



理想的野外遊歷伙伴 您是否還在尋覓富有頂級光學表現的望遠鏡？

德國徠卡為您獻上一系列頂級的全方位望遠鏡 ULTRAVID HD 系列。堅固耐用的 ULTRAVID 10 X 42 HD 及 ULTRAVID 8 X 50 HD 望遠鏡外殼使用防刮塗料。全新 ULTRAVID HD 系列擁有防水磨損鏡片設計，無論在任何惡劣戶外環境下都能保持最佳狀態。徠卡望遠鏡均享30年保養服務，請即與我們聯絡或瀏覽 www.leica-camera.com 查詢詳情。



LEICA ULTRAVID 10X42 HD



LEICA ULTRAVID 8X50 HD



SCHMIDT MARKETING

興華拓展

香港觀塘道111號華豐交易廣場13樓

電話: +852 2428 0602

傳真: +852 2428 0603

電子郵件: info@schmidtmarketing.com

網頁網址: www.schmidtmarketing.com

The Hong Kong Bird Report 2003-04

香港鳥類年報

The Hong Kong Bird Report

香港鳥類年報



2003-04

World Premiere for Observation and Outdoor Photography The PhotoScope™ 85 T* FL

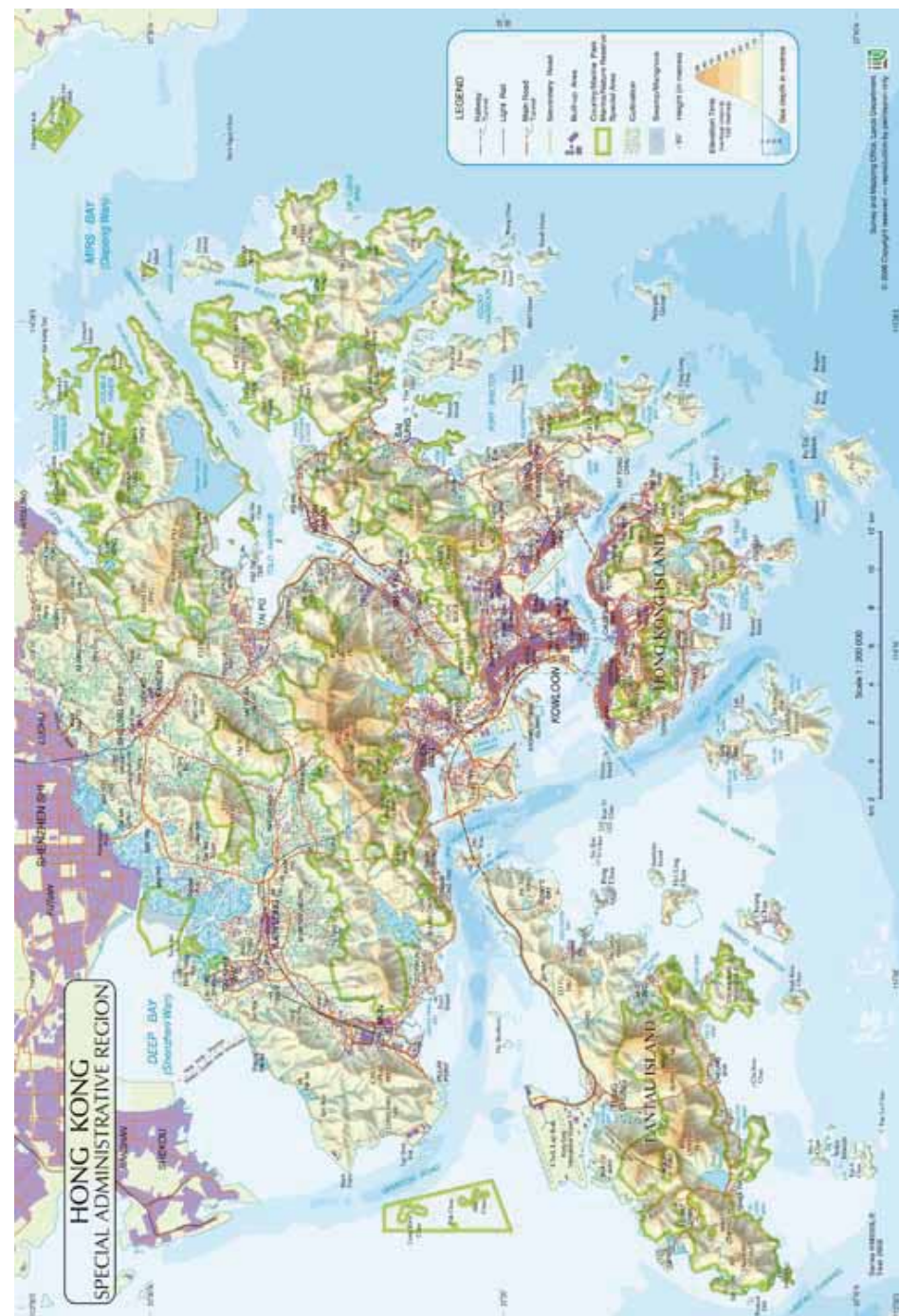
Magnification	: 15 - 45 x	Image sensor	: 7 mpX CCD
Focal length	: 600 - 1,800 mm (corresponds to 35mm)	Largest aperture	: 2.4 at 15x (nominal) 3.3 at 45x



Cezet Optical Company Limited

(Member of Zeiss Group)

Room 1101, 11/F., Fourseas Building, 208-212 Nathan Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong
Tel : (852) 2377 4803 Fax : (852) 2377 4808 Email : trade@ceznet.com.hk Website : www.zeiss.de/sportsoptics



The map reproduced with permission of the Director of Lands.
© The Government of Hong Kong SAR. Licence No. 37/2006
地圖版權屬香港特區政府，經地政總署准許複印，
版權特許編號 37/2006



**美樂時數碼相機觀景器
(Digital Camera Module)**

結合數碼相機、彩色顯示屏、望遠鏡目鏡於一身的望遠鏡數碼產品。

2寸彩色顯示屏配合高達5百萬像數的數碼相機，除拍攝相片外，更可拍動態影像。

摺合式保護蓋，不但可保護螢幕，更可在戶外陽光下，都能清楚觀看景物。

支援16GB SD記憶卡，可儲存更多影像。
重量約220克，方便攜帶。



HG 8x43



BL 8x56



BV 10x42

**德國美樂時專業雙筒望遠鏡-HG、BL、BV 系列
及專業單筒望遠鏡-MD系列**

採用德國頂級SCHOTT AG鏡片、非球面鏡片、ED鏡片等光學技術。
多層專業鍍膜處理、輕巧堅固鋁合金外殼。

內加壓充氣結構。

配合人體工學及德國Volkswagen設計。

榮獲多項國際大獎及國際專業雜誌測試報告中，得到最高表現和評價。

觀鳥、野外觀測、戶外活動及旅行最完美夥伴。



MD62



SCHMIDT MARKETING

興華拓展

香港觀魚涌海灣街1號華豐交易廣場13樓

網址: www.schmidtmarketing.com

電話: 3650 0568

傳真: 2968 0682

電子郵件: info@schmidtmarketing.com



"Capturing the Beauty of Nature"



TSN-880 Series

Kowa Pure Fluorite Crystal
Flagship Model with a Large 88mm
Diameter Lens

TSN-770 Series

High-Performance Model
with Superior Optics

XD44 Series

High-End Binoculars with
44mm PROMINAR XD Lenses

Made in Japan

Kowa Asia Limited

Room 903, Admiralty Centre, Tower 1, 18 Harcourt Road,
Hong Kong.

Tel: (852) 2520 2270 Fax: (852) 2529 7714

www.kowa-asia.com.hk/kowa

Authorized Distributor (Hong Kong):

Kingstone Development Company

Suite 808, Ocean Centre, 5 Canton Road, Tsimshatsui, Kowloon

Tel: (852) 2730 5663 Fax: (852) 2735 7593



SWAROCLEAN
Anti-dirt coating



清潔鏡面從未如此輕鬆過！

鏡面表面加上易潔塗層後，因水滴風乾殘留下的水印(礦物殘留)，驅蚊劑或樹脂等痕跡，輕輕一擦便無影無蹤，鏡面隨時保持最佳的狀態。

大自然的精髓盡藏於細微處，當然值得我們盡力爭取。



SWAROVSKI
OPTIK

施華洛世奇香港有限公司

香港鰂魚涌英皇道1063號9樓 電話：+852 2566 6301 電郵：eric.hau@swarovski.com

www.swarovskioptik.com

SINCE 1949

wood's

Photo
Supplies



Supplier of:

Bushnell

SWAROVSKI

Leica

Kowa

ZEISS

etc.

ADDRESS

Room 1004, 10th Floor, Tower 2, Silvercord,
30 Canton Road, Tsimshatsui, Kowloon.

Tel: 2736 8128 Fax: 2736 6166

Business Hours: 9:30am - 6:00pm Mon-Fri, Closed Sat & Sun



觀賞08馬術項目 全程投入

- 無須對焦・零距離接觸
- 影像清晰・活現眼前
- 高質素三稜鏡・視野層次鮮明
- 防滑紋設計
- 備有八倍及十倍選擇・觀感更廣闊
- 體積輕巧

Bushnell®
OUTDOOR PRODUCTS



17-0042

Customer Hotline: 2546 3080

Homepage: www.bushnell.com



Mai Po Nature Reserve, a birdwatcher's paradise

Located in the northwestern corner of Hong Kong, Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay has been a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention since 1995. The Mai Po Nature Reserve forms part of the site and is renowned as a birdwatcher's paradise.

In autumn and winter, thousands of migratory birds come to Mai Po, including 72% of the total Hong Kong bird

species, among which are globally endangered species such as Saunders' Gull and a quarter of the world's population of the Black-faced Spoonbill. When you visit Mai Po between October and April, you will be surprised by the view of flocks of birds flying in the sky.

Join **WWF** as a member to help protect the wetland and conserve a better environment for the present and future generations.

For visiting Mai Po and using the facilities such as birdwatching hides and the Floating Boardwalk, please visit our website at **wwf.org.hk**



© Angus Lau, WWF Hong Kong



長春社

成立於一九六八年，是香港歷史最悠久的民間環保團體。我們積極倡議可持續發展的理念、致力於自然保育、保護環境和文化遺產。我們的使命是提升當代和未來社群的生活素質，並確保香港履行對鄰近地區以至全球生態環境的責任。我們倡導合適的政策、監察政府工作、推動環境教育和帶領實踐公眾參與，為完成使命全力以赴。

自然保育

推行「樹木可持續生境管理計劃」，關注香港樹木保育情況。



環境教育

在學校、社區等舉行多方面的環境教育工作，向市民宣揚環保。



資源管理

每年回收物品包括舊衣及其他回收品，為堆填區減少超過400公噸廢物。



古蹟保育

監察政府環保政策和推行保育運動。定期舉辦研討會，鼓勵決策者之間的對話。



社區參與

推行「零山火」計劃，鼓勵市民一起締造零山火紀錄，保護生態。



中國項目

在中國雲南省興建沼氣廁所，解決偏遠地區因林燒煤引起的環境問題。



九龍吳松街191-197號突破中心9樓

電話：(852) 2728 6800

傳真：(852) 2728 5538

網址：www.cahk.org.hk

電子郵件：canh@cahk.org.hk



THE CONSERVANCY ASSOCIATION

成為長春社會員，一同參與本地環境保護工作！

Published in 2009 by

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Limited

G.P.O. Box 12460, Hong Kong



(Approved Charitable Institution of Public Character)

Editors: Geoff J. Carey and Helen Lockey

Front Cover:

Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga*

A first-winter of the *fulvescens* morph, Mai Po, Hong Kong, 19th November 2004

Angus Lau

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

Committees and Officers 2007-08



會長	President	林超英先生	C. Y. Lam
董事會	Board of Directors	林超英先生	C. Y. Lam
		張浩輝博士	Ho Fai Cheung
		吳 敏先生	Michael Kilburn
		吳祖南博士	C. N. Ng
		陳慶麟先生	Alan Chan
		周智良小姐	Ada Chow
		李慧珠小姐	Ronley Lee
執行委員會	Executive Committee		
主席	Chairman	張浩輝博士	Ho Fai Cheung
副主席	Vice-chairman	吳祖南博士	C. N. Ng
副主席	Vice-chairman	吳 敏先生	Michael Kilburn
秘書	Honorary Secretary	陳慶麟先生	Alan Chan
司庫	Honorary Treasurer	周智良小姐	Ada Chow
紀錄主任	Honorary Recorder		Richard W. Lewthwaite
委員	Committee members	李慧珠小姐	Ronley Lee
		方健華先生	Forrest Fong
		劉偉民先生	Apache Lau
		區俊茵小姐	Joanne Au
		蘇毅雄先生	Samson So
		楊路年博士	John Allcock
		梁國華先生	Bena Smith
義務核數師	Honorary Auditor	黃林梁郭會計師事務所	Leung Kwok Wa
			Wong Lam Leung Kwok CPA Ltd
紀錄委員會	Records Committee (since 1957)		
主席	Chairman	賈知行先生	Geoff J. Carey
委員	Committee members	利雅德先生	Richard W. Lewthwaite
		利偉文博士	Paul J. Leader
		張浩輝博士	Michael R. Leven
		余日東先生	Ho Fai Cheung
			Yu Yat Tung

Editor's Preface

In an effort to bring HKBR production back on schedule, this is another two-year issue. My thanks are due to Alan Chan, who provided the Chinese text, and to the authors of the Systematic List and various papers. In addition, I am very grateful to my co-editor Helen Lockey, who has turned all of the text and photos into the finished product.

The quality of bird photographs taken in Hong Kong continues to increase, and this is reflected in this report. The number of records submitted has also increased, which is very welcome, as the usefulness of the Systematic List is greater the larger the number of records submitted. The Records Committee continues to encourage both birders and bird photographers to submit records utilising the recording forms available on the website.

Geoff Carey

編者序言

爲了儘快追回脫期的《香港鳥類報告》，我們再次將兩年的記錄合併出版。我要感謝中文翻譯陳慶麟、鳥類名錄和各篇文章的作者、以及和我合力將所有文字和圖片整理捷的 Helen Lockey 。

在本地拍得的鳥類照片水平不斷提升，各位可在本報告中見到。我們收到的鳥類記錄亦增加了,令鳥類名錄更有用，實在可喜。紀錄委員會繼續鼓勵鳥友和拍友使用網頁上的記錄表提交記錄。

賈知行

The Hong Kong Bird Report

2003-04

Contents

Editor's Preface	1
Records Committee Report	5
Systematic List	13
Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site Waterbird Monitoring Programme: Winter 2002-03 Report <i>Yat-tung Yu</i>	157
Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site Waterbird Monitoring Programme: Winter 2003-04 Report <i>Yat-tung Yu</i>	169
Wedge-tailed Shearwater <i>Puffinus pacificus</i> from Cape D'Aguilar: The first record for Hong Kong <i>Paul J. Leader</i>	182
Short-tailed Shearwater <i>Puffinus tenuirostris</i> in Mirs Bay: The first record for Hong Kong <i>Gary, K. L. Chow</i>	188
Malayan Night Heron <i>Gorsachius melanolophus</i> : The first record for Hong Kong <i>Jose Alberto Cheung Mok</i>	192
Greater White-fronted Goose <i>Anser albifrons</i> at Lok Ma Chau: The first Category A record for Hong Kong <i>Michael R. Leven</i>	198
Chinese Thrush <i>Turdus mupinenis</i> at Kadoorie Agricultural Research Centre: The first record for Hong Kong <i>David Carthy</i>	203
Baikal Bush Warbler <i>Bradypterus davidi</i> at Mai Po: The first Hong Kong record <i>Paul J. Leader</i>	210
White-Spectacled Warbler <i>Seicercus affinis</i> at Tai Po Kau: The first record for Hong Kong <i>Peter and Michelle Wong</i>	218
Red-rumped Swallows <i>Hirundo daurica</i> breeding at Kam Tin: The first nesting record for Hong Kong <i>John A. Allcock</i>	224
Nesting of Yellow-billed Grosbeaks <i>Eophona</i> <i>migratoria</i> at Kam Tin in 2003: The first breeding record for Hong Kong <i>John A. Allcock</i>	228
Guidelines for the Submission of Records	235
Note for Applicants wishing to visit Mai Po Marshes Nature Reserve	240

Records Committee Report

2003-04

Geoff J. Carey
Records Committee Chairman

This double-year issue of the Hong Kong Bird Report follows the same for 2001-02, and such an approach will continue until we are up to date.

During 2003 the number of species recorded in Category A to D was 344, while the equivalent figure for 2004 was 345. These figures compare with between 317 and 333 for the years 1999 to 2002, and between 342 and 370 for the years 1993 to 1998.

New additions to the Hong Kong List are detailed below. Category definitions can be found at the end of this account.

Additions to Category A

006.1 Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus* 卷羽鵜鶘
One was seen from Cape D'Aguilar on 6th July 2001.

006.4 Short-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus tenuirostris* 卷羽鵜鶘
One was seen in Mirs Bay 3km east of Tap Mun on 16th May 2004.

025.5A Malayan Night Heron *Gorsachius melanolophus* 夜鷺
Two birds were photographed by remote-sensing camera at Lo Kei Wan, Lantau on 19th April 2003. In addition, two adults and two juveniles were present at On Po Tsuen, near Fanling, from 3rd September to 1st October 2004.

038.1 Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* 斑鵞
One was at Lok Ma Chau during 8-15th November 2004.

308.5 Chinese Thrush *Turdus mupinenis* 斑鵞
One was trapped at KARC on 18th November 2004.

327.1 Baikal Bush Warbler *Bradypterus davidi* 高山短翅鶯

One was seen and trapped on 16th and 30th January 2004 respectively.

Additions to Category E

730.2 Mongolian Lark *Melanocorypha mongolica* 藍喉擬啄木鳥

One was at Mai Po NR on 7th November 2003.

730.3 White-winged Lark *Melanocorypha leucoptera* 藍喉擬啄木鳥

One was at Mai Po NR on 9th November 2004.

747.2 Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax monileger* 白斑黑石

One was at Tai Po Kau on 10th and 11th December 2004.

Removals from the Hong Kong List

Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler *Cettia acanthizoides*

Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler *Cettia acanthizoides* was accepted onto Category A of the Hong Kong list on the strength of a bird trapped at Mai Po on 8th December 1989 (Melville, 1990). Three further records of this species are listed in Carey *et al.* (2001): one trapped at Mai Po on 29th November 1992 and retrapped there on 30th January 1993; one trapped at Mai Po on 10th December 1997; and one trapped at Mai Po on 27th December 1997. (Note that during the course of this review the original ringing data in respect of the last two birds was checked, and the dates published in Carey *et al.* (2001) were found to be incorrect, the correct dates are 10th and 27th December 1998.)

Genetic testing of samples from the birds trapped on 10th and 27th December 1998 demonstrated that their mitochondrial DNA was indistinguishable from that of Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler *Cettia fortipes* (U. Olsson *in litt.*). Accordingly, in respect of these two birds, it is clear that an error was made in identification.

During the current review, biometrics and photographs of the two birds shown on genetic evidence to be *fortipes* were compared with those of the first two birds. Biometric data from all four birds was very similar (and all parameters fell within the range of birds identified as *fortipes*), and whilst there was minor plumage variation between the four birds, no consistent plumage differences between the first two and the second two birds could be found.

Thus, the Records Committee considered it highly likely that the first two birds were also *fortipes*. Accordingly, Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler has been removed from Category A of the Hong Kong list and placed on Category F (as all published records must be regarded as doubtful due to the possibility of mistaken identification).

The Records Committee noted that at the time of the first records the status of *fortipes* in Hong Kong was still being established (see Carey *et al.*, 2001), and that there was a perception then that *fortipes* was a species of upland shrubland. With the benefit of hindsight, and comparable records of (e.g.) Mountain Tailorbird, late autumn and early winter records in the lowland Deep Bay area of short-distance migrant hill birds are no longer unexpected.

Taxonomic and Nomenclatural Changes

A number of taxonomic changes have been accepted by the Records Committee, as follows.

Goodson's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus goodsoni*

Based on analysis of DNA, vocalisations and morphology, Olsson *et al.* (2005) recommended the following taxa of *Phylloscopus reguloides* be treated as separate species: *P. reguloides* (with the subspecies *reguloides*, *assamensis* and *ticehursti*), *P. claudiae* (monotypic) and *P. goodsoni* (subspecies *goodsoni* and *fokiensis*). The Records Committee has accepted this approach and has placed on to the Hong Kong List *P. goodsoni goodsoni*.

The nominate subspecies of *P. goodsoni* is identified in the field by the yellow tinge to the chest and face. *P.g. fokiensis* often has a slight yellow wash to the face and chest, but most birds in Hong Kong are likely to be off-white below. The features that separate the southeast Chinese *P.g. fokiensis* from the central and northeast Chinese *P. claudiae* are unknown at present. Consequently, although *fokiensis* almost certainly does occur (and it is assumed that 'Blyth's Leaf Warblers' with off-white underparts occurring in forest and mature shrubland in winter are primarily this taxon), *P. claudiae* may well occur in Hong Kong, but neither is yet proven. Observers are encouraged to note carefully the appearance of birds seen and submit records as either *goodsoni* or *fokiensis/claudiae*.

Northern Hawk Cuckoo *Hierococcyx hyperythrus*

Having decided to treat the four taxa *hyperythrus*, *pectoralis*, *nisicolor* and *fugax* (previously treated as a single species, Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo *H. fugax*) as separate species based on vocalisations and morphology (following King, 2002), the Records Committee examined records of autumn birds, in an attempt to decide, in particular, whether Northern Hawk Cuckoo *H. hyperythrus* had occurred.

Based on an analysis of skins at the British Museum, Tring by Paul Leader and an examination of photographs, it was agreed that juvenile/first winter *H. hyperythrus* were sufficiently distinct to permit field separation from same age *H. fugax*. Based on the agreed criteria there was a consensus that, while all the spring and summer records were attributable to *fugax*, the three autumn records were acceptable as Northern Hawk Cuckoo, and this species has been added to the Hong Kong list. These three records are:

- a juvenile/first-winter trapped at Clearwater Bay on 27th October 1971
- a juvenile/first winter found injured near Fanling on 29th September 1996, taken into care at KFBG and released there on 8th October 1996
- a juvenile on Po Toi on 13th October 1998.

It is of note that the latest Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo record is now one on 30th July 1996, a full two months before the first of the Northern Hawk Cuckoo records.

'Chinese Spot-billed Duck' *Anas zonorhyncha*

'Indian Spot-billed Duck' *A. poecilorhyncha haringtoni*

Based upon Leader (2006), it was agreed that the two taxa of 'Spot-billed Duck' occurring in Hong Kong be treated as separate species viz: *A. zonorhyncha* and *A. poecilorhyncha* (the subspecies which occurs in Hong Kong *haringtoni* being commonly referred to as 'Burmese' Spotbill).

As *haringtoni* is a potential split from *poecilorhyncha* (Leader, 2006), and as all three taxa are morphologically rather similar, it was decided that the most convenient treatment for English names was Chinese Spotbill and Indian Spotbill (with Burmese Spotbill available if *haringtoni* is subsequently treated as distinct). The status of both in Hong Kong is well known (Carey *et al.*, 2001), although it is noted that the first record of *haringtoni* was in 1974.

Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus* and Horsfield's Cuckoo *Cuculus horsfieldi*

The Records Committee previously agreed to follow Payne (1997) with regard to separation of the above taxa as distinct species, and stated that three birds trapped in Hong Kong have been identified as *C. horsfieldi*, whilst all other records are treated as being indeterminate. The Records Committee has now carried out a further review of all records that refer to one or other of these forms, and only two trapped birds were considered to be acceptable as *C. horsfieldi* based on biometrics (with a wing length greater than 200 mm, as suggested in Leven (1998)). These were trapped at Mai Po on 16th September 1989 and 19th April 1992.

The identity of a third bird, a specimen measured by David Melville and the biometrics of which had been recorded on the Hong Kong Ringing Group's database, was accepted as *C. horsfieldi*. However, the record was not accepted as referring to a wild bird that had occurred naturally in Hong Kong, as there was no information as to the circumstances under which the specimen had been obtained.

In the current review, it was noted that there were still no published plumage characters to distinguish the two species, albeit King (2005) had shown that vocalisations of advertising birds were distinct. Further, whilst King (2005) stated that there was some overlap in wing length between *saturatus* and *horsfieldi*, with 5% of birds falling in an overlap zone between 185 and 200mm, the identification of birds with a wing length of greater than 200mm as *horsfieldi*, was not disputed.

The Records Committee has not assessed any further records of trapped birds of the two taxa; accordingly the status of Horsfield's and Oriental Cuckoos remains unchanged with Horsfield's Cuckoo remaining on the Hong Kong list (Category A) on the strength of two birds trapped at Mai Po.

The Records Committee will continue to collect information on these species and welcomes submission of all records, especially if these are accompanied by photographs or, in the event of a calling bird being found in Hong Kong, recordings. There are, as yet, no records of calling birds of either species in Hong Kong and it seems that migrant individuals rarely call. However, future colonisation by *saturatus* is

quite possible. The Records Committee would also welcome photographs of birds from China, especially of birds known to be on territory and dependent juveniles.

Pale Martin *Riparia diluta fohkienensis*

Following an analysis of skins of Pale Martin *Riparia diluta* of the south China taxon *fohkienensis* at the British Museum, Tring by Paul Leader, and an examination of photographs of these by the Records Committee, structural and morphological criteria were identified that permit the field separation of this taxon from Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*. After an examination of photographs of 'Sand' Martins taken in Hong Kong in 2004 and 2006, including a series of birds photographed in spring 2006, (which were identified in the field as *fohkienensis*), the Committee concluded that these depicted typical *fohkienensis* and as such Pale Martin *R. diluta* has been added to the Hong Kong list. At this relatively early stage it seems that this taxon has been much overlooked in the past, and the Committee is still in the process of determining exactly which is the first acceptable record; as a consequence the exact status of Sand Martin in Hong Kong is now unclear.

Records Committee membership remained unchanged up to the end of 2004, and comprised Geoff Carey (Chairman), Ho-Fai Cheung, Paul Leader, Michael Leven and Richard Lewthwaite.

The Systematic List for the two years was compiled by Geoff Carey (shorebirds, gulls and terns, galliformes, rails and allies, swallows to flycatchers, Category E species and rarities), Richard Lewthwaite (raptors and doves to martins), John Allcock (tits to crows) and Yat-tung Yu (grebes to ducks). Thanks are due to the following recorders who submitted records for inclusion in the report:

J. A. Allcock, D. Bradshaw, I. Callender, G. J. Carey, M. L. Chalmers, A. H. L. Chan, D. Chan, W. C. Chan, L. Cheng, H. F. Cheung, L. Cheung, J. Chim, I. C. Choi, G. Chow, P. Collins, A. Crow, D. A. Diskin, F. Fong, M. Hale, C. Hammar, J. Hammar, G. Ho, D. Hobcroft, J. Holmes, W. K. Hui, KFBG, M. Kilburn, K. Ko, M. Kong, P. K. Kwan, S. Lam, P. J. Leader, Y. M. Lee, P. C. Leung, M. R. Leven, R. W. Lewthwaite, E. Liu, L. Liu, K. M. Or, W. H. Or, R. S. Peard, S. H. So, Tern Research Group, S. T. Tsim, W. Tsui, H. G. J. Turnbull, M. Turnbull, Wildlife Conservation Foundation Ltd, M. D. Williams, C. L. Wong, C. O. Wong, J. A. P. Wong, P. Wong, L. Woo, T. Woodward, H. K. Ying and Y. T. Yu.

References

- Carey, G. J., Chalmers, M. L., Diskin, D. A., Kennerley, P. R., Leader, P. J., Leven, M. R., Melville, D. S., Turnbull, M. and Young, L. (2001). The Avifauna of Hong Kong. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Hong Kong.
- Melville, D. S. (1990). Yellow-bellied Bush Warbler: a species new to Hong Kong. Hong Kong Bird Report 1989: 144-150. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Hong Kong.
- Olsson, U., Alström, P., Ericson, P. G. P. and Sundberg, P. (2005). Non-monophyletic taxa and cryptic species-Evidence from a molecular phylogeny of leaf warblers (*Phylloscopus*, Aves). Mol. Phyl. Evol. 36: 261–276.
- King, B. F. (2002). The *Hierococcyx fugax*, Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo, complex. Bull. B. O. C. Vol. 122(4): 74-80.
- King, B. F. (2005). The taxonomic status of the three subspecies of *Cuculus saturates*. Bull. B.O.C. Vol. 125(1): 48-55.
- Leader, P. J. (2006). Sympatric breeding of two Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha* taxa in southern China. Bull. B.O.C. Vol. 126 (4): 245-247.
- Leven, M. R. (1998). Asian Lesser Cuckoo: the first record for Hong Kong. Hong Kong Bird Report 1996: 118-124.

Systematic List

2003-04

*Geoff J. Carey, Richard W. Lewthwaite,
John A. Allcock and Yat-tung Yu*

c/o HKBWS, GPO Box 12460, Hong Kong

Researchers should note that, in the interests of brevity, this systematic list provides a summary of the ornithological observations reported in Hong Kong during the years in question, but does not refer directly to all records received and archived. The conservation status of all species placed in any category other than 'Not globally threatened' in BirdLife International (2006) – and updated where necessary in line with subsequent changes – is indicated by the use of the following abbreviations after the scientific name:

CE	Critically Endangered
EN	Endangered
VU	Vulnerable
NT	Near-threatened

Other abbreviations used within species entries are:

CP	Country Park
DB	Deep Bay
HK	Hong Kong
KARC	Kadoorie Agricultural Research Centre
KFBG	Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden
NR	Not recorded
NT	New Territories
SI	Starling Inlet
SW	Shuen Wan

The order, categorisation and nomenclature used in this Systematic List follow Carey *et al.* (2001), with certain corrections to scientific names.

The dates of the coordinated waterbird counts, which occur in Deep Bay (DB), Shuen Wan (SW) and Starling Inlet (SI), were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
2003	19 th	23 rd	23 rd	20 th	18 th	15 th	13 th	10 th	14 th	12 th	9 th	7 th
2004	25 th	22 nd	21 st	18 th	16 th	20 th	18 th	15 th	12 th	10 th	14 th	12 th

However, it should be noted that these waterbird totals might include counts made up to a week either side of the actual count date. The abbreviation “nc” indicates that no count took place, usually due to extreme weather conditions.

CATEGORIES A-D

002A Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* 小鵝鵝

2003: The highest count in the first half of the year was 164 in the February waterbird count, while the highest in the second half was 182 in the November count. Breeding was confirmed at Mai Po, Tsim Bei Tsui and Lok Ma Chau, where chicks were seen. Monthly waterbird counts were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	154	164	163	77	68	68	92	99	104	99	182	153
SW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
SI	8	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5

2004: The highest count in the first winter period was 204 in the March waterbird count, and the highest in the second winter period was 189 in the December count. Breeding was confirmed at Mai Po NR on 10th April. Outside of the coordinated waterbird counts, four were at Kam Tin on 31st October and one was at Tai Lam Chung Reservoir on 26th December. Monthly waterbird counts were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	180	182	204	140	84	128	133	104	98	157	178	189
SW	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
SI	3	0	2	0	0	0	1	7	4	6	7	6

003A Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* 鳳頭鵝鵝

2003: In the Deep Bay area, the highest count was 32 in the March waterbird count. Away from the intertidal areas of Deep Bay, one was at the KCRC Lok Ma Chau Station mitigation ponds on 9th January, and another in breeding plumage remained on Pond 20, Mai Po NR from 1st to 24th March. The last report in the first half of the year was of one seen from the Mai Po boardwalk on 8th April. In the second half of the year, one was again at the KCRC mitigation ponds on 15th December, and the highest count was 104 in the December waterbird count. Monthly waterbird counts in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	1	10	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	104

2004: The highest count in the first winter period was 213 in the February waterbird count. Numbers subsequently decreased to 110 at Tsim Bei Tsui on 20th February, 86 in the March waterbird count, seven at Tsim Bei Tsui on 19th March and eight from Mai Po boardwalk on 25th March – the last report of the early part of the year. Monthly waterbird counts in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	135	213	86	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18

005A Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* 鳳頭鸕鶿

2003: One was at Mai Po NR on 27th December (PW, MK).

006.1A Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus* 卷羽鸕鶿

2001: One was seen from Cape D'Aguilar on 6th July (PJL); this is the first Hong Kong record.

006.4A Short-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus tenuirostris* 卷羽鸕鶿

2004: One was seen in Mirs Bay 3km east of Tap Mun on 16th May (KLC); this is the first Hong Kong record.

007A Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus* 卷羽鸕鶿 VU

2003: In the first winter period numbers rose to a peak of 14 birds, present from 19th January to 23rd February, after which date there were no further records at this time. Two were seen on 7th December, the sole record in the second half of the year. All records were from the Mai Po boardwalk.

2004: The two birds of December 2003 remained in the Deep Bay area in January, and numbers increased to 14 birds, the peak count of the winter, on 12th and 22nd February. A report of five present on 26th February was the last in the first winter period. None were reported in the second half of the year.

010A Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* 鸕鶿

2003: The highest count was 7,959 roosting birds at Mai Po and Nam Sang Wai as part of the January waterbird count, the second highest count of this species in Hong Kong. The latest report in the first half of the year was of 17 birds at Mai Po NR on 8th April. The first report of the second half of the year concerned two adults at Mai Po on 29th September. Numbers rose to 4,103 individuals in the December count. Elsewhere, up to 80 birds were recorded at Bride's Pool on 13th January, five were recorded at Sham Chung on 22nd February, eight flew high over Long Valley on 18th October; one was at Tai Mei Tuk on 26th October and a flock of 170 was at Lai Chi Wo on 30th November. Monthly waterbird counts were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	7,959	3,253	2,005	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	3,041	4,103
SW	6	2	3	0	0	0	nc	nc	0	1	1	4
SI	82	nc	55	3	0	0	0	0	0	15	108	11

2004: In the first winter period the highest count was 8,964 in the January waterbird count, a new high for Hong Kong. Numbers declined to 1,353 in the March waterbird count. Two were still present in the Deep Bay area in June, while one in breeding plumage was at Mai Po on 8th August. Two at Mai Po on 16th September and three on the following day were the first reports in the second winter period. Away from the Deep Bay area and outside of coordinated waterbird counts, 17 flew over Victoria Harbour and six were at Long Ke Wan, Sai Kung on 17th January, 15 were at Tai Lam Chung Reservoir on 29th February, 28 were at Plover Cove on 12th November, ten were at Tai Lam Chung Reservoir on 14th November, with one seen there on 18th December, three were at Chung Mei on 27th November, five were at High Island Reservoir on 10th December and four were at Lai Chi Chong on 11th December. Monthly waterbird counts were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	8,964	5,846	1,353	1	2	2	1	0	1	332	3,000	6,462
SW	4	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SI	43	171	18	54	0	0	0	0	0	3	58	8

013A Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel* 白班軍艦鳥

2001: The bird first seen on 16th and 17th March was also seen on 24th March (GJC).

014A Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* 蒼鷺

2003: The highest count in the first half of the year was 930 in the January waterbird count, while the count of 1,146 birds in the November count was the largest in the second half of the year. Away from the Deep Bay area, records came from Chek Lap Kok/Tung Chung (singles on 26th March and 7th October), Ho Chung (one on 2nd February), Lai Chi Wo (two on 30th November), Long Valley (18 on 7th February, six on 12th October, three on 25th October), Chi Ma Wan, Lantau (seven on 22nd November), Mui Wo (one on 24th June, 27th November, two on 23rd December), Po Toi (one on 29th December), San Po Kong, urban Kowloon (two on 13th January, 27th November), Three Fathoms Cove (eight on 29th November), Waglan Island (one on 21st September) and Yau Tam Mei San Tsuen (two on 4th January). Monthly waterbird counts were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	930	923	555	75	8	4	28	6	70	409	1,146	796
SW	25	26	12	0	0	0	nc	nc	1	19	17	17
SI	84	nc	26	8	0	1	2	6	21	62	77	82

2004: The highest Deep Bay counts of the two winter periods were 815 in the February waterbird count and 1,158 in the November waterbird count. Up to 15 were recorded at Shuen Wan during the year and up to 98 were noted at Starling Inlet. Elsewhere and outside waterbird counts, records came from Kam Tin (two on 23rd September, singles on 5th and 7th November and 5th December, and 27 on 15th December), Ko Po San Tsuen (one on 16th January), Long Valley (one on 6th October, 45 on 27th November) Mui Wo (one on 26th January), San Po Kong, urban Kowloon (two on 6th January and one on 5th February), and Tung Chung (two during 18-19th February, singles on 28th March and 17th December). In addition, at Ham Tin, Lantau up to seven were recorded from 9th January to 11th May, and up to three were recorded from 1st October to 30th November. Monthly waterbird counts were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	713	815	482	106	2	7	23	6	42	421	1,158	818
SW	13	15	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	13	13
SI	98	77	9	9	2	0	0	0	0	45	40	60



Plate 1. Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
Mai Po, Hong Kong, 3rd December 2004
Angus Lau

015A Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* 草鷺

2003: In the first half of the year the highest count was seven in the January waterbird count, while six were at Mai Po NR on 15th March. The last record was of one at Mai Po on 26th April. In the second half of the year the highest count was nine at Mai

Po on 18th October. Away from Mai Po, birds occurred at Chek Lap Kok (a juvenile on 6th October), Long Valley (one on 12th October) and KCRC Lok Ma Chau mitigation ponds (singles on 16th, 17th, 24th October and 10th November). Monthly waterbird counts were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	7	3	3	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	5	2

2004: The highest count in the first winter period was four in the April waterbird count. In the second half of the year all records were from Mai Po, and the monthly peak counts were two on 25th and 30th September, four on 22nd and 31st October and five on 25th November. Monthly waterbird counts were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	3	2	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0

016A Great Egret *Egretta alba* 大白鷺

2003: The highest count in the first half of the year was 1,421 in the January waterbird count, while 1,429 in the November count was the highest in the second half of the year. Away from the Deep Bay area, records came from Aldrich Bay (ten on 1st January), Chi Ma Wan (ten on 22nd November), Lai Chi Wo (ten on 30th November), Long Valley (one on 7th February, eight on 12th October), Mui Wo (single on 27th November), San Po Kong, urban Kowloon (five on 11th February, eight on 1st November), Three Fathoms Cove (19 on 29th November), Tolo Harbour area (70 on 19th April, four on 1st May, 48 on 17th May, 45 on 31st May, 55 on 1st June, 30 on 31st August), and Wun Yiu (one on 8th February). Breeding was noted at the following egrettries: A Chau (30 nests), Centre Island (22 nests) and Mai Po Village (two nests). Monthly waterbird counts were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	1,421	1,106	436	214	603	393	664	541	789	753	1,429	1,064
SW	57	36	17	13	10	26	nc	nc	13	53	53	52
SI	169	nc	158	79	131	150	104	154	145	178	212	220

2004: The highest count in the first winter period was 815 in the January count, while a total of 2,058 including 743 birds at Futian, Shenzhen in the November count was the highest count in the second winter period. Away from the Deep Bay area, records came from Kam Tin (three on 16th July, nine on 30th July, one on 7th November), Ko Po Shan Tsuen (two on 16th January), Long Valley (two on 9th February, 250 on 1st October, two on 27th November), Mui Wo (19 on 26th January, five on 10th April), Nai Chung (one on 22nd November), Penfold Park (one on 5th October), Sha Po (two on 30th July), Tai Wai (single on 5th September), Tai O (two on 25th September). In addition, up to four were seen at Ham Tin, Lantau from 27th February to 15th May. Breeding was noted at the following egrettries: A Chau (64 nests), Centre Island (20 nests) and Little Green Island (one nest). Monthly waterbird counts were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	815	494	682	424	428	762	907	767	735	884	2,058	1941
SW	11	18	16	11	12	7	8	52	3	19	132	82
SI	213	235	170	172	136	193	164	229	98	188	250	170

017A Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia* 中白鷺

2003: The highest count in the first half of the year was 18 in the March waterbird count, while in the second half of the year it was 15 in the October count. Away from the Deep Bay area, records came from Kam Tin (singles on 6th and 19th October), KCRC Lok Ma Chau mitigation ponds (twelve dates with a maximum count of 11 on 13th October), Shuen Wan (one on 9th January, 9th and 21st February), and Chi Ma Wan, Lantau (one on 22nd November). Monthly waterbird counts were as follows.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	10	14	18	3	10	0	10	3	8	15	8	5
SW	0	1	0	0	0	0	nc	nc	0	0	0	0
SI	1	nc	3	0	3	1	5	2	2	3	2	2

2004: The highest count was 54 in the March waterbird count, a new high for Hong Kong. Thirty-eight were still present at Mai Po on 10th April. In the second winter period the highest count was 34 in the October waterbird count. Elsewhere, records came from Kam Tin (singles on 14th April, 12th May, 16th July, 23rd September, 1st and 31st October and 7th November; three on 3rd June; four on 16th May and 29th July) and Shuen Wan (two on 23rd September and one on 26th October and 6th December). Monthly waterbird counts were as follows.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	8	11	54	26	21	5	2	3	5	34	12	17
SW	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
SI	1	0	2	5	2	2	0	3	4	3	1	2

018A Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* 小白鷺

2003: The highest winter counts in the Deep Bay area were 1,620 in the January waterbird count and 2,151 in the November count; in addition, 1,642 were recorded in the September count and 1,070 were recorded in the July count. Away from the Deep Bay area, also reported from Chi Ma Wan, Lantau (50 on 22nd November), Heng Fa Chuen, Ho Chung, Lai Chi Wo, Lam Tsuen (maximum of 120 on 24th September), Long Valley (maximum of 53 on 18th October), Mui Wo (maximum of 17 on 23rd September), Po Toi (three on 13th April, one on 27th April), Tai Wai, Tolo Harbour area (maximum 95 on 19th April), San Po Kong (25 on 11th February, 27 on 3rd November), Tai Lam Country Park, Three Fathoms Cove (36 on 29th November), Yau Tong Bay and an extraordinary flock of 770 birds at Tung Chung Bay on 24th September. Breeding was noted at the following egrettries: A Chau (12 nests), Centre Island (16 nests), Ha Che (three nests), Ha Mei San Tsuen (three nests), Ho Sheung Heung (four nests), Lam

Tsuen (four nests), Mai Po Lung Village (one nest), Mai Po Village (42 nests), Ngau Hom Shek (five nests), Pak Nai (18 nests), Penfold Park (30 nests), Stonecutters (22 nests), Small Traders New Village (16 nests), Tai O (16 nests), Tai Po Market (four nests) and Tuen Mun (17 nests). Monthly waterbird counts were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	1,620	1,606	996	1,198	851	384	1,070	936	1,642	947	2,151	1,526
SW	21	22	21	7	21	42	nc	nc	24	57	57	27
SI	84	nc	81	13	48	65	45	69	66	75	65	90

2004: The highest Deep Bay area counts in the first and second winter periods were 1,932 in the February waterbird count and 3,212 in the December waterbird count; the latter is the highest on record in Hong Kong. Away from the Deep Bay area, records came from Chung Mei (maximum count of 51 on 3rd June), Long Valley, Mui Wo, Ng Tung Chai, Penfold Park, Ping Kong, San Po Kong (a dead individual), Sha Po (54 birds on 7th December), Shap Pat Heung, Tai Ho Wan, Tai Lam Chung, Tai Po Kau, Tai O (52 birds on 25 September), Tai Wai and Tung Chung. Breeding was noted at the following egretries: A Chau (14 nests), Centre Island (13 nests), Ha Che (three nests), Ha Mei San Tsuen (seven nests), Ho Sheung Heung (23 nests), Lam Tsuen (one nest), Little Green Island (23 nests), Mai Po Lung Village (ten nests), Mai Po Village (28 nests), Ngau Hom Shek (one nest), Pak Nai (30 nests), Penfold Park (15 nests), Tai O (19 nests), Tai Po Market (two nests), Tuen Mun (35 nests) and Tung Shing Lane (24 nests). Monthly waterbird counts were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	1,379	1,932	1,225	715	440	1,285	1,279	1,629	1,100	1,271	2,765	3,212
SW	47	23	17	19	41	21	4	22	11	8	12	6
SI	113	70	87	83	50	55	130	77	70	93	83	82

019A Swinhoe's Egret *Egretta eulophotes* 黃嘴白鷺 VU

2003: Singles (unless noted) were recorded at Mai Po on 20th (two), 25th, 27th (two), 29th and 30th April. In addition, one moulting to non-breeding plumage was at Pak Sha Chau on 5th July. This is the first midsummer record since the loss of the breeding population at Starling Inlet in the early 1980s.

2004: In Deep Bay area ones or twos were reported from 8th to 25th April, followed by five on 27th, and three on 7th and 17th May. Elsewhere, three were at Tung Chung on 15th April and one was at Luk Keng on 18th May (the first records for both these sites).

020A Pacific Reef Egret *Egretta sacra* 岩鷺

2003: Reported from Chi Ma Wan, Ha Keng, north Lantau, Po Toi, Repulse Bay, Ninepins, Silvermine Bay, Sok Kwu Wan, Sham Wat, Soko Islands, Tap Mun and Tung Chung. A total of 18 were at Sok Kwu Wan on 21st January (GJC), which is the highest count recorded in Hong Kong.

2004: Singles (unless stated) were reported from Aberdeen (three on 11th April), Chek Lap Kok, Kuk Po, Mui Wo, Po Toi (two on 11th April), Port Island (two on 24th December), Siu Lam, southern Hong Kong waters (five on 9th April), Tai Ho Wan and Tung Lung Chau.

021A Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* 牛背鷺

2003: In the Deep Bay area the highest count was 227 in the August waterbird count. Away from the Deep Bay area, records were received from Fung Yuen (eight on 2nd May), Kam Tin (maximum count of 136 on 11th October), Kowloon City (one on 16th April), Lai Chi Wo (two on 30th November), Lok Ma Chau (93 on 16th April and 15 on 6th August), Long Valley (maximum of 30 on 7th June), Mui Wo (maximum of eight on 21st August), Po Toi (one on 13th April), Pok Fu Lam (one on 29th September), Shek Ngau Chau (two on 6th September), Chek Lap Kok (two on 12th October) and Tsing Yi (one on 14th May). Finally, a very large flock of 600 individuals was seen at Tung Chung Bay on 24th September. Breeding was noted at the following egrettries: A Chau (39 nests), Centre Island (one nest), Ho Pui (12 nests), Ho Sheung Heung (six nests), Mai Po Village (three nests), Penfold Park (three nests), and Tai Tong (two nests). Monthly waterbird counts were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	34	144	88	174	50	25	145	227	130	175	64	81
SW	0	0	0	9	18	0	nc	nc	0	0	0	0
SI	11	nc	2	78	68	83	22	14	6	11	10	2

2004: The highest count in the first half of the year was 177 in the May waterbird count, and in the second it was 104 in the October waterbird count. Elsewhere, reports came from Kam Tin (maximum count of 95 birds on 16th July), Kuk Po (two on 2nd January), Long Valley (maximum count of nine on 27th February), Mirs Bay (100 heading north on 23rd May), Mong Tseng (21 on 29th September), Mui Wo (two on 10th April), Ng To (two on 3rd January), Ng Tung Chai, Tai Lam Chung (50 on 29th September), Wong Tai Sin (one during 6th-7th April), Tai O (ten on 25th September) and Wing Kei Tsuen. Breeding was noted in the following egrettries: A Chau (27 nests), Centre Island (one nest), Ho Pui (ten nests), Ho Sheung Heung (eight nests), Mai Po Village (six nests), Penfold Park (one nest), Tai Tong (15 nests) and Tung Shing Lane (three nests). Monthly waterbird counts were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	68	78	50	159	177	142	344	151	78	104	96	32
SW	0	0	0	0	98	0	0	0	22	31	0	0
SI	1	7	6	10	45	109	87	26	9	10	10	1

022A Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus* 池鷺

2003: Away from the Deep Bay area, recorded at Centre Island, Chek Lap Kok (one on 18th September), Fanling Golf Course, Fung Kat Heung, Kam Tin, Long Valley (peak count at 33 on 12th February), Mui Wo, Plover Cove, Po Toi, Sham Tseng, Tai Mei Tuk

and Tap Mun. Breeding was noted at the following egrettries: Mai Po village (seven nests), Tam Kon Chau (21 nests), Pak Nai (five nests), Ngau Hom Shek (six nests), Ho Sheung Heung (61 nests), Penfold Park (two nests), Shuen Wan (one nest), Stonecutters (two nests), Shui Mei (11 nests), Lam Tsuen (15 nests), Ho Pui (two nests), Ma On Kong (five nests), Mai Po Lung village (43 nests), Small Traders New Village (three nests) and Shing Uk Tsuen (five nests). Monthly waterbird counts were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	307	179	174	96	100	119	208	295	248	217	240	199
SW	9	8	6	10	6	8	nc	nc	23	9	9	12
SI	8	nc	2	5	3	4	3	9	2	5	16	14

2004: The highest count was 342 in the Deep Bay area during the July waterbird count. Away from there, records came from Kam Tin, Long Valley (maximum count of ten on 27th November), Nai Chung, Ng Tung Chai, Penfold Park, Ping Kong (ten on 1st September), Shap Pat Heung, Shek Kong (five on 20 October), Tai Lam Chung, Tung Chung to Tai O (14 on 25th September), Yung Shue Au. Breeding was noted in the following egrettries: Ha Che (32 nests), Ha Mei San Tsuen (19 nests), Ho Sheung Heung (99 nests), Lam Tsuen (19 nests), Ma On Kong (ten nests), Mai Po Lung Village (35 nests), Mai Po Village (18 nests), Ngau Hom Shek (one nest), Pak Nai (five nests), Penfold Park (three nests), Tai Tong (16 nests), Tam Kon Chau (47 nests) and Tung Shing Lane (eight nests). Monthly waterbird counts were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	187	154	181	202	183	149	342	212	244	274	240	250
SW	8	8	6	6	8	6	4	2	6	8	8	8
SI	9	7	5	4	2	7	3	7	6	2	12	12

023A Striated Heron *Butorides striatus* 綠鷺

2003: In the Deep Bay area the highest count was 18 during the August waterbird count. Away from there, singles (unless stated) were noted at Chung Mei (6th January and 5th February), Hok Tau (7th February), San Po Kong (30th October and 1st November), Kowloon Hills (31st December), Mui Wo (maximum count of four on 21st August and 23rd September), Shek Ngau Chau (31st May), Shui Mei (3rd July), Tai Mei Tuk (26th October), Tai Po Kau (8th October), Wan Chai (30th September), Wun Yiu (22-23rd February). Monthly waterbird counts in the Deep Bay area and Shuen Wan were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	0	0	0	1	6	3	14	18	6	0	1	0
SW	1	1	0	0	1	1	nc	nc	0	1	1	0

2004: The highest count was 26 in the Deep Bay area in the August waterbird count. Elsewhere, singles (unless stated) were at Chung Mei on 21st January and 6th February, Ha Fa Shan on 30th November, Lam Tsuen on 28th February, Ng Tung Chai on 4th December, Shek Kong Catchment on 1st October, Shing Mun Reservoir on 4th December (two birds), Tai Ho Wan on 21st and 27th April, Tai O on 25th September and Tai Po Kau

on 6th and 16th October. Monthly waterbird counts in the Deep Bay area and Shuen Wan were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	0	0	1	4	7	9	12	26	5	4	1	0
SW	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

024A Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* 夜鷺

2003: The highest count in the Deep Bay area was 141 in the January waterbird count. Away from there, birds were reported from Centre Island, Ho Chung, San Po Kong (maximum of 19 on 29th August), Ma Liu Shui (15 on 31st May), Mui Wo (three on 15th July, four on 23rd September), Ngau Tau Kok (one on 20th December), Sham Shui Po (one on 7th July), Stonecutters (one on 13th August), Tai Long (one on 17th January) and Yau Tong (one on 8th July). Breeding was noted at the following egretries: A Chau (115 nests), Centre Island (nine nests), Stonecutters (six nests) and Tai Po Market (11 nests). Monthly waterbird counts were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	141	85	50	42	129	85	80	69	53	51	28	20
SW	4	3	3	4	4	6	nc	nc	2	2	2	2
SI	1	nc	78	251	247	267	134	17	22	4	0	0

2004: In the Deep Bay area numbers in both first and second winter periods were relatively low, and the peak count was 79 in the July waterbird count. Away from the Deep Bay wetlands, records came from Kam Tin (16 on 6th November), Lam Tsuen (two on 14th February), Mui Wo (two on 26th January), Ping Kong (three on 1st September), San Po Kong (three on 10th April), Siu Lam, Tai Lam Chung (13 on 17th October, nine on 21st November and ten on 28th November) and Tung Chung (two on 25th September). Breeding was noted at the following egretries: A Chau (119 nests), Centre Island (nine nests), Little Green Island (14 nests), Penfold Park (three nests), Tai Po Market (12 nests) and Tai O (15 nests). The breeding population at Starling Inlet and the non-breeding population in Deep Bay area has declined significantly, though for unknown reasons. The highest winter count in Deep Bay is 2,500 in January 1996 and several hundred could still be recorded there in subsequent years. Monthly waterbird counts were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	6	0	10	59	65	35	79	38	47	49	31	16
SW	21	2	2	2	1	2	2	0	2	3	3	3
SI	0	68	233	210	136	93	77	94	4	30	6	7

025.5A Malayan Night Heron *Gorsachius melanolophus* 夜鷺

2003: Two birds were photographed by remote-sensing camera at Lo Kei Wan, Lantau on 19th April (WCF). This is the first record for Hong Kong.

2004: Two adults and two juveniles were present at On Po Tsuen, near Fanling, from 3rd September to 1st October (JACM *et al.*).

026A Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis* 黃葦鶉

2003: The highest count in the Deep Bay area was six in the June waterbird count. The sole record in the first winter period refers to two at Mai Po NR on 31st January, while there were two records in the second winter period: one on 1st November and two on 16th December. Elsewhere, records came from Kam Tin (one on 30th July), KCRC Lok Ma Chau mitigation ponds (three on 30th May and up to three from 8th August to 29th September), Long Valley (one on 7th June), Palm Springs (three on 26th September), Po Toi (three on 25th May), Sham Shui Po (one on 16th October), Shuen Wan (one on 29th May) and Yau Ma Tei (one on 17th April). Monthly waterbird counts in Deep Bay area were as follows.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	0	0	1	0	0	6	5	0	3	3	0	1

2004: The year's first report was of one at Kam Tin on 14th April, while the highest single-site count was five at Mai Po on 7th September and 9th October. In the Deep Bay area the highest count was 25 in the July waterbird count. The last report was two at Tsim Bei Tsui on 27th October. Away from Mai Po, records came from Kam Tin (one on 18th October), Lok Ma Chau (one on 25th August, two on 5th, 11th and 15th October) and Long Valley (three on 29th May). Monthly waterbird counts in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	0	0	0	2	1	0	25	1	12	4	0	0

027A Schrenck's Bittern *Ixobrychus eurhythmus* 紫背葦鶉

2003: There were three autumn records: one at Long Valley on 15th October, and singles picked up in urban Kowloon at Kwun Tong and Sham Shui Po on 18th and 20th October respectively.

2004: There was only one report: a male at Shui Mei (Kam Tin) on 13th October.

028A Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus* 栗葦鶉

2003: The first report of the year was from Lok Ma Chau on 14th July. Subsequently, singles (unless stated) were reported at Lok Ma Chau on 22nd August, 16th September (two birds), 16th October, 20th November. Elsewhere, birds were reported from San Tin (20th August), Mai Po NR (16th, 18th, 19th October and 16th November), Wan Chai (picked up on 20th October). Finally, two were at Palm Springs on 22nd November.

2004: Singles were reported at Fung Lok Wai (on 9th November), Long Valley (1st and 17th April), Mai Po (8th September and 7th October) and Shui Mei (26-27th March).

029A Black Bittern *Dupetor flavicollis* 黑鵝

2003: In spring singles were at Mai Po on 8th May, Lok Ma Chau on 14th May, Kam Tin on 26th and 30th May, and Lok Ma Chau on 30th May. In autumn, the only record was of one at Mai Po NR on 14th September.

2004: One was seen at Mai Po NR on 23rd May.

030A Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* 大麻鵝

2003: In the first part of the year the only reports concerned singles at Mai Po NR on 12th January and Lok Ma Chau on 6th and 9th May. The first report in the second winter period was of one at Mai Po NR on 23rd November. Singles were subsequently reported at Lok Ma Chau and Mai Po NR intermittently till the end of the year.

2004: In the first winter period five were at Mai Po on 16th January and singles were at Lok Ma Chau (7th January) and Palm Springs (16th January and 10th March). In the second winter period only one was reported, at Mai Po on 31st October.

031A Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* 黑鸛

2002: One was seen at Mai Po NR on 26th October.

2003: One was seen in flight over Mai Po NR on 19th October.

2004: One was at Mai Po and Tsim Bei Tsui on 23rd October and at Mai Po again on 25th and 26th October. These records presumably refer to the same individual.

032A Oriental Stork *Ciconia boyciana* 白鸛 EN

2003: One was soaring over hills at Pak Nai on 29th November.

2004: An immature was first seen at Mai Po on 6th January. Subsequently, it was present at both Mai Po and the KCRC Lok Ma Chau mitigation ponds until 15th February.

035A Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* 白琵鷺

2003: All records were from the Deep Bay area. Up to four individuals were present in the first winter period until 9th April. The first report in the second winter period was of an immature at Mai Po NR on 16th October, while the peak count was three at Mai Po on 22nd November and at Lok Ma Chau on 8th December.

2004: All records were from the Deep Bay area. The peak count in the first winter period was four at Mai Po on 7th April and the last report was of two there on 15th April. One in the November waterbird count was the first record in the second half of the year and two at Mai Po on 26th November was the highest count in this period.

036A Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor* 黑臉琵鷺 EN

2003: All records were from the Deep Bay area. In the first winter period the peak count was 230 during the January waterbird count. Sixty-five were still present at Mai Po on 20th April and numbers dropped to 25 on 5th May, 11 on 14th May and, finally, six up to 20th June. An immature at Mai Po on 16th October was the first of the second winter period. Numbers increased to 40 on 21st October, 102 on 5th November, 167 on 22nd November and the peak count of 266 (including seven at Futian, Shenzhen) in the December waterbird count. The last figure represented 22% of the known world population. Monthly counts in Deep Bay were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	230	193	181	106	5	6	0	0	0	0	158	266

2004: All records were from the Deep Bay area, from Ma Tso Lung to Tsim Bei Tsui. The highest count in the first winter period was 240 in the January waterbird count. Numbers decreased subsequently to 116 on 11th April, 13 on 18th May, two from 8th June to 20th July and, finally, one intermittently in August. The first records in the second winter period were of singles at Mai Po and Lok Ma Chau on 3rd and 18th October (possibly the summering individual), while nine at Lok Ma Chau on 19th October was the first certain record of birds arriving for the second winter period. Numbers rose rapidly from 30 on 21st and 28th October to 305 during 22-23rd November. This is a new high count for Hong Kong and comprises 20.7% of the world population of 1,475 birds. Monthly counts in Deep Bay were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	240	175	173	51	17	0	1	0	1	1	165	138

037A Lesser Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna javanica* 栗樹鴨

2002: One was photographed at Mai Po in May (DCKC).

038.1A Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* 赤麻鴨

2004: One was at the Lok Ma Chau KCRC mitigation ponds from 8-15th November (MRL), though it was found dead on the last date. Despite this, it was seen to fly strongly during its stay, and there was no evidence of captive origin. This record, together with that of another bird the following year, prompted the Records Committee to conclude that this species could be placed in Category A.

039A Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* 赤麻鴨

2003: One recorded at Mai Po and Mai Po San Tsuen on 2nd January is assumed to be the same individual.

040A Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* 翹鼻麻鴨

2003: The peak count was 192 in the January waterbird count, indicating that this species has declined from recent peak counts of 373 and 268 in 2001 and 2002 respectively. The latest report was of two from the Mai Po boardwalk on 10th April. No records were received for the second winter period.

2004: A count of 240 from the Mai Po boardwalk was the highest in the first winter period. One hundred were still present on 22nd February, while one from the Mai Po boardwalk on 24th March was the last report in this period. None were reported in the second half of the year.

