,-6,0,0	600-1200
Small Niltava <i>Niltava macgregoriae</i> #	-,12,-,-			2,-,-,-	13,2*,1,0		1,0,0,0		-,-2*,0,0	1000-1600
Fukien Niltava <i>Niltava davidi</i> N.Ch*			0,0,0,1			0,0,-,1				
Pale Blue Flycatcher <i>Cyornis unicolor</i> #	-,1,-,-				1,0,0,0					1400
Hainan Blue Flycatcher <i>Cyornis hainana</i> #			8,8,0,0		2,0,0,0	0,2,-,0				200-400
Chinese Blue Flycatcher <i>Cyornis banyumas</i> #		0,-,0,1								
Blue and White Flycatcher <i>Cyanopitta cyanomelana</i> #		2,-,0,0	10,0,0,1		5,0,40,0	1,0,1,0				
Verditer Flycatcher <i>Eumyias thalassina</i> #					8,10*,0,0				-,-2,0,0	1200-1700

Table 1. (cont.) Species recorded at hill forest sites in 'Southeast China' 1984-1996

	Yao Shan	Hei Shi Ding	Ding Hu Shan	Mang Shan	Ba Bao Shan	Che Ba Ling	Nan Kun Shan	Guan Shan	Wu Yi Shan	Altitude (metres)
Ferruginous Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa ferruginea</i> #					1,0,0,0				-2,0,0	1100
Dark-sided Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa sibirica</i>			0,0,1,0		0,0,2,0		0,0,2,0		-0,1,0	
Grey-streaked Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa griseisticta</i>					0,0,1,0					
Asian Brown Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa dauurica</i> 18			1,0,1,0		2,0,0,0	4,0,-,0				
Brown-breasted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa mutui</i> N	-3,-,-,-									800-1100
Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher <i>Ficedula strophilata</i> #			0,0,0,1							
Red-throated Flycatcher <i>Ficedula parva</i>			0,0,1,0							
Mugimaki Flycatcher <i>Ficedula mugimaki</i> #		1,-,0,0			1,0,0,1	1,0,-,0				
Yellow-rumped Flycatcher <i>Ficedula zanthopygia</i>			(1),0,0,0		1,0,0,0	1,0,-,0	0,0,0,3	-,-,3,0	-0,3,0	
Narcissus Flycatcher <i>Ficedula narcissina</i>			2,0,0,0		1,0,0,0					
Grey-headed Flycatcher <i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i> #	-15,-,-,-		1,0,0,2	5,-,-,-,-	5,22*,0,0					900-1600
Asian Paradise Flycatcher <i>Tersiphone paradisi</i>					0,Y*,0,0					600-800
Spot-breasted Scimitar Babbler <i>Pomatorhinus erythrogastrus</i> #				2,-,-,-,-	4,Y,3,Y	2,0,-,8	0,0,0,2		-2,1,1	400-1800
Rufous-necked Scimitar Babbler <i>P. ruficollis</i>	-8,-,-,-	5,-,1,5	5,2,7,12		20,Y,2,Y	1,4,-,20	5,5,3,12	-,-,8,5	-6,7,0	200-1800
Eye-browed Wren Babbler <i>Napothera epilepidota</i>	-1,-,-,-									1100
Pygmy Wren Babbler <i>Phoenyga pusilla</i>	-6,-,-,-		1,0,0,1		8,Y,3,0				-3,0,0	850-1600
Spotted Wren Babbler <i>Spelaeornis formosus</i> N								-,-,1,0	-2,0,0	1400
Rufous-capped Babbler <i>Stachyris ruficeps</i> #	-31,-,-,-	10,-,5,10	15,3,12,12	2,-,-,-,-	10,Y,4,Y	7,5,-,12	20,11,3,10	-,-,5,12	-10,15,4	200-1900
Spot-necked Babbler <i>Stachyris striolata</i>	-1,-,-,-									950
Spot-breasted Parrotbill <i>Paradoxornis guttaticollis</i> 19					1,0,0,0					
Vinous-throated Parrotbill <i>Paradoxornis webbianus</i> R	-1,-,-,-			5,-,-,-,-	25,Y*,6,Y			-,-,(30),0	-6,150,40	600-2000
Golden Parrotbill <i>Paradoxornis verreauxi</i> R				26,-,-,-,-	8,12*,0,Y					1300-1800
Short-tailed Parrotbill <i>Paradoxornis davidianus</i> V									-,(1),15,0	400
Grey-headed Parrotbill <i>Paradoxornis gularis</i> #								-,-,5,30	-0,20,60	

Table 1. (cont.) Species recorded at hill forest sites in 'Southeast China' 1984-1996

	Yao Shan	Hei Shi Ding	Ding Hu Shan	Mang Shan	Ba Bao Shan	Che Ba Ling	Nan Kun Shan	Guan Shan	Wu Yi Shan	Altitude (metres)
Chinese Babax <i>Bubax lanceolatus</i> R					4,Y,0,0					500-600
Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush <i>Garrulax monileger</i>				11,-,-,-		0,(1),-,0	0,40,0,20			350-500
Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush <i>Garrulax pectoralis</i>		10,-,6,0	16,7,10,25		17,3,60,Y	15,15,-,100	40,30,5,5	-,-,8,0	-9,20,(20)	400-1300
Grey Laughingthrush <i>Garrulax maesi</i> N,R					5,0,0,0					1000-1400
Black-throated Laughingthrush <i>Garrulax sinensis</i>		3,-,2,3	1,0,0,0				1,0,0,0			
Moustached Laughingthrush <i>Garrulax chieracrus</i> R					2,Y,3*,0				-3,0,0	600-1800
Rusty Laughingthrush <i>Garrulax poecilorhynchus</i> ?Ch					7,0,0,0				-6,1,1	1400-1700
Hwamei <i>Garrulax canorus</i> R	-3,-,-,-	1,-,2,3	3,0,1,3		3,6,1,Y	2,1,-,1	10,3,2,3	-,-,15,5	-6,10,1	400-1500
White-browed Laughingthrush <i>Garrulax sannio</i>					0,Y,0,0		3,1,0,3	-,-,0,1	-(10),(1),0	400-600
Masked Laughingthrush <i>Garrulax perspicillatus</i> R					0,10,0,Y	0,(2),-,0	0,(3),0,0	-,-,3,0	-4,20,(6)	400-600
Red-tailed Laughingthrush <i>Garrulax milnei</i> N					10,7,12,3					1200-1800
Red-billed Leiothrix <i>Leiothrix lutea</i>	-6,-,-,-		10,0,1,20	12,-,-,-,-	30,30*,20,Y	2,0,-,1	20,10,5,12	-,-,29,30	-40,10,0	500-1800
White-browed Shrike Babbler <i>Pteruhinus flaviscapris</i> #					8,2,7,Y				-5,0,0	1100-1800
Green Shrike Babbler <i>Pteruhinus xanthochlorus</i>									-1,3,0	1800
Golden-breasted Fulvetta <i>Alcippe chrysotis</i> #					24,50,0,0					1500-1800
Streak-throated Fulvetta <i>Alcippe cinereiceps</i>									-3,5,3	1700-2000
Brown-capped Fulvetta <i>Alcippe brunnea</i>		1,-,5,1			4,Y,5,Y		10,7,2,4	-,-,2,1	-4,0,1	400-1200
Grey-checked Fulvetta <i>Alcippe morrissonia</i> #	-30,-,-,-	30,-,90,30	150,14,80,300	10,-,-,-	13,10,40,4	16,22,-,200	300,30,10,100	-,-,45,50	-20,40,50	400-1500
Striated Yuhina <i>Yuhina castaneiceps</i> #	-12,-,-,-	1,-,0,10	25,5,35,60	60,-,-,-	150,50,165,60	0,0,-,250	(20),30,10,40	-,-,50,60	-50*,0,0	400-1700
Black-chinned Yuhina <i>Yuhina nigrimenta</i>	-60,-,-,-								-50*,0,30	900-1300
White-bellied Yuhina <i>Yuhina zantholeuca</i> #	-3,-,-,-	1,-,8,10	6,2,13,12	2,-,-,-,-	2,1,2,1	1,4,-,15	10,9,1,6	-,-,0,4	-10,3,10	250-1600
Red-headed Tit <i>Aegithalos concinnus</i>	-40,-,-,-	2,-,2,5	35,10,8,40		12,Y,10,0	9,0,-,25	10,0,2,3	-,-,50,15	-40,100,12	200-1500
Yellow-bellied Tit <i>Parus venustus</i> Ch		2,-,0,2	0,0,0,25	2,-,-,-,-	12,Y,1,3	0,0,-,3	0,0,2,3	-,-,50,40	-6,(6),4	850-1900
Coal Tit <i>Parus ater</i> 20									-11,20,0	1500-1800

Table 1. (cont.) Species recorded at hill forest sites in 'Southeast China' 1984-1996

	Yao Shan	Hei Shi Ding	Ding Hu Shan	Mang Shan	Ba Bao Shan	Che Ba Ling	Nan Kun Shan	Guan Shan	Wu Yi Shan	Altitude (metres)
Great Tit <i>Parus major</i>	-10,-,-	5,-,8,5	40,7,20,20	2,-,-,-	2,6,3,Y	9,4,-,4	10,10,2,7	-,-,10,4	-,-,4,8,6	400-1200
Yellow-cheeked Tit <i>Parus spilonotus</i> #	-21,-,-	1,-,0,1	11,1,3,10	8,-,-,-	11,8*,6,Y		3,2,0,1		-5,10,20	200-1700
Varied Tit <i>Parus varius</i> #				8,-,-,-	7,0,2,0					
Yellow-browed Tit <i>Sylviparus modestus</i> #					1,2,0,Y				-5,8,1	1600-1800
Eurasian Nuthatch <i>Sitta europaea</i>								-,-,1,1	-1,6,0	1000-1500
Naga Nuthatch <i>Sitta nagaensis</i> 21									-2,15,2	1600
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch <i>Sitta frontalis</i> #			0,0,1,0							
Gould's Sunbird <i>Aethopyga gouldiae</i> #					3,Y,0,0					1300-1600
Fork-tailed Sunbird <i>Aethopyga christinae</i> R	-7,-,-	1,-,1,3	30,3,8,17		0,Y*,0,1	10,8,-,4	10,10,3,3		-,(1),0,(2)	200-1000
Buff-bellied Flowerpecker <i>Dicaeum ignipectus</i>	-1,-,-	5,-,0,1	30,0,2,2		0,2,0,0	3,1,-,10	3,4,0,0	-,-,0,1	-3,1,0	250-1000
Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker <i>Dicaeum cruentatum</i>			10,2,0,1				1,0,0,0			250-500
Plain Flowerpecker <i>Dicaeum concolor</i>		5,-,0,0	23,3,1,0			2,0,-,0				
Japanese White-eye <i>Zosterops japonica</i>	-2,-,-	10,-,1,10	120,10,40,300	16,-,-,-	40,Y,2,Y	2,0,-,50	12,0,1,80	-,-,30,1	-,(4),30,(10)	200-1500
Black-naped Oriole <i>Oriolus chinensis</i>			0,0,1,0		0,1,0,0					600-1600
Silver Oriole <i>Oriolus melianus</i> V.Ch*					1,3*,0,0		0,0,1,0			1000-1300
Tiger Shrike <i>Lanius tigrinus</i>			0,0,1,0							
Bull-headed Shrike <i>Lanius bucephalus</i>					1,0,0,0	0,0,-,1				400
Brown Shrike <i>Lanius cristatus</i>						1,0,-,0	1,(1),1,0		-,(6),0,0	400
Long-tailed Shrike <i>Lanius schuch</i>	-7,-,-	0,-,0,2			1,Y,2,Y	2,1,-,1	1,1,3,1	-,-,4,(20)	-,(10),2,(1)	250-600
Black Drongo <i>Dicrurus macrocerus</i>	-1,-,-				0,0,2,0	30,(3),-0	1,(3),0,0			250-850
Crow-billed Drongo <i>Dicrurus anaethetus</i> #					6,12*,1,0					800-1200
Ashy Drongo <i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>		0,-,0,2				1,0,-,0	1,0,0,0			500
Bronzed Drongo <i>Dicrurus aeneus</i> #	-1,-,-				0,Y*,0,0					1000-1300
Hair-crested Drongo <i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>	-4,-,-	0,-,3,0	5,5,0,0		0,Y*,1,0	3,0,-,0	5,10,32,0			250-1000

Table 1. (cont.) Species recorded at hill forest sites in 'Southeast China' 1984-1996

