Hong Kong Bird Report
香港鳥類報告
2012

HONG KONG BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY
香港觀鳥會

MINOX
VISIBLE INNOVATION

Legendary Precision with Unique Innovation
Distant subjects become close enough to touch

German-engineered Minox binoculars show the many advantages of years of expertise in optical and precision engineering applied in a modern design.

MINOTEC and Multi M* Coating technology optimizes the light transmission and color rendition, enabling high contrast intensity as well as an enormous sharpness of details.

www.minox.com

MINOX HG 10x43BR

Available at:

SCHMIDT
Since 1896

SCHMIDT FLAGSHIP STORE
Shop 304, Star Annex, 3/F., Star House, 3 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon.
Opening Hours: 11:00 am - 8:00pm (Everday) · T (852) 3101 0228 · hkstore@schmidtmarketing.com · www.schmidtmarketing.com

OLYMPUS

8x42 EXWP I / 10x42 EXWP I

- 8倍放大率 / 10倍放大率
- 防水設計, 尤合戶外及水上活動使用
- 密封式內充氮氣, 有效令鏡片防霞防霧
- 高折射指數稜鏡及多層鍍膜鏡片, 確保影像清晰明亮
- 能阻隔紫外線, 保護視力

港澳區代理：大通拓展有限公司　荃灣沙咀道381-389號榮亞工業大廈一樓C座
電話：(852) 2730 5663　傳真：(852) 2735 7593　電郵：general@kingstone.com.hk

香港漁塘生態保育計劃
Hong Kong Fishpond Conservation Scheme

香港漁塘生態保育計劃
Hong Kong Fishpond Conservation Scheme

香港觀鳥會得到環境及自然保育基金資助，自2012年起，與百多位新界西北漁民合作，開展「香港漁塘生態保育計劃」，以提升漁塘的生態價值，並向公眾推廣漁塘保育的訊息。

Since 2012, HKBWS has organized "Hong Kong Fishpond Conservation Scheme" funded by Environment and Conservation Fund. More than 100 fishermen in the NW New Territories joined hands to enhance the ecological value of fishpond and convey the message of fishpond conservation to the general public.

生境管理
Habitat Management

漁塘導賞團
Fishpond Ecotour

導賞員訓練
Ecotour Guide Trainig

漁塘教育園地
Fishpond Education Kiosk

雀鳥調查
Bird Survey

展覽
Exhibition

資助 環境及自然保育基金 Environment and Conservation Fund

主辦 香港觀鳥會 The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

Nikon

Nikon D700 + EDG 單筒望遠鏡 + FSA-L2
© Maurizio Bachis

數碼觀測攝獵完美動靜

尼康 EDG 單筒望遠鏡系列，除讓你進行一般觀察外，更能接連數碼相機作數碼觀測，完美捕捉遠距影像。嶄新尖端的光學技術，配以設計精巧的鏡筒及無瑕對焦準繩度，締造每個絲毫畢現的銳利畫面。如此絕倫，唯有尼康，唯獨 EDG。

數碼單鏡反光相機連接器
FSA-L2

EDG

THE CUTTING EDGE IN SPORT OPTICS

www.nikon.com/sportoptics

Published in Apr 2014
2014年4月出版

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society
香港觀鳥會

7C, V Ga Building, 532 Castle Peak Road , Lai Chi Kok,
Kowloon , Hong Kong, China

中國香港九龍荔枝角青山道532號偉基大廈7樓C室

Chief Editor: John Allcock
主編：柯祖毅
Editors: Geoff Carey, Gary Chow and Geoff Welch
編輯：賈知行, 周家禮, Geoff Welch

Printed on 100% recycled paper and with soy ink
以100%再造紙及環保大豆油墨印製

Front Cover 封面：
Oriental Stork *Ciconia boyciana* 東方白鸛
Mai Po NR, 26th September 2012 米埔 2012年9月26日
Frankie Chu 朱錦滿

HKcBirds 香港常見鳥類

Common Birds of Hong Kong

App Store Google play

免費下載 讓香港鳥類在你手

Bird information in your hands
Download it *for Free*

http://www.cs.hku.hk/~hkbirds/

項目統籌 Project Investigators:

香港大學計算機科學系
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

香港觀鳥會
The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

項目資助 Funding Support:

香港大學 知識交流基金
The University of Hong Kong
Knowledge Exchange

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society
香港觀鳥會

Committees and Officers 2013

榮譽會長 Honorary President		林超英先生	Mr. Lam Chiu Ying
執行委員會 Executive Committee			
主席	Chairman	劉偉民先生	Mr. Lau Wai Man, Apache
副主席	Vice-chairman	吳祖南博士	Dr. Ng Cho Nam
副主席	Vice-chairman	吳　敏先生	Mr. Michael Kilburn
義務秘書	Hon. Secretary	陳慶麟先生	Mr. Chan Hing Lun, Alan
義務司庫	Hon. Treasurer	周智良小姐	Ms. Chow Chee Leung, Ada
委員	Committee members	李慧珠小姐	Ms. Lee Wai Chu, Ronley
		柯祖毅先生	Mr. John Allcock
		方健華先生	Mr. Fong Kin Wa, Forrest
		區俊茵小姐	Ms. Au Chun Yan, Joanne
		施百納先生	Mr. Bena Smith
		蘇毅雄先生	Mr. So Ngai Hung, Samson
		余秀玲小姐	Ms. Yu Sau Ling, Wendy
		洪維銘先生	Mr. Hung Wai Ming
		文權溢先生	Mr. Man Kuen Yat, Bill
		(紅耳鵯俱樂部主席)	(Chairman, Crested Bulbul Club)
義務核數師 Honorary Auditor		吳潔瑤會計師事務所有限公司	K.Y. Ng & Company Limited, CPA
義務法律顧問 Honorary Legal Advisor		何志明先生	Mr. Ho Chi Ming
紀錄委員會 Records Committee			
主席	Chairman	賈知行先生	Mr. Geoff Carey
秘書	Secretary		Mr. Geoff Welch
委員	Committee members		Mr. Richard Lewthwaite
		利雅德先生	Mr. Paul Leader
		利偉文博士	Dr. Michael Leven
		余日東先生	Mr. Yu Yat Tung
		周家禮先生	Mr. Chow Ka Lai, Gary

Editorial Preface

This report continues the annual format from 2011, and we hope that the report will continue with the annual format as was the case in the past. The fact that we remain on track is mostly thanks to the editorial team, especially to Geoff Welch for keeping everything moving, Gary Chow (and a team of translators) for arranging translation of the papers and Bonnie Chan and Ivan Tse of HKBWS for liaising with designers and printers.

The year 2012 brought some very surprising bird records in Hong Kong. Among these were the first records of some unexpected species. The Brown-backed Needletail photographed on Po Toi was the first record for China for a species that is more typical of southeast Asia. The records of Varied Tit, on the other hand, resulted from an unexpected irruption of this northerly species that also brought records to other sites along the coast of eastern China. The appearance of these two species in particular shows how much remains to be understood about migration in Hong Kong and elsewhere in East Asia.

Given its position on the coast between temperate and tropical regions, Hong Kong is well positioned to observe the patterns of bird migration. A high proportion of the bird species recorded here are migrants of some form, whether on passage for a few days or remaining here for several weeks or months. This report contains a summary of the migration patterns of some regular passage migrants on Po Toi. The regular observations at Po Toi have revealed many details about migration patterns that were previously unclear, and have greatly increased our knowledge about passage migrants in Hong Kong.

Another paper included in the report investigates migration in a very different way, by the use of satellite tracking on a Great Cormorant. This provides an interesting insight into the migratory behaviour of a bird after it has left the Hong Kong, and for the first time confirms the breeding area of the population wintering here. The fact that we know so little about the migration of such an obvious and abundant wintering species indicates how much there is still to learn about bird migration.

Also included in this report is a paper providing results of a survey of Black-faced Spoonbills in North Korea. Although this relates to sightings outside Hong Kong, the species is familiar to Hong Kong bird watchers and is another reminder that the migratory birds occurring here are reliant on conditions in other countries. The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society is taking an increasing role in supporting research and conservation of birds in the region, by supporting projects such as this one. This position of the HKBWS in promoting bird conservation in the region has recently contributed towards the recognition of the Society as a Partner in BirdLife International. This is an exciting development for the Society and it would be interesting to see this reflected with more articles from other parts of the region in future editions of the Hong Kong Bird Report.

John Allcock
Chief Editor

Editors
Geoff Welch, Geoff Carey and Gary Chow

Translators

Bonnie Chan, May Chan, Chow Lai Kuen, Celia Ho, Alvin Hui, Eling Lee, Alan Leung, Katherine Leung, Heidi Yu

編者序言

此報告繼續沿用2011年的排版，我們希望如以往般沿用統一的排版模式。本人十分感謝編輯隊伍的努力令報告能順利出版，特別是孜孜不倦地工作的 Geoff Welch、負責翻譯工作的周家禮（及翻譯團隊），以及安排設計及印刷的香港觀鳥會職員陳芳玲及謝偉麟。

2012年帶來一些令人驚訝的雀鳥紀錄。首先是一些意料之外的鳥種，例如在蒲台拍攝到褐背針尾雨燕，這種鳥在東南亞較爲普遍，但中國卻屬首次紀錄。而雜色山雀的出現乃由於北方的種群湧入中國東部沿岸。此兩鳥種的出現說明在香港及東亞的遷徙狀況有待我們作更深入的去研究。

由於地理上位於温帶與熱帶之間，香港處於合適的位置觀察雀鳥遷徙。香港記錄的鳥種大多數是遷徙性的，無論是數天、數星期還是數月的逗留。此報告概述了定期出現的候鳥在蒲台的遷徙模式。在蒲台的定期觀察得出了很多之前未有留意的候鳥遷徙模式的細節，令我們加深對香港過境遷徙鳥的認識。

另一文記載了另一種形式的候鳥遷徙研究——用衛星追蹤普通鸕鷀。此研究令我們認識候鳥離開香港後的行爲，並首次確認在香港越冬群落的繁殖地。就算是一種極爲普遍的冬候鳥，原來我們對牠的認識仍然很有限，需要我們不斷努力研究。

此報告中亦記載了一項於北韓進行的黑臉琵鷺研究。雖然紀錄地點位於香港以外，但此鳥種廣爲香港觀鳥者所認識，並再次提醒我們在香港的候鳥是依賴其他國家的環境的。香港觀鳥會對鳥類研究及保育的支持越來越重要，就正如支持此項研究。香港觀鳥會對推動鳥類保育的努力促進了國際鳥盟最近接納香港觀鳥會爲正式成員。此乃觀鳥會的重要功績，並希望不久將來在更多來自區內不同地方的文章中反映出來。

主編

柯祖毅

編輯

Geoff Welch, 賈知行 及 周家禮

翻譯義工

陳芳玲、陳翠楣、周麗娟、何煒筠、許桓峰、李佩玲、

梁仕倫、梁嘉善、余海寧

Hong Kong Bird Report 2012
2012香港鳥類報告

Contents 目錄

更多施華洛世奇光學訊息，請上：
WWW.SW-OPTIK.COM

ATX/STX 30-70×95

捕捉大自然的奧秘

相機通過單筒攝影連接環(TLS APO)連接ATX/STX高倍率單筒望遠鏡，實現遠距離高清攝影！
奧地利施華洛世奇光學爲你精心打造全新ATX/STX 30-70×95。
焦距可以達到驚人的900毫米至2100毫米，將瞬間即逝的美麗景色，捕捉進數碼相機。
把細致的美景，分享給每一個人！
奧地利施華洛世奇光學，看你所看不見的。

SEE THE UNSEEN
WWW.SWAROVSKIOPTIK.COM

SWAROVSKI
OPTIK

香港經銷商：

G/f., 8 Gilman's Bazaar, Central	Tel: 2543 5657
Prince's Bldg., Central	Tel: 2521 6266
Phase 2 Pacific Place, Admiralty	Tel: 2801 6422
Windsor House, Causeway Bay	Tel: 3907 0282
G/f., 517 Lockhart Road, Causeway Bay	Tel: 2783 8820
G/f., 5 Woosung Street, Yaumatei	Tel: 2384 9302
Park-In Commercial Center, Mongkok	Tel: 2780 8818
68 Carnarvon Road, TST	Tel: 2722 1286
Rm 815, Favor Industrial Centre, Kwai Chung	Tel: 2789 2306

施華洛世奇光學部電話：(852)-2969 6197電子郵件：info.optik@swarovski.com

BY APPOINTMENT TO
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II
SWAROVSKI OPTIK
SUPPLIER OF BINOCULARS
英國皇室指定望遠鏡供應商

List of Plates 圖片目錄

Hong Kong Bird Report 2011 Erratum

Plate 44, Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush *Monticola rufiventris* on page 158 was taken on 10th March 2011

2011香港鳥類報告 校勘

第158頁圖44栗腹磯鶇的拍攝日期應爲2011年3月10日

Records Committee Report 2012

Geoff J Carey
Records Committee Chairman

The Records Committee met four times during 2012, and 158 Unusual Record Forms were processed for inclusion in this Report. As a result, a total of 398 Category I and II species were recorded during 2012, another very good year matching the high counts of recent years, although taxonomic changes over time make it problematic to make a direct comparison.

New additions to the HK List made during 2012 were as follows.

Additions to Category I

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*
A female at Mai Po NR on 9 March 2012 is the first record to be accepted as Category I.

Brown-backed Needletail *Hirundapus giganteus*
One on Po Toi on 24 March 2012 is the first record for China.

Varied Tit *Poecile varius*
One on Po Toi from 16 September to 23 October 2012 was part of an irruption of the species into eastern China in autumn 2012.

Zappey's Flycatcher *Cyanoptila cumatilis*
An addition to the HK List as a result of an IOC decision to split Blue-and-white Flycatcher *C. cyanomelana* (Leader and Carey 2012). One on Po Toi on 19 October 2008 was reported in the 2007-08 Hong Kong Bird Report p 302.

Hill Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis banyumas*
One on Po Toi from 24 November to 1 December 2012. This was one of seven records of Hill Blue Flycatcher accepted into Category I following a review of all Blue Flycatcher records. The first of these occurred on 15 December 1968 at Bethanie, near Pok Fu Lam.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*
One on Po Toi on 1 November 2012. Acceptance of this record as Category I was followed by a review of all previous records of Hawfinch and the acceptance of seven previous records into Category I. The first of these occurred on 26 December 1984 at Mong Tseng

Red-headed Bunting *Emberiza bruniceps*
A first-winter male at Long Valley on 23 December 2012. Acceptance of this record as Category I was followed by a review of all previous records of Red-headed Bunting and the acceptance of three previous records into Category I. The first of these occurred on 10 January 2008 on the Mai Po access road.

Additions to Category II

Huet's Fulvetta *Alcippe hueti*
Following a split in the Grey-cheeked Fulvetta complex, the species occurring in HK has been demonstrated to be Huet's Fulvetta *Alcippe hueti*, based upon vocalisation. The population is considered to be self-sustaining, and because it is resident in Guangdong, it has now been added to the Hong Kong List in Category IIA.

Additions to Category III

White-rumped Seedeater *Crithagra leucopygia*
Three at San Tin on 29 October 2012.

References
Leader, P.J. and Carey, G.J. 2012. Zappey's Flycatcher *Cyanoptila cumatilis*: a forgotten Chinese breeding endemic. *Forktail* 28 (2012): 121-128.

紀錄委員會報告 2012

賈知行

紀錄委員會主席

紀錄委員於2012年共舉行了四次會議，審閱了158份不尋常紀錄表並彙編在此報告內。因而在2012年內共記錄了398種類別 I 及 II 的鳥種。儘管分類上的改變令數字難以跟以往年份比較，然而2012年鳥況不錯，與近年較高的鳥種數目配合。

在2012年新加的鳥種如下：

類別I 新增鳥種

赤嘴潛鴨

一雙雌鳥於2012年 3 月9日在米埔自然護理區，是類別I的新紀錄。

褐背針尾雨燕

3月24日蒲台，中國新紀錄。

雜色山雀

於9月16日至10月23日蒲台；是2012秋季湧進中國東部的群落的一部分。

琉璃藍鶲 *Cyanoptila cumatilis*

這是根據IOC的決定，從白腹姬鶲 *C. cyanomelana* 分拆出來的新鳥種（Leader and Carey 2012）並加入香港的鳥類名錄中。2007-08年香港鳥類報告中紀錄了2008年10月19日於蒲台有一個紀錄。

山藍仙鶲 *Cyornis banyumas*

2012年11月24日至12月1 日於蒲台有一個紀錄。這亦是經審議後被接納的七個山藍仙鶲紀錄中其中之一。首次紀錄是1968年12月15日於薄扶林附近的伯大尼修院出現。

錫嘴雀

2012年11月 1 日於蒲台有一個紀錄。經審閱了過往七項舊紀錄後全部接納爲第I類別鳥種。第一個紀錄是1984年12月26日於輞井出現。

褐頭鴉

12月23日於塱原發現一隻初次度冬雄鳥。經審閱過往所有紀錄後接納了此項以及三項舊紀錄爲第I類別鳥種。首項紀錄爲2008年1月10日於米埔路口。

類別II 新增鳥種

黑眉雀鶲

灰眶雀鶲類別經分拆後，在香港的種群在聲音鑑別後確認爲黑眉雀鶲。此群落被認爲可長期繁衍，並在廣東爲留鳥，故納入在香港鳥類名錄的IIA類別。

類別III 新增鳥種

白腰食籽雀

10月29日三隻於新田

參考資料

Leader, P.J. and Carey, G.J. 2012. Zappey's Flycatcher *Cyanoptila cumatilis*: a forgotten Chinese breeding endemic. *Forktail* 28 (2012): 121-128.