043A Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* 赤頸鴨



Plate 2. Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*
Male at Mai Po, Hong Kong, 19th October 2004
Angus Lau

2003: In the first winter period the peak count was 4,080 in the January waterbird count. The latest report was of six at Mai Po NR on 5th May. The first report in the second winter period was of four at Lok Ma Chau on 9th October. Numbers increased to 1,505 in the December waterbird count. All records were from the Deep Bay area. Monthly waterbird counts in Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	4,080	3,964	938	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	912	1,505

2004: In the first winter period the highest count was 1,777 in the February waterbird count and 20 at Mai Po on 1st April was the last report in this period. The first record in the second winter period was of 14 at Mai Po on 7th October. Away from the Mai Po area, 197 were present at Ma Tso Lung on 29th November and 15 were at Kam Tin on 15th December. Monthly waterbird counts in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	400	1,777	825	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	641	2,744

044A Falcated Duck *Anas falcata* 羅紋鴨 NT

2003: Apart from a female at Mai Po NR on 3rd January, all records in the first winter period came from the KCRC Lok Ma Chau mitigation ponds where the maximum count was seven on 27th January and the latest report was on 12th March. In the second winter period the only report was of one male and four females at Mai Po on 14th November.

2004: A pair was present at the KCRC Lok Ma Chau mitigation ponds from 22nd January to 28th February. In the second winter period two females were at Ma Tso Lung on 29th November and 6th December; numbers there increased to five on 12th December.

045A Gadwall *Anas strepera* 赤膀鴨

2004: A male at Mai Po on 17th January was the sole report in the first winter period. In the second winter period one was at Mai Po on 25th October and six were present on 12th and 24th December.

046A Baikal Teal *Anas formosa* 花臉鴨 VU

2004: A male was at Mai Po on 28th November and 16th, 18th and 22nd December.

047A Common Teal *Anas crecca* 綠翅鴨

2003: In the first winter period the maximum count was 3,826 in the January waterbird count. The last record concerned two on 18th May. The first record in the second half of the year was of one on 12th August, and numbers subsequently increased to 74 on 26th September and 1,586 in the November waterbird count. Away from the Deep Bay area, seven were at Kam Tin on 20th October and single female was at Mui Wo on 21st October. Monthly waterbird counts were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	3,286	3,274	835	0	2	0	0	0	1	29	1,586	715
SI	16	nc	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0

2004: The highest count in the first winter period was 2,238 in the February waterbird count. The latest record was of 600 at Mai Po on 1st April. The first report in the second winter period was of one in the September waterbird count; this was followed by 15 at Mai Po on 30th September. Numbers rose to a peak in the second winter period of 1,012 in the December waterbird count. Away from the Deep Bay area, reports came from Kam Tin (four on 6th November and two on 18th November) and Ma Tso Lung (148 on 29th November). Monthly waterbird counts were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	1,317	2,238	467	0	0	0	0	0	1	217	228	1,012
SI	14	14	30	10	0	0	0	0	0	6	48	0



Plate 3. Baikal Teal *Anas formosa*
 Mai Po, Hong Kong, 16th December 2004
 Angus Lau

049A Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* 綠頭鴨

2003: At Mai Po NR a male was present on 19th and 26th January, and two were there on 22nd February. None were reported in the second winter period. One showing characters of a Mallard x Spot-billed Duck hybrid was noted at Mai Po on 2nd April.

2004: In the first winter period singles were noted at Lok Ma Chau (female on 24th January), Ma Tso Lung (male on 26th January), Mai Po (26th February) and two females were at Nam Sang Wai on 24th February. A female at Mai Po on 23rd November and 29th December were the only reports in the second winter period.

050A Indian Spotbill *Anas poecilorhyncha* 斑嘴鴨

2003: Mainly recorded at Mai Po NR in the summer period, the first record was of one on 23rd March. Subsequently, one was recorded on 25th April, two on 5th May, 11 on 26th June, 22 (mostly this species) on 14th July, 16 on 28th July and finally four on 23rd September. None were recorded during the waterbird counts.

2004: One was at Mai Po on 20th and 24th January and two were present on 26th and 28th February. Numbers then gradually increased to three at Lok Ma Chau on 3rd March, four at Mai Po on 8th June, five at Mai Po on 6th July and six at Mai Po on 27th September, 11th October and 23rd November (at Nam Sang Wai). Monthly counts in Deep Bay were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	9	0	0	0

050.1A Chinese Spotbill *Anas zonorhyncha* 斑嘴鴨

2003: All records were from the Deep Bay area and the maximum count was 44 in the December waterbird count. None were reported in the summer months and the latest record in the first winter period was of a female at Mai Po on 24th April. The first record in the second half of the year was of seven birds at Mai Po on 19th October. Up to 16 birds were present at the KCRC mitigation ponds at Lok Ma Chau from 17th November to 15th December. Numbers of this species continue to decline. Monthly counts in Deep Bay were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	18	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	44

Records of unassigned 'Spot-billed Duck' at Mai Po NR comprised four on 4th April and 14 on 25th November.

2004: All records came from the Deep Bay area from Lok Ma Chau to Tsim Bei Tsui. The highest count was 23 in the February waterbird count and up to six in the July waterbird count. Numbers increased to 12 at Mai Po on 22nd October and 20 at Lut Chau on 28th November. Monthly counts in Deep Bay were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	14	23	13	1	2	5	6	0	0	0	6	13

Unassigned 'Spot-billed Duck' were recorded at Mai Po NR (a maximum of ten on 26th February and 30th August) and Fung Lok Wai (a maximum of 11 from 9th November to 3rd December).



Plate 4. Chinese Spotbill *Anas zonorhyncha*
Mai Po, Hong Kong, 23rd September 2004
Angus Lau

051A Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* 針尾鴨

2003: All records were from the Deep Bay area, except for two at Starling Inlet in the December waterbird count. The highest count was 4,381 in the January waterbird count; the latest concerned two in the March count. The first report in the second half of the year was of two at Mai Po NR on 26th September. Subsequently, numbers rose to 1,259 in the December waterbird count. Monthly counts in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	4,381	2,603	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	746	1,259

2004: In the first winter period the highest count was 1,369 in the January waterbird count; there were no reports after the February waterbird count. Two at Mai Po on 14th September was the first report in the second winter period, and numbers rose to 2,054 in the December waterbird count. Away from the Mai Po/Inner Deep Bay area, there was a report of 42 at Ma Tso Lung on 29th November. Monthly counts were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	1,369	1,332	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	927	2,054

052A Garganey *Anas querquedula* 白眉鴨

2003: In the first winter period the highest count was 112 in the January waterbird count and the latest record was of five at Mai Po NR on 5th May. The first report in the second winter period was a minimum of ten birds at Mai Po on 13th September, after when numbers rose sharply to 139 on 26th September, the highest count in this period. Away from the Deep Bay area, one was at Long Valley on 4th October. Monthly counts were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	16	112	109	20	0	0	0	0	13	1	41	66

2004: All records came from the Deep Bay area. The highest count was 150 at Mai Po on 1st April, and the last report was of 20 on 7th April. Ten at Mai Po on 25th September was the first report in the second winter period; a weak passage ensued. Monthly counts in were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	7	54	93	0	0	0	0	0	0	53	41	32

053A Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* 琵嘴鴨

2003: The highest count in the first winter period was 4,271 in the February waterbird count. The latest record concerned a male at Mai Po NR on 18th May. The earliest record in the second winter period was of four in the September waterbird count. All records were from the Deep Bay area. Monthly counts were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	1,328	4,271	179	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	3,387	1,769

2004: In the first winter period the highest count was 3,086 in the February waterbird count. A male and two females were at Mai Po on 19th May and a male and a female were present till 22nd June. In the second winter period the first was reported at Mai Po on 25th September and numbers increased to 30 on 30th September. Away from the Mai Po – Inner Deep Bay area a female was at Ma Tso Lung on 29th November and 12th December and two were noted on 6th December. Monthly waterbird counts were as

follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	191	3,086	300	0	0	2	0	0	1	251	2,600	2,949

054A Common Pochard *Aythya ferina* 紅頭潛鴨

2003: One of the two birds at the KCRC Lok Ma Chau mitigation ponds on 16th December 2002 remained to 2nd January 2004.

2004: One was at the KCRC Lok Ma Chau mitigation ponds until 2nd January. A female/immature was at Ma Tso Lung on 12th December.

055A Baer's Pochard *Aythya baeri* 青頭潛鴨 EN

2003: A female was photographed at Tsim Bei Tsui on 16th August and was present until 30th August. Given the date, this record is considered to refer to a bird that did not occur naturally; it is possible that one of the captive waterfowl collections in the Deep Bay area was the source.

2004: At the KCRC Lok Ma Chau mitigation ponds a pair was seen from 6th to 23rd January. A female was present on 27th February and four females were in the same place on 29th February. Two females were at Mai Po on 29th January.

056A Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* 白眼潛鴨 NT

2004: A first-winter male was at the Lok Ma Chau KCRC mitigation ponds from 2nd January to 28th February. Two were at Mai Po on 27th December.

057A Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* 鳳頭潛鴨

2003: In the first winter period the highest count was 908 in the February waterbird count; the latest record at this time was of 82 in the March count. The first report in the second winter period was of one at Mai Po NR on 7th November; numbers subsequently reached 1,095 in the December count, the second highest in Hong Kong. All records were from the Deep Bay area. Monthly counts were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	439	908	82	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	302	1,095

2004: In the first winter period the highest count was 900 at Mai Po on 12th and 18th January. However, none were reported after 47 were at Nam Sang Wai on 24th February. The first report in the second winter period was of three from Mai Po boardwalk on 11th October. Subsequently, four and 51 birds were at Ma Tso Lung on 22nd and 29th November respectively. All records were from the Deep Bay area. Monthly counts were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	519	763	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	152

058A Greater Scaup *Aythya marila* 斑背潛鴨

2003: A female was at Mai Po NR on 14th November and six were at Tsim Bei Tsui on 23rd November.

2004: A female was at Mai Po on 12th, 18th and 20th January. Three were at Ma Tso Lung on 6th December.

063A Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* 鶚(魚鷹)

2003: As usual, the largest numbers were recorded during co-ordinated counts in Deep Bay, with a peak count of 12 birds on 9th November. Double-figure totals were also logged on 19th January and 23rd February. The latest spring record in the Deep Bay area concerned one at Mai Po NR on 28th May and the earliest in autumn was one at Ma Tso Lung on 12th October. One at Long Valley on 19th October was a rare record there. Elsewhere, singles were reported from Shuen Wan (4th January to 26th March and 9th October to 19th December) and the Sham Chung-Lai Chi Chong area (24th January to 19th April and 30th November to 14th December). There was just one summer record: two were noted in the Double Haven area on 5th July. Peak day-counts in each month in Deep Bay were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	10	10	7	5	1	0	0	0	0	3	12	5

2004: During co-ordinated counts in Deep Bay, 16 were recorded on 25th January and 19 on 21st March. The latter is the highest count on record in Hong Kong. These counts apart, numbers in Deep Bay were otherwise unexceptional. Elsewhere, singles were recorded at Starling Inlet during January-February and November-December, at Tai Lam Chung on 29th February, and at Shuen Wan between 6th January and 4th April and from 14th November to the end of the year. Peak day-counts in Deep Bay in each month were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	16	8	19	1	2	0	1	1	5	6	5	9

064A Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes* 黑冠鵂隼(鳳頭鵂隼)

2003: In a rather poor year, there were just three spring and two autumn records. One at Po Toi on 13th April was followed by two at Ho Chung on 4th May and one at Hang Tau (Sheung Shui) on 12th May. The autumn records concerned nine birds at Kam Tin on 19th October and two at Fung Lok Wai on 23rd October.

2004: In spring, singles were at Shek Kong on 13th May and Luk Keng on 18th May. There were no summer reports. In autumn, eight were noted at Kam Tin on 15th

October and four were at Tsim Bei Tsui on 27th October.

065A Crested Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus* 鳳頭蜂鷹

2003: Three records were received, all in October: a rufous-morph in Tai Po Kau on 4th, five moving northwest over KFBG on 19th and one at Mai Po on 26th.

2004: Singles were recorded at two localities between 22nd September and 17th October: at Ng Tung Chai on the first and last dates and at Palm Springs on 29th and 30th September.

066A Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* 黑翅鳶

2003: In the first winter period, three birds were reported: an adult at Mai Po on 6th January, a juvenile at Lok Ma Chau on the same date and one found injured on 17th January that was released at KFBG on 14th February after a period of rehabilitation. There were no further sightings until the summer when single birds were noted at Mai Po on 25th June and 1st July, including an adult on the first date. In autumn, one or two adults were noted at Mai Po on four dates between 26th September and 19th October, with copulation observed on 17th October. Single birds at Long Valley on 5th November and San Tin on 26th November were the last sightings of the year.

2004: Singles were recorded at Mai Po on nine dates between 12th April and 10th October and at San Tin, Fung Lok Wai, Tsim Bei Tsui and Ma Tso Lung on six dates between 13th October and 12th December. In addition, two were at Tsim Bei Tsui on 15th August.

067A Black Kite *Milvus migrans* 黑鳶(麻鳶)

2003: In Deep Bay, peak counts were 140 in the first winter period and 60 in the second winter period. Elsewhere, the only sizeable counts were in October: 36 at Lamma Island on 17th and 20 over Kai Tak Nullah on 28th. Results of the monthly Deep Bay counts were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	104	140	52	16	7	10	10	13	16	37	60	50

2004: Peak counts in Deep Bay were similar to the previous year, peaking at 136 on 25th January and 69 on 14th November. Elsewhere, highest counts were 55 at The Peak on 14th November and 30 at Tai Lam Chung on 18th December. Monthly Deep Bay counts were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	136	67	44	25	7	7	19	19	14	26	69	66

069A White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* 白腹海鵰

2003: Reporting of this species was again good, with frequent sightings throughout the year of pairs or single adults and occasional sightings of young birds. Eastern waters and the Plover Cove-Tolo Harbour-Tap Mun area accounted for the majority of records, the peak counts being six at Fan Tsang Chau (Conic Island) on 14th June and four at Tai Tam Reservoir on 7th December. There were also occasional sightings from southern and western waters round to the edge of Deep Bay, including at Shek O, Stanley Fort, Aberdeen, Green Island, Kau Yi Chau, Cheung Chau, the Soko Islands, Tsing Chau Tsai (Lantau), Chek Lap Kok, Tai Lam Chung, Nam Sang Wai and Lok Ma Chau. Single birds at Ng Tung Chai (an adult on 1st May) and KFBG (26th October) were the furthest from the coast. There was one confirmed breeding record, at Sham Chung, where up to two chicks were seen at a nest on 18th February and 2nd March and a single juvenile attended by two adults was seen in the vicinity of the nest site on 19th April and 1st May. Breeding possibly also occurred at Yeung Chau (Sai Kung), Tai Ngau Hau (Hebe Haven) and Shuen Wan.

2004: Single birds, including an adult, a second-winter and a third-winter, were regularly sighted from widespread localities in the Deep Bay area during January-March and November-December, culminating in the observation of an adult carrying prey (a Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*) towards a nest at Nam Sang Wai on 23rd November. There were also frequent sightings of an adult in the Siu Lam-Tai Lam Chung area throughout the year and an adult pair was seen at Shuen Wan and adjacent areas in most months and may have attempted to breed on Yeung Chau. Elsewhere, there were occasional reports from Starling Inlet, Sai Wan Shan, Sha Tin Pass, Chek Lap Kok and West Kowloon.

071A Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela* 蛇鵰

2003: Birds were reported in all months, with highest totals in May, from all parts of the NT. Regular observer coverage ensured that the Tai Mo Shan massif, especially Ng Tung Chai and the Lam Tsuen Valley, accounted for almost half of all records. Most reports were of one or two birds, typically adults, but there were also sightings of three or four together at six other localities (Ma Tso Lung, Black Point Power Station, Tseng Tau, Ho Chung, KFBG and Lai Chi Wo). The highest counts, however, were at Ng Tung Chai, where seven were present on 10th May and six on 12th September (EMSK). These are the highest counts on record, compared to the previous highest count of five near Tai Po Kau on 2 September 1991. Vocalisations were noted this year during January-April and September-October, but no observations of display flights were reported. A juvenile was noted at Lau Fau Shan on 17th May. Totals reported in each month were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	14	11	4	5	22	4	3	1	7	10	6	2

2004: Once again almost 50% of records were from the Tai Mo Shan massif, especially Ng Tung Chai. Other reports were from the Deep Bay area and adjacent

hills, the Siu Lam-Tai Lam Chung area, Pat Sin Leng, Robin's Nest, Pak Sha O and Beacon Hill. Peak counts were of five soaring and calling over Palm Springs on 12th February and up to five displaying at Ng Tung Chai during 9-26th February. There were also three over Mai Po village on 8th May and three at Tai Lam Chung on 10th October. Monthly totals were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	2	20	6	5	5	0	1	1	6	9	1	6

072A Grey-faced Buzzard *Butastur indicus* 灰臉鵟鷹

2003: There were just two records this year: one (dark-phase) at Ng Tung Chai on 7th April and two at Lamma on 17th October.

2004: Two at Mai Po on 20th March, the first of the year, were followed by 31 at Sha Lo Tung on 22nd March, 27 over the Mong Tseng hills and one at Dong Ping Chau on 2nd April, singles at Sha Tin Pass, Mong Tseng, Mai Po and Ng Tung Chai on 3rd April, three at Tai Mo Shan the next day, one at Shek Kong Catchment on 9th April, eight there the next day, and two at Mai Po on 12th April, the last record of the year.

073A Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucos* 鵞鵒

2003: An adult female seen at Lok Ma Chau on the last day of 2002 was again noted there on 3rd January. All other records occurred between 29th September and 29th October. These comprised a juvenile female noted almost daily in the Mai Po-Lok Ma Chau area between 29th September and 3rd October, a juvenile seen in this area during 16-20th October and at Fung Lok Wai on 23rd October, and one individual (not aged) which was observed to kill an Oriental Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis* at Lok Ma Chau on 29th October.

2004: All records this year occurred in the Deep Bay area between 27th September and 31st October, and involved juveniles except as noted: singles at Mai Po on 27th September, 1st and 16th October, 23rd October (adult female) and two there on 31st October; one at Lok Ma Chau on 5th October, three at Palm Springs on 18th October and one at Shek Wu Wai on 24th October.

074A Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus* 白腹鵞(澤鵞)

2003: Recorded from 21st September up to 17th April, with all reports from Deep Bay apart from one at Chek Lap Kok on the earliest autumn date. Most counts were of one to three birds, apart from totals of five and six in the co-ordinated Deep Bay counts on 23rd February and 9th November respectively. Based on results of co-ordinated monthly counts and other reports, peak day-counts in Deep Bay in each month were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	2	5	3	1	0	0	0	0	3	3	6	3

2004: Recorded from 25th September up to 5th April, with all reports once again from Deep Bay. Apart from three at Mai Po on 5th November, all single-site reports were of one or two birds, including an adult female at Lok Ma Chau and the Mai Po boardwalk on four dates between 30th January and 3rd March. Based on results of co-ordinated monthly counts and other reports, peak day-counts in Deep Bay in each month were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	5	2

075A Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus* 鳳頭鷹

2003: Recorded singly or in pairs throughout the year, apart from in August when there were no reports. The Tai Mo Shan massif and Pat Sin Leng hills once again accounted for the bulk of records, but there were also fairly frequent sightings from other parts of the NT, the Kowloon Hills and Hong Kong Island. Aerial display flights were noted at six localities (Ng Tung Chai, Tai Po Kau, Shuen Wan, Hok Tau, Mount Gough and Tai Tam) and in five months (January, February, May and October-November). Totals reported in each month were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Total	13	6	2	1	3	2	4	0	1	9	4	3

2004: All reports were from the NT and involved single birds, with the exception of a soaring pair mobbed by a Besra *Accipiter virgatus* at Chung Pui on 12th February and two at Tai Lam Chung on 29th February. Reported in all months except June and July, display flights were noted in February at two sites (Cloudy Hill and Tai Po Kau). As usual most records were from traditional sites in the Tai Mo Shan massif (especially Ng Tung Chai and Tai Po Kau) and the Pat Sin Leng hills, but there was also a noteworthy series of reports from the Siu Lam-Tai Lam Chung area during February-May and September-December. In addition, there were occasional records from Long Valley, Mai Po (29th September and 16th October), Cloudy Hill, the Kowloon Hills catchwater and Lion Rock. Totals reported in each month were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Total	3	9	3	6	1	0	0	1	4	3	4	2

076A Chinese Goshawk *Accipiter soloensis* 赤腹鷹

2003: A count of 665 birds (successive flocks of 105, 250, 70, 80 and 160) over Pak Kok, Lamma Island on 1st May (GS) was the highest yet recorded in Hong Kong, the previous highest count being of 600 over the Mong Tseng hills on 28th April 1985. This year's record count followed a count of 168 (flocks of 8, 60 and 100) also over Pak Kok, Lamma on 27th April. One there on 4th May was the only subsequent report from that

island. Elsewhere, there were reports of 19 at Po Toi on 27th April, one flying north past Cheung Chau on 28th April, three at Tseng Tau on 1st May, singles at Mai Po on 1st and 3rd May, and up to three at Po Toi again on 1st, 3rd, 6th and 11th May. Thus, all reports this year were between 27th April and 11th May, and the aggregate of 866 bird-days made it the best year to date.

2004: All records occurred in spring between 24th April and 7th May. Following seven at Mai Po on 24th April and singles at Ho Pui and Siu Lam the next day, 34, the peak count of the year, were counted over Pak Kok, Lamma on 29th April and six were at Tai Ho Wan (Lantau) the next day. There were just three further records: four at Lamma and one at Tai Mo Shan, all on 1st May, and one at Mai Po on 7th May.

077A Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis* 日本松雀鷹

2003: Records this year occurred from 3rd January to 11th March and from 5th October to 13th December. In the first half of the year, there were sightings of an adult male at Mai Po NR on 3rd and 25th January, a female at Ma Tso Lung on 17th January and one at Siu Lam on 11th March. One at KFBG on 5th October was the first report of the autumn. Subsequently in October, which was the best month, there were sightings of one at Long Valley on 16th, four at Mai Po on 18th, and singles there on 19th, 26th and 28th, at Sheung Wan (Hong Kong Island) on 20th and Sai Kung and Tai Tam Reservoir on 25th. The Sheung Wan sighting is a rare urban record. In November, one at Lok Ma Chau on 3rd was followed by two on northern Lantau on 5th and singles at Tsim Bei Tsui, Pak Nai and Mai Po, all during 6-9th. Finally, a juvenile male was present at Lok Ma Chau during 11-12th December and a male was noted at Plover Cove on 13th December. Totals reported in each month were as follows.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Total	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	6	2

2004: Recorded up to 11th April and from 25th September. Singles at Tai O and Long Valley on the latter date are the earliest in autumn by four days. October was again the best month and the majority of sightings were from the Deep Bay area, especially Mai Po, Long Valley and Tsim Bei Tsui. Elsewhere, there were nine reports from the central and eastern NT, mainly in the second winter period, one record from Sha Tin Pass (20th October) and three from Lantau (Silvermine Bay on 23rd January, Mui Wo on 10th April and Tai O on 25th September). With the exception of two at Pak Sha O on 3rd October and two again there on 18th December, all records were of single birds. Totals reported in each month were as follows).

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Total	3	1	3	4	0	0	0	0	3	9	1	3

078A Besra *Accipiter virgatus* 松雀鷹

2003: Field work for the Winter Atlas led to a series of records from the Pat Sin Leng hills in January and early February when these hawks were unusually conspicuous, with apparently paired-up birds chasing each other, interacting with

other pairs, vocalising and mobbing other hawks. In January, four were seen in flight together over the Sir Edward Youde Memorial Pavilion on 5th, and over Wang Shan Keuk (less than 2 km from the previous place) on 10th; two females, (including one carrying a stick), were chasing each other in sight of a male at Sha Lo Tung on 9th, two were chasing each other and mobbing a displaying Crested Goshawk *A. trivirgatus* at Hok Tau on 15th and a pair was chasing each other and vocalising at Shan Liu on 23rd; on 7th February one again at Hok Tau was seen mobbing a displaying Crested Goshawk. Nesting was later suspected at Shuen Wan, where one bird was seen carrying prey items towards a *fung shui* wood on four occasions during 12-29th May and single birds were present on 2nd and 22nd June. Apart from two at Mai Po on 27th October, all other records were of single birds, mostly in the Deep Bay area (Pak Nai, Sha Po, Mai Po and Long Valley) and on the northern side of the Tai Mo Shan massif (KFBG, Ng Tung Chai, Lam Tsuen and Wun Yiu), with occasional reports from Sham Chung, Repulse Bay and Cheung Chau. Totals reported in each month were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Total	19	5	0	3	5	2	1	0	3	7	3	1

2004: Noted in all months of the year except June. All reports were of one or two individuals with the exception of three at Mai Po on 7th October. The only reports outside the NT were on Lantau, where one was noted in the Tung Chung area on 27th January and two were at Tai O on 29th January. Between January and August nearly all records were from widespread shrubland sites in the central and eastern NT (with aerial displays noted in January and February at Yung Shue Au, Pun Shan Chau and Lin Ma Hang). There were only two records in this period from Deep Bay (singles at Mai Po on 20th March and 27th May). In contrast, the vast majority of records between September and December were from the Deep Bay marshes, especially Mai Po, and adjacent farmland. Totals reported in each month were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Total	5	8	7	2	2	0	1	4	5	8	2	1

078A Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* 雀鷹

2003: A juvenile male was at Mai Po NR on 1st November, and single females were at Wu Kau Tang on 27th December and Lok Ma Chau on 30th December.

2004: One at Lut Chau on 12th January was the only record of the first winter period. In autumn, singles were noted at Kam Tin on 4th, 5th and 25th November and at Mai Po on 7th November.

Sparrowhawk sp. *Accipiter sp* 雀鷹

2003: One or two unidentified accipiters were recorded at Shek Pik (Lantau), Sham Chung, Mai Po and Kam Tin in February, June, August and October.

2004: There were two records of unidentified accipiters: singles at Shuen Wan on 12th October and at Mai Po on 16th October.

080A Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* 普通鵟

2003: Recorded up to 11th April and from 17th October. Most sightings were from Deep Bay and adjacent areas such as the Mong Tseng hills, Kam Tin, Tai Shang Wai, Lok Ma Chau, Ma Tso Lung and Long Valley, and the peak count was eight at Mai Po on 18th October. A number of birds observed at Mai Po and other localities in October were thought to be passing through. There were two observations of food items: one at Kam Tin on 19th October was feeding on a juvenile White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus* and one at Mai Po on 25th November was feeding on an unidentified duck. Based on results of co-ordinated counts and other reports, peak counts in Deep Bay in each month were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	4	3	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	3	4

Elsewhere in the NT, singles were reported in both winter periods from Ng Tung Chai, Lam Tsuen, Shuen Wan and Clearwater Bay, and there were occasional reports from Lai Chi Wo, Sham Chung and Tai Long Wan. One was seen at Tai Po Kau on 7th January, a rare record over forest. In a year when reporting was very good, Kowloon and Hong Kong Island records comprised one at Kai Tak on 12th January, one or two over Island School on several dates in both winter periods, and also singles over Mount Austin on 24th October (migrating west) and in the Happy Valley-Wanchai area on 23rd and 29th November. In addition, singles were reported at the Soko Islands on 15th February, Dong Ping Chau and Cheung Chau on 19th October, Mui Wo on 5th November, the north Lantau coast on 23rd December and Po Toi on 29th December.

2004: Recorded up to 23rd April and from 19th October. In Deep Bay, peak counts were eight in a co-ordinated count on 25th January and at Mai Po on 26th February, and six in the co-ordinated counts of 14th November and 12th December. A rapid and relatively early departure of the Deep Bay population appears to have occurred in the first winter period, when following the count of eight on 26th February, the only further records were of singles on 3rd, 29th and 31st March and 2nd April. Based on results of co-ordinated counts and other reports, peak counts in Deep Bay in each month were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	8	8	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	6

081A Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga* 烏鵂 VU

2003: This species continues to decline, with even smaller numbers recorded than in 2002. All records were of single birds except for two at Mai Po NR on 13th February and two at Tai Lam CP on 28th December, the latter a rare record away from Deep Bay. Apart from this and a handful of records at Lok Ma Chau, Lut Chau and Tsim Bei Tsui, all reports were from Mai Po NR. In the first winter period, there were sightings of a single adult on six dates from 3rd January to 14th February, a juvenile on 14th January and possibly again on 19th January, and a second- or third-winter on three dates from 13th February to 7th March. It is possible that these three individuals accounted for all

records up to 7th March. After this date, there were no further sightings until 13th April, when one was at Tsim Bei Tsui (CHF); this is the latest spring record by four days. The first record of the second winter period involved a juvenile on 18th October. Single juveniles were subsequently recorded on eight dates up to 17th November. The first adult of the period was noted on 7th November and there were further reports of an adult on three dates up to 23rd December and a third-winter on 28th December. Single unascribed birds were reported on five dates during this period. Three individuals may therefore have accounted for all records in the second winter period. Peak counts in Deep Bay in each month were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1

2004: Noted up to 28th February and from 23rd October, with all records from the Deep Bay area. In the first winter period, the peak count was three in a co-ordinated Deep Bay count on 25th January. The only birds aged were single adults at Nam Sang Wai, Lut Chau and Lok Ma Chau during 9-13th January and a second-winter at Lok Ma Chau from 7-20th January. In addition, single unascribed birds were present at Lok Ma Chau on 12th and 23rd January, Kam Tin on 31st January and Mai Po on 28th February, the latter being the only record in February and the last of the first winter period. An adult at Mai Po on 23rd October was the first record of the second winter period. This or another adult was then reported at Mai Po up to 6th November, when a juvenile was seen at Kam Tin. The following day, four birds (two adults, a second-year and a juvenile) were present at Mai Po, the peak count of the year. Subsequently, a third-winter was found at Mai Po on 20th November and there were regular sightings of one or two birds (including an adult, a second-winter and a juvenile) to the end of the year, mainly at Mai Po, but also at Kam Tin, Nam Sang Wai, Lut Chau, Lok Ma Chau and Ma Tso Lung. In addition, three were noted in the co-ordinated Deep Bay count of 12th December. Peak counts in each month were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Total	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	3

082A Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca* 白肩鵟 VU

2003: Numbers recorded this year were the lowest of the past 25 years. The peak count was just three individuals (noted on 19th January and 20th December) and there were only two records of two birds (5th January and 26th December), with all others referring to singles. All records were from Mai Po and the immediately adjacent fishpond areas at Lok Ma Chau and Lut Chau. There were no records at all, despite regular coverage, at Tsim Bei Tsui or Ma Tso Lung, the latter a stronghold of this eagle in the 1990s. Dates of occurrence, however, were typical: up to 26th March and from 18th October. In the first winter period, one or two adults were noted on four dates up to 14th February, a first-winter was seen on three dates from 6th February to 26th March and single unascribed birds were present on four other dates during this period. In the second winter period, an immature was noted on three dates from 18th October to 19th November, single adults were present on at least 16 dates from 1st November to the end of the year, with two together on 20th December, and a juvenile was seen on 20th

and 26th December. An adult at Lok Ma Chau on 22nd December was observed feeding on a Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*. Peak counts in Deep Bay in each month were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Total	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3

2004: This species was recorded in somewhat larger numbers than in the previous year and was more widespread in the Deep Bay area. In the first winter period, birds of three different age-classes (an adult, a second-winter and a juvenile) were regularly reported from Lok Ma Chau, Ma Tso Lung and Mai Po and occasionally from Nam Sang Wai and San Tin up to the end of February. The only subsequent record in this period was of a second-winter at Mai Po on 24th and 28th March. Highest counts were four and five in the co-ordinated Deep Bay counts of 25th January and 22nd February, respectively. Single adults at Mai Po and Kam Tin on 25th and 26th October were the first reports of the second winter period. In addition, there were regular sightings in November and December of up to four birds (an adult, a sub-adult, a second-winter and a juvenile) at Mai Po and Lut Chau and occasional reports of single birds at Kam Tin and Ma Tso Lung. In the co-ordinated Deep Bay counts, five were recorded on 14th November and four on 12th December. There were also sightings away from Deep Bay, at Tai Lam Chung (singles on 29th February, 14th and 21st November, 18th and 26th December) and at She Shan (one on 16th November). Peak counts in Deep Bay in each month were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Total	4	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	4

083A Bonelli's Eagle *Hieraaetus fasciatus* 白腹山鵟

2003: In the northern NT, one or two adults were reported at Ma Tso Lung and Lok Ma Chau on 17th January, 17th February, 10th August and 12th October, and an immature was noted at Mai Po on five dates between 18th October and 30th December. Elsewhere, there were sightings of a juvenile at northern Lantau on 5th November, single adults over Hong Lok Yuen and Ng Tung Chai during 21-22nd November and on 29th December and an adult carrying nesting material at Plover Cove on 25th December.

2004: With the exception of singles at Fung Hang (Starling Inlet) on 3rd January, Tai Po Kau on 10th February, Tai Mo Shan on 21st March, Sai Wan Shan on 10th December and Ha Fa Shan on 20th December and two adults at Pak Sha O on 3rd December, all reports were from the Deep Bay area or adjacent hills. At Mai Po, singles (all juveniles or second-winters (except for an adult on 8th May) were noted between 24th March and 8th May and from 27th September to the end of the year, with sightings especially frequent in the latter period. There were also three immatures there on 9th November. Elsewhere in Deep Bay, one or two were noted at Kam Tin on 18th January and between 10th September and 26th October and at Lut Chau, Ma Tso Lung and Lok Ma Chau, all during 28-30th November.

085A Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* 紅隼

2003: Recorded at widespread localities between 3rd January and 28th April and from 17th September to 19th December, with peak numbers once again in October. All records were of one or two birds, except for five at Chek Lap Kok on 6th October, four there the next day and three at Mai Po NR on 18th October. In the period from 26th September to 24th October an absolute minimum of 21 individuals was recorded passing through the airport at Chek Lap Kok. Records were received from widespread parts of the NT in the first winter period and mainly from the Deep Bay area and Chek Lap Kok in the second winter period. Away from the NT and Chek Lap Kok, there were reports from Stanley on 26th January, the Soko Islands on 15th February, Shek Pik (Lantau) on 16th February, Kai Tak Nullah on 26th February, Cheung Chau on 9th and 28th April, Shek O quarry on 18th April, Sha Tin Pass on 18th October, Mui Wo on 21st October and 27th November and Chi Ma Wan on 22nd November. Totals reported in each month were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Total	8	11	5	4	0	0	0	0	2	21	11	3

2004: Recorded from the beginning of the year up to 11th April (though with no records between 25th February and 25th March) and from 25th September to the end of the year. In the period from 26th September to 26th October an absolute minimum of 11 individuals was recorded passing through the airport at Chek Lap Kok. In addition, unseasonal summer records of one at Ngong Ping on 6th June (RSP) and a female at Tai Mo Shan on 26th June (MK, PW) were only the second and third at this time. All records were of one or two birds except for three at Man Cheung Po (Lantau) and three at Long Valley on 25th September, four at Kam Tin on 8th November, three at Chek Lap Kok on 24th November and three at Kam Tin the next day. In the first winter period, birds were reported mainly from traditional sites in the northern and central NT and at Chek Lap Kok, and also from the southern coast of Lantau, the Kowloon Hills and urban Kowloon (Kai Tak between 6th January and 10th February, Mong Kok Stadium on 19th February, Lion Rock on 27th March). In the second winter period, most records were from Kam Tin, Long Valley and other sites bordering Deep Bay, and of special note were sightings in the Siu Lam area, at Sha Tin Pass and Fei Ngo Shan, and on Port Island, all between 20th November and 26th December. Largest monthly totals this year were recorded in January and November-December, with fewer birds than usual in October, which is traditionally the best month; this is possibly due to winter atlas work in the final two months of the year. Totals reported in each month were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Total	14	6	2	3	0	1	0	0	7	9	17	12

085.5A Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis* 亞穆爾隼

2002: Two first-winter birds were at KFBG on 26th October.

2003: Recorded from 16th October to 1st November, with approximately 15 individual birds recorded in flight over Mai Po NR, Wu Kau Tang, Lok Ma Chau and KFBG. Most were males.

2004: Singles were recorded at Mai Po on 7th, 9th, 14th and 19th October, with two seen there on 22nd. In addition, an adult male was at Tsim Bei Tsui on 17th October and a juvenile was present there on 22nd October.



Plate 5. Bonelli's Eagle *Hieraetus fasciatus*
Juvenile at Mai Po, Hong Kong, 26th October 2004
Angus Lau

086A Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo* 燕隼

2003: One at Long Valley on 9th April was the only spring report. In late summer, singles were at Mai Po on 10th July, Kam Tin on 30th July, Lok Ma Chau (an adult) on 1st August and Mai Po on 5th and 17th August. Autumn records spanned the period 24th

September-22nd October and involved single birds except as indicated: northern Lantau on 24th September, Long Valley (two) on 26-27th September, Ma Tso Lung on 12th October, Long Valley and Kam Tin on 16th October, Lamma (three) on 17th October and, finally, Tui Min Hoi (Sai Kung) on 22nd October.

2004: In spring, singles were at Mai Po on 12th April and Kam Tin on 4th May. There were no reports in the summer months. Autumn records occurred in October and comprised singles at Pak Sha O on 3rd, Lok Ma Chau on 5th (an adult), Mai Po on 9th and 11th, Kam Tin on 11th and Sai Kung CP on 24th.

087A Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* 遊隼

2003: In Deep Bay, one or two birds were reported almost weekly from the beginning of the year up to 13th April and again from 7th September to the end of the year, including a juvenile at Lok Ma Chau on 26th and 31st December that showed characteristics of one of the northern taxa. Away from Deep Bay, single birds were reported from Plover Cove on 8th January, Tai Lam Chung Reservoir on 24th January, Tai Hang on 7th March, KFBG on 12th October, Sha Tin Pass on 18th October and Shuen Wan on 5th November. Sightings in summer and early autumn concerned single birds at Tai Long Wan on 14th June, the Ninepins on 21st June, the Soko Islands on 19th July and Waglan Island on 6th September. Totals reported in each month were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Total	7	2	3	3	0	3	1	0	2	5	4	4

2004: In Deep Bay, singles were frequently reported in both winter periods up to 14th April and from 22nd October, and also on 5th May and 18th September. Elsewhere, reports in the first winter period concerned singles at Cloudy Hill on 17th January, Chung Pui on 12th and 20th February, Tai Long Wan on 5th April, Shing Mun on 10th April, Po Toi on 11-12th April, two in southern waters on 11th April, two at Lamma on 12th April and at Ham Tin, Lantau on 6th May. In summer, singles were noted at the Chinese University campus on 12th June, Sha Tin Pass on 4th August and Tai Lam Chung on 7th August. In autumn, singles were in the Siu Lam-Tai Lam Chung area during 17-23rd October and on 28th November, at She Shan (adult *peregrinator*) on 16th November and at Kowloon Hills Catchment on 25th December. Prey items identified were a Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* at Mai Po on 12th March and a Common Blackbird *Turdus merula* at Kam Tin on 25th November. Totals reported in each month were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Total	6	4	3	8	1	1	0	2	1	3	7	6

088A Chinese Francolin *Francolinus pintadeanus* 鸫鵒

2003: Most reports were from the NT, at Ha Pak Nai, Ng Tung Chai, Kap Lung, Lok Ma Chau, Chau Tau, Wo Keng Shan, Hang Tau, Kam Tin and Tai Mo Shan. Three was the highest count at any one site; these reports came from Chau Tau and Tai Mo Shan. In addition, singles were heard at Mui Wo and Man Cheung Po, both on Lantau.

2004: Reports of up to two calling birds were received for Sai Kung East CP, Tai Mo Shan, Siu Lam, Sha Tin Pass, Kam Tin and Kuk Po in the NT, and Nam Shan, Tung Chung, Tai Ho Wan and Lo Kei Wan on Lantau.

089A Japanese Quail *Coturnix japonica* 鵲鴉

2003: In the first winter period singles were at Lok Ma Chau on 5th, 6th and 20th January, at Ma Tso Lung on 19th January and at Kam Tin on 21st February. In the second winter period singles were at Long Valley on 18th, 25th and 31st October, Mai Po on 1st November, Lok Ma Chau on 13th November, Sha Lo Tung on 14th November and Long Valley on 27th December.

2004: The only records in the first part of the year were of two at Long Valley on 30th January and 10th February. There was only one record in the second winter period, that of one at Long Valley on 6th November.

090A Yellow-legged Button-quail *Turnix tanki* 黃腳三趾鶉

2003: One was at Kam Tin on 10th October (JAA).

093A Slaty-breasted Rail *Gallirallus striatus* 灰胸秧雞

2003: The maximum count was three in the January waterbird count. One was at the KCRC Lok Ma Chau mitigation ponds on 28th August.

2004: The only records of significance concerned singles at Tai O on 29th January and Luk Keng on 31st January. This was a poor year for this species.

095A Slaty-legged Crane *Rallina eurizonoides* 白喉斑秧雞

2003: Singles were heard at Shuen Wan on 24th April and at Ng Tung Chai on 1st and 13th May. One picked up at Central was taken into care at KFBG on 25th October. Finally, one was at Sha Tin Pass on 1st November.

2004: A tame individual was present at Kowloon Park during 11-17th February. Singles were heard at Robin's Nest and Wu Keng Shan on 15th April. Another bird was at Tai Ho Wan, Lantau on 27th April. A party of three (two males and one female) was noted at Lo Kei Wan, Lantau on 3rd May and, finally, one was heard at Ng Tung Chai on 15th May.

096A Band-bellied Crane *Porzana paykullii* 小田雞

2003: One was picked up at Fu Wing Garden, Mong Kok on 15th November, and taken into care at KFBG the following day. It recuperated and was released at Mai Po NR on 19th November (AC/KFBG). This is the third Hong Kong record, the previous having involved freshly-dead birds picked up on 11th October 1977 and 13th May 1996.

098A Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla* 小田雞

2001: A juvenile was picked up injured at Chek Lap Kok on 7th November; this is the latest on record in Hong Kong.

099A Ruddy-breasted Crake *Porzana fusca* 紅胸田雞

2003: One was trapped at Mai Po NR on 5th January, singles were at San Tin on 18th February, at Lok Ma Chau on 22nd March and Long Valley on 7th April. In addition, three were at Mai Po NR on 16th December.

2004: One was at Shek Kong camp on 11th December.

101A White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus* 白胸苦惡鳥

2003: Widely reported, breeding was proven at Mai Po (five chicks on 22nd April), Shuen Wan (one chick on 12th and 15th May, five to six chicks on 2nd June) and Tsim Bei Tsui (eight chicks on 13th April). Monthly waterbird count figures in Deep Bay, Shuen Wan and Starling Inlet were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	19	22	40	24	49	26	44	41	40	32	18	7
SW	4	1	0	0	4	5	nc	nc	2	2	2	1
SI	1	nc	3	0	2	3	2	0	3	4	3	4

2004: Widely reported, breeding was proven at Tai Kong Po, Kam Tin. Monthly waterbird count figures in Deep Bay, Shuen Wan and Starling Inlet were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	9	25	20	36	32	22	37	37	22	48	14	9
SW	3	2	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	2
SI	1	2	0	2	2	2	2	3	1	2	0	0

102A Watercock *Gallicrex cinerea* 董雞

2003: The only reports received in the year concerned birds picked up in the urban area and handed to KFBG. These comprised one handed to Kowloon SPCA Centre on 26th September and one found in Cotton Tree Drive, Central on 26th October.

2004: A juvenile was at Lok Ma Chau on 25th August and one was at Long Valley on 2nd October.

103A Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* 黑水雞

2003: The highest count in the first winter period was 149 in the January waterbird count. Elsewhere, at Long Valley four were present on 10th March and one was there on 1st November, and at the Peak one was found and taken into care at KFBG on 19th November. Monthly waterbird counts figures at Deep Bay and Starling Inlet were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	149	91	103	85	23	8	11	6	7	34	110	55
SI	1	nc	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

2004: The highest count in the first winter period was 125 in the February waterbird count, while the highest count in the second winter period was 137 in the November count. Apart from one at Kam Tin on 13th October, all were records from the Deep Bay area. Monthly waterbird counts figures at Deep Bay and Starling Inlet were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	93	72	125	112	10	4	14	10	6	49	137	94
SW	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SI	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0

104A Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra* 白骨頂

2003: The highest count in the first winter period was 42 in the January waterbird count and the latest record was two individuals at Mai Po NR on 9th April. Twenty recorded in the November count was the first report of the second winter period; about the same time one was at the KCRC Lok Ma Chau mitigation ponds on 17th. Monthly waterbird count figures in Deep Bay were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	42	36	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	18

2004: The highest count was 260 in the January waterbird count. At Ma Tso Lung, up to five birds were intermittently seen from 12th January to 8th March, the last of the first winter period. In the second winter period records only came from the November and December waterbird counts. This species has suffered a significant decline in Hong Kong. From 1984 to 1993 only one waterbird count January total was below 1,000, while from 1994 to 2001, only one was above this figure. The totals for the last three winters have been significantly lower than this. The reason for this is unclear, though it may be related to milder winters allowing birds to remain north of Hong Kong. Monthly waterbird count figures in Deep Bay were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Total	260	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	19

105A Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus* 水雉

2003: There were four spring reports: one at Lok Ma Chau on 30th April and 2nd May, one at Mai Po NR on 5th May and one at Ha Wan Tsuen, near Lok Ma Chau, on 7th May. In autumn recorded during 7-29th October, and then again during 24-26th November. Up to nine juveniles were present at KCRC Lok Ma Chau mitigation ponds during the first of these periods, with up to three also seen at Mai Po NR. In the second of these periods, one was present at the same Lok Ma Chau site.

2004: There was only one spring record, that of one at Mai Po on 7th April. Interestingly, one in breeding plumage was present at KCRC Lok Ma Chau mitigation ponds on 17th July. In autumn, singles were recorded at Mai Po NR on 27th September, along the Shing Mun River at Tai Wai on 2nd October, at Lok Ma Chau on six dates during 5-21st October and again on 13th November, at San Tin on 13th October and, finally, along the Mai Po road on 21st November.

106A Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* 彩鷸

2003: As usual, the primary sites for this species were the Kam Tin/Shap Po area and Long Valley. At Kam Tin/Shap Po up to 25 were recorded during the year, with the highest count occurring on 30th July and 20 present on 7th October. At Long Valley the highest count was of ten birds on 25th March; there were no records from this site before 10th March or after 15th November. At Mai Po, where breeding was suspected in 2002, a male with two chicks was seen on 5th June; birds were reported at this site from 5th May to 14th July. Elsewhere, two were on a flooded construction area at Mai Po Village on 22nd July, a female was at San Tin on 4th November and one was picked up at Hong Kong Waterfront on 7th November.

2004: In the Kam Tin/Shap Po area the highest counts were of 33 birds on 4th January and 25 on 7th October, while a nest with eggs was found on 4th May. At Long Valley up to four birds were seen during 17-18th April, and one was present on 12th September. At Mai Po NR noted from 30th May to 30th August, with a male on eggs present on 12th June and two males with two chicks seen on 22nd June; a male with a juvenile was seen on 30th August. Elsewhere, up to ten were seen at Airfield Road, Shek Kong from 6th March to 16th April, seven, including two pairs, were present at Cheung Po, Pat Heung on 28th May, and one was near Lok Ma Chau Police Station on 20th June.

107A Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* 黑翅長腳鷸

2003: Few birds were located in the first winter period, with five in the Deep Bay area during the January waterbird count being the highest count. The highest count during spring passage was 99 at Lok Ma Chau on 16th April. The first record of breeding in Hong Kong occurred this year, with up six pairs noted at Mai Po NR during May, and six broods totalling at least ten chicks noted on 20th June. On 20th July

65 adults were present in addition to an unknown number of juveniles. Subsequently, the highest count during autumn passage was of 210 on 4th October, and on 17th December approximately 250 birds were present in abandoned fish ponds adjacent to Palm Springs. Monthly waterbird count figures from the Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	5	2	26	85	72	51	62	1	115	94	48	43



Plate 6. Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*
Juveniles at Mai Po NR, Hong Kong, 4th August 2004
Angus Lau

2004: In the first winter period, the highest count was 350 in abandoned fish ponds adjacent to Palm Springs on 18th January; 250 remained there as late as 28th March. Elsewhere at this time, up to 16 were at Kam Tin in January and February and 18 were at Fung Lok Wai on 31st March. In April up to 132 were recorded at Mai Po NR, while 91 were present there in May. Three chicks were recorded on 12th June, while up to two chicks were reported during 5-6th August. Numbers were relatively low in the first three weeks of August, not exceeding 20, but increased again in the final ten days of the month. Up to 81 were recorded at Mai Po NR in September, while 147 were present there on 29th October. Elsewhere, up to 30 were at Long Valley and one was at Ham Tin, Lantau in September, 35 were at San Tin on 13th October, up to 15 were at Kam Tin

in the final three months of the year and 12 were at Fung Lok Wai on 9th November. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	9	0	22	188	84	100	76	34	129	81	52	31

108A Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* 反嘴鷸

2003: The highest count of the first winter period was of 5,864 during the February waterbird count, which more than doubles the previous highest of 2,500 in March 2002. Even as late as the May waterbird count, a total of 162 remained, and this probably explains the nest-building and copulation noted at Mai Po NR on 11th May; however, no other reports of breeding activity were received. In the second winter period the earliest record was of 80 at Lok Ma Chau on 24th October, and the highest count in this part of the year was 1,012 in the November waterbird count. In tandem with the rapidly increasing wintering population, there has also been an increase in records on fishponds, away from the intertidal areas of the bay where this species has for so long almost exclusively haunted. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	2,985	5,864	3,703	860	162	0	0	0	0	0	1,012	423

2004: The very high numbers recorded early in 2003 were not repeated this year, and the highest counts were 3,200 on 15th February and 3,980 on 28th March. Numbers subsequently declined to 1,631 on 17th April, 406 on 2nd May, 93 on 10th May and three on 8th June. The first arrivals in the second part of the year were noted on 1st October; 238 were counted at the end of that month, while 857 and 2,744 were recorded in the November and December waterbird counts respectively. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	1,267	1,654	1,901	1,631	56	0	0	0	0	0	857	2,744

109A Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum* 普通燕行鳥

2003: First recorded on 6th March, and subsequently recorded on 12 dates in March (with the highest count being nine on 6th) and six dates in April (highest ten on 8th). There were two May records, one on 8th and two on 21st. The only autumn records were of two at Mai Po NR on 6th September and one there at on 23rd October. Most records were in the Deep Bay-Long Valley-Kam Tin area, the exception being two at Chek Lap Kok on 21st May.

2004: In the first part of the year recorded from 24th February to 8th June, with three records in February, eight in March and two in April up to 10th. This was followed by one at Kam Tin on 23rd May and 3rd June, and three at Mai Po NR on 8th June. In the second part of the year there were two records: two at Mai Po NR on 8th August and one there on a week later on 15th.

110A Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* 鳳頭麥雞

2003: Singles were at Long Valley during 19-22nd March and at Mai Po NR during 1-6th April. In the second winter period one was at Mai Po on 23rd October; this was followed by up to two at Lok Ma Chau from 29th October to 4th November, and up to two at Mai Po NR on 9th November and from 22nd November to 13th December. Three were at Lok Ma Chau on 15th December, and one was at Mai Po NR on 19th and 30th December. It is quite possible that the set of autumn records refers to the same individuals.

2004: One at Mai Po NR on 8th, 20th and 22nd January was presumably the bird seen there a month earlier. In the second winter period up to two were at Mai Po during 2-5th November, singles were at Kam Tin on 18th November and at Chek Lap Kok on 24th November, and up to five were at Mai Po NR from 27th November to 24th December.

111A Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus* 灰頭麥雞

2003: At Kam Tin up to nine were present in the first winter period up to 6th April. In the second part of the year two were at Sha Po on 27th August, two days later than the earliest record in Hong Kong, which occurred in 2001. Subsequently, numbers in the Kam Tin/Shapou area increased to 14 on 31st October. Elsewhere, at Lok Ma Chau up to two were present on 26th September and 17th and 23rd October, up to two were at Long Valley on 18th and 25th October, two were at Mai Po on 17th October, up to two were in the Mai Po area during 25-26th November, one was at San Tin on 19th and 26th November and one was at Tsim Bei Tsui on 8th and 23rd November. There is presumably some overlap in the birds involved in the latter set of records.

2004: During the first half of the year up to 16 were counted at Kam Tin until the end of January, followed by up to 11 up to 4th March; subsequently recorded until 14 April, when eight were noted. Elsewhere at this time, one was at Mai Po on 31st March and 3rd April. One at Kam Tin on 20th and 29th July are the first records for that month; subsequently, numbers at Kam Tin reached 19 on 18th November. Elsewhere, one was at Fung Lok Wai on 14th October, ten were at Lok Ma Chau on 15th October, singles were at Mai Po on 5th August, 16th October and 9th November, and one was at San Tin on 13th October.

112A Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* 太平洋金斑鵒

2003: The highest count in the first winter period was 171 during the January waterbird count. Northward passage peaked at 358 on 10th April; numbers subsequently fell sharply, with no more than four noted after the middle of the month. The latest record was of two on 20th June. Noted in the second part of the year from 13th August, numbers subsequently reached 70 by the end of September, 229 on 18th October and 317 on 22nd November; the latter is the highest count on record in Hong Kong at this time; however, it does not appear that all of this flock remained for the rest of the winter. Apart from one at Shuen Wan on 12th April and two at Chek Lap Kok on 7th October and Kam Tin on 20th October, all records were from the Deep Bay area and Long Valley. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	171	0	118	0	4	0	0	0	52	22	146	120

2004: No reports were received until 23rd March, though whether there really was no wintering population is unclear. A count of 174 was made on both 24th and 26th March, which were followed by counts of 193 on 5th April and 221 on 24th April, the highest during northward passage. Numbers then declined sharply, with no more than four recorded subsequently, and the final record occurred on 19th May. Southward passage was noted from 13th August, and numbers peaked at 69 on 28th August. Subsequently the highest counts occurred during the waterbird counts, with 146 in November being the highest of these. Away from the Deep Bay area, the only records concerned one at Tai Long Wan on 5th April and ten at Chek Lap Kok on 28th April. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	0	0	0	94	1	0	0	2	42	47	0	0

113A Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* 灰斑鵲

2003: The highest count of the first winter period was 295 during the January waterbird count. Relatively few birds were recorded in the rest of the winter, though numbers in spring fell slowly from 64 on 26th March to 29 in the first week of May. A summering population of at least 12 was present, while autumn numbers were no more than 14 until the first week of October. After this, numbers increased to 49 by the end of October and 297 in the December waterbird count. All records were from the Deep Bay area. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	295	47	67	2	11	0	13	4	0	20	48	297

2004: The peak count in the first winter period was 454 on 17th January. At the end of the winter numbers fell to 55 on 5th April, 23 by the end of the month and 12 on 8th June, the latest record at this time. Recorded in the second part of the year from 28th July, with numbers rising to 13 on 4th September, 17 on 11th October and 40 in the November waterbird count. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	200	0	75	22	9	0	0	0	10	8	40	0

116A Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* 金眶鵲

2003: Numbers in the first winter period peaked at 191 in the January waterbird count in Deep Bay. Northward passage was apparently very weak, with no more than five birds noted in April and May. Breeding birds were noted at Mai Po NR, where copulation was noted in the middle of May and a chick was present on 20th June. Only single figure counts were made at any one site until mid October, when 27 were present at Mai Po NR; the highest count at this time was of 40 on a drained fishpond

along the road to Mai Po on 7th November. Away from the northwest NT, records were received from Lamma Island, Tai Po Kau, Shuen Wan and Wun Yiu. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	191	106	64	26	8	12	57	32	82	34	107	77
SW	4	0	2	2	0	0	nc	nc	0	0	0	0
SI	4	nc	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	6

2004: A count of 52 made in the February waterbird count was the highest of the first winter period, while 112 recorded in the March count is presumed to include a significant number of migrants. Display activity was noted at Chek Lap Kok on 19th February, a nest with four eggs was found at Ma Tso Lung on 17th April and 11 birds were at Mai Po NR on 8th June, presumably indicating breeding activity locally. The only late summer counts received were of 22 at Kam Tin on 31st July and 16 at Mai Po NR the following day. The highest single-site autumn count was 52 at Kam Tin on 6th November, while the highest Deep Bay counts of the year occurred in the October and December waterbird counts, when 161 and 162 were recorded respectively. Records were received for the northern and central NT, as well as Starling Inlet and Chek Lap Kok. Monthly waterbird count figures at Deep Bay, Shuen Wan and Starling Inlet were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	23	52	112	11	5	5	53	101	18	161	109	162
SW	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SI	14	10	26	12	2	3	0	3	0	30	21	13

117A Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* 環頸鷸

2003: The difficulties in recent years of making accurate counts of the small wader flock wintering in Deep Bay were again apparent in early 2003, when no more than 20 were recorded; this is assumed to be a significant under-representation of the true numbers present. Elsewhere at this time, up to 25 were noted at Chek Lap Kok and 26 were at Shuen Wan. Spring numbers were not quite as small as usual, with the peak count being 17 on 2nd May. The latest record occurred on 5th June. The earliest in autumn occurred on 16th September; numbers subsequently increased to 950 by 4th November. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	20	0	12	8	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	530
SW	11	0	0	0	0	nc	nc	0	0	0	0	0
SI	0	nc	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	1	3

2004: In the Deep Bay area, the highest count in the first half of the year was 2,210 during the January waterbird count. During spring, 50 at the beginning of April declined to two by the end of the month, and the final record was of one on 27th May. In the second part of the year two on 4th September were followed by one on 30th

September and up to 27 in October. The November waterbird count recorded 395. Away from the Deep Bay area recorded at Shuen Wan, Chek Lap Kok (where four were noted on 26th March) and Dong Ping Chau (where nine were recorded on 2nd April). Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	2210	0	12	0	2	0	0	0	0	27	395	2
SI	17	52	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	13

118A Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus* 蒙古沙鵲

2003: The sole winter record was of one during the January waterbird count. Northward passage was noted from 26th March, with numbers building up to 27 by 20th April, and peaking at 200 on 24th. Subsequently, up to 25 were present in the first half of May, and the final record was of three on 5th June. First noted on southward passage on 27th July when six were present; this was the highest autumn count. The final record was of two on 6-9th September. There were no records in the second winter period. All records were from the Deep Bay area.

2004: In the first winter period the sole record was of five during the January waterbird count, while the earliest of the northward passage period occurred on 21st March. Although 40 were counted on 30th March, the only subsequent higher counts at this time were 47 on 17th April and 59 on 2nd May. The latest record was of 15 on 8th June, while the first of southward passage was recorded on 28th July. Subsequently the highest counts were 16 on 1st August and 13 on 13th August; this was followed by two on 4th September, seven on 16th and four on 3rd October. All records were from the Deep Bay area.

119A Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* 鐵嘴沙鵲

2003: The first record during the northward passage period was of 11 during the March waterbird count. Subsequently, the highest count prior to the middle of April was a rather low 195 birds on 1st April, while up to 243 birds were counted in the last ten days of the month. Numbers subsequently declined gradually to 80 on 21st May. It appears that possibly around 40 birds spent the summer here, though this figure may have been only 16. Southward passage peaked at 187 birds on 11st August; after 95 on 7th September, numbers declined to 39 on 7th October, followed by singles in the last week of October and on 4th November.

2004: In the Deep Bay area, the first record during the spring passage period was of 15 on 21st March. Subsequently, passage was poor, with the highest counts being 214 on 17th April and 241 on 2nd May. The final record of the northward passage period concerned 34 on 8th June. On southward passage recorded from 20th July to 25th October, with the highest count being 237 on 21st August. After 4th September no more than 16 birds were recorded. Away from the Deep Bay area, seven were at Chek Lap Kok on 26th March, two were at Dong Ping Chau on 2nd April and one was at Tai Mei Tuk on 26th April.

120A Oriental Plover *Charadrius veredus* 紅胸鷸

2003: In spring, singles were at Tsim Bei Tsui on 13th April and Lok Ma Chau on 16th April. In autumn up to three were at Chek Lap Kok during 30th September to 7th October.