	Yao Shan	Hei Shi Ding	Ding Hu Shan	Mang Shan	Ba Bao Shan	Che Ba Ling	Nan Kun Shan	Guan Shan	Wu Yi Shan	Altitude (metres)
Eurasian Jay <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>			1,5,0,1	1,-,-,-	5,Y,0,0	0,0,-,2	1,0,0,0	-,-,6,12	-3,5,0	350-1400
Blue Magpie <i>Urocissa erythrorhyncha</i> 22	-8,-,-	7,-,0,7	6,3,3,8	4,-,-,-	17,18*,30,Y	50,25,-,40	15,10,5,8	-,-,20,15	-20,10,12	100-1600
Grey Treepie <i>Dendrocitta formosae</i> 23		5,-,1,2	2,0,0,50	4,-,-,-	7,12,20,Y	50,50,-,190	50,14,2,8	-,-,50,21	-5,15,8	400-1200
Common Magpie <i>Pica pica</i>		1,-,0,0	2,0,0,0		2,2,5,0	0,0,-,2	1,1,1,1	-,-,0,(10)	-0,4,0	400-500
Daurian Jackdaw <i>Corvus dauuricus</i> 24								-,-,0,(1)		
Rook <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>								-,-,0,(2)		
Carion Crow <i>Corvus corone</i>								-,-,0,1		
Large-billed Crow <i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	-1,-,-	1,-,4,1	6,1,0,14	2,-,-,-	7,26,16,Y	0,0,-,2	2,1,1,1	-,-,12,0		400-1800
Collared Crow <i>Corvus torquatus</i> R					0,3,0,Y					600
Chinese Starling <i>Sturnus sinensis</i> #	-,(2),,-							-,-,(1),0		<200
Grey Starling <i>Sturnus cineraceus</i>										
Black-necked Starling <i>Sturnus nigricollis</i>									-0,0,(200)	
Crested Myna <i>Acridotheres cristatellus</i> 25	-,(20),,-		2,0,0,2		2,0,5,0	2,(8),-8	2,5,0,0	-,-,(30),(30)	-,(12),(7),(1500)	200-700
White-backed Myna <i>Lonchura striata</i>	-5,-,-	5,-,2,3	7,0,20,14		0,Y*,0,0	2,4,-,40	3,0,3,3	-,-,4,(10)	-16,6,(8)	400-700
Spotted Munia <i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	-,(3),,-		0,0,0,4		0,Y,0,Y	5,0,-,4	2,0,0,0		-,(3),0,(10)	400-600
Eurasian Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>			6,0,0,10		0,Y,0,Y	(1),0,-,3	1,(10),1,1	-,-,(10),(100)	-,(10),6,(10)	200-600
Russet Sparrow <i>Passer rutilans</i>					0,Y*,0,Y				-,(10),0,0	400-800
Brambling <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i> #								-,-,100,(3)		
Grey-capped Greenfinch <i>Carduelis sinica</i>					0,Y,0,0	0,0,-,3	0,(6),0,0	-,-,(20),(40)	-0,0,(20)	200-1000
Eurasian Siskin <i>Carduelis spinus</i> #						0,0,-,4	0,0,0,15	-,-,0,40		
Common Rosefinch <i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>			0,0,0,2					-,-,0,2	-4,0,0	2100
Brown Bullfinch <i>Pyrrula nipalensis</i>									-16,6,0	1600
Chinese Grosbeak <i>Coccothraustes migratoria</i> 26						0,0,-,10	-,-,20,(10)		-0,0,(10)	
Japanese Grosbeak <i>Coccothraustes personatus</i> #						0,0,-,4		-,-,0,10		

Table 1. (cont.) Species recorded at hill forest sites in 'Southeast China' 1984-1996

	Yao Shan	Hei Shi Ding	Ding Hu Shan	Mang Shan	Ba Bao Shan	Che Ba Ling	Nan Kun Shan	Guan Shan	Wu Yi Shan	Altitude (metres)
Slaty Bunting <i>Latouchornis siemsseni</i> N,Ch				1,-,-,-		0,0,-,1				600
Meadow Bunting <i>Emberiza cioides</i> #					0,Y*,0,Y					500-600
Black-faced Bunting <i>Emberiza spodocephala</i>		7,-,0,7	0,0,0,6		15,0,0,Y	0,0,-,30	15,0,2,2	-,-,1,(6)	-,-,0,(10),2	400
Yellow-throated Bunting <i>Emberiza elegans</i> #					0,0,0,Y	0,0,-,1		-,-,2,2		
Yellow-browed Bunting <i>Emberiza chrysophrys</i>					4,0,0,Y	0,0,-,15		-,-,7,2		400
Tristram's Bunting <i>Emberiza tristrami</i> #		1,-,0,3	0,0,0,50		6,0,0,0	0,0,-,20	5,0,0,4	-,-,10,6	-,-,0,40,0	400-700
Rustic Bunting <i>Emberiza rustica</i>		2,-,0,3	0,0,0,4		25,0,1,Y	0,0,-,4	50,0,3,14	-,-,3,(11)		
Little Bunting <i>Emberiza pusilla</i>			3,0,0,0		2,0,0,0		2,0,1,0	-,-,0,1		400
Chestnut Bunting <i>Emberiza rutila</i>					1,0,0,0					
Yellow-breasted Bunting <i>Emberiza aureola</i>		1,-,0,0	0,0,0,2		0,Y,0,0		1,0,0,0			
Crested Bunting <i>Melophus lathami</i>						0,0,-,1			-,-,1,0,0	500-2150

In the following notes, all alternative taxonomic or nomenclatural treatments are from Cheng (1987).

1. *Podiceps nigricollis*. 2. *M. korschun*. 3. *Aquila fasciata*. 4. a form of *C. coturnix*. 5. *Capella stenura*. 6. *Tringa hypoleucos*. 7. *Cuculus sparveroides*; although 'winter' records, singing birds at Che Ba Ling during 16-19 March were presumably early spring migrants. 8. *Cuculus merulinus*. 9. *Micropternus brachyurus*. 10. a form of *A. novaeseelandiae*. 11. a form of *A. spinoletta*; 12. a form of *M. alba*. 13. a form of *M. cinclorhynchus*. 14. all observations refer to the distinctive form *mandarinus*. 15. a form of *T. pallidus*. 16. *P. subflava*. 17. *Phragmatocila aedon*. 18. *M. latirostris*. 19. *P. flavirostris*. 20. all observations refer to the well-marked form *kuatensis*. 21. synonymous with *S. europaea montium*. 22. *Cissa erythrorhyncha*. 23. *Crysiirina formosae*; the high count of 190 at Che Ba Ling in winter refers to a single flock at 350m on 16 March; 24. a form of *C. monedula*. 25. The count of 1500 refers to birds seen along a 100km section of road between Nan Ping and Wu Yi Resort on 30 December. 26. *Eophona migratoria*.

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BLACK KITE COUNTS DURING 1995

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Introduction

Black Kites *Milvus migrans* are present throughout the year in Hong Kong but in winter numbers increase significantly due to an influx of migrants from the north. Investigations into the bird strike hazard at Kai Tak Airport in the 1970s indicated that it is one of the most important hazard species and subsequent bird strike data from there has not indicated any change in this assessment (Melville 1980, 1988).

As part of an ongoing study into potential bird strike hazard at the new airport at Chek Lap Kok, a further investigation into the numbers and status of Black Kites, especially in the Victoria Harbour/North Lantau area was considered necessary. As this was a count carried out by members of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, it was decided to extend it to a Territory-wide census of known roost sites so as to obtain a reasonably accurate figure for the wintering population of kites in Hong Kong. Subsequently, this count was extended to March, June, October and December so as to reproduce the timing of counts coordinated by Bovey (1972). It should be noted that kites roosting in the Victoria Harbour area are not necessarily only from the Hong Kong area, and it is likely that some feed in adjacent coastal areas of China; there is also anecdotal evidence (C.Y. Lam and R. Musgrove pers. comm.) to suggest that they also come from offshore coastal islands in both China and Hong Kong.

Previous roost counts in Hong Kong were made on 30 December 1959 (Humphreys 1960), in March, June, September and December 1970 (Bovey 1972) and on 11 January 1975 and during winter 1975-76 (Melville 1976). The results of these are summarised in Table 2, together with the results of this census.

Method

The initial coordinated counts were carried out on 15th and 29 January 1995. However, the count at Magazine Gap on 29th was not done and, as a result, the figure for Stonecutters made on this date can only be regarded as an estimate, albeit fairly accurate. Subsequently, where possible, counts were carried out at roost sites on two successive evenings in order to increase the chances of an accurate count and to cope with weather-related or other variation. The highest or most accurate count is presented below.

Observations to determine flight lines were made at a number of locations throughout the Territory on 15 January; at Ma Wan observations were made on 16th. In addition, supplementary observations were made in the Stanley and Repulse Bay areas during the weeks either side of 15 January, and at the Chinese University, Sha Tin, on 31 December 1994 and 24 January 1995. At Chek Lap Kok, weekly observations during January and fortnightly observations during

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December had been made from about 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.

For each count observers were positioned at the two main roosts: Magazine Gap, Hong Kong Island, and at Stonecutters Island, Victoria Harbour. These are traditional roost sites that have long been in use. In addition, a roost at Tai O, Lantau, was discovered during the course of the year, and an observer was stationed there for the three counts from June to December. The night roost at Ma Lam (Nam) Wat, Sai Kung, reported in Melville (1976) to have probably been in use for a number of years, was also checked. In addition, in order to clarify the existence of a rumoured roost in the Stanley area observations were made there, both before and during the dates of the January coordinated counts. Meteorological conditions at the Royal Observatory on the three count dates are presented in table 1.

Table 1. Meteorological conditions at the Royal Observatory on dates of Black Kite surveys in 1995.

date	sunset	max. temp.	min. temp.	cloud cover	wind direction	wind speed	rainfall*
15 Jan	1800h	17.3°C	14.5°C	6/8	100	2.3m/s	nil
29 Jan	1810h	14.2°C	10.9°C	8/8	070	3.1m/s	nil
30 Jan	1810h	13.5°C	11.0°C	8/8	030	2.6m/s	nil
26 Mar	1836h	19.8°C	14.1°C	0/8	090	4.8m/s	nil
25 Jun	1847h	32.4°C	27.4°C	7/8	210	3.0m/s	trace
8 Oct	1805h	28.8°C	23.1°C	7/8	360	2.0m/s	nil
30 Dec	1749h	18.5°C	11.6°C	0/8	340	1.8m/s	nil

Relevant measurements taken at 1800h except for March and June when taken at 1900h.

* = during hour prior to sunset

Results

The total number of roosting birds in each count since 1959 is shown in table 2; the January 1995 counts are provided in detail in table 3; and table 4 details the number of birds roosting at Tai O during 1995.

Table 2. Summary of Kite total counts at Stonecutters and Magazine Gap 1959-1995 arranged by date

date	count	date	count	date	count	date	count
30/12/59	1300	28/03/70	200-333	19/09/70	135-282	25/10/75	700+
19/12/70	640-942	26/03/95	255			08/10/95	630
13/12/75	600-700						
30/12/95	580	20/06/70	201-370			08/11/95	750
11/01/75	700-800	25/06/95	125				
10/01/76	700						
15/01/95	1220-1270						
30/01/95	c. 692						

Table 3. Summary of results of Black Kite counts and observations, January 1995.

location	15 January	29-30 January
Magazine Gap	970 at roost	620 at roost on 30th
Stonecutters	250-300 at roost	72 at roost on 29th; approx. same on 30th
Sheung Wan		no movement across harbour on 29th
Stanley	up to eight heading toward Repulse Bay and Shek O quarry	
Repulse Bay	up to ten over East Lamma Channel, headed northwest	
Black's Link	137 almost certainly all headed for the Peak	
Ma Wan	63 toward Tsing Yi	
Gau Jing Shan	five east along Castle Peak coast	
Caldecott Rd.	124 toward Stonecutters	
Kau To Shan	35 toward Kowloon Reservoirs	12 toward Kowloon Reservoirs on 29th
Lok Lo Ha	41 toward Kowloon Reservoirs	
Tsz Wan Shan	three to Victoria Harbour	none seen on 29th
Ma Lam Wat	none roosting	none roosting on 29th
Chau Tau	no birds seen	

blank entry indicates no observations were undertaken.

Magazine Gap Due to the nature and size of the roost and geography of the area, it is impossible to determine with any degree of accuracy the direction from which birds arrive. The continuously moving birds and the sheer numbers involved make the roost difficult to count but the figures provided are considered to be a minimum count of birds attending this roost.

Stonecutters Island Like Magazine Gap, the nature of the roost site and the behaviour of the birds make assessing direction of arrival difficult from the roost site itself.

Ma Lam Wat No birds observed roosting on either date.

Stanley No evidence found of a roost in the Stanley area.

Black's Link A total of 137 birds recorded on 15th headed in the general direction of the Peak, assuming a small number which apparently headed for Lamma Island turned and passed over Shouson Hill.