Annual Summary 2012

Geoff Welch

This summary continues with the seasonal format established in recent years. The Systematic List takes precedence over the Annual Summary in the event of any discrepancies.

2012 was a year of two very different halves. The first half was quiet with low counts of waterbirds and other wintering species in the first winter period followed by a disappointing spring, albeit with two Hong Kong first records, Red-crested Pochard and Brown-backed Needletail. The second half was completely different, starting with an extraordinary July, usually the quietest month in the Hong Kong birding calendar, and continuing with an excellent autumn going right through to year end. There was one Hong Kong first record, Varied Tit while records of three other species, Hill Blue Flycatcher, Hawfinch and Red-headed Bunting, allowed those species to be upgraded to Category I. But it was the quantity and quality of both common and rare species which made it such an exciting period.

The net result was a total of 398 species recorded in the year, exceeding the previous record count of 397 for 2010, and although comparisons between years are difficult with changing taxonomy, it was nevertheless a second half-year to remember.

Winter 2012 (January to February)

The weather in both January and February was dull and gloomy with only 50% of normal sunshine levels, few northerly winds and only one very brief cold spell from 23rd to 26th January, not weather likely to bring new species into Hong Kong in late winter.

Unusual over-wintering raptors included a Crested Honey Buzzard for the third successive year in the Lam Tsuen valley into February and a first-winter Pied Harrier in the MPNR/LMC area into April. A male Japanese Robin was at Tai Po Kau on 2nd January with an adult male Black-headed Bunting at Long Valley on 4th. A juvenile Lesser Frigatebird photographed from the Mai Po boardwalk on 17th January was similar in marking to one at The Peak in August 2011 and may have wintered in the Pearl River Delta area. This was followed by a first-winter Glaucous Gull at the Mai Po boardwalk from 21st January, regularly seen amongst the large gull flock until 2nd April. A Common Reed Bunting was trapped at MPNR on 21st January, a male White-throated Rock Thrush was photographed at Shing Mun on 25th January and a Common Ringed Plover was at the Mai Po boardwalk on 29th January.

The peak aggregate total of waterbirds in the whole Deep Bay area for the winter 2011-12 was 72,492, 5% below the same count in winter 2010-11 and a further fall from the average of 88,000 in the three winters from 2007-08 to 2009-10. Most duck species had low counts including those showing a long-term decline, Common Shelduck, Mallard, Indian and Chinese Spot-billed Duck and Eurasian Teal. There were no Gadwall

recorded all year and Eurasian Coot numbers were also very low. The reasons for the recent decline in peak aggregate numbers and the long term decline in some duck species are not yet understood but concerning.

On the positive side, Falcated Duck had another good year by recent standards with a highest count since 1998 and a single Baer's Pochard was present from 5th February to 11th March. Wintering shorebirds showed a better result with good numbers of Pied Avocet, Pacific Golden Plover and Dunlin and unusually high wintering counts of Greater Sand Plover and Terek Sandpiper although numbers of Spotted Redshank were disappointing.

A Japanese Cormorant was off-shore from Long Ke, Sai Kung East CP, on 5th February. This is the fourth record since the first in 2005 which suggests the species is a rare but regular winter visitor to Hong Kong waters. An adult Brown-headed Gull, now a rare species in Hong Kong, was at the Mai Po boardwalk on 11th and 28th February with possibly a different Common Ringed Plover to the January bird also there from 24th February to 14th March.

Spring 2012 (March to May)

2012 spring was warmer than average from mid-March to end May. There were two substantive cold fronts in March, on 8th and 23rd, both of which produced Hong Kong first records, but only two weak fronts in April, on 16th and 25th. Both April and May were wet but with rain coming mainly from southerly winds which occurred with twice the normal frequency for these months. As a consequence, 2012 spring after March was relatively uneventful for migrants. The only interesting weather from a birding viewpoint was a period of unseasonal strong easterly winds from 25th May to 6th June which brought seabirds into Hong Kong waters.

An adult Pallas's Gull was in breeding plumage at the Mai Po boardwalk on 1st March, followed by a female Red-crested Pochard at MPNR on 9th March, the first Hong Kong record of this species to be accepted as Category I. Although present for less than 24 hours, the news spread quickly and it was seen by many. Single Black-legged Kittiwakes were recorded from Po Toi on 11th and 28th March, now an annual spring occurrence since 2008. A male Rosy Starling was at Lok Ma Chau on 14th March with a female Rustic Bunting at Long Valley on 17th March. The second Hong Kong first record of March came on 24th when a Brown-backed Needletail of the subspecies *indicus* was well photographed on Po Toi. This was a real surprise, a first record for China with the closest known breeding area in northern Thailand. An Oriental Plover was at MPNR from 24th to 27th March and an earliest ever spring Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo was in the Lam Tsuen valley on 26th March.

April started with an adult male Ferruginous Duck at Lok Ma Chau on 1st, a rare spring Thick-billed Warbler at Kam Tin on 4th and the only Chestnut-cheeked Starling of the year at Long Valley on 8th. A singing Yellow-streaked Warbler at Ping Che from 9th to 11th April was a first spring record for this species and a Streaked Shearwater photographed from the Mai Po boardwalk on 9th April was an unexpected first record for MPNR. Several new highest counts occurred in April, 2,490 Red-necked Phalarope

migrating northeast past Po Toi on 5th, 164 Caspian Terns at MPNR on 8th, 55 Ashy Minivets at Tai Po Kau Headland on 9th and 320 Whimbrel migrating past Po Toi on 25th. It was, however, a very poor spring for numbers of both Chinese Sparrowhawk and Grey-faced Buzzard, the regular spring migrant raptors.

Spring wader passage was also very poor with an aggregate count of only 12,133, the lowest since *The Avifauna*. Individual species which recorded their lowest counts since *The Avifauna* were Spotted and Common Redshank, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Sanderling, Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and Broad-billed Sandpiper. However, numbers of the three threatened species, Asian Dowitcher (NT), Nordmann's Greenshank (EN) and Spoon-billed Sandpiper (CR), were average and a Pectoral Sandpiper was at the Mai Po boardwalk from 14th April to 5th May.

Eurasian Jay was recorded in two locations in the northeast NT in the second half of April, a hopeful sign for the return of this species, and a Styan's Grasshopper Warbler was singing in the MPNR mangroves from 19th April. An HKBWS off-shore boat trip on 21st April was surprised to find the second Hong Kong record of Japanese Murrelet following the first in similar circumstances in 2007. Both these birds had significant feather degradation to the wings which prevented them from flying. A Red-throated Loon off-shore from Po Toi on 28th April was the fourth and latest spring HK record.

There were very few records of any note in May. The second Oriental Plover of spring was at MPNR on 11th and 162 Grey-tailed Tattler there on 15th May was a high count. Unseasonal easterly winds at the end of May brought several seabirds into Hong Kong waters including a dark-rumped Storm Petrel, probably Swinhoe's, photographed passing southwest off Po Toi on 30th, another all dark petrel or shearwater and latest ever spring records of Short-tailed Shearwater and Long-tailed Jaeger all off Po Toi on 3rd June.

Summer 2012 (June to August)

Summer was generally hotter and drier than average, particularly in August. Four tropical storms affected Hong Kong between late June and the end of August, one of which, Severe Typhoon Vincente, caused the first T10 signal since 1999 on 24th July with heavy rainfall on that and the following day.

Egret nest data was encouraging with good numbers for all three main species, Chinese Pond Heron, Great and Little Egrets and Black-crowned Night Heron showing a partial reversal of the 10 year decline for this species. Only Eastern Cattle Egret, the species with the smallest breeding numbers, declined. Tern breeding data showed significant increases for all three species, Bridled, Roseate and Black-naped Terns, although this may be partly due to improved coverage. Confirmed or suspected breeding records included a first-ever breeding record of Brown-breasted Flycatcher in Tai Po Kau, Brown Wood Owl in the Lam Tsuen valley, Eurasian Jay in the northeast NT, unfortunately unsuccessful, Orange-headed Thrush in Tai Po Kau and Grey-capped Greenfinch in several locations. A Speckled Piculet at Tai Po Kau on 17th June followed by another photographed at Long Valley on 6th July and further sightings at Tai Po Kau in October may also indicate a change in status for this rarely recorded species.

Summer was noticeable for several unusual counts or records of waders at MPNR, 141 Pied Avocet on 15th June, two Asian Dowitchers on 17th June, 147 Terek Sandpiper on 20th June and a Red-necked Phalarope on 5th July. However, nothing prepared us for the events of later in July, usually the quietest month for birds in Hong Kong.

On 12th July, an adult Oriental Stork appeared at MPNR pond 16/17, a first ever summer record and the first record since 2004. It remained in the Mai Po area until the end of the year. This was followed by a first summer Ferruginous Duck at MPNR on 15th July and then by an adult Greylag Goose also there on 20th and 21st July, both first ever summer records and for the goose, the first record since 1997. Neither showed any signs of captivity, although the possibility cannot be excluded, and both were accepted as Category I. A first ever July record of Pale Martin on 24th July completed a remarkable set of July records at MPNR.

August continued at MPNR with two Yellow-rumped Flycatchers on 2nd, earliest autumn records by 15 days, and a rare autumn Little Stint on 5th. Three Black Baza at Chau Tau on 19th August were the only records for the species in the year, and a Brown Fish Owl photographed at Tai Po Kau on 23rd August was an unusual record for the location.

Autumn 2012 (September to November)

Autumn was warmer and drier than average up to mid-November when it became gloomy and wet but, in general, the weather was unexceptional. Not so for the birds, it was an exceptionally good autumn and early winter, both for common and rare species. The conclusion has to be that it was an exceptionally good breeding season in the northern latitudes, a conclusion supported by irruption numbers of several species including Chestnut-collared Yuhina and Eurasian Siskin.

September started with an adult Saunder's Gull from the Mai Po boardwalk on 5th, the earliest autumn record by 48 days. A Thick-billed Warbler on Po Toi on 6th September was the first of nine in an exceptional autumn for the species. A Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler was trapped at MPNR on 11th September and then on 16th, a Varied Tit was photographed on Po Toi. At first assumed to be an escape, it was quickly established that an irruption of the species was occurring out of South Korea, and with birds recorded at many locations in east China, it was eventually accepted as Category I. It remained on Po Toi until 23rd October and subsequently a different bird was seen at Tai Tong on 22nd December. A first winter Tiger Shrike was at MPNR on 17th September and a Fairy Pitta was on Po Toi from 20th to 27th September, photographed on the last date. A Barred Button-quail was taken into care at KFBG from Pok Fu Lam on 22nd September and later released at MPNR and a Little Curlew at MPNR on 26th September was an earliest autumn record. Finally, on 30th September, a Red-backed Shrike was photographed at Long Valley and the first of three Alström's Warblers in this exceptional autumn was at Tai Po Kau.

October continued at the same pace with a juvenile Rosy Starling on Po Toi from 1st to 3rd, single Alstrom's Warblers at both MPNR and Po Toi on 9th, a Lesser Cuckoo on Po

Toi on 11th and the first of at least three October White-throated Rock Thrushes at Lam Tsuen on 11th, with possibly the same bird at Kap Lung on 13th and others at Mount Davis on 19th and Wonderland Villas on 21st. The first Eurasian Siskin of winter was on Po Toi on 13th October, an earliest date, a Hume's Leaf Warbler was photographed on Po Toi on 14th and a Greater Painted-snipe also on Po Toi on 18th was a rare record away from the northeast NT. This was an exceptional autumn for buntings, 50 Yellow-breasted Buntings at MPNR on 16th October was the highest count since 2004 and at least seven Yellow-browed Buntings were present at various locations in the third week of October. Three Siberian Thrushes were at Mui Tze Lam on 20th October and a Brambling on Po Toi on 21st and a Small Niltava there on 25th October were both earliest records. The month ended with HK's third Rosy Pipit and the first in autumn, at Long Valley from 28th October to 6th November.

A Hawfinch on Po Toi on 1st November was accepted as a Category I record, upgrading the species from Category III. A second Red-backed Shrike of autumn was photographed at Long Valley on 3rd and a Rustic Bunting there from 3rd to 7th November was an earliest autumn record. 23 Daurian Redstarts on Po Toi on 4th November was the highest count since 1995 and typical of the high numbers of many warbler, flycatcher, chat, finch and bunting species in autumn 2012. The second Yellow-streaked Warbler of the year was trapped at MPNR on 6th November and a Pallas's Reed Bunting was photographed at Long Valley on 12th, with others trapped at MPNR on 19th November and 6th December. Six Radde's Warblers at Mount Davis on 19th was a highest count and part of a record total of at least 33 individuals over the late autumn. A Japanese Swamp Warbler was trapped at MPNR on 23rd November and a male Hill Blue Flycatcher on Po Toi on 24th November was accepted as Category I in a review of all Blue Flycatcher records. Six Chestnut-eared Buntings at Long Valley on 28th was the highest count since 1992 and the first flock of ten Chestnut-collared Yuhina arrived at Shing Mun on 26th November.

Winter 2012 (December)

December continued with the gloomy and wet weather of late November; high counts and rare species continued until the end of the month.

Two Crested Buntings, 150 Chestnut Buntings and two Japanese Yellow Buntings were at Lin Au in the Lam Tsuen valley on 2nd December, a Chinese Thrush was on Po Toi on 5th December, the third HK record, and at least five Fujian Niltavas were recorded during the month with the first at Shing Mun also on 5th December. A Bianchi's Warbler was seen and heard calling at Tai Lam CP on 8th December, another Speckled Piculet, the fourth record of the year, was at Kap Lung on 9th December. Eight Mugimaki Flycatchers were at Airfield Road on the same date, another highest count since *The Avifauna*, and the fourth HK record of Common House Martin was photographed at Tai Sang Wai also on 9th December. An adult male Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher was at Tai Po Kau on 12th December, a female Red-breasted Merganser was at MPNR and later Wetland Park from 15th December until year end and a male and female Baer's Pochard were at MPNR from 16th December to year end. 80 Chestnut-collared Yuhina were at Lau Shui Heung on 17th December with more than 200 recorded elsewhere in December. A Cuckoo Dove, possibly Barred, was at Tai Po Kau

on 21st December and a second Varied Tit appeared at Tai Tong from 22nd December until year end. A male Red-headed Bunting at Long Valley on 23rd December was accepted a Category I record, upgrading the species from category III and becoming the tenth bunting species at Long Valley in 2012. A single flock of at least 50 Eurasian Siskins was at Tai Po Kau on 25th December, two Black-throated Tits were on Po Toi also on 25th December, an adult male Naumann's Thrush was at Chek Lap Kok from 27th to 29th December when unfortunately it was found dead. And a spectacular autumn and early winter finished with a Crested Honey Buzzard wintering in the Lam Tsuen valley for the fourth successive year.