121A Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* 黑尾塍鷸 NT

2003: The highest count in the first winter period was of 340 in the January waterbird count. The first significant influx in spring was visible at the beginning of March, with 257 recorded on 2nd; subsequently, numbers on northward passage peaked at 721 on 17th April. The final records of the spring involved 11 on 5th June and two during the June waterbird count. The first record of the autumn occurred on 14th July when seven were recorded; subsequently, up to 17 were recorded, until an influx at the end of August saw 57 present on 30th; this presumably marked the arrival of the first members of the wintering flock, as numbers subsequently rose rather gradually to reach 448 on 27th October and 571, which is the highest count on record in Hong Kong at this time. All records were from the Deep Bay area. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	337	340	116	421	17	2	11	16	174	290	571	130

2004: A count of 390 made in the January waterbird count was the highest of the first winter period. Northward passage peaked at 1,190 on 11th April; after 149 on 27th April, subsequent counts were 30 or lower, and the final record was of six on 22nd June. Recorded in autumn from 20th July, though it was not until a month later that the wintering flock began to arrive in numbers, as counts increased to 173 on 14th September, 319 on 11th October and 417 on 29th October. All records were from the Deep Bay area. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	378	275	37	977	10	0	3	24	128	240	200	240

122A Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* 斑尾塍鷸

2003: No birds were recorded during the first winter. The first in spring occurred on 28th March, and numbers subsequently increased to 11 during 10-11th April; subsequently, up to ten were recorded until 14th May, after which up to two were noted until 28th May. Recorded on southward passage from 13th September, when 12 were noted; numbers subsequently peaked at 29 on 26th September. Although no more than five were reported in October and the first half of November, up to eight were present during 22-24th November. All records were from the Deep Bay area. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	14	3	0	0

2004: Up to two wintering birds were counted until 15th February. Spring passage was noted from 19th March, when seven were present, and peaked at 28 on 2nd April; the latest record at this time occurred on 8th June. Recorded on southward passage from 20th July to 29th October, with records of singles until 14th September, from which date three to six birds were recorded until the end of the passage period. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	1	0	8	10	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0

123A Little Curlew *Numenius minutus* 小杓鷸

2003: Singles were at Chek Lap Kok on 25th April and Mai Po NR on 21st October.

124A Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* 中杓鷸

2003: One was reported during the first winter period, up to at least 8th March. This, or a migrant, was present on 22nd March, while northward bound birds were certainly present on 24th, when five were noted. Subsequently, up to 13 were recorded until 24th April, when 131 were present; the next highest count of the spring was 39 on 5th May. At least 13 birds appear to have over-summered, while up to 27 were present in the last half of July. The number of southward bound migrants peaked at 116 on 30th August, while 56 remained at the end of September and 21 were present during the October waterbird count. Five remained on 4th November, and the final record of the year was of two on 22nd November. All records were from the Deep Bay area, apart from three off Cape D'Aguilar during the close approach of Typhoon Dujuan. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	0	0	1	0	1	0	27	0	2	21	1	0

2004: One was recorded during the first winter period. Northward passage was noted from at least 28th March to 8th June. However, no more than six were noted until 20th April when 19 were counted; numbers then increased to peak at a rather low 32 on 27th April. Recorded on southward passage from 1st August to 29th October, with the peak count being 114 on 21st August. In addition, on Lantau singles were seen at Ham Tin from 17th September to 6th October and at Shui Hau on 29th September. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	0	0	1	19	15	1	0	35	12	29	0	0



Plate 7. Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*
Mai Po, Hong Kong, 11th October 2004
Angus Lau

125A Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* 白腰杓鹬

2003: The highest count of the first winter period was 1,244 on 27th January, while 268 remained at the time of the March waterbird count. Numbers subsequently declined to 35 on 10th April, 16 on 17th April and two at the end of the month. There appears to have been a small influx in the first half of May, with the peak count in that month being ten on 21st. A count of seven on 20th indicated the size of the over-summering population. Subsequently, up to 35 were counted in July and August, up to 54 were noted in September and October, 69 were recorded on 7th November and 142 were present during the December waterbird count. All these records were from the Deep Bay area. In addition, however, there was an interesting series of records at Shuen Wan from 22nd January to 1st March, when up to 16 were noted in the bay; later in the year, up to three were noted there on 19th and 29th December. Elsewhere, singles were seen from Cape D'Aguilar on 24th July and 3rd September, the latter during the close approach of Typhoon Dujuan. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	976	1,014	268	1	10	64	13	21	31	41	61	142

2004: The highest count of the first winter period was 739 during the January waterbird count. The March count recorded 136 birds, which declined to 24 on 5th April and nine by the end of the month; eight to ten birds remained during the summer period. Southward passage was evident from 20th July, and numbers subsequently increased to 40 on 21st August, 67 on 29th October and 86 by the time of the December waterbird count, though the latter is likely to have been a significant underestimate. All records were from the Deep Bay area, apart from two at Shuen Wan on 4th January. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	739	488	136	13	9	10	15	28	40	36	40	86

126A Far Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis* 紅腰杓鷸 NT

2003: One was at Mai Po from 8th to 27th March. In April numbers increased to nine on 10th, after which one was seen from the Mai Po boardwalk on 30th, six were present on 2nd May and one was noted on 14th May. In autumn one was seen from the Mai Po boardwalk on 24th November.

2004: One was present during 24-28th March, while up to four were noted up to 8th April. Subsequently, one was noted on 15th April and three were seen on 3rd May. The only other record concerned one on 6th July. All records were at Mai Po.

127A Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* 鶴鷸

2003: Counts during the first winter period were relatively low, with 450 noted in the February waterbird count and 941 in the March count; these numbers are not likely to be an accurate reflection of numbers present at this time. The highest spring count was of 1,827 on 10th April, with 1,288 noted ten days later and 968 counted on 8th May. Numbers fell to 126 on 17th May, and four on 21st May, the latest record of the spring. First recorded in autumn on 27th July, up to six were present in August, up to 46 were noted in September and the first three-figure count was of 117 on 21st October. Subsequently, the highest count was 353 on 4th November. All records were from the Deep Bay area. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	3	450	941	1,288	124	0	0	1	9	5	9	28

2004: There were no representative counts in the first winter period. In spring the highest count was 1,414 on 28th March, while the next highest was 877 on 7th May. The main withdrawal occurred after 10th May, and the latest record occurred on 19th May. Southward passage was noted from 28th July to 1st August, when one bird was recorded, and again from 4th September. In the latter month the highest count was 11, and in October 47 were present on 11th and 175 were counted on 29th. Subsequent counts comprised single-figure totals. All records were from the Deep Bay area. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	0	0	884	611	52	0	0	0	8	2	5	0

128A Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* 紅腳鷸



Plate 8. Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*
Mai Po, Hong Kong, 11th October 2004
Angus Lau

2003: In the first winter period no representative count was made. Northward passage was evident by the time of the March waterbird count, when 241 were present. Numbers increased to a spring peak of 1,671 on 20th April, subsequently declining to 156 on 21st May, followed by 32 a week later and up to ten birds in June. A count of 160 on 14th July was the first of the southward passage period, and numbers at this time subsequently peaked at 921 on 27th July. Counts of two or three hundred birds were made until 23rd September, after which numbers declined to less than 100 from 21st October. All records were from the Deep Bay area. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	35	2	241	1,672	228	16	226	7	243	143	20	3

2004: The peak count in the first winter period was 190 on 15th February. Numbers on southward passage reached 246 at the end of March, 383 on 20th April and 823 on 7th May. A count of 82 on 6th July indicates a rather larger number than is usual spent the non-breeding season in Hong Kong. Subsequently, numbers increased to 1,138 on 1st

August, after which there was a steady decline to 143 on 29th October. The only subsequent count of significance was 176 in the December waterbird count. All records were from the Deep Bay area. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	0	0	395	1,133	195	0	412	531	356	263	1	176

129A Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* 澤鷸

2003: The highest count in the first winter period was of 1,760 birds during the February waterbird count, while a count of 1,879 was made in the March count. Numbers in spring peaked at 2,051 on 10th April; usually numbers fall away abruptly after the middle of the month., but this year a count of 1,070 was made as late as the 23rd. Up to 57 were present in the first half of May, up to six were noted in the second half of that month, and the final record at this time was of two on 5th June. Southward passage was noted from 27th July, though no more than 16 were recorded until 30th August, from which date the wintering flock became increasingly obvious. Further influxes saw 833 counted on 23rd September, 1,497 on 27th October, 1,570 during the November waterbird count and 2,249 in the December waterbird count. All records occurred in the Deep Bay area. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	1,130	1,760	1,879	118	4	0	3	0	159	864	1,570	2,249

2004: There were no representative counts in the first winter period; however, 1,587 were recorded in the March waterbird count. Numbers subsequently increased to 1,896 on 8th April, the highest of the spring. After a count of 1,598 on 17th, numbers fell quite sharply in the second half of April, and the highest count in May was 33. The latest record of the northward passage period occurred on 19th May, while the earliest on southward passage occurred on 20th July. Subsequently, numbers increased to 69 on 28th August, 427 on 14th September, 834 on 1st October, 1,206 on 16th and 1,732 on 29th October. The only subsequent count of significance was of 1,110 in the December waterbird count. All records were from the Deep Bay area. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	1	1	1,587	1,601	3	0	0	34	362	959	401	1,110

130A Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* 青腳鷸

2003: No representative counts were made in the first winter period. Up to 214 were noted in the last week of March; numbers increased to 600 on 10th April and 873 on 23rd April, the highest count of the northward passage period. Up to 794 were counted until 10th May, after which date numbers declined sharply. Up to 95 birds appear to have over-summered. Numbers on southward passage increased to 365 on 3rd August, 765 on 26th, 989 on 7th September and 1,229, the highest count at this time,

on 23rd September. Waterbird count totals for the final three months of the year were 883, 327 and 489 respectively. Apart from up to eight at Long Valley during 5-8th December, all records were from the Deep Bay area. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	59	67	461	532	113	0	83	278	673	883	327	489

2004: The peak count in the first winter period was of 326 in the February waterbird count, though this is unlikely to be representative of the numbers in Deep Bay at this time. Numbers in spring increased to 499 on 13th April and a peak of 722 on 2nd May, while at least eight birds appear to have over-summered. Autumn numbers increased from 176 on 20th July to 801 on 4th September and peaked at 1,128 in the September waterbird count. Subsequently, the highest counts were 809 in the October waterbird count and 778 in the December count. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	0	326	281	177	120	16	133	273	1,128	809	66	778

131A Nordmann's Greenshank *Tringa guttifer* 小青腳鷸 EN

2003: Records of singles occurred on 21st February and from 10th March to 2nd April, when five were noted. Numbers increased to ten on 5th and 17 on 10th; subsequently, up to three were present in the final week of the month and the first week of May. Two were noted on 14th and 18th, ten were present on 23rd May and, finally at this time, one was noted on 20th June. In the second winter period up to two were present from 4th to 24th November. All records occurred at Mai Po.

2004: There was one record in the first winter period, that of one on 1st January. Spring migrants were noted from 24th March, and singles were noted for the rest of that month. In April numbers increased to 18 on 9th, declining then to 11 on 14th and two on 19th. The next records were of up to two from 8th to 18th May. The only record in the second half of the year was of one on 25th October. All records occurred at Mai Po.

133A Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* 白腰草鷸

2003: The final record in the first winter period was of one at Shuen Wan on 15th April, while the first of the autumn was of six at Lok Ma Chau on 14th July. The peak count in the year was 44 in the January waterbird count. Records were received from various sites in the northern NT, as well as Mui Wo on Lantau. Monthly waterbird count figures for this species were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	44	33	42	11	0	0	0	9	5	12	32	22
SW	2	0	0	1	0	0	nc	nc	0	0	0	1
SI	3	nc	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3

2004: In the first winter period the peak count of 57 was made in the March waterbird count, while the peak count for the second winter period was 27 in the November count. Away from Deep Bay, recorded at Long Valley, Kam Tin and She Shan. Monthly waterbird count figures in Deep Bay and Starling Inlet were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	31	25	57	17	1	0	3	4	16	10	27	26
SI	2	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2

134A Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* 林鵲

2003: The highest count in the first winter period was 64 during the February waterbird count, while the highest during northward passage was 227 on 23rd April. The latest record at this time occurred on 21st May, while the earliest record during return passage concerned six on 14th July. In the second half of July maximum counts were made of 61 at Lok Ma Chau and 55 at Mai Po NR. Subsequent higher counts at Mai Po NR were 195 in the August waterbird count, 219 on 7th September and 154 on 23rd September. Elsewhere at this time, 40 were recorded at Long Valley on 14th September and 45 were at Kam Tin on 18th October. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	53	64	59	116	2	0	1	195	95	74	200	38
SW	0	0	0	6	0	0	nc	nc	0	0	0	0
SI	0	nc	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

2004: Deep Bay numbers in the first winter period were relatively low, with a maximum of 25 in the first two months of the year. Spring passage saw a peak count of 141 on 9th April, with 125 remaining during 22-24th. Only two reports were received for May: ten on 4th and three on 7th. Noted on southward passage from 20th July, numbers increased to 98 on 13th August and a peak of 130 on 28th August. Away from the Deep Bay area up to 32 were recorded at Long Valley until 6th April and up to ten were present in the second part of the year. In addition, 33 were at Kam Tin on 14th April, with nine present there in July, up to 41 were counted there in December and one was at Chek Lap Kok on 28th April. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	13	25	57	141	0	0	13	327	108	80	68	136
SI	0	1	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	0

135A Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* 翹嘴鷸

2003: Northward passage was noted from 26th March, and numbers subsequently increased to 90 on 10th April and 247 on 17th April, with 241 noted on 29th April. A further influx occurred soon after the middle of May, and numbers increased to 425 on 5th June. A count of 315 was made on 20th June, while 116 were noted on 14th July, indicating that a substantial number remained during the summer. Numbers on southward passage increased in late August to a high of 173 on 7th September, although a sharp decline occurred soon after this date. The final record was of two on 21st October.

2004: Three on 24th March represented the first record of the year, but numbers remained low in early April until 250 on 11th. Subsequently, the highest counts were 247 on 24th April, 190 on 12th May and 327 on 8th June. After a count of 36 on 12th June, the next records were four on 6th July and 214 on 28th July. Numbers appear to have declined in early August, but an influx in the third week of the month saw 101 present on 21st. The final records of the southward passage period concerned singles on 1st and 29th October. There was one record away from the Deep Bay area, concerning one at Tai Mei Tuk on 26th April.

136A Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* 磯鷸

2003: Remarkably consistent numbers were recorded in the Deep Bay area during the waterbird counts of the first four months, with counts of 68, 87 and 88. The count of 90 in November was the highest of the year. Elsewhere, recorded in widespread lowland areas of the NT, Lantau and on Po Toi. Monthly waterbird count figures for this species were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	87	68	88	88	12	7	49	52	51	61	90	55
SW	3	2	2	3	3	1	nc	nc	3	3	3	2
SI	1	nc	1	1	0	0	0	0	5	1	4	2

2004: The highest count in the first winter period was 73 in the Deep Bay area in the February waterbird count, while a count of 90 in the April waterbird count indicated northward passage at this time. As usual, small numbers were recorded oversummering, including four in the June waterbird count and four at Kam Tin on 8th July. In the second half of the year, the final four waterbird counts recorded between 70 and 85 birds in the Deep Bay area. Monthly waterbird count figures in Deep Bay, Shuen Wan and Starling Inlet were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	59	73	48	90	12	4	23	54	78	72	85	70
SW	5	2	2	2	1	0	0	2	1	2	2	2
SI	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	2	3	3	1	2

137A Grey-tailed Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes* 灰尾漂鷸

2003: First recorded in the Deep Bay area on northward passage on 10th April, the highest count was of 31 on 14th May. Numbers recorded declined to two on 5th June, but this was followed by an unprecedented summer count of 58 on 20th June (JAA). Elsewhere, singles were noted at Shuen Wan on 8th and 15th May, followed by up to 16 during 19-21st, after which numbers declined to two on 29th May. Southward passage in Deep Bay was noted from 3rd August to 7th September, with the highest count being nine on 11th August. Elsewhere, one was Shuen Wan on 24th August.

2004: The first record of the year was two from Mai Po boardwalk on 14th April. The highest Deep Bay count was of 52 at Pak Nai on 13th May, while the final record at this time was of two on 8th June. Recorded on southward passage from 6th August to 18th September, with the highest count being seven on 4th September. Away from the Deep Bay area, up to two were at Tai Mei Tuk and Shuen Wan from 26th April to 6th May, while on southward passage one was at Shuen Wan during 22-23rd August.

138A Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* 翻石鷸

2003: The first record of northward passage occurred on 26th March, and up to ten were recorded until 23rd April, when 34 were counted. Numbers subsequently increased to 86 on 5th May and then declined to five on 21st May, the final Deep Bay record of the spring. The only record during the year away from the Deep Bay area was of two at Kung Chau on 8th June. The only autumn report was of one on 26th August.

2004: The first record of the northward passage period was two on 23rd March. Numbers remained at five or fewer for the first three weeks of April, after which an influx brought 80 on 4th May. The final record at this time occurred on 20th May. The only autumn record concerned one on 4th September. All records were from the Deep Bay area.

139A Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* 紅頸瓣蹼鷸

2003: The first record of the year comprised ten presumed wintering birds off the Soko Islands on 15th February, which was followed by three off the Mai Po boardwalk on 7th March. Northward passage was mainly noted during 7-19th April, with the peak count being 20 at Hoi Ha on 19th. Subsequently recorded from 30th April to 30th May, with the highest count again 20, this time at Po Toi on 4th May. There were four autumn reports, the most significant being 120 seen from Cape D'Aguilar during the close approach of Typhoon Dujuan, and one at Lok Ma Chau on 9th October.

2004: Recorded on northward passage from 21st March to 15th April, when up to 250 in southern waters on 11th April was the highest count, and again during 8-14th May when up to two were at Mai Po NR. On southward passage nine were present in Tung Lung Channel on 4th September, a juvenile was at Long Valley during 18-25th September and two were at Mai Po on 1st October.

141A Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* 丘鵲

2003: In the first winter period singles were noted at Ho Chung, Lok Ma Chau, Fung Yuen and Tai Po Kau up to 22nd February, and two were at Fung Kat Heung on 23rd January. In the second winter period reported from Cloudy Hill, Fu Tei Au, Fung Kat Heung, Kowloon Hills, Loi Tung (Sha Tau Kok), Lok Ma Chau, Long Valley, Mai Po Village, Mount Austin, Pak Nai, Sai Kung, Sha Po, Siu Hang Tsuen (Tuen Mun), Tai Po, Tai Po Kau, Tai Tam CP and Wu Kau Tang from 16th October to the year end, with the highest count being two at Cloudy Hill on 29th October and 5th November. In addition, birds were picked up at Beacon Hill, Tai Po, Kwun Tong and Mong Kok and handed to KFBG for rehabilitation. In contrast to 2002, the second part of the year in particular was good for this species.

2004: Recorded at Sha Po, Kam Tin, Fung Kat Heung, Lin Ma Hang, Kam Tin and Lam Tsuen in the first winter period up to 15th February; a migrant was present at Mai Po on 2nd April. Noted in the second winter period from 1st October to 8th November, with records from Beas River, Cloudy Hill, Fung Kat Heung, Kam Tin, Kap Lung, Kowloon Cricket Club, Mai Po Village, Robin's Nest, San Tau (Lantau), Sha Lo Tung, Shek Wu Wai and Shui Mei. Most records comprised singles, but two were noted at four sites. In addition, singles, considered to be different birds, were present at Ham Tin, Lantau during 10-12th and 23-25th November.

142A/143A Pintail/Swinhoe's Snipe *Gallinago stenura/megala* 針尾沙錐/大沙錐

In view of the extreme difficulty of field identification described in Leader & Carey (2003), records of these two species are combined. Only in-hand records or substantiated field records in which the diagnostic structure of the outer tail feathers is noted are considered sufficient. Further work on vocalisations is required before apparent differences in call can be confirmed.

2003: Spring reports were confined to up to four birds at Long Valley during 6-7th April. In autumn, noted from 6th September to 18th October, with the highest counts being 34 at Long Valley on 12th September and 30 there on 26th. Subsequently, ten were at Long Valley on 15th November and two were there on 6th December. Apart from one record at Mui Wo, all were from the Deep Bay area, Long Valley and Kam Tin.

2004: In the first part of the year reported from 10th February to 18th April, when 40 at Mai Po on 12th April and 30 at Long Valley on 1st April were the highest counts. On southward passage noted from 25th August to 15th October, with the highest counts being 20 at Mai Po on 8th September and 13 at Sha Po on 1st October. Away from the Deep Bay area and Long Valley, also recorded at Mui Wo and Kam Tin.

142A Pintail Snipe *Gallinago stenura* 針尾沙雉

2003 & 2004: As no trapping occurred during the year, no certain records were received.

143A Swinhoe's Snipe *Gallinago megala* 大沙雉

2003 & 2004: As no trapping occurred during the year, no certain records were received.

144A Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* 扇尾沙雉

2003: The highest Deep Bay area count in the first winter period was a measly four birds during the 30th January waterbird count. There was only one report from Long Valley at this time, concerning 12 birds on 10th March. Spring reports were equally scarce, and comprised singles at Mai Po NR on 22nd March at Lok Ma Chau on 27th May. The picture was rather healthier (or more complete) in the autumn, with records from 10th September and a peak count of 65 at Long Valley on 12th October. Counts of 12 in the November waterbird count and 20 at Long Valley on 6th December were the only significant numbers in the second winter period. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	4	1	2	5	0	0	0	0	1	5	21	2

2004: The highest counts in the first winter period were 12 at Tsim Bei Tsui on 16th January and 30 at Long Valley on 9th February. Northward passage was evident from early March, with 60 present at Long Valley on 4th; 50 were noted there on 1st April and the final record was of six on 18th April. Subsequently, singles were noted at Mai Po NR on 2nd May and Kam Tin on 15th May. In the second winter period noted from 7th September, and the highest autumn count was 15 at Long Valley on 27th September. In the November and December waterbird counts of the year, 37 and 45 were recorded respectively. Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	6	5	5	1	0	0	0	0	4	14	37	45

145A Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* 長嘴半蹼鶯

2003: Up to two birds were noted from 24th January to 21st February, while up to three were recorded from 10th March to 2nd May. The only other record was of one on 6th December. All records occurred in Deep Bay.

2004: Singles were seen at Mai Po on 26th March, 9th April and 16th October.

146A Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus* 半蹼鷗 NT

2003: Birds on northward passage were recorded from 6th April to 28th May, with the highest numbers occurring at the very end of April and first few days of May, when the peak count was 540 on 2nd May (YTY), a new high for Hong Kong. Although 271 were counted on 5th May, numbers quickly declined thereafter. Up to eight birds were noted on southward passage from 27th July to 23rd September. All records were from the Deep Bay area.

2004: In contrast to 2003, 2004 was a very poor year for this species. Noted in spring from 8th April to 14th May, with the highest count being 33 on 10th May. A first-summer bird was recorded on 28th June and 6th July. On southward passage up to seven birds were recorded from 13th August to 18th September. All records were from the Deep Bay area.

147A Red Knot *Calidris canutus* 紅腹濱鷗

2003: There were no reports during the first winter period. Reported on northward passage from 10th April to 20th June, with up to 15 present until 30th April, when 44 were counted. Up to 65 were present during 2-14th May, though only up to four were noted after 17th May. Recorded on southward passage from 6th September to 4th November with the highest count being five on 7th October. All records were from Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay.

2004: The first northward-bound passage bird was noted on 24th March. Numbers were five or fewer until 2nd May, when 120 were counted; subsequently, numbers declined to 25 on 12th and two on 27th May, the final record of the spring. Recorded on southward passage from 4th September to 25th October, with the highest count being six on 1st October. All records were from Deep Bay. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	0	0	0	1	7	0	2	0	5	3	0	0

148A Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* 大濱鷗

2003: Up to seven were recorded in the first winter period, with the highest count occurring on 21st February. After this date there were no records until the March waterbird count, when 34, a rather high count for so early in the spring, were counted. The highest count of the spring was 161 on 10th April, after which numbers declined to very low levels toward the end of the month. An influx of presumed first-summer birds in May peaked at 20 birds on 21st. Eighteen birds remained until 20th June, and at least one of these appears to have remained to mid-July. Southward passage was observed from 3rd August, and the highest count at this time was of 23 on 26th August, with 15 birds present on 29th September. Up to 12 were present through October, ten were counted in the November waterbird count, but there were no December records. All records were from Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay. Monthly waterbird count figures

were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	2	2	34	17	7	0	0	0	3	12	10	0

2004: The highest count in the first winter period was 24 in the January waterbird count. Northward-bound migrants were noted from at least 23rd March, and numbers subsequently increased to peak at 201 on 29th March. By the end of April 12 birds remained, though a small influx appears to have occurred in mid-May, with numbers increasing to 18 on 19th May and 25 on 8th June. Despite this high count for so late a period, no birds appear to have remained through the summer. Recorded on southward passage from 14th September to 25th October, with the highest count being 18 on 18th September. All records were from Deep Bay. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	24	0	26	31	18	0	0	0	6	2	0	0

149A Sanderling *Calidris alba* 三趾濱鷸

2003: Recorded on northward passage from 26th March to 14th May, with one to four birds present on all dates apart from 2nd May, when 22 were counted. In addition, one was present on 28th May. There were no autumn reports. All records were from Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay.

2004: Recorded on northward passage from 24th March to 8th June, with highest numbers present at the end of April and early May, when up to 16 birds were reported. All records were from Deep Bay.

150A Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis* 紅胸濱鷸

2003: There were no reports in the first winter period, and the first record of the year occurred on 22nd March. The first significant influx of northward passage occurred in the second week of April, and 503 were counted on 14th. Subsequently, the higher counts were 1,147 on 23rd, 1,824 on 2nd and 2,302 on 10th May, the highest of the spring. One bird appears to have over-summered, and southward passage was first noted on 19th July, when 15 were recorded. The highest autumn count was 80 on 26th August, while 69 were present on 7th September and the final record of the year concerned two on 4th November. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	0	0	8	218	507	0	1	42	23	0	0	0

2004: Only two birds were noted in the first winter period. Northward passage was noted from at least 23rd March, and the highest counts of the spring were 800 on 2nd and 5th April, and five counts in the range 1,621 to 2,239 from 2-12th May. The latest record at this time concerned one on 22nd June, while the earliest on southward passage was of 18 on 28th July. Subsequently, up to 12 birds were present from 6th August to 4th

September. Away from the Deep Bay area, one was at Chek Lap Kok on 26th March. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	2	0	4	65	584	0	0	12	18	0	2	0

151A Little Stint *Calidris minutus* 小濱鷸

2003: Recorded at Mai Po from 17th April to 18th May, with the peak count being six on 24th April.

2004: Recorded at Mai Po from 24th March to 7th May, with the highest count being six on 25th April; in addition, one was present on 8th June. Elsewhere, one was at Long Valley on 6th April; this is the first record away from the Deep Bay area.

152A Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* 青腳濱鷸

2003: Up to 27 birds were recorded in the Deep Bay area during the first winter period, while 23 were present during the April waterbird count; elsewhere during the same count, three were at Shuen Wan and five were at Starling Inlet. In the second part of the year the earliest record occurred on 9th October, when 13 were present at Lok Ma Chau; during the same month, there were further records of up to ten birds until 29th. Subsequently, the highest counts at each site were one at Kam Tin on 4th November, 36 alongside the Mai Po access road on 19th November, two at San Tin on 8th December, five at Tsim Bei Tsui on the same date and one at Pak Nai on 20th December. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	24	27	0	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0

2004: In the first winter period the peak counts at various sites were nine at Fung Lok Wai, one at Kam Tin, three at Lok Ma Chau, eight at Ma Tso Lung, one at Nam Sang Wai and one at Tsim Bei Tsui. In the second winter period, equivalent counts were nine at Fung Lok Wai, five at Kam Tin, three at Lok Ma Chau, one at Mai Po and three at San Tin. Extreme dates were 28th March and 15th October. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	4	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	15

153A Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta* 長趾濱鷸

2003: The first record of the year in the Deep Bay area was of eight on 10th April, while the highest count was 12 on 24th April. The latest record at this time concerned two on 17th May. The first of the autumn occurred on 14th July, when one was at Lok Ma Chau, and this was followed by counts of up to five at the same site until 24th October. At Mai Po the peak count was of 11 birds on 7th September. The only

subsequent record was of two on 19th November. Away from the Deep Bay area, at Shuen Wan three were noted on 9th April and two were present three days later on 12th.

2004: The first record of the year occurred on 11th March, when two were at Fung Lok Wai. Subsequently, the highest counts in the northward passage period were 14 at the same site on 13th April and 36 at Mai Po NR on 22nd April. The latest record at this time concerned three on 4th May. The only records in the Deep Bay area on southward passage were of singles on 1st and 30th August. Away from Deep Bay, singles were at Kam Tin on 14th April and at Long Valley on 16th September.



Plate 9. Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*
Tsim Bei Tsui, Hong Kong, 12th April 2004
John and Jemi Holmes

154A Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* 斑胸濱鷸

2003: A juvenile was present at Lok Ma Chau during 16-20th October.

2004: Singles were seen at Mai Po NR on 22nd April and from 2-9th May.

155A Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* 尖尾濱鷸

2003: Recorded on northward passage from 26th March to 5th June. No more than ten birds were counted until 24th, when numbers began to rise significantly, reaching 231, the second highest count on record in Hong Kong, on 2nd May; after a count of 183 on 17th May, numbers declined sharply. In the second half of the year recorded from

15th August to 26th October, with singles only counted in August, up to 14 present in the first half of September and two birds noted during 21-26th October. All reports were from Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay.

2004: Recorded on northward passage from 26th March to 8th June, up to seven were present until 24th April, after which date an influx began that peaked at 300 birds on 10th May (YYT), the highest on record in Hong Kong. Recorded on southward passage from 28th July to 14th September, the peak count being five on 21st August. All records were from Deep Bay.

156A Dunlin *Calidris alpina* 黑腹濱鷸

2003: No representative counts were made in either wintering period. Spring passage was typically weak, with two on 26th March, one on 27th April and one from 28th May to 20th June. The earliest arrivals in autumn were recorded on 13th September, when four were counted; five weeks later on 21st October 100 birds were present, and the highest subsequent count was 250 on 4th November. All records were from Inner Deep Bay and Mai Po. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	11	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	90

2004: The highest, and only representative, count of the first winter period was 2,430 in the January waterbird count. Only singles were recorded in the northward passage period, and these occurred from 26th March to 15th April and 2-4th May. Recorded in autumn on 13th August and from 1st October, though no more than four birds were noted until the November waterbird count when 2,303 were counted. All records were from Deep Bay. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	2,430	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	2,303	0

157A Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* 彎嘴濱鷸

2003: First recorded on 15th March, numbers subsequently increased to 1,200 on 14th April and 4,535 on 23rd, the highest count of the spring. On 2nd May 3,783 were counted, but after this date numbers fell, and only double-figure counts were made from 14th May. While 24 were present on 20th June, only one was noted on 14th July. Subsequently, up to 65 were counted in July and early August, up to 38 were counted in late August and early September, and three or fewer were recorded from 23rd September to 4th November, the date of the final record of the year. All records were from the Deep Bay area.

2004: There was one winter record, comprising one on 15th February. Numbers on northward passage increased to 6,000 on 22nd April and declined to the final record of one on 12th June. Recorded on southward passage from 28th July to 1st October, with the highest count being 89 on 6th August. All records were from Deep Bay.

158A Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus* 勺嘴鷸 CE

2003: Somewhat in contrast to the previous two years, there were a number of records during the spring. First recorded on 26th March, up to two birds were seen during 6-11th April, followed by two different individuals on 29th April and, subsequently, records of singles until 10th May.

2004: Recorded from 24th March to 8th June, the highest count being five on 29th March.

159A Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* 闊嘴鷸

2003: There were no records in the first winter period, while northward-bound migrants were noted from 26th March. Up to 12 were noted until 23rd April, when 22 were counted; numbers subsequently peaked at 123 on 2nd May. After the middle of May up to four birds were recorded, with the last occurring on 5th June. On southward passage noted from 19th July; subsequently the highest count was eight on 6th September and the latest record concerned one on 12th October.

2004: The earliest record was of 32 on 26th March, a relatively high count for so early. Numbers increased to 63 on 22nd April and 81 on 2nd May, the highest of the spring; the latest record occurred on 8th June. Recorded on southward passage from 28th July to 18th September, the highest count being five on 13th and 21st August. All records were from Deep Bay.

160A Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* 流蘇鷸

2003: Singles on 29th January and 21st February were followed by up to three birds during 7-22nd March. Thereafter, up to two were noted during 1-11th April. In autumn singles were recorded on 12th August, from 27th August to 7th September, on 23rd September and during 12-31st October.

2004: A male was seen on 15th February. This was followed by up to five from 19th March to 8th April and one during 20-27th April. In autumn, singles were recorded from 14th September to 29th October, apart from two on 1st October. All records were from Mai Po.

163A Black-tailed Gull *Larus crassirostris* 黑尾鷗

2003: The first winter period was particularly good for this species, with birds from what is presumed to be the same large flock recorded at various localities in inshore waters of western HK from Aberdeen and the west Lamma Channel north to Sham Chung and Deep Bay. The highest count was 293 at Sham Chung on 22nd February (CHF), which is the highest on record in HK; the previous peak was 200 at Starling Inlet on 17th February 1985. Up to 110 were recorded off the Mai Po boardwalk during the first four months of year, while 108 were seen off Cheung Chau on 15th February. Elsewhere, five seen at Shuen Wan on 13th February was the first record for the site,

and a flock of 50 that included only five adults, was seen nearby on 13th February; these were presumably different birds from those seen in western waters. After 22nd February, the only record away from Mai Po concerned 40 first-winters and one second-winter at Tap Mun on 13th March. Numbers seen from the boardwalk remained as high as 75 on 12th March, but subsequent counts declined to eight on 26th March and no more than two first-winter birds from 29th March to 11th April. Up to two birds apparently over-summered in Deep Bay for the first time, with records on 10th and 15th July, 10th August and on four dates in September up to 18th. Subsequently, a first-winter was seen at Tsim Bei Tsui on 6th, while one was taken into care, having been picked up at Tin Shui Wai on 27th December (KFBG).

2004: In contrast to the very high numbers recorded the previous winter, records this year were confined to up to 12 birds seen from the Mai Po boardwalk from 24th March to 19th April.

164A Mew Gull *Larus canus* 海鷗

2003: Up to two first-winter *kamschatschensis* were seen from the Mai Po boardwalk on 21st February and 7-26th March.

2004: A first-winter bird of the taxon *kamschatschensis* was seen from the Mai Po boardwalk on 17th January.

165A Heuglin's Gull *Larus heuglini* 休氏銀鷗 (烏灰銀鷗)

2003: The peak count in the first-winter period was 543, obtained in the January waterbird count; a month later 186 were recorded in the February waterbird count, while 167 were still present on 11th March. The only subsequent records at this time were of 83 off the boardwalk on 24th March, and one there on 1st April. In the second winter period the earliest record was of a third-year bird off the boardwalk on 6th September (EMSK), which is the earliest record in HK. The highest subsequent count was 20 in the December waterbird count. Away from the Deep Bay area, 75 were in north Lantau waters on 4th February and one was at the Soko Islands on 15th February.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	543	186	155	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20

2004: The highest count in the first winter period was of 237 on 17th January. A count of 168 was made as late as 24th March, and the final record was of five on 2nd April. There were no records in the second winter period. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	182	152	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

166A Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans* 黃腿鷗 (黃腳銀鷗)

2003: All records occurred in Deep Bay during the first winter period, with a peak count of 15 on 11th March. After a record of six on 24th March, up to two first-winters were recorded until 11th April.

2004: Up to nine were recorded in the first winter period, the peak count occurring on 17th January; the latest record was of two on 28th March. There were no records in the second winter period. All records came from Inner Deep Bay.

167A Slaty-backed Gull *Larus schistisagus* 灰背鷗

2003: Up to two first-winters were recorded in the first winter period until 24th March.

2004: First-winters were recorded at the Mai Po boardwalk until 30th March, with the highest count being five on the latest date.

169A Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus* 北極鷗

2003: A first-winter was seen from the Mai Po boardwalk on 3rd April (PC). This is the latest on record in Hong Kong.

170A Pallas's Gull *Larus ichthyaetus* 漁鷗

2003: At least five birds were recorded in the first-winter period: a first-winter, a second-winter and three adults, the latter not seen after 22nd February. The final sighting was on 27th March.

2004: A first-winter and an adult in breeding plumage were seen from the Mai Po boardwalk from 29th March to 2nd April.

171A Brown-headed Gull *Larus brunnicephalus* 棕頭鷗

2003: An adult was seen from the Mai Po boardwalk on 21st February.

173A Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* 紅嘴鷗

2003: The peak count in the first winter period was 12,601 during the January waterbird count. After a count of 1,018 made during the March waterbird count, the only records concerned an adult and a second calendar year bird off the Mai Po boardwalk during 9-17th April. In the second winter period, first noted during the November waterbird count, when 1,329 were counted; no doubt it was present before this date also. A count of 8,444 was made in the December count. All records received were from the Deep Bay area, apart from that of 30 in Tolo Harbour on 13th February.

Submissions of counts from other areas are encouraged. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	12,601	998	1,018	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,329	8,444

2004: The highest count in the first winter period was of 8,000 on 17th January, while the latest was of one on 27th April. In the second winter period, the first record occurred on 11th October, while the highest count was 9,322 in the December waterbird count. All records were from the Deep Bay area. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	589	97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2,067	9,322

176A Saunders's Gull *Larus saundersi* 黑嘴鷗 VU

2003: The highest count in the first winter period was 46 on 21st February. Subsequently, 24 were counted on 8th March, after which one was seen on 1st April. Recorded in the second winter period from 6th November, with the highest count being 25 on 22nd November. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Total	34	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0

2004: The peak count in the first winter period was a mere 15 in the January waterbird count, while the latest record occurred on 2nd April. The only record in the second winter period was of eight during the November waterbird count. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	15	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

178A Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus* 鬚浮鷗

2003: Recorded on northward passage between 8th and 30th April, during which time the highest count was ten on the latest date. In June, singles were at Hoi Ha on 1st and Mai Po NR during the waterbird count, and three were in Mirs Bay and one was in Tolo Channel on 28th. Autumn passage was very strong, beginning with 32 over the sea near Lamma on 6th September. Subsequently, up to 25 were at Mai Po NR during 6-13th September, and a count of 150 was made at Lok Ma Chau on 16th September. This flock was probably responsible for reports of up to eight birds in the area up to the end of the month. Subsequently, ten were at San Tin on 13th October, up to ten were seen in the Mai Po area from 27th October to 9th November and seven were present along the road to Mai Po NR on 26th November. Apart from those stated, all records were from the Deep Bay area.

2004: For both marsh terns this was a poor year, and for this species only five

records were received. These comprised four in April: 20 at Mai Po on 14th, up to seven from the Mai Po boardwalk on 24th and 27th and one at Tai Mei Tuk on 26th, and one during the August waterbird count.

179A White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* 白翅浮鷗

2003: Northward passage was relatively strong this year, with records from 27th April to 13th June. The highest counts were from Mirs Bay, where 42 were seen on 6th May, 25 were recorded four days later and 27 were noted on 8th June, while 36 were seen near Plover Cove on 10th May. In the Mai Po area up to seven were present in the last four days of April, while in the final week of May up to 15 were seen near Shek Ngau Chau. There were four autumn reports, concerning four at Lok Ma Chau on 17th October, up to 14 at Mai Po NR during 17-18th October and 20 at Mai Po San Tsuen on 21st October; these could conceivably relate to the same birds.

2004: For both marsh tern species this was a poor year, and for this species only two records were received: five from the Mai Po boardwalk on 27th April and four at Mai Po on 10th October.

180A Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* 鷗嘴噪鷗

2003: First recorded during 1-29th April, the highest count was 255 on 9th. Subsequently, 18 were recorded on 5th June and one was noted on 20th June. The only record away from the Deep Bay area was of one near Tap Mun on 31st May.

2004: Initially recorded in spring between 29th March and 19th April, when the highest count was 172 on 5th April. Subsequently, up to ten were at Mai Po NR on 8th and 12th June, and four were present there on 20th July. The only record away from the Deep Bay area was of five seen in southern waters on 9th April.

181A Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia* 紅嘴巨鷗

2003: Up to five were recorded from 25th January to 23rd March, while ten on 24th was the first certain evidence of northward passage. Subsequently, numbers peaked at 75 on 10th April, declining to two on 29th April. After this, two were noted on 28th May and five were recorded on 20th June. The only record in the second part of the year concerned three on 24th November. All records were from the Deep Bay area.

2004: A higher than usual number of birds was recorded in the first winter period, with counts of up to eight birds until 28th February. A count of 11 on 19th March heralded the start of northward passage, and numbers subsequently peaked at 150 on 30th March. After a count of 17 on 15th April, up to three were recorded from 27th April to 20th May. There were two records in the second winter period, one on 5th November and three on 12th December. All records were from the Deep Bay area.

182A Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* 普通燕鷗

2003: Late spring and early summer records comprised ten at Shek Ngau Chau on 25th May, three in Mirs Bay on 8th June and one there on 28th June. Reported in autumn from 16th August to 21st September, with the peak counts being 70 on 6th September and 38 on 31st August. Records were received from all sea areas.

2004: No records were received this year. Observers are encouraged to submit all records of this species.

183A Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* 粉紅燕鷗

2003: Eighteen off Cheung Chau on 10th May was the first record of the spring, and this was followed by up to 13 in the Tolo Harbour and Mirs Bay area from 25th May to 13th June. At Waglan Island on 21st June 43 were present, and from this date to 3rd August up to 50 were present again in the Tolo Harbour-Mirs Bay area. The only autumn record concerned one off Cape D'Aguilar on 3rd September during the close approach of Typhoon Dujuan.

2004: No records were received this year. Observers are encouraged to submit all records of this species.

184A Black-naped Tern *Sterna sumatrana* 黑枕燕鷗

2003: The first records of the year occurred on 1st May: three from the Cheung Chau ferry and 22 at Tap Mun. In the Mirs Bay area, up to 106 were recorded until the end of May; this was followed by high counts of 128 on 8th June, 170 on 26th July and 202 on 3rd August. In the aftermath of Typhoon Dujuan two were present off Cape D'Aguilar on 3rd September, while 15 were in the Waglan-Lamma Island area three days later on 6th; this was the final record of the year.

2004: In contrast to last year, only one record was received, that of one in Mirs Bay on 21st August.

185A Aleutian Tern *Sterna aleutica* 白腰燕鷗

2003: The only spring report was of one in Mirs Bay on 10th May. On southward passage, 12 were present in Mirs Bay on 23rd August, 70 were seen from Cape D'Aguilar during the close approach of Typhoon Dujuan on 3rd September, 14 were present near Lamma on 6th September, and in the same area five were recorded on 21st September.

2004: The only record of the year was of two in Mirs Bay on 21st August.

186A Bridled Tern *Sterna anaethetus* 褐翅燕鷗

2003: The first record concerned two in the Tolo Harbour-Mirs Bay area on 18th April. This was followed in the same area by counts of 255 on 10th May, 455 on 31st May and the peak count of 528 on 28th June. A total of 212 remained on 23rd August, after

which numbers declined to 21 on 6th September and, the final record of the year, seven on 13th September. Elsewhere, at Waglan Island 35 were present on 12th July and one was noted on 6th September.

2004: The only record of the year concerned 12 in Mirs Bay on 21st August.

188A Little Tern *Sterna albifrons* 白額燕鷗

2003: Initially noted from 26th March to 30th April, when the peak count was 48 on 29th April. Subsequently, up to six were counted during 21-28th May, up to three were present during 19-20th June and one was recorded on 6th September. All records were from the Deep Bay area.

2004: Initially recorded from 29th March to 27th April, with the highest count being 22 on 27th April. Subsequently up to two were recorded from 12th May to 12th June, and two were noted on 15th August. The only records away from the Deep Bay area concerned up to seven in southern waters on 9th and 11th April and one in Mirs Bay on 29th May.

189A Greater Crested Tern *Sterna bergii* 大鳳頭燕鷗

2003: There were four records during the year: singles at Shek Ngau Chau on 28th June and Kung Chau on 31st August, ten off Cape D'Aguilar on 3rd September during the close approach of Typhoon Dujuan and one near Tap Mun on 6th September.

2004: There were two records during the year: singles in southern waters on 9th and 11th April.

190A Ancient Murrelet *Synthliboramphus antiquus* 扁嘴海雀

2004: One was seen in Tolo Harbour on 29th May (YTY); this is the latest spring record in Hong Kong, the previous latest having occurred on 18th May 1975.

191D Rock Dove *Columba livia* 原鴿

2003 & 2004: No significant reports.

192A Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis* 山斑鳩

2003: A total of 85 birds at Ng Tung Chai on 23rd January was the peak count of the year. Also in January, there were 26 birds on the lower slopes of Pat Sin Leng CP on 5th and 15 at Sam Mun Tsai on 22nd. The only other reports in the first three months were of up to four at Chi Ma Wan, Chuk Yuen and Shek Pik (Lantau) between 17th January and 16th February and 20 at Mai Po on 28th March. In a relatively light spring passage, singles were noted at Cheung Chau, Mai Po and Hang Tau during 7-26th April, ten were at Lok Ma Chau on 16th April and four were at Mai Po on 5th May. All subsequent

reports during the summer were from Lok Ma Chau, where for the second successive year breeding is thought to have occurred. Up to two birds were noted there on seven dates between 28th May and 5th September, including two juveniles of different ages on 16th June, a displaying adult on 12th August and a single juvenile on 15th August (JAA, YHK). Following a report of one at Mai Po on 10th October, flocks of 24 at Lamma on 16th and ten at Mai Po on 17th October were the first clear signs of passage or the return of winter visitors. Highest counts of the second winter period were 42 at Kam Tin on 6th November and 25 at Mai Po on 30th December. In addition, there were reports of three at Sha Lo Tung on 26th October, eight at Sha Po on 1st November, one at Mui Wo on 27th November and 23rd December, and two at Lai Chi Wo on 30th November.

2004: This was generally a poor year, with relatively small numbers reported and nearly all records from the Deep Bay area. Except for one or two at Lok Ma Chau, San Tin and Mai Po on six dates between 18th May and 11th September, the third year with summer records in this area, all reports were from the beginning of the year until 15th May and from 30th September to the end of the year. Peak counts were eight at Ma Tso Lung on 23rd February, ten at Long Valley on 14th April, ten on the Luk Keng-Lai Chi Wo area on 12th November, ten at Mai Po on 26th November and 150 at Mai Po on 5th December.

193A Red Turtle Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica* 火斑鳩

2003: Sixteen at Mong Tseng on 21st February and 15 at the same locality on 28th April were the highest counts of a relatively poor first winter period. Other reports in this period were of three at Tseung Kwan O on 9th February, up to five in the Deep Bay area during 13-21st April and one at Tap Mun on 19th April. A pair at Shuen Wan on 17th May and a singing male at Lok Ma Chau on 27th May led to hopes that this dove might breed for the first time in Hong Kong, but there were no further reports until 14th August when one individual was noted at Lok Ma Chau. Subsequently, following reports of up to six at Mai Po on 6th and 23rd September, main arrival was noted in October, when there were 34 at Fung Lok Wai on 5th and 21 at Lok Ma Chau on 16th. What was presumably the flock first found at Fung Lok Wai was seen nearby at Tsim Bei Tsui on 8th December, when 33 birds were noted. In addition, there were widespread reports of up to five birds elsewhere in the Deep Bay area between 4th October and 20th December.

2004: Records in the first winter period comprised up to ten at Tsim Bei Tsui between 16th January and 22nd February, one at Mai Po on 28th February, ten at Mau Ping on 8th May and one at Kam Tin on 16th May. There were no summer reports. All reports in the second half of the year were from the Deep Bay area between 26th August and 23rd November, with peak counts of 20 at Mai Po, ten at Fung Lok Wai and ten at fishponds beside the Shenzhen River, all during 9-12th October.

194A Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis* 珠頸斑鳩

2003 & 2004: No significant reports.

196A Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica* 綠背金鳩

2003: Singles were reported at the Lok Ma Chau Police Station (January, June, August), Lau Shui Heung (February), Mai Po NR (March), Tai Po Kau, Cape D'Aguilar and Dong Ping Chau (April), Ho Chung, Shek Kong Catchment and Sha Lo Tung (October) and Ng Tung Chai, San Tong Po, Kowloon Hills, Po Toi and Sai Kung (December).

2004: Reported this year at Bride's Pool and Mount Davis (January), Wonderland Villas, Kwai Chung (January and February), Ng Tung Chai (January-March, August, October), Kap Lung (February), Sha Tau Kok Road (March), Dong Ping Chau (two on 2nd April), Ham Tin, Lantau (May), Sha Tin Pass (July and August), KFBG and Tai Po Kau (August), Fung Yuen (September), On Po Tsun (October), Lady Clementi's Drive and So Lo Pun (November) and Pak Sha O (December).

197A Thick-billed Green Pigeon *Treron curvirostra* 綠背金鳩



Plate 10. Thick-billed Green Pigeon *Treron curvirostra*
Ha Fa Shan, Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong, December 2004
Martin Hale

2004: One was present at Ha Fa Shan, Tsuen Wan, spending most of its time in a *Ficus virens* tree, from 28th November to 2nd December (YWW *et al.*). If present outside these dates, observers are requested to submit records to allow documentation of this. There have been three previous records, only one of which was seen alive, during the period 8th November to 15th January.

201A Chestnut-winged Cuckoo *Clamator coromandus* 紅翅鳳頭鵒

2003: In a rather poor year, singles were recorded at just four localities: at Ng Tung Chai between 11th and 29th April, Sha Lo Tung on 10th May, Fung Yuen on 15th June and Hang Tau on 20th June.

2004: Reported in ones or twos from widespread parts of the NT between 12th April and 7th August, as follows: Shan Tong New Village between 12th April and 22nd May, Tai Po Kau during 14-25th April and on 7th August (a juvenile), Robin's Nest on 15th April, Shuen Wan on 20th April, Sha Tin Pass on 28th April and 22nd June, Ho Chung on 1st May, Ng Tung Chai on 7th May, Chung Mei on 14th May, Lion Rock on 26th May, Kap Lung on 12th June and Wing Kei Tsuen on 27th July. In addition, one was at Tai Ho Wan (Lantau) on 30th April.

202A Large Hawk Cuckoo *Hierococcyx sparverioides* 鷹鵒

2003: As usual, nearly all reports referred to singing birds, and these were noted between 23rd February (at Ng Tung Chai) and 26th June (at Shuen Wan), which are typical dates. Except for ten noted in the Ho Chung area on 30th May, which equalled the previous peak count, all other reports were of up to three birds. Most records were from traditional sites in the central and eastern NT, but there were also reports from Sha Tin Pass on 29th March, the northern NT, Long Valley and Tsim Bei Tsui in mid April and Hang Tau on 26th April and 12th May. One seen at Tai Mo Shan on 20th July was the latest record of the year.

2004: Vocalising birds were noted between 28th February (at Sha Lo Tung and Wu Kau Tang) and 14th June (at Shuen Wan). Most records referred to one or two birds, but there were also reports of three at Sha Lo Tung on 22nd March, Shek Kong Catchment on 1st and 6th April and Tai Ho Wan (Lantau) on 27th April. Away from traditional sites in the central and eastern NT, records were received from Wonderland Villas (Kwai Chung) and Mui Wo (Lantau) in March and Siu Lam, Sha Tin Pass and Lion Rock in April and May. There was one record of a juvenile, possibly hosted by a Common Magpie *Pica pica* – at Shui Mei, Kam Tin on 12th and 15th July (JAA).

203A Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo *Hierococcyx fugax* 棕腹杜鵑

2004: Singles, mostly vocalising, were reported at Kap Lung during 2-6th April (EMSK, RWL, GJC), Ng Tung Chai during 2-12th April (EMSK), Bride's Pool on 24th April (MLC) and Tai Po Kau on 3rd April, 10th April and 26th May (GJC, RWL, GH).

204A Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus* 四聲杜鵑

2003: Recorded between 4th April and 7th June, typical dates, with a further record on 8th July involving a begging juvenile at Lok Ma Chau being fed by Black Drongos *Dicrurus macrocercus* (JAA). Three at Dong Ping Chau on 18th April was the largest single site count, and all other records were of one or two birds. Just over half of reports were from the vicinity of fishponds in the Deep Bay area, almost a quarter were from islands (Cheung Chau, Dong Ping Chau and Tap Mun) and the rest, except for one at Shek O on 18th April, were from the eastern NT. Totals recorded in each month were 16 in April, four in both May and June, and one in July.

2004: Records were received from Nam Sang Wai on 9th April, Tsim Bei Tsui on 10th April, Mai Po on the same day, Kam Tin on 14th April, Robin's Nest on 15th April, Lok Ma Chau (two) on 18th April, Shuen Wan on 20th April and 4th May, Tai Ho Wan (Lantau) (two) on 21st and 27th April, Long Valley on 15th May, Luk Keng on 18th May and Tai Mo Shan on 13th June. Most records referred to vocalising birds and all were of single birds except as indicated above.

205A Horsfield's/Himalayan Cuckoo *Cuculus horsfieldi/saturatus* 中杜鵑

2003: Spring records comprised one at Mai Po and two at Po Toi, all on 6th April. In autumn, singles were at Long Valley and Mai Po on 18th October.

2004: One at Mai Po on 5th April was the only spring record. In autumn singles were at Ping Kong and On Po on 5th September and Mai Po on 1st October.

207A Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus* 八聲杜鵑

2003: Recorded between 16th January and 2nd November, with birds noted singing between 22nd February and 23rd June. At least four and possibly as many as seven were at Long Valley on 25th October and there were also three or four at Lok Ma Chau on 29th July and 18th August; all other records were of one or two birds. In a similar pattern to previous years, all individuals reported in early winter and autumn were in the Deep Bay area, especially Long Valley and Lok Ma Chau, whereas those in spring and early summer were from much more widespread areas of the NT, including Ng Tung Chai and Shuen Wan, and there was also a rare record from Cheung Chau on 27th March. Single juveniles were noted at Palm Springs on 27th May and Ng Tung Chai on 10th June, the former with two Common Tailorbirds *Orthotomus sutorius*.

2004: Recorded in ones and twos between 22nd January and 7th November, with birds noted singing between 22nd February and 25th July. As in previous years, all birds in early winter and in autumn were from the Deep Bay area, especially Mai Po, Long Valley and Kam Tin, whilst those in spring and summer were from wider areas of the NT including Ng Tung Chai, She Shan, Shuen Wan and the Chinese University campus.

207.5A Drongo Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris* 烏鵲

2002: One was at Tai Po Kau on 21st September (PKK). This is the second Hong Kong record.

2004: A juvenile was at Tai Po Kau on 24th August (PW, MW, RWL).

208A Common Koel *Eudynamys scolopacea* 噪鵲

2003: Though rather fewer records than usual were received, this species was recorded in all months except July and December, with the earliest singing birds noted at Hong Lok Yuen on 22nd January and the latest at Shuen Wan on 23rd June. All records were from the NT. Highest counts were at Shuen Wan, where at least four were singing on 9th February and up to three were seen entering a fruiting *Ficus superba* tree on several dates in November. An albino was noted at Lok Ma Chau on 16th April.

2004: The first singing bird of the year was at Shuen Wan on 10th January. Elsewhere, four were present at a nullah at San Po Kong (Kowloon) on 8th March, one was singing in the lower section of the orchard at Tai Po Kau on 13th March, a rare report from this locality, and 16 were at Mai Po on 11th September (JAA), the largest single-site count on record. Records were otherwise unremarkable.

209A Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis* 褐翅鴉鵲

2003 & 2004: No significant reports.

210A Lesser Coucal *Centropus benghalensis* 小鴉鵲

2003 & 2004: No significant reports.

213A Collared Scops Owl *Otus lettia* 領角鴞

2003: Downy young were noted in early May at two localities. At Po Toi, following the discovery of an adult at a tree hole on 27th April, an adult and up to two downy young were seen between 3rd and 11th May (CHF, PW, MK), and at Hang Tau, two adults and three downy young were noted between 2nd and 11th May (JGH, JW). Also notable this year was a series of sightings of one or two birds at Cloudy Hill between 11th September and 26th December. Other localities where this species was recorded were Nam Chung, Shuen Wan, Ting Kok, Tai Tong Wu, Wong Chuk Yeung and Shek Pik Catchment.

2004: Nesting pairs were again noted at Po Toi, where a nest with three eggs was discovered on 10th April, and at Hang Tau, where an adult pair with up to three young were seen on 1st and 13th May. Visits to Cloudy Hill and Robin's Nest between 30th September and 2nd November led to fairly frequent sightings of one or two birds (JW). Reports were also received from Siu Lam, Ping Kong, Luk Keng, KFBG, Ng Tung Chai,

Lam Tsuen, Wun Yiu, Ting Kok, Sai O and Pak Shek O.

214A Eurasian Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo* 鵰鴞

2003: Two records of single birds were received, both in February: at Yuen Tau Shan (Castle Peak Range) on 9th and at Shek Pik (Lantau) on 16th.

2004: One was noted roosting on a cliff-ledge at Tsim Bei Tsui on 28th February and another was at Tai Ho Wan (Lantau) on 27th April.

215A Brown Fish Owl *Ketupa zeylonensis* 褐漁鴞



Plate 11. Brown Fish Owl *Ketupa zeylonensis*
Pak Nai, Hong Kong, 28th October 2004
John and Jemi Holmes

2003: One was seen on Lantau on 5th November.

2004: One carrying a snake in the Pak Nai-Nim Wan area on 28th October was the only report.

216A Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides* 斑頭鵂鶯

2003: Single birds were recorded at Chung Pui and Luk Keng (both in January), Shuen Wan (January, February, November), Mai Po (January, August, October), Ha Pak Nai (February), Wo Keng Shan (April), Hang Tau (May, November) and Shui Mei (October, November).

2004: Recorded in most months of the year and from the following localities, all in the NT: Chung Mei (January), Tai Po Kau (January, February), Kam Tin (January, May, November), Luk Keng (January, December), Wu Kau Tang (February), Hang Tau (February, October), Mai Po (April, August, October), Bride's Pool, Wu Kau Tang, Ping Kong and Long Valley (September), Tsim Bei Tsui and On Po Tsuen (October), and Tsim Bei Tsui (December). Except for reports of two at Kam Tin on 31st January, Ping Kong on 11th September and Bride's Pool on 22nd September, all records were of single birds.

217A Northern Boobok *Ninox japonica* 鷹鴞

2004: One was at Wo Hop Shek on 19th October (JAPW, JGH).

219A Grey Nightjar *Caprimulgus indicus* 普通夜鷹

2003: One individual seen at Cloudy Hill on 11th September was the only record.

2004: The only reports were of singles at Sha Lo Tung on 22nd March, Kam Tin on 7th May and Cloudy Hill during 19-21st October.

220A Savanna Nightjar *Caprimulgus affinis* 林夜鷹

2003: All records this year were from the northern NT on dates between 9th January and 23rd October. The highest counts were eight at Kam Tin on 10th October, three at Chau Tau on 17th May and three at Wo Keng Shan on 14th October; all other reports were of one or two birds. Records were received from two localities where this species is traditionally scarce: in the Mai Po village area during 9-23rd January and on 25th July and at Long Valley on 25th March. Other localities where this species was reported were Cloudy Hill, Fu Tei Au, Fung Lok Wai, Luen Wo Hui, Mong Tseng, Robin's Nest, San Tin and Wah Shan Road.

2004: Recorded in all months of the year, with reports up to 20th June typically referring to vocalising birds and all subsequent reports being of birds seen. Peak counts were six at Kam Tin on 2nd August, five at Ping Yeung on 24th August and ten there on 22nd October. Other localities in the northern NT with records were Pak Nai, Tsim Bei Tsui, Mai Po, Lin Ma Hang, Hang Tau, Robin's Nest and Man Uk Pin. Elsewhere in the NT, singles were noted at Wu Kau Tang on 28th February, Ng Tung Chai on 1st and 9th March, Cloudy Hill on 27th October and Luk Keng on 24th December, and there were reports from Lantau where up to two were noted at Mui Wo on 15th March and at Tai Ho Wan on 21st and 27th April.



Plate 12. Savanna Nightjar *Caprimulgus affinis*
Robin's Nest, near Fanling, Hong Kong, 6th November 2004
John and Jemi Holmes

223A Silver-backed Needletail *Hirundapus cochinchinensis* 灰喉針尾雨燕

2003: Two at Sham Chung on 2nd March (HFC) was the only confirmed record and the earliest in spring by 11 days, the previous earliest date being 13th March 1992. In addition, four unidentified needletails were noted at Ng Tung Chai on 2nd April.

2004: Five at Tsim Bei Tsui on 28th March were followed by three at KFBG on 1st April, 12 at Tai Mo Shan, two at Mong Tseng and 60 at Sek Kong Catchment (at dusk), all on 2nd April and 11 at Ng Tung Chai on 9th April.