Ma Wan On 16th 63 birds seen generally flying in the direction of south Tsing Yi island and then probably on to Stonecutters, (or, less likely, to Magazine Gap). All except about 20 birds were seen to come from the Sham Tseng area on the mainland adjacent.

Chek Lap Kok No evening movements noted but birds often circle over hills at Sha Lo Wan, presumably on their way to the Tai O roost; in addition, in the early morning birds have been noted to arrive at the airport from that direction.

Gau Jing Shan A total of five seen flying east along the Castle Peak coast on 15th.

Caldecott Road A total of 124 birds seen on 15th coming from the direction of Kowloon Reservoirs flying toward Stonecutters.

Tsz Wan Shan On 15th two birds seen flying from the direction of Sha Tin to pass over east Kowloon before circling over Victoria Harbour off Hung Hom and Tsim Sha Tsui East when they were lost to sight. On the basis of this flight direction, it seems likely that these birds were intending to roost at Magazine Gap. No birds were seen on 29th.

Kau To Shan/Lok Lo Ha/Chinese University (CUHK)

31 Dec. 1994: 44 flew southwest, most over CUHK campus toward Kau To Shan, 34 between 1700 and 1745h.

15 Jan. 1995: 41 flew southwest at Lok Lo Ha, Fo Tan, between 1659h and 1800h, (only three after 1730h).

24 Jan. 1995: 23 flew southwest at CUHK between 1605h and 1735h.

Chau Tau No birds recorded on 15th.

The count of 124 at Caldecott Road on 15th, and also the observation at Ma Wan on 16th of 63 birds flying in the general direction of south Tsing Yi, indicate that, as might be expected, most birds attending the Stonecutters roost are from the New Territories.

A previously unknown roost was discovered at Tai O, Lantau. The relative constancy of bird numbers there (see table 3) perhaps indicates that it is primarily occupied by non-breeding birds.

Table 4. Black Kites roosting at Fu Shan, Tai O, Lantau, 1995

date	24 Jun	7 Oct	8 Oct	30 Dec	31 Dec
count	29	20	31	28	23

Discussion

As regards the counts made during 29-30 January, the apparent sharp decline in numbers noted between the two dates, especially at Stonecutters, may be a product of the poor weather on that date. Many birds may simply have roosted in their feeding area rather than flying to the roost site in conditions when there were very few thermals of which to take advantage, which would therefore mean greater energy expenditure.

Observations at Chek Lap Kok and Gau Jing Shan indicate that there is little movement along the North Lantau and Castle Peak coastlines. However, observations at Chek Lap Kok suggested that those birds frequenting the airport

site during the day use a roost site in the Tai O area at the northwestern end of Lantau. This roost site was discovered to be Fu Shan. Unlike the roosting populations at Stonecutters and Magazine Gap, that at Tai O seems to be fairly constant, perhaps indicating that it primarily consists of a non-breeding population resident in the Lantau area throughout the year.

At Ma Lam Wat kites were last recorded roosting no later than winter 1991-92, possibly earlier (W. Parfitt pers. comm.) The cessation of this area as a roost site is interesting as there is no immediately obvious explanation. It is possible that at least some of the birds which formerly roosted there now roost at Magazine Gap, which would partly explain the apparent increase in numbers there.

It is estimated that about 50 birds are present during the day in the Shuen Wan area at the height of winter (R.W. Lewthwaite pers. comm.) and it is likely that these birds form the bulk of those seen flying up the Sha Tin valley over the Chinese University and Kau To Shan. This movement up and down the Sha Tin valley to and from Stonecutters is probably also carried out by Night Herons *Nycticorax nycticorax* (pers. obs.).

Counts and proportions of kites roosting at the two main roost sites. Stonecutters and Magazine Gap, are provided in table 5.

Table 5. Numbers of Kites recorded roosting at Stonecutters and Magazine Gap

date	Stonecutters	%	Magazine Gap	%
30/12/59	1150	88.5	150	11.5
28/03/70	200	60	133	40
20/06/70	201	54	169	46
19/09/70	135	48	147	52
19/12/70	640	68	302	32
11/01/75	600+	80	100-150	20
25/10/75	405+	63	240	37
08/11/75	300+	55	250+	45
13/12/75	510+	100	0	0
10/01/76	105+	21	300-400	79
15/01/95	250-300	24	970	76
30/01/95	c. 72	10	620	90
26/03/95	75	29	180	71
25/06/95	74	59	51	41
08/10/95	90	14	540	86
30/12/95	240	41	340	59

From table 5 it can be seen that broadly speaking there has been a shift of roosting birds away from Stonecutters toward Magazine Gap. Although this shift seems to have begun in the 1970s, it is not unreasonable to suppose that past and

ongoing work related to container terminal and dockyard development and the West Kowloon reclamation has resulted in disturbance sufficient to encourage this move.

Conclusion

Bearing in mind the inherent difficulty in counting kites at large roosts, the numbers suggest that there has not been any significant change in the wintering kite population since 1959. There does, however, seem to have been a change in the roost sites utilised. Fewer birds roost at Stonecutters, and Magazine Gap now seems to hold the bulk of birds. In addition, a previously large roost at Ma Lam Wat, Sai Kung, is no longer occupied, and a previously unknown roost at Tai O, Lantau, has been discovered.

1995年進行一個有關居留於香港的鳶（麻鷹）*Milvus migrans* 的調查，本文介紹了有關的結果。在一月十五日，共統計了1 220至1 270隻，非常接近在1959年十二月三十日所作的同類調查所得的1300隻（事實上，要在一大群共處的雀鳥中，準確計算數量殊不容易），顯示在過去的三十六年間，鳶的數量，沒有多大的增減。另一方面，聚居的地方卻有變化，由於昂船洲上持續的工程，馬己仙峽已取而代之，成為較大規模的棲息地點。此外，以前另一個在麻藍笏的熱門地點也已被放棄了；相反在大嶼山的大澳，有一個新的棲息地，範圍細小，可能只屬於一些非繁殖鳥的據點。

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FIELD IDENTIFICATION OF CITRINE WAGTAIL AND RACES OF YELLOW WAGTAIL IN HONG KONG

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Introduction

Prior to autumn 1994 there had been five records of Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* in Hong Kong, all but one adult males. During that autumn however, a further five Citrine Wagtails were discovered, including the first records of first-winter birds. During 1995 ten were found, indicating that the species had simply been overlooked in the past. That all but one of this series of records have been found by just two observers strongly suggests that this is, to some extent, still the case. The identification of Citrine Wagtail has been extensively covered elsewhere (e.g. Lewington *et al.* 1991); the aim of this paper, however, is to discuss its identification in a Hong Kong context, and the subspecific identification of the three races of Yellow Wagtail *M. flava* that occur, viz. *taivana*, *macronyx* and *simillima*.

Moult

Adults of both species have a complete moult on the breeding grounds and arrive in Hong Kong in fresh winter plumage, which is distinctly duller than summer plumage. During the course of the winter all the body feathers (i.e. not the wing and tail feathers) are moulted and they slowly attain their bright summer plumage. First-winter birds in autumn are easily distinguished by their washed-out, very grey plumage tones, which may lack any trace of yellow or olive. First-winter birds undergo a similar body moult over the winter, and once this is finished they are inseparable in the field from adults.

Field identification

The head pattern is the crucial feature when identifying Citrine Wagtail and races of Yellow Wagtail. Only in Citrine Wagtail does this differ markedly according to sex, with summer plumage males having a distinctly different head pattern to all other age groups. In summer plumage, male and female Yellow Wagtails tend to be similar though females are notably duller than males. Finally, in Europe variants of Yellow Wagtail races have been recorded that resemble Citrine Wagtail; indeed a Yellow Wagtail at Lok Ma Chau during 10-17 February 1991 (M. Hale pers. comm.) bore such a resemblance to Citrine Wagtail. Atypical Yellow and Citrine Wagtails should be treated with caution.

M. f. taivana

Adult

Supercilium broad and long, reaching from the base of the bill to the rear of the ear coverts, and rather straight for most of its length, dropping slightly at the rear of the ear coverts. Tends to taper from the eye to the bill. The supercilium is yellow, particularly bright in summer plumage. The ear coverts are typically

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20 Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* male. Note largely yellow head, grey mantle and broad white wing bar.

Tin Shui Wai, Hong Kong, 4 February 1995

Ray Tipper



21 Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* female. Note pale forecrown and lores, and pale surround to pale-centred ear coverts.

Lut Chau, Hong Kong, January 1996

Geoff Carey

[The cost of production of plates 20-21 in colour has been subsidised by Cezet Optical Co. Ltd., agents for Zeiss binoculars]



22 Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* first-winter. Overall notably grey and white; pale-centred ear coverts and dark border above supercilium obvious, though the pale surround to the ear coverts appears slightly broken at this angle. Wing bars broad and white.
Long Valley, Hong Kong, 1 October 1995
Ray Tipper



23 Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava taiwana* first-winter. Much greyer than adult but still with strong pale supercilium. Note this bird has some pale in the centre of the ear coverts.
Long Valley, Hong Kong, 8 October 1995
Ray Tipper



24 Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava taiwana* adult, probably male. Note broad, long, yellow supercilium, and solidly dark ear coverts.
Long Valley, Hong Kong, 26 October 1996
Geoff Carey



25 Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava simillima* adult. Note blue-grey crown and ear coverts, narrow white supercilium of even width and narrow white crescent below the eye.
Tsim Bei Tsui, Hong Kong, 9 May 1987
Ray Tipper

[The cost of production of plates 22-25 in colour has been subsidised by Cezet Optical Co. Ltd., agents for Zeiss binoculars]



26 Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava similima* adult. Supercilium and pale crescent below eye less prominent than bird in plate 25.
Long Valley, Hong Kong, 1 October 1995

Ray Tipper



27 Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava similima* first-winter. Note very grey upperparts and rather indistinct supercilium.
Long Valley, Hong Kong, October 1996

Geoff Carey



28 Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava macronyx* adult.
Shuen Wan, Hong Kong, May 1996

Geoff Carey

very dark grey-olive, and normally very solid-looking. Some individuals show a slight lightening at the centre of the ear-coverts, and this, combined with the long broad supercilium, may look superficially similar to Citrine Wagtail. Shows very broad wing bars in fresh plumage.

First-winter

As adults but substantially greyer, with almost no or very little olive or yellow plumage tones. Can show a dark border above the supercilium, and such birds that also exhibit pale-centered ear coverts are similar to first-winter Citrine Wagtails.

This is the only race in Hong Kong that is likely to be confused with Citrine Wagtail.

M. f. macronyx

Adult

The crown and nape are very dark slate-blue, with the ear coverts being slightly darker. In fresh plumage has narrow wing bars. The vast majority lack any trace of a supercilium; if present, it forms only a short, indistinct pale line just behind the eye.

First-winter

Typically lack any yellow or olive plumage tones, and have a uniform grey head with less crown and ear covert contrast.

M. f. simillima

Adult

Adults have a very narrow white supercilium that is fairly even in width and reaches from the base of the bill to the rear of the ear coverts. There is a narrow white crescent below the eye. The crown and ear coverts are pale blue-grey, bluer than in *macronyx*, and the ear coverts are often pale-centered. In fresh plumage shows medium to broad wing bars.

First-winter

Typically very grey; on some the supercilium is somewhat indistinct.

M. citreola

Adult male

Easily identified due to combination of bright yellow head, often smudged darker on crown, grey mantle and broad white wing bars, which sometimes forms a white panel in the wing.

Adult female

Supercilium starts above the bill, forming a pale forecrown which is not shown by Yellow Wagtail. At its rear, the supercilium usually drops to form a pale surround to the ear coverts, though on some this is incomplete or diffuse. Unlike Yellow Wagtail, the lores are pale. The ear coverts are normally pale-centered, and the whole effect is of a distinctly pale-headed wagtail. Often shows a darker border to the supercilium. Always has white undertail coverts.

First-winter

Similar in head pattern to adult females, but with distinctive grey and white plumage tones. The same head pattern features separate from Yellow Wagtails: pale lores, pale surround to ear-coverts, pale centered ear coverts, dark border above the supercilium. Also shows very broad white wing bars, broader than first-winter Yellow Wagtails.

Confusion could occur with first-winter White Wagtail *M. alba*, particularly of the race *leucopsis*, however the dark breast spot on first-winter White Wagtails should make separation easy.

Call

The flight call of Yellow Wagtail is *tzeep*. Most Citrine Wagtails in Hong Kong have had a flight call inseparable from this; however, a few have given a rather distinctive and harsher *tzilp* call.