2012 全年摘要

Geoff Welch

本篇全年摘要沿用近年鳥類報告的季度方式，若此全年摘要內容與分類總覽不符，一切以分類總覽所述爲準。

2012前半年與後半年的鳥況差別很大，前半年鳥況平靜，無論是水鳥調查，或是其他越冬鳥類的數量均偏低，接著的春季雖錄得兩個香港新紀錄鳥種 (赤嘴潛鴨及褐背針尾雨燕)，鳥況普遍亦令人失望。下半年情況卻完全逆轉，七月一般是香港的觀鳥淡季，但本年七月卻絕不平凡，接下來的秋季鳥況亦極佳並一直維持至年底。下半年錄得一個香港新紀錄雜色山雀，而山藍仙鶲、錫嘴雀和褐頭鷦三個鳥種亦被提升至第I類別，整體而言，無論是常見或罕見的鳥種，在質及量兩方面均令人驚喜。

2012年結果共錄得398個鳥種，超出了2010年397個鳥種的紀錄。固然，基於分類學的種種改變，不容易把不同年度錄得的鳥種數量作比較，但下半年仍是值得記住。

2012冬（一月至二月）

一月及二月的天氣平淡又陰沉，日照量水平只有正常的50%，吹北風的日子寥寥無幾，只有一個短暫的冷鋒在1月23-26日到港。如此的天氣情況似乎不能爲香港的晚冬帶來新鳥種。

本年冬季有兩個通常不在港越冬的猛禽紀錄，分別是連續第三年在林村谷越冬並停留至二月的一隻鳳頭蜂鷹，以及在米埔自然保護區和落馬洲一帶停留至四月的一隻首次越冬的鵲鷸。1月2日在大埔滘錄得一隻雄性的日本歌鴝，而1月4日在塱原則錄得一隻成年雄性黑頭鷦。1月17日在米埔泥灘拍攝到的一隻白斑軍艦鳥幼鳥，特徵與2011年8月在山頂拍攝到的很相似，剛過去的冬天這隻幼鳥有機會是在珠江河口度冬。隨後在1月21日於米埔泥灘錄得一隻首次度冬的北極鷗，並經常與其他大型鷗類一同出現，最後記錄的日期是4月2日。一月份其他特別的記錄包括：21日在米埔蘆葦叢環誌了一隻蘆鷦，25日在城門拍攝到一隻雄性白喉磯鶇，以及29日在米埔泥灘錄得一隻劍鴴。

2011-12年冬季后海灣各水鳥物種的最高數量總和是72,492隻，比2010-2011年冬季少5%，亦較2007-08年至2009-10年三個冬季的平均數88,000隻爲低。大部分野鴨物種均錄得低數量：翹鼻麻鴨、綠頭鴨、印緬斑嘴鴨、中華斑嘴鴨及綠翅鴨數量持續下跌。整年均沒有錄到赤膀鴨，而骨頂雞的數量亦很低。近年水鳥最高數量總和的下降，以及某些物種野鴨數量持續下跌的原因未明，卻須要持續關注。

另一方面，有兩種野鴨卻帶來喜訊：羅紋鴨的數量自1998年錄得最高數量以後，近年保持高企，本年亦不例外；而2月5日至3月11日錄得一隻青頭潛鴨。涉禽方面，雖然鶴鷸本年的數量較低，令人失望；但反嘴鷸、太平洋金斑鴴和黑腹濱鷸本年卻錄得高數量，加上普遍在冬季數量較高的鐵嘴沙鴴及翹嘴鷸，整體而言，本年度冬的涉禽數量不俗。

2月5日在西貢東郊野公園浪茄一帶海面錄得一隻綠背鸕鷀，是自2005年首次錄得該鳥種以來的第四個紀錄，証明該鳥種雖罕見，卻定期在冬季到訪香港水域。2月11及28日在米埔泥灘錄得一隻棕頭鷗成鳥，該鳥種現在於香港屬罕見鳥。而2月24日至3月14日在米埔泥灘再錄得一隻劍鴴，可能與1月份所錄得的是不同個體。

2012春（三月至五月）

2012年春季三月中旬至五月底的氣溫較以往平均溫度高。在3月8日及23日分別出現兩次冷鋒，爲本港帶來兩個新鳥種紀錄；而四月份只分別在16日及25日有兩個微弱的冷鋒。四月和五月都普遍潮濕，亦有由南面氣流帶來的雨，下雨的次數更比以往同月份多一倍。因此，2012年春季在三月過後並沒有出現甚麼驚喜的過境遷徙鳥種，唯一可望帶來好鳥況的天氣，是不合乎季節地在5月25日至6月6日出現的強勁東風，爲本港水域帶來一些海鳥。

3月1日在米埔泥灘錄得一隻披繁殖羽的漁鷗成鳥，接著在9日於保護區內錄得一隻雌性赤嘴潛鴨，是該種首次接納爲名錄第一類別的紀錄。雖然該鳥停留不多於24小時，因爲消息發佈迅速，很多鳥友都能一睹。3月11日及28日在蒲台均錄得一隻三趾鷗，自2008年起，每年春季均錄得此鳥種。3月14日在落馬洲錄得一隻雄性粉紅椋鳥，而17日則在塱原錄得一隻田鷸。本年第二個香港首次紀錄的鳥種是在24日於蒲台拍攝得非常清楚的的褐背針尾雨燕，屬於 *indicus* 亞種。該種距本港最近的繁殖地位於泰國北部，這次亦是首個中國記錄，實在令人驚奇。3月24至27日在米埔自然護理區錄得一隻東方鴴，而26日在林村谷錄得的霍氏鷹鵑則打破春季最早出現的紀錄。

4月才剛開始，便在1日於落馬洲錄得一隻雄性白眼潛鴨成鳥，4日在錦田記錄到一隻鮮有在冬季出現的厚嘴葦鶯，而8日則在塱原錄得本年唯一的栗頰椋鳥。4月9至11日在坪輋錄得一隻鳴唱的棕眉柳鶯，是該種首個春季記錄。9日在米埔泥灘拍攝到的一隻白額鷸是該種在米埔的首個記錄，是意料之外的發現。四月份亦有幾個鳥種錄得新高數量，包括：5日在蒲台海面向北遷徙的2,490隻紅頸瓣蹼鷸、8日在米埔自然護理區錄得的164隻紅嘴巨鷗、9日在大埔滘岬角的55隻灰山椒鳥、以及25日在蒲台海面過境的320隻中杓鷸。但本年春季過境的猛禽，包括赤腹鷹及灰臉鵟鷹，數量卻極低。

春季過境涉禽的數量亦偏低，各鳥種的最高數量總和只有12,133隻，是自《香港鳥類名錄》出版以來的最低數字。自《香港鳥類名錄》出版後，以下的鳥種創出新低的數字，包括：鶴鷸、紅腳鷸、翻石鷸、紅腹濱鷸、三趾濱鷸、紅頸濱鷸、尖尾濱鷸和闊嘴鷸。相反，三個全球受威脅鳥種：半蹼鷸(近危)、小青腳鷸(瀕危)和勺嘴鷸(極危)，數量比較平穩。另外，4月14日至5月5日在米埔泥灘錄得一隻斑胸濱鷸。

四月下旬在新界東北兩個地點分別錄得松鴉，爲該種重新在香港棲息帶來希望。4月19日起在米埔潮澗帶紅樹林錄得一隻在鳴唱的史氏蝗鶯。香港觀鳥會在4月21日舉辦的離岸水域觀鳥活動期間意外地錄得一隻冠海雀，是香港的第二個記錄，2007年的第一個記錄亦是在近似情況下錄得的，兩次記錄的冠海雀的翅膀羽毛均有明顯缺損，以致不良於飛行。最後，4月28日在蒲台對開海域錄得一隻紅喉潛鳥，是本港第四個記錄。

5月值得一提的記錄甚少：11日在米埔自然護理區錄得本年春季的第二個東方鴴記錄、15日亦在該護理區錄得最高數量的162隻灰尾漂鷸。5月底不合季節的東風爲本港水域帶來數個海鳥記錄，包括：30日拍攝到一隻在蒲台西南水域過境，腰部深色的海燕，相信可能是黑叉尾海燕；最後6月3日在蒲台對開海面亦錄得另一隻全身深色的海燕或鰮、打破春季最遲出現紀錄的短尾鰮及長尾賊鷗各一。

2012夏（六月至八月）

本年夏季，尤其八月份，普遍較平常炎熱及乾燥。六月下旬至八月底共有4個熱帶風暴影響本港，其中7月24日襲港的強颱風韋森特，是自1999年首個10號颶風信號，在當日及翌日爲本港帶來豪雨。

鷺林鳥巢統計數字令人鼓舞，四個主要鷺鳥物種 ，包括池鷺、大白鷺、小白鷺及夜鷺均錄得不錯的數量，鷺巢的數量更一反過往十年的跌勢，首次錄得增長，當中只有在本港繁殖數量最少的牛背鷺錄得下跌的數字。燕鷗調查結果顯示褐翅、粉紅及黑枕三個燕鷗物種繁殖數字均明顯上升，其中一個原因是調查覆蓋範圍比以往更廣。在本年錄得的確認及疑似繁殖紀錄包括；在大埔滘首個褐胸鷸的本港繁殖紀錄；在林村谷錄得的褐林鴞；在新界東北錄得的松鴉 (可惜未能成功繁殖)；在大埔滘錄得的橙頭地鶇，以及在數個地點錄得的金翅雀。另外，6月17日及7月6日分別在大埔滘和塱原拍攝到斑姬啄木鳥，及後在10月分再次在大埔滘錄得，顯示這個鳥種可能不再屬「罕見」。

本年夏季在米埔有數個不普通的涉禽數量紀錄，包括：6月15日的141隻反嘴鷸、6月17日的兩隻半蹼鷸、6月20日的147隻翹嘴鷸，以及7月5日的一隻紅頸瓣蹼鷸。料想不到，通常是本港鳥況最平靜的7月，卻出奇地有不少驚喜的記錄。

在米埔自然保護區，一隻東方白鸛成鳥於7月12日在16/17號基圍出現，在米埔逗留至年底，是本港的第一個夏季記錄，該種上次記錄是在2004年。在7月15日錄得一隻第一次度夏的白眼潛鴨；而7月20-21日則錄得一隻灰雁的成鳥，兩個記錄均是該鳥種首個夏季記錄，而灰雁更是自1997年再次錄得。兩隻個體都沒有曾被豢養的表徵，雖然仍不能排除逃逸個體的可能性，兩個記錄都獲接納爲名錄第I類別。最後在7月24日錄得一隻淡色沙燕，是首次在七月份錄得，爲本年米埔七月份的精彩鳥況畫上完美的句號。

8月份良好的鳥況率先在米埔自然護理區展開，分別在2日錄得兩隻白眉姬鶲，比以往秋季最早出現紀錄早15天，以及在5日錄得一隻於秋季罕見的小濱鷸。8月19日在洲頭錄得本年唯一的黑冠鵑隼記錄，共有3隻。最後在23日於大埔滘拍攝到一隻褐漁鴞，爲大埔滘一個不普通的記錄。

2012秋（九月至十一月）

本年秋季較平常溫暖和乾燥，直至11月中旬開始轉爲陰天及多雨。雖然整體天氣十分平常，但不論是常見或罕見的秋季及初冬鳥種均出乎意料的好。估計原因是本年北緯的鳥類繁殖情況極好，突然大量出現的數個鳥種如栗耳鳳鵙及黃雀證明此推論的可能性。

九月剛開始便於5日在米埔泥灘錄得一隻黑嘴鷗成鳥，比最早出現紀錄早了48天。6日在

蒲台錄得一隻厚嘴葦鶯，是本季九個紀錄中的首個，爲該種是極佳的一年。11日在米埔自然護理區環誌了一隻北蝗鶯。16日在蒲台拍攝到一隻雜色山雀，起初認爲是逃逸個體，而陸續知道該種在南韓以外地區，以及中國東部多個地點均突然錄得高數量，因而接納爲名錄第I類別。該鳥在蒲台逗留至10月23日，而稍後於12月22日亦在大棠錄得另一個體。17日在米埔自然護理區錄得一隻首次度冬的虎紋伯勞；而20-27日在蒲台則錄得一隻仙八色鶇，並在27日拍攝到照片。22日由薄扶林拾獲一隻受傷的棕三趾鷸，送往嘉道理農場醫治後，在米埔自然保護區野放。26日在米埔自然護理區錄得一隻小杓鷸，是最早的秋季紀錄。最後於30日在塱原拍攝到一隻紅背伯勞，以及在大埔滘拍攝到一隻純色尾鶲鶯，是本年秋季三個記錄的首個。

十月鳥況和九月一樣好。在蒲台，1-3日先錄得一隻粉紅椋鳥的幼鳥，然後在9日錄得一隻純色尾鶲鶯 (同日在米埔亦錄得一隻)，接著在11日錄得一隻小杜鵑。本月在林村最少有3個白喉磯鶇的記錄，首個記錄爲11日，繼而13日在甲龍再錄得一隻，懷疑是同一個體，另外兩個記錄分別是19日於摩星嶺，以及21日於華景山莊。本年冬季第一隻黃雀先在13日於蒲台出現，是最早的秋季記錄。同樣在蒲台，14日拍攝到一隻淡眉柳鶯，18日錄得一隻彩鷸，屬新界東北以外的罕有記錄。本年秋季鵐科鳥況極佳：10月16日在米埔自然保護區錄得的50隻黃胸鵐，是自2004年的最高紀錄；10月的第三星期在不同地點錄得合共最少7隻黃眉鵐。另外有三個秋季最早出現紀錄，包括：20日在梅子林錄得的3隻白眉地鶇；在蒲台21日錄得的一隻燕雀和25日錄得的一隻小仙鶲。10月份最後在10月28日至11月6日於塱原錄得本港第三個粉紅胸鷸記錄，亦是首次於秋季錄得，

11月1 日在蒲台錄得一隻錫嘴雀，獲納入名錄第I類別，令該鳥種由第III類別提升至第I類別。在塱原，在11月3日拍攝到本年秋季第二隻紅背伯勞，以及3-7日錄得一隻田鵐，打破秋季最早出現紀錄。4日在蒲台共錄得23隻北紅尾鴝，是自1995年以來最多的紀錄，亦乎合本年秋季多種鶯科、鶲科、(即鳥)科、雀科和鵐科均錄得高數量的趨勢。本年第二隻棕眉柳鶯記錄在11月6日於米埔自然護理區被環誌。12日在塱原拍攝到一隻葦鵐，之後在11月19日及12月6日亦有個體於米埔自然保護區被環誌。11月19日在摩星嶺記錄到6隻巨嘴柳鶯，是新的最高紀錄，亦是秋季末段共錄得最少33隻的一部分。23日在米埔自然保護區環誌了一隻斑背大尾鶯；28日在塱原錄得的6隻栗耳鵐是自1992年的最高紀錄；26日於城門錄得本年第一群10隻的栗耳鳳鸝。

2012年冬（十二月）

12月繼承11 月底陰暗及潮濕的天氣，因此罕見鳥種的記錄以及鳥類數量偏高的情況持續至月底。

12月2日在林村谷蓮澳錄得兩隻鳳頭鵐、150隻栗鵐及兩隻硫磺鵐。5日在蒲台錄得香港第三個寶興歌鶇記錄；以及於城門錄得一隻棕腹大仙鶲，是本月內最少5個記錄的首個。8日於大欖郊野公園錄得一隻比氏鶲鶯，亦聽到其鳴叫。9日在甲龍錄得本年第四個斑姬啄木鳥記錄；在石崗機場路錄得8隻鵐姬鶲，是自《香港鳥類名錄》出版以來的最高數字；以及在大生圍錄得香港第四個白腹毛腳燕記錄。12日在大埔滘錄得一隻雄性橙胸姬鶲成鳥，及在米埔自然保護區錄得一隻雌性紅胸秋沙鴨，其後於15日在濕地公園再

出現，並逗留至年底。16日在米埔自然護理區錄得的一對青頭潛鴨亦逗留至年底。17日在流水響記錄到80隻栗耳鳳鸝，整個12月在各處錄得合共逾200隻。21日在大埔滘錄得一隻鵑鳩，懷疑是斑尾鵑鳩。22日在大棠錄得本年第二隻雜色山雀，並逗留至年底。23日在塱原錄得一隻雄性褐頭鷉，獲納入名錄第I類別，令該品種由第III類別提升至第I類別，亦是塱原2012年記錄到的第十個鷉科物種。25日在大埔滘錄得一群最少50隻黃雀，而在蒲台則錄得兩隻紅頭長尾山雀。27-29日在赤臘角錄得一隻雄性紅尾鵐，可惜其後被發現死亡。本年精彩的秋季及初冬鳥況由連續第四年於林村谷度冬的鳳頭蜂鷹劃上完美的句號。

Systematic List
2012

Taxonomy

The Records Committee has adopted the International Ornithological Congress (IOC) taxonomy and the scientific nomenclature that goes with it. The species list in this Systematic List follows the taxonomy of the IOC List v3.5.

Systematic List Format

The format for each species is as follows:

i) Title, giving common name in English, scientific name, common name in Chinese, species category and IUCN Red List Conservation Status, where applicable.

ii) Brief description of the status in Hong Kong as at end of 2011, in italics.

iii) Summary of records for the year 2012.

Species category definitions are as follows:

Category I: species that have been recorded in an apparently wild state in HK.

Category IIA: southeast China breeding species, the currently established HK breeding population of which is considered to derive from captive stock, but which probably occurred in HK prior to habitat changes.

Category IIB: extralimital species that, although originally introduced to HK by man, maintain a regular feral breeding stock without necessary recourse to further introduction.

Category IIC: previously established feral species.

Category III: species for which all published HK records are considered likely to relate to birds that have escaped or have been released from captivity.

The Conservation Status is based on the IUCN Red List. A status other than 'Least Concern' is indicated by the use of the abbreviations below:

IUCN Red List (2012.6)	
CE	Critically Endangered
EN	Endangered
VU	Vulnerable
NT	Near-threatened

Frequency/abundance terms used in the status description are, in order, rare, scarce, uncommon, common and abundant. These apply to birds in suitable habitat at the appropriate time of year.

The records section is a summary of all those reported in Hong Kong during the year 2012 but does not include all records received and archived. Records are not listed

individually unless they differ from the typical pattern as described in the status description or concern a species sufficiently uncommon to warrant listing all records. All records of species requiring assessment by the Records Committee are listed in full with the initials of those individuals who supplied the record.