225A Pacific Swift *Apus pacificus* 白腰雨燕

2003: Spring passage was again very light. One or two were seen on four dates between 17th January and 30th March, the localities being Ma Tso Lung, Tai Sang Wai, Sham Chung and Sai Kung. Highest counts in April were 12 at Shek O quarry on 18th and 20 at Tap Mun on 19th. In addition, five were at Mai Po on 6th and up to four were at Po Toi on 6th and 13th. In May, singles were at Shuen Wan on 4th and Po Toi on 11th and two were noted at Chep Lak Kok on 22nd. In June, seven were at Tai Long Wan on 14th June and a total of 80, the peak count of the year, were found at the Ninepins on 21st June with a further 20 at a cliff face in Rocky Harbour on the same day, both being potential breeding sites. However, none were found at either site on a return visit on 12th July and the final records of the year concerned three at Tai Mo Shan on 1st July,

one at Sha Lo Wan on 24th July, two at Sai Kung on 4th August and one at Lamma on 6th September.

2004: One at Ma Tso Lung on 8th March was the first of the year. A weak spring passage then ensued, with occasional sightings of one or two at Mui Wo, Mai Po, Lok Ma Chau, Mong Tseng and Tai Mo Shan between 16th March and 2nd April, followed by 13 over fishponds beside the Mai Po access road on 4th April and 20 at Po Toi on 11th April, the largest spring flock. Two at Lin Fa Shan (Lantau) on 10th April was the only other record of the month. Subsequently, 11 were noted at Lo Kei Wan (Lantau) on 3rd May, whilst a boat trip into eastern waters on 5th June led to observations of 50 at the Ninepins and 20 at Waglan, with breeding suspected on both islands. There were two further records: two at Sham Chung on 31st July and five at Lok Ma Chau on 12th October.

226A Little Swift *Apus affinis* 小白腰雨燕

2003: The only three-figure counts of the year were of 120 on 25th January, 300 on 7th March and 150 on 11th March, all at fishponds beside the Mai Po access road.

2004: Spring passage was stronger this year, the three largest counts being 100 at Lok Ma Chau on 21st January, 200 at fishponds beside the Mai Po access road on 15th February and 1,000 over the Mong Tseng hills on 2nd April (RWL).

227A Crested Kingfisher *Ceryle lugubris* 冠魚狗

2003: Singles at Tai Lam Chung on 4th January and Chung Mei on 6th January were the only reports of the year.

2004: Singles were noted at Chung Mei on 23rd and 31st January and nearby at Tai Mei Tuk on 25th April.

228A Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* 斑魚狗

2003: Recorded throughout the year in Deep Bay, with occasional records in adjacent areas at Yau Tam Mei San Tsuen, Ho Sheung Heung, Lok Ma Chau and Long Valley. The peak count of 20 in a co-ordinated count in Deep Bay on 10th August is the second highest on record. Outside of the Deep Bay area, up to three were recorded in most months of the year at Starling Inlet, Shuen Wan and also occasionally at Tai Lam Chung, Lai Chi Wo and Sok Kwu Wan (Lamma). Results of co-ordinated counts in Deep Bay were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	8	4	6	9	8	16	6	20	7	15	8	6

2004: Recorded throughout the year in Deep Bay, with occasional records in adjacent areas at Kam Tin, Lok Ma Chau and Long Valley. The peak count of 26 in a co-ordinated count in Deep Bay on 12th December is the highest on record, surpassing a co-ordinated count of 24 in Deep Bay on 16th September 2001. Outside of the Deep Bay

area, there were sightings of up to four at Tai Lam Chung throughout the year, one or two at Shuen Wan between January and May, and also one or two occasionally at Chung Mei, Kuk Po, Yim Tso Ha and Starling Inlet. Results of co-ordinated counts in Deep Bay were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	6	6	9	19	23	19	13	12	11	21	18	26

229A Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* 普通翠鳥

2003: Recorded throughout the year at Deep Bay, Starling Inlet and Shuen Wan. A total of 66, the highest count of the year, was logged during a co-ordinated count in Deep Bay on 14th September. This is the second highest count on record following 67 in a co-ordinated count in August 2000. Elsewhere, four were at Mui Wo on 21st August and there were occasional reports of one or two at Kowloon Hills, Lai Chi Wo, Long Valley, Sam Mun Tsai, Sham Chung, Ting Kok, Wun Yiu and Po Toi. Four juveniles, probably locally bred, were noted at Lam Tsuen on 13th April, and a pair was nest-building at Fung Kat Heung on 12th February. Results of co-ordinated counts in Deep Bay were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	47	31	37	17	21	15	30	57	66	41	59	38

2004: Recorded throughout the year in Deep Bay, the peak counts being 55 and 64 in the August and October co-ordinated counts, respectively. Also recorded throughout the year at Starling Inlet (up to seven) and Shuen Wan (up to four). Elsewhere, one or two were occasionally noted at Long Valley, Tai Lam Chung, Siu Lam, Ng Tung Chai, Lam Tsuen, Nai Chung, Chung Mei, Kowloon Hills catchment, Kai Tak Nullah and Po Toi (one on 11th April). Results of co-ordinated counts in Deep Bay were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	40	30	22	25	23	20	38	55	28	64	36	27

230A White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis* 白胸翡翠

2003: Recorded in all months. As usual, most reports were from Deep Bay, Starling Inlet and Shuen Wan, and largest numbers were recorded during co-ordinated counts in Deep Bay, including 35 on 19th January and 33 on 15th July, the peak counts of the year. Elsewhere, singles were noted at Sham Chung and the Sokos (both in February), Chau Tau, Ng Tung Chai and Dong Ping Chau (April), Lau Fau Shan (May), Cape D'Aguilar, Mui Wo and Chek Lap Kok (August) and Po Toi (September), and up to four were at Long Valley between 26th September and 18th December. The only records indicating possible breeding concerned a pair observed copulating at Tsim Bei Tsui on 13th April and single trilling birds at Shuen Wan between 9th April and 12th May. Results of co-ordinated counts in Deep Bay were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	35	19	20	2	3	9	33	29	31	30	25	25

2004: Recorded in all months. The peak count this year was 39 during the co-ordinated Deep Bay count of 14th November. Elsewhere, up to three were regularly noted at Long Valley, the Siu Lam/Tai Lam Chung area, Shuen Wan and Starling Inlet, and there were occasional reports of one or two at Kam Tin, Nai Chung, Tai Mei Tuk and Sam A Tsuen, and on Lantau at Tai Ho Wan, Ham Tin and Tung Chung. No breeding records were received this year. Results of co-ordinated counts in Deep Bay were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	17	11	22	0	3	6	27	24	13	31	39	24

231A Black-capped Kingfisher *Halcyon pileata* 藍翡翠

2003: Recorded up to 13th April and from 12th August. Results of co-ordinated counts in Deep Bay, which are shown below, include a count of 18th on 9 November, the highest since 19th October 1986 when 20 were logged at Mai Po. Away from Deep Bay, up to four were noted at Starling Inlet and Shuen Wan in most winter months, five were logged along the northern Lantau coast on 5th November and there were isolated reports of singles at Sham Chung on 22nd February, Kam Tin on 12th August and 28th October and Lai Chi Wo on 1st October. Results of co-ordinated counts in Deep Bay were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	9	5	5	3	0	0	0	0	1	11	18	12

2004: Recorded up to 18th April and from 23rd September, with the exception of singles at Mai Po on 20th May and 24th July. As usual most reports were from the Deep Bay area, including 11 in the co-ordinated count of 25th January and ten in the count of 12th December. Five in front of the Mai Po boardwalk on 17th April were thought to be newly-arrived migrants. Elsewhere, one or two were present at Shuen Wan in both winter periods, one was at Ham Tin, Lantau on 23rd and 27th September, three were noted at Tung Chung on 25th September, and there were singles at Yung Shue Au and Kuk Po on 4th January, Nai Chung on 22nd November and 6th December and Pak Sha O on 24th December. Results from co-ordinated counts in Deep Bay were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	11	4	4	2	0	0	1	1	1	9	6	10

234A Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus* 栗喉蜂虎

2003: Spring records comprised five at Mai Po on 21st April, two there on 25th April and one at Palm Springs on 1st May. The only autumn record was of six adults at Mai Po on 25th September. In addition, reports of unidentified bee-eaters concerned three at Po Toi on 13th April, two at Mai Po on 16th October and one there on 6th November.

2004: In spring, singles were at Mai Po on 4th and 25th April and there were three there on 14th April. In autumn, seven at Mai Po on 27th September were followed by six there on 1st and 7th October and 13 there on 9th October. There was one other record: 37 at Lok Ma Chau on 5th October.

235A Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis* 三寶鳥

2003: There were just four spring records: three at Cheung Chau on 8th April, two at Po Toi on 13th April, three at Ho Chung on 4th May and four at Ng Tung Chai on 5th May. Except for one at Ho Chung woods on 6th September (MT), which equalled the earliest date on southward passage, autumn records spanned the period 21st September to 19th October. These comprised up to two birds at Po Toi on three dates, singles at Sai Kung and Lam Tsuen on 25th and 26th September, three at Lamma on 29th September, up to two at Ng Tung Chai on four dates between 29th September and 14th October, and singles at Ng Tung Chai on 1st, Ngau Tam Mei on 8th and KFBG on 11th October.

2004: Spring records comprised two at Siu Lam on 27th April and one at Ho Chung on 15th May. Autumn passage was considerably stronger, with 14 at Ng Tung Chai on 21st September the highest autumn count on record. There were also sightings at this locality of seven on 20th September, two on 22nd and 28th September and singles on a further four dates to 2nd October. Elsewhere, singles at Lam Tsuen on 15th September and Fung Kat Heung on 11th October were the first and last of the autumn and one or two were reported between these dates at KFBG, Fung Yuen, Lion Rock, Man Cheung Po (Lamma), Nam Sang Wai and Kam Tin.

236A Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops* 戴勝

2003: Except at Lok Ma Chau on 25th June and Kam Tin on 13th August, all records occurred in the winter periods up to 2nd April and from 10th October. Most reports were from the Deep Bay area, especially Lok Ma Chau and Mai Po in the first winter period and Kam Tin, Tsim Bei Tsui and Lok Ma Chau in the second winter period, with occasional records at Ha Pak Nai, Sha Po, Lut Chau and Long Valley. One of two individuals present at Lok Ma Chau on 5th March was singing. Away from the Deep Bay area, records were received from Magazine Gap on 8-9th January, Chek Lap Kok on 6th February, Hong Lok Yuen on 22nd March, Shek O Golf Club on 1st December and Plover Cove on 25th December. All records were of single birds except as indicated above.

2004: Recorded up to 17th March and from 13th October, with all records from the Deep Bay area and hinterland. In the first winter period, one or two were reported at Tsim Bei Tsui and nearby Fung Lok Wai between 11th January and 17th March and singles were noted at Long Valley on 9th and 16th February and Kam Tin on 27th February. In the second winter period, one or two were regularly sighted at Long Valley between 6th November and 18th December and singles were noted at Kam Tin on 13th October, Mai Po on 2nd November, Fung Lok Wai on 9th November and Nam Sang Wai on 4th December.

237A Great Barbet *Megalaima virens* 大擬鴛(大擬啄木鳥)

2003: Recorded at Shing Mun, Tai Po Kau, Kap Lung, KFBG and Ho Chung woods.

2004: Up to three were reported at Shing Mun, Tai Po Kau, Kap Lung, KFBG, Ng Tung Chai and the Kowloon Hills catchment area.

238A Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* 蟻鴛

2003: Recorded up to 26th March and from 14th September. With the exception of singles at Sha Lo Tung on 17th January and near Tseung Kwan O on 9th February, all records were from the Deep Bay area, especially Lok Ma Chau and Mai Po which together accounted for more than 66% of sightings. At Lok Ma Chau, one or two were regularly noted between 9th January and 5th March and from 18th September to 30th December, whilst at Mai Po singles were reported on two dates in January and on seven dates between 14th September and 30th December. Elsewhere in the Deep Bay area, there were occasional reports of singles at San Tin, Long Valley, Kam Tin, Ma Tso Lung, Fung Kat Heung and Sha Po.

2004: Recorded up to 17th April and from 29th September. In the first winter period, two were at Mai Po on 20th March and singles were at Lok Ma Chau on 30th January, Tsim Bei Tsui on 1st February, Palm Springs on 20th March and Ma Tso Lung on 21st March and 17th April. Birds were more widespread in the second winter period, with one or two reported at Tsim Bei Tsui/Fung Lok Wai (1st October to 8th December), Mai Po (1-19th October), Long Valley (6th October to 12th December), Shenzhen River/San Tin (9-13th October) and Ma Tso Lung (22nd November to 6th December), and also single birds at Shuen Wan (12th October), Airfield Road (20th October), Kam Tin (4th November to 7th December) and Nam Sang Wai (23rd November).

243A Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis* 雲雀

2003: One was at Harbour Island (Pak Sha Tau), Plover Cove on 4th January (RWL); this is the fourth Hong Kong record. Although noted to be present in this area by Viney *et al.* (1994), this is the first substantiated record.

247A Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis* 雲雀

2003: All records were from the Deep Bay area, especially Long Valley and Mai Po, between 15th October and 11th November. At Long Valley, up to four were reported during 15-20th October and up to seven were there on 24-25th October. At Mai Po, four were noted on 27th October and up to eight were there during 1-9th November. There were two other records: five were at Kam Tin on 19th October and one was at San Tin on 11th November.

2004: Following singles at Kam Tin on 18th October, Long Valley on 23rd October and Mai Po on 23rd and 25th October, two were noted at Mai Po on 27th October and four were present on 31st October.

248A Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula* 小雲雀

2004: A total of 33 were at Chek Lap Kok airport on 19th February (GJC), the highest count since the late 1970s when up to 52 were recorded at the former airport at Kai Tak. The only other records involved singles at Long Valley on 30th January, Fung Lok Wai on 12th February and Kam Tin on 27th February.

249A Pale Martin *Riparia diluta* 灰沙燕

2003: There were two reports: one at Mai Po on 18th October and three at Fung Lok Wai on 6th November.

250A Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* 灰沙燕

2003: All records were from Deep Bay between 29th March to 26th April in spring and from 16th September to 14th November in autumn. Following two at Tsim Bei Tsui on 29th March, up to ten were noted in the Mai Po area, especially the fishponds beside the Mai Po access road, during 4-10th April and four were over Mai Po NR on 26th April. There were no other spring records. In autumn, up to two at Lok Ma Chau during 16-18th September were followed by up to five at Mai Po during 16-26th October, ten at San Tin the next day, singles at Mai Po and San Tin on 1st and 11th November, and up to 15 at Lok Ma Chau during 12-14th November, the final records of the year.

2004: Following three at Ma Tso Lung on 25th January, there were no further records until April when up to five were noted at Mai Po and Fung Lok Wai on five dates between 2nd and 18th. These were the only spring records. Singles at Mai Po on 25 September and Lut Chau four days later were the first of the autumn. Subsequently 10-50 were regularly seen at Mai Po (and also once at San Tin) during 1-22nd October and gatherings of 200, the largest number yet recorded in autumn, were counted at a roost at Mai Po on 8th October and again on 12th October (PJL). Four at Mai Po on 20th November was the final record of the year.

251A Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* 家燕

2003: Recorded between 31st January and 27th May and again from 6th September to 20th October. The largest flocks, all in Deep Bay, were 100 at Shenzhen River on 7th March, 150 at Tsim Bei Tsui on 23rd March, up to 300 beside the Mai Po access road between 28th March and 10th April and 100 there on 26th September. Also of note were 40 at Wun Yiu on 3rd February. Breeding was noted at Ng Tung Chai from 24th February, with the first fledged young seen on 29th April, and also in the Shuen Wan-Ting Kok area where the peak summer count, involving both adults and juveniles, was 80 on 27th May.

2004: Following one at Tsim Bei Tsui on 17th January, the first record of the year, 75 at Ma Tso Lung on 26th January remained the only sizeable total reported until 27 March when 300 were beside the Mai Po access road. The next day, 1,200, the peak count of the spring, were at Tsim Bei Tsui and three fledged young were noted at Wing

Kei Tsuen on 31st March. No further reports of significance were received until the autumn when a roost at Mai Po attracted 800 birds on 8th October and 1,800 (including Red-rumped Swallows *Hirundo daurica*) on 12th October. Thereafter, there were only four records: one at Plover Cove on 12th November, 20 at Mai Po on 20th November, one there on 22nd December and finally two at Port Island on 24th December.

252A Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* 金腰燕

2003: This species was recorded breeding in Hong Kong for the first time this year. At Shui Mei (Kam Tin), at least two adults were noted between 2nd May and 7th August, with nesting observed from 10th May and a single fledged young seen on 31st July and 7th August (JAA). All other records occurred between 2nd January and 9th April and from 27th September to 15th December. Six at Mai Po San Tsuen on 2nd January, the peak count of the first period, were followed by singles at Shuen Wan on 18th January, Long Valley on 18th and 22nd March, Tsim Bei Tsui on 23rd March and the Mai Po access road on 9th April. In the second period, the peak counts were 12 at Mai Po NR on 1st November and 34 at Lok Ma Chau on 15th December, and there were also occasional reports of up to four from other localities in the Deep Bay area including the Mai Po access road, Kam Tin, Long Valley, San Tin and Tsim Bei Tsui. Elsewhere, the only reports were of two at KFBG on 26th October and seven at Plover Cove on 13th December.

2004: Breeding was recorded at Kam Tin for the second successive year: a nesting pair and another pair feeding three juveniles were observed at Shui Mei on 12th May and a juvenile was seen there on 19th July (JAA). In addition, up to two were noted at Kam Tin on eight further dates (31st January to 27th February, 14th April to 10th July, 3-5th November). Elsewhere, up to six were at Ma Tso Lung during 20-26th January, singles were at Mai Po on 12th April and Ho Chung on 15th May, and records thereafter comprised one at Lut Chau on 29th September, occasional sightings of up to 10 at Mai Po during 2-17th October and finally two at Starling Inlet on 12th November.

253A Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus* 煙腹毛腳燕

2003: Five reports were received for the year: in March, two at Ng Tung Chai on 7th, two at Mai Po fish ponds on 11th and eight at Long Valley on 22nd; two at Tam Kon Chau on 9th April and one at KFBG on 2nd November.

2004: There was only one record during the year - three at Mai Po on 1st October.

254A Forest Wagtail *Dendronanthus indicus* 林鵲鵲

2003: Five birds were recorded during the year, the first being one at Tai Sang Wai on the relatively unusual winter date of 14th February. Subsequent birds occurred in autumn, as usual, with singles on 1st September along the Wilson Trail above Repulse Bay and at Tai Po Kau, at Mai Po NR during 13-14th September and at Kowloon Hills during 12-13th December.

2004: There were three records of singles during the year: between Tung Chung and Sham Wat on 25th September, at Mai Po on 7th October and at Tai Po Kau on 26th November and 8th December.

255A Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* 黃鵪鶉

2003: The most numerous taxon in Hong Kong, *M.f. taivana*, was reported through much of the year. Counts of up to 23 were made in the Deep Bay fish ponds in the first winter period, while the only spring count report received was of 40 at Long Valley on 5th April. The earliest autumn record was of three at Lok Ma Chau on 26th August; the highest count of that season was 40 at Long Valley on 14th October.

Six reports of *M.f. tschutschensis* were received, comprising two spring reports of ten birds, along the Mai Po access road on 10th April and at Ho Chung on 4th May, two at Ho Chung on 13th September, 15 at Long Valley the following day, one at Po Toi on 21st September and five at Long Valley on 12th October. Most autumn reports referred to first-winter birds.

Only five reports of *M.f. macronyx* were received, comprising up to 12 birds at Long Valley during 12-18th October, one at Lok Ma Chau on 26th November and two there on 10th December.

Reports of birds unasccribed as to taxon included the highest counts of the year for the species, those of 400 at Mai Po and 170 at Sham Chung on 1st May. Most reports were from lowlying areas of the NT, as well as Po Toi and Cape D'Aguilar. Observers are strongly encouraged to ascribe birds to taxon where possible.

2004: The most numerous taxon in Hong Kong, *M.f. taivana*, was reported up to 4th May, with the highest count of wintering birds being of 140 on 20th January, split evenly between Ma Tso Lung and Lok Ma Chau. The highest spring count was of 30 birds, at Long Valley on 1st April. The first autumn report was of 17 at Long Valley, where 18 were present on 27th November; elsewhere, seven were at Kam Tin on 7th November and 13 were at Kam Tin on 5th December.

Only eight reports of *M.f. tschutschensis* were received, comprising four spring reports of up to 30 birds from 18th April to 18th May, and one of 120 at Long Valley on 15th May. There were three September reports involving 20 at Mai Po on 8th and up to 30 birds at Long Valley during 11-12th. In addition, on 7th May two flocks comprised 'mostly' *tschutschensis*, 73 at Kam Tin and 51 at Sha Po.

Only eight records of *M.f. macronyx* were received, comprising four at Lok Ma Chau on 20th January, six at Nam Sang Wai on 24th February, one at Mai Po on 21st March, 35 at Tsim Bei Tsui on 28th March, two off the boardwalk at Mai Po on 18th April, with two also at Tam Kon Chau on the same day, six at Long Valley on 27th November and, finally, one there on 12th December.

Reports of birds unasccribed as to taxon included the highest counts of the year for the species, those of 600 at roost at Mai Po on 8th October, with 500 there four days later. Reported from lowlying areas of the NT, with one record from Chek Lap Kok. Observers are strongly encouraged to ascribe birds to taxon where possible.

256A Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* 黃頭鵲鵲

2003: The sole winter record comprised one in the Lok Ma Chau area during 3-28th January. In spring presumably the same male was seen at Tsim Bei Tsui on 13th and 25th March, and 7th April; in addition, single females were seen at Long Valley on 18th March and Kam Tin during 5-6th April. The only autumn record was of a first-winter at Long Valley on 12th October.

2004: Eight birds occurred during the year. In the first winter period, a female was at Long Valley on 30th January. In spring, a female was at Long Valley on 19th March, a male was at Fung Lok Wai on 6th April and a female was there three days later. In autumn, one was at Fung Kat Heung on 19th October, a first-winter and an adult female were present at Kam Tin on 2nd and 3rd November, with at least one of these there three days later, and one was at Long Valley on 9th November.

257A Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* 灰鵲鵲

2003: The highest count in the first winter period was of six at Wun Yiu on 8th January. Spring passage was first noted on 26th March, when 160 birds, the highest count of the year, were at Mai Po NR; the latest report at this time was of a male at Tai Po on 18th May. The earliest autumn report was of one at Mai Po village on 26th September; subsequently, reports of ones and twos in October culminated in a count of 50 at Mai Po NR on 26th, the highest count of the autumn. Both this and the high spring count were pre-roost gatherings at the helipad at the south end of the reserve. The final report of the year was of three in the Kowloon Hills on 12th December.

2004: The highest count during the year was of approximately 100 birds at Mai Po on 29th March, while the latest records at this time concerned a male at Tai Ho Wan, Lantau on 27th and 30th April, and a male and a female at Kam Tin on 7th May. The earliest record in the second part of the year also occurred at Kowloon Hills, with one there on 9th August. Subsequently noted from 3rd September, with the highest count being five at Shek Kong catchment on 1st October and at Kowloon Hills catchwater on 17th October.

258A White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* 白鵲鵲

1999: Two non-adult males showing characters of the taxon *lugens* (so-called 'Black-backed Wagtail') were at Shuen Wan on 26th March (RWL).

2003: Few records were ascribed to taxon, though presumably most were the 'default' *M.a. leucopsis*. The only report of breeding was of a female feeding two juveniles along the Lam Tsuen River on 18th March. The highest count in the first winter period was of six at Wun Yiu on 3rd February, the same as the highest spring count, which included three *M.a. ocularis* and one *leucopsis*. Counts of up to 60 were made at a roost near the Cheung Chau ferry pier on 5th and 9th October, that on the latter date being the highest of the year for the species. Up to 25 were noted at Long Valley in the same month. There were five reports of *ocularis*, with up to four birds noted from 19th October to 25th December. Records came from lowlying areas of Hong

Kong. Observers are strongly encouraged to ascribe all records to taxon, and to increase submission of records of breeding birds, flocks of *leucopsis* and records of *ocularis*, in particular.

2004: No significant counts of *M.a. leucopsis* were received for the first winter period. The first report of breeding concerned a juvenile at Pak Hok Chau on 2nd April. Subsequent records concerned up to 11 birds at the usual lowlying northwest NT sites, until a record of 22 at Kam Tin on 5th December, the highest count received of this taxon. Although generally significantly less numerous than *leucopsis*, higher counts of *M.a. ocularis* were received due to appreciation that it is relatively scarce. The highest of the first winter period was 28 at Nam Sang Wai on 24th February, while during northward passage 20 were at Tsim Bei Tsui on 28th March; this proved to be the latest record of the spring. The earliest record in the second winter period concerned one at Wun Yiu on 12th October, and the highest subsequent count was ten at Kam Tin on 3rd November. With regard to records of birds unascribed to taxon, there were no significant records.

One showing characters of the taxon *M.a. lugens*, known as 'Black-backed Wagtail', was at Kam Tin on 31st October (JAA).

Increased record submission of *M.a. ocularis* at all times of year, and of *M. a. leucopsis* in the breeding season or when occurring in significant numbers is strongly urged. The numbers and distribution of *ocularis* remain unclear, while the current breeding distribution of *leucopsis* within Hong Kong still needs to be fully established.

259A Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi* 田鸫

2003: Most reports of this species came from Chek Lap Kok, Long Valley and Tai Mo Shan. At Chek Lap Kok the highest counts were 31 in the first winter period, 39 in spring (on 27th March) and 27 in autumn (7th October). At Long Valley, up to ten were recorded in spring and autumn. The only other double-figure count of migrant taxa was of ten at Plover Cove on 13th December. At Tai Mo Shan, the breeding taxon *A.r. sinensis* was recorded from 4th June to 26th July, with the highest count being 15 on 20th July. Reports of breeding birds away from Tai Mo Shan would be most welcome.

2004: In the first winter period records of migrant taxa were received until 4th May, with the highest counts being 44 at Chek Lap Kok on 19th February and 38 there on 25th March. The highest count elsewhere was 15 at Lut Chau on 12th January. The earliest record in the second winter period was of 16 birds at Mai Po NR on 25th September, and subsequently the highest counts were 27 at Mai Po NR on 9th October, with 25 there on the 17th, and 21 at Chek Lap Kok on 17th December.

Records of the breeding taxon *A.r. sinensis* were received mainly from Tai Mo Shan, where up to seven birds were recorded from 10th March to 1st May, with three reported there on 26th July. In addition, four were recorded at Long Ke, Sai Kung on 17th January, two were at Chek Lap Kok on 8th June and two were at San Tin on 14th July. Records unascribed to taxon of singles at Kam Tin on 28th June and at 400m at Tai Cham Kei on 4th December could also refer to *sinensis*.

260A Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* 樹鵲

2003: Counts of up to 12 birds were received for the first winter period, with small flocks noted for up to a month at individual localities. Presumed northward bound migrants were noted on 13th and 15th April and 5th May. The earliest record of the second winter period occurred on 16th October, and the highest subsequent count was 19 on 28th October, followed by 15 on 20th December. Reports were received from shrubland and woodland locations throughout the territory.

2004: Counts of up to eight birds were received for January to March, while the highest count in April was of 18 at Long Valley on 6th. The latest record at this time was of one at Tai Mo Shan on 20th April. The earliest autumn record occurred on 7th October at Mai Po NR, and the highest counts subsequently were 20 at Mai Po on 22nd and 31st October, 21 at Shing Mun on 4th December and 30 at Pak Sha O on 29th December. Records were received from widespread parts of Hong Kong.

261A Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* 紅喉鵲

2003: The highest count in the first winter period was of 21 at Tai Sang Wai on 14th February, while the only spring report was of ten at Long Valley on 5th April. The first of the autumn occurred on 9th October, and subsequent high counts, all in October at Long Valley, the stronghold of this species at this time, were 70 on 18th, 50 on 20th and 25 on 25th. The latter report was the last of the year. More winter reports of this species would be welcome.

2004: The highest count in the first winter period was of 40 at Lut Chau on 12th January. Counts of northbound migrants peaked at the end of March and early April, when 20 were at Tsim Bei Tsui on 28th March, the same number were at Long Valley on 1st April and 17 were along the Mai Po access road on 4th. The latest record was of one at Long Valley on 17th April. The first of the autumn occurred on 16th September (EMSK); this is the earliest on record in Hong Kong. Subsequently, main passage occurred from 5th October to early November, with the highest count at this time being 41 at Mai Po NR on 9th. In addition, 30 were at Long Valley on 27th November. Most records were from lowlying wet agricultural areas of the NT, in addition to those on visible migration over Mai Po NR in autumn.

262A Pechora Pipit *Anthus gustavi* 北鵲

2003: There were four spring records: four at Mai Po on 3rd May, one at Kam Tin on 9th and 12th May, one at Shuen Wan on 10th May and two at San Tin on 13th May. All autumn reports occurred in September and comprised one at Mai Po on 6th, one at Lok Ma Chau on 16th and 18th, two along the Mai Po access road on 18th, four at San Tin on the same date and singles at Mai Po NR on 20th and 23rd.

2004: One was at Mai Po on 3rd May. Observers are reminded of the possible occurrence of the taxon *A.g. menzbieri*, the identification features of which are at present being elucidated, and are encouraged to take detailed notes of all birds seen well.

263A Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens* 黃腹鵲

2003: Singles were recorded along the Mai Po access road on 1st and 5th January, at Mai Po NR on 1st November and at Tai Tam Reservoir on 19th December.

2004: One was at Mai Po on 20th November.

264A Upland Pipit *Anthus sylvanus* 山鵲

2003: Only five reports were received for the year, all from Tai Mo Shan. These comprised two on 4th January, one in song on 18th February, two on 4th June and 1st July and one on 20th July. Increased submission of records of this species is encouraged, particularly in areas away from Tai Mo Shan.

2004: Reported from two sites: on Tai Mo Shan up to two were recorded from 10th March to 31st July, with one seen carrying food on the latter date; at Lin Fa Shan on 10th April five males in song were noted.

265A Black-winged Cuckoo Shrike *Coracina melaschistos* 暗灰鵲鵙

2003: Only two reports were received for the first winter period, both of singles at Tai Po Kau on 27th January and 22nd February; this was followed by one at Shing Mun on 10th April. The next record was of an autumn migrant on 25th September, followed by other single migrants on eight dates to 19th October. Subsequently, up to two wintering birds were reported from Tai Po Kau and Kowloon Hills until the end of the year.

2004: In the first winter period singles were reported at Tai Po Kau on three dates from 21st January to 26th February, at Mui Wo on 16th March and at Palm Springs on 3rd April, the last of these almost certainly a northward bound migrant. Return passage was noted from 18th September, and subsequently singles were noted at Ng Tung Chai, Mai Po NR, Kam Tin, Lam Tsuen and Tai Po Kau until 4th December, while two were at Kowloon Hills catchment on 25th December.

266A Swinhoe's Minivet *Pericrocotus cantonensis* 小灰山椒鳥

2004: Two males were at Mong Tseng on 2nd April (RWL), and a pair were at Mai Po NR on 9th April (GJC, PW, MW).



Plate 13. Swinhoe's Minivet *Pericrocotus cantonensis*
 Mai Po NR, Hong Kong, 9th April 2004
 Peter and Michelle Wong

267A Ashy Minivet *Pericrocotus divaricatus* 灰山椒鳥

2003: Northward passage was noted from 6th to 17th April, with 25 at Po Toi on the earliest date being the highest count. In autumn, there were six autumn records of up to five birds between 1st and 19th October, as well as one on 18th November. Reports were from Po Toi, Cheung Chau, Kam Tsin village, Dong Ping Chau and Mai Po. It is possible that one or two of these reports may have included Swinhoe's Minivets, and observers are encouraged to pay close attention to grey minivets in both spring and autumn in order to elucidate more accurately the relative status of the two.

2004: A flock of 50 birds present at Mong Tseng from 31st March to 2nd April (RWL, EMSK) equalled the previous highest count, which occurred during 8-9th April 1993. In addition, two flew north over Mai Po NR on 4th April, and one was at Tai Po Kau later that month on 25th. In autumn, one was at Sai Kung West CP on 24th October, and one was at Tai Po Kau on 27th November.

268A Grey-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris* 灰喉山椒鳥

2003: The highest count of the first winter period was of ten birds, while that in the second winter period was 40. Most records, including these, came from the stronghold of Tai Po Kau, with others from Ng Tung Chai, Ho Chung, Shek Pik, Shing Mun, Kowloon Hills and Kap Lung.

2004: At Tai Po Kau the highest count in the first winter period was the same as at the end of 2003, about 40 birds. Elsewhere, 15 were at Ng Tung Chai on 22nd February, a female was seen at 700m on Tai Mo Shan on 4th April and a pair were observed nest-building at Tai Po Kau on 9th April. Numbers in the second winter period appear to have been particularly high at Ng Tung Chai, where 60 were present on 3rd November. At Tai Po Kau the highest count was 50 on 19th November, while at Kowloon Hills catchwater the highest count was 20 on 18th September. Grey-chinned Minivet is little reported away from its stronghold at Tai Po Kau and Ng Tung Chai, and observers are encouraged to submit such records.

269A Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus* 赤紅山椒鳥

2003: The highest count of the first winter period was of five birds, while that in the second winter period was seven - both of these are considered to be unrepresentative, however. The highest count of the year was of 30 at Kowloon Hills on 15 June. Most records came from the stronghold of Tai Mo Shan massif, with others from Kowloon Hills.

2004: The highest counts in the first winter period were of eight at Ng Tung Chai on 12th January and six at Yung Shue Au, northeast NT on 2nd and 4th January. No summer reports were received. In the second winter period the highest count was of 30 at Tai Po Kau on 27th November. As usual, this species was present in more widespread areas than Grey-chinned Minivet, with records from the northeast NT, as well as the Tai Mo Shan massif. Records of this species from other areas are welcome, especially in the breeding season.

270A Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus* 紅耳鵲

2003: The highest counts were of 50 at roost in elephant grass with Chinese Bulbuls and Masked Laughingthrushes at Shuen Wan on 9th January, and pre-roost at Pak Tam Chung on 29 November.

2004: The only record of significance was a count of 210 at Ng Tung Chai on 8th November, which is the second highest count on record.

271A Chinese Bulbul *Pycnonotus sinensis* 白頭鵲

2003: The only significant report was of 200 birds at Lai Chi Wo on 30th November.

2004: Significant spring passage was noted in early April, with over 1,000 seen

about 3km out to sea near Po Toi on 9th, 300 flying north over Mai Po NR on 4th and 100 at Tai Mo Shan the same day.

272A Sooty-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster* 白喉紅臀鵯

2003: Reported from lowlying open country areas such as Ng Tung Chai valley, Ho Chung, Long Valley, Fung Yuen, Kam Tin, Po Toi, Chek Lap Kok and Lai Chi Wo, with the highest count being seven.

2004: Reported from lowlying open country areas such as the Deep Bay area, Ho Pui, Kam Tin, Lamma, Lin Au, Long Valley, Plover Cove, Sha Lo Tung, Tai Lam Chung and So Lo Pun, with the highest count being ten at Kam Tin.

272.8B Mountain Bulbul *Hypsipetes mccllellandii* 綠翅短腳鵯

2003: Singles at Ng Tung Chai on 12 March and Tai Po Kau on six dates during the year were the only reports received.

2004: At Tai Po Kau up to three birds were reported up to 26th April, and four were noted from 4th August to the end of the year. At Ng Tung Chai, one was present on 9th February, two were noted on 15th September and one was there on 28th November. The only other record was of two at Sha Tin Pass on 18th January. The absence of summer reports is not, at present, thought to be due to any seasonality of occurrence. Observers are encouraged to submit all records of this species so that its true status can be elucidated.

273A Chestnut Bulbul *Hypsipetes castanonotus* 栗背短腳鵯

2003: The highest count in the first winter period was of 30 birds at Ng Tung Chai on 26th January. Summer reports were few, with birds at Borrett Road, Mid Levels throughout May and June being of most interest, as few reports are generally received from Hong Kong Island. Counts of up to 40 birds were made in the second winter period, with the bulk of records occurring in widespread areas in November and December, including such locations as Mai Po village, Mai Po NR and Chek Lap Kok, suggesting a significant influx at this time. One at Kowloon Park on 9th April may have been a migrant or possibly an ex-captive individual.

2004: Reported from widespread areas throughout the territory, including Lantau, Sai Kung, the Tai Mo Shan massif and Tai Lam CP. The highest counts were 150 at Tai Po Kau on 4th January and 40 at Pak Sha O on 18th December. Late spring and summer records were received from Chung Mei, Tai Po Kau, Tai Mo Shan and Shan Tin Pass, and a chick was recorded at Tai Po Kau on 11th May. While part of the Hong Kong population is undoubtedly of seasonal or irruptive occurrence, a significant element is not. Late spring and summer records are encouraged in order that numbers and distribution at this time can be clarified.

274A Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus* 黑短腳鵯

2003: Two reports were received during the year: four at Tai Po Kau on 22nd February and two at Lok Ma Chau on 9th May, the latter comprising white-headed birds.

2004: Up to four were at Tai Po Kau in January, while up to ten were present in March, with the final record of the first winter period being three there on 10th April. Elsewhere at this time, two were at Tsim Bei Tsui on 12th February, four were at Ng Tung Chai on the same date and two were at Sha Lo Tung on 21st February. In the second part of the year, one was reported from Tai Po Kau during 21-22nd August, though this bird was reported to have a damaged tail and, thus, is likely to have been ex-captive.

275A Orange-bellied Leafbird *Chloropsis hardwickii* 橙腹葉鵯

2003: One or two birds were reported up to 2nd March and from 12th September at Ta Ku Ling San Tsuen, Tai Po Kau, Kap Lung and Ng Tung Chai.

2004: In the first winter period up to two birds were recorded in Tai Po Kau, the latest on 10th February, one was at Tai Lam CP on 23rd January and one was at Sha Tin Pass on 4th March. In the second part of the year the earliest record was of one at Tai Po Kau on 13th August, with a male and a female noted there in the second half of November. Elsewhere, one was at Lion Rock on 4th September, one was at Ng Tung Chai on 29th September and 28th October, two were at Tsiu Hang on 21st November, two were at Shing Mun on 4th December, one was at the Golden Triangle, Lam Tsuen, the following day and one was at Pak Sha O on 18th December.

277A Bull-headed Shrike *Lanius bucephalus* 牛頭伯勞

2003: A male was at Wun Yiu on 18th and 19th February.

278A Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus* 紅尾伯勞

2003: There was only one report in the first winter period, that of one in Kowloon Bay stadium on 14th January; this was followed by one on 23rd April. Subsequently, up to four birds were recorded until 31st May, apart from a count of 15 on Po Toi on 11th May. The earliest in autumn occurred on 29th August, and subsequently one or two birds were recorded on any one day until the final record of the year on 1st November, apart from four on Po Toi on 21st September. Records were received from lowlying areas of the NT, as well as Cheung Chau, Po Toi, Island School (HK Island) and Clearwater Bay CP. Few birds were ascribed to taxon, and those that were comprised *L.c. lucionensis*, apart from one *L.c. cristatus* trapped and ringed at Mai Po NR on 27th September.

2004: There were more reports than usual of wintering birds, with an adult noted at Nam Sang Wai on 13th January, followed by one at Sha Po on 31st January and a first-

winter at Kam Tin during 20-28th February. The bird at Sha Po was possibly the same as that at Nam Sang Wai and, perhaps more likely, that at Kam Tin. A first-winter at Kam Tin on 27th March was considered by the observer to be a passage migrant rather than the bird seen earlier in the year due to his frequent visits to the site. Passage was certainly evident from 10th April when one was at Po Toi; subsequently, the highest count was of four, at Mau Ping on 8th May and Ho Chung on 15th May, the last of the spring. The first of the autumn concerned one at Nam Sang Wai on 25th August; subsequently, singles were noted at a number of sites from 1st October to 7th November, with one also at Tai Po Kau on 29th December.

L.c. cristatus: one was at Chung Pui on 24th February, two were at Ho Chung on 15th May, singles were at Mai Po on 7th September, Lok Ma Chau on 8th, Mai Po on 25th September, Kam Tin on 7th October, with two there on 15th, Kam Tin on 4th November and, finally, at Sha Po on 15th December.

279A Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach* 棕背伯勞

2003 & 2004: No significant reports.

280.5A Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophrys* 白喉短翅鵯

2003: All reports were from the second winter period, involving one or two birds at Ng Tung Chai and Tai Po Kau from 21st October, apart from three at the former site on 17th December. Most if not all birds were located initially on the basis of vocalisations.

2004: Records of singles came from Tai Po Kau during 19-24th January. At Tai Mo Shan up to five males in song were present from 21st March to 26th May, with one also there on 26th July; the only other record at this time was of one in song along the Shek Kong catchment on 9th April. In the second part of the year up to four birds were present at Ng Tung Chai from 22nd September, with peak numbers recorded in the second half of November. Elsewhere, up to two were in song at Pun Shan Chau on 13th and 21st November, and one was heard along the Shek Kong catchment on 30th November.

281A Japanese Robin *Erithacus akahige* 紅尾歌鵯

2003: Singles were at Ng Tung Chai on 11th January (MT), and Tai Po Kau on 5th and 22nd December (PW, KK).

2004: One was at Tai Po Kau on 22nd January (JAA).

282A Rufous-tailed Robin *Luscinia sibilans* 紅尾歌鵯

2003: One or two birds were recorded during January at a number of sites, but there were no reports in February. Subsequently, two were at Sham Chung on 2nd March, one was at Shan Tong Road, Tai Po on 24th and, finally, one was at Po Toi on 6th April. The earliest record in the second winter period was of one at Tai Om on 14th

November, and this was followed by reports of one or two birds at scattered locations until the end of the year. Reports were mainly from shrubland localities in the NT.

2004: The highest count received for the first winter period was that of seven birds between Sham Wat and Tung Chung on 27th January. There were no records from 14th February to 10th March, when two were in song at Tai Mo Shan. Subsequent records generally refer to birds in song, and the highest count was of nine at Dong Ping Chau on 2nd April, with the latest occurring at Tai Mo Shan on 11th April. In the second part of the year first noted on 14th November at Ng Tung Chai; subsequently there were records of one to three birds at a number of localities.



Plate 14. Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophrys*
Tai Po Kau, Hong Kong, 21st January 2004
Peter and Michelle Wong

283A Siberian Rubythroat *Luscinia calliope* 紅喉歌鵪(紅點頰)

2003: Reported in the first winter period up to 16th February from shrubland areas, while migrants were reported on 13th April at Po Toi and 26th April, when three were in the reedbed at Mai Po NR. Recorded in the second winter period from 18th October, and the highest subsequent counts were of 12 along the north Lantau coast east of Tung Chung on 5th November, up to 20 at Mai Po NR on 16th and 17th December and 14 at Po Toi on 29th December.

2004: The highest count in the first winter period was of 31 between Sham Wat and Tung Chung on 27th January, while up to 15 were noted at Mai Po NR either side of this date. There were no reports from 19th February to 10th March, and numbers of passage migrants peaked at 20 at Mai Po NR on 4th April. In the second part of the year the earliest record occurred on 17th October, when 22 were at Mai Po NR; subsequent counts there did not exceed 20, while the next highest was 18 at Sai Kung East CP on 10th December. All records were from lowlying areas of the NT and offshore islands.

284A Siberian Blue Robin *Luscinia cyane* 藍歌鵲

2003: In September, reported from Tai Po Kau on 9th (female), 14th (female), 23rd (first-winter male) and 28th (male), Mai Po on 25th (male), and Ng Tung Chai on 27th and 29th (first-winter male). Finally, a female was at Ng Tung Chai on 20th December, the fourth winter record.

2004: There were six records during 7-30th September. These comprised singles at Tai Po Kau on 7th and 11th, a first-winter male at Ng Tung Chai on 22nd, a female at Dong Ping Chau on 26th and a first-winter male at Mai Po NR on 30th, with three females seen between Tung Chung and Sham Wat on 25th September.

285A Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* 藍喉歌鵲(藍點頰)

2003: Up to two birds were reported from San Tin, Lok Ma Chau and Long Valley on five dates up to 6th April. In the second winter period, there were four records of single birds at Long Valley from 31st October and one at Lok Ma Chau on 2nd December.

2004: In the first winter period up to three birds were recorded at Long Valley between 30th January and 24th February, and up to five were at Ma Tso Lung from 12th January to 23rd February. Subsequently there were singles at Long Valley on 14th and 19th March, and one at Ma Tso Lung on 17th April. The only reports in the second half of the year concerned singles at Long Valley on 23rd October and 18th December, Tsim Bei Tsui on 27th October, Ma Tso Lung on 22nd November and Lin Ma Hang on 30th December.

286A Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* 紅脇藍尾鵲

2003: Although it is likely that data collection for the Winter Atlas project was a contributory factor, the first winter period of 2003 does seem to have been very good for this species. A total of 63 records were received for the period up to 8th February, generally concerning reports of up to six individuals. In addition, a total of 13 birds were recorded in three 1km squares in Pat Sin Leng CP on 5th January, and 16 were counted twice, once on 10th January, also in Pat Sin Leng CP, and again the following day at Ng Tung Chai. From 15th February to 8th March only eight reports were received, while the final record, presumably of a passage migrant, was of one at Ta Ku Ling, Sai Kung on 30th March. The earliest record in the second winter period occurred on 7th November, and subsequent counts until the end of the year were of up to two birds,

apart from six at Ng Tung Chai on 29th November. Records were received from widespread areas of shrubland and forest, mainly in the NT, but also HK Island and Lantau.

2004: A total of 55 records were received for the period up to 9th March, with the highest counts being 22 between Sham Wat and Tung Chung on 27th January, eight from Hok Tau to Sha Lo Tung on 23rd January and eight at Sha Tin Pass on 26th January. In contrast to this, only five reports were received for the second part of the year: one at Ng Tung Chai on 28th November, with two there on 4th December and one on 22nd, two at Sham Chung on 11th December and one at Pak Sha O on 18th December. Records were received from widespread areas of shrubland and forest, mainly in the NT, but also HK Island and Lantau.

287A Oriental Magpie Robin *Copsychus saularis* 鵲鵙

2003 & 2004: No significant reports.

289A Daurian Redstart *Phoenicurus aureus* 北紅尾鵲

2003: Winter Atlas work appears to have increased somewhat the number of records submitted in the first winter period. Most counts were of one to two birds, with the highest being six at Pat Sing Leng on 10th January and five at Chi Ma Wan on 17th January. Only singles were recorded after mid February, and most of the records at this time were of males. The same male appears to have remained at Mai Po NR from 7th to 27th March, the last of the first winter period. The earliest record in the second part of the year occurred on 25th October when a male was at Sha Lo Tung. Subsequently, records of one to three birds were received, apart from ten between Tung Chung and Sham Wat on 18th December and nine at Mai Po on 20th December.

2004: A total of 38 records of one to four birds were received for the first two months of the year, with the exception of a count of 23 between Sham Wat and Tung Chung on 27th January. Subsequently, singles only were noted to the final spring records of a male at Lok Ma Chau and a female at Dong Ping Chau, both on 2nd April. The first record of the autumn occurred on 17th October; subsequently, up to three birds were reported until 26th December, apart from seven in Sai Kung East CP.

290A Plumbeous Redstart *Rhyacornis fuliginosus* 北紅尾鵲

2003: Reported from three sites in the first winter period: Chung Mei, where a male was seen from 6th January to 21st February, Lam Tsuen, where one was present on 20th and 23rd January, and Wun Yiu, where a pair, were seen from 15th January to 22nd February. In the second winter period, a female was at Wun Yiu on 10th and 28th December, and a male was at Pak Nai on 20th December, following cold weather.

2004: Reported from three sites during the year. At Chung Mei, a male and a female were present from 21st January to 18th February, a male was present on 23rd and 27th November and 30th December, while a male and a female were present on 28th

December. At Mui Wo a female was seen on 18th February, and at Wun Yiu a female was recorded on 18th February.

291A Slaty-backed Forktail *Enicurus schistaceus* 灰背燕尾

2003: One was seen at Ng Tung Chai on 12th March, 27th September and 1st December.

2004: The bird present at Ng Tung Chai continued to be recorded intermittently until 12th April. At Tai Po Kau one was recorded from 4th September to 29th December.

292A Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* 黑喉石(即鳥)

2003: Reported in the first winter period up to 12th April, although probably significantly under-recorded. In the second winter period the earliest record occurred on 11th September, when one was at San Tin. Passage appears to have been heaviest during the middle two weeks of October, when up to 14 birds were noted at Long Valley.



Plate 15. Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*
Tsim Bei Tsui, Hong Kong, 5th November 2004
Angus Lau

2004: The only report received for January was that of a male present all month at Ng Tung Chai. In February the highest count was of ten at Long Valley, and in March the only reports were of a male again present at Ng Tung Chai all month and three

birds at Airfield Road, Shek Kong. Counts of up to five birds were received for the period 3-8th April, but none subsequently. In the second part of the year the earliest records occurred on 25th August, when one was at Lut Chau, and the following day, when one was at Lok Ma Chau. Subsequently, there were no further reports until the end of September. Main passage occurred during 6-18th October during which time the highest counts were 20 at San Tin on 13th and 19 at Kam Tin on the 18th. The highest count in the second winter period was ten at Long Valley on 27th November. Increased reporting of this species would be welcome, especially away from the traditional sites of Long Valley and Mai Po, and also of wintering birds.

293A Grey Bushchat *Saxicola ferrea* 灰林(即鳥)

2003: Singles were at Lin Ma Hang on 13th November and Kai Leng on 21st December. One at Tai Mo Shan on 1st and 5th July was probably an ex-captive individual.

295A White-throated Rock Thrush *Monticola gularis* 藍頭磯鶇

2004: A male, age unknown, was at Tai Po Kau from 27th November to at least 15th January 2005 (JAA *et al.*).

296A Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush *Monticola rufiventris* 栗腹磯鶇

2004: A male and female were reported at KFBG in January 1999 and February 2001, and what is presumed to be the same birds were again reported this year. Dates of observation were 13th and 14th February, 31st March and 2nd April (GJC, EMSK, RWL), though the male only was seen on the latter two dates. Observers are requested to submit any other records of these birds at KFBG during this period.

297A Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius* 藍磯鶇

2003: Reported in the first winter period up to 19th February, with all records involving singles apart from three at Chek Lap Kok on the latest date. The first record of the second winter period also occurred at Chek Lap Kok, on 12th August; this is the second earliest on record in Hong Kong, the earliest having occurred at the same site on 30th July 2003. Subsequently, one was at Po Toi on 21st September, and this was followed by five records in October, eight in November and five in December, with the highest count again three, this time at Plover Cove on 13th December. The few males ascribed to taxon were *philippensis*. Most records came from coastal locations such as Chek Lap Kok, islands such as Po Toi, the Sokos and Dong Ping Chau, and inland sites such as Long Valley and Tai Mo Shan.

2004: Reports in the first winter period comprised a male at Chek Lap Kok on 8th January and 18-19th February, one at Kai Tak Nullah on 19th, three at Chi Ma Wan on 23rd January and a male at KFBG on 13th February. Spring reports comprised singles at Tai Mo Shan on 31st March, Dong Ping Chau on 2nd April and Lin Fa Shan, Lantau on

10th April. The first report of the second winter period was of two birds at Tai Mo Shan on 29th September, and subsequently singles were noted at Kam Tin, Long Valley, Robin's Nest, KFBG, Tai Mo Shan, Fei Ngo Shan, Siu Lam, Sai Wan Shan and Chek Lap Kok until 17th December. Most reports ascribed birds to the most numerous taxon *M.s. philippensis*. In addition, a male *M.s. pandoo* was present at Plover Cove dam on 12th November.

298A Blue Whistling Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus* 紫嘯鵯

2003: The only report of interest was that of one in Kai Tak Nullah on 22nd January.

2004: The only reports of significance were of a nest with three juveniles on the main library building of Chinese University on 22nd June, and one recorded at Kai Tak Nullah on 8th January and 5th February.

299A Orange-headed Thrush *Zoothera citrina* 紫嘯鵯

2001: One was at Sha Tin Pass on 22nd January and two adults and at least one juvenile were at Tai Po Kau on 21st August.

2003: One was recorded by a camera trap at Lin Ma Hang in mid July (date uncertain) (KFBG). The date and habitat are indicative of breeding, though not confirmatory.

2004: A male was seen at Chung Mei from 24th January to 11th February, and another was at Sha Tin Pass on 3rd April.

300A Siberian Thrush *Zoothera sibirica* 白眉地鵯

2002: A male was at Sha Tin Pass on 4th January.

2003: A female was at Ng Tung Chai on 4th January, and another was at Tai Po Kau on 18th November.

2004: A first-winter male was at Tai Po Kau on 6th October, a male and female were at KFBG during 12-14th October and a female was at Tai Mo Shan on 22nd October.

301A Scaly Thrush *Zoothera dauma* 虎斑地鵯

2003: Field work for the Winter Atlas seems to have increased somewhat the number of records in the first winter period, and one or two birds were recorded in widespread areas of the NT and HK Island up to 15th February. Subsequently, a presumed passage migrant was at Mai Po on 11th April. In the second winter period the first record occurred on 21st October, when one was at Mount Austin, and subsequently singles were recorded, apart from seven between Tung Chung and Sham Wat on 18th December, and three were at Ng Tung Chai and two were in Ma On Shan CP on 28th December.

2004: Although fieldwork for the Winter Atlas no doubt increased the number of records, the first winter period of 2004 appears to have been very good for this species, with 53 reports during the first two months of the year. Most were of one to three birds, with the highest counts being five between Sham Wat and Tung Chung on 27th January and four birds at Chung Mei and Ng Tung Chai. Subsequently, the only report was of one at Airfield Road, Shek Kong during 11-13th March. There were only four records in the second winter period, with up to three at Tai Po Kau on 22nd and 26th November, two at Ng Tung Chai on 28th November and one there on 12th December.

302A Japanese Thrush *Turdus cardis* 烏灰鶇

2003: Up to five birds were noted in widespread wooded localities in the first winter period up to 8th February, the highest count occurring at Fung Yuen on the latest date. Subsequently, four presumed passage migrants were recorded at Shing Mun, Tai Po Kau and Kowloon Park during 3-12th April. There were only nine records in the second winter period, the first occurring on 23rd November, with the highest count being six at Sha Tin Pass on the last day of the year. Most birds ascribed to sex were males, and it is likely that females are to some extent overlooked.

2004: Up to three birds were noted in widespread wooded localities in the first winter period up to 25th February, with the exception of 18 between Sham Wat and Tung Chung on 27th January. Subsequently, up to two were at Airfield Road, Shek Kong during 10-22nd March, one was at Kowloon Park on 19th March, one was found dead at Wonderland Villas, Kwai Chung on 28th March, three were at Ng Tung Chai on 3rd April and single males were at Mai Po NR on 4th April and Kowloon Park on 9th April. In the second winter period one to two birds were recorded from 14th November at Tai Po Kau, Pok Fu Lam CP, Chung Mei, Ng Tung Chai, Sha Tin Pass and Lai Chi Chong, as well as four at Pak Sha O on 29th December.

303A Common Blackbird *Turdus merula* 烏鶇

2003: The majority of records in the first winter period occurred in January and February, with the highest count being 20 along Bride's Pool Road on 10th January. Singles only were recorded after 21st February, and the final three records were at Long Valley on 10th March, Cheung Chau on 8th April and Lok Ma Chau on 7th May. Recorded in the second part of the year from 16th October, the highest counts at this time were 42 at Mai Po on 14 November, at least 40 at Long Valley on 5th November and 38 at Man Uk Pin on 24th November. The majority of records came from areas of mature shrubland in the NT, as well as HK Island, Po Toi and Cheung Chau.

2004: The highest count in the first winter period was eight at Shuen Wan on 8th January. After the end of February there were only three reports, four at Airfield Road, Shek Kong on 6th March, with up to five there on 11th and 13th of that month, and one at Ng Tung Chai on 9th March. Summer reports concerned that of a juvenile at Mai Po village on 28th June and one at Mai Po on 30th August. Although breeding has not yet been proven in Hong Kong, it appears as though this may happen soon. Recorded in the second winter period from 7th October, the highest count in that month was 20 at

Nai Chung on 29th. In November highest numbers were recorded during 5-23rd, with the highest counts being 75 at Ng Tung Chai on the 17th and 60 at Wu Kau Tang on 23rd. In addition, 70 were noted going to roost at Pak Sha O on 4th December. Most records were from the central and northern NT and Sai Kung.

304A Brown-headed Thrush *Turdus chrysolaus* 赤腹鸫

2003: One was at Ng Tung Chai on 28th December.

305A Grey-backed Thrush *Turdus hortulorum* 灰背鸫

2003: In the first winter period the highest counts were of 21 at Chi Ma Wan on 17th January; this was the only double-figure count at this time. After a record of one at Shek Pik on 16th February, there were no further records until that of two presumed migrants at Shing Mun on 3rd April, followed by singles at Kowloon Park and Tai Po Kau on 9th April. In the second winter period recorded from 13th November, and the only double-figure count was of 30 between Tung Chung and Sham Wat on 18th December.

2004: In the first part of the year the highest single site count was 12 at Ng Tung Chai on 9th February; in addition, however, 90 were counted between Sham Wat and Tung Chung on 27th January. After 22nd February only five records were received, with up to four birds present at Airfield Road, Shek Kong during 6-13th March, and two at Sha Tin Pass and one at Ng Tung Chai on 3rd April. In the second part of the year recorded from 18th November, though only singles were recorded up to 11th December, after which counts of three to four birds were made. Records were received from widespread areas, mainly shrubland, of the NT and Lantau.

306A Pale Thrush *Turdus pallidus* 白腹鸫

2003: In contrast to the previous two years, when only one bird was reported, this was a reasonably good year. All records in the first winter period were of single birds, apart from six at Po Toi on 13th January and two at Tai Mo Shan on 18th February; the latter was also the latest record at this time. One at Shuen Wan on 30th January was the first recorded in nearly 20 years of observations there. There were only two records in the second winter period, those of singles at KFBG on 26th December and Sha Tin Pass on the 31st. Most reports were received from shrubland localities scattered across the NT and HK Island.

2004: Reports of one to three birds were received in the first winter period up to 18th February, with the highest counts made between Sham Wat and Tung Chung on 27th January and at Ng Tung Chai the following day. There was one record of a spring migrant, a male at Pak Hok Chau Police Post during 2-3rd April. There were four reports in the second winter period, all of singles in December, at Tai Po Kau on 4th, Ng Tung Chai on 5th, Pun Shan Chau, Tai Po on 18th and Sha Tin Pass on 22nd. All reports were received from shrubland or forest localities in the NT and on Lantau.

307A Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus* 白眉鶇

2003: Three reports were received for the year: one at Fung Yuen on 22nd January, three at Cheung Chau on 7th April and one at Sham Chung on 17th April.

2004: The only reports in the first winter period were of a male at Sha Tin Pass during 23-27th January and a male at Kam Tin on 12th February. In spring one or two birds were recorded on six dates from 3rd April to 1st May at Ng Tung Chai, Mai Po NR, Tai Mo Shan and Tai Ho Wan. Subsequently, there were reports of singles in Tai Po Kau on 13th November and 26th December and at Sha Tin Pass on 20th November and 22nd December.

308A Dusky Thrush *Turdus naumanni* 斑鶇

2003: Three were at Tai Mo Shan on 4th January, up to two were reported at Long Valley on four dates from 9th February to 10th March, one was at Mai Po San Tsuen on 24th February and, finally for the first winter period, one was at Lok Ma Chau on 25th April. In the second winter period up to two were seen at Mai Po NR during 22-23rd November, one was present there on 20th December, one was at Tsim Mei Fung (Heather Hill) on 21st December, one was at Wong Lung Hang, Lantau on 27th December and three were at Pak Nai on 30th December. All birds ascribed were of the taxon *eunomus*.

2004: Singles were recorded in January at Long Ke, Sai Kung on 17th, Tsim Bei Tsui on 19th and Chung Mei on 27th; in addition, one was at Airfield Road, Shek Kong on 22nd February. In the second winter period one was at Pak Sha O on 14th November. The only bird ascribed to taxon was *eunomus*.

308.5A Chinese Thrush *Turdus mupinensis* 斑鶇

2004: One was trapped at KARC on 18th November (DC); this is the first Hong Kong record.

309C Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficollis* 棕頸鉤嘴鶇

2003: The Tai Mo Shan massif remains the stronghold of this species, with the highest count being at least 20 on 4th January at Ng Tung Chai, where it was described as 'strikingly numerous'. Elsewhere, reports were received from Tai Tam CP, Ho Chung and Island School on Borrett Road.