Size and structure

Most Citrine Wagtails in Hong Kong have been the same size as Yellow Wagtail, but all seen well have been notably long-legged in direct comparison with Yellow Wagtail. A few have also been obviously larger, about the size of White Wagtail.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Geoff Carey for useful comments on an earlier draft, and Geoff and Ray Tipper for the use of their photographs which greatly enhance this paper. John Holmes and Peter Kennerley also loaned transparencies.

要將在香港出現的黃鵲鵯 *Motacilla flava* 三個亞種 (*taivana*, *macronyx* 及 *simillima*)，與黃頭鵲鵯 *M. citreola* 一一分辨出來，主要依賴頭部的特徵。台灣亞種 *M.f. taivana* 不論年紀，都有一條長而闊的眉紋，由咀伸延至非常深色但平淡的耳羽。東北亞種 *M.f. macronyx* 無論年紀，都欠缺眉紋，或只是在眼睛後面有一條不太明顯的紋；冠和枕部都是深色的，而耳羽就更加深色。堪察加工種 *M.f. simillima* 不論年紀，都有一條非常幼細的白色眉紋，由咀基伸展至耳羽之後部。至於黃頭鵲鵯，雄性成鳥的頭部是搶眼的黃色，冠上略有一些深色斑駁的感覺。雌性成鳥和第一次渡冬的雌鳥，都有淡色的長長的眉紋，在耳羽後面急轉直下，好像把耳羽包圍了；前額色淡、耳羽中間部份也較為淡色；而整個頭部看來都特別淡色。就整體的顏色而言，無論是屬於黃頭鵲鵯或黃鵲鵯的各個亞種，第一次渡冬的雌鳥都較成鳥灰暗。

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FIELD IDENTIFICATION OF YELLOW, SCHRENCK'S AND CHESTNUT BITTERNS

Paul J. Leader

Introduction

Three small *Ixobrychus* bitterns occur in Hong Kong: Schrenck's *I. eurhythmus*, Yellow *I. sinensis*, and Chestnut *I. cinnamomeus*. All are widespread in Southeast Asia, yet are poorly illustrated in regional field guides, especially non-adult male plumages. This paper reviews the identification of the three, paying particular attention to females and immatures.

Yellow Bittern

The smallest and most slender of the three, it is less bulky and distinctly smaller than Schrenck's and Chestnut. The bill is slimmer and less dagger-like than the other two species, and considerably longer.

Adult male

Crown blackish to blue-grey, ear coverts and sides of neck buff, often with a pink flush, especially in the summer. Mantle dark sandy-brown, often with a strong pink to dull maroon wash on the upper mantle, although this never approaches the mantle colour of Schrenck's. Wing coverts pale sandy brown, paler than mantle. Throat and rest of underparts sandy-brown. Gular stripe mid brown, though not particularly prominent. Tail black. Primaries, secondaries and primary coverts black contrasting strongly with the rest of the upperwing coverts. The underwing coverts are white, creating a strong contrast with the grey undersides to the primaries and secondaries.

Adult female

Similar to male except lacks a dark crown and has browner sides to the breast, often with some slightly darker mottling. The throat has three mid-brown stripes down its length.

Immature

Similar to adult female but with extensive dark brown streaking on the head, neck, mantle and upperwing coverts (except for black primary coverts). The streaking is boldest on the mantle.

Schrenck's Bittern

Just larger than Chestnut, this is the largest of the three species under consideration; although the size difference from Yellow may not be apparent on lone resting birds, it is typically more obvious on birds in flight, when the size may appear to be closer to that of Little Green Heron *Butorides striatus*. The bill is more deeply-based and more dagger-like than that of Yellow, though similar to that of Chestnut.

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29 Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis* adult male
Mai Po, Hong Kong, April 1993

Geoff Carey



30 Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis* adult female
Mai Po, Hong Kong, 17 April 1992

Paul J. Leader

[The cost of production of plates 29-30 in colour has been subsidised by Shiro HK Ltd., agents for Nikon optical and photographic equipment]



31-32 Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis* Mai Po, Hong Kong: adult male (left), April 1993 (Geoff Carey); immature (right) 23 September 1993 (Paul J. Leader).



33-34 Schrenck's Bittern *I. eurhythmus* (left): immature 29 September 1990; Chestnut Bittern *I. cinnamomeus* (right): immature, 27 August 1991 (Mai Po, Hong Kong, Paul J. Leader).



35 Schrenck's Bittern *I. eurhythmus* adult male, Hong Kong, May 1992 (Paul J. Leader)

Male Yellow Bittern has sandy upperwing coverts contrasting with dull dark sandy brown mantle and dark remiges, and maroon confined to upper mantle; immature has broad pale fringes to mantle and wing coverts.
Male Schrenck's has plain rich chestnut upperparts contrasting with buff underparts, and sandy inner wing coverts contrasting with dark remiges; immature has extensive pale spotting on mantle and inner wing coverts, distinct whitish tips to primary coverts and dark remiges.
Immature Chestnut has duller, more sandy and uniform spotting on upperparts than Schrenck's, and chestnut remiges contrasting with darker coverts and mantle.

[The cost of production of plates 31-41 in colour has been subsidised by Shiro HK Ltd., agents for Nikon optical and photographic equipment]



36-38 Clockwise from above:
Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis* (immature, 23 September 1993);
Schrenck's Bittern *I. eurhythmus* (adult male, May 1992);
Chestnut Bittern *I. cinnamomeus* (adult female, 13 May 1992).
The bill of Yellow Bittern is slimmer and less deeply-based than that of Schrenck's and Chestnut.
Hong Kong Paul J. Leader



39-41 Clockwise from right:
Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis* (immature, Hong Kong, 2 January 1989);
Schrenck's Bittern *I. eurhythmus* (immature, Hong Kong, 29 September 1990);
Chestnut Bittern *I. cinnamomeus* (adult female, Hong Kong, 13 May 1992).
Compare white underwing coverts and contrastingly dark underside to remiges of Yellow with more uniform greyish underwing of Schrenck's and chestnut-grey underwing of Chestnut.
Paul J. Leader





42 Chestnut Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus* adult female
Mai Po, Hong Kong, 13 May 1992

Paul J. Leader

Adult male

Crown, ear coverts, nape, mantle and rump rich dark chestnut, cleanly demarcated from pale buff underparts. Prominent chestnut gular stripe. Tail dark brown. Upperwing coverts, except for dark primary coverts, pale buff contrasting with rest of the predominantly dark upperwing. Underwing silver-grey. Bill largely black during the breeding season.

Female/immature

Crown, ear coverts, nape, mantle and rump rich dark chestnut with large pale spots on the mantle. Underparts cream with a blackish gular stripe and dark streaking on the sides of the neck, forming dark lines down the throat on adult females. Tail blackish. Upperwing coverts chestnut, with bold buff spots. Primaries, secondaries and primary coverts dark brown, except for distinct pale tips to primary coverts. Underwing silver-grey.

Chestnut Bittern

Slightly smaller than Schrenck's. Short dagger-like bill, similar to that of Schrenck's.

Adult male

Crown, ear coverts, nape and mantle bright chestnut-brown, paler and browner than on Schrenck's. Entire underparts sandy-brown, except for indistinct mid brown gular stripe. Entire upperwing uniform bright chestnut-brown, or sometimes slightly paler on upper wing coverts. Tail chestnut-brown. Underwing chestnut-grey. Facial skin bright red during breeding season.

Adult female

As adult male except: upperparts with distinct grey wash; coverts with small pale spots; throat more heavily streaked with prominent dark stripes down length of neck.

Immature

Crown, ear coverts and nape mid brown, with fine, sandy-brown streaking. Mantle and coverts also mid brown, but with extensive sandy fringes forming large spots on coverts. Throat off white with well-marked dark brown, stripes down the entire length. Rest of underparts sandy. Primaries and secondaries bright chestnut-brown, contrasting strongly with the darker upperwing coverts. Tail chestnut-brown. Underwing chestnut-grey.

Status in Hong Kong

Yellow Bittern is the commonest of the three species. It is regular, but scarce in winter, common and widespread during spring and autumn, and breeds in the Deep Bay area, though is not as numerous at this time as formerly. The pattern of occurrence of Chestnut Bittern is similar to that of Chinese but it is much scarcer. Although considered a vagrant by Chalmers (1986), Schrenck's Bittern is now known to be a regular passage migrant, usually occurring in ones and twos. During spring it has been recorded from 28 April to 4 June. There was a marked typhoon-related influx during late May 1989. It is now regular in autumn following the first record during this season as recently as 1990; other than singles on 29 August and 9 September, all autumn records fall between 23 September and 9 October. Schrenck's Bittern is listed as near-threatened by Collar *et al.* (1994). Records of all three come from widespread locations, occurring in any overgrown, wet habitat.

本文檢討了在香港出現的三種小型鶺鴒的辨別方法，重點是雌鳥和幼鳥。此外，亦有論及各個品種在本港的情況。

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SPOT-BILLED DUCKS IN HONG KONG

G.J. Carey and D.S. Melville

Introduction

Whilst walking along the fence at Mai Po on 4 December 1993, Y. Shigeta and T. Hiraoka noted something that had, apparently, long-escaped the attention of birdwatchers in Hong Kong: the existence of a second form of Spot-billed Duck¹ *Anas poecilorhyncha*. They noticed two individuals that were different from the common wintering form in Japan with which they were familiar, *A.p. zonorhyncha*, colloquially known as 'Chinese Spotbill'. They alerted GJC and P.J. Leader to the presence of these birds and the subsequent conclusion was that they were of the form *A.p. haringtoni*, or 'Burmese Spotbill'.

Taxonomy

Most authors (e.g. Delacour 1956, Johnsgard 1979) recognise three forms of Spot-billed Ducks: *Anas poecilorhyncha poecilorhyncha* 'Indian Spotbill', *A.p. zonorhyncha* 'Chinese Spotbill' and *A.p. haringtoni* 'Burmese Spotbill'. Livezey (1991), however, gives *zonorhyncha* specific status due to differences in bill and tertial patterning. In this paper we retain the traditional nomenclature.

Appearance

The two forms are illustrated in plates 18 and 19. They differ in the following ways.

Size and structure

Structurally, *haringtoni* is a little smaller, sleeker and slighter than *zonorhyncha* and is, thus, more reminiscent of Mallard *A. platyrhynchos* or even Pintail *A. acuta*.

Head

The most obvious differences occur on the head where *haringtoni* lacks the rather broad whitish supercilium and dark cheek bar that impart a contrasting appearance to the head of *zonorhyncha*. Instead, *haringtoni* has uniform fairly pale grey-brown cheeks and supercilium separated by a dark eyestripe, giving it a generally plainer, though rather more pleasing appearance. In addition, the crown of *haringtoni* is darker and more contrasting than that of *zonorhyncha*.

Upperparts

Male *haringtoni* has a paler and more contrasting mantle than male *zonorhyncha*; the former has broader pale grey-brown fringes and dark grey-brown centres, whereas the latter has narrower brown or buff-brown fringes and dark brown centres. The upperparts of females of both forms are very similar.

¹ In line with proposed changes to the English names of Hong Kong birds, common usage in Hong Kong and the authors' own preferences, this name will be used here.



18 Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha zonorhyncha* ('Chinese Spotbill'). Female. Details unknown.



19 Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha haringtoni* ('Burmese Spotbill'). Males left and right, females centre.
Mai Po, Hong Kong, November 1993

Sue Earle

Tertials

On *haringtoni* the tertials generally have more white than those of *zonorhyncha*, though there does seem to be some overlap. On *haringtoni* usually the outer webs of the tertials are wholly white whereas on most *zonorhyncha* there is merely a broad off-white fringe to the outer web.

Speculum

Differences in the colour of the speculum as noted by previous authors (e.g. Madge and Burn 1988) do not seem to be useful in the field as the same bird's speculum can appear blue or green depending on the angle of these feathers toward the observer. Examination of skins indicates that the speculum of *zonorhyncha* tends to appear bluer or purpler, but the overlap is substantial.

Underparts

Overall, the underparts of *haringtoni* show more contrast than corresponding sexes of *zonorhyncha*. On male *haringtoni* the chest is whitish-brown with subdued dark feather centres; the dark centres then become gradually more prominent such that they dominate on the vent and lower belly. On male *zonorhyncha* there is generally little difference in pattern between the vent and belly which are both greyish-brown; the chest is pale brown with subdued dark centres. On male *haringtoni* the rear flanks are dark grey with somewhat diffusely demarcated, narrow, dull pale brown fringes; the feathers of the rest of the flanks have broader fringes and consequently smaller dark centres. On male *zonorhyncha* these areas are darker and more uniform with no broad pale fringes to the feathers. The undertail coverts and vent of male *zonorhyncha* are uniform blackish-brown whereas on male *haringtoni* they are not quite as dark. Female *haringtoni* is paler than the male, with pale fringes to the dark brown undertail coverts and vent, in addition to paler flank feathers; female *zonorhyncha* is slightly darker generally than female *haringtoni*.