Where possible, the summary is divided into seasons or winter periods with only the highest count and extreme dates provided. The 'peak' count refers to the highest count in the year. Sites of occurrence are not generally listed unless records occur in atypical habitats or at unusual times of year. The following local descriptive terms are used:

Deep Bay area - the Deep Bay inter-tidal area and the continuous area of freshwater marsh and fishponds from Tsim Bei Tsui to Hoo Hok Wai including Wetland Park, Nam Sang Wai, Kam Tin, Mai Po, San Tin and Lok Ma Chau;

Long Valley - Long Valley and Ho Sheung Heung;

Lam Tsuen - the whole Lam Tsuen Valley;

northwest NT – the Deep Bay and Long Valley areas, Kam Tin valley and hills north of the Lam Tsuen Valley;

northeast NT – the region to the northeast of the Fanling Highway including Pat Sin Leng and Plover Cove CPs, and Starling Inlet;

north NT – both northwest and northeast NT;

central NT – Tai Lam, Tai Mo Shan and Shing Mun CPs, the Lam Tsuen Valley and Tai Po Kau;

southeast NT – Lion Rock, Ma On Shan and Clearwater Bay CPs, Kowloon Peak and the Ho Chung Valley;

east NT – Sai Kung, Sai Kung West and East CPs.

Peak counts by year since the year 2001 are given for most waterbirds and some other species to give a recent historical perspective to the numbers. If provided, these appear in tables at the end of the relevant species account.

This report also includes Weekly Occurrence Graphs for selected species. These are based on *the Avifauna* Red Charts (page 116 of *The Avifauna*) and are the sum of peak counts of the species at separate locations for each weekly period in the year, including data in *The Avifauna* plus annual data from 1999 to 2012. They give an indication of the frequency of occurrence of the species through a normal year. The species have mostly been been chosen where the annual occurrence pattern has changed since *The Avifauna*.

Abbreviations used in the species accounts are listed below.

CP	Country Park	MPNR	Mai Po Nature Reserve
HK	Hong Kong	NT	New Territories
HKBR	Hong Kong Bird Report	TPK	Tai Po Kau
KFBG	Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden	WC	Waterbird Count
LMC	Lok Ma Chau Spur Line Wetland Mitigation Area		

Sources of Data for the 2012 Systematic List

Most of the data within the 2012 Systematic List comes in the form of records from individuals. However, a substantial amount of data now comes from on-going long-term monitoring projects, the major ones in 2012 being the following.

Waterbird Monitoring Programme (WMP)

Counts of waterbird species are conducted as part of the Ramsar Site Waterbird Monitoring Programme on behalf of AFCD on a monthly basis throughout the year at Deep Bay, Starling Inlet and Shuen Wan. This is an on-going project which first started in 1979, and in its current form in 1998.

A full set of the Deep Bay counts for each month in 2012 is given in tables at the end of the Systematic List. Where appropriate, totals from these counts are included in the main text under the description 'WC'.

Counts are coordinated between several observers at sites throughout Deep Bay. Note that, in order to provide a complete overview of waterbird populations in Deep Bay, counts include Futian NNR, Shenzhen in addition to sites in Hong Kong. Given the movement of birds between Hong Kong and Shenzhen , these totals are included in the Systematic List to provide data on the number of birds using Deep Bay as a whole.

The waterbird totals might include counts made up to a week either side of the actual count date. The dates of the monthly Waterbird Counts conducted during 2012 were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
2012	15th	12th	11th	22nd	20th	17th	22nd	19th	16th	14th	11th	16th

The WMP also includes monitoring of shorebirds on a regular basis throughout the spring and autumn migration periods.

WWF Morning Bird Count

WWF staff count all bird species within the Mai Po NR on a twice-monthly basis throughout the year. This monitoring activity started in 2005.

Long Valley Weekly Bird Count (LVP)

As part of the Management Agreement for Conservation of Long Valley, counts of all bird species are made at Long Valley on a weekly basis throughout the year. This project started in January 2010 and is supported by the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF).

Ringing Groups

Data was submitted by the following Ringing Groups – HKBWS Ringing Group (HKBWS RG) and the Hong Kong Bird Ringing Group (HKBRG)

Tern Breeding Data

Tern breeding data comes from the Population Survey of Terns in Hong Kong, 2012, funded by AFCD.

Other project sources

Data also comes from projects run by HKBWS, the main sources being the Research Groups for Egrets and for White-bellied Sea Eagle which count breeding activity for these species and are funded by AFCD and by Environment and Conservation Fund respectively.

Individual records

Thanks are due to the following, who submitted their individual records for this report:

J.A. Allcock, K. & R. Barretto, D. Bradshaw, G.J. Carey, G. Cattrall, M. Chalmers, S.M. Chan, N.M. Cheng, K.J. Cheung, J. Chim, G. Chow, A. Crow/KFBG, B. De Schutter, M. & R. Digma, D.A. Diskin, A. Forsten, M. Hale, A. Hardacre, G. Ho, J. & J. Holmes, T. Hung, Y.W. Hung, S. Jack, E.M.S. Kilburn, B. Klick, L. Ko/KFBG, K. Ko, M. Kwan, P.K. Kwan, J. Lambert, P.J. Leader, R. Lee, M.R. Leven, E. Leung, K. Leung, R.W. Lewthwaite, M. Lisse, C.F. Lo, K.M. Lo, A. & B. Low, H. Lui, J. Martinez, A. Peaker, R. Peard, A. Pong, W. Poon, K.F. Sin, B. Smith, I. So, D.J. Stanton, S.L. Tai, D. Thomas, R. Thompson, W. Tsui, G. Welch, M.D. Williams, N. & A. Wong, M. & P. Wong, T. & T. Woodward, WWF-HK and Y.T. Yu.

Records were also taken from the HKBWS Website (Website). Where recorded, the individual names for these records appear below:

H. Chan, J. Chan, T. Chan, L.W. Cheung, S.H. Cheung, T.M. Cheung, V. Cheung, O. Chiang, Y.T. Chung, K. Fung, A. Ho, P. Ho, K.C. Kong, K. Koo, K. Lam, Y.M. Lee, B. Li, P. Mak, Ja. Mann, W.H. Sze, W. Tang, D. Yau, W.H. Yip.

The Systematic List for the year 2012 was compiled by Geoff Welch.

References to *The Avifauna* within the Systematic List refer to Carey *et al.* (2001).

分類總覽
2012年

分類方法

紀錄委員會採用國際鳥類學議會 International Ornithological Congress (IOC) 分類方法及配合此分類方法慣常使用的科學命名法。此分類總覽鳥種名稱按照IOC 3.5版本分類列表作出分類。

分類總覽規格

鳥種資料如下：

甲) 鳥種標題以英文名、學名，中文名、鳥種類別以及國際自然保育聯盟紅皮書的保育狀況（若適用）列出。

乙) 以斜體字概要描述2011年前香港狀況。

丙) 2012年總結紀錄。

鳥種類別的定義如下：

第I類： 在香港有明確野生紀錄。

第IIA類： 中國東南部地區繁殖的鳥種，現時在香港的群落被認爲是由逃逸的籠鳥所繁衍的，但亦**可能在棲息**地出現變化前已在香港出沒。

第IIB類： 非原居鳥種，經人爲引入香港，現無需靠額外幫助已能繼續繁衍。

第IIC類： 曾經在香港有野生群落的鳥種。

第III類： 根據所有已發表的香港紀錄顯示，此鳥種可能在飼養時逃逸或是人爲放生。

保育狀況是根據國際自然保育聯盟紅皮書及其他現狀使用以下簡稱，但不包括「無危」，計有：

國際自然保育聯盟紅皮書(2012.6)	
CR	極危
EN	瀕危
VU	易危
NT	近危

在描述出現頻率或數量的狀況時，依序是稀有、稀少、少見、常見和大量。這些狀況是應用於某鳥種在適合的生境及時間去評估。

分類總覽提供香港2012年內的紀錄匯報，但不包含所有已收集及存檔的紀錄。除非有關紀錄與鳥種名稱底下用斜體字描述的典型模式不同，又或某鳥種非常獨特以致必須保存所有資料，否則不會作出個別紀錄。所有經過紀錄委員會評估及接納的紀錄會詳細列名細節包括提供資料人的姓名。

在容許的情況下，描述會分爲季節或冬季時段，並只提供最多數目的紀錄及最極端日子資料。最多數目的紀錄是指在該年內的最高紀錄。鳥種出現位置一般不會列明，若在罕有的棲息地或非正常時期錄得則例外。以下列出本地描述地方的習慣用詞及意思：

后海灣一帶 — 后海灣潮間帶及相連的淡水沼澤及魚塘，由尖鼻咀一直延伸至蠔殼圍，包括濕地公園、南生圍、錦田、米埔、新田及落馬洲；

塱原 — 塱原及河上鄉；

林村 — 林村谷；

新界西北 — 后海灣及塱原一帶、錦田谷及林村谷以北的山脈；

新界東北 — 粉嶺公路東北一帶，包括八仙嶺及船灣郊野公園及沙頭角海；

新界北 — 包括新界東北及西北；

新界中 — 大欖、大帽山及城門郊野公園，林村谷及大埔滘；

新界東南 — 獅子山、馬鞍山及清水灣郊野公園，飛鵝山及蠔涌谷；

新界東 — 西貢、西貢東及西貢西郊野公園。

報告提供自2001年大部分水鳥及其他鳥種的年度最高數目，展現牠們近年的數目。相關的數據顯示在該鳥種闡述後的表格中。

此報告亦提供個別鳥種的「每週出現圖表」資料。這些資料是根據「鳥類紅色圖表」(《香港鳥類名錄》第116頁)及每年於不同地點錄得每種鳥種的每週最高數目的總和，包括了《香港鳥類名錄》及1999至2012年度的數據。圖表反映該年某鳥種的出現頻率。大部分鳥種是自從《香港鳥類名錄》出版後每年出現的模式發生變化。

鳥種闡述中所使用簡稱如下：

CP	郊野公園	MPNR	米埔自然護理區
HK	香港	NT	新界
HKBR	香港鳥類報告	TPK	大埔滘
KFBG	嘉道理農場暨植物園	WC	水鳥統計
LMC	落馬洲支線濕地緩解區		

2012年分類總覽數據來源

2012年分類總覽大部分數據來自個人紀錄；但亦有相當部分的數據是從仍在進行中的長期監測中取得， 2012年主要的項目如下：

水鳥普查計劃

這項全年每月在后海灣、沙頭角海及船灣進行的普查是替漁農自然護理署進行的拉姆薩爾濕地水鳥監察計劃的其中一部分。這項計劃從1979年首次展開，現時的模式是由1998年開始沿用的。

后海灣2012年每月統計數據記述在分類總覽最後的表格中。其他相關的詳細統計資料則在主文裏以“WC”(水鳥統計)爲示顯示出來。

后海灣的水鳥統計是由一班調查員合作進行的。爲了全面了解后海灣的水鳥數目，水鳥普查除在香港進行，亦包括了深圳福田國家級自然保護區的水鳥數目。考慮到雀鳥在深港兩地間自由往來，后海灣的整體水鳥數字已包括了該數據。

水鳥統計數據可能包含實際計算當日前後一週的水鳥數目。2012年每月進行水鳥統計的日子爲：

	1月	2月	3月	4月	5月	6月	7月	8月	9月	10月	11月	12月
2012	15日	12日	11日	22日	20日	17日	22日	19日	16日	14日	11日	16日

每月水鳥普查亦包括了在春秋兩季定期進行的涉禽統計。

世界自然基金會清晨雀鳥統計

世界自然基金會香港分會成員在米埔自然護理區全年間每月兩次統計所有雀鳥種類。此項監察活動始於2005年。

塱原每週雀鳥普查

是項普查是塱原自然保育管理計劃的一部分，全年間每週統計塱原雀鳥種類及其數量。此項目始於2010年1月，由環境及自然保育基金資助。

環誌組

由香港觀鳥會鳥類環誌組及香港鳥類環誌協會提供數據。

燕鷗繁殖數據

2012年度香港燕鷗繁殖調查，由漁農自然護理署資助。

其他項目

其他資料來自香港觀鳥會舉辦的研究項目，主要來源有鷺鳥研究組及白腹海鵰研究組，這些研究組負責統計上述鳥種的繁殖活動，由漁農自然護理署及環境及自然保育基金資助。

個人紀錄

感謝各鳥友提交個人紀錄：

（鳴謝名單請參閱英文原文）

本報告亦有摘取香港觀鳥會網上紀錄：

（紀錄發表者的名單請參閱英文原文）

2012年的分類總覽由Geoff Welch整理。

分類總覽中所提及的參考資料《香港鳥類名錄》是源自Carey *et al.* (2001)。

CATEGORIES I-II

Chinese Francolin *Francolinus pintadeanus* 中華鷓鴣 I

Locally common resident in areas of grassland with scattered shrubs or rocks, usually in upland areas. Most records are of birds calling between mid-March and June; highest count 15 on 30 April 1994.

Recorded from 7 March to 25 August with most records being calling birds, peak count seven in south west Lantau on 7 June with four at Ping Che on 9 April and four in the hills surrounding Discovery Bay in June. Also recorded from Nim Wan, Fung Lok Wai, the hills around Kam Tin, Tit Hang, Ho Sheung Heung, Ping Yeung, west Tuen Mun, Siu Lam, Tai Mo Shan and Lamma Island. One heard calling at Cloudy Hill on 24 December.

The most comprehensive survey of the range of this species appears in the HK Breeding Bird Survey 1993-1996, *The Avifauna*, page 61 Map 088, although the range may have declined somewhat from that date due to succession of some areas of upland grassland to shrubland.

Japanese Quail *Coturnix japonica* 鵪鶉 I NT

Uncommon autumn passage migrant and scarce winter visitor to open country, often agricultural areas; extreme dates 26 September to 23 May, highest count 15 at Long Valley in winter 1994/95.

A much better year than 2011, which was a poor year.

First winter period: one in Long Valley from the beginning of the year up to 5 March.

Second winter period: recorded from 7 October to year end with most records from Long Valley, peak count four there on 3 November. Singles also at MPNR, Hoo Hok Wai, Robin's Nest, Lam Tsuen and Po Toi with two at She Shan on 1 November.

The pattern of occurrence of this species has changed since *The Avifauna* and most records now occur in autumn with relatively few in winter. This can be seen in the Weekly Occurrence Graph for Japanese Quail (Fig. 1):

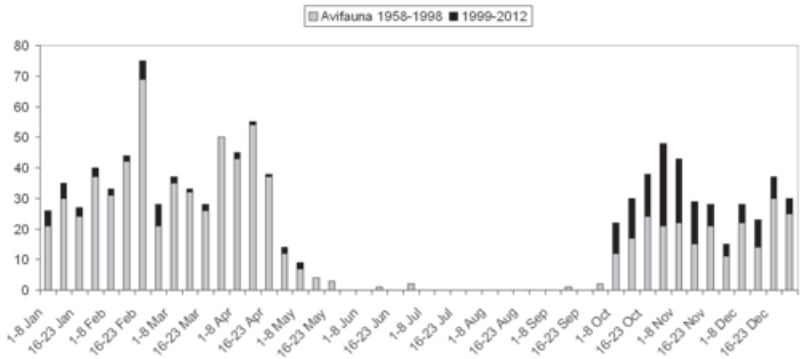


Figure 1. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Japanese Quail *Coturnix japonica* 鵪鶉

Greylag Goose *Anser anser* 灰雁 I

Four winter records between 6 November and 22 March, the last being in 1997.

One at MPNR on 20 and 21 July (JAA) showed no signs of being ex-captive, although the possibility cannot be excluded.

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* 翹鼻麻鴨 I

Previously a common winter visitor to Deep Bay intertidal areas, now much declined and scarce; extreme dates 22 October to 29 May, highest count 4,011 on 17 January 1988.

This species has declined dramatically since the year 2000, before which counts over 1,000 were annual.

First winter period: up to seven at MPNR from 26 January to 17 March.

Second winter period: no records.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
373	268	192	240	68	60	44	24	9	20	3	7

Plate 1 Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata* 鴛鴦
Tai Po Kau, 25th December 2012 大埔滘 2012年12月25日
Mike Luk 陸一朝

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata* 鴛鴦 I

Rare winter visitor.

A female at Long Valley from 2 to 6 November and the same or another female at Tai Po Kau on 24 and 25 December. Both these records were considered to be of natural origin although the possibility of them being ex-captive cannot be entirely excluded.

Gadwall *Anas strepera* 赤膀鴨 I

Uncommon winter visitor to Deep Bay wetland areas; extreme dates 18 October to 6 May, highest count 42 on 12 January 1986.

There were no records of this species for the first year since 2003.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
0	1	0	6	21	30	26	13	7	8	12	0

Falcated Duck *Anas falcata* 羅紋鴨 I NT

Much declined and now an uncommon winter visitor to Deep Bay wetland areas; extreme dates 26 September to 26 May, highest count 413 on 14 January 1984.

Another good year by recent standards with the highest peak count since 1998, although all records were in the first winter period.