2004: Away from the stronghold in the Tai Mo Shan massif, also recorded at Chung Mei and Chung Pui.

309.5A Pygmy Wren Babbler *Phoebastria pusilla* 小鱗胸鶇

2003: The increase in abundance of this species continues, and it is now a regular feature of birdwatching visits to Tai Po Kau in the winter months, when up to three

birds were reported. In addition, reports in August and September, including that of a juvenile on 28th September, confirm breeding of this species there. Tai Po Kau remains the stronghold, but it is also regularly recorded at Ng Tung Chai and there were three records from the Hok Tau/Wu Kau Tang area.

2004: The stronghold of this species remains Tai Po Kau, where up to three birds were recorded in the first winter period up to 24th April, and four were noted in the second winter period from 18th September. In addition, an adult and a recently-fledged juvenile were seen on 11th May, with the adult again seen on 12th (Hobcroft 2007). Elsewhere, up to two were recorded at Ng Tung Chai up to 12th February and from 7th September, up to two were recorded at Kap Lung on 22nd February and 1st, 22nd, and 28th October, and one was present at Pun Shan Chau, north of Tai Po Kau, on 21st November. Observers are encouraged to continue submitting records of this species, especially at sites other than Tai Po Kau.

310C Rufous-capped Babbler *Stachyris ruficeps* 紅頭穗鵲

2003: The stronghold of this species remains Tai Po Kau, where counts of up to ten birds were made in the winter months, though this probably reflects observer activity rather than any seasonality. Other sites in the Tai Mo Shan massif from where records were received were Ng Tung Chai, where the highest count was 20 on 7th October, Chinese University, Pun Shan Chau and Wun Yiu, Elsewhere, recorded along Bowen Road, Wanchai and at Hok Tau.

2004: Away from the shrubland and forest of the Tai Mo Shan massif, which continued to provide the majority of records, also recorded at Chung Mei and Kowloon Hills. Numbers appear to be continuing to increase.

311C Chinese Babax *Babax lanceolatus* 矛紋草鵲

2004: Two were seen at Tai Mo Shan on 1st May and 6th June. This species foothold in Hong Kong seems to be slipping, and observers are encouraged to report all records.

312A Masked Laughingthrush *Garrulax perspicillatus* 黑臉噪鵲

2003 & 2004: No significant reports.

313C Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax pectoralis* 黑領噪鵲

2003: Reported from widespread shrubland and woodland areas of the NT and HK Island, with no reports from outlying islands. The highest counts were 20 at Tai Po Kau on 15th November and Sha Tin Pass on 18th October, and 17 at Man Uk Pin on 24th November.

2004: The highest counts were up to 32 at Fei Ngo Shan, 30 at Sha Tin Pass, 25 at Tai Po Kau, 18 at Beacon Hill and ten at Siu Lam and Aberdeen Reservoir. Elsewhere, recorded at Chung Mei, KFBG, Lady Clementi's Ride, Lai Chi Chong, Man Uk Pin, Pak

Sha O, Pun Shan Chau, Lion Rock, Eagle's Nest, So Lo Pun, Tai Mo Shan, Wonderland Villas and Wu Kau Tang.

314C Black-throated Laughingthrush *Garrulax chinensis* 黑喉噪鵲

2003: Reported from Cheung Chau, Ho Chung, Kowloon Hills, Ng Tung Chai, Ta Ku Ling San Tsuen, Tai Mo Shan, Tai Po Kau, Tsim Mei Fung (Heather Hill), Wong Chuk Yeung, Lin Ma Hang and Wun Yiu, as well as Magazine Gap. Historically, the stronghold of this species was HK Island, although in recent years relatively few reports have been received from there. At present this is not thought to reflect a genuine decline, simply a lack of observer reporting as most birdwatchers now live in Kowloon or the NT. The record at Lin Ma Hang, however, is of interest as, although recorded previously in the northeast NT, this appears to be the first report from the border with Guangdong. This species was also recorded across the border at Shenzhen, at Wu Tong Shan National Forest Park, which lies very near Lin Ma Hang, in 2001 (KFBG 2002). It raises the interesting question of which direction this species colonised in that area, north to south or south to north.

2004: Recorded at Aberdeen Reservoir, Kowloon Hills, Fei Ngo Shan, Lai Chi Chong, Ng Tung Chai, Pun Shan Chau, Shek Kong, Shek Mun Kap (Lantau), Stables Hill (Fanling), Tai Mo Shan, Wun Yiu, Tai O and Tai Po Kau. Observers are encouraged to submit more records to confirm its continued presence in established strongholds and its spread to other sites.

315A Hwamei *Garrulax canorus* 畫眉

2003 & 2004: No significant reports.

316C White-browed Laughingthrush *Garrulax sannio* 白頰噪鵲

2003: Up to two birds reported at Wun Yiu valley, from the path leading up to Leadmine Pass and also along Shan Tong Rd, which runs along the southern edge.

2004: Up to five birds were recorded in the Pun Shan Chau-Shan Tong New Village-Wun Yiu area during the year. Elsewhere, one was at Man Uk Pin on 30th March.

317C Silver-eared Mesia *Leiothrix argentea* 銀耳相思鳥

2003: Reported from the Tai Mo Shan massif, Magazine Gap, Island School on Borrett Road and Kowloon Hills, with the highest count being at least 30 at the last locality on 13th December.

2004: Reported at Kowloon Hills, Ng Tung Chai, (where it was described as an abundant resident), Tai Po Kau and adjacent Pun Shan Chau, Shan Tong New Village, Tai Mo Shan near the Youth Hostel and Wonderland Villas, (where it was described as uncommon). Records away from the usual areas are welcome.

318C Red-billed Leiothrix *Leiothrix lutea* 紅嘴相思鳥

2003: Reported mainly from the Tai Mo Shan massif, with the highest count being at least 15 at Tai Po Kau on 6th July. Elsewhere, one was at Wong Lung Hang, Lantau on 27th December.

2004: Reported from Sha Tin Pass, Chung Mei, Ng Tung Chai, Tai Po Kau and Tai Mo Shan, with the highest count being at least 30 at Tai Po Kau on 25th January.

319C Blue-winged Minla *Minla cyanouroptera* 藍翅希鵒

2003: Reported mainly from forested areas of the Tai Mo Shan massif, with the highest count being 30 at Tai Po Kau on 28th September. Elsewhere, five were at Ta Ku Ling San Tsuen on 5th October. Reports away from the Tai Mo Shan massif are encouraged.

2004: Recorded at Kap Lung, Kowloon Hills, Ng Tung Chai and Tai Po Kau, with the latter site being the stronghold and the source of the highest count, 20 birds.

320C White-bellied Yuhina *Yuhina zantholeuca* 白腹鳳鵒

2003: Most reports were from Tai Po Kau, where up to two birds were recorded during the year. The only report away from there was of two birds in mature shrubland at Shan Liu on 23rd January.

2004: Tai Po Kau remains the main source of records, with up to three birds recorded during the year. Elsewhere, up to two birds were recorded at Ng Tung Chai in April and December, one was at Fung Yuen on 26th September, two were at Pak Sha O on 18th December and one was at Shing Mun on 4th December.

321C Striated Yuhina *Yuhina castaniceps* 栗頭鳳鵒

2003: In the first winter period Winter Atlas work was responsible for half of the records, and comprised flocks of 25 at Sha Lo Tung on 9th January, nine at Hok Tau on 15th January and 18 there on 7th February. Elsewhere, flocks of 20 were recorded at Sham Chung on 24th January and Tai Po Kau two days later, while 25 were at Wonderland Villas, Lai King on 26th January. There was one April report, that of 25 at Sha Tin Pass on the 7th. In the second winter period the first record was of 20 at Sha Lo Tung on 11th November; this was followed by records at Tai Po Kau of at least 10 on 3rd December, at least 20 three days later and 30-50 birds on 22nd. At Kap Lung a flock of 25 was present on 6th December, at Ng Tung Chai five were noted the following day and at Kowloon Hills four were present on 25th December, with at least 30 there on 31st.

2004: Four were present at Yung Shue Au on 4th January, and this was followed by a flock of up to 50 birds present at Tai Po Kau from 5th to 26th January, presumably the same birds as were present in December 2003. The only subsequent winter flock was of up to 20 at Chung Mei on 31st January and along Bride's Pool Road on 18th February. There were a number of summer records suggestive of breeding, comprising two at Ng

Tung Chai on 12th April, an adult and three juveniles at Sha Tin Pass during 22-27th June, with up to 30 there from 1st July to 26th August, six at Kowloon Hills catchment on 9th August and 30 at Ng Tung Chai on 20th September. Records in the second winter period comprised 35 at Sha Tin Pass on 20th October, 30 at Ng Tung Chai on 14th November, with 15 there on 12th December, five at Kap Lung on 18th November and up to 50 at Tai Po Kau on 20th and 26th December.

322C Vinous-throated Parrotbill *Paradoxornis webbianus* 棕頭鴉雀

2003: There were seven reports from Tai Mo Shan during the year, all from 4th June to 3rd August involving up to 16 birds.

2004: At Tai Mo Shan up to seven were recorded from 10th March to 23rd May and on 26th July, including a juvenile on 26th May.

323A Asian Stubtail Warbler *Urosphena squameiceps* 鱗頭樹鶯

2003: Reports in the first winter period concerned one to five birds, apart from a record of nine at Ng Tung Chai on 11th January. Most were noted up to 8th February, perhaps reflecting Winter Atlas fieldwork, and the only subsequent report was of two at Shing Mun on 15th March. The earliest record in the second winter period occurred on 30th October, after which most reports again comprised up to five birds, apart from eight at Tai Po Kau on 31st December. Reports were received from forest and closed-canopy shrubland sites in the NT and HK Island, with one report from Lantau.

2004: In the first winter period up to six birds were recorded at Tai Po Kau and Sha Tin Pass, while eight were recorded between Sham Wat and Tung Chung on 27th January. Elsewhere, one or two birds were recorded at Kowloon Park, Ng Tung Chai, Bride's Pool Road and Wonderland Villas up to 13th March. Noted in the second winter period from 12th October, though there were only two other records that month. The main arrival occurred from 11th November, and the highest count was five at Tai Po Kau on 8th and 11th December. Sites additional to those of the first winter period and away from the Tai Mo Shan massif were Pak Sha O, Fei Ngo Shan, Fung Yuen, Mount Parker and Sai Wan.

325A Japanese Bush Warbler *Cettia diphone* 日本樹鶯

2003: One or two birds were reported in the first winter period up to 13th April, with all but two reports occurring by 22nd February. Recorded in the second winter period from 3rd November, with records on eleven dates involving singles, apart from two at Sham Chung on 14th December. Records were received from widespread shrubland areas including the Soko Islands, where two were present on 15th February.

2004: Up to four birds were reported in the first winter period up to 20th March at sites in the Deep Bay area and shrubland in the central or northern NT. Up to three birds were noted at a similar range of sites in the second winter period from 17th November. This species appears to have declined markedly in the past decade, and the

presence of singing birds in the Deep Bay area in late winter and early spring is no longer a characteristic feature at that time. Observers are encouraged to submit all records of this species.

326A Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler *Cettia fortipes* 強腳樹鶯

2003: The sole reports in the first winter period were of three at Plover Cove on 8th January and one at Tung Ping Chau on 30th January. This was followed by records of up to four birds, two adults and two juveniles, at Tai Mo Shan on four dates during 1-26th July (PW, MK). This is the first confirmed instance of breeding in Hong Kong, though birds have been noted in song for several years. Recorded in the second winter period from 29th November, with ones or twos noted apart from three at Yi O on 31st December. Reported from shrubland sites in the NT, Lantau and Po Toi, including one in song at 600m on Nei Lak Shan, Lantau on the final day of the year.

2004: Presumed wintering birds were recorded up to 7th March at a number of locations in Sai Kung, northeast NT, Lantau and the Tai Mo Shan massif, with three at Ng Tung Chai on 12th January being the highest count. In addition, a presumed passage migrant was in song at Mai Po NR on 9th April. At Tai Mo Shan up to six were noted in song at around 750m from 10th March to 23rd May, and up to three juveniles were recorded from 16th May to 26th July, repeating last year's proven breeding at this site. In the second winter period recorded from 13th November, with singles noted at sites in the Tai Mo Shan massif and at Sha Lo Tung; elsewhere, four were at High Island Reservoir on 10th December and two were at Lai Chi Chong the following day.

327.1A Baikal Bush Warbler *Bradypterus davidi* 北短翅鶯

2004: One was seen and trapped on 16th and 30th January respectively (PJL); this is the first Hong Kong record.

329A Russet Bush Warbler *Bradypterus mandelli* 高山短翅鶯

2003: Three reports were received in the first part of the year, all of singles, at Shuen Wan, Ng Tung Chai and Sham Chung. There was one midsummer record, of three in song near the summit of Tai Mo Shan on 1st July. The next record was of one in song at Shan Tong Road, Tai Po on 30th October, and subsequently singles were reported from widespread areas of the NT, apart from three at Sha Lo Tung on 15th November.

2004: One to five birds were noted in the first winter period up to 22nd March, with the highest counts generally at Sha Lo Tung and the peak count of five occurring there on 7th March. Subsequently, at Tai Mo Shan up to three birds were noted in song from 4th April to 26th May. In the second winter period noted first on 12th November, with singles subsequently recorded, apart from two at Lai Chi Chong on 11th December.

330A Large Grass Warbler *Graminicola benghalensis* 大草鶯 NT

2003: All reports were from Tai Mo Shan from 4th June to 8th August, with three being the highest count on the earliest date and on 13th July; both these records noted a juvenile present.

2004: The first report of the year concerned one near the Tung Chung Road on 9th January. Subsequent reports occurred at Tai Mo Shan from 10th March to 31st July, with two being the highest count. In addition, one was there on 21st November, three were at Sha Lo Tung on 19th December and one was at Tai To Yan, Lam Tsuen on 24th December. The exact distribution of this Near Threatened species in Hong Kong is unclear, and as the taxon involved may be of restricted range, observers are encouraged to submit all records, preferably with details of exact location and habitat. Observers are also encouraged to visit potential breeding areas away from Tai Mo Shan in Spring in an attempt to locate vocalising birds and thus clarify more exactly the breeding range.

331A Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata* 矛紋蝗鶯

2003: Spring reports are rare, and one at Cheung Chau on 10th May is only the fifth record in the first part of the year. Autumn records began with one at Mai Po on 25th September, followed by singles on six dates up to 29th October at Mai Po, Long Valley, Sha Tin (taken into care at KFBG), and Tan Chuk Hang.

2004: Recorded in autumn during 1-31st October, with most records at Mai Po NR, where singles were noted on five dates and four were present on 17th. Singles were also noted at the Peak Galleria, KFBG and at fish ponds along the Shenzhen River. Subsequently the only record was of three birds, two of which were in song, at Shuen Wan on 6th December. Such singing birds are unusual in Hong Kong, and this is only the third December record.

332A Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella certhiola* 小蝗鶯

2003: The only winter record was of a male in song at Lok Ma Chau on 30th January and 6th February. There were four spring reports, comprising singing males at Lok Ma Chau on 2nd April, and Mai Po NR on 26th April and 3rd May, with one trapped there on 8th May. The earliest record in the second winter period was of one at Cape D'Aguilar during the close approach of Typhoon Dujuan on 3rd September. Subsequently, up to six birds were noted in the reedbed at Mai Po NR, while elsewhere at Long Valley, Lok Ma Chau and Kam Tin up to two were recorded. Migrants were noted up to 20th October, while a presumed wintering bird was at Mai Po on 17th December.

2004: Reports of wintering birds holding territory were received from Lok Ma Chau on 30th January and 3rd March, Nam Sang Wai on 24th February and Tsim Bei Tsui on 15th March. Subsequently, two were in song at Lok Ma Chau on 14th April, with one there four days later. Reported in autumn from 3rd September to 31st October, with main passage occurring from mid September to 9th October, and the highest count

being 20 at Mai Po NR on 25th September. All records were from the Deep Bay area, Long Valley or Kam Tin.

334A Styan's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella pleskei* 史氏蝗鶯 VU

2003: One was trapped in the reedbed and ringed at Mai Po on 18th October, and singles were present there on 8th November and 17th December.

2004: One was seen in the mangrove alongside the Mai Po boardwalk on 18th April.

335A Black-browed Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps* 黑眉葦鶯

2003: Amazingly, only one report was received for the spring, that of five at Mai Po NR on 3rd May. While there may have been a poor passage for this species, it is considered that some under-reporting is involved. In the second part of the year the earliest record occurred on 14th September when two were present at Mai Po NR. Subsequently, the highest counts were of 30 on 27th September and 75 on 18th October, also at Mai Po NR. The final record of the year occurred on 5th November, when one was at northern Lantau. Also recorded at Long Valley and Kam Tin, in addition to Deep Bay sites.

2004: The only winter record was of one at Ma Tso Lung on 26th January. Similar to 2003, there were only two spring records: one at Kam Tin on 31st March and five at Mai Po on 12th April. Autumn passage was noted from 5th September, and the highest counts received were of 85 at Mai Po NR on 17th October and 60 there on 9th October; 30 were still present as of 7th November. The latest record was of a single at Kam Tin on 25th November. All records occurred in the northwest NT, apart from singles at Shuen Wan on 3rd November and at Wonderland Villas, Kwai Chung on 7th November. Observers are encouraged to submit more records of this species.

337A Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola* 黑眉葦鶯

2003: One was trapped at Mai Po NR on 8th February (PC).

340A Oriental Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis* 東方大葦鶯

2003: Three were present at Mai Po NR on 5th January, and the next report concerned two there on 4th April. Subsequently, there were only two further spring records, one at Po Toi on 13th April and ten at Mai Po on 3rd May. As with the previous species, an element of under-reporting is considered to be in effect. There was one summer record: a male in song at Lok Ma Chau on 18th July, with presumably the same bird present there on 18th August. Southward bound migrants were evident by 6th September when 15 were noted at Mai Po NR, followed by 30 there on 14th and 200 on 27th September. No more than 12 were reported from any one site up to 20th October, and subsequently only ones or twos were reported until the latest on 22nd November. Records were received from lowlying areas of the NT, Po Toi and Chek Lap Kok.

2004: There was one record in the first winter period, a bird at Long Valley on 16th February. Spring passage was evident between 4th and 22nd April and, as with Black-browed Reed Warbler, it was very weak. The highest count was only ten birds on the 12th. Autumn passage, however, was robust, and occurred from 5th September to 27th November. Main passage occurred during the first three weeks of October, when peak counts were 100 at Mai Po NR on 9th and San Tin on 13th, 80 at Mai Po NR on 1st and 75 there on 17th. Most records were from the northwest NT, in particular Mai Po NR, but singles were also recorded at Tung Chung, Tai O, Penfold Park and Fung Yuen.

343A Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* 棕扇尾鶯

2003: Only six reports were received in the first part of the year, all of up to three birds between 14th February and 22nd May. In the second part of year, one at Mai Po NR on 15th August was followed by counts of up to 20 birds up to 25th October, and then two records of two at Wing Kei Tsuen on 23rd November and one at Shing Uk Tsuen on 16th December. Although it was not a good autumn passage for this species, under-reporting may also be playing a part in the paucity of records. Reported from lowlying areas of the northern NT and Chek Lap Kok.

2004: During January and February up to 20 birds were recorded at Long Valley, eight were at Chek Lap Kok, two were at Mui Wo, one was at Shuen Wan and two were at Man Uk Pin. Few spring reports were received, these comprising eight at Long Valley on 14th March, and up to four at Chek Lap Kok from 25th March to 8th June. Noted in the second winter period from 7th September, when ten were at Mai Po NR; subsequent counts were at the same level until the end of October. Elsewhere up to four were recorded at Long Valley, except on 27th November when 32 were counted; singles were noted at Ho Pui on 26th October and Kam Tin on 31st October and 15th December, up to eight were counted at Fung Lok Wai on 3rd and 8th December and, finally, one was at Lin Ma Hang on 30th December.

344A Bright-capped Cisticola *Cisticola exilis* 黃頭扇尾鶯

2003: There were three reports: six at Sha Lo Tung on 9th January, one at Long Valley on 19th October and one at Sha Lo Tung on 25th October.

2004: There were four January reports, comprising four at Sai Kung East CP on 2nd, and singles north of Kuk Po on 4th, at Kam Tin on 14th, and Sha Lo Tung on 23rd. Subsequently, one was at Sha Lo Tung on 28th February and two were at Ma Tso Lung on 21st March. In the second winter period two were at Robin's Nest on 28th October, three were at Plover Cove on 12th November, one was at Shek Wu Wai on 24th November, two were at Sha Lo Tung on 19th December, one was at Tai To Yan, Lam Tsuen on 24th December and, finally, one was at Fei Ngo Shan on 26th December.

345A Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris* 灰頭鷦鶯

2003 & 2004: No significant reports.

346A Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata* 褐頭鷦鶯

2003: No significant reports.

2004: The only reports of significance concerned one in the centre of the undeveloped area at Chek Lap Kok airport on 7th January and 19th February. There are only two previous records from the airfield.

346.9A Mountain Tailorbird *Orthotomus cuculatus* 栗頭縫葉鶯

2003: One at Ng Tung Chai on 21st May was followed by one at Tai Po Kau on 28th September. Subsequently, one or two birds were reported regularly from 23rd October to the end of the year at Tai Po Kau, Tai Po Kau Headland and Ng Tung Chai, with records also from Jacob's Ladder, Shing Mun, Sha Tin Pass and Kowloon Hills catchwater.

2004: In the first winter period up to four birds were recorded at Ng Tung Chai until 12th April, up to two were recorded at Tai Po Kau in January and singles were noted at Pun Shan Chau, adjacent to Tai Po Kau, on 25th January, 1st February and 6th March. The only other record at this time was of one at Ma On Shan on 14th March. In the second part of the year regular coverage at Ng Tung Chai produced frequent reports of up to five birds from 30th August to the end of the year. At Tai Po Kau up to two were reported from 18th September, with birds also noted at adjacent Tai Po Kau Park and Pun Shan Chau. Also noted at Chung Mei, Fung Yuen, Kowloon Hills, So Lo Pun and Wonderland Villas, Kwai Chung. The spread of this species continues, and highest numbers occur in closed-canopy shrubland or forest with a dense understorey. Observers are urged to continue submitting records of this species in order that its increase in abundance and spread through Hong Kong can be documented.

347A Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius* 長尾縫葉鶯

2003 & 2004: No significant reports.

349A Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* 褐柳鶯

2003: Up to five birds were reported from widespread areas up to 10th March, followed by six at Mai Po NR on 4th April and up to four birds on five dates subsequently, until the latest at Po Toi on 11th May. The earliest record in the second part of the year was of one at Mui Wo on 23rd September. Passage intensified from 12th October and was one of the heaviest on record, with counts of 50 at Lok Ma Chau on 16th, and 60 at Long Valley and 75 at Mai Po on 18th October; the latter is the highest

day count on record, though not the highest single site count which remains 100. The highest count of wintering birds was of 20 at Mai Po NR on 17th December. Reported from widespread lowland areas.

2004: The highest count in the first winter period was of ten birds at Mai Po NR on 30th January, while the highest in spring concerned five birds in the mangroves at Mai Po NR. The latest record at this time was of one at Palm Springs on 5th May. Recorded in the second part of the year from 25th September, with the highest counts occurring in the last ten days of October and first week of November, the peak being 75 at Mai Po NR on 31st. The highest December count was of ten at Kam Tin on 5th.



Plate 16. Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*
Wun Yiu, Hong Kong, 6th February 2004
Angus Lau

351A Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* 巨嘴柳鶯

2003: One was at Mount Austin on 24th October, up to two were at Sha Lo Tung during 24-25th, two were at Tai Po Kau on 26th October with one there on 1st November, one was at KFBG on 2nd November and, finally, one was at Sai Kung on 29th December.

2004: Three records were received for the year: two at Mai Po NR on 16th October, two at Kam Tin on 31st October and one at Tai Po Kau on 14th November.

352A Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* 黃腰柳鶯

2003: Up to ten birds were reported until 21st February, and subsequent records comprised one in a mangrove at Mai Po NR on 6th March, four in song at Shan Tong Road, Tai Po on 13th March and 15 in song in Tai Po Kau on 15th March. First recorded in the second winter period on 15th November, when four were in Tai Po Kau. Subsequently, the highest counts there were made in early December with up to 15 noted during 3-10th; ten were also present at Bride's Pool Road on 20th December.

2004: The highest count in the first winter period at Tai Po Kau, the stronghold of this species, was 20 on 12th January. The only double-figure count away from here concerned ten birds at Ng Tung Chai on 9th February. Singing birds, a regular feature of the early spring period, were noted in March, including 20 in Tai Po Kau on 20th. The latest record also occurred at Tai Po Kau, on 10th April. Noted in the second winter period from 6th November, with a significantly wider spread of records in November than midwinter. The highest count in this month was seven at Tai Po Kau on 25th, while the highest count in this part of the year was 21 at the same site on both 8th and 10th December. The only double-figure count away from the stronghold was of 13 at Beacon Hill on 25th December.

354A Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* 黃眉柳鶯

2003: Although much more widespread than Pallas's Leaf Warbler, the counts received were not as high, with six at Wun Yiu on 3rd February being the highest in the first winter period. No reports were received from 16th February to 3rd April, though it is unknown if this reflects any actual decline. There were four April reports: three at Mai Po NR on 4th, eight at Po Toi on 6th, five at Kowloon Park on 9th and six at Po Toi on 13th. First noted in the second winter period on 24th September; subsequently, the highest counts were of six at Fung Kat Heung on 23rd November and nine at Yau Tam Mei Tsuen four days later.

2004: Perhaps the most significant counts of the first winter period concerned those of zero at Tai Po Kau on 22nd, 24th and 25th January during a cold spell, presumably indicating the withdrawal of this species from that site due to the weather. In spring the latest record was noted on 14th April at Tai Po Kau. Noted in the second winter period from 22nd September, subsequently the highest count was eight at Shing Mun on 4th December. As usual there were no double-figure counts during the year. Reported from widespread sites, mainly in the NT.

356A Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* 極北柳鶯

2003: As usual, reports in the first part of the year were relatively few, comprising singles at Kowloon Park on 9th April, Cheung Chau on 29th April and Po Toi on 3rd May, followed by two at Cheung Chau on 10th May and 12 at Po Toi the following day. The first autumn records occurred on 31st August, when one was at Po Toi and five were trapped and ringed at Tai Mo Shan. Only ones or twos were reported up to mid September, after which passage was heaviest, with at least 40 at Mai Po on 20th September, 25 at northern Lantau on 24th and 17 at Mai Po NR the following day.

Subsequent counts did not exceed eight, and the latest occurred at Cheung Chau on 27th October.

2004: The occurrence of this species in spring is rather erratic, and this is reflected in the fact of there only being one spring report, that of a bird in song at Chinese University on 18th May. The next record occurred on 7th September, and passage continued to 21st October, with highest numbers occurring in the last week of September, and the highest count being ten at Mai Po NR on during 29-30th. There was one November record, one at Plover Cove on 16th in what was a rather mild autumn.

357A Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* 極北柳鶯

2003: One was at Ng Tung Chai on 4th January.

2004: In contrast to the previous five years when only one report was received, several were reported this year. A bird at Yung Shue Au on 4th January was followed by one in Tai Po Kau during 9-27th January. The sole spring record concerned a bird at Dong Ping Chau on 2nd April. In autumn one at Tai Mo Shan on 29th September was followed by two at Mai Po on 7th October and singles on The Peak on 14th November and at Tai Po Kau on 28th November and 11th December.

358A Pale-legged Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus tenellipes* 灰腳樹鶯 or

359A Sakhalin Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus borealoides* 庫頁島樹鶯

Since reliable criteria for separation in the field remain to be established, for the time being records of these two species will be combined, unless birds are trapped, allowing for known differences in wing formula to be used.

2003: Three reports were received for the first part of the year: one at Sok Kwu Wan on 20th January, one at Cheung Chau on 7th April and two at Kowloon Park on 9th April. As usual, the bulk of records occurred in autumn, from 6th September to 19th October, with four at Kap Lung on 12th September the highest count. Most were reported in September.

2004: There were two reports in the first winter period, comprising singles at Sha Tin Pass on 23rd January and at Tai Po Kau on 28th January. These were followed by two spring records, one at Pak Hok Chau Police Post on 3rd and 5th April and at Ng Tung Chai on 12th April. Recorded in autumn from 15th September to 18th October, with the highest count being of five birds at Mai Po NR on 29th September and at Shek Kong catchment on 1st October. The only record in the second winter period was of one at Lai Chi Chong on 11th December.

359A Sakhalin Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus borealoides* 庫頁島樹鶯

2003: One was trapped at Mai Po NR on 25th September (PJL).

360A Eastern Crowned Warbler *Phylloscopus coronatus* 冕柳鶯

2003: Six reports were received for the year: in September, one at Tai Po Kau on 6th, two there on 24th and one at Ng Tung Chai on 27th; in October, three at Kap Lung on 1st, one at Ng Tung Chai on 23rd and one along the Wilson Trail on 31st (JH). The latter equals the latest on record.

2004: There was one spring report concerning one at Dong Ping Chau on 2nd April. At Tai Po Kau the first autumn report was of one on 8th August (PW, MK), which by four days is the earliest on record in Hong Kong. This was followed by singles there on 30th August and 12th September, two on 26th and 28th September and one on 13th October. Elsewhere singles were at Ng Tung Chai on 15th September, and 3rd and 12th October, and Kowloon Hills catchwater on 18th September, and up to two were present at Pak Sha O, Sai Kung during 3-4th October.

361A Goodson's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus goodsoni* 華南冠紋柳鶯

Following Olsson *et al.* (2005), birds previously identified in Hong Kong as Blyth's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides goodsoni* are now treated as *Phylloscopus goodsoni*. At present, only the nominate subspecies *P.g. goodsoni* is considered to occur for certain, based on the extensive yellow on the underparts and face that is diagnostic of this taxon. Although it is considered that those birds lacking this yellow are likely to refer to *Phylloscopus goodsoni fokiensis*, this is not proven, as *Phylloscopus claudiae* cannot be excluded. Observers are encouraged to carefully note the appearance of birds seen and submit records as *P.g. goodsoni* or *fokiensis/claudiae*, where appropriate.

2003: Singles of the taxon *P.g. goodsoni* were reported from Tai Po Kau on seven dates from 5th November to the end of the year, while one *fokiensis/claudiae* was reported on 6th December. In addition, there were a series of unassigned reports of 'Blyth's Leaf Warbler' from 13th January to 18th February and from 2nd November to 18th December, all of singles apart from two on 16th November, mainly at Tai Po Kau but also at Tai Tam CP, Shan Liu, Po Toi, Ng Tung Chai and Kowloon Hills.

2004: Only one *goodsoni* was reported in the first winter period, at Tai Po Kau on 4th January. Three unassigned birds were recorded at the same site in the first winter period. Also recorded at Chung Mei, KFBG, Sha Lo Tung, Upper Tai Om, north Lantau, Ng Tung Chai and Pun Shan Chau, with two birds at each of the last two sites. A greater appreciation of the importance of identifying *P. g. goodsoni* resulted in significantly more birds being ascribed to this taxon in the second winter period. The first was on 6th November, and subsequently up to four were reported in Tai Po Kau, two were at Pun Shan Chau and the Peak and singles were at Kowloon Hills catchment and Ng Tung Chai. Of birds specifically reported as being white underneath or as being *fokiensis/claudiae*, the first was reported on 6th November at Tai Po Kau, where the highest subsequent counts were eight on 20th November and six on 8th December. Elsewhere, singles were recorded at Beacon Hill and Eagle's Nest Nature Trail. Birds unassigned as to taxon were recorded from 31st October at Tai Po Kau, with up to three birds noted, at Ng Tung Chai, Shing Mun and Pak Sha O, at which sites singles only were recorded.

363.5 White-spectacled Warbler *Seicercus affinis*. 白眶鵯鶯

2002: One was recorded at Tai Po Kau from 17th November to at least 17th December (PW, MK). This is the first record for Hong Kong.

2003: The bird first noted in December 2002 at Tai Po Kau is known to have been seen early in the year, but no records have been received. Observers are encouraged to submit such reports. In the second winter period in Tai Po Kau, one was present on 30th November (of the form '*cognitus*') (PW, MW).

2004: One was in Tai Po Kau on 10th and 16th January (PW, MW).

Spectacled Warbler *Seicercus sp.* 眼眶鵯鶯

2003: Singles were at Ng Tung Chai on 4th January and Wong Lung Hang, Lantau on 27th December.

2004: Singles were at Tai Po Kau on 6th and 20th November, Ng Tung Chai on 24th November, Beacon Hill on 25th December and Tai Po Kau on 29th December.

It should be noted that while records of *Seicercus sp.* do not require substantiation, a detailed description may allow identification in the future. All records of warblers *Seicercus* identified to species level will be assessed by the Records Committee and, thus, details should be provided.

364A Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Seicercus castaniceps* 冕柳鶯

2004: In the second winter period up to two were recorded at Tai Po Kau during 16-22nd November (JAPW) and one was there on 4th December (PW, MK).

365A Rufous-faced Warbler *Abroscopus albogularis* 冕柳鶯

2003: One was at Tai Po Kau on 22nd December (KK). This is the third Hong Kong record, the previous two having occurred on 1st February 1964 and from 10th January to 5th February 1993, both at Ho Chung.

2004: One was at Tai Po Kau on 4th January (PW, MW), and two were at Ng Tung Chai on 12th February (GJC). These are the fourth and fifth Hong Kong records.

366A Brown-chested Jungle Flycatcher *Rhinomyias brunneata* 斑胸鵯 VU

2004: Singles were at Tai Po Kau on 28th August (PKK) and 18th September (JAA); these are the second and third Hong Kong records.



Plate 17. Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Seicercus castaniceps*
 Tai Po Kau, Hong Kong, December 2004
 Peter and Michelle Wong

367A Grey-streaked Flycatcher *Muscicapa griseisticta* 斑胸鵯

2003: The first of the spring occurred on 27th April, a little later than usual. Ten reports were received for the period up to 11th May, the highest counts being four at both Mai Po and Po Toi on 27th and three at Po Toi on both 4th and 11th May. There were two autumn records: singles at Tai Po Lookout on 3rd September and at Tai Po Kau on 8th October.

2004: There were only four records during the year, all during early May, comprising singles at Sha Po on 5th, Mai Po NR on 7th and 8th, and Mau Ping on 8th.

368A Dark-sided Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica* 烏鵯

2003: The first of the autumn occurred at Tai Mo Shan on 31st August; this was followed by seven records of single birds until two were present at Mai Po NR during 2-3rd October. Subsequently singles were again noted until the latest at Tai Po Kau on 1st November. Also recorded at Mong Tseng, Cheung Chau, Mui Wo, Lai Chi Wo and Kam Tin.

2004: Recorded in autumn from 5th September to 21st November, with most records

occurring in the period up to 10th October. The highest single-site count was three at Chung Mei on 22nd September, at Plover Cove two days later and at Tai Po Kau on 26th September. After 30th October the only records were of up to two birds during 16-21st November. Recorded at widespread lowland sites in the NT and once on Lantau.

369A Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica* 北灰鶇

2003: Counts of one to three birds were made in the first winter period up to 21st February; these were followed by six April records, presumably involving passage migrants: two at Po Toi and one at Tai Po Kau on 6th April, five at Kowloon Park on 9th April, three there the following day and one there on 12th, and one in the Zoological and Botanical Gardens on 17th. The first record in the second part of the year occurred on 13th September, after which there were frequent records until the end of October, with the highest count being eight at Mai Po NR on 25th September. After 1st November mainly singles were noted to the end of the year.

2004: In the first part of the year, there were only eight reports, the latest of which concerned one at Ho Chung on 1st May. Noted in the second part of the year from 2nd September, with the main passage occurring in the last week of September and first half of October. The highest single-site count was of eight birds at Mai Po NR on 14th October.

370A Ferruginous Flycatcher *Muscicapa ferruginea* 紅褐鶇

2003: After a blank year in 2002, in spring, singles were at Tai Po Kau on 5th and 6th April and at Sham Chung on 6th April. Only the third autumn record in Hong Kong concerned one at Sha Tin Pass on 23rd September.

371A Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassina* 銅藍鶇

2003: In the first winter period there were eight reports at Tai Po Kau, Wun Yiu (where up to two birds were seen from 8th January to 8th February) and Kam Tin up to 22nd February. In the second winter period the first record concerned an immature male at Ho Chung on 1st October (MT), two days later than the earliest on record, followed by one at Tai Po Kau on 8th October. The next record occurred on 5th November at Tai Po Kau, and one was reported here until 2nd December, when two were present. Elsewhere, singles were at Sha Tin Pass on 29th November, Lai Chi Wo on 30th November, Shing Mun on 20th December and Kowloon Hills on 31st December.

2004: In the first winter period a female was seen at Tai Po Kau from 4th to 24th January and up to two males were present at Chung Mei from 27th January to 11th February. The first record of the second part of the year was of a male at Shuen Wan on 10th October. At Tai Po Kau two were present on 23rd October, while singles were noted there on 23rd and 31st October, 13th and 25th November, and on six dates during 4-28th December; both male and female birds were noted from late November to late December. Elsewhere, singles were at Hong Kong Observatory on 24th October, with one at Kowloon Park on 31st possibly referring to the same individual, at Ng Tung Chai

on 3rd November (male), at Sha Tin Pass on 13th, at Shuen Wan on 19th November, at Mai Po on 14th December (male) and at Pak Sha O on 18th December.

372A Yellow-rumped Flycatcher *Ficedula zanthopygia* 白眉姬鵯

2003: After no records in 2002, eight records were received this year. These comprised two at Mai Po NR on 24th August, and in September one at Tai Po Lookout on 3rd, two at Mai Po NR on 10th, two at Kap Lung on 12th, one at Mong Tseng on 13th, and singles at Tai Po Kau on 17th and 28th; finally, one was at Mai Po NR on 3rd October.

2004: There was one spring record, that of a female at Tai Po Kau on 10th April. In autumn recorded during 2-30th September, with singles noted at Ng Tung Chai, Tai Po Kau, Kowloon Hills catchwater, Mai Po, Ma Tso Lung and Sha Tin Pass. Adult males are unusual, and a report of one at Tai Po Kau on 7th September is only the sixth on record. A record of a female at Tai Po Kau on 21st January is presumed to refer to an ex-captive individual.

373A Narcissus Flycatcher *Ficedula narcissina* 黃眉姬鵯

2003: Single males were at Mai Po NR on 5th and 8th April, Tai Po Kau on 5th April, Po Toi on 6th April and Kowloon Park on 9th April.

2004: Recorded in spring during 1-18th April, with the highest count being of five birds at Sha Tin Pass on 3rd. Also noted at Tai Po Kau, Dong Ping Chau, Mai Po NR, Ng Tung Chai, Tai Mo Shan and Shing Mun. As usual, mostly males noted, but a number of females also.

375A Mugimaki Flycatcher *Ficedula mugimaki* 鵯姬鵯

2003: There was one spring record, that of a female at Tai Po Kau during 5-6th April. In autumn a male was at Tai Po Kau during 25-26th October, three males were there on 31st October, a male was at northern Lantau and one was at Tai Po Kau Headland on 5th November, and one was at Sha Tin Pass on 23rd November.

2004: There was one spring report, a male at Ng Tung Chai on 3rd April. In autumn recorded from 28th October to 28th November at Ng Tung Chai, Tai Po Kau and Tai Tam CP, with no more than one bird recorded at any one site apart from two at Tai Po Kau on 15th November. Finally, a female was Pak Sha O on 29th December.

376A Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophilata* 紅喉姬鵯

2003: One was at Ng Tung Chai on 11th January (MT). This is the eighth Hong Kong record; most have occurred at this site.

377A Red-throated Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla* 紅喉姬鵯

2003: In the first winter period two were at Wun Yiu on 8th January, with reports of singles there on 5th, 6th and 15th February, and an over-wintering bird was seen at Fung Yuen on 6th and 22nd February (previously seen in December 2002). There was one record of a spring passage migrant, one at Kowloon Park on 9th April. The first record in the second part of the year concerned one at Mai Po NR on 3rd October. Passage appears to have peaked during 16-19th October, when up to four birds were seen at Mai Po NR, Shek Kong catchment, Lok Ma Chau and Kam Tin. Subsequently, singles were reported to the end of the year, apart from two in Kowloon Hills on 14th December.

2004: In the first part of the year singles were recorded during January at Kam Tin, Shui Kou, Mai Po NR, Airfield Road and Man Uk Pin. There were two spring reports: a female at Nam Sang Wai on 9th April and one at San Po Kong the following day. Recorded in autumn in three discrete periods: from 26th September to 16th October, during 5-23rd November and 18-29th December. Singles were involved in all these records, which occurred at lowlying areas of the NT and Sai Kung.

378A Blue-and-white Flycatcher *Cyanoptila cyanomelana* 白腹鵯

2003: There were six spring records, all in April: two males and a female at Tai Po Kau on 5th, with a male there the next day and two males and a female on 9th, females at Wun Yiu and Kowloon Park on 12th and a male at Po Toi on 13th. In the second part of the year, one was at Sha Tin Pass on 12th October, two were at Tai Po Kau on 31st October, with singles reported there on 8th and 15th November, and one was at Ng Tung Chai on 28th December.

2004: Strong passage was evident in early April, with 21 birds noted during 2-6th April and the highest count being four males and two females at Dong Ping Chau on 2nd. At least five birds were noted during 9-11th April, and the final two records of the spring comprised singles on 14th and 30th April. In autumn singles were noted at Tai Po Kau on 28th September, Kowloon Hills catchwater the following day, Ng Tung Chai on 12th October (male) and 3rd and 17th November (both female), KFBG on 17th October and Tai Po Kau on 15th November.

379A Fujian Niltava *Niltava davidi* 海南藍鵯

2004: A male was at Sha Tin Pass during 20-21st November (PW, MW).

380A Hainan Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis hainanus* 海南藍鵯

2003: First noted at Tai Po Kau on 30th March, a pair and one juvenile male were noted there up to 6th July. Elsewhere at this time, singles were at Kowloon Park on 12th and Sham Chung on 17th April, and three males were at Tai Mo Shan on 20th July. At Tai Po Kau two males and a juvenile were present on 17th August, followed by up to four birds (three males and an female/immature) in the first half of September.

Elsewhere at this time an adult male and a first-winter male were at Kap Lung on 12th September. Subsequently, a male was at Tai Po Kau on 18th and 25th October, and an adult male was there on 15th November.

2004: Unusually, there were several winter records, presumably related to the cold weather at the time. A male was in Tai Po Kau on 24th January and 10th February, a female was at Pun Shan Chau on 25th January and a male was at Wonderland Villas, Kwai Chung on 1st February. Recorded in spring from 28th March, and at the Tai Po Kau stronghold the highest count was of three males and one female on 26th May. Elsewhere, a male was Ng Tung Chai during 3-12th April. Summer records were concentrated at Tai Po Kau, where at least two juveniles were seen, but there was also an immature male at Sha Tin Pass on 8th July. At Ng Tung Chai a male was present on 30th August, while a female was seen from 2nd to 9th September. A female was seen at Tai Po Kau on 4th and 12th September, which marked the end of summer/autumn records. Subsequently, a male and a female were at Sha Tin Pass on 13th November and a male was at Pak Sha O the following day.

383A Grey-headed Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis* 方尾鵯

2003: Six records were received for the first part of the year, comprising singles at Lam Tsuen on 11th January, Che Kung Tuk (Sai Kung) on 5th February, Tai Po Kau on 22nd and Kennedy Road (HK Island) on 26th February, and two at Kowloon Hills on 27th January and at Shing Mun on 15th March. First reported in the second winter period on 19th October, singles were subsequently recorded at Cheung Chau, Kap Lung, Lai Chi Wo, Shing Mun and Tai Po Kau, while three were at the Kowloon Hills on 13th and 18th December.

2004: There were only four reports in the first winter period, suggesting the cold weather early in the year may have prompted a departure. These comprised records of up to two birds at Tai Po Kau during 9-28th January. Reported in the second winter period from 11th November, with the highest counts being four at Shing Mun on 4th December, and three at Kowloon Hills catchment on 25th December and at Tai Po Kau on 8th December. Also recorded at Eagle's Nest Nature Trail, Ng Tung Chai, Fung Yuen, Golden Triangle and Sha Tin Pass.

384A Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea* 黑枕王鵯

2003: Singles were recorded at Tai Po Kau on 30th January (male), Po Tong Ha, Tuen Mun on 9th February (female), Mai Po on 1st and 3rd October (female), Cheung Chau on 29th October, Kowloon Hill catchwater on 12th December (male) and Kowloon Hills on 18th December (male).

2004: There were two records in the first winter period, both in January: singles at Chung Mei on 24th and Ma Tso Lung on 29th. There was one spring record concerning a bird at Mong Tseng on 3rd April. In the second winter period noted from 6th November at Fung Yuen, Golden Triangle, Kowloon Hills catchment, Ng Tung Chai, Sha Lo Tung, Shing Mun and Tai Po Kau. All records involved singles, apart from two at Fung Yuen on 27th November and two at Tai Po Kau on 6th November.

385A Asian Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradise* 壽帶鳥

2003: There was only one spring record, one at Tai Po Kau on 19th April. One at Ng Tung Chai on 2nd August (EMSK) is 12 days earlier than the previous earliest Hong Kong record at this time. This was followed by one at Kap Lung on 30th August, and then singles regularly throughout September until 9th October at Tai Po Kau, Mai Po, Kap Lung and Ng Tung Chai. Subsequently, singles were reported from Tai Po Kau on 18th and 29th October and on 16th November.

2004: The two spring records were of singles at Tai Po Kau on 11th and 25th April. Autumn passage occurred from 22nd August to 16th October, with main passage in the last week of September and the highest count being of four birds at Mai Po NR on 30th September. Also recorded at this time at Tai Tam Reservoir, Ng Tung Chai and Tai Po Kau. There were two late records, singles at Ng Tung Chai on 30th November and at Tai Po Kau on 26th December.

386A Japanese Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone atrocaudata* 紫壽帶鳥 NT

2003: There were four spring records, all in April, comprising singles at Tai Po Kau on 5th, Po Toi on 6th, Sha Tin Pass on 7th, Mai Po NR on 12th and Tai Po Kau on 17th. In autumn the earliest occurred on 12th September at Tai Po Kau, where singles were also reported on 23rd September and 8th and 9th October, with two there on 30th September and three on 24th September. Elsewhere, singles were at Kap Lung on 24th September and Mai Po the following day, and at Sha Tin Pass on 18th October.

2004: There were two spring records: a male at Dong Ping Chau on 2nd April and two birds at Tai Po Kau on 17th April. In autumn, at Tai Po Kau up to two birds were recorded from 26th September to 17th October, one was at Ng Tung Chai during 3-8th October with another there on 3rd November, and singles were at Lok Ma Chau on 5th October, at Mai Po on 14th October and at Sha Tin Pass on 20th October.

387A Chinese Penduline Tit *Remiz consobrinus* 攀雀

2003: Unusually, most records in the first part of the year came from Long Valley, where a flock was present from 18th March until 11th April that numbered up to 28 birds. Elsewhere, recorded at Mai Po (singles on 22nd February and 21st March, 12 on 26th April) and Nam Sang Wai (five on 7th March). The first record of the autumn was of two birds on northern Lantau on 5th November, an unusual location for this species. Birds were subsequently recorded at Mai Po (40 on 23rd November, 15 on 16th December and 25 on 17th December) and Nam Sang Wai (two on 16th December).

2004: Recorded in the first winter period until 12th April, with a peak count of 70 on the final date, and again from 10th October, with a peak of 30 on 20th November. Most records came from Mai Po, but also recorded at Nam Sang Wai (two on 13th January, ten on 9th March, four on 9th April), Long Valley (two on 1st April) and Ma Tso Lung (one on 22nd November).

388A Yellow-bellied Tit *Parus venustulus* 黃腹山雀

2003: Singles were at Tai Po Kau headland on 29th January and Mong Tseng on 22nd February.

389A Great Tit *Parus major* 大山雀

2003: Widespread records throughout the year. A loose flock of about 20 birds was recorded foraging on the ground in the *Rhodoleia* grove in Tai Po Kau on 30th January, while 14 on the Chi Ma Wan Peninsula (Lantau) was also a comparatively large count.

2004: No significant reports.

390C Yellow-cheeked Tit *Parus spilonotus* 黃頰山雀

2003: As usual, most records were from Tai Po Kau, but single males were also recorded at Tai Po Kau Headland on 2nd November and Ng Tung Chai on 12th and 22nd November.

2004: Recorded throughout the year at Tai Po Kau, with a high count of 14 (including juveniles) on 1st May. Elsewhere recorded at Tai Mo Shan (one male on 20th April), Ng Tung Chai (up to two on 14th November, 26th November and 19th December) and Shing Mun (three on 4th December).

391D Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis* 絨額鵓

2003: Most records came from Tai Po Kau, the only double-figure counts being of ten on 8th July and 1st September. Also recorded at Pun Shan Chau (two on 8th February, one on 25th October), Shing Mun (six on 15th March), Sha Lo Tung (one on 15th November), Kap Lung (two on 30th November) and Kowloon Hills (at least four on 13th December). The Sha Lo Tung record appears to be the first for this site, and lies outside this species' usual range in the Tai Mo Shan massif and Kowloon Hills.

2004: Most records came from Tai Po Kau, where the highest count was of 20 birds on 4th January. Elsewhere recorded at Ng Tung Chai, Kowloon Hills catchwater, Shing Mun and Chinese University. No records were received between April and September, although this is likely to reflect observer coverage at this time. The only breeding record was of a pair investigating a potential nest site at Tai Po Kau on 9th April.

393A Buff-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus* 紅胸啄花鳥

2003: Presumably under-recorded, with just six records (of seven birds) received for the year. These were from widespread sites, including Ma Tso Lung (one on 20th January), Tai Po Kau (one on 22nd February, two on 5th November), Bride's Pool (one on 1st October), Ng Tung Chai (one on 5th December) and Shing Uk Tsuen (one on 16th December). The bird at Bride's Pool was moulting from juvenile to male plumage, perhaps indicating local breeding.

2004: Recorded only from Tai Po Kau, Ng Tung Chai, Kap Lung and Bride's Pool Road. The only record between May and October was of two at Tai Po Kau on 14th July.

394A Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum* 朱背啄花鳥

2003: Reported from widespread locations in the NT, as well as at Ho Man Tin on 13th January. There was one record from Tung Ping Chau on 30th January and three records from Lantau Island: four at Mong Tung Wan on 17th January, and two at Mui Wo on 21st October and 27th November. There have only been two previous records from Lantau, in December 1994 and December 2001. There were two double-figure counts during the year: 15 between Wu Kau Tang and Lai Chi Wo on 1st October and ten at Man Uk Pin on 28th October. The only record indicating breeding was of a male feeding a juvenile at Tai Po Kau on 10th August.

2004: Certainly under-recorded, with only nine records for the year from widespread locations in the NT. A juvenile was observed at Shum Chung on 31st July.

395A Fork-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga christinae* 叉尾太陽鳥

2003: Certainly under-recorded with the highest count comprising just five birds, and no records between February and September. All records were from the eastern NT except one at Mai Po Village on 9th December and one at Tei Tong Tsai (Lantau) on 14th December.

2004: All records received were in the period until 29th February and again from 8th September, although birds were presumably also present between these dates. The highest counts involved 30 at Tai Po Kau on 4th January and 18 in the northeast NT on 12th November. Away from the central and eastern NT, single birds recorded at Mui Wo on 26th January and Kam Tin on 30th October.

396A Chestnut-flanked White-eye *Zosterops erythropleurus* 紅脇繡眼鳥

2003: One was at Tai Po Kau on 23rd November.

2004: Just two records for the year: two at Tai Po Kau on 3rd January and one there on 16th November.

397A Japanese White-eye *Zosterops japonicus* 暗綠繡眼鳥

2003: The largest count was of over 100 birds along Bride's Pool Road on 20th December.

2004: No significant reports.

400A Tristram's Bunting *Emberiza tristrami* 白眉鵪

2003: In the first winter period, one was at Ho Chung on 12th January, six at Tai Po

Kau on 30th January, three at Sha Tin Pass on 8th February, and two at Tai Po Kau on 18th February and 22nd March. This poor showing follows a lack of birds at the end of 2002. A single male at Mai Po on 21st April was unusual, both in terms of date and location. Reported again in autumn from 23rd November. Until the end of the year, records were received from Tai Po Kau (up to two from 23rd November to 9th December), Ng Tung Chai (three on 30th November, one on 17th December, one on 28th December), Sham Chung (one on 14th December), Pyramid Hill (one on 26th December) and Fu Yung Pit, Ma On Shan CP (four on 28th December).

2004: Recorded until 20th February and again from 18th November. With the exception of two birds near Wu Kau Tang on 3rd January and one at Sha Lo Tung on 27th November, all records were from the Tai Mo Shan massif.

401A Chestnut-eared Bunting *Emberiza fucata* 栗耳鵪 (赤胸鵪)

2003: The only record during the spring was of a single bird at San Tin on 1st April. In autumn, singles were at Long Valley on 1st November and near Au Tau on 3rd November. A single bird was recorded at Lok Ma Chau on 25th November and this, or another, was at the same site on 10th and 11th December.

2004: Three birds were recorded in spring: along the Mai Po access road on 30th March, at Mai Po on 12th April and at Tam Kon Chau on 18th April. In autumn, following one at Mai Po on 9th October (the earliest ever in autumn by one day), a total of 20 bird-days were recorded until 12th November. Most of these were from Mai Po, where there was a peak count of four birds on 17th October, but also recorded at San Tin (two on 13th October), Kam Tin (one on 2nd November) and Long Valley (up to two between 6th and 12th November). An improvement on recent years, which have been rather poor for this species.

402A Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* 小鵪

2003: In the early part of the year recorded at Ng Tung Chai, Long Valley, Mai Po, Tai Sang Wai, Lam Tsuen Valley, Fung Yuen and Po Lam Road (near Tseung Kwan O). Numbers at this time were rather better than in recent years and included a flock of at least 50 at Ng Tung Chai during 7th-18th March, ten at Mai Po on 27th March and 25 at Long Valley on 3rd April. There was just one record after 11th April, of three birds at Mai Po on 3rd May. The first record of the autumn was of two birds at Long Valley on 18th October. Birds were then recorded in low numbers until the end of the year, with records from Long Valley, Tai Mo Shan, Ng Tung Chai, Mui Wo and Wun Yiu.

2004: Recorded on several dates until 17th April and again from 7th October. The 7th October was just one day later than the earliest ever; following this record, no birds were recorded until the more typical date of 26th October. All records came from the central and northwest NT, with the exception of two on Po Toi on 9th April.

403A Yellow-browed Bunting *Emberiza chrysophrys* 小鵪 小鵪

2004: One was at Long Valley during 1-2nd October and at least two were at Fung Kat Heung during 3-9th November.

406A Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola* 黃胸鵪 VU

2003: Three birds were at San Tin on 2nd January. The next records involved one at San Tin and four along Tam Kon Chau Road on 24th February; these may have been wintering birds or early migrants. Spring passage peaked in mid-April and continued until 6th May, but very few birds appear to have been involved, with the peak count being just six. All records at this time were from the Deep Bay area, especially San Tin, with the exception of two at Ho Chung on 4th May. Autumn passage occurred from 14th September to 23rd November, and peaked between 12th October and 2nd November, with the highest totals on 18th October (20 at Mai Po, 18 at Long Valley and ten at Lok Ma Chau). Most autumn records were from these three sites, but also recorded at Ma Tso Lung, Sha Po, Kam Tin and Mui Wo.

2004: Only one midwinter record, of two birds at Ma Tso Lung on 20th January. In a poor spring for the species, three were recorded at Mai Po on 4th April, six at Mai Po on 14th April, three at Ma Tso Lung on 17th April and two at Long Valley on 17th and 18th April. Recorded in autumn from the Deep Bay area, Long Valley and Kam Tin between 1st October and 9th November, with a peak count of 75 at Mai Po on 27th October. In addition, one was at the unusual location of Sha Tin Pass on 17th November.

407A Chestnut Bunting *Emberiza rutila* 栗鵪

2003: All records fell within the autumn passage period. These comprised one at Sha Tin Pass on 18th October, seven at Mai Po on 26th October, three at Beas River on 1st November, seven at KFBG on 2nd November, 14 (the highest count of the year) on northern Lantau on 5th November, four at Tsim Bei Tsui on 6th November, one at Man Uk Pin on 24th November, two at Tai Mo Shan on 30th November, four at Sha Lo Tung on 6th December and one at Ng Tung Chai on 12th December.

2004: Only recorded in autumn, between 23rd October and 27th November, with a total of just 26 bird-days and a peak count of six birds at Kam Tin on 4th November. Sites included Tai Po Kau, Mai Po, Kam Tin, Fung Kat Heung, Tam Kon Chau, Fung Yuen and Sha Lo Tung.

409A Japanese Yellow Bunting *Emberiza sulphurata* 硫黃鵪 VU

2003: The only record of the year was a male at Lin Barn Tsuen on 11th April.

2004: The only record of the year was a female at Mai Po on 14th April.

410A Black-faced Bunting *Emberiza spodocephala* 灰頭鵪

2003: Recorded regularly at the start of the year until 13th April, after which there was a gap until records of singles at Mai Po and Po Toi on 3rd May. In autumn recorded from 23rd November until the end of the year. All records were from the NT with the exception of the Po Toi record mentioned above and two at the western end of Lantau on 31st December.

2004: During the first part of the year, recorded until 20th April, when a female was at Tai Mo Shan; highest counts at this time were 16 near Kuk Po on 4th January and 15 at Long Ke (Sai Kung) on 17th January. Recorded again from 17th October, when there were 11 at Mai Po. The highest count of the year was of 20 birds at Mai Po on 20th November. Most records were from the eastern, central or northern NT, the exception to this being seven birds at Mui Wo on 18th February.

414A Brambling *Fingilla montifringilla* 蘆鵪

2003: A male was Mai Po on 8th April (MW, PW). There have been a number of spring records of Brambling in recent years (subsequent to this), which raise the possibility that such birds are not, as previously considered, of non-natural occurrence. Observers are encouraged to submit all records of this species and, where possible, provide high resolution images in order that plumage condition can be critically assessed.

415A Grey-capped Greenfinch *Carduelis sinica* 金翅雀

2003: Two were at Tai Po Kau Headland on 29th January and one was at Ng Tung Chai on 29th September, an unusual date for this species in recent years.

2004: Most records came from On King Street Park in Sha Tin, where it was recorded until 18th April and again from 28th November; the highest count at this site was nine birds on 12th February. These are the first records at the former strongholds around Sha Tin since 2004, and include the highest counts for a number of years. Elsewhere, reported from Long Valley (one on 7th March), Siu Lam (two on 20th June and one on 27th June) and Mai Po (one on 22nd October).

417A Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* 朱雀

2003: Most records were from the area around Wun Yiu (near Tai Po) between 4th and 23rd February, the highest count being 23 birds (including four adult males) on 20th February. This is an unusually high count, especially considering the scarcity of this species in Hong Kong in recent years. There were only two records of single birds away from this site, at Kwu Tung on 31st January and a male at Mong Tseng on 21st February.

2004: Two were at Wonderland Villas, Kwai Chung on 1st February, three (one male and two female/immature) were at Airfield Road, Shek Kong on 6th March, a female or

immature was at Tai Po Headland on 12th March, two were at KFBG on 18th and 20th November and three female/immatures were at Cheung Lek Tsuen on 31st December. An increase in records compared to recent years.

418A Yellow-billed Grosbeak *Eophona migratoria* 黑尾蠟嘴雀

2003: Good numbers recorded at the start of the year included a flock regularly present around Sha Po Village that numbered up to 86 (on 16th February); this is the third largest flock on record (after 130 at Tai Po on 30th December 1988 and 100 at Lam Tsuen on 5th April 1991). Elsewhere at this time recorded at Tong Min Tsuen, Lam Tsuen, Fung Kat Heung, Kam Tin, Tseng Tau, Three Fathoms Cove, Ng Tung Chai, Wun Yiu, Shuen Wan, Lok Ma Chau, San Tin, Tai Po Waterfront, Long Valley and Mai Po.

During May, recorded at Lok Ma Chau (two on 2nd), Kam Tin (three on 2nd), Mai Po (one on 14th) and Au Tau (pair on 20th). In addition, a nesting pair was discovered at Kam Tin on 17th May (JAA); this is the first breeding record for Hong Kong. Sightings of up four birds continued to be made in the Deep Bay area through the summer, at Lok Ma Chau, Mai Po Village, Mai Po NR and Ma Tso Lung. Although records between mid-May and August have previously been considered to relate to escapes, the number of individuals and locations involved, as well as the tendency in recent years for birds to remain later in spring, suggests these records are likely to be wild birds.