Bill

Both forms have yellow tips to the bill with a black nail, though on *haringtoni* the yellow is generally slightly less bright and uniform. For *haringtoni* Baker notes 'no red spots or only very faint traces' and Madge and Burn (1988) note 'red spots at base of bill more restricted'; these red spots have not been noted on birds in Hong Kong.

Juveniles

Chicks about five days old observed with a female *zonorhyncha* exhibited a short but distinct line extending from the base of the bill on to the face, very similar to the cheek bar of adults (P.J. Leader *in litt.*). Whether corresponding age *haringtoni* do not possess this bar is not known. Observers are encouraged to pay attention to this.

Status in Hong Kong

In Hong Kong records for 1994 and 1995 indicate that *zonorhyncha* is the common wintering form, constituting about 90% of Spot-billed Ducks present. However, during the summer months numbers are much lower and the proportions of the two forms appear roughly equal. The above-mentioned observation of a female *zonorhyncha* with chicks and others of a female *haringtoni* with seven chicks on 24 June 1994 (E.M.S. Kilburn pers. comm.) and of a pair of *haringtoni* copulating on 9 April 1996 (GJC pers. obs.), all at Mai Po, are evidence that both forms breed. No mixed pairs have yet been recorded, though it is too early to say that this is a consistent aspect of their behaviour. The secretive nature of birds during the breeding season and the decline of observer activity during the summer months has made it impossible to arrive at an accurate assessment of what exactly the situation is at that time.

A provisional analysis of count data indicates that there is probably a late summer movement of Spot-billed Ducks to Mai Po for the post-breeding moult, but the subspecific determination of these birds is currently unknown.

Distribution

The nominate race *poecilorhyncha* is restricted to the Indian subcontinent, extending eastwards as far as Manipur (Delacour 1956, Johnsgard 1979).

Vaurie (1965) records *zonorhyncha* breeding from 'southeastern Transbaikalia and the valley of the middle Amur, south through eastern Mongolia, Manchuria, Ussuriland, and Korea to western China (Inner Mongolia north to neighbouring southern Outer Mongolia, and [Gansu]), and central and eastern China to [Guangdong], also southern Sakhalin and southern Kuriles to Japan. Sedentary, but individuals from the north are forced south when the waters freeze and probably migrate to the warmer regions of Japan and China'. McClure (1974) notes two birds ringed near Tokyo, Japan recovered in eastern Siberia at Olekminsk and Sakhalin. It is 'accidental' in Alaska (AOU 1983). Rogacheva (1992) notes that 'In recent decades the species' distribution has expanded to the northwest'.

The range of *haringtoni* is noted as eastern Assam, Burma and Indochina south to about 17°N and north to southern China (Yunnan province at the upper reaches of the Yangtze River) (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1967, Delacour 1975, Vaurie 1965). It is a winter visitor to northern Thailand (Deignan 1963) and there is one record from Bihar (Ripley 1982).

Peng *et al.* (1987) note nine specimens of *haringtoni* collected in Yunnan in March, April, May and October, and state that the form is migratory and resident. Yang *et al.* (1987) record it as resident in Xishuangbanna, Yunnan.

Riley (1926) recorded a bird from Linkiang Lake, Yunnan, which he ascribed to *haringtoni*, noting that this bird was similar to those from Sichuan. Traylor (1967), however, recorded two males from Sichuan as being *zonorhyncha*, and Cheng (1987) records only this form from the province.

Riley (1926) noted that 'the present race [*haringtoni*] seems to be an intergrade between *A.p. poecilorhyncha* and *A.p. zonorhyncha*', which may suggest some variation in appearance.

Ali and Ripley (1983) note an example intermediate between *haringtoni* and *zonorhyncha* recorded in eastern Assam. Occasional birds have been seen since the discovery of *haringtoni* in Hong Kong that have been ascribed as 'poorly-marked' *zonorhyncha*. Whether these birds are simply that, or whether they are actually intergrades, is unknown.

Cheng (1979, 1987) records *haringtoni* as resident in southern Yunnan and as a migrant in northwestern Yunnan at Lijiang, and possibly Guangzhou, Guangdong Province. The possible occurrence in Guangdong is based on Fok (1937) whose record concerns a specimen in Zhongshan University (then the National Sun Yat-sen University), Guangzhou. This collection was inspected by Fok in November 1936 and he simply lists: '142. *Anas poecilorhyncha haringtoni* [sic] (Oates) Spotted-billed Duck 斑嘴鵞 Canton'. It is not clear whether the subspecific determination resulted from Fok's own assessment or was simply transcribed from the specimen label, although Fok notes that 'La Touche's own nomenclature is used'.

It is of interest that formerly Cheng (1940) accepted Fok's record, but apparently subsequently questioned it (Cheng 1987). This perhaps suggests that Cheng was unaware of any other records of the form in Guangdong. A check of all six specimens of *haringtoni* in the collection of the Academia Sinica, Beijing, revealed that they are from Yunnan. However, a review of specimens in the British Museum reveals one, or possibly two, specimens from Guangdong that are of the race *haringtoni*.

The first of these, '1910.5.2.116. Sam Shui, Kwang Tung', is a male collected by Vaughan on 5 April 1905. This is a typical '*haringtoni*' bird. It is of interest, however, that Vaughan and Jones (1913) make no mention of the racial identification of Spot-billed Ducks in Guangdong.

There is a second bird in the collection which is labelled as *zonorhyncha* but the plumage characters are typical of those of *haringtoni*. This specimen, number 92.4.2.130, is from the Tweeddale Collection and the label states 'Canton, China'; it is unclear whether it was shot at Canton or obtained from a bird market, in which case its provenance would be uncertain.

Discussion

It thus appears that *haringtoni* may have been overlooked in Guangdong in the past, as was the case in Hong Kong. However, it is also possible that *haringtoni* has expanded its range eastwards so that it is now more common in Hong Kong than formerly.

To allow clarification of present status and also future assessment of possible status changes, observers should, where possible, ascribe all observations to one of the two forms of Spot-billed Duck. Of especial interest are records concerning known pairs when attention should be paid to whether breeding occurs within or between the two forms, or both.

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本文討論斑嘴鴨 *Anas poecilorhyncha* 在香港的兩種型態：*A.p. haringtoni* 和 *A.p. zonorhyncha*。毛色最明顯的分別在頭部：後者有寬闊白色的眉紋，面頰上也有一道深色的橫斑；前者的面頰和眉紋都是一致的淡灰褐色，中間被深色的貫眼紋截然分開。在香港，冬季出現的主要是 *zonorhyncha*，超過九成。夏天時兩者數量相約。兩種都有繁殖的紀錄，而且沒有雜交的情況；不過，目前還不能確定這是固定的表現。作者建議觀察者報告時，全部註明是 *haringtoni* 或 *zonorhyncha*，尤其在夏季，更要留意有否兩種混合相處的情形。

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BAIKAL TEAL IN SOUTH KOREA

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Introduction

From being one of the most abundant ducks in Northeast Asia little more than 50 years ago, the beautiful Baikal Teal *Anas formosa* has undergone a drastic decline to the point where numbers have recently been estimated worldwide to be between a minimum of 40,000 and declining (Anon 1993) and 75,000 and declining (Rose and Scott 1994). The statement of La Touche (1925-1934) that the Baikal Teal was the 'commonest duck in north-east Asia' has often been recalled to evoke the speed and extent of the species' decline (e.g. Allport *et al.* 1991), a situation thought probably to have been caused by excessive hunting.

Breeding in Siberia, the wintering grounds of Baikal Teal are largely in Japan, China and South Korea. However, records during 1994 to 1996 from South Korea suggest that these estimates may be a little too pessimistic. Not only this, within the known area of occurrence, the species might even be enjoying a period of population increase.

This note aims to provide an update on the status of the species in South Korea with some additional information on numbers in Japan and China in winter, and a few observations on its ecological requirements.



43 Baikal Teal *Anas formosa* male
Tokyo, Japan, January 1996

Bekki Kazutama

Hong Kong Bird Report 1995: 231-235, Dec 1996

Present status

Japan

As late as the 1940s the species was still common enough in Japan to allow a party of three hunters to capture 50,000 Baikal Teal in less than three weeks. No surprise perhaps, that with pressure such as this there ensued an uneven but alarming decline in numbers. Nationwide mid January waterfowl counts in Japan in the 1970s revealed totals ranging from a high of 19,201 in 1979 to a low of 2486 in 1972. In the 1980s the highest count was only 5012 and in 1993 a record low count of only 438 was attained. (Anon 1995).

The winters 1994-95 and 1995-96 have witnessed a slight increase in numbers with 1707 recorded in the 1995 census and 5000-6500 recorded at one site in Ishikawa-ken, western Honshu (T. Miyura pers. comm.) in January 1996. Several much smaller parties were also noted as far south as Kyushu.

China

Earlier this century Baikal Teal was said to be 'extremely abundant and passing in clouds' at Beijing one year (Wilder and Hubbard 1924), and Hemmingsen and Guildal (1968) noted dense flocks, once probably 1000-2000, in spring 1944 at Beidaihe, Hebei province. The latter, and also Wilder and Hubbard (1924), do, though, state that it was an erratic spring migrant. However, substantially increased observer activity on the Hebei coast since 1985 has brought very few records indeed (G.J. Carey *in litt.*).

Recent estimates have placed the remaining number at no more than 20,000, principally wintering along valley, lakes and estuary of the Chang Jiang (Yangtze River) (*vide* C. Poole). However, due to the land area involved and the relative paucity of observers, there are no clear data on trends in recent winters.

South Korea

The discovery of 20,000 Baikal Teal wintering at the Ch'unam Reservoir complex near Pusan in 1984 was not only the first piece of positive news about the species for a number of years, but it also changed perceptions then current regarding its status in Korea where it had been considered a migrant by Gore and Won (1971). At the time, this one flock represented 80% of the known world population (Allport *et al.* 1991).

It was not until December 1992 that the next major find was made, that of a further, or perhaps the same, 20,000 located on the recently-formed Asan and Sapkyo lakes, Asan Bay (36°57'N 126°48'E), about 250km northwest of Ch'unam. In February 1993 this flock was estimated to contain 30-35,000 birds (Won 1994). Since 1993 huge flocks have also been recorded on Lake A (another recently-formed artificial lake) at Sosan, about 50km southwest of Asan, and on the artificially swollen Kum River (35°58'N 126°36'E), 50km south of Sosan (J.Y. Park pers. comm.). However, due to the species' wanderings in search of lakes

and paddy fields extensive enough to support the compact flocks, considerable confusion has arisen over the actual numbers of Baikal Teal now wintering in South Korea.

Partly because of this confusion (and also the desire to see the famed evening feeding flights), I carried out two visits to South Korea in winter 1993-94 (with D. Allen) and 1994-95 (with W. Hoogendoorn, J.H. de Leeuw, J.Y. Park and J.H. Kim).

On 31 December 1993 and 1 January 1994, 40,000 Baikal Teal were located roosting on Lake A at Sosan, where there were also Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* and small numbers of Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*. On both evenings the birds waited until 30 minutes before dusk before arising from the water in clouds to perform incredible aerial manoeuvres in a silent ballet of the skies. Then the birds peeled off and headed away in the glowering dusk to feed, though in a different direction both nights. Due to the compactness of the roost and the speed of manoeuvre, it was not possible to make an accurate count. This flock had broken up by about 10 January with smaller flocks appearing at other sites such Ch'unam (J.Y. Park pers. comm.). A further 1000 were found at Asan Bay, about 50km north, on 2 January, and 393 were counted roosting at Asan Lake on 3 January.

On 24 February 1995, after failing to find any Baikal Teal at Ch'unam, a visit was made to the Kum River where about 20,000 had been present for approximately two weeks. These were located the following day about ten miles upriver from the Kum Tidal Barrage. On 26th, about 100km north, we found about 45-50,000 Baikal Teal at Namyang Lake (36°07'N 126°47'E), though it was again very difficult to arrive at an exact figure. It appears that the birds had been present for at least a week. Thus, it seems that the Kum River and the Namyang flocks were different, giving a minimum figure of 60-70,000 Baikal Teal.

During winter 1995-96 the wintering population in South Korea was estimated to be about 80,000 (J.Y. Park *in litt.* to C. Poole), which, assuming the number of birds in China and Japan was as stated above, would give a known world population of about 105,000. With coordinated counting and the discovery of other smaller flocks, it is possible that this figure can be revised upward in future winters.

Habitat preference

Notably, all the birds were found on large, artificial, largely ice-free bodies of water surrounded by extensive areas of paddy fields. In the case of Sosan, Asan, Namyang and the Kum River, all of the lakes have been created in the last decade or so by the construction of tidal barrages across river mouths.