First winter period: regularly recorded at MPNR up to 22 February with a peak count of 28 in the February WC.

Second winter period: no records.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
6	4	7	5	3	1	8	16	6	13	20	28

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* 赤頸鴨 I

Abundant winter visitor to Deep Bay wetland areas with two summer records; typically present September to April, highest count 6,705 on 14 January 2001.

Another low peak count by recent standards. All records from MPNR and Deep Bay area unless stated.

First winter period: high count 2,077 in the January WC, last record on 8 May. Five at Kam Tin on 7 March and three at Wetland Park on 25 March.

Second winter period: first record on 4 October, high count 907 in the December WC. One at Long Valley on 8 October and six at Kam Tin on 1 December.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
6,705	3,797	4,080	2,744	3,106	2,054	5,764	5,050	4,439	4,429	2,919	2,077

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* 綠頭鴨 I

Declined and now a scarce winter visitor to Deep Bay wetland areas; extreme dates 5 October to 22 May, highest count 70 on 7 November 1959.

Another poor year for this species which has only been recorded in single figures since 2001. All records from MPNR.

First winter period: singles in the January WC and on 4 February.

Second winter period: one on 6 November and two from 25 November to year end.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
15	2	2	2	2	6	2	2	3	2	1	2

Indian Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha* 印緬斑嘴鴨 I

Previously resident in small numbers, now a rare visitor to Deep Bay wetland areas mostly in summer; highest count 40 on 7 October 1997.

Three at MPNR on 7 August and one there on 25 August.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
3	1	16	6	4	0	2	0	5	0	0	3

Chinese Spot-billed Duck *Anas zonorhyncha* 中華斑嘴鴨 I

Previously a common winter visitor to Deep Bay wetland areas with regular breeding records at MPNR, now uncommon in winter and rare in summer; highest count 511 on 13 January 1991.

Numbers have stabilised over recent years although much declined since *The Avifauna*. All records from MPNR.

First winter period: recorded up to 20 February with a high count of ten on 14 February.

Summer: seven on 18 July.

Second winter period: four from 2 November increasing to a peak count of 18 on 6 December with at least two remaining to year end.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
59	41	44	23	9	16	31	25	25	18	10	18

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* 琵嘴鴨 I

Abundant winter visitor to the Deep Bay area; typically present October to April with some summer records, highest count 20,008 on 24 January 2010.

A lower peak count than recent years. All records from MPNR and Deep Bay area.

First winter period: a peak of 7,560 in the January WC, latest date 15 May. One at MPNR on 22 June may have over-summered.

Second winter period: recorded from 28 September, high count 3,174 in the November WC.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
6,414	2,576	4,271	3,086	9,703	2,870	8,930	14,253	11,271	20,008	9,674	7,560

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* 針尾鴨 I

Abundant winter visitor to the Deep Bay area; numbers have declined since The Avifauna *but are now relatively stable; typically present October to March, highest count 8,654 on 11 January 1997.*

A typical year. All records from MPNR and Deep Bay area.

First winter period: peak count 2,413 in the February WC, latest record on 8 April.

Second winter period: earliest record on 18 September, high count only 316 in the November WC.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
3,435	2,609	4,381	2,054	3,332	1,556	4,647	2,444	2,010	3,622	2,586	2,413

Plate 2 Garganey *Anas querquedula* 白眉鴨
Mai Po NR, 26th September 2012 米埔 2012年9月26日
Andy Li 李偉仁

Garganey *Anas querquedula* 白眉鴨 I

Common migrant, mainly in autumn, and ucommon winter visitor to Deep Bay wetland areas; typically present September to April, highest count 715 on 27 September 1986.

A typical year. All records from MPNR and Deep Bay area.

First winter period: highest count in winter 98 in the January WC, and in spring 64 at Wetland Park on 5 April. Last record on 8 May.

Second winter period: earliest record on 2 September, peak count 205 on 28 September.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
212	70	112	93	95	286	280	130	137	600	96	205

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca* 綠翅鴨 I

Abundant but declining winter visitor, primarily in the Deep Bay area, with occasional summer records; typically present September to April, highest count 5,411 on 24 January 1999.

Numbers continue to show a steady decline with the lowest peak count since 1983. Most records from MPNR and Deep Bay.

First winter period: peak count 830 in the January WC, last record on 5 April. Regularly recorded at Starling Inlet in Waterbird Counts with a high count of 13 in the March WC.

Second winter period: recorded from 28 September, high count 512 in the December WC. Also recorded from Long Valley, Ho Sheung Heung and Luk Keng with a high count of 36 at Ho Sheung Heung on 25 December.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
2,509	3,147	3,286	2,238	3,023	1,227	2,785	2,322	1,581	1,459	1,131	830

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* 赤嘴潛鴨 I

No previous Category I records.

A female at MPNR on 9 March (BK) is the first record for Hong Kong to be accepted as Category I.

Plate 3 Common Pochard *Aythya ferina* 紅頭潛鴨
Mai Po NR, 30th December 2012 米埔 2011年12月30日
Peter and Michelle Wong 黃理沛 江敏兒

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina* 紅頭潛鴨 I

Scarce winter visitor to Deep Bay wetland areas; extreme dates 22 October to 20 June, highest count 14 on 11 January 1997.

A female at MPNR on 7 December with eight, two males and six females, at Nam Sang Wai the following day. Up to six were regularly seen between Nam Sang Wai and MPNR to year end.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1	2	1	1	5	3	9	2	2	4	1	8

Plate 4 Baer's Pochard *Aythya baeri* 青頭潛鴨
Mai Po NR, 7th February 2012 米埔 2012年2月7日
Allen Chan 陳志雄

Baer's Pochard *Aythya baeri* 青頭潛鴨 I CR

Rare and declining winter visitor to Deep Bay wetland areas; extreme dates 22 October to 25 April, highest count 30 on 10 January 1987.

This species was reclassified as Critically Endangered by IUCN in 2012 following severe recent declines; the global wild population is considered to be less than 1,000 and may be as low as 100 individuals (Hearn *et al*. 2013).

A female or first winter at MPNR from 5 February (TC) to 11 March. A female at MPNR on 11 December (JAA) was joined by a first-winter male on 16 December (YYT) and both remained to year end.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
2	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* 白眼潛鴨 **I NT**

Rare winter visitor to Deep Bay wetland areas; extreme dates 3 December to 11 March, highest count 4 on 3 December 1998.

An adult male at LMC on 1 April (MRL), a new latest spring date. A first summer at MPNR on 15 July (KKoo), the first summer record. Neither individual showed any signs of being ex-captive, although the possibility cannot be excluded.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
0	0	0	2	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	1

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* 鳳頭潛鴨 **I**

Abundant winter visitor to the Deep Bay area; typically present November to April, highest count 6,742 on 15 February 2009.

Another good year. This species has shown a significant increase over the past seven years. All records from MPNR and Deep Bay.

First winter period: high counts 2,668 within MPNR on 5 January and 3,308 in the February WC. Last record on 26 March.

Second winter period: earliest record on 6 November, peak count 5,987 in the December WC, the second highest count on record.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
832	1,156	1,095	763	1,667	3,053	4,285	1,846	6,742	5,823	4,762	5,987

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila* 斑背潛鴨 **I**

Scarce winter visitor to the Deep Bay area; extreme dates 25 October to 16 April, highest count 83 on 17 February 2006.

Three at Tsim Bei Tsui on 21 January and two in the March WC. In the second winter period, one at Lut Chau on 13 November.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
6	0	6	3	2	83	0	1	40	4	1	3

Plate 5 Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* 紅胸秋沙鴨
Lut Chau, 17th December 2012 甩洲 2012年12月17日
Andy Li 李偉仁

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

Previously a regular winter visitor and spring migrant to the Deep Bay area, now rare there and mostly a scarce spring passage migrant through southern waters; extreme dates 16 November to 4 May, highest count 97 on 14 January 1990.

A female in the Lut Chau/MPNR area from 15 to 17 December, then at Wetland Park from 19 December to year end. This is the first Deep Bay record since 2005.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
0	3	0	0	1	2	1	0	11	3	5	1

Red-throated Loon *Gavia stellata* 紅喉潛鳥 I

Three early spring records; extreme dates 13 February to 14 March.

One migrating northeast through waters off Po Toi on 28 April (BK), a new latest spring date.

Streaked Shearwater *Calonectris leucomelas* 白額鰹 I

Scarce spring passage migrant with occasional high counts and autumn records, primarily in eastern and southern waters; extreme dates 4 March to 26 June and 21 August to 26 September, highest count 80 on 17 May 2006.

13 in waters off Po Toi on 7 April with 12 there the following day. One photographed from the Mai Po boardwalk on 9 April (TC) was a first record for Deep Bay.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
0	0	0	0	50	80	6	2	8	1	1	13

Short-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus tenuirostris* 短尾鰹 I

Uncommon spring passage migrant, primarily in southern waters; extreme dates 20 April to 26 May, highest count 15 on 14 May 2007.

Recorded migrating northeast through waters off Po Toi from 25 April to 3 June, a new latest date (BK), peak count nine on 28 April. This annual spring migration was first discovered in 2006.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
0	0	0	1	0	14	15	15	8	13	1	9

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Short-tailed Shearwater since the first record in 2004 is given as Figure 2:

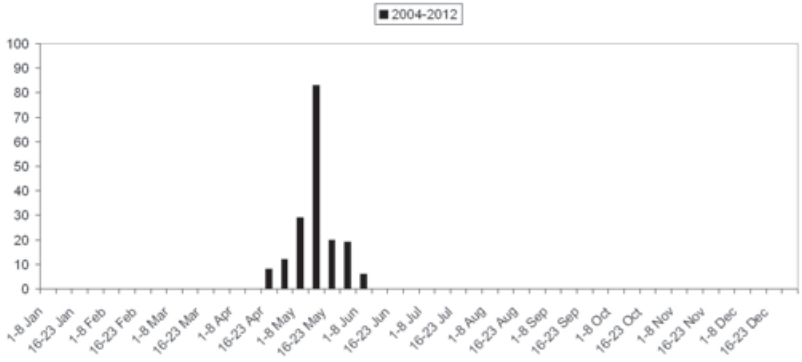


Figure 2. Weekly Occurrence Graph – Short-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus tenuirostris* 短尾鰹

Storm Petrel sp. *Oceanodroma* sp. 叉尾海燕屬

One photographed in waters off Po Toi on 30 May (GW) was accepted as a dark-rumped Storm Petrel sp., probably Swinhoe's Storm Petrel *Oceanodroma monorhis*, although other possibilities could not be excluded.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* 小鸊鷉 I

Common all year with higher numbers in winter, on ponds and pools primarily in Deep Bay wetland areas; highest count 352 on 12 January 1986.

Recorded throughout the year in the Deep Bay WC with a peak count of 223 in the November WC. Regular records at MPNR, where the high count was 58 on 22 February, and at Nim Wan, where the high count was 59 on 24 September. Breeding occurred in both places. Elsewhere occasional records at Kam Tin, Long Valley, Ho Sheung Heung, Starling Inlet, Ho Pui Reservoir, Lau Shui Heung, Hok Tau Reservoir and Shek Kong with a high count of 12 at Starling Inlet in the January WC.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
132	155	182	204	255	225	221	224	210	276	236	223

Plate 6 Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* 鳳頭鸊鷉
Mai Po NR, 13th April 2012 米埔 2012年4月13日
Allen Chan 陳志雄

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* 鳳頭鸊鷉 I

Common winter visitor to Deep Bay intertidal areas; extreme dates 1 September to 12 May with one over-summering record, highest count 790 on 17 December 2006.

First winter period: high count 124 in the February WC, last record on 28 April. Also recorded at Nim Wan, high count seven on 15 February.

Second winter period: first record on 11 November, peak count 515 in December WC.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
66	163	104	213	291	790	375	331	357	215	420	515

Plate 7 Oriental Stork *Ciconia boyciana* 東方白鸛
Mai Po NR, 1st November 2012 米埔 2012年11月1日
Andy Li 李偉仁

Oriental Stork *Ciconia boyciana* 東方白鸛 I

Rare winter visitor to Deep Bay wetland areas; extreme dates 27 October to 13 April, highest count 121 on 13 January 1991.

An adult at MPNR from 12 July (TH, JAA) to year end, the first record since 2004 and the first to occur in summer.

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* 白琵鷺 I

Uncommon winter visitor to Deep Bay wetland areas; extreme dates 16 October to 18 May, highest count 30 on 14 March 1976.

A poor year with a low peak count and few records. All records from the Deep Bay area.

First winter period: recorded in the January to March WC with peak count three in March. One at MPNR from 1 to 10 February.

Second winter period: earliest date 2 November, peak count three in the December WC.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
4	4	4	4	2	5	7	3	4	7	6	3

Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor* 黑臉琵鷺 I EN

Common winter visitor to Deep Bay wetland areas with regular summer records; higher numbers typically present October to May, highest count 496 on 24 January 2010.

Approximately 15% of the worldwide population of this Endangered species winters in Deep Bay. Numbers in Deep Bay have shown a progressive increase since 1999 and have now stabilised at around 450. All records from the Deep Bay area unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: peak count 446 in the February WC.

Summer: five present in July with two in August.

Second winter period: high count 323 in the November WC. Ten at Long Valley on 10 December.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
197	234	266	305	340	475	358	421	405	496	488	446

Eurasian Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* 大麻鳽 I

Uncommon winter visitor and spring migrant to larger reedmarshes in the Deep Bay area; extreme dates 12 September to 16 May, highest count 31 on 19 March 2010.

High peak counts over the last four years have come from evening counts of migrating individuals at MPNR and may not indicate an actual increase in numbers. All records from MPNR unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: peak count 30 on 17 March, last record at Nam Sang Wai on 8 April.

Second winter period: earliest record of two on 22 October, high count eight on 6 December.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
8	4	1	5	1	2	4	2	11	31	21	30

Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis* 黃葦鳽 I

Common passage migrant to wetland areas, with occasional high counts in late spring; greatly declined summer visitor to Deep Bay reedmarsh and mangrove, with scarce winter records; highest count 50 on 21 May 2008.

First winter period: singles in the Deep Bay area from 8 January to 26 March. A poor spring passage with a peak count of 14 in the May WC, five at Fung Lok Wai on 24 April and five on Po Toi on 29 May. Elsewhere recorded in ones or twos at Long Valley, Nam Chung and Tsing Yi Park.

Breeding season: recorded throughout the breeding season at MPNR with a high count of 13 in the August WC. One was recorded in Long Valley throughout this period.

Second winter period: a peak count of 14 in the September WC with 11 at MPNR on 12 September. Other autumn records were mostly singles and twos from Nim Wan, San Tin, Long Valley and Po Toi. One remained at MPNR until 17 December.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
7	5	6	25	2	12	21	50	7	10	17	14

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Yellow Bittern (Figure 3) shows the decline in summer records since *The Avifauna*. Most records are now of passage migrants in spring and autumn.

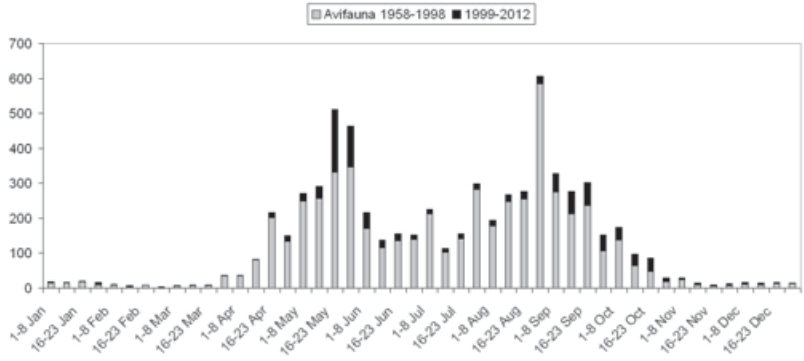


Figure 3. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis* 黃葦鳽

Von Schrenck's Bittern *Ixobrychus eurhythmus* 紫背葦鳽 I

Scarce passage migrant to wetland areas; extreme dates 27 April to 11 June and 29 August to 21 October, highest count 29 on 21 May 2008.

Spring: most records on Po Toi from 5 to 29 May with a peak of three on 12 May. A female at Tsing Yi Park from 27 May to 4 June.

Autumn: singles recorded on Po Toi on 16 September, at MPNR from 16 to 19 September and in the October WC. A juvenile was photographed at Long Valley on 19 November (YWH), a new latest date.

Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus* 栗葦鳽 I

Uncommon passage migrant and rare summer visitor with occasional winter records, to freshwater wetland areas; highest count ten on 19 May 1971.

First winter period: singles recorded from the Mai Po Access Road on 20 April, on Po Toi on 11 and 12 May and at Luk Keng on 3 June.

Summer: a single female recorded at MPNR from 21 June to 28 August.

Second winter period: two at Long Valley on 3 September, thereafter singles at MPNR, LMC and Long Valley up to 14 October. One in the December WC.

Black Bittern *Dupetor flavicollis* 黑鳽 I

Scarce passage migrant to freshwater wetland areas; extreme dates 9 March to 21 June and 24 July to 30 October, highest count 16 on 25 April 2009.