The first record of the autumn was of one at Mui Wo on 23rd September; records from outlying islands are rare (Carey *et al.*, 2001). Subsequently recorded during the autumn/winter at Lok Ma Chau (maximum seven on 23rd December), Kam Tin/Sho Po (maximum of 22 on 6th November), Tan Chuk Hang (one on 29th October), Man Uk Pin (six on 24th November), Tam Kon Chau (eight on 24th November), Nam Sang Wai (two on 3rd December) and Long Valley (12 on 6th December). This is the first year the species has been recorded in every month and represents a much better set of records than has been the case in recent years.

2004: In the early part of the year most records were from the Kam Tin/Sho Po area, where it was recorded until 11th March with a peak count of 45 birds on 4th February. Elsewhere, recorded at Tai Mei Tuk, Tsim Bei Tsui, Ma Tso Lung, KFBG and Airfield Road, Shek Kong.

Recorded again in the Kam Tin/Sho Po area from 15th May to 25th July. These records included breeding at Sha Po, where two pairs were seen on 15th and 16th May, separate incubating females were seen on 27th May and 22nd June, and a male was seen feeding two dependent juveniles on 27th June (JAA). Besides these, a pair was apparently present near the Buffalo Fields in mid-May and a female was seen near Au Tau on 23rd May. The species also remained in the Deep Bay area through the summer, and presumably bred here, with records from Lok Ma Chau (six on 17th July and one on 25th August) and the Mai Po area (four on 29th July, two including a dependent juvenile on 1st August and one on 13th August).

One at Mai Po San Tsuen on 13th September may have been a summering bird or an

early migrant. Regular records resumed at Kam Tin/Shap Po from 10th October, when two males were seen; numbers rapidly climbed to 27 on 12th and 35 on 13th, this latter count being the highest of the early winter period. Away from Kam Tin, records in the early winter period came from Shek Wu Wai, Nai Chung, Lok Ma Chau Lookout, Fung Lok Wai and Hang Tau, near Sheung Shui. Carey *et al.* (2001) gives a typical return date of early November; the fact that the autumn peak during 2004 occurred before this date fits with a recent trend for this species to remain later in spring and return earlier in the autumn. This trend has clearly resulted in successful breeding by this species in Hong Kong.

419A Japanese Grosbeak *Eophona personata* 白腰文鳥

2003: One was at Lam Tsuen on 19th March (MH).

2004: One was at Tung Kung Leng, near Hang Tau, on 31st December (JH).

420A White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata* 白腰文鳥

2003: Records from throughout the NT and also from Mui Wo, Lantau (one on 21st August and two on 27th November). The highest count was of about 40 at Sham Chung on 22nd February.

2004: The only record of note was of two birds on Po Toi on 9th April.

421A Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata* 斑文鳥

2003: Recorded throughout the NT and at Chek Lap Kok. Flocks of over 50 birds were recorded at Mai Po (90 on 22nd July), Chek Lap Kok (50 on 13th August), near Shenzhen River (150 on 9th November), Ng Tung Chai (80 on 16th and 28th December) and Man Uk Pin (81 on 18th December).

2004: Recorded throughout the year in the NT; in addition, one was on Po Toi on 9th April.

423A Russet Sparrow *Passer rutilans* 樹麻雀

2003: A male was at Mai Po on 22nd April, though it showed evidence of cage damage.

424A Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* 樹麻雀

2003 & 2004: No significant reports.

425D Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus* 黃胸織布鳥

2003: Two records were received, both from Mai Po in April: 12 were seen on 5th,

when there were five nests present, and a male was reported on 21st.

2004: Just two records were received for the year: three at Mai Po on 26th February and one at an unfinished nest there on 7th April. Observers are encouraged to submit more reports of this species.

426B Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnus malabaricus* 灰頭棕鳥

2003: Two records were received from Kowloon Park, where there were three birds on 10th April and four on 26th November. The population at this site has been present for several years and is considered to derive from ex-captive birds.

2004: One was at Mui Wo on 17th March (JAA).

427A Red-billed Starling *Sturnus sericeus* 絲光棕鳥

2003: At the start of the year birds were recorded regularly until 14th April. Presumably under-recorded in the Deep Bay area at this time, with the highest count reported being of just 285 birds (at Lut Chau on 14th February). Elsewhere, recorded at Shuen Wan-Ting Kok (maximum count 500 on 25th February), Tseng Tau (eight on 24th January), Tai Po Industrial Estate (800-1,000 going to roost on 13th February), Hong Lok Yuen (30 on 1st and 7th March), Hang Tau (ten on 16th March) and Ng Tung Chai (100 on 17th March). Late spring/summer records included one at San Tin on 13th May, one at Lok Ma Chau on 30th May, one at San Tin on 20th August and one at Mai Po San Tsuen on 6th September. Records within this period were considered by Carey *et al.* (2001) to probably refer to ex-captive birds, but seem to have become more regular in recent years, suggesting a range expansion in nearby areas of China.

Recorded again from 10th October until the end of the year. Again, relatively few reports came from the Deep Bay area, although these did include a count of 2,000 at Mai Po on 17th December. Away from Deep Bay, recorded regularly at Kam Tin (maximum 281 on 6th November), Long Valley (maximum 70 on 1st and 2nd November) and Shuen Wan (maximum 100 on 11th November). Elsewhere recorded at Tan Chuk Hang, Lam Tsuen, Chek Lap Kok, West Kowloon (60 on 23rd November), Man Uk Pin (45 on 24th November), Lai Chi Wo, Ng Tung Chai and Tai Tung, Three Fathoms Cove.

2004: In the early part of the year, the peak count was of 3,000 at Mai Po on 16th January, while a count of over 400 roosting at Tai Po Waterfront Park was unusually high away from the Deep Bay area. Most records at this time were from the northwest NT and from Shuen Wan, (where the peak count was 130 on 19th March). More unusual locations were Tai O (four on 29th January and eight on 11th February) and Sha Lo Tung (ten on 19th February). In spring, there were regular records until 9th April, and thereafter there were unusual late spring records of five at Man Uk Pin (along Sha Tau Kok Road) on 23rd April and single birds at Kam Tin on 9th May (male) and Long Valley on 29th May. The previous latest record considered to relate to a wild bird was on 28th April 1997 (Carey *et al.*, 2001).

In autumn the first record was of ten at Shuen Wan on 10th October. There was an apparent increase in numbers during the first week of November, which included counts of up to 80 at Shuen Wan on 3rd and 46 at Kam Tin on 4th. Away from typical sites in the northern NT, the species was also recorded during the early winter at Kowloon Park (up to five on 31st October and 5th November), Nai Chung (70 on 22nd November), Fung Yuen (over 70 on 27th November) and Ng Tung Chai (up to 25 on 14th and 31st December). The highest counts at this time were of 800 at Mai Po on 26th November and 1,000 at Tai Po Waterfront Park on 27th December. This species is spreading through Hong Kong.

428A Chestnut-cheeked Starling *Sturnus philippensis* 紫背椋鳥

2003: A male was at Long Valley on 14th October, a pair was at Kam Tin on 18–19th October and a male was at Lok Ma Chau on 20th November (MRL). This is the latest autumn record, the previous latest being on 27th October 1996.

429A Purple-backed Starling *Sturnus sturninus* 北椋鳥

2003: Another good autumn passage, following large numbers during 2002, with birds recorded between 16th September and 4th November. All records came from just four sites in the northwest NT: Lok Ma Chau (three on 16th September, two on 29th September, one on 6th October, ten on 14th October and one on 16th October), Mai Po (singles on 17th and 30th September, and eight on 4th November), Long Valley (50 on 26th September (EMSK), one on 6th October and three on 14th October) and Kam Tin (up to six from 6th to 28th October). The count of 50 is the highest on record (beating 40 at Long Valley in 2002), while the record of 4th November (YHK) is the latest on record (the previous being 1st November 2000).

2004: Just two records for the year: one at Lok Ma Chau on 12th October and two at Ho Pui on 19th October.

431A Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* 紫翅椋鳥

2003: At Kam Tin up to four were recorded between 1st and 22nd February and up to six were recorded on 16th October and 4th November. Also recorded at Long Valley, where there was one on 16th October and two on 5th November.

2004: Recorded until 28th February and again from 30th October. Peak counts were nine during the first winter period (on 31st January) and six during the second winter period (on 25th November and 17th December). All records were from Kam Tin, with the exception of one at Lut Chau on 27th November.

432A White-cheeked Starling *Sturnus cineraceus* 灰椋鳥

2003: At the start of the year, most records were from Mai Po, where the peak count involved 125 birds on 3rd January. Elsewhere, 15 at Long Valley on 7th and 9th February,

two at Hang Tau on 16th March and 70 at Tsim Bei Tsui on 26th March. There were regular records at Mai Po until 9th April. After this date, five at Mai Po on 8th May and four at Lok Ma Chau on 16th June; records at this time have previously been considered to relate to ex-captive birds. In autumn the first record was of one at Sha Po on 1st October; early records such as this have become more regular in recent years. Numbers then rapidly climbed to 50 birds at Kam Tin as early as 5th October. Until the end of the year, regularly recorded at the Kam Tin and Mai Po areas, with high counts of 330 at Mai Po on 13th November, 200 there on 13th December, 200 at Nam Sang Wai on 16th December and 150 at Mai Po on 20th December. Elsewhere, six were at Long Valley on 25th October.

2004: All records were from Deep Bay, Kam Tin and Long Valley, with the exception of six birds at Ng Tung Chai on 12th January. In the first winter period recorded until 14th March, when 30 were at Long Valley; the peak count at this time was of 95 birds at Kam Tin on 17th January. An unusual run of early summer records at Kam Tin included a pair on 4th and 7th May, a female on 29th May and a pair again on 28th June. In addition to these, four were at Mai Po on 21st June. In autumn recorded again from the early date of 25th September, when 23 were at Mai Po. From this date, numbers increased to 50 by 15th October at Kam Tin, and the peak count of the autumn was 250 there on 5th November. One in Kowloon Park on 5th November was an unusual location for this species. Although the extreme dates given in Carey *et al.* (2001) for this species are 27th April and 7th October, with all records between these dates assumed to be of captive origin, there has in recent years been a tendency towards birds occurring within this period, suggesting the species may be summering closer to Hong Kong.

433A Black-collared Starling *Sturnus nigricollis* 黑領棕鳥

2003: The only record of note involved 140 at Long Valley on 26th September.

2004: The highest counts were of birds going to roost at Shuen Wan: 60 on 10th October and 40 on 3rd November.

434A White-shouldered Starling *Sturnus sinensis* 灰背棕鳥

2003: The only records in the first winter period were of 25 at Kowloon Bay stadium on 14th and 15th January. The first record of spring passage came on 4th March, when 20 were at San Po Kong. Thereafter, birds were reported from Lok Ma Chau (15 on 21st March), Cheung Chau (one on 24th March), Long Valley (30 on 31st March, and up to six from 3rd to 9th April), Mai Po Village (three on 2nd April), Po Toi (one on 6th April), Tseng Tau, Three Fathoms Cove (24 on 6th April), Kowloon Park (18 on 9th April), Luk Keng (14 on 9th April), Tsim Bei Tsui (five on 13th April) and Shuen Wan (eight on 14th April). During the summer period recorded at Shuen Wan (up to ten, including juveniles, on 2nd June), Lok Ma Chau, Kam Tin (estimated ten pairs) and Ma Tso Lung. Records possibly involving early migrants involved nine at Mui Wo on 21st August and 15 at San Tin on 27th August. Following 15 on Po Toi on 12th September, most records for the autumn period came from the Deep Bay area, where the peak

count was 22 at Mai Po on 17th September, and Kam Tin, where the peak was 13 on 18th October. Also recorded in autumn from Ho Chung (three on 1st October), Ting Kok (nine on 1st October) and Long Valley (two on 14th October). The last record of the year related to four at Tsim Bei Tsui on 23rd November.



Plate 18. White-shouldered Starling *Sturnus sinensi*
Kam Tin, Hong Kong, May 2004
Martin Hale

2004: Recorded during all months of the year, mostly from Deep Bay, (especially Lok Ma Chau and Ma Tso Lung), and Kam Tin. Wintering flocks were recorded at the start of the year at Ma Tso Lung (maximum eight birds), Lok Ma Chau (maximum six birds) and Kai Tak Nullah (eight on 18th February), as well as single birds at Tsim Bei Tsui on 11th January and Sha Po on 17th January. The first record apparently indicating spring passage was of one at Mui Wo on 16th March. During the spring most birds were recorded at Deep Bay and Kam Tin; elsewhere birds were recorded at Shuen Wan (peak count seven on 30th March), Kowloon Park (a pair on 9th April), Mui Wo (eight on 10th April) and Man Uk Pin (12 on 23rd April). The end of spring passage was clouded by the presence of breeding birds; 35 at Kam Tin on 14th April included at least 20 investigating potential nest sites. Away from this site, breeding was confirmed at Tai Mei Tuk (one juvenile among a flock of four on 31st May), Ma Tso Lung (two at a nest on 18th July) and Wing Kei Tsuen (four, including one nest, on 28th July). All nest sites reported were in CLP electricity boxes. Post-breeding/early autumn flocks were reported during late August/early September, the largest flocks at this time being of 40 at Lok Ma Chau on 21st August, 50 at Kam Tin on 10th September and 55 at Long Valley on 12th September. Flocks apparently on autumn passage until the end of the year were

noted mostly from Deep Bay (peak counts of 75 near the Shenzhen River on 9th October and 70 at Lok Ma Chau on 12th October), but also on several dates at Kam Tin and at Long Valley (one on 6th October), Shuen Wan (six on 10th October), Nai Chung (four on 29th October, one on 22nd November) and Kowloon Park (one on 31st October).

435D Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* 家八哥

2003: Recorded in the Kai Tak area (high count of ten on 26th December) and from three sites in the northwest NT: Kam Tin, Airfield Road (Shek Kong) and Lok Ma Chau.

2004: Recorded from three sites in the northwest NT: Kam Tin, Airfield Road (Shek Kong) and Lok Ma Chau. Also recorded from Kai Tak Nullah (San Po Kong).

436A Crested Myna *Acridotheres cristatellus* 八哥

2003 & 2004: No significant reports.

437A Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis* 黑枕黃鸝

2003: There were numerous records in spring and summer from the Lok Ma Chau/San Tin area between 16th April and 15th September; breeding in this area was indicated by the presence of single juveniles on 14th and 21st July. The first evidence of autumn migration came on 21st September, when one was on Po Toi. Thereafter one or two birds were recorded at Mai Po, Lok Ma Chau, Kam Tin and KFBG, until 17th October.

2004: In spring, singing males were reported at Lok Ma Chau on 17th April and 18th May, and a male was seen at Mai Po on 18th April. In midsummer one was reported singing in the San Tin fishpond area on 17th July. In autumn recorded from 11th September until 24th October; most of these records came from Mai Po, where the peak count involved four on 1st and 2nd October. Elsewhere recorded at Ma Tso Lung, Crest Hill, Lok Ma Chau, Lut Chau, Fung Lok Wai, Siu Lam, Kam Tin, Ng Tung Chai and the Hong Kong Observatory.

438A Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus* 黑卷尾

2003: Just two records in the first winter period, both from along the Shenzhen River, where there were 14 on 10th January and three on 22nd February. In spring, recorded at Po Toi (peak count of ten on 27th April and 1st May), Tsim Bei Tsui (three on 13th April) and Dong Ping Chau (one on 18th April). Few records were received for the summer, the highest count being of ten at Mui Wo on 24th June, including at least one recently fledged juvenile. The start of autumn migration was unclear, although three at Mai Po on 17th September may have been early migrants. Double-figure counts at this time included 20 at Long Valley on 4th October, ten at Long Valley on 14th October and 50 at Lok Ma Chau on 16th October. The last record of the autumn was of

four at Long Valley on 20th October. After this date, the only record was of two at Tsim Bei Tsui on 8th December. Among the birds seen at Mui Wo on 24th June, one was apparently attempting to kleptoparasitise a Masked Laughingthrush.

2004: Recorded in the first winter period from the Deep Bay area, where there was one at Lok Ma Chau on 20th January, four at Tsim Bei Tsui on 27th January and one at Fung Lok Wai on 12th February. Thereafter, not recorded until 2nd April, when two birds were at Lok Ma Chau. Only five records were received in the spring and summer, with a peak count of 21 birds at Tai Mei Tuk on 26th April. A very pronounced autumn passage period commenced on 25th September, when a total of 104 were reported from the territory (52 at Mai Po, 40 at Long Valley and 12 on north Lantau). After this date, good numbers were recorded on 29th September (including 43 in the Mong Tseng/Tsim Bei Tsui area and 15 at Long Valley) and 1st October (70 at Mai Po and 17 at Kam Tin). Passage continued in slightly lower numbers until 7th October, when there were 25 at Mai Po. In the second winter period, all records were again from the Deep Bay area: three at Ma Tso Lung on 22nd November, one at Tam Kon Chau on 28th November and two at Mai Po on 22nd December.

439A Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus* 灰卷尾

2003: In the early part of the year, recorded at Tai Po Kau on 1st, 25th and 30th January and on 19th and 30th March, and at Shing Mun (two on 10th April, the only record of more than one bird). The first record of autumn was from the unusual site of Lok Ma Chau on 15th-16th September. Afterwards, recorded at Tai Po Kau (on 29th September, 4th October, 1st and 16th November and 9th December), Shek Kong Catchment (on 9th October) and Kowloon Hills (on 13th, 18th and 25th December). All records were attributable to the white-cheeked sub-species *leucogenis*, except the record at Kowloon Hills on 18th December and one of the birds at Shing Mun on 10th April.

2004: Birds ascribed to the white-cheeked sub-species *leucogenis* were recorded at Tai Po Kau from 20th January to 11th March and from 29th October until the end of the year, and also at Wonderland Villas, Kwai Chung (one on 1st February), Nam Sang Wai (one on 28th September) and Kowloon Hills Catchment. Birds of the grey-cheeked subspecies *hopwoodi* were recorded at Tai Po Kau on 7th January and Long Valley on 9th November. Birds not ascribed to sub-species were recorded at Tai Po Kau on 17th October, 19th November and 11th and 15th December (two).

440A Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus* 髮冠卷尾

2003: Recorded in all months of the year except May, August and December, although presumably also present in those months. Most records were from the NT, but also recorded at Mui Wo, Lantau (five, including a dependent juvenile, on 24th June and four on 21st October), Po Toi (one on 21st September and seven on 19th October), Dong Ping Chau (one on 30th September) and Lamma (one on 17th October). Numbers recorded at each site were relatively low, the only double-figure counts being 12 at Sha Tin Pass on 16th February, 12 between Lo Wu and Crest Hill on 16th October, 24 at Tai Po Kau Headland on 25th October and 16 at Siu Hang Tsuen (Tuen Mun) on 29th

November.

2004: Recorded in all months of the year from sites throughout the NT and on Lantau. The only significant count in the early part of the year was of 25 at Fung Yuen on 24th February. Unusually high counts were made in early April, involving birds going into roost along the Shek Kong Catchment; the highest count at this time involved 58 birds on 4th April. These could have been overwintering birds or returning migrants, although away from this site spring passage was not particularly apparent. Breeding records involved a bird on a nest at Ma On Kong on 29th May and adults attending dependent juveniles at Shuen Wan and Kam Tin during June. One on Tap Mun on 12th June presumably also refers to a breeding individual. In the second half of the year, reported from widespread locations, the only counts exceeding 20 being of 29 at Ping Kong on 6th October, over 20 at On Po Tsuen on 10th October, 44 at Fung Yuen on 17th October and 40+ at Shek Kong Catchment on 30th November.

441A Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius* 松鴉

2001: One was at Sha Tin Pass on 20th January.

442A Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythrorhyncha* 紅嘴藍鵲

2003: Small numbers recorded throughout the year from the NT, Lantau and southern Hong Kong Island. The only record of note was of one on the Soko Islands on 15th February.

2004: Recorded throughout the year from locations throughout the NT and Lantau Island. No records were received from Hong Kong Island, although this is not thought to represent a change in abundance there.

443A Grey Treepie *Dendrocitta formosae* 灰樹鵲

2003: A good year for the species, with a number of records from widespread locations, mostly during January and from September to the end of the year. Outside these dates, birds were recorded at Sham Chung in April and Ho Chung in May and June. Birds were reported from various locations in the eastern and northern NT, including Kowloon Hills, Turret Hill, Ho Cheung, Wong Chuk Yeung, Yung Shue Au, Tai Po Kau, Ng Tung Chai, Kap Lung, Shuen Wan, Bride's Pool Road/Plover Cove, Wu Kau Tang, Lai Chi Wo, Man Uk Pin and Tan Shan Valley. Outside the NT, one was recorded at Pok Fu Lam Reservoir on 11th January.

2004: Most records were from the northeast NT (especially around Plover Cove) and from Ng Tung Chai, and fell in the period January – February and September – December. Elsewhere, the species was recorded at Tai Po Kau (two on 19th January and one on 18th September), Ho Chung (two on 15th May) and Sha Lo Tung (two on 17th October).

444A Common Magpie *Pica pica* 喜鵲

2003: No significant counts received. Nest building noted at Lei Yue Mun on 1st January and Mui Wo on 23rd December.

2004: No significant reports.

445A Daurian Jackdaw *Corvus dauuricus* 達烏里寒鴉

2003: Up to two first-year birds were at Mai Po NR on 7th and 13th November (RWL).

447A Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos* 大嘴烏鴉

2003: The only significant counts were of at least 20 on Po Toi on 31st August and 38 at Ng Tung Chai on 19th October.

2004: The only significant counts were of 19 at Tai Mo Shan on 1st May, 20 at Tai Lam Chung on 14th November and 15 at Lut Chau on 22nd December.

448A Collared Crow *Corvus torquatus* 白頸鴉 NT

2003: The only double-figure counts came from the roost at Mai Po, where there were 56 on 17th June, 30 on 23rd September, 72 on 19th October and 28 on 26th October. The species was also recorded in small numbers at Tsim Bei Tsui, Shuen Wan, Long Valley and Pak Sha Wan (Sai Kung).

2004: The highest counts were of birds roosting at Mai Po/Lut Chau: 48 on 1st January, 58 on 30th September and 74 on 9th October. Away from Deep Bay, no more than six were recorded at any site, with birds seen at Long Valley, Shuen Wan, Kam Tin, Man Uk Pin, Nai Chung, Bride's Pool Road, She Shan and Dong Ping Chau.

CATEGORY E

700.5E Great White Pelican *Pelecanus oncorotalus* 白鵜鷗

2003: The bird found in December 2002 was last reported on 23rd February.

707E Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* 環頸雉

2003: A male was reported from Mai Po NR on 17th January and 4th and 21st April, a female was at Kam Tin on 26th May and one was taken into care at KFBG on 27th December, having been picked up at Sau Mau Ping the day before. Although this species was recorded at Wu Tong Shan National Forest Park, Shenzhen in 2001 (KFBG 2002), there is no reason to suppose these records refer to anything other than ex-captive individuals.

708.5E Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* 灰斑鳩

2003: At Tsim Bei Tsui two were recorded on 30th August and up to eight were seen in November and December. Elsewhere, two were at San Tin on 22nd May, and singles were at Mai Po and Lok Ma Chau on 10th September and 10th October respectively.

2004: Up to 11 birds were recorded at Tsim Bei Tsui, which is now the stronghold of this species, on 19th January, while singles were also recorded at Lok Ma Chau, Pak Hok Chau, Mai Po and Long Valley. Although only recorded up to 3rd April and from 15th August, this is considered to relate to observer activity and not any actual seasonality.

721E Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria* 亞歷山大鸚鵡

2004: Recorded at Kowloon Park on 19th March. Presumably present all year, however.

727E Barn Owl *Tyto alba* 藍喉擬啄木鳥

2003: One was at Mai Po NR on 31st March (PC).

730.2E Mongolian Lark *Melanocorypha mongolica* 藍喉擬啄木鳥

2003: Singles were at Mai Po NR on 7th November (RWL) and Chung Mei on 23rd November (JAPW, JH). This extra-limital species commonly occurs in the wild bird trade, and has been placed in Category E. The second of these birds occurred in inappropriate habitat at a known bird release site.

730.3E White-winged Lark *Melanocorypha leucoptera* 藍喉擬啄木鳥

2004: One was at Mai Po NR on 9th November (MLC). As the first Hong Kong record of a species that is extra-limital and occurs in the wild bird trade, it has been placed in Category E.

743E White-tailed Robin *Cinclidium leucurum* 太平鳥

2004: A male was at Tai Po Kau on 11th January and 10th February (RWL, PW, MW). It is known to have been present on other dates also, and observers are encouraged to submit records. This is the third Hong Kong record, though at present it is retained in Category E as all have concerned males and one of the previous records involved a bird that showed obvious signs of cage damage.

744E Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata* 白斑黑石(即鳥)

2003: A male was at Kam Tin on 24th January and 13th February.

747.2E Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax monileger* 白斑黑石

2002: One was at Tai Po Kau on 10th and 11th December (RWL). As the first Hong Kong record of a species that is considered to be largely resident and a likely candidate for the wild bird trade, it has been placed in Category E.

749E Rusty Laughingthrush *Garrulax poecilorhynchus* 棕噪鵲

2002: One was at Tai Mo Shan on 6th June (HKY, SL). This is the second record.

755E Grey-cheeked Fulvetta *Alcippe morrisonia* 灰眶雀鵲

2003: At Tai Po Kau up to ten were recorded during the year, with records occurring in January to March and July to September, including a juvenile on 10th August. At Ng Tung Chai up to six were reported during January-March and in November and December. At Ho Chung Woods up to five were reported during 2-19th January. The only other records concerned one at Shing Mun on 15th March and two at Tei Tong Tsai on 14th December.

2004: Up to five birds were recorded at Tai Po Kau in late January and early February, the latter part of March and early April, on 18th September and in the second half of November. Elsewhere up to four were at Ng Tung Chai on 12th October and 26th November. Observers are urged to report all records of this species in order that its status can be more fully understood.

758E Grey-headed Parrotbill *Paradoxornis gularis* 灰頭鶇雀

2003: One was at Tai Po Kau on 6th July and 28th September.

759E Small Niltava *Niltava macgrigoriae* 小仙鶇

2004: During a prolonged spell of cold weather in the first winter period, a female was at Tai Po Kau during 22-24th January (COW *et al.*), a male was at Sha Tin Pass during 26-27th January (GH) and a male was at Chung Mei on 28th January and 7th February (JAHW). A review of category is being carried out.

764E Black-throated Tit *Aegithalos concinnus* 紅頭長尾山雀

2003: At Tai Po Kau up to three (an adult and two juveniles) were reported in January, April, September, November and early December. At Kowloon Hills two were recorded on 15th June and four were noted on 25th December.

2004: Up to six were noted in Tai Po Kau in January and early February.

776E Yellow-fronted Canary *Serinus mozambicus* 黃額絲雀

2003: Up to two birds recorded at Nam Sang Wai and Yuen Long Industrial Estate.

2004: Recorded at Tai Lam Chung, Nam Sang Wai, Airfield Road, Tai Mo Shan, Nai Chung and Tseung Kwan O.

787E Pin-tailed Whydah *Gracula religiosa* 灰喜鵲

2003: A male was at Mai Po NR on 25th May.

800E Azure-winged Magpie *Cyanopica cyanus* 家鴉

2003: Up to 22 recorded in the Mai Po/Lok Ma Chau area during the year, as well as one at Long Valley on 15th November and three at Bride's Pool on 1st October, the latter lacking tail feathers.

2004: Birds are occurring regularly in the Mai Po – Lok Ma Chau area, and the highest count received was 20 on 29th September. Elsewhere, recorded at Bride's Pool Road, Kam Tin, Lin Ma Hang, Long Valley, Nam Sang Wai, Tai Mei Tuk and Tai Mo Shan. There is no suggestion that this is a natural spread of this species' range, and it is considered to derive from captive populations.

801E House Crow *Corvus splendens* 家鴉

2003: The largest flock recorded was 55 at Lai On Estate, Sham Shui Po on 1st November. Elsewhere, two at Kowloon Park on 9th April, one at Mai Po NR on three dates from July to November and 11 at Kai Tak Nullah on 5th November.

2004: Although it is known that a flock of 100-200 birds has established itself in central urban Kowloon, only six reports were received. All concern what is probably the same bird in the Tsim Bei Tsui area, a bird that occasionally is seen to roost at Mai Po, which was seen from 11th January to 19th March. Given the potential for this species to both become a pest and to have a serious negative impact on breeding birds (in particular the Deep Bay area and other egretries), it is important that observers submit all records of this species in order that numbers and distribution can be monitored.

In addition, an unidentified glossy starling *Lamprotornis* sp. was present at Tsiu Hang, Sai Kung on 14th April 2004.

Records judged by the Records Committee to be not proven

2001

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* Mai Po, 15th November.

2003

Fujian Niltava *Niltava davidi* Bowen Road, 5th February; *Blue-breasted Quail* *Coturnix chinensis*, Mai Po NR, 21st April.

References

- Birdlife International, (2006). Threatened birds of the world. Lynx Edicions and BirdLife International, Barcelona and Cambridge, UK.
- Carey, G. J., Chalmers, M. L., Diskin, D. A., Kennerley, P. R., Leader, P. J., Lewthwaite, R. W., Leven, M. R., Melville, D. S., Turnbull, M. and Young, L. (2001). The Avifauna of Hong Kong. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Hong Kong.
- Cheng, T. H. (1987). A Synopsis of the Avifauna of China. Science Press, Beijing.
- Hobcroft, D. (2007). A breeding record of Pygmy Wren Babbler *Pnoepyga pusilla* in Tai Po Kau Forestry Reserve, Hong Kong. Hong Kong Bird Report 2001-02: 212. The Hong Kong Birdwatching Society Ltd, Hong Kong.
- KFBG. (2002). Report of a Rapid Biodiversity Assessment at Wutongshan National Forest Park, Shenzhen Special Economic Zone, China, 16 to 17 May 2001. South China Forest Biodiversity Survey Report Series: No. 11. KFBG, Hong Kong.

- Leader, P. J., and Carey, G. J. (2003). Identification of Pintail Snipe and Swinhoe's Snipe. *British Birds*. 96: 178-198.
- Viney, C.A., Phillipps, K., and Lam, C. Y. (1994). *Birds of Hong Kong and South China*. Government Printer, Hong Kong.

Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site Waterbird Monitoring Programme:

Winter 2002-03 Report

米埔及內后海灣國際重要濕地水鳥監察計劃
2002-2003 年冬季報告

Yat-tung Yu

余日東

*c/o Hong Kong Bird Watching Society,
GPO Box 12460, Hong Kong*

Introduction

Long-term monitoring of waterbirds in the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site is an important aspect of the management strategy for the site, and provides an indication of the health of the Deep Bay ecosystem. This programme, which commenced in March 1998, is administered and executed by the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Limited (HKBWS) under subvention from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. Monthly counts of waterbirds form one part of this programme, the other main components being counts of migrant shorebirds using the area and surveys of ardeid nesting colonies. This report concerns the waterbird monitoring component for the winter period from October 2002 to March 2003.

Coordinated mid-monthly counts of wintering waterbirds in Hong Kong were carried out by members of the HKBWS on 20th October 2002, 17th November 2002, 21st December 2002, 19th January 2003, 23rd February 2003 and 23rd March 2003. The January count was carried out to coincide with the Asian Waterfowl Census organised by Wetlands International – Asia Pacific. Counts from November to March have been carried out each winter since 1992-1993; counts in January were first carried out in 1979.

In accordance with guidelines provided by Wetlands International, other counts, if higher, are 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 provided by the coordinated count for it to be included. As in recent winters, the use of mobile phones at Tsim Bei Tsui and Mai Po Boardwalk ensured that double-counting and, as far as possible, under-counting was avoided for birds in the intertidal areas on the Hong Kong side of Deep Bay ('Inner Deep Bay').

Due to habitat degradation, the areas of Tin Shui Wai and Chau Tau were dropped from the list of sites counted in winter 2000-01. Nam Sang Wai is only surveyed for roosting Great Cormorants *Phalacrocorax carbo* in the evening of the January count. Much of the area is fenced by the land owner and is not accessible to waterbird counters.

前言

長期監察米埔和內后海灣國際重要濕地的水鳥，是當地管理策略的重要一環，能夠顯示后海灣生態系統的健康狀態。這個計劃自 1998 年 3 月開始，由香港觀鳥會執行，漁農自然護理署則提供津貼，內容包括每月數算水鳥數目、數算使用當地的遷徙濱鳥（shorebirds）、以及對鷺鳥（ardeid）營巢地點做調查。本文報告在 2002 年 10 月至 2003 年 3 月之間做的冬季水鳥監察所得結果。

香港觀鳥會會員在 2002 年 10 月 20 日、11 月 17 日、12 月 21 日、以及 2003 年 1 月 19 日、2 月 23 日、3 月 23 日對越冬水鳥進行協調數算（coordinated count）。1 月的數算工作經過特別安排，和由國際濕地聯盟亞太區分部（Wetlands International – Asian Pacific）組織的亞洲水鳥普查（Asian Waterfowl Census）同時進行。自從 1992-93 年度開始，每年冬季 11 月至 3 月都會進行數算，而每年在 1 月做的數算則早在 1979 年便已開始。

按照國際濕地聯盟指引，在協調數算前後一週之內如有其他數算結果，會採納較高者，對大多數的鳥種而言，個別數算結果要大於協調數算結果才會採納。近年來鳥友在尖鼻嘴和米埔浮橋使用無線電話互相協調，以防重覆點算，同時亦盡量避免漏算后海灣內香港方面的潮間帶（內后海灣）的水鳥。

由於生境日益衰敗，自 2000-01 年起已將天水圍和洲頭兩地從數算地點名單剔出，而在南生圍方面則只會在 1 月算黃昏時分數算在那裡過夜的鸕鶿（Great Cormorants *Phalacrocorax carbo*），持有南生圍地權的人將地區圍了起來，因此水鳥調查員不能進入。

Results

Coverage of the Ramsar Site was complete in all months. For other sites in Deep Bay as a whole, only Nim Wan/Lau Fau Shan in February was not counted.

The results of the six counts are summarized in Table 1. Those wishing to access the results in detail should visit the HKBWS website at www.hkbws.org.hk; recent historical data are provided in Table 1.

結果

今年年度的每月數算工作都能夠覆蓋整個國際重要濕地，至於其他后海灣內的地點，則只有稔灣／流浮山在 2 月沒有數算。

表 1 總結了 6 個月內的結果，詳情載於香港觀鳥會網頁 www.hkbws.org.hk，過去多年的結果見圖 1。

表 1 后海灣水鳥數目 2002-03 年冬（按鳥種及地區計算）。

Table 1. Deep Bay Area Waterbird Counts Winter 2002-03 by Groups and Area

Group 鳥種類別	Site 地點	Oct 10 月	Nov 11 月	Dec 12 月	Jan 1 月	Feb 2 月	Mar 3 月
Cormorants 鸕鷀	Ramsar Site 國際重要濕地	417	3,602	5,021	5,980	2,375	1,180
	Deep Bay Area 后海灣	633	6,534	5,767	7,959	3,253	2,005
	SI & SW 沙頭角海及船灣	26	182	3*	88	2*	58
Ardeids 鷺鳥	Ramsar Site 國際重要濕地	1,412	2,367	2,563	2,828	2,485	1,581
	Deep Bay Area 后海灣	3,139	4,412	4,406	4,702	4,254	2,505
	SI & SW 沙頭角海及船灣	626	618	69*	475	97*	409
Ducks and grebes 鴨及鸕鷀	Ramsar Site 國際重要濕地	2,404	8,134	6,152	11,210	10,634	1,851
	Deep Bay Area 后海灣	2,447	11,393	14,827	20,203	19,541	2,340
	SI & SW 沙頭角海及船灣	0	17	0*	24	0*	6
Rails, Coots etc. 秧雞、骨頂等	Ramsar Site 國際重要濕地	57	68	130	137	61	87
	Deep Bay Area 后海灣	97	97	219	213	150	147
	SI & SW 沙頭角海及船灣	6	4	2*	6	1*	10
Waders 涉禽	Ramsar Site 國際重要濕地	2,006	7,535	3,423	7,080	9,439	1,732
	Deep Bay Area 后海灣	2,133	7,859	4,314	7,527	9,849	8,172
	SI & SW 沙頭角海及船灣	23	51	1*	59	15*	7
Gulls and terns 鷗及燕鷗	Ramsar Site 國際重要濕地	0	4,059	9,291	13,037	1,243	177
	Deep Bay Area 后海灣	0	4,183	9,503	13,191	1,444	1,195
	SI & SW 沙頭角海及船灣	0	0	0*	0	0*	0
Totals 總計	Ramsar Site 國際重要濕地	6,296	25,765	26,580	40,272	26,237	6,609
	Deep Bay Area 后海灣	8,449	34,488	39,036	53,795	38,491	16,364
	SI & SW 沙頭角海及船灣	681	872	75*	652	115*	494

SI & SW = Starling Inlet and Shuen Wan

* Numbers are only from Shuen Wan; no count at Starling Inlet. * 只包括船灣，沙頭角海沒有數據

Peak waterbird numbers in Deep Bay usually occur in January, and this winter a total of 53,795 waterbirds of 59 species were recorded in the Deep Bay Area; for the Ramsar Site alone this figure is 40,272. Numbers and trends of wintering waterbirds in Deep Bay area since 1979 are shown in Figure 1. It can be seen that numbers have stabilised since January 1998 in a range of 50,000 to 55,000.

In order to gain a more accurate picture of the number of waterbirds that depend on Deep Bay for at least some part of the winter, and to counteract stochastic biases occurring as a result of using the January count alone, the sum of peak species counts for December to February can be used. The total this winter was 63,198 birds of 63 species, an increase over the January count of 9,403, or approximately 17%. The January count thus comprises only 85.1% of the total winter count, which is the second lowest percentage since 1992-93.

The ten most numerous species in Deep Bay area during winter 2002-03 were: Black-headed Gull (12,601), Great Cormorant (7,959), Pied Avocet (5,864), Northern Pintail (4,381), Northern Shoveler (4,271), Eurasian Wigeon (4,080), Common Teal (3,826), Marsh Sandpiper (1,760), Little Egret (1,653) and Great Egret (1,421). Together, these ten species total 47,816 birds and comprise 75.7% of the winter total of 63,198.

后海灣區內水鳥數目通常在 1 月達到高峰，今年冬季在當地錄得水鳥 59 種共 53,795 隻，而在國際重要濕地內則錄得 40,272 隻。自 1979 年起后海灣內越冬水鳥數目和趨勢見圖 1，圖中可見自 1998 年 1 月以來水鳥數目平穩維持在 50,000 到 55,000 之間。

我們將 12 月到 2 月間數算結果中每一種鳥的最大值加起來，這樣可以更準確地反映在整個或部份冬季內使用后海灣的水鳥數目，同時亦可以減低只採納 1 月的數據帶來的隨機性偏差。以此方法計算，今年冬季的總數是 63 種共 63,198 隻，比 1 月的數算結果多出 9,403 隻，即約 17%，因此 1 月的數算結果只佔整個冬季的 85.1%，這是自 1992-93 年以來最低的百分比。

2002-03 年后海灣區內數目最多的 10 個鳥種分別是：紅嘴鷗 (12,601)、鸕鶿 (7,959)、反嘴鷗 (5,864)、針尾鴨 (4,381)、琵嘴鴨 (4,271)、赤頸鴨 (4,080)、綠頭鴨 (3,826)、澤鷗 (1,760)、小白鷺 (1,653) 和大白鷺 (1,421)，這 10 種鳥合計有 47,816 隻，佔冬季 63,198 水鳥總數 75.7%。

Species of conservation significance

A number of species that occur in the Deep Bay Area are of conservation significance due to their listing as globally threatened by BirdLife International (2000), or because they are species for which Deep Bay supports or may support at least 1% of regional or flyway population, as used for implementing Ramsar Convention criterion 3c. These species were derived from the results of past waterbird counts by Carey and Young (1999), and were accorded this status according to the information in Rose and Scott (1997). Recent counts of these waterbird species were discussed in previous reports

(Carey 2001, 2002). Wetlands International (2002) has updated the information regarding the 1% threshold, and a brief review of these species using this new data is provided below. Species in brackets were previously considered to have significant regional or flyway populations in the Deep Bay, but are now no longer included based on this new data. The status of any globally threatened species is placed after the species name.

具特殊保育意義的鳥種

后海灣區內有多種具特殊保育意義的鳥種，有些被國際鳥盟列為全球受脅（BirdLife International 2000），有些則因為在區域內或遷徙遷飛路線上的種群中最少有 1% 的鳥要依靠或可能依靠后海灣支持（拉姆薩爾國際重要濕地公約第 3c 項條件），這些鳥種是根據 Carey and Young (1999) 的過去水鳥數算結果，以及 Rose and Scott (1997) 的資料而選定的，最近的數算結果在之前的報告已有討論（Carey 2001, 2002），而國際鳥盟（2002）則修訂了關於 1% 門檻的資料。根據最新數據，我們在下面簡述每一種鳥的情況，以前認為有些鳥種在后海灣內有相當數目（區內或飛行路線上），但如根據最新數據則應該被剔除，在下文中以方括號（〔 〕）標出，全球受脅鳥種的狀況放在鳥種名稱之後。

Dalmatian Pelican *Pelcanus crispus* 卷羽鵜鶘 Conservation Dependent 依賴保育

A total of 14 individuals of this species wintered in Deep Bay. This appears to be at least 11% of the regional population, which in East Asia is estimated at fewer than 130 individuals (Wetlands International, 2002).

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* 鸕鶿

A peak of 7,959 birds was counted in January 2003, which is also the second highest total of this species. The 1% threshold value is set at 1,000 birds in the East Asia region (Wetland International, 2002).

[Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* 蒼鷺

The peak count of 930 birds was recorded in January, but the 1% threshold value of the regional population is now set at 10,000 individuals (Wetlands International, 2002).]

Great Egret *Egretta alba* 大白鷺

The peak winter count was 1,421, which exceeded the 1% threshold value set by Wetlands International (2002) at 1,000 individuals.

[Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* 小白鷺]

The peak winter count was 1,653, but the 1% threshold value is now set at 10,000 individuals (Wetlands International, 2002).]

[Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus* 池鷺]

The peak winter count was 307 in January, which is the highest of the last five winters. Numbers have increased from a low of 104 individuals in January 1999. No 1% threshold value was provided by Wetlands International (2002) because the population of this species is too uncertain, lying in the range 25,000 to 1,000,000 individuals.]

Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor* 黑臉琵鷺 Endangered 瀕危

A total of 234 was present in the December count, while 230 birds were recorded in the January count; these figures comprise approximately 22% of the world population. The world population was estimated at 1,069 in the most recent International Black-faced Spoonbill Census 2003 (Yu, 2003).

[Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* 翹鼻麻鴨]

The peak winter count was only 192, which is the lowest since 1982. Numbers have fluctuated in the past but have been low since winter 2000-01, and the 5-year mean is only 658 birds, while the mean of all counts is 1,163 birds. The 1% regional or flyway population is set at 1,300 individuals (Wetlands International, 2002).]

[Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* 赤頸鴨]

The peak winter count of 4,080, which was recorded in January, is the second highest of the last five winters, the highest being 6,705 in January 2001. In contrast to recent winters, when approximately 70% of birds were recorded at Fu Tian (Carey, 2002), approximately 45% and 28% were recorded in the Tsim Bei Tsui area and Mai Po Nature Reserve, while only 23% were counted at Fu Tian. The 1% threshold of the regional population is set at 7500 birds (Wetlands International, 2002).]

[Common Teal *Anas crecca* 綠翅鴨]

The peak count of 3,826 in January is relatively high compared to recent years, which have showed an increase from low counts of 2,509 on January 2001 and 3,147 on January 2002. The 1% regional population level is now set at 8,000 individuals (Wetlands International 2002)].

[Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* 針尾鴨]

The peak winter count of 4,381, recorded in January, shows that the number of this species is higher than the January 2001 count. The 1% regional population is set at 7,500 (Wetlands International 2002).]

[Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* 琵嘴鴨

The peak winter count of 4,271 was recorded in February. Most birds were recorded in the intertidal area, with 1,136 (27%) and 2,450 (57%) at Fu Tian and Mai Po boardwalk respectively. The 1% regional population is set at 7,500 (Wetlands International 2002).]

Baer's Pochard *Aythya baeri* 青頭潛鴨 Vulnerable 易危

Two individuals of this globally threatened species were recorded in December.

[Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra* 白骨頂

The peak count of 54 was recorded in December, a similar figure to that recorded last winter. Both these are only approximately 10% of the count of 534 made in winter 2000-01, and 1.6% of the historical peak of 3,295 in 1992. Although counting conditions in the intertidal areas of Deep Bay have become more difficult in recent years, in part due to poorer visibility caused by atmospheric pollution, the bulk of Eurasian Coot were always recorded with the Tufted Duck flock in the area visible from alongside the Tsim Bei Tsui Police Post (Deep Bay D), a part of the bay close enough to observers to be relatively unaffected in this way. Consequently, low numbers present in the last two winters may indicate that milder winters are allowing some birds to winter further north, or that the population of this species is declining and attention should be paid to it in future years. No 1% threshold value of the regional population of this species is set because the estimated population lies in the range 100,000 to over 1,000,000 (Wetlands International 2002).]

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* 反嘴鹬

The peak winter count of 5,846, a new high for Hong Kong, was recorded in February, and is nearly three times the previous peak (2,045). The 1% regional population is set at 1,000 (Wetlands International, 2002). Therefore, this count constitutes nearly 6% of the regional population.

[Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* 灰斑鵒

The peak winter count of 295, recorded in January, is similar to last winter. The number has remained low since winter 1998-99. The 1% regional or flyway population is now set at 1,300 (Wetlands International, 2002).]

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* 環頸鵒

The peak winter count of 378 was recorded in November. Representative counts of this species are problematic due to the difficulties of making accurate counts of the wintering flock of small waders. This species and Dunlin are usually present in large numbers on the intertidal mudflats visible from the Mai Po boardwalk only when the tide is low. Viewing conditions on the count days in November, December and January were unfavourable due to a low high-tide level and poor visibility due to atmospheric pollution. The 1% regional population is set at 1,000 (Wetlands International, 2002);

with a five-year mean for the period 1997 to 2001 of 1,935, this constitutes nearly 2% of the regional population.

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

The peak winter count of 340, recorded in February, is similar to that recorded last winter. This figure is the second highest winter count of this species. A total of 440 was counted in November, but this might have included some passage individuals. The 1% regional population is set at 1,600 (Wetlands International, 2002).]

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* 白腰杓鷸

The peak winter count of 1,014 in February is close to the historical peak figure of 1,190. It is also the first count to exceed 1,000 since winter 1993-94. The regional population is estimated at 35,000 and the 1% threshold value is set at 350 (Wetlands International, 2002). Therefore, this constitutes approximately 3.9% of the regional population.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* 鶴鷸

The peak winter count of 450 in February was only 18% of the highest winter number (2,500), recorded last winter. Such a low count is probably the result of a combination of birds roosting away from Mai Po and the relatively low high-tide level during the January count. That this species was underestimated this winter is further indicated by counts of 674 and 1,093 birds in a mixed flock of this species and Common Greenshank in December and January respectively. The 1% regional or flyway population is set at 1000 (Wetlands International, 2002). Deep Bay is likely to support a significant regional or flyway population of this species.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* 澤鷸

The peak count of 1,760 in February is a new winter high in Hong Kong. This is an increase of 50% above the count obtained in winter 2000-01; no representative count was made in winter 2001-02. The total regional or flyway population is estimated at 90,000 individuals, and the 1% threshold value is thus set at 900 (Wetlands International, 2002). Hence, this constitutes approximately 2% of the regional population.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* 青腳鷸

The peak winter count of only 67 birds in February is not representative of the true numbers present. More large waders *Tringa* were counted in December and January (see Spotted Redshank). The 1% regional or flyway population is set at 550 (Wetlands International, 2002). Although only 290 and 376 were counted in winter 2000-01 and winter 2001-02 respectively, a high of 885 was recorded in January 1995 and it is likely that in some winters at least, Deep Bay supports 1% or more of the regional population.

Nordmann's Greenshank *Tringa guttifer* 小青腳鷸 Endangered 瀕危

One recorded in February is presumed to be an over-wintering individual.

[Dunlin *Calidris alpina* 黑腹濱鷸

The peak winter count of 11 in January is extremely low, and almost certainly not representative of the true numbers present. The situation is similar to that of last winter and, as with Kentish Plover, is caused by a combination of low 'high-tide' levels and poor visibility. The five-year mean of 1997-2001 is 2,312. The 1% regional or flyway population is set at 10,000 (Wetlands International 2002); assuming Deep Bay actually supports 3,000 birds in most winters, this shows the threshold level is not reached. The Hong Kong wintering population lies at the southern edge of the wintering range, which may be reflected in the relatively low counts of recent years, as a result of recent warmer winters.]

Saunders's Gull *Larus saundersi* 黑嘴鷗 Vulnerable 易危

The peak winter count was 35 in February. Numbers have declined since the peak of 172 in 1993-94, and have remained relatively low (31 to 70 birds) in the last five years. The world population is estimated at 7,100 to 9,600 and the 1% threshold value is set at 85 (Wetlands International, 2002).

[Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* 紅嘴鷗

The peak winter count of 12,601 in January is slightly lower than figures obtained in the last two winters, but similar to the five-year mean (12,271). The population of this species is estimated to lie in the range 100,000 to over 1,000,000 individuals, and as a result no 1% threshold value has been set due to uncertainty (Wetlands International, 2002).]

Other notable counts 其他值得留意的數算結果

Falcated Duck *Anas falcata* 羅紋鴨

The peak winter count of five birds recorded in January is the first record since winter 2000-01. The status of this species is increasingly attracting concern since its near disappearance in Hong Kong was first noted. This species may be suffering a population decline as numbers have also decreased in Japan, South Korea and Taiwan, while its status is largely unknown in mainland China (Simba Chan *in litt.*).

Other observations

Mudskipper collectors

Illegal mudskipper collectors continued to be seen operating on the mudflats on the Hong Kong side of Deep Bay in March. Their presence causes significant disturbance to both foraging and roosting waterbirds.

其他觀察所得

捕捉彈塗魚

3 月內繼續有人在香港方面的后海灣泥灘上非法捕捉彈塗魚，嚴重干擾在當地覓食和休息的水鳥。

Other disturbance

The number of waterbirds in Fu Tian (Deep Bay A) has increased in the last few years. Staff at Fu Tian National Reserve prohibit fishermen or mudskipper collectors from entering the intertidal mudflat and mangrove area. Fishing nets are removed in the area as well.

其他干擾

過去幾年深圳福田區（后海灣 A）內的水鳥增加了，福田國家級自然保護區的職員禁止漁民和捕捉彈塗魚的人進入潮間泥灘和紅樹林，並清除了區內的魚網。

Conclusion

The total number of waterbirds in winter 2002-03 was 63,198. This number has stabilised in the range 57,000 to 64,000 since 1997-98, after a peak of 77,227 in winter 1995-96 (Figure 1). This winter's number is also higher than the previous two winters, which is an encouraging development. On the other hand, counting conditions have become difficult because the rise of mudflat levels as a result of sedimentation results in flood tides that are increasingly unable to push waterbirds close to Mai Po Boardwalk hide for counting. Some duck and wader species (e.g. Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Kentish Plover and Dunlin) were not counted at all on the scheduled January count date.

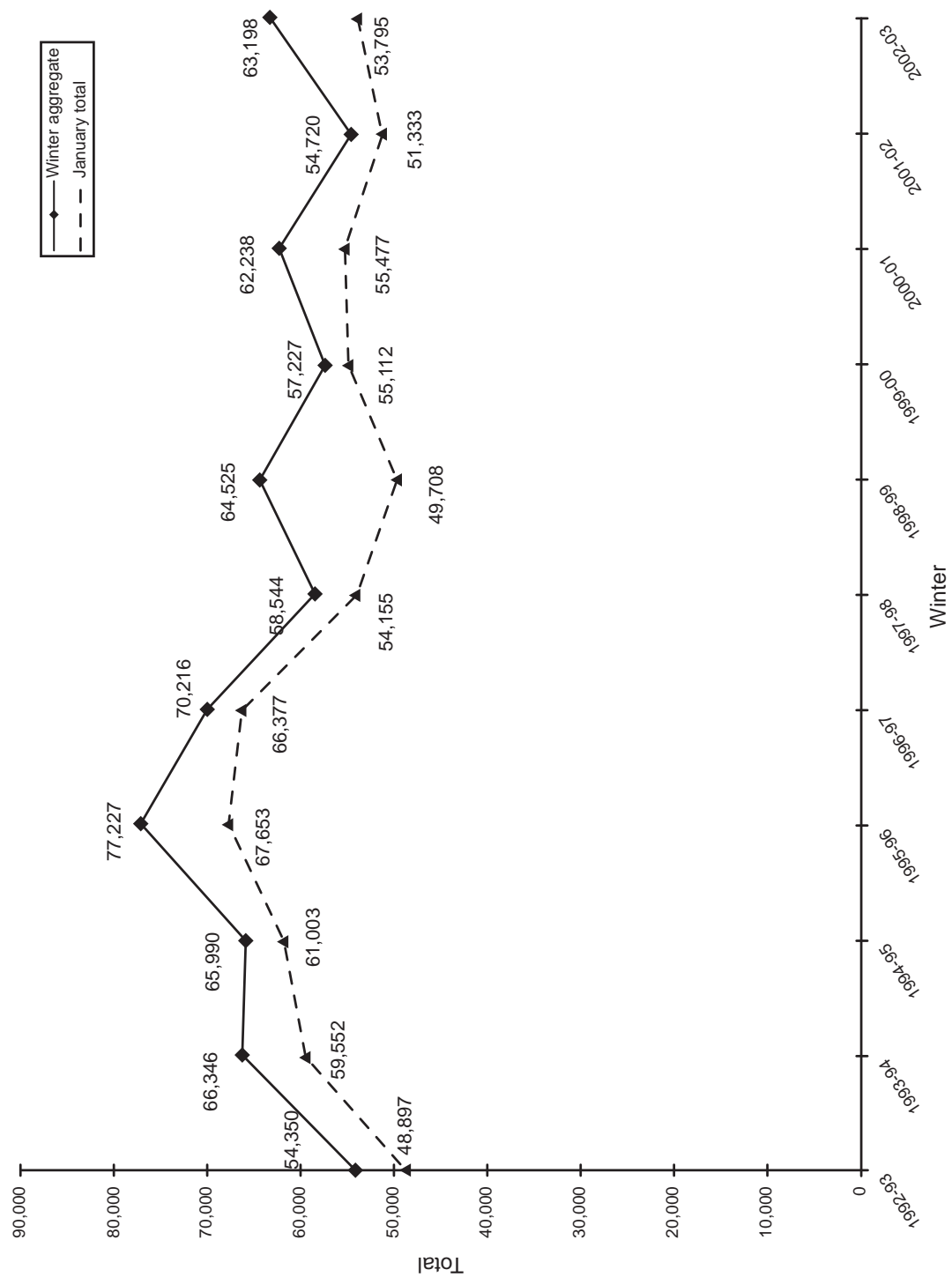
In contrast to the slight increase in the total number of waterbirds, Common Shelduck, Eurasian Coot and Saunders's Gull exhibit a decreasing trend that may be a cause for concern. The re-appearance of Falcated Duck is welcome, but numbers remain far lower than previously.

結論

2002-03 年冬季水鳥的總數是 63,198，自 1997-98 年以來這數字穩定地維持在 57,000 到 64,000 之間，1995-96 年冬曾達 77,227 峰值（圖 1）。今年數字比過去兩個冬季都要大，令人鼓舞，不過由於泥灘因沉積而升高，潮漲時愈來愈難以將水鳥驅趕接近米埔浮橋的觀鳥屋，增加了數算工作的難度，在 1 月的定期數算中有些鴨和涉禽（如針尾鴨、琵嘴鴨、環頸鵒和黑腹濱鵒）就根本沒有數。

雖然水鳥總數稍微上升了，但是翹鼻麻鴨、白骨頂和黑嘴鷗卻有下降的趨勢，令人憂慮。羅紋鴨再度出現是好事，但是數目遠少於以前。

Figure 1. January waterbird count totals and aggregate of peak species counts Dec to Feb 1992-93 to 2002-03



Acknowledgements 致謝

I would like to thank the following counters for participating in the counts:

我要感謝下列參與數算水鳥工作的調查員：

J. Allcock, N. Aspey, A. Au, I. Callender, G. J. Carey, M. L. Chalmers, K. L. Chow, P. Collins, F. Fong, M. F. Ho, J & J. Holmes, W. Huen, W. M. Hung, S. F. Y. Lam, P. J. Leader, R. W. Lewthwaite, C. K. W. Ma, K. Ng, G. Talbot, G. Tedbury, M. Turnbull, Wang Yongjun, L. C. Wong, H. K. Ying.

References

- BirdLife International. (2000). Threatened Birds of the World. Lynx Edicions and BirdLife International. Barcelona and Cambridge, UK.
- Wetlands International. (2002). Waterbird Population Estimates – third edition. Wetlands International Global Series No. 12, Wageningen, The Netherlands.
- Carey, G. J. (2001). Winter 2000-01 Report: Waterfowl Monitoring at the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society. Hong Kong.
- Carey, G. J. (2002). Winter 2001-02 Report: Waterfowl Monitoring at the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society. Hong Kong.
- Carey, G. J. and Young L. (1999). The importance to waterfowl of the Mai Po Marshes and Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site. Hong Kong Bird Report 1997: 141-149.
- Rose, P. M. and Scott, D. A. (1997). Waterbird Population Estimates, 2nd edition. Wetlands International Publication 44, Wageningen, The Netherlands.
- Yu, Y. T. (2003). The International Black-faced Spoonbill Census, 24-26 January 2003. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Limited. Hong Kong.

Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site Waterbird Monitoring Programme:

Winter 2003-04 Report

米埔及內后海灣國際重要濕地水鳥監察計劃 2003-2004 年冬季報告

Yat-tung Yu 余日東

*c/o Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, GPO Box
12460, Hong Kong*

Introduction

Long-term monitoring of waterbirds in the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site is an important aspect of the management strategy for the site, and provides an indication of the health of the Deep Bay ecosystem. This programme, which commenced in March 1998, is administered and executed by the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Limited (HKBWS) under subvention from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. Monthly counts of waterbirds form one part of this programme, the other main components being counts of migrant shorebirds using the area and surveys of ardeid nesting colonies. This report concerns the waterbird monitoring component for the winter period from October 2003 to March 2004.

Coordinated mid-monthly counts of wintering waterbirds in Hong Kong were carried out by members of the HKBWS on 12th October 2003, 9th November 2003, 7th December 2003, 25th January 2004, 22nd February 2004 and 21st March 2004. The January count was carried out to coincide with the Asian Waterfowl Census organized by Wetlands International – Asia Pacific. Counts from November to March have been carried out each winter since 1992-93; counts in January were first carried out in 1979.

In accordance with guidelines provided by Wetlands International, other counts, if higher, are 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 provided by the coordinated count for it to be included. As in recent winters, the use of mobile phones at Tsim Bei Tsui and Mai Po Boardwalk ensured that double-counting and, as far as possible, under-counting was avoided for birds in the intertidal areas on the Hong Kong side of Deep Bay ('Inner Deep Bay').

Due to habitat degradation, from winter 2000-01 the areas of Tin Shui Wai and Chau Tau were dropped from the list of sites counted. Nam Sang Wai was only surveyed for roosting Great Cormorants *Phalacrocorax carbo* in the evening of the January count. This area is fenced by the land owner and is not accessible to waterbird counters.