At Ch'unam Baikal Teal have sometimes been observed roosting in reeds and other dense aquatic vegetation, but at other sites they roosted on open water

where, however, they were intolerant of close approach. The flocks seem to be highly mobile and wander between areas, possibly in relation to the freezing of roost lakes. The birds feed on rice ears (the grain and husk) in fields of rice stubble in areas adjacent or near to roost sites (Allport *et al.* 1991, J.Y. Park pers. comm.), usually at night; they have only infrequently been observed to dabble in the water (contra Madge and Burn 1988).

Based on extrapolation of figures obtained at Ch'unam during winter 1989-90, Allport *et al.* (1991) estimated 20,000 Baikal Teal required 3392 to 13,636ha of suitable rice fields to support them through the winter, 'assuming the birds have the ability to exhaust the resource completely'. This combination of secure, unfrozen roost lakes and extensive feeding areas has been almost completely lost in Japan but only recently created in South Korea. Apparently, recent massive reclamation projects, while destroying shorebird feeding areas, have produced large areas of suitable habitat for Baikal Teal. It is open to question whether this apparent increase in numbers wintering in South Korea will be sustained since changes in agricultural practices that may reduce the area of rice cultivated are anticipated with the liberalising of the international rice market. It can be seen that South Korean wetlands are undoubtedly of great conservation significance to the population of Baikal Teal.

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美麗的花臉鴨 *Anas formosa*，在大概五十年前，還是東北亞地區數量最多的鴨類之一。可是，近年數量已大幅下降。可喜的是，在1994--95年度冬季的調查中，數量卻又比預期的為高：南韓有六萬至七萬；中國約有二萬；日本方面則有1707隻；全球總數約為八萬二千。至於1995--96年度的調查，單在南韓已有約八萬隻，即是說，全球總數有可能超過十萬。在南韓，花臉鴨通常都是聯群結隊，出現在被廣闊的稻田包圍的不結冰的大型人工水域中。而周圍的稻田，正是晚間進食的地方。近來的大規模堆填工程，雖然破壞了沿岸生活鳥類的覓食地帶，另一方面，卻又製造了大片大片適合花臉鴨棲息的地方。不過，隨著國際稻米市場的開放，南韓的稻米耕作也會減少，到南韓過冬的花臉鴨，還會增多嗎？無論如何，南韓的濕地，對保持花臉鴨的數目，尤為重要。

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PHOTOSPOT: FEMALE BLACK REDSTART

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The first record of Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* in Hong Kong (Jantunen 1996) indicates that observers should be on the lookout for this species in the future. Quite often vagrants are in less obvious non-adult male plumage and such a Black Redstart can be expected to look something like the female in the accompanying photographs. These were taken at Happy Island, Hebei, China in spring 1994. Coincidentally, this bird, a rare migrant to that part of the Chinese coast, was also found by Jukka Jantunen!

In a Hong Kong context the primary confusion species is, of course, Daurian Redstart *P. aureus*. The two are readily separable by the fact that female Black Redstart lacks the obvious white wing panel at the base of the secondaries shown by Daurian. In addition, Black Redstart is slightly duller and greyer both above and below, and tends to show slightly darker ear coverts; Daurian Redstart is warmer-toned on the upper- and underparts and generally appears to have a very plain face.

Although Black Redstart is traditionally thought not generally to extend further east in China than central Inner Mongolia and northern Shanxi provinces (e.g. de Schauensee 1984), recent sightings during spring migration on the Hebei coast at Happy Island and Beidaihe suggest that there may be a small breeding population in the mountains that lie in the north of the province. This would not



44 Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* female.
Hebei, China, May 1994

Geoff Carey



45 Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* female.
Hebei, China, May 1994

Geoff Carey

be surprising as a number of other species also reach the easternmost extent of their range in this way e.g. Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus*, Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka*, Grey-sided Thrush *Turdus feae*, Chinese Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus sichuanensis* and Chinese Narcissus Flycatcher *Ficedula elisae*. It winters in southern parts of its range, primarily Burma, India and further west. However, given the number of species more usually associated with such a wintering distribution that have recently occurred in Hong Kong (e.g. Hume's Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus (inornatus) humei*, Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* and Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala*), it is quite possible that Black Redstart could occur here during late autumn or winter.

Black Redstart is more usually associated with upland regions but in northern and western Europe at least, it often breeds in towns, with industrial and residential buildings supplementing or replacing its original habitat. On passage and in the wintering areas, it can be seen in a variety of habitat types, though any redstart closely associating with buildings is worth a second look, especially one that is using buildings or other man-made structures as a lookout for insects.

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HABITAT UTILISATION BY FEEDING LITTLE EGRETS FROM A TSIM BEI TSUI EGRETRY

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Introduction

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* is one of the most conspicuous species of bird found in the Deep Bay area. It breeds and roosts in egretries whose location may or may not change annually. In 1995 there were two principal egretries in the Mai Po area: the long-used site on the hill above Mai Po village and a much larger, new site in the Tsim Bei Tsui mangroves. The new site occupied an area of around 1km² in the mangroves between the Yuen Long River and the border fence and was used by several hundred Little Egrets as well as Night Herons *Nycticorax nycticorax*, Cattle Egrets *Bubulcus ibis* and Great Egrets *Egretta alba*. Habitats in the area include more than 14km² of exposed mudflat at low tide (Young 1994), commercial freshwater fish ponds, *gei wai* (traditional shrimp ponds now all managed by World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong at the Mai Po Marshes Nature Reserve) and small areas of marsh and river.

Method

A bird's first landing site is indicative of a feeding site (Custer and Osborn 1978) and this was used as the basis for the study. A police watchtower approximately 200m west of the egretty provided a good vantage point from which to observe the egretty and surrounding area. From here, Little Egrets were followed from the egretty to their first point of landing using 8x40 binoculars and a 22x telescope. The site of landing was noted on a map of the area on which a grid had been added with 100m² as the basic unit. This allowed flight lines of all individuals to be plotted later. Habitat, tide and time were also noted with the tide recorded as 'high' (when it was too high for the egrets to stand on the mudflat near the egretty), 'mid' (when the egrets were first able to land in shallow water to when the mudflat was exposed down to the furthest mangroves in front of the egretty), and 'low' (all tides lower than mid). This corresponds to tides of approximately >2m, 2m-1.5m and <1.5m respectively.

Some categories of habitat recorded require further explanation (see table 1.). The category 'shallow water' refers to egrets landing in water over the mudflat. This is a separate category to 'mudflat' as birds may be feeding on prey items brought in by the tide. 'Fish ponds' refers to both full and drained ponds as it was impossible to see the water level in many of the ponds. Draining fish ponds to remove the large, commercially valuable fish species concentrates small incidental fish and prawns and provides a rich food source for egrets, herons and spoonbills. 'Feeding over water' refers to birds feeding by flying low over the bay, plucking food items from the water surface. Little Egrets using 'mangrove' were perching and not feeding. 'Out of sight' refers to birds that had flown further than could be followed with the telescope and/or off the map, a minimum of 1600m.

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On ten days between 19 April and 17 May 1995 305 flight lines were recorded, 105 at high tide, 97 at mid tide and 102 at low tide. Time of day was not fixed and depended on arrival time at the site. However, they were fairly evenly distributed between the 0748h and 1728h, the times of my earliest and latest recordings.

Results

Table 1. Habitat use by Little Egrets as a percentage of total use for each tide

habitat type	high tide	mid tide	low tide
mudflat	0	45	50
shallow water	0	18	0
feeding over water	3	0	0
fish ponds	37	11	18
<i>gei wai</i>	3	1	6
river	1	0	3
marsh	4	0	0
mangrove	20	4	0
out of sight	33	21	23
total	100	100	100

As can be seen, the out of sight category contains a large proportion of the total. To give a general idea of where these birds might be going, an afternoon was spent watching small numbers of birds from a vantage point near the Tsim Bei Tsui police post as this is where the majority of birds that disappeared were heading. Some followed the coastline west out of Deep Bay, some fed over the water in the bay and others headed towards a large reclamation on the north shore on the Chinese side of Deep Bay.

In more general terms table 1 can be described as follows. Egrets primarily chose to feed in fish ponds or wait in the mangroves when the tide was too high to feed on the mudflat. As the water level dropped, Little Egrets dropped into the shallow water over the mudflat and then onto exposed mudflat. Fish ponds were the second most utilised feeding habitat at low tide and there were small numbers of birds feeding in rivers, marshes and *gei wai* at most times.

To give a better idea of overall habitat use by Little Egrets it is necessary to convert table 1 to take into account tide height. As the three tides do not last equal lengths of time, they are not equally important to Little Egrets. Using tide tables to plot a tide profile over April and May and the knowledge that Little Egrets rarely feed at night (Wong 1991) it was possible to work out the percentage of daylight hours that each tide lasted (low - 46.7%; mid - 31.2%; high - 22.1%) and then use this to weight the results from table 1. The results are shown in figure 1.

Figure 1. Little Egret feeding habitat usage weighted for tide height

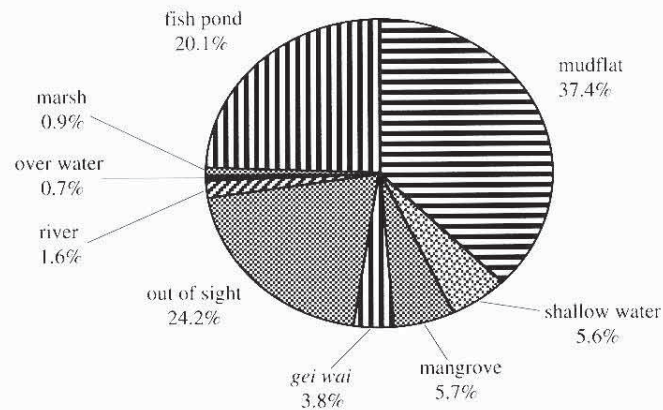


Table 2. Mean distances flown by Little Egrets at differing tide heights

tide height	distance flown (m)	standard error
high	1217	85
mid	1085	92
low	1315	84

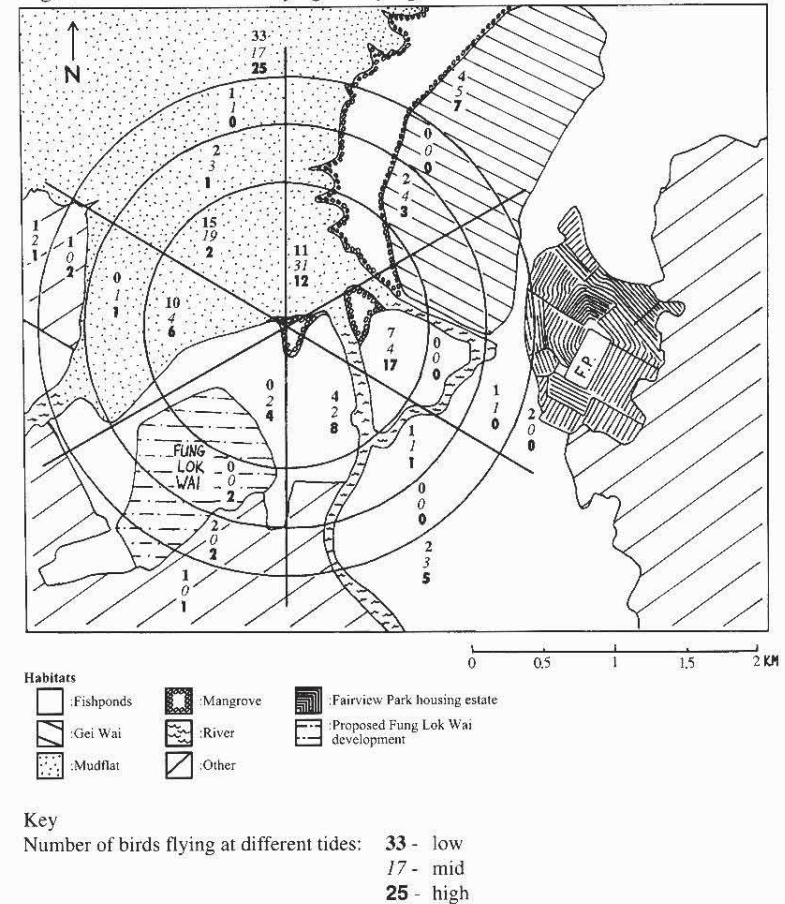
Mean distances flown during different tides (see table 2) were not significantly different and are underestimated owing to the numbers of birds flying out of sight. Some birds were estimated to fly 4-5km to reach the north shores of Deep Bay.