Spring: only two spring records. One taken into care at KFBG from Wanchai on 2 May and subsequently released at MPNR and one migrating over the sea off Po Toi on 4 May.

Autumn: singles at MPNR on 6 and 27 September.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* 夜鷺 I

Common resident and migrant mainly in Deep Bay wetlands and at scattered breeding colonies, mostly around Starling Inlet and Tolo Harbour; highest count 2,500 on 21 January 1996, peak count since The Avifauna *727 on 11 February 2001.*

Recorded from widespread sites and in all months with migrants, breeding and non-breeding birds.

First winter period: high count 50 in the March WC. Away from Deep Bay, regularly recorded at Ho Sheung Heung and Aberdeen Harbour with migrants on Po Toi from 21 March to 30 May.

Breeding season: total number of nests recorded by the Egret Survey was 106, an increase of 53% over 2011 partially reversing the ten-year decline for this species. Increases occurred in most colonies except A Chau, which used to be the main breeding location but is now the smallest. Non-breeding birds were present in Deep Bay in summer with the peak count being 246 in the June WC. Elsewhere, 18 in Aberdeen Harbour on 19 July.

Second winter period: high count 117 at MPNR on 11 September with numbers falling thereafter. 23 going to roost at Ocean Park on 15 November, 43 at Kowloon Park on 18 November and migrants on Po Toi from 3 October to 14 November with 15 there on 25 October.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
727	97	141	79	70	285	385	361	200	136	189	246

Striated Heron *Butorides striatus* 綠鷺 I

Locally common summer visitor to the Deep Bay area but more widespread on migration and in winter at scattered coastal and inland sites; highest count 26 on 15 August 2004.

A noticeable reduction in both numbers and reported locations for the last three years.

First winter period: recorded from 6 February, mostly at MPNR with a high count of four on 6 May, singles at KFBG, west Tuen Mun, Shing Mun, Victoria Harbour and migants on Po Toi and over southern waters from 7 April.

Breeding season: regularly recorded at MPNR with a peak count of eight. One in Sai Kung West CP on 1 July.

Second winter period: four at MPNR on 12 September, thereafter mostly singles to 3 November at Kam Tin, Lau Shui Heung, Sham Chung, Tai Po Kau, Aberdeen and on Po Toi. In December, singles at Tai Po Kau and Sai Kung East CP.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
5	15	18	26	22	11	25	11	14	7	7	8

Plate 8 Striated Heron *Butorides striatus* 綠鷺
KFBG, 1st March 2012 嘉道理農場暨植物 2012年3月1日
Sam Chan 陳巨輝

Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus* 池鷺 I

Common in wetlands and damp areas, with winter, migrant and breeding populations occurring; highest count 684 on 14 January 1990.

First winter period: high count 137 in the January WC with 55 at LMC on 19 January, 34 in Long Valley on 6 February and 34 migrating over southern waters on 21 April.

Breeding season: 263 nests were recorded by the Egret Survey, a typical number. High count 230 in the July WC with regular reports of up to 20 from Long Valley.

Second winter period: 27 migrating southwest over Po Toi on 19 September. Peak count 419 in the October WC is the highest since 2000, thereafter lower numbers at widespread locations until year end.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
299	341	307	342	324	253	259	260	242	252	267	419

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus* 牛背鷺 I

Common in widespread freshwater wetlands and short grassland areas, with winter, migrant and breeding populations; highest count 1,000 on 29 August 1977.

First winter period: winter records mostly from Long Valley, high count 47 on 14 March. Spring migration records from mid-March to late May with high counts of 48 at Pui O on 19 April and 35 at Shing Mun on 23 April.

Breeding season: 27 nests recorded by the Egret Survey was the lowest since 2000. 550 at MPNR on 24 July in the wake of Typhoon Vicente was the peak year count and the highest count since 2003.

Second winter period: mostly recorded from Long Valley with a high count of 66 migrants flying south east on 29 September with 56 in Deep Bay in the November WC.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
159	206	600	344	300	225	119	148	149	202	220	550

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* 蒼鷺 I

Common in wetlands and some coastal areas, mainly in the Deep Bay area, present all year with highest numbers in winter and very low numbers in summer; highest count 1,962 on 1 February 1996.

Peak counts have shown a gradual decline since the 1990s.

First winter period: high count 771 in the January WC. The highest count outside the Deep Bay area was 13 at Tai O on 7 February.

Summer: high summer count 13 at MPNR on 31 July.

Second winter period: numbers started to return to Deep Bay at the end of August, peak count of 845 in the November WC. Elsewhere, widespread reports of small numbers with high counts 12 at Tai O on 28 October and 16 at Ma Wan on 30 October, probably migrants.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1,086	1,297	1,146	1,158	1,202	1,036	862	930	1,085	818	940	845

Plate 9 Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* 草鷺
Mai Po NR, 3rd October 2012 米埔 2011年10月3日
Andy Li 李偉仁

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* 草鷺 I

Uncommon and present all year in the Deep Bay area with peak numbers during migration, highest count 50 on 11 October 1974.

All records except one from the Deep Bay area, mostly at MPNR.

First winter period: high count six at MPNR on 2 January and in the March WC. One at Ho Sheung Heung on 13 February.

Summer: recorded at MPNR throughout the summer with a high count of three.

Second winter period: numbers started to return to Deep Bay in August, peak count nine at MPNR on 7 October.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
6	5	9	4	12	6	8	10	11	6	11	9

Great Egret *Ardea alba* 大白鷺 I

Abundant, present all year in wetlands, mainly in the Deep Bay area although breeding populations are found only around Starling Inlet and Tolo Harbour; migrants and winter visitors occur; highest count 2,058 on 14 November 2004.

First winter period: high counts 620 in the January WC and 254 at Starling Inlet in the March WC. Elsewhere 170 at Tai Po Kau Headland on 9 February was a rare winter high count away from Deep Bay. Small numbers at other locations, with 12 at Sok Kwu Wan on 1 April the next highest count.

Breeding season: 141 nests counted by the Egret Survey is the highest since 2000. 1,146 in the July WC was the peak count of individuals for the year and presumably involved non-breeding individuals.

Second winter period: high count for the period was 921 in the September WC. Autumn migrant flocks included 40 at Chek Keng on 2 September and 46 over Po Toi on 13 September.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
931	1,239	1,429	2,058	1,565	1,087	890	1,167	978	804	1,169	1,146

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia* 中白鷺 I

Uncommon, present all year, though rather few in summer, mainly in freshwater wetlands in the Deep Bay area; highest count 77 on 22 September 2010.

Numbers appear to have increased in recent years. All records from the Deep Bay area, mostly at MPNR, unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: 27 at MPNR on 13 March was the highest count. Away from Deep Bay, two at Starling Inlet in the February WC and singles at Ho Sheung Heung on 1 February and 9 May, at Pui O on 19 April and on Po Toi on 25 April.

Summer: at least four over-summered at MPNR with nine there on 22 June. One taken into care at KFBG from Tai Po on 20 June.

Second winter period: 56 in the September WC was the peak count. Elsewhere recorded in singles or twos at Long Valley, Starling Inlet, Pak Sha O and Pui O.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
18	18	15	54	33	28	43	66	50	77	52	56

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* 小白鷺 I

Abundant, present all year in wetland areas throughout HK, mostly in the Deep Bay area; migrants and winter visitors occur; highest count 3,212 on 12 December 2004.

First winter period: high count 921 in the February WC with 57 at Long Valley on 30 January and 62 at Sok Kwu Wan on 1 April.

Breeding season: 315 nests counted by the Egret Survey, slightly below 2011 but still a high count. Recorded throughout the summer at MPNR, Nim Wan and Long Valley, peak count 1,235 in the July WC. Dark morph at Lau Fau Shan on 27 July.

Second winter period: high count 921 in the September WC. Away from Deep Bay, recorded in Long Valley and at Lam Tsuen, Chek Keng, Lantau, Lamma and Po Toi, high count 81 at Sok Kwu Wan on 15 September.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1,726	1,653	2,151	3,212	2,345	2,004	1,969	1,675	2,076	1,197	1,661	1,235

Pacific Reef Heron *Egretta sacra* 岩鷺 I

Locally common resident in rocky coastal areas; highest count 18 on 21 January 2003.

Recorded throughout the year from Lamma, Lantau and Po Toi and from the coastline and islands in eastern waters during breeding tern counts in summer, peak count four on Po Toi. Also occasional records from Aberdeen and Stanley.

Swinhoe's Egret *Egretta eulophotes* 黃嘴白鷺 I VU

Scarce spring passage migrant with one recent autumn record, mostly to the Deep Bay area; extreme dates 5 March to 22 October, highest count 11 on 16 April 1960. Formerly bred.

A typical year. Recorded from 5 April to 11 June, all records from MPNR except one at Aberdeen Harbour on 6 May, peak count three on 28 April.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
3	3	2	5	2	3	2	2	3	2	1	3

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Swinhoe's Egret (Figure 4) for the period 1983 to 2012 suggests that the frequency and pattern of ocurrence of this species has not changed substantially since 1982 when the last breeding record occurred in Hong Kong. Prior to that, many of the records were in summer.

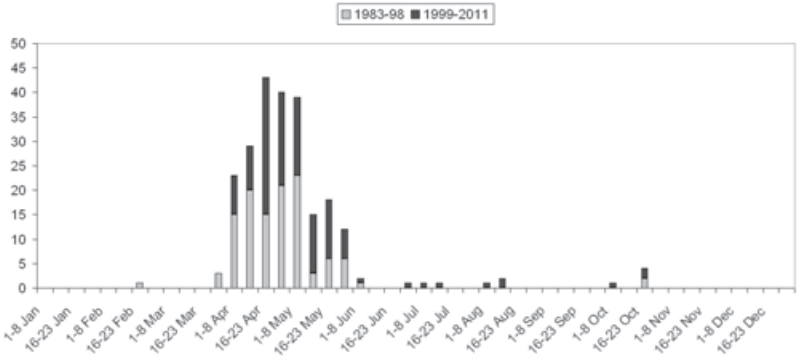


Figure 4. Weekly Occurrence Graph 1983-2012 – Swinhoe's Egret *Egretta eulophotes* 黃嘴白鷺

Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus* 卷羽鵜鵝 I VU

Rare winter visitor to Deep Bay; highest count 85 on 21 February 1960; numbers have since declined considerably and now no longer present annually. The East Asia population was estimated at only 30 individuals by Yu and Chen (2008), although recent higher counts have been reported in East China (Robson 2013).

No records in 2012 for the second successive year.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
16	16	14	14	15	2	0	1	1	1	0	0

Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel* 白斑軍艦鳥 I

Scarce spring visitor with other isolated records and some long-staying individuals; most records are of immatures and occur in the first half of the year.

A juvenile at MPNR on 17 January showed markings similar to the individual seen at The Peak in August 2011. The same or another juvenile was at LMC on 1 February. A juvenile on Po Toi from 7 to 9 April, near Cheung Chau on 17 April and in Southern Waters on 29 April, all possibly refer to the same individual.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* 普通鸕鷀 I

Abundant winter visitor to ponds and inshore waters, mainly in the Deep Bay area; typically present from end September to April but with rare summer records, highest count 11,424 on 5 February 2005.

First winter period: peak count 9,636 in the February WC, latest date 20 May.

Second winter period: earliest date 16 September, high count 8,178 in the December WC.

Away from Deep Bay, recorded at Ho Sheung Heung, Starling Inlet, Nam Chung, Tai Mei Tuk, Ho Pui Reservoir and Lam Tsuen.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
7,142	6,534	7,959	8,964	11,424	10,347	10,081	11,144	8,736	10,758	10,023	9,636

Japanese Cormorant *Phalacrocorax capillatus* 綠背鸕鷀 I

Three records; extreme dates 4 January to 22 April.

One offshore from Long Ke, Sai Kung East CP, on 5 February (GC). This is the fourth HK record since the first in 2005, suggesting the species may be a rare but regular winter/spring visitor.

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* 鶚 I

Common winter visitor to wetland areas, mostly Deep Bay, typically present October to April, with a few individuals over-summering; highest count 26 on 18 November 2005.

Recorded in all months, mainly from Deep Bay, with most records and all high counts in the winter months January to March and November to December.

First winter period: peak count 17 in the February WC. One at Starling Inlet in the January to March WC.

Summer: singles at MPNR from June to August.

Second winter period: peak count 12 in the November WC. Away from Deep Bay, singles at Starling Inlet in the October to December WC, Tai Po Kau on 23 November, Shap Long, Lantau on 9 December and Sai Kung on 12 December.

Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes* 黑冠鵑隼 **I**

Scarce migrant and summer visitor to shrubland and open woodland; extreme dates 11 April to 31 October with one February record, highest count 50 on 17 August 1997.

Three at Chau Tau on 19 August was the only record.

Crested Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus* 鳳頭蜂鷹 **I**

Uncommon autumn passage migrant and scarce winter visitor and spring migrant; extreme dates 29 August to 20 April, highest count six on 25 October 1996.

Winter records again from Lam Tsuen and Tai Po Kau, but very few migrant records in autumn.

First winter period: an adult in the Lam Tsuen Valley up to 5 February (EMSK,CNM) and a juvenile at Tai Po Kau on 25 March (KPK). These follow similar winter records in 2010 and 2011.

Second winter period: singles at MPNR from 11 to 15 October and at Tai Po Kau on 14 October with three photographed flying south together over Long Valley on 4 November. A dark phase adult in the Lam Tsuen Valley on 25 December (EMSK) suggests a bird over-wintering there for the fourth successive winter.

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* 黑翅鳶 **I**

Uncommon visitor to open country throughout the year.

Singles on Po Toi on 22 April and at Hoo Hok Wai on 30 August. One at MPNR from 20 October to 23 November and one at Long Valley on 9 December.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* 黑鳶 **I**

Abundant, present all year and widespread, with increased numbers in winter between October and March; highest roost count 1,150 on 30 December 1959.

Most high counts related to birds passing over Aberdeen Harbour going to roost in Magazine Gap, peak count 264 on 7 January with 41 on 19 July. Other high counts were 71 in the February WC, 70 over Tung Ping Chau on 20 October and 70 in the December WC.

White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* 白腹海鵰 I

Locally common resident in coastal areas, mainly in the eastern NT and Islands; highest count six on 14 June 2003.

Recorded in most months from widespread coastal locations including Deep Bay, Sai Kung, Siu Lam, Hong Kong Island, Lamma, Lantau and Po Toi, but also Lai Chi Kok, Tai Po Kau Headland and Wonderland Villas. Peak count of two at Sok Kwu Wan on 25 November. The WBSE Research Group reported 2011/12 as another successful breeding year with 14 active nests, including two new locations.

Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela* 蛇鵰 I

Locally common, present all year and probably largely resident, in woodland; highest count ten on 24 March 2008.

Recorded in every month of the year and from widespread locations in north, central, east and southeast NT and at Pui O, Lantau, peak count seven at Tin Liu Ha on 17 March.

Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus* 白腹鷐 I

Common winter visitor to Deep Bay wetland areas; typically present from October to April,

Another low peak count of four following three in 2011. All records from MPNR.

First winter period: recorded to 14 April, peak count four on 21 January.

Second winter period: recorded from 19 September; high count two on several dates.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
6	5	6	5	3	8	8	7	7	8	3	4

Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucos* 鵲鷐 I

Uncommon autumn passage migrant, rare in winter and spring, to Deep Bay wetland areas; extreme dates 15 September to 23 April, highest count four on 28 September 2011 .

A more typical year following a record year in 2011.

First winter period: one in the MPNR/LMC area to 3 April.

Second winter period: one recorded in the MPNR area from 1 to 26 October. One at Long Valley on 6 November and 23 December.

Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus* 鳳頭鷹 I

Common resident in woodland throughout HK; peak count five on 4 February 1989.

Recorded in all months and from widespread locations, peak count two. A total of 13 taken into care at KFBG during the year.

Chinese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter soloensis* 赤腹鷹 I

Common passage migrant, sometimes in large flocks in spring; extreme dates 3 April to 6 June and 8 September to 19 November, highest count 1,440 on 15 April 2010.

A very poor year with a peak count of only two, the lowest since 2002.

Spring: singles recorded from 7 to 26 April at Po Toi, MPNR and Chai Wan, with two on Po Toi on 12 May.

Autumn: singles on Po Toi on 9 September and 4 October were the only records.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
5	0	665	34	3	780	126	9	53	1440	4	2

Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis* 日本松雀鷹 I

Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in autumn, and rare winter visitor, to open country and wooded areas; extreme dates 16 September to 5 May, highest count five on 27 October 2006.

First winter period: recorded in singles from 6 April to 17 April at MPNR, Lantau and Po Toi, with two at Discovery Bay on 21 April.

Second winter period: recorded in singles from 3 October to 14 December at MPNR, LMC, Long Valley, She Shan, Tai Po Kau, Pui O and Po Toi.