前言

長期監察米埔和內后海灣國際重要濕地的水鳥，是當地管理策略的重要一環，能夠顯示后海灣生態系統的健康狀態。這個計劃由 1998 年 3 月開始，由香港觀鳥會執行，漁農自然護理署則提供津貼，內容包括每月數算水鳥數目、數算使用當地的遷徙濱鳥（shorebirds）、以及對鷺鳥（ardeid）營巢地點的調查。本文報告在 2003 年 10 月至 2004 年 3 月之間做的冬季水鳥監察所得結果。

香港觀鳥會會員在 2003 年 10 月 12 日、11 月 9 日、12 月 7 日、以及 2004 年 1 月 25 日、2 月 22 日、3 月 21 日對越冬水鳥進行協調數算（coordinated count）。1 月的數算工作經過特別安排，和由國際濕地聯盟亞太區分部（Wetlands International – Asian Pacific）組織的亞洲水鳥普查（Asian Waterfowl Census）同時進行。自從 1992-93 年度開始，每年冬季 11 月至 3 月都會進行數算，而每年在 1 月做的數算則早在 1979 年便已開始。

按照國際濕地聯盟指引，在協調數算前後一週之內如有其他數算結果，會採納較高者，對大多數的鳥種而言，個別數算結果要大於協調數算所得可會採納。近年來鳥友在尖鼻嘴和米埔浮橋使用無線電話互相協調，以免重覆點算，同時亦盡量避免漏算后海灣內香港方面的潮間帶（內后海灣）的水鳥。

由於生境日益衰敗，自 2000-01 年起已將天水圍和洲頭兩地從數算地點名單剔出，而南生圍方面則只會在 1 月黃昏時分數算在那裡過夜的鸕鶿（Great Cormorants *Phalacrocorax carbo*），持有南生圍地權的人將地區圍起來，因此水鳥調查員不能進入。

Results

Coverage of the whole Deep Bay and the Ramsar Site was complete in November, January, February and March. Deep Bay C, D, and E, and Mai Po San Tsuen were not covered in the October count. Shenzhen River B and Tam Kon Chau were not surveyed in the December count. The results of the six counts are summarised in Table 1; recent historical data are provided in Table 2.

結果

11 月、1 月、2 月和 3 月的數算工作都能夠覆蓋整個后海灣和國際重要濕地，10 月的數算未能包括后海灣 C、D、E 和米埔新村 4 處；12 月的數算則沒在深圳河 B 和担竿洲數算。

表 1 總結了 6 個月內的結果，過去多年的結果見圖 1。

Table 2. Deep Bay Area Waterbird Counts Winter 2003-2004 by Groups and Area

Group 鳥種類別	Site 地點	Oct 10 月	Nov 11 月	Dec 12 月	Jan 1 月	Feb 2 月	Mar 3 月
Cormorants 鸕鷀	Ramsar Site 國際重要濕地	2	2,819	3,446	7,364	5,846	544
	Deep Bay Area 后海灣	22	3,041	4,103	8,964	4,050	1,353
	SI & SW 沙頭角海及船灣	16	109	15	47	172	21
Ardeids 鷺鳥	Ramsar Site 國際重要濕地	603	3,210	2,030	2,220	2,560	1,670
	Deep Bay Area 后海灣	2,571	5,321	3,963	3,422	3,663	2,860
	SI & SW 沙頭角海及船灣	479	521	520	537	530	555
Ducks and grebes 鴨及鸕鷀	Ramsar Site 國際重要濕地	55	6,768	13,283	4,022	5,305	1,075
	Deep Bay Area 后海灣	129	7,242	16,219	4,536	11,288	1,991
	SI & SW 沙頭角海及船灣	0	12	9	21	14	32
Rails, Coots etc. 秧雞、骨頂等	Ramsar Site 國際重要濕地	17	110	61	268	81	78
	Deep Bay Area 后海灣	66	148	81	362	128	145
	SI & SW 沙頭角海及船灣	6	5	5	9	7	1
Waders 涉禽	Ramsar Site 國際重要濕地	2,442	3,840	4,548	9,742	1,729	3,429
	Deep Bay Area 后海灣	2,593	4,296	4,743	9,847	4,273	6,016
	SI & SW 沙頭角海及船灣	24	94	91	63	74	36
Gulls and terns 鸕及燕鷗	Ramsar Site 國際重要濕地	0	1,314	8,385	296	167	35
	Deep Bay Area 后海灣	0	1,345	8,469	796	268	35
	SI & SW 沙頭角海及船灣	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals 總計	Ramsar Site 國際重要濕地	3,119	18,061	31,753	23,915	13,892	6,831
	Deep Bay Area 后海灣	5,381	21,303	37,578	27,927	25,466	12,400
	SI & SW 沙頭角海及船灣	525	872	642	677	797	645

SI & SW = Starling Inlet and Shuen Wan

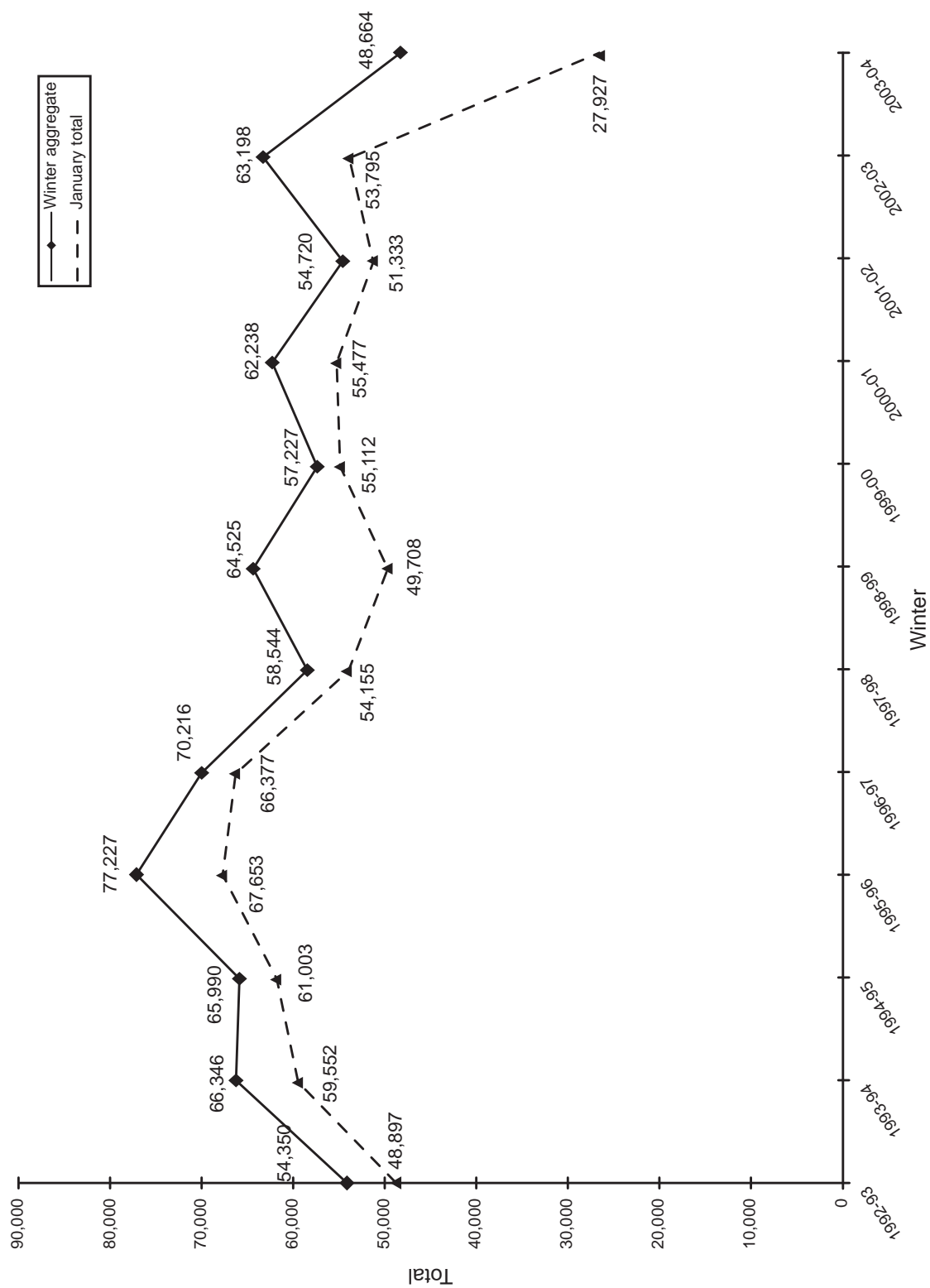
Peak waterbird numbers occurred in December, in contrast to previous years, when peak numbers were usually recorded in January. A total of 37,578 waterbirds of 52 species were recorded in the Deep Bay Area in the December count; the number of waterbirds present in the Ramsar Site was 31,753. This is the lowest number recorded since January 1990 (Figure 1). In January the number of waterbirds recorded dropped to a new low of only 27,927 individuals in the whole of Deep Bay and 23,915 in the Ramsar Site. The January count saw a considerable decrease of 48% and 41% respectively in comparison with the numbers in the previous year.

Two additional trial counts were conducted in January and February 2004, which provide supplementary data to the total numbers of waterbirds. Details are referred to in Part 2 of this report, and the numbers of waterbirds in January and February are adjusted to 36,478 and 29,234 respectively.

過去幾年高峰值通常會在 1 月出現，今年有點不同，水鳥總數在 12 月達到高峰。12 月在后海灣區內錄得共 52 種共 37,578 隻水鳥，在國際重要濕地內則有 31,753 隻，是自從 1990 年 1 月以來的最低紀錄（圖 1）。1 月錄得的水鳥降至新低點，在整個后海灣內只有 27,927 隻，而國際重要濕地內則有 23,915 隻，比去年分別大幅下降了 48% 和 41%。

2004 年 1 月和 2 月做了兩次額外的試驗性數算，以便為水鳥總數提供補充數據，這兩個月的水鳥數目因此分別調整至 36,478 和 29,234 隻，詳情見本報告的第 2 部。

Figure 2. January waterbird count totals and aggregate of peak species counts Dec to Feb 1992-93 to 2003-04



The decrease of waterbird numbers is mainly a result of a large decrease in numbers of the two main wintering waterbird groups: ducks and grebes, and gulls and terns. The number of ducks and grebes was 16,219 in December, while only 4,536 were counted in the January count. In winter 2002-03 the same group was recorded at 14,287 and 20,203, while in winter 2001-02 the December and January counts were 18,987 and 16,964 respectively. The number of gulls and terns showed the same pattern, and a maximum of only 8,469 birds were counted in this winter, while there was a significant drop in numbers from 13,191 birds in winter 2002-03 and 13,302 in winter 2001-02.

In order to gain a more accurate picture of the number of waterbirds that depend on Deep Bay for at least some part of the winter, and to counteract stochastic biases occurring as a result of using January count alone, the sum of peak species counts for the December to February period can be used. The total of these peak numbers was only 47,824 birds of 64 species, a notable decrease of 14,534, or 24% from the equivalent counts of the previous winter. The January count comprised only 57% of the total winter count, which is the lowest percentage since the commencement of November to March waterbird counts in 1992-93. Similar to the monthly total number, this total of peak numbers can be adjusted using data from the two additional trial counts to 50,896 birds.

Counting conditions have become increasingly unfavourable over the years, due to sedimentation in the bay and poor visibility caused by atmospheric pollution (Yu, 2003). In this winter two additional morning low tide counts at Deep Bay A (Futian), Deep Bay B (Mai Po boardwalk), and Deep Bay C, D and E (from Tsim Bei Tsui jetty) were organised on 17th January and 15th February 2004 – days with an afternoon high tide. These counts aimed to find ways to refine the methodology so as to increase the accuracy and the effectiveness of the counts. We have noted that tidal height is an important factor affecting the result of waterbird counts. During winter months, the morning high tide is usually much lower than that in the afternoon, which creates unfavourable conditions for the accuracy of counting. Some waterbird numbers were adjusted using data from these counts.

The total number of waterbirds in winter 2003-04 was 50,896. This is a drop of 6-20% compared to a relatively stable range of 54,000 to 64,000 since winter 1997-98. From our field observation, the reason for the decrease in numbers might be due to the following:

- Sedimentation increases in the level of mudflat, causing the encroachment of mangrove trees into the bay, thus reducing the area of available mudflat for foraging in the intertidal areas;
- The increase in mudflat level meaning that high tides are relatively lower in relation to the existing count locations. Thus, birds are located further away and are sufficiently close for accurate counting less frequently;
- Disturbance from illegal mudskipper collectors making it more difficult to count birds. There may also be a direct impact on the numbers of birds actually occurring; if both mudskipper collectors and birds wish to use an increasingly smaller area of available mudflat (causing 'prey' items of both to overlap), then some waterbirds may have to leave Deep Bay because disturbance prevents effective foraging.

The ten most numerous waterbird species recorded in the Deep Bay area during winter 2003-04 were:

- Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* (8,964)
- Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* (8,444)
- Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* (3,500)
- Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* (3,443)
- Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* (3,086)
- Dunlin *Calidris alpina* (2,430)
- Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* (2,249)
- Common Teal *Anas crecca* (2,238)
- Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* (2,210)
- Little Egret *Egretta gazetta* (1,932)

Together, these ten species total 38,496 birds, or 75.6% of the total of 50,896 birds; this percentage is almost exactly the same as last winter.

水鳥數目下降，主要是因為有兩個主要渡冬水鳥類別大幅下滑所致，一是鴨及鸕鶿，一是鷗及燕鷗。12 月鴨及鸕鶿有 16,219 隻，但 1 月只錄得 4,536 隻。2002-03 年冬 12 月和 1 月兩月內這個類別分別為 14,287 隻和 20,203 隻，而 2001-02 冬則分別為 18,987 和 16,964 隻。鷗和燕鷗也有類似情況，今個冬季最多只錄得 8,469 隻，比起 2002-03 的 13,191 隻和 2001-02 的 13,302 隻大幅下降。

我們將 12 月到 2 月間數算結果中每一種鳥的最大值加起來，這樣可以更準確地反映在整個或部份冬季內使用后海灣的水鳥數目，同時亦可以減低只採納 1 月的數據帶來的隨機性偏差。今年冬季的總數只有 64 種共 47,824 隻，比去年冬季的相應數字少了 14,534 隻，即 24%。1 月的數目只有整個冬季數字的 57%，是自從 1992-93 年開始由 11 月至 3 月做定期數算以來最低的百分比。就如以上對每月結果的修正一樣，我們採用了兩次額外試驗性數算的結果，將高峰值修訂為 50,896 隻。

近年來數算水鳥的條件愈來愈不利，一來是因為灣內的沉積物，二來是因為空氣污染令能見度下降 (Yu, 2003)。今年冬季我們多做了兩次早晨潮退（下午潮漲）數算，分別是 2004 年 1 月 17 日和 2 月 15 日，在后海灣 A（福田）、后海灣 B（米埔浮橋）、以及后海灣 C、D 和 E（自尖鼻嘴碼頭觀察）進行。這些數算旨在改善方法，令結果更準確和工作有效。我們發現潮水高度對水鳥數算結果有重要的影響，冬季早晨的潮漲水位高度通常比下午要低，不利準確數算，因此我們根據這些額外數算所得的結果修正了部份數據，關於額外數算的詳情見本報告第 2 部。

2003-04 年冬的水鳥總數為 50,896 隻，比起自從 1997-98 年冬以來相對穩定的 54,000 到 64,000 的數字來說，下降了 6 到 20%。根據我們在野外的觀察，下降的原因可能有下列幾個：

- 沉積物將泥灘升高，讓紅樹侵入海灣，可以讓鳥類覓食的潮間泥灘面積縮小了。
- 泥灘水平升高，令數算水鳥地點的漲潮水位相對地降低了，鳥兒因此離觀察地點更遠，減少了能夠準確數算的機會。
- 非法捕捉彈塗魚的人造成干擾，令數算更難進行，而且亦可能直接影響鳥的數目。如果捉魚的人和鳥兒要同時使用一塊逐漸縮小的泥灘（令兩者的「獵物」重覆），會阻止鳥兒有效地覓食，因而要離開后海灣。

2003-04 年冬季在后海灣錄得數目最多的 10 種水鳥分別是：

- Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* 鸕鷀 (8,964)
- Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* 紅嘴鷗 (8,444)
- Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* 反嘴鷗 (3,500)
- Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* 赤頸鴨 (3,443)
- Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* 琵嘴鴨 (3,086)
- Dunlin *Calidris alpina* 黑腹濱鷗 (2,430)
- Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* 澤鷗 (2,249)
- Common Teal *Anas crecca* 綠翅鴨 (2,238)
- Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* 環頸鸕 (2,210)
- Little Egret *Egretta gazetta* 小白鷺 (1,932)

以上 10 種鳥的總數為 38,496，佔總數 50,896 的 75.6%，和去年冬季的百分比非常接近。

Species of conservation significance

Some species that occur in the Deep Bay Area are of conservation significance due to their being listed as globally threatened by BirdLife International (2000), or because they are species for which Deep Bay supports, or may support, at least 1% of regional or flyway population, as used for implementing the Ramsar Convention criterion 3c. The '1% of regional or flyway population' is based on information provided by Wetlands International (2002). A brief review of these important waterbird species is provided below.

具特殊保育意義的鳥種

后海灣區內有多種具特殊保育意義的鳥種，有些被國際鳥盟列為全球受脅（BirdLife International, 2000），有些則因為在區域內或遷飛路線上的種群中最少有 1% 的鳥要依靠或可能依靠后海灣支持（拉姆薩爾國際重要濕地公約第 3c 項條件，參考 Wetlands International, 2002 中的資料），我們在下面簡述每一種鳥的情況。

Dalmatian Pelican *Pelcanus crispus* 卷羽鵜鶘 Conservation Dependent 依賴保育

Thirteen birds were present in Deep Bay this winter, one individual fewer than that in the previous winter. These birds constitute a minimum of 10% of the regional population which is estimated at fewer than 130 individuals in this region (Wetlands International, 2002).

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* 鸕鶿

A new Hong Kong high count of 8,964 birds was recorded in January. The 1% threshold value is set at 1,000 birds in the East Asia region (Wetlands International, 2002), meaning that Hong Kong supports 8.9% of the regional population.

Great Egret *Egretta alba* 大白鷺

A total of 1,064 individuals was recorded in the December 2003 count in the midwinter period. In addition, a slightly higher number of 1,146 birds were recorded in the November count. The 1% threshold value is set at 1,000 individuals (Wetlands International, 2002).

Oriental Stork *Ciconia boyciana* 東方白鶴 Endangered 瀕危

An immature was recorded in the January count that remained in Deep Bay in February. This endangered species has only a small global population of fewer than 2,500 (BirdLife International, 2000) to 3,000 individuals (Wetlands International, 2002).

Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor* 黑臉琵鷺 Endangered 瀕危

A maximum of 266 birds were counted in December, including 259 individuals in Hong Kong and seven at Futian. This number is close to a peak count of 262 at Mai Po on 14th December 2003 (P. J. Leader *pers. comm.*). The known global population was 1,206 individuals in January 2004 (Yu, 2004), and hence approximately 22% of the world population, the same as the previous winter, was present in Deep Bay.

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra amourensis* 反嘴鹬

Numbers in counts from November to March were 1,012, 423, 1,267, 1,654 and 1,901 respectively. Inconsistency in these numbers reflected the influence of tidal height on the accuracy of the counts. The additional trial counts obtained high numbers of 3,500 and 3,200 individuals; these constitute a maximum of 3.5% of the regional population

because the 1% threshold value is set to 1,000 individuals (Wetlands International, 2002).

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* 環頸鷸

A count of 2,210 birds was made in January. The 1% regional population is set to 1,000 individuals and this number constitutes 2% of the regional population.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* 白腰杓鷸

The peak count in the monthly waterbird count was 739 in January, but a total of 850 birds were counted in the additional trial count of 15th February. The regional population is estimated at 35,000 individuals (Wetlands International, 2002), and hence this represents 2.4% of the regional population.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* 鶴鷸

The peak winter count was 884 individuals in March, but this is likely to include some passage individuals. A relatively low number of 339 birds were counted in the additional count on 17th January. However, a mixed flock of up to 2,445 *Tringa* sandpipers was recorded in the January count, and 1,849 and 1,050 birds were recorded in the January and February additional counts. The 1% regional or flyway population is set at 1,000 (Wetlands International, 2002) and this species has a minimum of 1% of the flyway population wintering in Deep Bay.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* 澤鷸

The peak number of 2,249 birds was counted in December, which is the highest winter count of this species in Hong Kong, and constitutes a nearly 28% increase from the previous highest count recorded in winter 2002-03. The regional population is estimated at 90,000 individuals (Wetlands International, 2002), and therefore this peak number represents approximately 2.5% of the regional population.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* 青腳鷸

The 1% regional or flyway population is set at 550 individuals (Wetlands International, 2002). In winter 2003-04, the numbers recorded were 883, 327, 489, 0, 326 and 281 from October to March respectively. The high number in October suggested that some passage individuals were included. The numbers in midwinter are close to the 1% regional population, and some unidentified *Tringa* (including Spotted Redshank) were recorded during the winter counts. Therefore, it is likely that at least 1% flyway population of this species winters in Deep Bay.

Nordmann's Greenshank *Tringa guttifer* 小青腳鷸 Endangered 瀕危

A single bird recorded only in November is presumed to be a passage individual.

Saunders's Gull *Larus saundersi* 黑嘴鷗 Vulnerable 易危

The peak count this winter was only 15 individuals, recorded in January, which is only about 9% of the peak number of 172 birds in winter 1993-94 and less than half the number of 35 individuals in the previous winter. The 1% threshold value is set at 85 from the whole population estimated at 7,100 to 9,600 (Wetlands International, 2002).

Other notable counts 其他值得留意的數算結果

Falcated Duck *Anas falcata* 羅紋鴨

Two birds were recorded in January. This species only appears in very low numbers presently.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* 鳳頭潛鴨

A total of 1,095 individuals was recorded in December. This is the second highest count of this species, and very close to the highest count of 1,140 birds in February 1999.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra* 白骨頂

The peak winter count of 260 was made in January, which is over four times the number present in the previous winter. However, the number is still low compared to the numbers in winters of the early 1990s. This species is also decreasing at other wintering grounds (Simba Chan *in litt.*).

Other observations

Mudskipper collectors

Illegal mudskipper collectors continued to operate on the mudflats in Deep Bay from February onward, causing extensive disturbance to waterbirds and their collection of mudskippers and invertebrates, which might seriously affect this food source for wintering waterbirds.

其他觀察所得

捕捉彈塗魚

由 2 月開始有人持續在香港方面的后海灣泥灘上非法捕捉彈塗魚，嚴重干擾水鳥，這些人採集彈塗魚和無脊椎動物，更可能嚴重影響到渡冬水鳥的食物來源。

Conclusion

The total number of waterbirds in winter 2003-04 was 50,896. This constitutes a drop of 6-20% from the previous range of 54,000 to 64,000 waterbirds since winter 1997-98.

Given the difficulties of accurately counting waterbird in the intertidal areas of Deep Bay, it is unclear how accurate this figure is, or whether it really indicates a significant decrease has occurred since last winter.

However, it is certainly the case that habitat deterioration caused by sedimentation of the mudflat, encroachment of mangrove and disturbance from mudskipper collectors is on the increase. The open mudflat is the key area of this ecosystem, as it serves as an important feeding habitat for most of the wintering waterbirds in Deep Bay, and as a loafing site during low tide. In view of this, we have the following recommendations.

1. Efforts to site a new boardwalk hide further out in the mudflat should be encouraged. This would allow greater accuracy in determining waterbird numbers in Deep Bay, which is a key tool of Ramsar Site management.
2. The relevant government department should instigate appropriate research into the apparent decrease of available mudflat area, and if necessary action contributing to the conservation and management of the Ramsar Site.

結論

2003-04 年冬季水鳥的總數是 50,896，自 1997-98 年冬以來水鳥數目介乎 54,000 到 64,000 之間，相比之下今年減少了 6-20%。由於在后海灣潮間帶難以準確地數算水鳥，我們不肯定總數有多準確，也不肯定是否數據真的顯示水鳥數目比上一個冬季明顯下減少。

不過，我們可以肯定泥灘沉積物增加、紅樹入侵、以及人類捕捉彈塗魚三項因素，正在令生境日趨惡化。開闊的泥灘是當地生態最關鍵的地區，是大多數在后海灣越冬鳥類的重要覓食場所，亦是牠們在潮退時休息的地方。我們因此有以下建議：

1. 我們鼓勵在浮橋外物色一個更深入泥灘的地點建立新觀鳥屋，以便提高數算水鳥工作的準確度，這是管理國際重要濕地的一個重要手段。
2. 泥灘的可用面積明顯減少，政府相關部應推動適當的研究，同時應推行能夠促進國際重要濕地保育和管理的相應措施。

Acknowledgements 致謝

I would like to thank the following counters for participating in the counts:

我要感謝下列參與數算水鳥工作的調查員：

J. Allcock, A. Au, I. Callender, G. J. Carey, M. L. Chalmers, A. Chan, H. F. Cheung, Dong Jiangtian, F. Fong, M. Hale, J. & J. Holmes, W. Huen, W. M. Hung, S. F. Y. Lam, P. J. Leader, M. R. Leven, R. W. Lewthwaite, K. W. Ma, K. Ng, G. Talbot, Y. L. Tam, G. Tedbury, M. Turnbull, Wang Yongjun, L. C. Wong, W. Y. Yam, H. K. Ying.

References

BirdLife International. (2000). Threatened Birds of the World. Lynx Edicions and BirdLife International. Barcelona and Cambridge, UK.

Wetlands International. (2002). Waterbird Population Estimates – third edition. Wetlands International Global Series No. 12, Wageningen, The Netherlands.

Yu, Y. T. (2003). Winter 2002-2003 Report: Waterfowl Monitoring at the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society. Hong Kong.

Yu, Y. T. (2004). The International Black-faced Spoonbill Census, 16-18 January 2004. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Limited. Hong Kong.

Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus* from Cape D'Aguilar:

The first record for Hong Kong

Paul J. Leader

*c/o Asia Ecological Consultants Ltd,
127 Commercial Centre, Palm Springs,
Yuen Long, New Territories, Hong Kong*

Introduction

With the close passage of Typhoon Utor on the 6th July 2001, Yu Yat-tung (YYT), Mike Leven (MRL) and I arrived at Cape D'Aguilar at dawn. The conditions upon arrival were not too promising with the northeasterly winds force 5-6; however, around late morning the winds shifted to the southwest and intensified to force 6-7, occasionally force 8 at times. The light was reasonable in overcast conditions.

For much of the morning we saw very little; however, at about 10am I located an all-dark shearwater flying northeast at a distance of about 1.5km. I quickly managed to get YYT and MRL onto the bird and we watched it for about one minute as it flew northeast and disappeared near Tung Lung Chau.

Description

The following notes were taken shortly after the observation:

'All dark shearwater c. 1.5 km out. Picked up just left of Waglan Island and watched until in front of Tung Lung Chau. Medium sized shearwater (although alone throughout so no direct size comparison). Plumage: dark sooty brown all over, underparts slightly paler. Underwing uniformly dark with a small slightly paler patch on tertials or inner wing coverts.

A small-headed and short-necked bird with a slender body. Wings long and thin but quite angled; the arm was held slightly swept back and the hand even more clearly so forming an angle from the carpal giving the bird a distinctly swept back look when in gliding flight.

Tail remarkable being notably long, almost out of proportion to the rest of the bird, but also tapering from about half-way to a marked tip resulting in a well defined wedge shape.

Observed flying into the wind with infrequent flaps interspersed with long glides. High rolling flight flying high above the waves and then dropping down and frequently being lost in the waves.'

Identification

There is a suite of all dark shearwaters that regularly occurs in the western Pacific, viz: Flesh-footed Shearwater *Puffinus carnipes*, Wedge-tailed Shearwater *P. pacificus*, Sooty Shearwater *P. griseus* and Short-tailed Shearwater *P. tenuirostris*. However, Wedge-tailed is easily distinguished from this group on account of its long, wedge-shaped tail, which is especially visible during shearing flight. Given a lone bird such as this where size comparison is not possible, other possibilities also need to be considered, most notably Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulweria*, which, due to its largely dark plumage, long wings and long tapering tail is a potential confusion species. However the high soaring flight of this bird, typical of shearwaters, eliminates this species (Harrison, 1983).

In addition, the flight profile of this species is extremely distinctive. Wings held forward and the wing tip swept back was a consistent feature of about 1,000 Wedge-tailed Shearwaters I saw subsequent to this observation on a pelagic trip off Wollongong, New South Wales, Australia in December 2001. Also seen on that trip were approximately 20 Short-tailed Shearwaters, 500 Flesh-footed Shearwaters and four Sooty Shearwaters. Photos of a typical Wedge-tailed Shearwater seen on that trip are shown in Plates 19 and 20.



Plate 19. Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus*
Wollongong, New South Wales, Australia, December 2001
Paul J. Leader

Distribution

Wedge-tailed Shearwater is a widespread species breeding across the tropical Indian and Pacific Oceans (Harrison, 1983). In the Indian Ocean it breeds from Madagascar east to western Australia; in the Pacific it breeds from Japan south to east Australia and east to Mexico, the Marquesas Islands and Pitcairn Island. The total population is estimated to be over 1 million breeding pairs and whilst some populations are considered sedentary, others tend to migrate to warm waters of tropical and subtropical waters of both the Indian and Pacific Oceans, with many crossing the equator (del Hoyo *et al.*, 1991).

Cheng (1987) lists it only from Penghu Island in May; however, it seems highly likely that it is greatly under recorded in China due to the relatively low level of seabird research.



Plate 20. Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus*
Wollongong, New South Wales, Australia, December 2001
Paul J. Leader

References

- Cheng, T. H. (1987). A Synopsis of the Avifauna of China. Science Press, Beijing.
- del Hoyo, J. Elliot, A. and Sargatal, J. (1991). Handbook of the Birds of the World Vol. 1. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.
- Harrison, P. (1983). Seabirds: An Identification Guide. Pica Press.

Records Committee Comment

Wedge-tailed Shearwater is another expected addition to the Hong Kong List, and it was considered only a matter of time before one was recorded at Cape D'Aguilar during the passage of a typhoon. Although this bird was distant, the highly distinctive tail structure was sufficiently obvious to make identification possible, and its acceptance into Category A of the Hong Kong List was relatively straightforward.

從鶴嘴外望找到曳尾鵟

香港第一個紀錄

利雅德

*c/o Asia Ecological Consultants Ltd,
127 Commercial Centre, Palm Springs,
Yuen Long, New Territories, Hong Kong*

引子

2001 年 7 月 6 日颱風尤特在本港不遠處掠過，余日東、利偉文（Mike Leven）和在黎明時分到達鶴嘴，當時時正吹著 5 至 6 級東北風，情況不大好，但早上較後時間風向轉為西南，風速增強到 6 至 7 級，偶然更達 8 級，密雲，但光線尚可。

早上大部份時間收穫不大，不過約 10 時左右我找到了一隻全黑的鵟，正在 1.5 公里外向東北飛行，我馬上找余日東和利偉文一起觀察，為時約一分鐘，鳥飛向東北，在東龍洲附近失去踪影。

描述

觀察完畢後我們很快就做了以下的記錄：

「1.5 公里外全身深色的鵟。在橫瀾島左邊找到，一直觀察至東龍洲前面。大小中等（雖然全程只見到一隻鳥，未能直接比較）。羽色：全身深烏棕色，下體較淺色，翼底深色均勻，三級飛羽或內覆羽有一片較淺色的區域。

頭小、頸短、體型細長。翼長而窄但呈一角度，臂部（翅膀上節）稍向後掠，掌部（翅膀下節）更為明顯，在腕部成角度，滑翔時翅膀明顯向後掠。

尾部特長，和身體其他部份大抵不成比例，尾的中段開始收窄，至末端收細至一點，明顯成楔狀。

逆風飛行，長時間滑翔，只偶然振翅，飛行高低交替，在海浪上空高飛然後下降，時常隱沒在波濤之間。

辨認

太平洋西部常見一系列全黑的鷗：淡足鷗（Flesh-footed Shearwater *Puffinus carnipes*）、曳尾鷗（Wedge-tailed Shearwater *P. pacificus*）、灰鷗（Sooty Shearwater *P. griseus*）和短尾鷗（Short-tailed Shearwater *P. tenuirostris*），但是曳尾鷗的尾長成楔狀，在水面側身飛行時尤其易見，很容易和其他鷗區分。由於當時只有單獨一隻鳥，未能比較大小，要考慮其他可能，特別是褐燕鷗（Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulweria*）。褐燕鷗大致深色、翼長、尾長成楔狀，可能被誤認，可是當日見的鳥像其他鷗一樣飛得很高，排除了這個可能（Harrison 1983）。

還有，曳尾鷗飛行時的姿態非常特別，當日見過這鳥之後，我在 2001 年 12 月到澳洲新南威爾士州伍倫貢（Wollongong）看海鳥，見到約 1,000 隻曳尾鷗，牠們飛行時翅膀前伸而翼尖後掠。那次還同時見到約 20 隻短尾鷗、500 隻淡足鷗和 4 隻灰鷗，圖 19 和 20 都是那次見到的典型曳尾鷗。

分佈

曳尾鷗在印度洋和太平洋廣泛分佈（Harrison 1983），在印度洋由馬達加斯加到澳洲西部，在太平洋由日本向南到澳洲東部，向東至墨西哥、馬克薩斯郡島（Marquesas Islands）和皮特凱恩島（Pitcairn Island）都有繁殖。總數估計超過一百萬對，有些種群會固定在一個地方生活，其他則會遷徙至兩大洋的熱帶和亞熱帶海域，不少更會橫越赤道（del Hoyo *et al.* 1991）。

Cheng (1987) 只有 5 月在澎湖島的記錄，但因為中國海鳥研究甚為貧乏，極可能是因為紀錄不足所致。

紀錄委員會註

曳尾鷗是另一個期待已久的香港新紀錄，我們預期早晚會在颱風過港期間在鶴嘴錄得，雖然當日只是從遠處觀察，但是那獨特的尾部已足以確認，因此很容易便決定納入香港鳥類名錄 A 類。

Short-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus tenuirostris* in Mirs Bay: The first record for Hong Kong

Gary, K. L. Chow

*Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Department, Cheung Sha Wan Government
Offices, 303 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Kowloon,
Hong Kong*

On 16th May 2004, while carrying out a tern survey in Mirs Bay, I sighted a small dark seabird that I subsequently identified as a Short-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus tenuirostris*. The bird was seen resting on the water about 2km east of Tap Mun. As our vessel slowly approached it, I was able to observe the bird for about 15 minutes.

My initial impression was of a small sea bird, about 10 percent smaller than Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*. The bird was generally black to greyish-brown, except for its off-white throat. The bill was slender and slightly hooked, with tubular external nostrils. It had silvery-grey underwings, and heavily worn flight feathers were visible when it spread its wings. The bird rested calmly on the water and made occasional short flights.

The dark plumage, black bill, short tail and tubular external nostrils indicated that it was one of Sooty *P. griseus*, Wedge-tailed *P. pacificus* or Short-tailed Shearwaters. Wedge-tailed Shearwater could be ruled out fairly readily as the bird had a short tail, rather than a long wedge-shaped tail. However, the differences in plumage between Sooty and Short-tailed Shearwaters are subtle (Gillson, 2000). Detailed examination of a combination of characters shown on the photos taken was thus carried out to determine the bird's identity. It was identified as Short-tailed Shearwater on the basis of the following.

1. The paleness on the underwings, extending to the primaries, was not restricted to the interior of the wings. This character, though marginal, resembled Short-tailed Shearwater (Gillson, 2000) more.
2. The forehead was deep, imparting the appearance of a slightly protruding head, like that of the Short-tailed Shearwater, in contrast to the flat forehead of Sooty Shearwater.
3. The bird had a relatively short and slender bill, which is characteristic of Short-tailed Shearwater.

Based on this combination of features, the bird was identified as Short-tailed Shearwater, and the record published in Chow (2005). The record was subsequently accepted by the Records Committee of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society.

Short-tailed Shearwater breeds off southern Australia, migrating north to Alaska and western coasts of North America (Harrison, 1985). In China, it has been recorded

in Zhejiang, Taiwan and Hainan (Zheng, 1997). This sighting is the first record of this species in Hong Kong.



Plate 21. Short-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus tenuirostris*
Near Tap Mun, Hong Kong, 16th May 2004
Gary Chow



Plate 22. Short-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus tenuirostris*
Near Tap Mun, Hong Kong, 16th May 2004
Gary Chow

References

- Chow, G. K. L. (2005). Short-tailed Shearwater, its first record in Hong Kong. Hong Kong Biodiversity 8: 9.
- Gillson, G. (2001). Separation of Sooty and Short-tailed Shearwaters. The Bird Guide, Inc. (http://www.thebirdguide.com/pelagics/book/id_sosh_stsh.htm)
- Harrison, P. (1985). Seabirds: an identification guide. Revised edition. Croom Helm, London.
- Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (2006). Seabird migration survey in southern and south-eastern Hong Kong, spring 2006 (ECF Project 2005-10) Unpublished report by the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society. The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Hong Kong.
- Zheng, Z. X. *et al.* (1997). Fauna Sinica Aves Vol. 1, Science Press, Beijing.

Records Committee Comment

The occurrence of seabirds in Hong Kong is probably the least known aspect of the Hong Kong avifauna. It is only with the recent advent of regular boat trips into southern and southeastern waters of Hong Kong that the picture is starting to become somewhat clearer. Short-tailed Shearwater is a case in point. Previously unknown in the SAR, this first record heralded a series of records that indicate it is a regular spring migrant in small numbers in the southern sea areas. Acceptance into Category A of the Hong Kong List was straightforward, once identification was agreed.

在大鵬灣發現短尾鵲

香港第一個紀錄

周家禮

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Department, Cheung Sha Wan Government
Offices, 303 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Kowloon,
Hong Kong

2004 年 5 月 16 日我在大鵬灣做燕鷗調查，見到一隻深色的鵲，事後辨認為短尾鵲（Short-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus tenuirostris*）。當時那鳥停在塔門以東約 2 公里的水面，我的船慢慢靠近，觀察了約 15 分鐘。

我的第一個印象是一隻小型海鳥，約比赤頸鴨小 10%，除喉部米白色之外，全身大致黑到灰褐色。嘴細長而稍為成鈎狀，鼻管外露，翼下銀灰色，翅膀伸展時可見飛羽嚴重磨損。鳥平靜地在水面休息，不時作短距離飛行。

羽深色、嘴黑、尾短、鼻管外露顯示那可能是灰鵲（Sooty *P. griseus*）、曳尾鵲（Wedge-tailed *P. pacificus*）或短尾鵲。由於鳥的尾短，很容易便排除了尾長成楔狀的曳尾鵲，但是灰鵲和短尾鵲的羽色差別不大（Gillson 2000），因此綜合照片中找到的特徵組合，辨認為短尾鵲：

1. 翼底淡色部份不限於內側，而是伸延至初級飛羽，儘管這特徵並不明顯，但是和短尾鵲較接近（Gillson 2000）。
2. 前額較高，令頭部看來稍為凸出，像短尾鵲，而灰鵲的額則較平。
3. 尾部較短，嘴較細長，就如短尾鵲的特徵。

根據這些特徵組合，我辨認那鳥是短尾鵲，將紀錄在 Chow (2005) 發表，之後被香港觀鳥會紀錄委員會接納。

短尾鵲在澳洲南部以外的海域繁殖，向北遷徙至阿拉斯加和北美洲西岸（Harrison 1985），在中國浙江、台灣和海南（Zheng 1997）都有紀錄，是次是香港第一個紀錄。

紀錄委員會註

香港鳥類紀錄中大抵以海鳥最為貧乏，近年有人定期到本港南部及東南部水域觀鳥，情況開始變得明朗，短尾鵲就是一例。這鳥之前未曾錄得，是次紀錄之後陸續再有發現，顯示每年春季都有少數短尾鵲經過本港南部海域遷徙，一旦確認鳥種，便直截了當地納入香港鳥類名錄 A 類。

Malayan Night Heron *Gorsachius melanolophus*:

The first record for Hong Kong

Jose Alberto Cheung Mok

*c/o Asia Ecological Consultants Ltd,
127 Commercial Centre, Palm Springs,
Yuen Long, New Territories, Hong Kong*

Late in 2003 the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society was sent a photograph taken at 1435h on 19th April 2003 by a wildlife monitoring camera located near Lo Kei Wan in the southern part of Lantau Island. Amazingly, the image was of two adult Malayan Night Herons *Gorsachius melanolophus*, a species never before recorded in Hong Kong (Plate 23). Details were very brief, but the photographic evidence was unequivocal. As a result, Malayan Night Heron was accepted into Category A of the Hong Kong List in April 2004.



Plate 23. Malayan Night Heron *Gorsachius melanolophus*
Lo Kei Wan, Lantau, Hong Kong, 19th April 2003
Wildlife Conservation Foundation Ltd.

On 3rd September 2004 at around 1730h near Ping Kong Village, near Fanling I was walking home when I flushed a heron from the road. At the time, I recognised it as a forest-type heron *Gorsachius*, but I was not sure which species. I continued to walk around the small area of woodland that it had been near. Half an hour later, I saw the bird again, this time standing in a tree, I saw clearly that it had a long black crest on the crown, and when it flew, I could see two black bars on the wings. Consequently, I identified it as Malayan Night Heron.

I informed Dr Ho Fai Cheung, who arrived the following morning with a number of people. However, it became clear that entering the woodland was not a successful strategy in terms of seeing the adult. However, a nest was found with two juveniles nearby. These young birds were positioned in the same tree for the subsequent two days, while two adults brought them food in the evening, usually between 1730h and 1830h.

In following days, I saw two adults feeding on a nearby short grassy area, and the final sighting was on 1st October 2004. These birds were photographed fairly readily, and two images are reproduced in Plates 24 and 25.



Plate 24. Malayan Night Heron *Gorsachius melanolophus*
Adult at On Po Tsuen, near Fanling, Hong Kong, September 2004
John and Jemi Holmes



Plate 25. Malayan Night Heron juvenile *Gorsachius melanolophus*
On Po Tsuen, near Fanling, Hong Kong, September 2004
John and Jemi Holmes

Malayan Night Heron is described by Cheng (1987) as very rare, occurring as a summer visitor to Xishuangbanna, Yunnan and the Yao Shan in Guangxi, and as a resident in Taiwan, (where it is regularly recorded still), and Hainan. In China, there are very few records outside of this area, and it was not listed at all by Lewthwaite (1996) in his review of observations of forest birds in southeast China, nor was it reported in the 2003–2005 editions of the China Bird Report. Furthermore, it was only recorded once by Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden during numerous surveys of forest reserves in Guangdong and Guangxi between 1997 and 2004, and that was at Nong Gang Nature Reserve in southwest Guangxi during 19-27th May 1998 (Lee *et al.*, 2006).

References

- Cheng, T. H. (1987). A Synopsis of the Avifauna of China. Science Press, Beijing.
- Lee, K. S., Lau, M. W. N., Fellowes, J.R. and Chan, B. P. L. (2006). Forest bird fauna of South China: notes on current distribution and status. Forktail 22 (2006): 23-38.
- Lewthwaite, R. W. (1996). Forest birds of Southeast China: observations during 1984-1996. Hong Kong Bird Report 1995: 150-203. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Hong Kong.

Records Committee Comment

Although considered to be somewhat more widespread than the relatively few records in south China would suggest, it was nevertheless quite a surprise when the HKBWS received a photo taken on Lantau of two adults. The birds were recorded in an area of quiet and undisturbed closed-canopy shrubland in a little-visited part of Lantau, and although possibly migrants, it is perhaps more likely, in light of subsequent events, they were breeding birds. Given the location and habitat, it was with further surprise that the second record concerned a family party in a small and degraded area of trees in the rather more disturbed northern New Territories! Acceptance into Category A of the Hong Kong List was straightforward given the pattern of records and its occurrence in nearby areas of China. One wonders just how many pairs of this species actually breed in Hong Kong.

黑冠鵝

香港的最早幾個紀錄

張振國

c/o Asia Ecological Consultants Ltd,
127 Commercial Centre, Palm Springs,
Yuen Long, New Territories, Hong Kong

2003 年年底，香港觀鳥會收到一幅同年 4 月 19 日在大嶼山南部籬箕灣附近用野生動物監察攝影機拍得的照片（圖 23），那是一對黑冠鵝（*Malayan Night Herons* *Gorsachius melanolophus*）成鳥，之前本港從未有記錄，令人大感意外。雖然隨照片附上的資料不多，但是照片本身已是無容置疑的證據，黑冠鵝因此在 2004 年 4 月被納入香港鳥類名錄 A 類。

2004 年 9 月 3 日約 1730h，我在粉嶺丙崗回家途中從路旁驚起了一隻鷺鳥，當時認出那是一隻喜於林中活動的 *Gorsachius* 鷺鳥，但不肯定是哪一種。我繼續在鳥出現的小樹林周圍走動，半小時後再見到那鳥停在樹上，清楚見到頭頂有黑色冠，飛行時兩翼有黑色橫斑，因此確認為黑冠鵝。

我告訴張浩輝博士，翌日他和一些鳥友進入樹林搜尋，但是找不到成鳥，只找到一個鳥巢，有兩隻幼鳥在附近。之後兩天兩隻幼鳥都留在同一棵樹上，兩隻成鳥在黃昏會帶食物回來餵飼，通常是在 1730h 至 1830h 之間。

之後幾天我見到兩隻成鳥在附近的短草坪上覓食，最後見的一次在 2004 年 10 月 1 日，這些鳥都不難拍攝，見圖 24 及 25。

Cheng (1987) 稱黑冠鵝甚為稀有，在雲南西雙版納和廣西瑤山是夏候鳥，在台灣（目前當地還常有紀錄）和海南是留鳥，在這些地區以外中國甚少紀錄，Lewthwaite (1996) 對中國東南部林鳥紀錄的回顧中沒有提及，2003-2005 的中國鳥類報告也沒有。1997 到 2004 年間，嘉道理農場暨植物園曾到廣東和廣西的森林保護區做了很多次調查，只在 1998 年 5 月 19 至 27 日在廣西西南部弄崗自然保護區得到一個黑冠鵝紀錄 (Lee *et al.* 2006)。

紀錄委員會註

雖然我們認為黑冠鵝在華南的分佈應該比紀錄顯示的更為廣泛，但是當觀鳥會收到在大嶼山拍得的照片時仍大感意外。發現那兩隻鳥的地方是大嶼山平靜而未受干擾的茂密灌林，遊人甚少。雖然鳥有可能是在遷徙中，但是有見事後的發展，牠們更有可能是

繁殖鳥。第二對發現的鳥是一個完整的家庭，在新界北部一個備受干擾、環境欠佳的小樹林中找到，著實更令人驚訝！考慮到兩個發現的時間和黑冠鵝在國內附近地區的分佈，我們很容易便將這鳥納入香港鳥類名錄 A 類。究竟有多少對黑冠鵝在本港繁殖？著實耐人尋味。

Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* at Lok Ma Chau:

The first Category A record for Hong Kong

Michael R. Leven

*c/o Asia Ecological Consultants Ltd,
127 Commercial Centre, Palm Springs,
Yuen Long, New Territories, Hong Kong*

On Monday 8th November 2004 I was conducting a routine waterbird count from the observation tower at the Kowloon-Canton Railway Company (KCRC) Lok Ma Chau Ecological Enhancement Area (EEA). At about 0800h I noted a large bird flying over the ponds which I immediately identified as a 'grey' goose *Anser*. As it flew towards me it was obvious that it was not a Greylag Goose as it lacked that species' pale grey forewing and showed brown tones overall. Fortunately, it landed in the pond immediately to the east of the hide and began feeding on emergent vegetation in company with a group of Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*. I was then able to watch it through a 30x telescope at c. 80–150m range and obtained the following description.

The mantle had strong brown tones becoming blacker on the wings but with a gradual transition; the individual feathers had paler fringes. The primaries were black; there was a white wing bar, formed by the tips to greater coverts, visible at rest, and small white tips to lesser and median coverts were visible in flight. The tail was dark brown with off-white tips.

The breast and belly were dull pale brown, the flanks slightly darker and the vent white. There was a transition from darker feathering of the belly to a white vent, which formed a crescent reaching the feathered part of legs.

The bird had a rather pale-faced appearance with the crown slightly darker, and feathering around the bill base also darker but with a paler patch of feathers, (described as 'off-buff'), immediately behind the culmen ridge.

The legs were dull orange. The bill was dull yellow-orange, length of bill to feathering c. 0.7–0.8cm length of head. Bill tip and cutting edge dark.

Based on the overall brownish tones, dull yellow-orange bill and dull orange legs, I tentatively identified the bird as a juvenile Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*.

I telephoned Paul Leader and he arrived approximately 20 minutes later together with Ying Hak King, Shirley Lam and John Allcock, all of whom saw the bird with me. On leaving the site I checked reference material and realised that the largely dull orange bill with black restricted to the nail and cutting edge did not fit any taxon or age class of Bean Goose, all of which would show a much greater extent of black on the bill, but it was appropriate for a juvenile Greater White-fronted Goose. Juvenile Greater White-fronted Goose, of course, does not show the characteristic white feathering around the bill and black blotching on the breast and belly of adult birds.

Lok Ma Chau EEA is within the Frontier Closed Area and is owned and managed by KCRC to compensate for the loss of wetland habitat caused by the Lok Ma Chau Spur Line. Accordingly, public access is restricted. However, KCRC readily agreed to permit escorted groups of HKBWS members to visit the site. Approximately 20 members were able to watch the bird from the observation hide over the next few days and Martin Hale obtained photographs, one of which is reproduced here (Plate 26).



Plate 26. Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*
Lok Ma Chau, Hong Kong, 8th November 2004
Martin Hale

The goose spent much of its time feeding in association with Eurasian Wigeon, either on emergent vegetation or on grassy bunds. It was not present continuously on site and may have been spending some time in the nearby Shenzhen River channel (as do the Eurasian Wigeon that use the site). It was last seen alive on Friday 12th November, when it appeared healthy, but was found dead by Graham Reels on the site

on 15th November. It showed no obvious injuries (G. T. Reels *pers. comm.*) and was passed to Agriculture Fisheries and Conservation Department for post-mortem examination. Unfortunately, however, although it was tested for presence of the H5N1 avian influenza virus (and proved negative), a full post mortem was not conducted as the corpse was too decayed (W. H. Lee *pers. comm.*).

On 16th October 1999 an adult Greater White-fronted Goose was picked up in Discovery Bay and transferred to the Wild Animal Rescue Centre at Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden. On 22nd November it was released at Mai Po Marshes Nature Reserve, where it remained for much of the winter (Haig, 2007). In view of the unusual circumstances of its discovery (it was found next to the ferry pier), its subsequent behaviour at Mai Po, where it remained in the captive waterbird collection area, and that it was an adult of a species commonly caught in the wild in China, the species was added to Category E. The discovery of a juvenile in the Deep Bay area, together with that of another juvenile at the same site around the same date the following year, however, resulted in the addition of Greater White-fronted Goose to Category A of the Hong Kong List.

According to Cheng (1987), in China White-fronted Goose is a migrant and winter visitor in the northeast, Xinjiang and eastern provinces westward to Hubei and Hunan. As a winter visitor to the Yangtze valley, its occurrence as an overshoot in early winter is not surprising, and a similar phenomenon was noted with Siberian Crane *Grus leucogeranus* in December 2002 (Wen and Cheung, 2007).

References

- Cheng, T. H. (1987). A Synopsis of the Avifauna of China. Science Press, Beijing.
- Haig, A. (2007). Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* at Discovery Bay: an addition to Category E of the Hong Kong List. Hong Kong Bird Report 2001-02: 205-207.
- Wen, X. J. and Cheung M. C. (2007). Siberian Crane *Grus leucogeranus* at Mai Po: the first Hong Kong record. Hong Kong Bird Report 2001-02: 171-173.

Records Committee Comment

Though not observed at the time of the original observation, it was subsequently noted that some feathering was displaced at the base of the neck; this is apparent in Plate 26. However, no other feather damage was visible and there was no damage to the base of the bill to suggest that it may have been of captive origin. Despite its subsequent death, it was seen to fly strongly on (at least) 8th and 9th November and it exhibited a similar degree of wariness to the Eurasian Wigeon with which it was loosely associated. This, together with the date of occurrence, which is strongly suggestive of a lost young bird overshooting the Yangtze valley, (where this species is common in winter) on its first southward migration, is considered sufficient evidence that it had not been kept in captivity. Accordingly, the species was moved from Category E to Category A.

在落馬洲發現白額雁

香港第一個 A 類紀錄

利偉文

c/o Asia Ecological Consultants Ltd,
127 Commercial Centre, Palm Springs,
Yuen Long, New Territories, Hong Kong

2004 年 11 月 8 日星期一，我在九廣鐵路公司的落馬洲生境改善區（Ecological Enhancement Area, EEA）內的瞭望塔上進行例行水鳥調查，大約 0800h 見到一隻大鳥在池塘上飛，馬上認出是隻「灰」雁（*Anser*），當牠向我迎面飛來的時候，我很清楚那不是灰雁，因為翅膀前部並非淡灰色，而且整體帶褐色調。幸運地牠落到觀鳥屋旁東面的池塘內，開始和一群赤頸鴨（*Eurasian Wigeon Anas penelope*）一起在露出水面的植物之間進食，我因此可以在 80 到 150 米內用 30 倍望遠鏡觀察，得到以下紀錄：

上背有很強的褐色調，到翅膀處漸變得較黑，個別羽毛有淡色邊。初級飛羽黑色，大覆羽尖端白色，連起來組成白色翼斑，靜止時可見；而中覆羽和小覆羽的白色尖端則可在飛行時見到。尾深褐色，尖端米白色。

胸和腹部是暗淡的褐色，脇部稍黑而腰較白。腹部較深色的羽毛漸變至腰部的白色，在腿部成新月狀。

臉部色淡，頭頂色較深，嘴基週圍的羽毛亦較深色，但緊接嘴峰（culmen ridge）之後有一片淡（淡皮黃色 'off-buff'）斑。

腿暗橙色，嘴暗橙黃色，嘴長和 0.7-0.8 厘米，嘴尖和嘴緣深色。

根據整體帶褐的色調，暗橙黃色的嘴和暗橙色的腿，我初步認為那是一隻豆雁（*Bean Goose Anser fabalis*）幼鳥。

我打電話告訴利雅德，約 20 分鐘之後他與英克勁、林鳳兒和 John Allcock 來到，和我一樣都看到那隻鳥。

離開現場之後我查閱了參考資料，發覺暗橙色嘴、黑色嘴尖和黑色嘴緣這些特徵並不符合豆雁的任何亞種或分齡羽色，因為所有豆雁的嘴部都有較大片的黑色。那鳥的特徵和白額雁幼鳥脛合，但白額雁幼鳥的嘴週圍當然沒有白色，胸和腹也沒有在成鳥的一片黑色污斑。

落馬洲生境改善區位於邊境禁區之內，屬九廣鐵路公司所有，並由該公司管理，以補償因興建落馬洲支線而失去的濕地生境，因此公眾不可進入，但是九鐵公司容許香港觀鳥會會員在有人陪同之下入內。在發現這鳥之後的數天內，約有 20 位會員可以從觀鳥屋看到這鳥，而夏菽天則拍了一些照片，其中一幅見圖 26。

這鳥大多留在赤頸鴨的附近，一起在露出水面的植物或是在有草的基堤上進食，不過並非持續在那裡，可能有時去了附近的深圳河道（就如當地的赤頸鴨一樣）。11 月 12 日星期五我們最後一次見到這鳥在生，看來很健康，可是 11 月 15 日 Graham Reels 在當地發現鳥已死去，但是沒有明顯的傷痕（和 G. T. Reels 私人通訊），交給漁護署驗屍。可惜，雖然當局已對 H5N1 禽流感進行了測試（結果是陰性），但是由於屍體腐壞太過嚴重，並沒有進行全面的檢驗（和利偉雄的私人通訊）。

1999 年 10 月 16 日有人在愉景灣撿到了一隻白額雁，送到嘉道理農場暨植物園的野生動物拯救中心，11 月 22 日鳥在米埔自然保護區野放，之後留在當地度過大半個冬天（Haig 2007）。考慮到發現地點（在渡輪碼頭旁邊）並不尋常、鳥在米埔的行為（常留在圈養水禽區內）、野生白額雁在中國常常被人捕捉、那鳥是成鳥等因素，當年將白額雁納入為 E 類。這次在後海灣找到幼鳥，加上翌年差不多相同時間在同一地點找到另一隻幼鳥，因此將白額雁納入香港鳥類名錄 A 類。

Cheng (1987) 說白額雁在中國東北、新疆、以及湖南湖北以西的東部各省是冬候鳥，由於這鳥會在長江渡冬，在冬季初期有迷鳥越區來到香港並不出奇，2002 年 12 月就有曾經一隻白鶴（Siberian Crane *Grus leucogeranus*）有類似現象（Wen and Cheung, 2007）。

紀錄委員會註

雖然當時觀察沒有留意，事後發覺鳥的頸部有些羽毛給擾亂了（在圖 26 中可見），不過其他部份的羽毛仍是完好無缺，而嘴基也沒有捕捉圈養造成的損傷。儘管鳥已經死去，（最少）11 月 8 日和 9 日曾有人見到牠飛得很有力，而且跟與牠若即若離的赤頸鴨有同樣高的警覺性。從鳥出現的日期來看，這很可能是一隻首次向南遷徙但是超越了長江河谷（冬季常見白額雁）的迷鳥。以上兩點足以證明這鳥沒有被人捕捉圈養過，因此將白額雁從 E 類改列為 A 類。

Chinese Thrush *Turdus mupinensis* at Kadoorie Agricultural Research Centre: The first record for Hong Kong

David Carthy

G.P.O. Box 716, Hong Kong

On the morning of 18th November 2004 I was ringing birds caught in the shrubland above the Kadoorie Agricultural Research Centre of the University of Hong Kong. The day was bright with the wind over Hong Kong generally moderate northerly. It was cool (16°C at Shek Kong at 0700h) and dry, with a relative humidity in the mid 50s. A cold front had crossed the coast three days earlier in the early morning of the 15th November and subsequently winds had been north or northeasterly.

As expected, the day was a good one for migrants with 15 caught, including six new thrushes *Turdus* and one retrapped Grey-backed Thrush *T. hortulorum* first caught 12 months earlier.

At about 0850h I found a medium-sized thrush in the top shelf of one of the mist nets set in thick shrub on the eastern edge of the site. The bird had been flying up the slope. The distant view of the back was pretty nondescript and I assumed it was another Japanese Thrush *T. cardis*, but turning it over revealed quite another story. It was quite obviously a Chinese Thrush *T. mupinensis* in absolutely pristine condition.

Description

The bird was about the same size as the other common thrushes in Hong Kong. The photograph taken after it was weighed, measured and ringed shows the principal identifying features (Plate 27). Observers familiar with Western Palearctic species will see the similarity with the Song Thrush *T. philomelos* but will also note the much more marked facial pattern of the Chinese bird.

Head

The greyish-black supercilium began just in front of the eye and continued in a downward arc behind the eye, widest at the rear. The lores were greyish-white while the cheeks were dull white washed light brown. A dark vertical smudge from the eye covered the lower part of the cheeks and there was a dark malar stripe. The crown was fairly uniform grey-brown.

Upperparts

The back was light brownish-grey becoming greyer on the upper tail coverts. The primaries and secondaries were dark grey-brown with distal light brown fringes. The primary coverts were also dark grey-brown but had dark brown tips. The greater

coverts on the other hand were slightly paler with large brownish-white terminal spots. The median coverts were similar. This terminal spotting was assumed to indicate that this was a bird born in the 2004 breeding season. The lesser coverts were unspotted. The rectrices were similar to the primaries but had minimal fringes.

Underparts

The chin was dirty white with a faint greyish-brown wash. The throat was similar but with streaky dark brown spots. The entire upper breast was pure white with large dark brown spots. The centre of the belly was unspotted. The flanks were as the upper breast but the spots were even more intense. The undertail coverts were greyish-white while the underwing coverts were a strong buff throughout.

Bare parts

The upper mandible was dark brown. The lower was slightly paler at the tip than the upper with the proximal half brownish-yellow. The bill shape and size were typical of most thrushes. The mouth was pinkish-yellow and the irides dark brown. The tarsi and toes were light brown in the front and yellowish-brown behind.



Plate 27. Chinese Thrush *Turdus mupinensis*
KARC, Hong Kong, 18th November 2004
David Carthy

Measurements

Wing (max. Chord)	121.5 mm	Bill (to skull)	24.0 mm
Tail	93.8 mm	Total head	48.4 mm
Weight	56 gm	Tarsus	30.7 mm
Emarginations	p3, p4, p5, p6		

Wing formula (primaries numbered ascendantly, P1 is the shortest and outermost)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
pc-3.5	-12	-1.5	wp	-1.5	-6.5	-16.5	-22	-26	-31

Fat deposition was judged to be 1 on a scale to 4, i.e. minimal. Most importantly, there was no sign of damage to either plumage or bare parts, which would have indicated an ex-captive bird.