A summary of the direction flown is provided in figure 2. The area around the egretty has been divided into six equal sectors and then into segments to give an idea of the distance and direction flown. The radius of the innermost segments is 1km and the area of all segments is the same. The number of birds landing in each segment is indicated as a percentage of the total of each tide. Birds flying off the map have been included in the outermost open-sided segments. The proposed development at Fung Lok Wai has been added to the map purely for interest. The northern half of the site is to be turned into a nature reserve while the southern half is to house approximately 12,000 people in three to twelve-storey villas.

Discussion

Clearly intertidal mudflat and fish ponds were important feeding habitats for Little Egrets at the Tsim Bei Tsui egretty during April and May 1995, the time when they are raising young. The state of the tide obviously has a large influence

Figure 2. Direction flown by egrets flying from Tsim Bei Tsui egretty



on habitat preference. However, from the weighted results it can be seen that almost 25% of the egrets flew out of sight, generally in a northwest direction, and their feeding sites are therefore unknown. It is hoped that any similar future studies improve on the methodology used here to allow such birds to be properly accounted for. If it is assumed that all egrets leaving the egretty returned the same day, those flying north over Deep Bay must make round trips of at least 9km, a considerable expenditure of energy that would indicate a particularly rich food source. It is known that Little Egrets and other bird species are hunted on the Chinese shores of Deep Bay and a survey of the western part of the Pearl River Delta in summer 1994 and 1995 found just 14 nesting pairs of Little Egret (Young and Cha 1995). Possibly a lack of competition for food means that there are rich pickings for those who dare.

Figure 2 is of interest as it shows that the majority of Little Egrets fed close to the egretty (less than 1km away) or flew northwest out of sight. One other point of interest is that of all the sectors further than 1km from the egretty, the east sector was used by less than half the birds of the next least-used sector. This sector is the only one to include a large development, the Fairview Park housing estate which comprises mainly three-storey residential buildings. Fairview Park itself is avoided because, of course, there is no suitable feeding habitat, but it may also be that fish ponds near the development are being avoided simply because of their close proximity. The corollary is that future developments on areas currently occupied by fish ponds would not have an effect solely in terms of direct habitat loss, but could indirectly result in the loss of a larger area of feeding habitat through a disturbance effect. The highly variable nature of habitat in the study area and the relatively small number of birds involved mean that it is not possible to draw firm conclusions on this aspect based on this investigation, but it is a worthwhile area for future research. It is worth noting that fish ponds in the vicinity of Fairview Park are believed to be of equal quality to those in other areas (P.J. Leader pers. comm.).

How do the results of these observations on feeding habitat usage compare with previous work done in the area? Wong (1991) looked at flight lines of Little Egrets at the Mai Po village egretty during May and June 1990. There, over 50% of Little Egrets used fish ponds regardless of tide and no birds were recorded using the mudflat. However, as there is no mudflat within 2km of the egretty, whereas the Tsim Bei Tsui egretty is less than 100m away and mudflat occupies more than 20% of the area within a 2km radius, this is presumably the explanation. In addition, Wong recorded more than 20% of egrets disappearing from sight at a distance of around 3.35km, and it is quite possible that some of these birds were feeding on the mudflat. Thus, the most likely explanation for the increased importance of mudflat and the increasing influence of the tide on habitat choice of Little Egrets at the Tsim Bei Tsui egretty is the difference in availability and distance of different feeding habitats. Another explanation could be that there were differences in prey abundance in the two habitats between 1990 and 1995.

In the most comprehensive study on Little Egret and other ardeids in Deep Bay, Young (1994) adopted a different technique to examine habitat preference. Between November 1988 and December 1989 twice monthly counts were made of all egrets using different habitats in a 380ha study site that included all the major feeding habitats. Counts were therefore not egretty specific. Young found that drained ponds were the most used habitat from March to May (around 50%). At this time the mudflat had a slightly higher usage than fish ponds but each was utilised by less than 20% of Little Egrets. Drained ponds were rarely available later on in the summer (June to August) and mudflat usage rose to 51%. Drained *gei wai* was the most used feeding habitat between September and November (32%) and the second most used habitat over the whole year after drained fish ponds. From December to February drained ponds were again the most favoured

habitat (30%). While it is certainly interesting that the two most used habitats only exist as a result of human management practices, these results are not directly comparable to this study and that of Wong due to the different methodologies.

Generally then, fish pond usage (drained and full) was less for the Tsim Bei Tsui egretty in 1995 than for the Mai Po egretty in 1990 or for birds in a Mai Po study area in the same season in 1989. Another explanation to those discussed might be a small difference in methodology. Britton (1992) examined the relationship between Little Egrets and Mosquito Fish *Gambusia affinis*, a fish pond prey item. He showed that *Gambusia* rose to the surface of the fish pond at dawn and dusk when the dissolved oxygen content of the water was lowest. He also found a positive correlation between *Gambusia* rising to the surface and egret feeding and, while not specifying the exact time of peak Little Egret feeding, *Gambusia* were most active at 0600h. Wong began recording flight lines at 0600h. Young began surveys at 0730h but this study only recorded before 0900h (at 0748h) on one day out of ten. Thus, this study may well have underestimated fish pond usage simply by missing peak fish pond activity soon after dawn.

Interestingly, Britton (1992) only observed adult Little Egrets occasionally taking prawns *Macrobrachium* sp. while Wong found them to be their main prey item taken in fish ponds. The two studies were conducted at different times but also each only appears to have looked at the prey from a single fish pond. Given the different sizes of fish ponds and differing management regimes, it is to be expected that communities within different fish ponds will vary.

It should be clear by now that Little Egret patterns of feeding in the Deep Bay area are extremely complex. Not only is the patchwork of feeding habitats large and complex, but other variables are likely to influence feeding such as time of day, weather, season, age of birds (Young 1994), distance to feeding site and tide. A really comprehensive study would need to consider these factors as well as the interaction between tide and time of day and the effect on feeding preferences. For example, more egrets might feed in fish ponds at dawn when there is a high tide.

Habitat usage as determined solely by the use of flight lines can only give an indication of the types of habitat egrets are most likely to fly to directly from an egretty. They give no idea how long egrets remain at each habitat or whether they switch between habitats. More importantly, they shed no light on the amount of food egrets are able to obtain from each habitat. It might be that the average Little Egret is able to obtain 75% of its required daily food intake in a short feeding burst at a fish pond at dawn and the remaining 25% with more difficulty at other habitats. Whatever the case, these are the types of question that will have to be answered if we are to gain a fuller understanding of the importance of different habitats to Little Egrets in the Deep Bay area.

本文介紹一個有關小白鷺 *Egretta garzetta* 覓食習慣的研究，期間為1995年四月至五月，主要是觀察從尖鼻咀鷺鳥林出發的飛行路線。研究發現雖然漲潮時，小白鷺多棲息於魚塘上，潮間泥灘才是主要的覓食地點；而飛行的距離和不同的漲潮高度，並沒有特別關係。文章亦有把是次研究，和以往有關後海灣小白鷺棲息習慣的研究結果作比較。有批評質疑這個利用飛行路線，來比較覓食地點重要性的方法，並認為後海灣小白鷺的覓食模式非常複雜，不容易掌握全貌，這次研究的結果只是一個起點。

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THE STATUS OF SAUNDERS' GULLS ON THE EAST COAST OF CHINA

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Introduction

Saunders' Gull *Larus saundersi* is listed in Collar *et al.* (1994) as threatened and the current estimate of the world population ranges from about 2500 wintering birds (M.A. Brazil *in litt.*) to a post-breeding population of 4300 (WH *in prep.*). Breeding was first discovered at Yancheng, Jiangsu province, China (Shi *et al.* 1988), and later at Shuangtai Hekou, Liaoning province (Anon 1989). Cheng (1987) lists Saunders' Gull as a migrant at the Yellow River (Huang He) delta and a winter visitor south of the Yangtze (Chang Jiang).

The aim of this short paper is to briefly describe the status of Saunders' Gull on the east coast of China, north of the Yangtze, in the light of work carried out during 1988-1994. A survey of the Yellow River delta was first undertaken in 1986, and in 1988 Saunders' Gull was found for the first time. At Yancheng National Nature Reserve (NNR) counts of the winter population have been made since winter 1989-1990 and surveys of the breeding population were carried out in 1993 and 1994 under the auspices of the China Programme of World Wide Fund for Nature International.

The Yellow River delta is situated in northeast Shandong province at 37°20'-39°10'N by 118°07'-119°10'E, and was formed through sediment deposition by the silt laden river. The coastal wetlands are as wide as 20-30km and the tidal range is great allowing the exposure of extensive salt marsh and intertidal mudflats at low tide. There are numerous rivers and channels crisscrossing the wetland allowing only boat access to large areas. The wetland is rich in wildlife and provides very good habitat for waterfowl to breed, rest and refuel. Wang and Qian (1996) estimate that a minimum of 800,000 waterbirds use the area during the year including internationally important numbers of a number of species.

Extensive mudflats and areas of salt marsh along the Jiangsu coast have been formed by the same process of sediment deposition. Yancheng NNR, situated at 33°10'-33°30'N by 120°20'-120°40'E, is also important for waterfowl with hundreds of thousands wintering along the coast, including 40% of the world population of Red-crowned Crane *Grus japonensis*, very large numbers of shorebirds utilising the area during migration between Siberia and Australasia and the largest concentration of breeding Saunders' Gulls known.

Summer survey results

Count data for Saunders' Gulls at the Yellow River delta are provided in Table 1. From this it can be seen that Saunders' Gull is a passage migrant and summer visitor that can be recorded between April and October. Greatest concentrations occur during August and September probably due to the increased number of juvenile birds from local breeding areas, perhaps supplemented by

migrants from breeding areas further north. The maximum count of 500-600 accounts for a large percentage of the world population.

Table 1. Counts of Saunders' Gulls at the Yellow River Delta, Shandong province, China, 1988-1992.

area	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Zi Ma He Kou	3 (8 Sep)	3 (5 Sep)		5 (12 Aug)	52 (22 Apr)
Nan Hai Bu	4 (12 Oct)		88 (18 Sep)		
Da Wen Liu	15 (10 Jul)	3 (3 Jun)	5 (5 Jun)	500-600 (15 Sep)	188 (26 Apr)
Wu Hao Zhao		5 (12 Oct)	5 (8 Aug)		14 (25 Apr)
Huang He	2 (28 Jun)	9 (1 Jul)	12 (12 Sep)		
Dai Kou		3 (27 May)	7 (10 Aug)	40 (12 Sep)	48 (15 Apr)

Saunders' Gulls at the Yellow River delta primarily feed on intertidal mudflats, especially at the mouth of the river. The south side of the estuary consists of a very large wetland area with numerous channels and little human activity and, not surprisingly, most birds were seen here. The north side of the estuary has been reclaimed to a substantial degree for shrimp ponds, salt pans and oil field activities resulting in a comparatively low number of birds being recorded. As part of a cooperative project with the Administrative Office of Yancheng National Nature Reserve, WWF funded two surveys of the breeding population. The results of the surveys are provided in table 2.

Table 2. Summary of surveys of breeding Saunders' Gulls at Yancheng Nature Reserve, Jiangsu province, China, 1993 and 1994

location	9 June - 22 August 1993			6 July - 10 August 1994		
	adult	2 yr	juv	adult	2 yr	juv
Sheyang Saltworks	360	30	321	340	64	656
Reserve core area	280	3	99	457	62	260
Zhong Ru Gang	0	0	52			
Da Feng/Si Mao You	68	5	1	89	22	0
Wang Gang/Hai Feng	153	0	72	111	0	98
Zhu Gang				54	28	60
Zhu Zhuan	224	0	0			
Si Sheng Gang	108	0	(26)*			
Liang Duo He				16	8	6
Shang Chang He				68	38	38
total	1193	38	545	1024	184	1118

* number of eggs

At least some birds in their second calendar year pair up but breeding success is low (WH and G.J. Carey pers. obs.).

The Yellow River delta lies between the two important breeding areas of Saunders' Gull, Yancheng in the south and Shuangtai Hekou in the north, though there is some doubt as to the numbers still breeding at the latter locality due to widespread habitat loss through reclamation. Certainly, numbers are much decreased (D.S. Melville and Li Y.X. pers. comm.). At the Yellow River Delta Wong and Liang (1992) found two colonies, including four nests and over 120 adult birds. However, the delta may hold a larger breeding population than at present known and further investigations are required to ascertain this. The Luan He delta, Hebei province, has a small colony (Wong and Liang 1992) and the species breeds west of there near the Da Qing He estuary and at Tang Gu (G.J. Carey *in litt.*).



Winter survey results

Counts of Saunders' Gulls during winter are provided in table 3.