Besra *Accipiter virgatus* 松雀鷹 I

Common resident and migrant in shrubland and wooded areas; highest count four on 5 January 2003.

Recorded in every month and from widespread locations, mostly in the Deep Bay and Long Valley areas but also northeast and central NT, Lamma and Po Tois, peak count four at MPNR on 14 August.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* 雀鷹 I

Scarce late autumn passage migrant with some winter and spring records, to lowland areas of NT, mainly Deep Bay; extreme dates 27 September to 25 April, highest count three on 18 October 2011.

A more typical year following a record year in 2011.

One at Long Valley on 17 February. In the second winter period, singles at Ma Liu Shui on 4 October, MPNR on 12 October, Long Valley on 9 November and Shek Kong on 9 December.

Grey-faced Buzzard *Butastur indicus* 灰臉鵟鷹 I

Uncommon spring passage migrant, occasionally in large numbers, with a few autumn records; extreme dates 13 March to 5 May and 29 September to 10 November, highest count 147 on 22 March 1993.

A poor year.

Spring: recorded from 29 March to 26 April, all singles on Po Toi except four there on 7 April and two at MPNR on 8 April.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
100	0	2	31	30	1	28	98	16	34	10	4

Eastern Buzzard *Buteo japonicus* 普通鵟 I

Common winter visitor to open country and lightly wooded areas, extreme dates 4 October to 10 May; highest count 16 on 11 November 2007.

Widespread records from all parts of mainland Hong Kong plus islands including HK Island.

First winter period: recorded up to 23 April, peak count ten in the February WC.

Second winter period: recorded from 13 October; high count five in the November WC.

Greater Spotted Eagle *Clanga clanga* 烏鵰 I VU

Locally common winter visitor, largely confined to the Deep Bay area; extreme dates 9 October to 13 April, highest count six on 14 November 1990.

All records from Deep Bay unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: recorded up to 28 March, peak count seven in the February WC, a new highest count. Two at Long Valley on 15 February.

Second winter period: recorded from 19 October with high count two at MPNR on several dates.

Eastern Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca* 白肩鵰 I VU

Locally common winter visitor, largely confined to the Deep Bay area; extreme dates 18 September to 17 April, highest count 21 on 27 February 1993.

All records from MPNR and LMC except where stated.

First winter period: recorded up to 26 March; peak count eight in the February WC, the highest count since *The Avifauna*. One at Wonderland Villas on 19 February is a rare record away from Deep Bay.

Second winter period: recorded from 5 November; high count four in the December WC.

Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciatus* 白腹隼鵰 I

Uncommon and locally distributed resident in open country and upland areas of NT and Lantau; highest count three on 9 November 2004.

Sightings of one or two in most months at widespread locations in the north, central and east NT and on Lantau Island.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* 紅隼 I

Common autumn migrant and winter visitor, mainly from October to March, to open country; extreme dates 5 September to 22 May with one summer record, highest count ten on 6 November 1968.

Recorded from widespread areas, mainly in the peak migration period of late September to mid-November, but in low numbers.

First winter period: mostly singles recorded up to 10 April, peak count three at Crest Hill on 1 February.

Second winter period: mostly singles recorded from 24 September, peak count three at Ping Yeung on 16 November.

Plate 10 Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* 紅隼
Long Valley, 24th December 2012 塱原 2012年12月24日
Lee Yat Ming 李逸明

Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis* 阿穆爾隼 **I**

Uncommon autumn passage migrant with one spring record, extreme dates 19 to 20 May and 3 October to 15 November; highest count 11 on 22 October 2007.

2011: a flock of 14 over LMC on 23 October (MH) and also later that day at MPNR is a new highest count. 2011 was an exceptional year for this species.

2012: singles and twos from 3 October to 21 November at Tsim Bei Tsui, MPNR, San Tin, Crest Hill, Long Valley, Lam Tsuen, Tai Po Kau, Sok Kwu Wan and Po Toi. Two at MPNR on 3 October equals the previous earliest date and two at Crest Hill on 21 November (GJC) is a new latest date.

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo* 燕隼 **I**

Uncommon autumn passage migrant, scarce in spring and summer, to open country areas; extreme dates 23 March to 5 November; highest count six on 26 April 1980.

Spring and Summer: two at Lam Tsuen on 22 April, and singles at Mai Po on 26 April and 1 May. No summer records.

Autumn: singles recorded from 31 August to 28 October at MPNR, Palm Springs, San Tin, Hoo Hok Wai, Long Valley, Robin's Nest, Lam Tsuen, Tai Po Kau, Sai Kung West CP and on Po Toi with two at Lam Tsuen on 30 September and at Ping Che on 14 October.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* 遊隼 **I**

Locally common resident subspecies peregrinator *with migrant northerly taxa in winter; highest count three.*

Recorded in all months except May with peak count two. Most records in winter, many from Deep Bay but also from widespread locations in north, central and east NT and islands including HK Island. A pair recorded throughout the year from Connaught Road, Central, and other summer records from MPNR, Tai Mo Shan and Kowloon Peak.

Slaty-legged Crake *Rallina eurizonoides* 灰腳秧雞 **I**

Locally common breeding season visitor, mostly heard calling, migrant and scarce winter visitor; extreme dates for calling birds 20 March to 14 July, highest count 17 calling at Brides Pool Road on 17 April 2001.

One at Chai Wan from 1 to 4 March. All other spring records of calling birds from 15 to 29 April at Plover Cove, Sha Lo Tung, Tai Po and Chi Ma Wan, peak count two at Tai Po Kau Headland on 21 April. One in Cherry Street Park, Yau Ma Tei on 16 November.

Plate 11 Slaty-breasted Rail *Gallirallus striatus* 灰胸秧雞
Long Valley, 23rd October 2012 塱原 2012年10月23日
Lee Yat Ming 李逸明

Slaty-breasted Rail *Gallirallus striatus* 灰胸秧雞 I

Scarce resident and passage migrant to wetland areas; highest count 15 on 1 June 1969.

Up to two recorded at Long Valley in January, April, June, October and November with singles at MPNR in January to March and September to October. Other records of singles from Lau Fau Shan on 12 January and Pui O on 9 and 27 December.

Eastern Water Rail *Rallus indicus* 普通秧雞 I

Scarce winter visitor and migrant to wetland areas; extreme dates 3 October to 4 May.

First winter period: one trapped at MPNR on 2 January. One in Long Valley up to 16 April.

Second winter period: one at Long Valley from 3 to 22 November and one at MPNR from 13 to 26 November.

Plate 12 Eastern Water Rail *Rallus indicus* 普通秧雞
Long Valley, 13th November 2012 塱原 2012年11月13日
Thomas Chan 陳土飛

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus* 白胸苦惡鳥 I

Common resident in low-lying, damp areas throughout Hong Kong, probably also with some migrants; highest count 75 on 12 January 1985.

Recorded in all months, mostly from MPNR and Long Valley, peak count 74 in the October WC, the highest since *The Avifauna*, high counts 23 at Long Valley on 4 June and 27 at MPNR on 11 September. Also reported from Nim Wan, Yuen Long, Kam Tin, San Tin, Starling Inlet, Sai Kung, Pui O and the Ham Tin River, Lantau. One wintering on Po Toi from 20 November.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
41	36	49	48	54	45	54	64	47	55	62	74

Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla* 小田雞 I

Scarce passage migrant to marshland; extreme dates 15 April to 3 June and 15 September to 7 November.

A juvenile photographed at Long Valley on 15 November (CYT) is a new latest date in autumn.

Ruddy-breasted Crake *Porzana fusca* 紅胸田雞 I

Uncommon migrant and winter visitor to freshwater wetlands; extreme dates 9 August to 5 May, highest count three on 16 December 2003.

A good year.

First winter period: recorded at MPNR up to 19 April, mostly calling birds, peak count five on 8 January (DJS), a new highest count. One in Long Valley up to 16 April.

Second winter period: one at Long Valley from 3 to 22 November and singles at MPNR from 13 to 26 November.

Watercock *Gallicrex cinerea* 董雞 I

Scarce passage migrant to freshwater wetlands; extreme dates 31 March to 18 June and 20 July to 18 November.

No spring records. In autumn, singles at Long Valley on 18 October and Lam Tsuen on 22 October. One taken into care at KFBG from Kowloon Tong on 15 November and one found dead at Chek Lap Kok on 22 November.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* 黑水雞 I

Common winter visitor, breeding species and migrant in lowland freshwater pools and lakes; highest count 265 on 18 December 2005.

Recorded in all months with most records from MPNR, Long Valley, Nim Wan and Starling Inlet but also Yuen Long, Wetland Park, Kam Tin, Nam Chung and Ma Wan. Peak count 176 in the March WC with 89 at MPNR on 13 January, 19 in Long Valley on 6 January and 25 at Starling Inlet in the December WC.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
97	156	149	137	265	235	219	188	142	154	166	176

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra* 骨頂雞 I

Uncommon winter visitor to the Deep Bay area, although previously commoner; highest count 3,245 on 12 January 1992.

A very poor year with a peak count of only nine.

First winter period: recorded up to 11 March, peak count nine in the January WC, the lowest annual peak count since counts began in 1979. Individual records from LMC, high count five on 13 January, MPNR, high count six on 10 February and one at Kam Tin in January and February. One in the June WC is a rare summer record.

Second winter period: recorded from 2 November, peak count nine in the November WC. All individual records from MPNR, high count six on 18 December, except for one at Kam Tin on 1 December and one taken into care at KFBG from Causeway Bay on 12 December, later released at MPNR.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
534	179	42	260	317	378	620	728	325	354	125	9

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

Scarce autumn passage migrant and rare winter visitor to open country areas; extreme dates 20 September to 10 April.

One found dead at Wonderland Villas on 12 October. One at Long Valley on 21 October and one taken into care at KFBG from North Point on 15 October.

Barred Button-quail *Turnix suscitator* 棕三趾鶉 I

Rare autumn migrant and winter visitor to open country areas; extreme dates 22 September to 4 February.

One taken into care at KFBG from Pok Fu Lam on 22 September, later released at MPNR.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* 黑翅長腳鷸 I

Common winter visitor and migrant to wetland areas, often freshwater, with breeding records since 2003; highest count 870 on 7 March 2010.

Recorded in all months with most records from MPNR, Long Valley, Kam Tin and San Tin.

First winter period: peak count 720 in the February WC with 257 at MPNR on 10 April. Elsewhere, high counts of 122 at Kam Tin on 30 January and 38 at Long Valley on 14 March. 12 offshore from Ap Lei Chau on 17 April.

Breeding season: over 20 pairs bred at MPNR but breeding success was low.

Second winter period: high counts 620 in the December WC, 244 at MPNR on 9 September, 58 at Long Valley on 22 October, 55 at San Tin on 5 October and 59 at Kam Tin on 5 November.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
240	273	250	350	381	668	792	820	736	870	701	720

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* 反嘴鷸 I

Abundant winter visitor to the Deep Bay area, primarily intertidal areas, typically present October to April; has occasionally attempted to breed in recent years; highest count 16,123 on 13 January 2008.

Another good year with the second highest count on record. All records from the Deep Bay area and Long Valley.

First winter period: peak count 14,604 in the February WC, 134 at Hoo Hok Wai on 21 February, 92 at San Tin on 14 March, 889 at MPNR on 23 March and 37 at Wetland Park on 25 March. 141 at MPNR on 15 June is a very high June count, although no breeding was recorded. One remained until 31 July.

Second winter period: first record 11 at MPNR on 12 September, high counts 2,392 in the December WC. 48 at Starling Inlet on 7 December with 38 at Long Valley on the same date and 35 at San Tin on 12 December.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1,926	2,500	5,864	2,744	4,490	5,813	11,957	16,123	13,061	13,883	11,693	14,604

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* 鳳頭麥雞 I

Scarce winter visitor, often in flocks, to wetland in the Deep Bay area; extreme dates 6 September to 13 May, highest count 126 on 21 November 1992.

No records in the first winter period. In the second winter period, a flock of 17 at MPNR on 6 November and four from the Mai Po boardwalk on 2 December.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1	1	3	5	24	4	6	1	12	2	18	17

Grey–headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus* 灰頭麥雞 I

Locally common winter visitor and migrant to grassy or wetland areas, particularly at Kam Tin; extreme dates 11 July to 24 May, highest count 80 on 5 October 1960.

A good year for this species which appears to be slowly increasing in numbers, rather surprising considering the degradation of the grassland at its stronghold of Kam Tin.

First winter period: high count 11 at Kam Tin on 30 January with a last record there on 14 March. Three at Nam Sang Wai on 27 January and one at MPNR from 8 April to 29 May (JAA), a new latest date.

Second winter period: one at MPNR on 5 September was the first record. Then regular records, mostly at Kam Tin, with the peak count 27 there on 11 November. Two on Po Toi on 6 October, one at Long Valley on 14 and 18 October and four at San Tin on 21 November, the last record.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
10	9	14	19	22	23	23	26	24	28	31	27

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* 太平洋金斑鴴 I

Common migrant, mainly in spring, and winter visitor with some summer records, mainly to Deep Bay intertidal areas; extreme dates 2 August and 20 June, highest count 900 on 13 April 1992.

Another high peak count, maintaining the sequence over the past five years. All records from the Deep Bay area.

First winter period: peak count 775 in the February WC with 281 from the Mai Po boardwalk on 24 March, 278 there on 28 April and last record on 6 May.

Second winter period: recorded from 1 August (JAA), a new earliest autumn date, high count 460 in the September WC and 192 on 18 October.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
491	230	317	221	57	219	46	533	860	575	853	775

Plate 13 Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* 太平洋金斑鴴
Mai Po NR, 26th September 2012 米埔 2012年9月26日
Andy Li 李偉仁

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* 灰斑鴴 I

Abundant winter visitor and scarce migrant to Deep Bay intertidal areas with regular summer records and occasional records at other coastal sites; highest count 751 on 28 January 1994.

All records from the Deep Bay area unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: peak count 536 in the February WC. Two offshore from Po Toi on 3 June. At least three over-summered at MPNR.

Second winter period: high counts 309 from the Mai Po boardwalk on 7 December and 476 in the December WC.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
366	394	297	454	565	583	390	634	705	637	479	536

Plate 14 Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* 劍鴴
Mai Po NR, 14th March 2012 米埔 2012年3月14日
Yu Pak Wai 余柏維

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* 劍鴴 I

Rare winter visitor to Deep Bay; extreme dates 24 September to 14 April.

One from the Mai Po boardwalk on 29 January (CNM) with the same bird or possibly another there from 24 February (BK) to 14 March.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* 金眶鴴 I

Common and present all year in lowland areas near water, scarce breeder; highest count 356 on 13 January 1985.

Another low peak count following a similar one in 2011. Recorded in all months with most records from the Deep Bay, Kam Tin and Long Valley areas.

First winter period: peak count 123 in the January WC with 60 at Kam Tin on 7 January, 30 in Long Valley on 14 March and 32 at San Tin also on 14 March. Two at Shui Hau, Lantau on 16 March.

Breeding season: present in small numbers at Long Valley, MPNR and Nim Wan, 64 in the July WC and 68 at Pak Nai on 18 August were probably returning migrants.

Second winter period: high count 58 in the October WC with 43 at Kam Tin on 1 December. One at Sok Kwu Wan on 15 September and five at Pui O on 27 December.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
104	243	191	162	217	221	230	203	315	200	114	123

Plate 15 Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* 環頸鴴
Mai Po NR, 13th December 2012 米埔 2012年12月13日
John and Jemi Holmes 孔思義及黃亞萍

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* 環頸鴴 I

Abundant winter visitor and scarce migrant with some summer records, to Deep Bay intertidal areas; highest count 4,303 on 24 January 2010.

All records from the Deep Bay area unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: peak count 2,640 in the January WC. Last record on 15 May. Eleven at Shui Hau, Lantau on 16 March and one past Po Toi on 7 April.

Summer: an unusual series of summer records, ten in the July WC and four from the Mai Po boardwalk on 20 July, probably refer to early returning migrants.

Second winter period: unusually high October counts at MPNR with 470 on 5 October, 880 on 18 October and 928 on 31 October. Thereafter the high count was 544 in the December WC. One at Long Valley on 1 October and up to two at Pui O from 21 November.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
960	378	530	2,210	400	827	610	2,094	1,766	4,303	2,877	2,640

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus* 蒙古沙鴴 I

Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in spring, and scarce winter visitor to Deep Bay intertidal areas; highest count 500 on 14 April 1991.

Subspecies of Lesser Sand Plover can be divided into two groups of subspecies, which are treated by some authorities as separate species: the *mongolus* group (comprising *mongolus* and *stegmanni*) and the *atrifrons* group (comprising *atrifrons*, *pamirensis* and *schaeferi*). It is known that birds from both groups occur in Hong Kong, but identification features for field separation, especially in non-breeding plumages, are still not clearly understood. The seasonal pattern of occurrence of each group, therefore, is not entirely clear, but most birds, especially in spring, are from the *mongolus* group, while the *atrifrons* group (most likely *schaeferi*) appear to occur mostly in autumn and winter.