Discussion

Clement and Hathway (2000) list measurements for seven birds, presumably museum specimens. These were:

Total length:	230mm
Wing male:	116-120mm
Wing female:	114-118mm
Tarsus:	32-36mm
Bill: (from feathering)	16-19mm

Apparently, prior to the KARC bird there has been no published weight information. The discrepancies between the measurements taken from the Hong Kong bird and those quoted in Clement and Hathaway may be explained mainly by differing techniques or by the small sample. In any case the differences are not large.

Distribution

The Chinese Thrush is a poorly known species but more recent assessments assume that it is not globally threatened, as it was considered by Collar *et al.* (1994). It is monotypic and is thought possibly to form a superspecies with the Song Thrush. Generally it was thought to be resident between 1,200 and 3,200 metres. It breeds in montane broadleaved and mixed forests with thick undergrowth in central China from Hebei in the north to Sichuan and Yunnan in the south. It is shy and prefers thick undergrowth, and has presumably been overlooked in the past.

Outside the breeding season, there have been records from the coast in Vietnam, northeast China and Korea in recent years. More specifically there is one record from Cuu Long, Red River Delta, East Tonkin, Vietnam on 27th March 1989, and two records from Socheong Island, Korea on 31st May 2003 and 18th May 2005. It is considered scarce to uncommon at Beidaihe by Williams (2000), and it has been recorded on the Shandong coast. There is obviously more than local migration by at least some of the population. Clement and Hathway (2000) suggest that birds in the north are probably migrants to the extreme south in winter. It occurs in plantations, woodlands and thickets on migration. It should be noted that Lewthwaite's (1996) account of visits to southern China forests failed to record the species.

References

- Lewthwaite, R. W. (1996). Forest Birds of Southeast China: Observations during 1984-96. Hong Kong Bird Report 1995: 150-203
- Clement, P. and Hathway, R. (2000). Thrushes. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey.
- Collar, N. J., Crosby, M. J., & Stattersfield, A. J. (1994). Birds to Watch 2: The World List of Threatened Birds. BirdLife International, Cambridge
- del Hoyo, J., Elliot, A. & Christie, D. A. eds. (2005). Handbook of the Birds of the World. Vol. 10. Cuckoo-shrikes to Thrushes. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.
- Williams, M. (2005). Checklist of the Birds of Beidaihe. www.drmartinwilliams.com/beidaihe-birding/beidaihe-list.html

Records Committee Comment

Since realisation that Chinese Thrush occurred regularly on migration along the Hebei coast, northeast China, this species has been eagerly awaited in Hong Kong. Given its unobtrusive nature and preference for dense shrubland or the forest understorey, it is not surprising that the first record involved a bird taken from a mist net. This, at least, allowed the bird to be critically examined for evidence of previous captivity, which in this case was not present. Under these circumstances, acceptance into Category A was straightforward. Fortunately, a subsequent record on Po Toi allowed many people to see this species for the first time in Hong Kong.

在嘉道理農業研究所找到寶興歌鵲

香港第一個紀錄

David Carthy

G.P.O. Box 716, Hong Kong

2004 年 11 月 18 日早上我在香港大學嘉道理農業研究所上的灌木林做鳥類環誌，當時天色晴朗，香港正吹著北風，天氣清涼（0700h 石崗有 16°C）乾燥，相對濕度約 50% 左右。三天之前一道冷峰在清晨橫過海岸，風向因此變成北或東北。

一如所料，當日找到了不少候鳥，共捕到了 15 隻，包括 6 隻未曾被人捕捉過的鵲（*Turdus*）和一隻曾在 12 個月之前被捕捉過的灰背鵲（Grey-backed Thrush *T. hortulorum*）。

約 0850h 我在設在東面茂密灌林中的霧網上層找到一隻中等大小的鵲，落網之前那鳥正沿山坡向上飛，遠看鳥的背部沒有甚麼特徵，我以為是另一隻烏灰鵲（Japanese Thrush *T. cardis*），但是一反過來卻是另一回事。那顯然是一隻原好無缺的寶興歌鵲（Chinese Thrush *T. mupinensis*）。

描述

這鳥大小和其他香港常見的鵲相若，圖 27 的照片是在量重、量度大小和加上環誌之後才拍的，可以見到主要的辨別特徵。熟悉古北界西部鳥類的人會覺得這鳥和歐歌鵲（Song Thrush *T. philomelos*）很相似，但也會留意到寶興歌鵲臉部斑紋比較突出。

頭

眉紋灰黑色，由眼前開始，成弧狀向下伸延至眼後，眉紋的後端最寬。眼先灰白色，頰暗白色而帶淺褐，頰下部有一起自眼下的垂直污斑，有深色顴紋。頭頂灰褐均勻。

上體

背部淺褐灰色，愈近尾上覆羽灰色愈重。初級及次級飛羽深灰褐色，外側有淺褐色邊緣。初級覆羽亦為深灰褐色，但末端深褐色。相比之下，大覆羽稍淡，末段有帶褐的白斑；中覆羽和大覆羽差不多，相信這些末段色斑顯示這鳥生於 2004 年繁殖季節。小覆羽沒有色斑。尾羽和初級飛羽相似但邊緣的淺褐色僅僅可見。

上體

下頷污白色而有淡淡的灰褐色調，喉部亦如是，但有成條狀的褐色斑。胸的上半部純白色，有大塊的褐色斑，腹部中央沒有斑紋，脇部如胸的上半部但斑紋更明顯。尾下覆羽米白色，翼下覆羽皮黃色。

裸露部份

上喙深褐色，下喙尖端色較淡，近嘴基處半褐黃色，嘴形和大小與多數鶇無異。嘴黃帶粉紅色，虹膜深褐色。跗蹠和腳趾前方淺褐色，後方黃褐色。

測量數據

翼長（最長弦）	121.5mm	嘴長（至髖骨）	24.0mm
尾長	93.8	頭長	48.4mm
重量	56 gm	跗蹠	30.7mm
凹緣	p3, p4, p5, p6		

羽序（Wing formula，初級飛羽從小到大，P1 為最短最外側者）

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
pc-3.5	-12	-1.5	wp	-1.5	-6.5	-16.5	-22	-26	-31

脂肪量（由 1 到 4）評估為 1，即極少。最重要的是羽毛和裸露部份都沒有缺損，顯示未曾被人捕捉圈養過。

討論

Clement and Hathway (2000) 列出了七隻鳥（相信是博物館標本）的測量數據：

總長:	230mm
翼長（雄）:	116-120mm
翼長（雌）:	114-118mm
跗蹠:	32-36mm
嘴長: (從羽毛量起)	16-19mm

在是次發現之前顯然並沒有公開的重量數據，在香港發現的鳥和 Clement and Hathway 給出的數據之間的差別，可以用方法不同或採樣太少解釋，無論如何差別亦不算大。

分佈

關於寶興歌鵲的資料不多，但最近的評估認為並非如 Collar *et al.* (1994) 所說全球受脅。寶興歌鵲是單種（monotypic），相信可能和歐歌鵲合組成超種（superspecies）。一般認為這鳥是海拔 1,200m 到 3,200m 處的留鳥，在中國中部有茂密下層林叢的山區闊葉林及混交林中繁殖，分佈北起自河北省，南至雲南及四川省。這鳥行動隱秘，喜歡茂密的下層林叢，相信以前沒有人注意到。

在繁殖期以外，越南、中國東北部和韓國各地的沿岸地區在近年都有紀錄，1989 年 3 月 27 日越南東京東部紅河三角洲的九龍（Cuu Long）有一個紀錄，2003 年 5 月 31 日和 2005 年 5 月 18 日在韓國的 Socheong 島先後有兩個。Williams (2000) 認為這鳥在北戴河為稀有到不常見，另外在山東省沿岸有紀錄。顯然，最少有些種群會有大於局部遷徙的活動。Clement and Hathway (2000) 推測北方的種群可能會在冬季遷徙到分佈範圍的最南端。遷徙期間寶興歌鵲會在人工植林區，林地和灌林中出现，留意 Lewthwaite (1996) 的中國南部森林觀鳥報告中沒有記錄這種鳥。

紀錄委員會註

自從我們知道寶興歌鵲時常會沿中國東北的河北省沿岸遷徙之後，大家都熱切期待會在香港發現。由於這鳥生性隱密、偏愛茂密的灌林和下層叢林，因此第一個紀錄來自霧網並不出奇。這樣可以讓我們細心檢查，鑑定是否曾經被人捕捉圈養，而這次確認是沒有，因此我們直接將紀錄納入名錄 A 類。幸運地，之後又有人在蒲台發現另外一隻寶興歌鵲，讓很多人能夠首次在本港看到這種鳥。

Baikal Bush Warbler *Bradypterus davidi* at Mai Po:

The first Hong Kong record

Paul J. Leader

c/o Asia Ecological Consultants Ltd,
127 Commercial Centre, Palm Springs,
Yuen Long, New Territories, Hong Kong

Whilst mist-netting in the reedbed in Pond 8 at Mai Po Nature Reserve on 16th January 2003, my attention was drawn to an unusual call very close to one of the nets. The call, a harsh 'chut-chut-chut-chut', was clearly not that of one of the regularly wintering warblers at Mai Po and I started pishing to try and attract the bird. Although I managed to obtain quite good views I could not make a firm identification as size and structure (especially tail length) were not observed; however, it was clearly a *Bradypterus* warbler and showed a combination of features inconsistent with the two most commonly occurring in Hong Kong, Russet Bush Warbler *B. mandelli* and Brown Bush Warbler *B. luteoventris*. This led me to consider other options, in particular 'Spotted Bush Warbler' *B. thoracicus*.

Features noticed were an extensive gorget of small black spots on the throat (being deepest at the centre), a buffy supercilium clearly extending behind the eye (as long behind as in front), extensive pale tips to the under tail coverts, which were otherwise mid-brown, dark rufescent-brown upperparts, a black upper mandible, and a lower mandible with a dull pink base and black tip. Unfortunately, the bird quickly disappeared without giving better views.

On 30th January 2003 I was mist-netting in the same area. At about 0730h Ying Hak King returned from checking the nets with a warbler *Bradypterus* he had extracted from a location about 3 m from that where I saw the bird on 16th January. A quick examination proved it to be a Spotted Bush Warbler. The bird was photographed (see Plates 28-30) and the following description and biometrics were taken:

A relatively small, short-tailed *Bradypterus* warbler with dark brown upperparts that had slightly warmer fringes to the crown and mantle feathers. The supercilium was long, extending behind the eye to the rear of the ear coverts, pale buff in colour and less distinct at the front and rear, being brightest above the eye. The lores and ear-coverts were dark brown. The throat was white with a narrow gorget of black spots at the base. The rest of the underparts were washed mid brown, becoming darker on the flanks. The undertail coverts were mid brown with broad, well-defined greyish tips, except for a recently replaced feather that had a broad white tip. The bill was long and thin with a dark upper mandible and distal half to the lower mandible; the base of the lower mandible was dull yellow-pink.

Table 1. Biometrics of a 'Spotted Bush Warbler' trapped at Mai Po on 30th January 2003 (measurements in mm)

Wing:	53.5		Tail:		47.0		Tarsus:		18.7	
Bill(s):	15.25		Bill(d):		3.12		Bill(w):		3.27	
Tail difference:	19		Fat:		5		Weight:		11.2g	
Wing formula:	P1		P2		P3		P4		P5	
	+4.2	-6.5	-1	WP	-1	P6	P7	P8	P9	P10



Plate 28. Baikai Bush Warbler *Bradypterus davidi*
Mai Po NR, Hong Kong, 30th January 2003
Paul J. Leader



Plate 29. Baikal Bush Warbler *Bradypterus davidi*
Mai Po NR, Hong Kong, 30th January 2003
Paul J. Leader



Plate 30. Baikal Bush Warbler *Bradypterus davidi*
Mai Po NR, Hong Kong, 30th January 2003
Paul J. Leader

Identification

Based on Kennerley and Leader (1993) and Robson (2000), the combination of a well-defined gorget of spots, long supercilium, pale tips to the greater coverts and cold dark brown upperparts fits only Spotted Bush Warbler and eliminates Chinese Bush Warbler *B. tacsanowskii*, Brown and Russet Bush Warblers; all other Asian *Bradypterus* are endemic island taxa and can, therefore, be safely eliminated.

Round and Loskot (1994) noted that the Spotted Bush Warbler complex fell into two morphologically distinguishable groups: the 'thoracicus group', comprising the races *thoracicus*, *kashmirensis* and *przevalskii*, and the 'davidi group' comprising *davidi* and *suschkini*, and tentatively suggested that these groups comprise two separate species.

However, even this comparatively straightforward situation has been complicated by the publication of Alström *et al.* (2008) who, based upon differences in plumage, biometrics, egg colouration, song, mitochondrial DNA and habitat/altitudinal distribution, concluded that the Spotted Bush Warbler complex comprises three species: Spotted Bush Warbler *B. thoracicus* (with *przevalskii* as a synonym); Baikal Bush Warbler *B. davidi* (with *suschkini* as a subspecies) and West Himalayan Bush Warbler *B. kashmirensis*.

Alström *et al.* (2008) also noted that on biometrics *thoracicus* and *kashmirensis* are extremely similar to each other, while *davidi* is more divergent, being smaller and having a more pointed wing shape. A summary of these differences is shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Mean measurements (in mm) of museum specimens of the *Bradypterus thoracicus* complex, based on Alström *et al.* (2008). M= male; F= female

	<i>davidi</i>	<i>thoracicus</i>	<i>kashmirensis</i>
Wing length	M: 52.90 F: 52.75	M: 55.80 F: 54.04	55.36
Second primary equal to	P8/9	<P9	<P9

Round and Loskot (1994) and Alström *et al.* (2008) considered that *B. davidi* was separable from *B. thoracicus* and *B. kashmirensis* due to a combination of the following features: buffy rather than grey or greyish-white supercilium and brown to greyish-brown rather than grey ear-coverts, sides of neck, lower throat and breast. The Mai Po bird can safely be identified as Baikal Bush Warbler *B. davidi* on a combination of biometrics and plumage.

Baikal Bush Warbler breeds in northeast China and across Transbaikalia with isolated populations in central China (Alström *et al.*, 2008). It is a long-distant migrant recorded regularly in Thailand in winter and also in Myanmar and northeast India (Round and Loskot, 1994). This would appear to be the first midwinter record in China (Cheng, 1987).

References

- Alström, P., Rasmussen, P. C., Olsson, U., and Sunberg, P. (2008). Species delineation based on multiple criteria: the Spotted Bush Warbler *Bradypterus thoracicus* complex (Aves: Megaluridae). *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society* 153.
- Cheng, T. H. (1987). *A Synopsis of the Avifauna of China*. Science Press, Beijing.
- Kennerley, P. R. and Leader, P. J. (1995). Russet Bush Warbler and Brown Bush Warbler: two species new to Hong Kong. *Hong Kong Bird Report* 1994: 127-156.
- Robson, C. (2000). *A Field Guide to the Birds of South-east Asia*. New Holland Publishers, UK.
- Round, P. D. and Loskot, V. (1994). A reappraisal of the taxonomy of the Spotted Bush-Warbler *Bradypterus thoracicus*. *Forktail* 10: 159-172.

Records Committee Comment

This bird was originally accepted as a Spotted Bush Warbler B. thoracicus davidi. However the HKBWS Records Committee now follows Alström et al. (2008) in treating this taxon as a full species. Acceptance into Category A of the Hong Kong List was straightforward for this insectivorous, long-distance migrant passerine species. Bradypterus warblers are notoriously difficult to see well in the field away from the breeding grounds. However, Baikal Bush Warbler also gives a distinctive and rather bunting-like 'thwik' call, which might aid in locating it in the field.

在米埔找到北短翅鶯

香港第一個紀錄

利雅德

c/o Asia Ecological Consultants Ltd,
127 Commercial Centre, Palm Springs,
Yuen Long, New Territories, Hong Kong

2003 年 1 月 16 日我在米埔自然保護區 8 號塘的蘆葦叢中做環誌，聽到在非常接近霧網的地方有不尋常的叫聲，那沙啞的「chut-chut-chut-chut」顯然不是一般在米埔渡冬的鶯，我開始用口作聲嘗試招引那鳥。雖然我可以看得比較清楚，但是由於未能觀察鳥的大小和外形（尤其是尾的長度），未能肯定是甚麼鳥，不過那明顯是一隻 *Bradypterus* 短翅鶯，牠的特徵組合和本港兩種常見的短翅鶯，高山短翅鶯（Russet Bush Warbler *B. mandelli*）和棕褐短翅鶯（Brown Bush Warbler *B. luteoventris*）不同，令我要考慮其他可能，尤其是斑胸短翅鶯（‘Spotted Bush Warbler’ *B. thoracicus*）。

我留意到的特徵包括喉部週圍有黑斑（中央最多）、皮黃色眉紋明顯伸延到眼後（和眼前部份等長）、尾下覆羽中度褐色，有較長的淡色末端、上體為深色的紅褐色、上嘴深色、下嘴尖黑色，基部暗粉紅色。可惜那鳥很快就不見了，未能讓我更仔細地看。

2003 年 1 月 30 日，我在同一地點架起了霧網，約 0730h，英克勁檢查霧網，在 1 月 16 日我見到鳥的地點約 3 米附近的霧網上找到一隻短翅鶯，經檢查下很快便認出是一隻斑胸短翅鶯。我們拍下了照片（圖 28-30），並做了以下的紀錄和測量。

體型較小、有短尾的的短翅鶯。上體深褐色，頭頂和上背羽毛有較暖色的邊緣。眉紋長，由眼後伸延至耳羽之後，淡皮黃色，前後兩端較不明顯，眼上部份最鮮明。眼先和耳羽皆深褐色。喉白色，基部週圍有一片片小黑斑。上體其他部份為淡淡的的中度褐色，至脇部色較深。尾上覆羽中度褐色，有寬闊清楚的灰色末端，除了一根最近更新了的、有寬闊白色本端羽毛。嘴細長，上嘴和下嘴遠端深色，下嘴基為暗而帶黃的粉紅色。

表 1 2008 年 1 月 31 日在米埔補得的斑胸短翅鶯測量數據（以 mm 計算）

翼長:	53.5		尾長:		47.0		跗蹠:		18.7	
嘴長:	15.25		嘴（深）:		3.12		嘴（寬）:		3.27	
尾羽間差別:	19		脂肪:		5		重量:		11.2g	
Wing formula	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	P8	P9	P10
羽序:	+4.2	-6.5	-1	WP	-1	-2.6	-4.8	-6.3	-7.8	-9

辨認

這鳥有以下的特徵組合：喉部有清楚的黑斑、眉紋長、大覆羽末端淡色、上體深褐而色調較冷。根據 Kennerley and Leader (1993) 和 Robson (2000)，以上組合只和斑胸短翅鶯相符，排除了中華短翅鶯（Chinese Bush Warbler *B. tacsanowskii*）、棕褐短翅鶯和高山短翅鶯，所有其他亞洲短翅鶯都是地方性的海島鳥種，因此亦可以放心排除。

Round and Loskot (1994) 說斑胸短翅鶯複合種群（complex）有兩個可循形態區分的組：一組是「*thoracicus*」，包括 *thoracicus*、*kashmirensis* 和 *przevalskii* 亞種，一組是「*davidi*」，包括 *davidi* 和 *suschkini* 亞種，並嘗試提出這兩組為兩個獨立鳥種。

可是，這個相對簡單的情況已變得複雜，Alström *et al.* 2008 根據羽色、生物測量數據、蛋的顏色、歌聲、線粒體 DNA 和棲地／海拔分佈，認為斑胸短翅鶯複合種群有三個鳥種：斑胸短翅鶯（Spotted Bush Warbler *B. thoracicus*，與 *przevalskii* 同義）、北短翅鶯（Baikal Bush Warbler *B. davidi*，*suschkini* 為一亞種）和西喜馬拉雅短翅鶯（West Himalayan Bush Warbler *B. kashmirensis*）。

Alström *et al.* 2008 亦指出 *thoracicus* 和 *kashmirensis* 的生物測量數據非常相似，而 *davidi* 則有較大差異，體型較小，翼較尖，不同之處見表 2。

表 2 *Bradypterus thoracicus* 複合種群博物館標本的平均值（mm），根據 Alström *et al.* 2008）

	davidi	thoracicus	kashmirensis
翼長	M: 52.90 F: 52.75	M: 55.80 F: 54.04	55.36
次級飛羽等長	P8/9	<P9	<P9

M = 雄；F = 雌

Round and Loskot (1994) 和 Alström *et al.* (2008) 認為可以根據以下特徵組合，將 *B. davidi* 從 *B. thoracicus* 和 *B. kashmirensis* 區分出來：眉紋皮黃色而並非灰或灰白色，耳羽、頸側、喉部下方和胸部褐色或灰褐色而並非灰色。根據生物測量數據和羽色組合，米埔的那隻鳥可以放心地辨認為北短翅鶯（*B. davidi*）。

北短翅鶯在中國東北和外貝加爾地區（Transbaikalia）繁殖，在華中有個別互相隔離的種群（Alström *et al.* (2008)），會作長距離遷徙，在泰國冬季，以及緬甸和印度東北（Round and Loskot (1994)）都常有紀錄。米埔的鳥可能是中國第一個冬季中期的紀錄（Cheng 1987）。

紀錄委員會註

這鳥之前被接納為斑胸短翅鶯 *B. thoracicus davidi*，但香港觀鳥會紀錄委員會現依從 Alström *et al.* (2008) 將此鳥當作一個獨立鳥種，直接將這以昆蟲為食的長途遷徙雀形目鳥種納入香港鳥類名錄 A 類。眾所周知，在繁殖地以外的短翅鶯很難在野外看得清楚，不過北短翅鶯會發出像鵲一樣的「thwik」叫聲，或許可以幫助我們在野外找到這鳥。

White-Spectacled Warbler *Seicercus affinis* at Tai Po Kau:

The first record for Hong Kong

Peter and Michelle Wong

*Flat 17E Block 6, Manhattan Hill, 1 Po Lun
Street, Lai Chi Kok, Kowloon, Hong Kong*

At about 1030h on 17th November 2002 in Tai Po Kau, we spotted a small, bright yellow warbler alongside the Red Walk, near Picnic Area #2 (the Rhodoleia grove), across the stream, amongst dense bamboo at about 15 meters distance. Since this bird did not resemble any species known to us, we decided a photograph would be needed to identify it. Unfortunately, the bird was so active that we were only able to take an unclear photograph, and it was gone within seconds.

During the ensuing weeks, sometimes in the company of other birders, Francis Chu, Kwan Po Kuen, Tai Sheung Lai and Wong Choy On, we continued to see what was apparently the same bird along the Red Walk. With their help, we were able to confirm that it was one of the 'Golden-spectacled Warbler' complex. Not until 31st January 2003, when it appeared with a small bird wave that included leaf warblers *Phylloscopus*, Great Tits *Parus major* and Yellow-cheeked Tits *P. spilonotus*, among others, were we able to obtain a series of good photographs. The bird was foraging more slowly than usual at about mid level along the Red Walk between Picnic Areas 2 and 3 (the largest), allowing us to take more revealing and representative photographs. The following description was taken based on the observations in the field and the photographs reproduced in Plates 31 and 32.

The size was similar to that of a Yellow-browed Warbler, about 11-12cm. It had a slaty-grey crown, blackish lateral crown stripes, a prominent golden eye-ring, broken above the eye, and yellowish-green lores. The mantle, scapulars, back and wings were olive-green. The throat, breast and belly were bright canary-yellow. It had one pale yellowish-cream wing-bar and had white under tail coverts.

The upper mandible was dark, while the lower mandible was pale. The iris was dark brown. The legs were pale flesh-yellow.

Identification

The identification of the 'Golden-spectacled Warbler' group and White-spectacled Warbler is complex and confusing. The former 'Golden-spectacled Warbler' group has been split into six distinct species (Alström and Olsson, 1999 and 2000, Martens *et al.*, 1999), of which two have occurred in Hong Kong, Bianchi's Warbler *S. valentini* and Grey-crowned Warbler *S. tephrocephalus*. At least one other, Plain-tailed Warbler *S. soror*, breeds in southeast China and could occur in Hong Kong. In addition, White-spectacled Warbler *S. affinis*, is known to breed at Ba Bao Shan, Guangdong, and Wu Yi Shan, Fujian/Jiangxi, where it is very common. The subspecies of White-spectacled

Warbler that occurs in southeast China does not have a white eye-ring, but one that is yellow.

Based on the identification criteria provided in Robson (2000), White-spectacled Warbler is like Grey-crowned and Bianchi's but has a slaty-grey crown (not nape), upper ear coverts and neck-sides, a white eye-ring broken above the rear of the eye and a prominent short, broad yellowish wing-bar. The yellow lores, contrasting dark lateral crown stripes and restricted grey on the ear coverts separate it from Grey-cheeked Warbler *S. poliogenys*. All these features are visible in the accompanying plates.



Plate 31. White-spectacled Warbler *Seicercus affinis*
Tai Po Kau, 17th December 2002
Peter and Michelle Wong

Range and Status

According to Robson (2000), White-spectacled Warbler breeds in southeast China and winters to the southwest. It is also a common resident in northern Myanmar and southern Annam, and a scarce winter visitor to west Tonkin, and perhaps also southeast Thailand and northern Laos. Therefore, given that this species breeds at least as close as Ba Bao Shan, northern Guangdong, it is quite possible that it is a regular winter visitor to Hong Kong, whose identity has remained unknown due to past ignorance regarding the taxonomy and identification of this complex of very similar-looking warblers. Birds of the 'Golden-spectacled Warbler' complex were considered as a rare but annual winter visitor by Carey *et al.* (2001). There are only two Hong Kong records of birds whose identity is certain, those of Bianchi's Warbler on 11th November 1990 and Grey-crowned Warbler on 14th November 1993 (Carey *et al.*, 2001).



Plate 32. White-spectacled Warbler *Seicercus affinis*
 Tai Po Kau, 17th December 2002
 Peter and Michelle Wong

Acknowledgements

We would like to express our gratitude to Paul Leader for his assistance in supplying information concerning the identification and status of this species in Hong Kong and China. We also wish to thank Francis Chu, Kwan Po Kuen, Wong Choi On and Tai Sheung Lai who helped us in the search of this bird.

References

- Alström, P. and Olsson, U. (1999). The Golden-spectacled Warbler: a complex of sibling species, including a previously undescribed species. *Ibis* 141: 545-568.
- Alström, P. and Olsson, U. (2000). Letter: Golden-spectacled Warbler systematic. *Ibis* 142: 495-500.
- Martens, J., Eck, S., Päckert, M. and Sun, Y. H. (1999). The Golden-spectacled Warbler *Seicercus burkii* – a species swarm (*Aves: Passeriformes: Sylviidae*), part 1. *Zool. Abhandl. Mus. Dresden* 50: 281-327.

Baker, K. (1997). Warblers of Europe, Asia and North Africa. Christopher Helm (Publishers) Ltd.

Carey, G. J., Chalmers, M. L., Diskin, D. A., Kennerley, P. R., Leader, P. J., Leven, M. R., Lewthwaite, R. W., Melville, D. S., Turnbull, M. and Young L. (2001). The Avifauna of Hong Kong. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Hong Kong.

Robson, C. (2000). A Field Guide to the Birds of South-East Asia. New Holland.

Records Committee Comment

White-spectacled Warbler has long been thought to be a potential addition to the Hong Kong List, but the difficulties of identifying it in the field, arising from a lack of information and the almost complete lack of familiarity with the species on the part of Hong Kong observers, proved insurmountable. However, recent advances in understanding the taxonomy of the 'Golden-spectacled Warbler' group has clarified matters greatly, while fieldwork in southeast China has enabled the separation from these birds of White-spectacled Warbler to be elucidated. Acceptance into Category A of the Hong Kong List was straightforward for this insectivorous passerine species, which occurs as near as northern Guangdong.

大埔滘找到白眶鵯鶯

香港第一個紀錄

黃理沛 江敏兒

Flat 17E Block 6, Manhattan Hill, 1 Po Lun
Street, Lai Chi Kok, Kowloon, Hong Kong

2002 年 11 月 17 日約 1030h，我們在紅路野餐區 #2（紅苞木樹叢）小溪對岸小徑旁邊的茂密竹樹中找到一隻鮮黃色的小鶯，距離約有 15 米。這鳥不像我們熟悉的鳥種，因此決定拍照來辨認，可惜鳥非常活躍，數秒之內便失去踪影，只拍很一張模糊的照片，

在之後的數星期，我們繼續在紅路找到似乎是同一隻鳥，有時和其他鳥友一起見到，包括朱展強、關寶權、戴尚禮和黃才安。得他們協助，我們可以確認那是金眶鵯鶯複合種（Golden-spectacled Warbler complex）中的其中一員。直到 2003 年 1 月 31 日我們才拍到一輯好照片，當時那鳥在一個小鳥浪中出現，當中有柳鶯、大山雀、黃頰山雀和其他鳥種。那鳥沿著紅路野餐地點 2 和 3（最大）之間的樹林中層覓食，行動比平時慢，讓我們拍到能夠顯示特徵和有代表性的照片。以下的描述根據野外觀察和圖 31-32 的照片寫成。

大小和黃眉柳鶯相若，約 11-12cm。冠石板灰色，側冠紋沾黑色，顯眼的金色眼眶在眼上方斷開，眼先黃綠色。上背、肩羽、背和翼橄欖綠色；喉、胸和腹有像金絲雀的鮮黃色，有一條淡黃奶白色的翼斑，尾下覆羽白色。

上嘴深色，下嘴色淡，虹膜深褐色，腿淡黃而帶肉色（flesh-yellow）。

辨認

金眶鵯鶯鳥分類群（‘Golden-spectacled Warbler’ group）和白眶鵯鶯的辨認相當複雜而混亂。之前的金眶鵯鶯分類群已分割成六個不同的鳥種（Alström and Olsson 1999, 2000, Marten *et al.* 1999），其中兩種在香港有紀錄，分別是比氏鵯鶯（Bianchi's Warbler *S. valentini*）和灰冠鵯鶯（Grey-crowned Warbler *S. tephrocephalus*）。另外最少還有一種淡尾鵯鶯（Plain-tailed Warbler *S. soror*）在中國東南部繁殖，可能會在本港出現。還有，白眶鵯鶯（White-spectacled Warbler *S. affinis*）已知在廣東八寶山和福建、浙江間的武夷山（常見）繁殖，而中國東南部的白眶鵯鶯亞種的眼眶是黃色而並非白色。

根據 Robson (2000) 的辨認標準，白眶鵯鶯與灰冠鵯鶯和比氏鵯鶯相似，但冠羽（不是上背）、耳羽上部和頸側為石板灰色，白色眼眶在眼後斷開，有顯眼短而寬的淡黃翼斑。眼先黃色，深色側冠紋對比強烈，耳羽上只有局部的灰色，可和灰臉柳鶯（Grey-cheeked Warbler *S. poliogenys*）區別。以上所有特徵都可以在附圖中見到。

分佈和狀況

Robson (2000) 說白眶鵯鶯在中國東南部繁殖，在西南部越冬，在緬甸北部和安南南部是常見留鳥，在越南東京西部、也許包括泰國東南部和老撾北部等地為罕見冬候鳥。這鳥會在近至廣東八寶山的地方繁殖，頗有可能常來本港渡冬，但是一直未為人知，原因可能是以前大家對這鳥的分類所知不多，又不懂得如何分辨外型非常相似的鶯之故。Carey *et al.* (2001) 認為每年都有金眶鵯鶯複合種群的成員來港渡冬，而香港只有兩個已確認鳥種的紀錄，即 1990 年 11 月 11 日的比氏鵯鶯和 1993 年 11 月 14 日的灰冠鵯鶯 Carey *et al.* (2001)。

致謝

我們感謝利雅德提供關於這鳥的辨認以及在香港和國內狀況的資料，亦感謝朱展強、關寶權、黃才安和戴尚禮幾位協助找尋這隻鳥。

紀錄委員會註

很久以前我們已預期白眶鵯鶯會被納入香港鳥類名錄，但是由於資料缺乏，本地鳥友對這鳥又完全陌生，令鳥在野外難以辨認。最近對金眶鵯鶯分類的進展，大大提升了我們的認識，而中國東南部的野外調查，亦讓我們明白如何將牠們從白眶鵯鶯分辨出來，因此我們很容易便將這種近至在廣東北部出現、以昆蟲為食的雀形目鳥種加入香港鳥類名錄 A 類。

Red-rumped Swallows *Hirundo daurica* breeding at Kam Tin:

The first nesting record for Hong Kong

John A. Allcock

*c/o 127 Commercial Centre, Palm Springs, Yuen
Long, New Territories, Hong Kong*

On 2nd May 2003, while trapping Greater Painted-snipe at Kam Tin with P. J. Leader and H. K. Ying, we saw a Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* flying around the buildings at Shui Mei village, noting the unusual date and location of the bird. At this time I was working regularly in the area and subsequently noticed another Red-rumped Swallow on 5th May near the Buffalo Fields and two individuals close to the first sighting 7th May. On 9th May I once again noticed two individuals flying in and out of the village, clearly going between the houses. A search of the houses closest to the area used by the birds revealed an unusual hirundine nest, although no Red-rumped Swallows were present nearby to confirm whether these were the inhabitants.

On returning to the site the following morning (10th May), a Red-rumped Swallow flew from the nest as I approached; it was clear that this species was using the nest. During the next few minutes, the bird was seen to return several times. On 11th May, birds were again seen visiting the nest on a number of occasions. Although it was impossible to see into the nest, birds were clearly active inside, apparently feeding chicks; at one point, a bird emerged with what appeared to be a faecal sac.

The nest was under the eaves on the balcony of the first floor of a village house, and appeared to be based on an abandoned Barn Swallow nest, which had been supplemented using mud so that the sides and front reached the ceiling of the eaves. The structure was thus similar to the nest of Northern House Martin *Delichon urbica*, with which I am familiar from Europe, although larger and with a larger entrance hole, approximately 5cm wide.

During sporadic visits throughout late May and early June, birds were not seen around the nest site; however, one was observed on another building in the village on one occasion, and up to two birds were seen over the Buffalo Fields, sometimes flying low over the ground and possibly collecting mud.

On 17th June two birds were present around the nest; one spent prolonged periods (several minutes) inside the nest while the other bird (presumably a male) was observed singing on the building opposite. By this time, an entrance tunnel to the nest had been constructed. This was approximately 5cm long, and is a typical feature of Red-rumped Swallow nests. Birds were not subsequently seen until 28th July, when an adult bird was observed foraging close to the nest site, in the area where birds had most often been seen previously. Although it flew close to the village on a number of occasions, it was not seen to go among the houses and did not seem to visit the nest during the 5-10 minutes for which it was visible. On 30th July, P.J.L. saw two adults and

one or two juveniles at Shui Mei, indicating that the birds had successfully fledged young at the site.

Red-rumped Swallows successfully raised juveniles at the same nest in 2004. A second nest was discovered about 100m away in 2005, and two pairs appear to have nested in the village during each subsequent year, including observations of juveniles indicating that breeding has been successful. In addition, birds have been recorded summering at San Tin in 2006 and 2007, with juveniles observed during the second year, and were found nesting in Mai Po village during 2007.

Carey *et al.* (2001) describes Red-rumped Swallow as an uncommon passage migrant with occasional midwinter records. Extreme dates of occurrence given are 14th September 1997 and 22nd May 1960. Outside these dates, one was recorded at Wu Kau Tang on 20th August 2002. It has previously been suggested as a possible colonist in Hong Kong, with breeding recorded as close as 70km from the territory (M. R. Leven *pers. comm.*).

References

Carey, G. J., Chalmers, M. L., Diskin, D. A., Kennerley, P. R., Leader, P. J., Lewthwaite, R. W., Leven, M. R., Melville, D. S., Turnbull, M. and Young, L. (2001). The Avifauna of Hong Kong. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Hong Kong.

金腰燕在錦田繁殖

香港第一個營巢紀錄

John A. Allcock

*c/o 127 Commercial Centre, Palm Springs, Yuen
Long, New Territories, Hong Kong*

2003 年 5 月 2 日，我和利雅德及英克勁正在錦田捕捉彩鸛，見到一隻金腰燕（Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*）在水尾村週圍飛行，並留意到這鳥的出現日期和地點都不尋常。在這段期間我常在當地一帶工作，5 月 5 日在水牛田附近見到另一隻金腰燕，而在 5 月 7 日又在第一次發現的地點附近見到兩隻。5 月 9 日我又再見到兩隻在水尾村飛進飛出，顯然在房屋之間穿插。我們在最接近鳥活動的房屋間搜尋，找到一個奇特的燕巢，但是由於當時沒有金腰燕在場，未能確認牠們是否正在使用這個巢。

第二天（5 月 10 日）早上我回到當地，在接近鳥巢時一隻金腰燕從巢中飛出，可見牠們正在佔用這個巢，在之後的數分鐘內我見到這鳥回來幾次。5 月 11 日，我又見到金腰燕回巢數次。雖然不可能看穿巢的內部，但是很裡面顯然有雀鳥活動，很可能是餵飼雛鳥，有一次我還見到鳥叼著好像是糞囊的東西從巢中飛出來。

巢位於一幢村屋二樓露台的屋檐之下，似乎是由一個棄置的家燕巢增建的，巢的兩邊和前方用泥填高至屋檐的天花底部，結構因此有如我在歐洲慣見的毛腳燕（Northern House Martin *Delichon urbica*）巢，但是比較大，入口的洞亦較大，約有 5cm 寬。

5 月至 6 月初之間我不時會去看那鳥巢，沒有在巢的周圍見到鳥，但有一次曾在村內另一幢房屋找到一隻，而在水牛田上空則最多見過兩隻，有時貼近地面低飛，可能在收集泥巴。

6 月 17 日在巢邊見到兩隻，一隻長時間（達數分鐘）留在巢內，而另一隻（相信是雄鳥）在對面的建築物歌唱。這時巢的入口通道已經建成，長約 5cm，是金腰燕巢的典型特徵。之後我再沒有見到金腰燕，直至 7 月 28 日才見到一隻成鳥在巢附近、之前時常見到牠們的地方覓食。雖然這鳥曾有數次飛近水尾村，但是沒有見到牠在房屋之間穿插，在我見到牠的 5-10 分鐘內都似乎沒有回巢。7 月 30 日利雅德在水尾村見到兩隻成鳥和一、兩隻幼鳥，顯示牠們已經成功在當地養大雛鳥至離巢階段。

2004 年金腰燕成功在同一個鳥巢養育出幼鳥，2005 年在那巢的 100m 內找到第二個巢，之後每年似乎都有兩對金腰燕在水尾村營巢，還見到幼鳥，顯示繁殖成功。再者，2006 和 2007 年錄得金腰燕在新田渡過夏天，2007 年更在當地找到幼鳥，2007 年米埔村也有金腰燕繁殖。

Carey *et al.* (2001) 說金腰燕是不常見的過境鳥，冬季中期偶有紀錄，最早和最晚出現的日期分別是 1997 年 9 月 14 日和 1960 年 5 月 22 日，在這兩個日期以外，2002 年 8 月 20 日烏蛟騰有一個紀錄。金腰燕最接近本港的繁殖紀錄在 70km 以外（與 M.R. Leven 的私人通訊），因此之前曾經有人提過金腰燕可能會在香港建立種群。

Nesting of Yellow-billed Grosbeaks *Eophona migratoria* at Kam Tin in 2003:

The first breeding record for Hong Kong

John A. Allcock

*c/o 127 Commercial Centre, Palm Springs, Yuen
Long, New Territories, Hong Kong*

Yellow-billed Grosbeaks *Eophona migratoria* were present in relatively large numbers in the Sha Po/Kam Tin area during early 2003. Flocks were recorded almost daily, with a maximum count of 86 in a single flock on 16th February; this is the third highest count on record in Hong Kong (Carey *et al.*, 2001). Birds subsequently remained in the area into April and May, well beyond the latest departure date given in Carey *et al.* (2001). Such late departures have been noted for this species in recent years (Turnbull *et al.*, 2007).

During this period, a pair of Yellow-billed Grosbeaks was seen almost daily near the southern end of the Buffalo Fields, usually in the same small group of trees in an area of fishponds. On several occasions, the female bird would disappear for a period of several minutes while the male would perch more obviously, calling frequently. When approached, both birds gave an unusual alarm call, different from the typical flight call with which I was familiar. On 17th May, the male was visible as usual, calling constantly; the female, however, was not seen. After about 20 minutes of observation, both birds were flushed by someone walking past the group of trees. A quick search of the tree from which the female had flushed revealed a nest. Although the nest was above eye-level, and the contents could not be directly seen, I was able to reach above the nest to take record photographs; these revealed that at this time the nest contained five eggs. I continued to watch the nest after moving away, and saw the female rapidly return to this location of the nest, confirming that this was the nest of the grosbeak pair.

The nest was located about 2 metres above the ground, on a fork in the outer branches of a *Sapium sebiferum*. It was a neat cup of loosely woven dead grass stems, also containing some human litter. The eggs were pale blue, heavily marked with irregular dark markings towards the broader end.

On subsequent visits between dates the female was flushed on several occasions when I approached close to the nest, but this was avoided on most visits in order to minimise disturbance to the birds. It is assumed that the female was present on other dates, but could not be observed due to the position of the nest. On 29th May the female grosbeak was again flushed from the nest, which still contained eggs. Neither adult was present on 30th May, however, nor were they seen on subsequent days. Later inspection of the nest revealed three cold eggs and one dead chick which appeared to be only one day old. There was no apparent reason for the birds having deserted the nest, and the adults were not seen throughout the rest of the summer.

In addition to the nesting area, birds were seen at two other locations during May; one pair alongside the stream at the northern end of the Buffalo Fields and two birds (possibly a pair) at Shui Mei village. It is not known whether these were the same as the nesting birds, but it seems likely that at least one more pair was involved; the nesting pair was very site-faithful at this time and in both locations, birds were seen on the same day as the nesting pair.

Nesting was also recorded nearby at Sha Po in 2004, involving two pairs; chicks fledged successfully from at least one nest, with a male observed feeding at least two juveniles on 28th June, while another nest nearby contained an incubating female. One juvenile was observed near Sha Po on 7th August 2005, suggesting that breeding was also successful nearby in a third year. Birds have also been observed elsewhere in Hong Kong, mostly in the Deep Bay area, during the summer in all years since 2003. Some of these records have involved family parties including juvenile birds, suggestive of breeding at other locations.

Hong Kong lies to the south of the recognised breeding range for Yellow-billed Grosbeak. Cheng (1987) reports that the nominate sub-species breeds in northeast China, wintering in southern provinces, while *E.m. sowerbyi* breeds along the catchment of the Yangtze River, from Sichuan east to Jiangsu and Shanghai. It is not known which subspecies occurs in Hong Kong; over-wintering birds in the territory have previously been considered to be *E. m. migratoria* (Carey *et al.*, 2001).

Hong Kong represents the most southerly known breeding locality for the species. As the species is commonly traded, there is a possibility that ex-captive birds are involved. A wild source is more likely, however, given the large number of overwintering birds at the site, the presence of summering birds at a number of sites in several years, and the tendency towards earlier arrival dates and later departure dates in Hong Kong in recent years (Turnbull *et al.*, 2007). This is further supported by evidence that the species has recently been expanding its range in southern China. Birds were recorded during summer at Nan Ao in eastern Guangdong by Sun *et al.* (2003), and the first probable breeding record for Taiwan was recorded in 2006 (McKay and Peng, 2007).

References

- Carey, G. J., Chalmers, M. L., Diskin, D. A., Kennerley, P. R., Leader, P. J., Leven, M. R., Melville, D. S., Turnbull, M. and Young, L. (2001). The Avifauna of Hong Kong. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Hong Kong.
- Cheng, T. H. (1987). A synopsis of the avifauna of China. Science Press, Beijing.
- McKay, B. D. and Peng, Y.W. (2007). First likely breeding record of Yellow-billed Grosbeak *Eophona migratoria* for Kinmen Island, Taiwan. Forktail 23 177-178.
- Sun, Z., Lu, W., Lewthwaite, R. W., Li, G., Yu, R., Leven, M. R., Williams, M. D. and Sherrard, K. (2003). Summer birds investigation in Nan Ao and its nearby islands of Guangdong Province. J. Shantou University (Natural Science) 18 1-6.

Turnbull, M., Carey, G. J., Lewthwaite, R. W. and Yu, Y. T. (2007). Systematic List 2001-02. The Hong Kong Bird Report 2001-02. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Hong Kong.

2003 年黑尾蠟嘴雀在錦田營巢

香港第一個繁殖紀錄

John A. Allcock

*c/o 127 Commercial Centre, Palm Springs, Yuen
Long, New Territories, Hong Kong*

2003 年初沙埔和錦田一帶有不少黑尾蠟嘴雀 (Yellow-billed Grosbeaks *Eophona migratoria*)，差不多每天都有群集的紀錄，最多一次是 2 月 16 日，有 86 隻，在本港紀錄中排第三位 (Carey *et al.* 2001)。之後黑尾蠟嘴雀在當地留到 4 至 5 月，超過 Carey *et al.* (2001) 記錄的最遲離港日期，近年間其他人也提到這種鳥延遲離港 (Turnbull *et al.*, 2007)。

在 2003 年那段日子，一對黑尾蠟嘴雀差不多每天都在水牛田南端出現，通常在魚塘間的同一叢小樹。有幾次我們見到雌鳥失蹤數分鐘，而雄鳥就停在顯眼的位置，常常在鳴叫。當我向牠們走近的時候，兩隻鳥會發出和平時不同的警戒叫聲，有別於我熟悉的、在飛行時發出的叫聲。5 月 17 日我照常見到雄鳥，牠不斷鳴叫，但是看不到雌鳥。我觀察了約 20 分鐘之後，有行人從那堆小樹旁走過，嚇飛了那兩隻鳥，我馬上到雌鳥飛出來的小樹搜索，找到了一個巢。雖然巢的位置比人高，不能直接看到裡面有甚麼，但是我還是可以將照相機舉到鳥巢之上，拍到一些紀錄照片。照片顯示巢內有 5 枚蛋。我走開之後繼續觀察，見到雌鳥很快回到巢內，證實那是這對黑尾蠟嘴雀的巢。

巢離地面約 2m，位於一棵烏柏 (*Sapium sebiferum*) 外圍樹枝的一個樹杈上，由枯草莖和一些人類的垃圾疏鬆地編織成杯狀，看來很整齊。蛋淡藍色，較大一端滿佈不規則的深色斑紋。

之後我曾再到那裡，我走近鳥巢的時候曾多次嚇走了雌鳥，不過我多數都會避免這樣做，以減少對鳥的干擾。我相信在其他日子雌鳥仍在巢中，只是因為位置關係看不到而已。5 月 29 日雌鳥又被嚇得離巢，巢中仍有蛋。5 月 30 日兩隻成鳥都不在，之後也不復見。之後我檢查鳥巢，發現有三個冷壞了的蛋和一隻死去的雛鳥，看來出殼只有一天。我看不出有甚麼原因會令成鳥棄巢，而餘下的夏季再也見不到牠們。

除了鳥巢所在的地點之外，5 月內也會在其他兩個地點見到黑尾蠟嘴雀，一對在水牛田北面的小溪旁，另外兩隻（可能是一對）在水尾村。我不知道牠們是否營巢的那一對，但看來很可能最少有另外一對。當時營巢的一對常常留在巢的附近，而在我們見到牠們的同一天內，亦在以上兩個其他地點見到黑尾蠟嘴雀。

2004 年沙埔附近也有兩對黑尾蠟嘴雀營巢的紀錄，其中最少有一個巢有雛鳥成功離巢，6 月 28 日見到一隻雄鳥餵飼最少兩隻幼鳥，而當時附近的另一個巢有雌鳥正在孵蛋。2005 年 8 月 7 日在沙埔附近見到一隻幼鳥，顯示第三年亦有黑尾蠟嘴雀在附近成功繁殖。自從 2003 年以來，在香港其他地方每年夏季都見到黑尾蠟嘴雀，大多在后海灣一帶，其中有些紀錄是包含幼鳥的家庭組合，顯示其他地方也有黑尾蠟嘴雀繁殖。

香港位於已知的黑尾蠟嘴雀繁殖地以南，Cheng (1987) 說指名亞種在中國東北繁殖，在南方省分渡冬，而 *E. m. sowerbyi* 亞種則沿長江流域繁殖，由四川東部到江蘇和上海都有。我們不知道在香港出現的是哪個亞種，在本地渡冬的鳥曾經被認為是 *E. m. migratoria* (Carey *et al.*, 2001)。

香港是種鳥已知的最南端繁殖地，由於常常有人買賣這鳥，因此繁殖的有可能是逸鳥，但是鑑於營巢地點有大量黑尾蠟嘴雀渡冬，數年來也有鳥在多個地點越夏，加上近年來出現最早來港日期提前、最遲離港日期後延的趨勢(Turnbull *et al.*, 2007)，野鳥繁殖的可能性更大。此外，黑尾蠟嘴雀在華南的分佈地域正在擴展，亦對此提供了更多佐證。Sun *et al.* (2003) 記錄了黑尾蠟嘴雀夏季在廣東東部南澳出現，而 2006 年有第一個這鳥可能在台灣繁殖的紀錄 (McKay and Peng, 2007)。

Guidelines for the Submission of Records

HKBWS Records Committee

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, which includes a detailed summary of birds recorded each year, depends on members submitting records of their observations. The submission of records also provides the raw data on which research can be based regarding such things as the importance of a particular site or habitat in Hong Kong, the rarity of a particular species, patterns of migration or habitat preferences. For these reasons, members are encouraged to submit records at the end of each year.

What kinds of records are required? The answer to this question is most kinds, except those relating to common and widespread species that are recorded in appropriate habitat in typical numbers. In particular, we welcome records of all but the most common migrants and winter visitors, of scarce residents and records of common residents occurring in unusual numbers or habitat. A careful reading of *The Avifauna of Hong Kong* will provide a good guide as to which records might be of interest. If in doubt, however, it is best to submit the record.

The Society wishes to receive records entered into a simple Excel spreadsheet, as this facilitates compilation and analysis and allows easy extraction of records for both species and sites. This Excel file should contain seven columns containing the following data: species number, species name (both as contained in *The Avifauna of Hong Kong* or issues of the *Hong Kong Bird Report* published since), date, place, number of birds, notes and observer name. Observations can then be entered, using one row for each record. Those requiring a sample file can download it from the Society website (www.hkbws.org.hk).

Written records are acceptable, but by no means preferred.

Rarities

While the birds of Hong Kong are better known than those of many parts of Asia, new species are regularly being added to the Hong Kong List, and the status of a number of other species remains uncertain. In addition, field identification techniques for some species still require refinement. For these reasons the Society has a Records Committee to assess records and ensure that a high standard of reporting is maintained. This quality control provides, in part, the Society with a reputable voice in relation to the birds of Hong Kong and the region.

While the Records Committee may examine any record submitted, close attention is generally only given to records of rarities and of species seen in exceptional numbers or at unusual times of year. A list of rare species considered by the Records Committee is provided below. The list may seem rather long, but adequate substantiation in the form of a written description, photograph, video, audio recording or some combination of these is, nevertheless, required if the record is to be considered

valid and to be published. A standard recording form for unusual records is available from the Society website. Ideally, field notes supporting an observation of a rarity should cover the following points:

1. Date, time, duration and location of sighting, number present and sex or age, if known.
2. Binoculars or telescopes used, distance of bird from observer, weather and light conditions.
3. Description of habitat and a record of other birds, if any, it was associating with.
4. Activity of bird (at rest, in flight, swimming etc.).
5. 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 tail tip, primary projection, hind claw length etc.).
6. The most detailed description possible of plumage and bare parts, and not just those considered helpful in identification. Try to organise the components of the description logically, for example: head, upperparts, upper- and underwings, upper- and undertail, underparts, bare parts (iris, bill, gape if seen, legs and feet)
7. Any vocalisations. Try to indicate the quality of the sound (harsh, piercing, rattling, hoarse, liquid etc.), and compare it with calls of other species.
8. Previous experience with the species or similar species.
9. Names of other observers or photographers present.

A rough sketch or diagram is often very helpful, and photographs, of course, are invaluable. Try to get others to see the bird, as two descriptions are better than one, and make sure you take notes on the spot, as it is all too easy to imagine field marks after consulting a book! Records of species not on the Hong Kong List generally require more than usually detailed descriptions for acceptance.

With regard to species that have distinctive vocalisations, the Records Committee realises that in some cases call only records are acceptable. However, no matter how distinctive, the call should be described in as much detail as possible. Ideally, a recording should be obtained.

The increasing number of field guides on the market often make positive identification appear straightforward, but it should be remembered that there are still a number of species that are difficult to separate, and it is only by careful observations that some birds can be identified.

The following is a list of species for which substantiation by the observer and assessment by the Records Committee is required. In addition, any record of a species not in Categories A-E of the Hong Kong List also requires substantiation as a 'first' for Hong Kong. The Records Committee may also request substantiation of any record that is unusual in terms of the habitat, number of birds or time of year. If you make such an observation, please be prepared to supply written details, preferably made at the time of observation. Records of species on this list that are submitted without substantiation cannot be considered.

Categories A to D

Species number	Species	
000.9	Red-throated Loon	<i>Gavia stellata</i>
001	Pacific Loon	<i>Gavia pacifica</i>
004	Horned Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>
005	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
006.1	Wedge-tailed Shearwater	<i>Puffinus pacificus</i>
006.1	Short-tailed Shearwater	<i>Puffinus tenuirostris</i>
008	Red-footed Booby	<i>Sula sula</i>
009	Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>
011	Christmas Island Frigatebird	<i>Fregata andrewsi</i>
012	Great Frigatebird	<i>Fregata minor</i>
013	Lesser Frigatebird	<i>Fregata ariel</i>
020	Pacific Reef Egret (white-phase birds only)	<i>Egretta sacra</i>
025	Japanese Night Heron	<i>Gorsachius goisagi</i>
025.5	Malayan Night Heron	<i>Gorsachius melanolophus</i>
033	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>
034	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
037.3	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>
038	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>
038.1	Greater White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>
041	Cotton Pygmy-goose	<i>Nettion coromandelianus</i>
	Hybrid Eurasian x American Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope x americana</i>
048	Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>
055	Baer's Pochard	<i>Aythya baeri</i>
056	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>
059	Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>
060	Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>
061	Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>
065	Crested Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>
068	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>
084	Mountain Hawk Eagle	<i>Spizaetus nipalensis</i>
090	Yellow-legged Button-quail	<i>Turnix tanki</i>
091	Barred Button-quail	<i>Turnix suscitator</i>
092	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>
092.3	Siberian Crane	<i>Grus leucogeranus</i>
094	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>
096	Band-bellied Crake	<i>Porzana paykullii</i>
097	White-browed Crake	<i>Porzana cinerea</i>
106.5	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Himantopus ostralegus</i>
114	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
115	Long-billed Plover	<i>Charadrius placidus</i>
132	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>
140	Red Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicaria</i>
161	Pomarine Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>
161.5	Parasitic Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>
162	Long-tailed Jaeger (autumn records only)	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>

168	Glaucous-winged Gull	<i>Larus glaucescens</i>
169	Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>
172	Relict Gull	<i>Larus relictus</i>
174	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Larus genei</i>
175	Little Gull	<i>Larus minutus</i>
177	Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>
187	Sooty Tern	<i>Sterna fuscata</i>
195	Barred Cuckoo Dove	<i>Macropygia unchall</i>
197	Thick-billed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron curvirostra</i>
198	White-bellied Green Pigeon	<i>Treron sieboldii</i>
203	Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx fugax</i>
203.1	Northern Hawk Cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx hyperythrus</i>
206	Asian Lesser Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus poliocephalus</i>
207.5	Drongo Cuckoo	<i>Surniculus lugubris</i>
211	Eastern Grass Owl	<i>Tyto capensis</i>
217	Northern Boobook	<i>Ninox japonica</i>
218	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>
221	Himalayan Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia brevirostris</i>
224	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>
232	Collared Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chloris</i>
233	Blue-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops viridis</i>
239	Speckled Piculet	<i>Picumnus innominatus</i>
240	Rufous-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos hyperythrus</i>
241	Rufous Woodpecker	<i>Celeus brachyurus</i>
242	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>
243	Bay Woodpecker	<i>Blythipicus pyrrhotis</i>
244	Fairy Pitta	<i>Pitta nympa</i>
245	Blue-winged Pitta	<i>Pitta moluccensis</i>
246	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>
249	Plain Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>
258	White Wagtail	<i>M.a. lugens and M.a. personata</i>
259.2	Blyth's Pipit	<i>Anthus godlewskii</i>
261.5	Rosy Pipit	<i>Anthus roseatus</i>
263.5	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>
266	Swinhoe's Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cantonensis</i>
276	Tiger Shrike	<i>Lanius tigrinus</i>
280	Japanese Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla japonica</i>
281	Japanese Robin	<i>Erithacus akahige</i>
288	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
294	Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>
295	White-throated Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola gularis</i>
296	Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola rufiventris</i>
308.5	Chinese Thrush	<i>Turdus mupinensis</i>
324	Pale-footed Bush Warbler	<i>Cettia pallidipes</i>
327	Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler	<i>Cettia acanthizoides</i>
328	Brown Bush Warbler	<i>Bradypterus luteoventris</i>
333	Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella ochotensis</i>
336	Manchurian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus tangorum</i>
337	Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>
338	Blunt-winged Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus concinens</i>

339	Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>
342	Syke's Warbler	<i>Hippolais rama</i>
348	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
350	Yellow-streaked Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus armandii</i>
353	Chinese Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus yunnanensis</i>
355	Hume's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>
357	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>
358	Pale-legged Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus tenellipes</i>
359	Sakhalin Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus borealoides</i>
362	Grey-crowned Warbler	<i>Seicercus tephrocephalus</i>
363	Bianchi's Warbler	<i>Seicercus valentini</i>
363.5	White-spectacled Warbler	<i>Seicercus affinis</i>
364	Chestnut-crowned Warbler	<i>Seicercus castaniceps</i>
365	Rufous-faced Warbler	<i>Abroscopus albogularis</i>
365.5	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>
366	Brown-chested Jungle Flycatcher	<i>Rhinomyias brunneata</i>
369.5	Brown-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa muttui</i>
374	Green-backed Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula elisae</i>
376	Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula strophiate</i>
379	Fujian Niltava	<i>Niltava davidi</i>
381	Pale Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis unicolor</i>
382	Blue-throated Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis rubeculoides</i>
392	Plain Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum concolor</i>
399	Grey-necked Bunting	<i>Emberiza buchanani</i>
403	Yellow-browed Bunting	<i>Emberiza chrysophrys</i>
404	Rustic Bunting	<i>Emberiza rustica</i>
405	Yellow-throated Bunting	<i>Emberiza elegans</i>
408	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>
411	Japanese Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza yessoensis</i>
412	Pallas's Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza pallasi</i>
413	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>
414	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>
419	Japanese Grosbeak	<i>Eophona personata</i>
423	Russet Sparrow	<i>Passer rutilans</i>
426	Chestnut-tailed Starling	<i>Sturnus malabaricus</i>
430	Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Sturnus roseus</i>
445	Daurian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus dauuricus</i>
446	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>

Category E

All species, *except* Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*, Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus*, Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria*, Grey-cheeked Fulvetta *Alcippe morrisonia*, Black-throated Tit *Aegithalos concinnus*, White-vented Myna *Acridotheres cinereus*, Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa*, Azure-winged Magpie *Cyanopica cyanus* and House Crow *Corvus splendens*.

Notes for Applicants wishing to visit Mai Po Marshes Nature Reserve

Members should note that entry to the Mai Po Nature Reserve is restricted in order to minimise disturbance to wildlife. Applications for permits to enter the restricted area will not normally be entertained unless the applicants are experienced bird watchers, scientific researchers or others with official duties to perform in the area.

When applying for a permit, HKBWS members and birdwatching visitors to Hong Kong are advised to state clearly reasons for wishing to visit the reserve. To apply, write to the following address, marking the envelope 'Application for Mai Po permit':

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
7th Floor Cheung Shan Wan Government Offices
303 Cheung Sha Wan Rd
Kowloon
Hong Kong

You should send photocopies of the following together with your application letter.

- HKID Card or Passport
- HKBWS membership fees receipt
- WWF membership fees receipt
- Previous entry permit, if any.

Visitors should note that it is a requirement of the Wildlife Protection Ordinance that a permit is obtained to enter the Reserve. Further, it is a requirement of WWF-HK, which manages the Reserve, that users of its facilities are members of that organisation. Relevant application forms for HKBWS and WWF-HK can be obtained from the following websites:

http://www.hkbws.org.hk/doc/membership/hkbws_2008_application_english.pdf

<http://www.wwf.org.hk/eng/online/membership.php>