Table 3. Wintering population of Saunders' Gull at Yancheng Nature Reserve, Jiangsu province, China, 1989-90 to 1995-96 (all surveys December-January)

winter	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
total	1207	782	751	498	654	314	803

Migration

Little is known about the movements of Saunders' Gulls though birds wintering in Japan are presumed to originate from breeding grounds in Hebei

province. A bird colour-ringed as a nestling at Shuangtai Hekou Nature Reserve, Liaoning province, in 1991 was photographed at Shikoku, Japan, on 27 January 1992 (Brazil and Moores 1993). The highest spring counts so far noted at Yancheng are 572 on 11 April 1993 and 540 on 4 April 1993, though determining spring and autumn passage is difficult as both are so closely bound up with the arrival or departure of local breeding birds. It is not known to what extent the wintering population consists of birds that breed at the reserve though, given its migratory nature elsewhere and the fact that birds reach as far south as Vietnam, it is tempting to suggest that birds wintering at Yancheng originate from further north. The coordinated colour-marking of individuals in the breeding areas could shed some light on this.

Threats

The breeding areas of this highly specialised gull are under serious threat from land reclamation for the construction of shrimp ponds, salt pans and other forms of development. This has been as evident at Yancheng as elsewhere and, in the past five years, breeding areas within the reserve itself have been lost for the creation of salt works, shrimp ponds and agricultural fields. The basic reason for this is that although the Reserve Management Office has management control over land, there is no land use control in areas outside the Core Area. Consequently, there is little that can be done to control unsympathetic land use activities. In addition, there is much illegal collection of eggs from all species breeding on the salt marsh, not only those of Saunders' Gulls. In the breeding season of 1994 at least 267 Saunders' Gull eggs were lost in this way. Unfortunately, this threat not only arises due to collection for food, but it has also been supported in the past by the activities of zoos that wish to captive breed Saunders' Gulls.

A further factor that seems to affect Yancheng more than other breeding areas concerns adverse weather conditions. Its relatively southerly location means a greater incidence of typhoons early in the breeding season. The violence of this weather can wipe out colonies which may or may not lay eggs again. Under such circumstances the effect of illegal egg collection is compounded.

The establishment of the 1530 sq.km. Yellow River Delta National Nature Reserve in 1988 was a positive step toward wetland conservation though it suffers from a shortage of funding, a lack of trained staff and, as a result of the previous two factors, an inadequate research programme. Scientific research into the distribution of Saunders' Gull in the delta and education work in local schools and communities are required as part of a wider conservation strategy involving habitat conservation in both its breeding and wintering areas.

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本文描述黑咀鷗 *Larus saundersi* 在中國東部海岸的情況，資料主要來自兩片主要濕地：黃河三角洲和長江以北江蘇省沿海一帶。在遷徙季節和繁殖期，在黃河三角洲錄得五百至六百隻；在鹽城國家自然保護區，繁殖季節的調查錄得超過一千隻成鳥及545至1118隻幼鳥；而1989至1990年的冬季調查中，則有314至1207隻。可惜隨著填海、建造蝦塘等各種急劇發展的工程，黑咀鷗喜愛的沿海泥灘和鹽沼正受到嚴重威脅。

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NOTES

Some notes on a voyage from Hiroshima to Hong Kong

Loynd (1992) detailed bird observations made during two seagoing assignments in April and May 1991. On 28 May 1994 on the multipurpose tug Mai Po, I commenced a voyage from Hiroshima, Japan, to Hong Kong, and en route noted a number of birds.

The first birds seen were a small number of Black-tailed Gulls *Larus crassirostris* near the entrance to the Inland Sea at Hayasui Seto (33°24'N 132°00'E). These were seen at 1100h (all times are local time) on 28th in fine clear weather with a light southerly breeze.

Later the same day at 1500h at 32°47'N 132°03'E we encountered the first Streaked Shearwaters *Calonectris leucomelas*. These were seen in small numbers throughout the voyage, generally flying in a random 'hunting' pattern. However, on 29 May from 0500h to 0630h, at about 30°35'N 130°10'E far larger numbers were seen. These all seemed to be flying due west from Osumi Gunto in a steady stream fairly close to the vessel at an estimated rate of 900 birds per hour. The birds were not circling us and were presumably leaving roost on Osumi Gunto. The group split to pass around the ship and did not come closer than about 200m ahead of the vessel. The wind was southeasterly force 5 with a two-metre swell.

On 30th at 0700h at 28°17'N 126°00'E a Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus* passed the vessel flying northwards. The wind was easterly force 4 with a two-metre swell, the weather fine and sunny. At 0730h at 28°15'N 125°54'E a single Masked Booby *Sula dactylatra*, its yellow bill clearly visible, was sighted flying southeast. At 0842h at 28°15'N 125°40'E two Cattle Egrets *Bubulcus ibis* and one Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* were sighted flying north.

On 31st at about 0630h at 25°55'N 121°50'E several Bulwer's Petrels *Bulweria bulwerii* were seen close ahead of the vessel, apparently flying in pairs. The upper wing band and wedge-shaped tail were clearly observed. Numbers decreased after about one hour but occasional pairs were seen throughout the morning. A small number of Brown Boobies *Sula leucogaster* were seen in the vicinity of a large fishing fleet, although far fewer than have been noted on similar voyages in the past. Wind was northeasterly force 5 with a 1.5m swell. At about 1600h at 24°45'N 119°54'E a Swallow *Hirundo rustica* repeatedly crossed the bow as if hunting, then briefly perched on the wheelhouse handrails just before sunset. An inquisitive crew member scared it away and it was not seen again.

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Apparent camouflage posture of Painted Snipe

On 23 September 1994 I was cycling along the border fence road past Lok Ma Chau. As I passed a small marshy pool on the other side of the fence I noticed, about 15m away, a medium-sized bird at the edge of the pool. It proved to be a Painted Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*, either a juvenile or an adult male. It was clearly aware of my presence, despite the border fence being in between us, but instead of flying or walking of into the adjacent vegetation which would have afforded ideal cover, and been a more typical response, it suddenly turned head-on, stiffened, dropped its bill into the water and raised its rear end into the air on stretched legs. The effect was to vertically align the broad pale stripes on the mantle and the centre of the crown with the nearby vegetation, some of which included dead grass of a similar colour. The camouflage effect of this behaviour was very effective, with the bird becoming instantly less obvious.

I moved to view the bird side on, and while I did so, it maintained this posture. From the side the body was seen to be at an angle of about 50°. I watched the bird for about five minutes, during which time a patrolling policeman stopped to check my permit, still in full view of the bird which maintained its posture throughout. When I left, it was still in the same position. Whether the behaviour of the bird was affected by the presence of the fence between us is unclear, but likely; it may be an avoidance strategy adopted more often than moving into cover, but in less visible circumstances, and that the fence made the bird feel less exposed initially, causing it to remain where it was. Cramp and Simmons (1983) do not refer to such behaviour, but state: 'When disturbed, will freeze in whatever attitude it happens to be holding at the moment, for many minutes at a time if necessary, staring fixedly at object of danger'. Similar behaviour has been recorded in Jack Snipe *Lymnecryptes minimus* (Hollyer 1984, Fearnside 1990), but apparently not in Painted Snipe.

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Richard's Pipit eating bread

On the afternoon of 5 April 1995 I watched a Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae* feeding on a piece of bread at Kai Tak Airport, Hong Kong. Studies elsewhere (Ali and Ripley 1983, Cramp 1988, Oliver 1955, Roberts 1992) indicate that the diet of Richard's Pipit is principally comprised of invertebrates (mostly insects), although some vegetable matter including seeds may also be taken. Gush, in Cramp (1988), recorded a bird in an English garden taking commercial bird seed mix. This appears to be the first record of the species taking bread.

Richard's Pipits are present at Kai Tak throughout the year, with occasional breeding records (Melville 1980a), and usually are seen feeding on insects or plant seeds.

This observation highlights the importance of maintaining airfield hygiene in order to reduce the likelihood of birdstrike hazards to aircraft. In the period 1974-79 a total of 409 birds were recorded killed by aircraft at Kai Tak; 16 of these (3.9%) were Richard's Pipits (Melville 1980b).

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The first record of Blackbird breeding in Hong Kong

On 6 August 1995 at Fung Yuen, near Tai Po Industrial Estate, I found two adult and one juvenile Blackbird *Turdus merula*. The juvenile was well seen as it flew up from the ground into some shrubs where it scrambled around in full view for about two minutes at ranges down to 15m. The two adults then flew to the juvenile and all three then flew off together.

The breast, belly and flanks of the juvenile were white with a brownish suffusion and were clearly marked with dark brown spots on the breast, changing to dark brown scallops on the belly and flanks. The scapulars appeared to have brown streaks and the remiges were dark brown. The head was pale with no distinct supercilium or ear coverts. The bill was dark brown, the eyes and legs were dark.

The plumage of the juvenile, indicating that it was still relatively young, and the close association between the three birds indicate that a family party are concerned. Breeding was confirmed at the same site in May 1996 when a single juvenile, at an earlier stage of development than that above, was constantly attended by both parents.

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Black-faced Laughing Thrush and Black-necked Starling attempting to eat Asian Painted Frog

On 4 February 1995 while walking along the Kam Tin river my attention was drawn to a Black-faced Laughing Thrush *Garrulax perspicillatus* shaking a large bloated frog in its bill. It had the frog by the foot and shook it vigorously, before passing it onto a second bird which did the same thing. This bird gave up and a third took over. This bird used a different technique that involved holding the frog with its foot and hammering vertically into the body of the frog with its bill.

While the laughing thrush was doing this a Black-necked Starling *Sturnus nigricollis* hurried over causing the laughing thrushes to desert the frog. The starling then tried to open up the frog by picking it up and hurling it against the ground. This continued for several minutes until I approached too closely and the bird abandoned the frog.

I examined the frog which turned out to be an Asian Painted Frog *Kaloula pulchra*. It was still inflated and did not appear to be punctured, although the limbs did appear to be loose.

I have not found a record of any *Garrulax* species preying on amphibians. Ali and Ripley (1987), however, note that *G. leucolophus* and *G. monileger* have been recorded preying on reptiles, and other species of *Garrulax* prey on molluscs. Cramp and Perrins (1994) note that starlings have been recorded eating frogs of the genus *Rana*.

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Crested Mynah kleptoparasitising Chinese Ponds Heron chicks

On 26 May 1995 I was counting breeding egrets in the Mai Po Village colony. I had been watching a brood of three Chinese Pond Herons *Ardeola bacchus* that were approximately three-quarters grown, had already left the nest, and were loosely grouped together on the outer branches of a Chinese Banyan *Ficus microcarpa*. An adult Chinese Pond Heron flew into the tree, and fed all three chicks. Having done so, it moved about 10m away from the chicks, remaining in the same tree. As soon as the adult backed off, an adult Crested Myna *Acridotheres cristatellus* flew into view and started to 'dive-bomb' one of the chicks. The effect

of this on the chick was to cause it to lose its balance and, as it struggled to regain its footing, the Crested Myna again flew at the chick; after about the fifth such attack, the chick regurgitated an item approximately 5cm long which fell to the ground. The Crested Myna immediately stopped its harassment of the chick, dropped down to the ground and then flew off carrying the regurgitated item, with another adult Crested Myna, that had been perched nearby, unseen. The two then disappeared in the manner of birds carrying food to dependent young.

As I was unable to follow up this observation, it is not known whether this was an isolated incident or not. However given the behaviour of the Crested Myna and its immediate reaction to the regurgitation by the chick, it is likely that the Crested Myna knew the potential result of its behaviour. Such behaviour in a passerine would appear to be exceptional and I can find no reference to it in the literature.

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GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF 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 on members submitting records and all are encouraged to do this at the end of each year.

The Society provides 152 x 106mm record cards to facilitate analysis and storage and these are available from the Recorder. Completed cards are stored in a species-indexed filing system and members wishing to look at past records are asked to contact the 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.

The Society also maintains a collection of reports of birds recorded during members' visits to various parts of Southeast Asia and China to assist others in planning overseas trips.

Rarities

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

Field identification techniques for species in the area still need refining and the Society has a Records Committee to assess records and ensure that a high standard of reporting is maintained. A list of species considered by the Committee is given below. The list may seem dauntingly long and includes some apparently unmistakable species but, nevertheless, field descriptions of the birds listed are required if the record is to be considered for publication. Ideally, field notes of a rarity should cover the following points:

- a) Date, time and location of sighting.
- b) Power of binoculars/telescope used, distance of bird from the observer, weather and light conditions.
- c) Description of habitat and what other birds, if any, it was associating with.
- d) Angle of view and actions: at rest, in flight, swimming etc. The more varied the conditions the better.
- e) Its general size, shape and structure compared with other more familiar species. Structural features that may be important should be detailed e.g. bill length compared to length of head; relative position of wing tips to uppertail coverts; projection of primary tips beyond closed tertials; length of hind claw etc.
- f) The most detailed description possible of the plumage and bare parts, not just those parts thought to help in identification. This description