***Mongolus* group**

First winter period: in winter one from the Mai Po Boardwalk on 29 January and one on fishponds in the San Tin area on 9 February. Then recorded in spring at MPNR from 29 March to 30 May, peak count ten.

Second winter period: Recorded at MPNR from 18 September to 2 December, peak count only two.

***Atrifrons* group**

First winter period: in winter eight from the Mai Po Boardwalk on 29 January and four on fishponds in the San Tin area on 9 February. In spring up to three recorded at MPNR between 7 and 21 May.

Second winter period: In autumn up to five recorded at MPNR from 20 July until 28 August, three on 20 October and seven on 2 December.

Records unascribed to taxon

First winter period: winter high count 20 on 29 January, spring peak count 50 on 4 April, last record on 8 June.

Second winter period: recorded from 20 July, autumn high count 21 in the August WC, winter high count 30 in the November WC. Away from Deep Bay, two at Shui Hau, Lantau on 2 September.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
41	103	200	59	30	35	179	78	85	87	79	50

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* 鐵嘴沙鴴 I

Abundant passage migrant to Deep Bay intertidal areas, scarce in winter and some summer records; highest count 2,700 on 9 April 1989.

All records from the Deep Bay area unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: 27 at Starling Inlet in the January WC and 37 at San Tin on 9 February are the highest winter counts on record. Then from 21 March to 19 June, peak count 540 on 4 April. Away from Deep Bay, one with West Australia leg flags on Tung Ping Chau on 4 April and one off Po Toi on 19 April.

Second winter period: recorded from 3 July, high count 482 on 8 August with 266 on 26 October. 12 at Starling Inlet in the September WC.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
410	600	243	241	306	232	147	500	305	773	590	540

Oriental Plover *Charadrius veredus* 東方鴴 I

Scarce passage migrant to grassland and wetland areas; extreme dates 5 March to 2 June and 1 September to 27 October, highest count 28 on 24 September 1979.

Singles at MPNR on 24 and 27 March and on 11 May.

Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* 彩鷸 I

Locally common resident breeding species, in freshwater marsh and wet agricultural areas; highest count 40 on 14 October 1996.

Recorded throughout the year from Long Valley with a peak count of 41 on 4 December (LVRP), a new highest count. Recorded mostly in summer from MPNR with a high count of 11 on 7 October. High counts at other locations were 12 at LMC on 5 January and two at San Tin on 15 October. One on Po Toi on 18 October was a rare record away from the northwest NT.

Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus* 水雉 I

Uncommon migrant and rare winter visitor to freshwater marsh, has increased in recent years at MPNR and LMC; bred until late 1970s; recent highest count nine on 18 October 2003.

First winter period: up to two wintering at LMC until 13 April with one at Ho Sheung Heung on 26 March. One at MPNR on 12 and 14 May and in the May WC was the only spring record.

Second winter period: recorded from 29 September to 7 November at Long Valley, MPNR, LMC and San Tin, peak count three in the October WC and three at Nim Wan on 10 October. Elsewhere one photographed at Shing Mun on 1 October was a rare record away from northwest NT. One at Long Valley from 12 to 28 November and finally one at San Tin on 12 December.

Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* 丘鷸 I

Uncommon autumn passage migrant and winter visitor, to wooded areas; extreme dates 28 September and 19 April, highest count seven on 17 December 1999.

First winter period: singles at Lau Shui Heung on 7 January and Lam Tsuen on 17 January were the only records.

Second winter period: one taken into care at KFBG from Causeway Bay on 29 September was the first of four autumn birds at KFBG with others in October from Cheung Sha Wan, Hung Hom and Kwai Chung. Main autumn passage from 1 October to 21 November with records from Long Valley, Crest Hill, Lau Shui Heung, Lam Tsuen, Tai Mo Shan, Tai Po Kau, Wonderland Villas, Pak Sha O and Po Toi, peak count two. Two to year end at Pak Sha O with one at Lam Tsuen on 30 December.

Pintail Snipe *Gallinago stenura* 針尾沙錐 **I** *and* **Swinhoe's Snipe** *Gallinago megala* 大沙錐 **I**

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 for separation. Further work on vocalisations is required before apparent differences in call can be confirmed.

Common passage migrants to freshwater marsh, wet agricultural areas and fish ponds, with highest numbers in autumn, scarce in winter; highest count 100 on 21 September 1996, extreme dates 26 July to 27 May. Pintail Snipe is believed to be more common than Swinhoe's Snipe, in a ratio of approximately 4:1.

First winter period: recorded at Long Valley to 9 May, high count 14 on 16 April, and at MPNR from 22 April to 11 May, high count seven on first date. Also recorded from the Kam Tin area, high count six on 7 January, with singles on Po Toi on 19 April and southern Lamma on 21 April.

Second winter period: recorded from 6 August with most records from MPNR, peak count 20 on 30 August, and Long Valley, high count 15 on 3 September. One at Lam Tsuen on 30 September.

Single Pintail and Swinhoe's Snipes were trapped at MPNR between 3 and 27 September.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* 扇尾沙錐 **I**

Common winter visitor and migrant to freshwater marsh, wet agricultural areas and fish ponds, with extreme dates 19 August to 28 May; highest count 212 on 14 January 1990.

Most records from Kam Tin, MPNR, San Tin and Long Valley.

First winter period: high counts 27 at LMC on 5 January, 18 at Kam Tin on 7 January, 54 at Long Valley on 6 February and 18 at San Tin on 16 April, last record on 30 April. One on Po Toi on 26 April.

Second winter period: earliest record on 3 September, peak count 63 at San Tin on 15 October with 60 at Long Valley on 31 October. One at Pui O on 27 December.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
40	80	65	60	38	58	66	47	40	52	59	63

Plate 16 Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* 長嘴鷸
Mai Po NR, 18th April 2012 米埔 2012年4月18日
John and Jemi Holmes 孔思義及黃亞萍

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* 長嘴鷸 I

Scarce passage migrant, mostly in spring, and winter visitor to Deep Bay intertidal areas; extreme dates 4 October to 12 May, highest count five on 15 February 2009.

Regularly recorded at MPNR from 14 January to 19 April, peak count two, with one at Nam Sang Wai on 17 February. No records in the second winter period.

Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus* 半蹼鷸 I NT

Common passage migrant in the Deep Bay area, mainly in spring, with two summer records; extreme dates 22 March to 8 June and 23 July to 13 November, highest count 540 on 2 May 2003.

All records from MPNR.

Spring: recorded from 5 April to 9 May, peak count 136 on 28 April. One on 15 June and two in the June WC are the third summer records.

Autumn: recorded from 19 August to 28 September, high count four on 28 August.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
49	36	540	33	44	25	132	428	173	189	68	136

Plate 17 Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* 黑尾塍鷸
Mai Po NR, 24th March 2012 米埔 2012年3月24日
Peter and Michelle Wong 黃理沛 江敏兒

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* 黑尾塍鷸 I NT

Abundant passage migrant, mainly in spring, and winter visitor to Deep Bay intertidal areas, with regular summer records; highest count 2,190 on 8 April 1996.

Another good year with a high peak count. All records from MPNR.

First winter period: high winter count 650 on 27 February and high spring count 1,469 on 10 April, the peak count for the year. High summer counts of 34 in the June WC and 74 in the July WC suggest record over-summering numbers.

Second winter period: high count 672 on 19 September.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1,003	440	571	977	532	950	1,662	790	1,900	1,697	1,900	1,469

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

Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in spring, to Deep Bay intertidal areas, with occasional winter and summer records; highest count 400 on 14 September 1981.

All records from Deep Bay unless otherwise stated.

Spring: up to four from the Mai Po boardwalk in January and February. Main passage from 6 to 25 April, high count 20 at MPNR on 6 April with peak count 60 past Po Toi on 25 April. Four on 30 May and one on 15 June.

Autumn: recorded from 13 September to 19 November, high count six on 2 October.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
30	85	29	28	45	23	114	25	105	26	14	60

Little Curlew *Numenius minutus* 小杓鷸 **I**

Rare spring and autumn passage migrant to wetland and grassland, with many early records from Kai Tak Airport; extreme dates 7 April to 2 June and 28 September to 29 October, highest count 50 on 28 April 1985.

One at Long Valley on 26 September (DAD), a new earliest autumn date.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* 中杓鷸 **I**

Common passage migrant, mainly in autumn, and scarce winter visitor to Deep Bay intertidal areas, with some summer records; highest count 300 on 24 August 1991.

All records except one from the Deep Bay area and on migration over southern waters in spring where a new highest count was recorded.

First winter period: up to four recorded at MPNR to 15 March. Spring migration from 9 April, peak count 320 from Po Toi on 25 April (AF,GW) is a new highest count. High count at MPNR was 57 on 5 May. At least 20 over-summered in Deep Bay.

Second winter period: autumn migration from 8 August, high count 149 on 29 August. One at Long Valley on 27 August. Numbers in the Deep Bay area declined throughout October with one in November, then increased to 13 in the December WC.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
81	33	27	35	175	134	157	217	131	237	109	320

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* 白腰杓鷸 I NT

Abundant winter visitor to Deep Bay intertidal areas with small numbers in summer; highest count 1,602 on 16 January 2011.

Peak counts have been increasing steadily over the last 20 years. All records from the Deep Bay area and on migration over southern waters, mostly in spring.

First winter period: peak count 1,380 from the Mai Po boardwalk on 27 February with numbers falling rapidly in March. Small numbers migrating northeast past Po Toi between 4 and 25 April. Up to 15 over-summered in Deep Bay.

Second winter period: numbers building again from mid-July with a high count of 266 in the December WC.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
810	558	1,014	739	1,292	1,087	1,049	1,116	1,065	1,075	1,602	1,380

Far Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis* 紅腰杓鷸 I VU

Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in spring, to Deep Bay intertidal areas, with occasional winter records; highest count 44 on 19 April 1988.

All records from MPNR unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: one on 11 February. Then regularly recorded from 5 to 25 April, peak count six on 10 April with three offshore from Po Toi on 5 April. One at MPNR on 21 May.

Second winter period: singles only recorded from 6 August to 10 November.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
14	3	9	4	6	2	6	15	17	19	5	6

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* 鶴鷸 I

Common spring passage migrant, less common in autumn and winter, mostly to the Deep Bay area; highest count 2,500 on 17 April 1987.

A lowest peak count since 1982 continued a declining trend since 2009. All records from the Deep Bay area and Long Valley.

First winter period: high counts at MPNR were 90 on 3 March and 272 on 7 April with peak count 397 on 4 May and last record on 6 June. Recorded at Long Valley up to 14 May, high count three on 30 January.

Second winter period: first record on 24 July at MPNR, high count 182 in the December WC. Recorded at Long Valley from 8 September, high count two.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1,050	1,108	1,288	884	1,443	1,687	1,239	1,373	903	711	463	397

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* 紅腳鷸 I

Abundant passage migrant and winter visitor to Deep Bay intertidal areas; highest count 3,539 on 19 April 2008.

The lowest peak count since 1986. All records from the Deep Bay area unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: high count of 476 in the April WC. Up to three at Ho Sheung Heung to 5 March. At least five birds over-summered.

Second winter period: numbers increased from 3 July with the peak count of 744 on 6 August and high counts of 477 on 26 October and 125 in the December WC. Three at Ho Sheung Heung on 3 December.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1,795	1,661	1,672	1,133	992	1,544	1,139	3,539	911	1,446	1,002	744

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* 澤鷸 I

Abundant winter visitor and migrant, mainly in spring, to Deep Bay intertidal areas; highest count 3,705 on 13 March 2011.

All records from the Deep Bay area unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: peak count 2,237 in the February WC. Two over-summered.

Second winter period: numbers increased from 15 August, high count 1,633 on 18 October. Recorded in Long Valley from 10 September to 31 October, high count nine.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1,171	1,495	2,249	1,896	2,378	2,344	2,049	2,521	3,192	3,381	3,705	2,237

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* 青腳鷸 I

Abundant winter visitor and migrant, mainly in spring, to the Deep Bay area; highest count 2,516 on 19 April 2008.

Peak numbers have stabilised above 1,000 since 2004. All records from the Deep Bay and Long Valley areas unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: 781 in the January WC with high count 1,012 on 30 April. Three at Starling Inlet in the January WC and five at Long Valley on 30 April. An unusually large flock of at least 42 over-summered in the Deep Bay area.

Second winter period: peak count 1,319 on 29 August, with 922 on 26 October and 369 in the December WC. 15 at Nim Wan on 24 September. Recorded away from Deep Bay at Long Valley and Starling Inlet, high count four at Long Valley on 24 December.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
737	822	883	1,128	1,307	1,816	1,522	2,516	1,337	1,976	1,710	1,319

Nordmann's Greenshank *Tringa guttifer* 小青腳鷸 I EN

Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in spring, and scarce winter visitor, to Deep Bay intertidal areas; highest count 58 on 13 April 1993.

A fairly good year, slightly above average. All records from MPNR and the boardwalk hides.

First winter period: two seen regularly from 28 January to 30 March. Numbers then increased rapidly with a peak count of 24 on 5 April, then fell equally rapidly with seven on 5 May and last record on 20 May. A minimum of 34 individuals were believed to be involved, the third highest number since this statistic was started in 2004.

Second winter period: singles regularly recorded from 7 August to 2 December.

Peak counts and estimated total number of birds in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
17	11	10	18	8	9	46	8	30	8	38	24
-	-	-	24	31	32	50	26	34	15	46	34

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* 白腰草鷸 I

Common migrant and winter visitor to freshwater wetland areas; extreme dates 6 July to 9 May, highest count 76 on 12 January 1992.

As for 2011, recorded in all months except June with relatively low WC counts. The peak of 31 equalled 2011, which was the lowest peak count since *The Avifauna*. Widespread in lowlands of central and northwest NT, mainly in Deep Bay and at Kam Tin, Long Valley, Shek Kong and the Lam Tsuen Valley.

First winter period: high counts of 26 in the February WC, 22 at Kam Tin on 2 January, eight at Long Valley on 22 January and nine at San Tin on 14 March. Last record on 2 May.

Second winter period: earliest record on 16 July, peak count 31 in the November WC with eight at Long Valley on 29 September, three at Shek Kong on 11 November and 12 at Kam Tin on 1 December.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
53	44	44	57	49	57	55	34	42	42	31	31

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* 林鷸 I

Common migrant and winter visitor to freshwater marshy areas; highest count 1,221 on 10 September 1998.

Recorded in all months with most records from the Deep Bay area, Kam Tin and Long Valley.

First winter period: high count 238 in Deep Bay in the March WC with 109 at Kam Tin on 30 January and 133 in Long Valley on 10 April. Last record on 6 June.

Second winter period: earliest record on 9 July, peak count 480 in the September WC with 143 at San Tin on 14 September, 88 in Long Valley on 29 September and 98 there on 18 December and 34 at Kam Tin on 1 December.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
406	762	227	327	474	597	699	512	433	382	386	480

Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes* 灰尾漂鷸 I

Common passage migrant to rocky coastal and intertidal areas with occasional summer records; extreme dates 20 March to 26 November, highest count 554 on 16 May 1987.

A good year with the highest peak count since *The Avifauna*. All records from MPNR unless otherwise stated.

Spring: recorded from 31 March to 25 June, peak count 162 on 15 May. Singles on Po Toi on 18 April and 20 May and at Ma Wan on 2 May. One may have over-summered in Deep Bay.

Autumn: recorded from 6 August to 14 October, high count 18 at Pak Nai on 8 August. Singles on Po Toi on 5 and 16 September with two at Shui Hau, Lantau on 9 September.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
62	64	58	52	78	15	27	40	160	9	30	162

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* 翹嘴鷸 I

Common passage migrant, mainly in spring, with occasional summer records and rare winter records, in Deep Bay intertidal areas; highest count 590 on 24 April 2007.

An unusual pattern of records with rare wintering records in both periods, low spring counts but large numbers remaining through July. All records from the Deep Bay area unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: two in the January and ten in the February WC are rare winter records. Thereafter 155 on 17 April, 158 on 2 May with the peak count 290 on 28 May. Summer counts of 147 on 20 June, 104 on 3 July and 43 on 24 July were exceptionally high.

Second winter period: high count 85 on 29 August. Two remained to 31 December.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
45	215	425	327	262	372	590	531	502	376	402	290

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* 磯鷸 I

Common and widespread in wetlands, present all year though few in summer; highest count 154 on 14 April 2002.

Recorded in all months, although with few records in June, from widespread sites in northwest and central NT and from islands.

First winter period: peak count 96 in the April WC with 18 at Kam Tin on 7 January, 24 at Tai O, Lantau on 23 April and 25 in the Mai Po area on 28 April.

Second winter period: high count 87 in the December WC with ten at San Tin on 9 August the highest single-site count.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
92	154	90	85	76	100	95	86	92	116	125	96

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* 翻石鷸 I

Passage migrant, common in spring, scarce in autumn and rare in winter, mostly in intertidal areas of Deep Bay; highest count 268 on 20 April 1994.

A very poor year with relatively few records in spring with the lowest peak count since 1976. Numbers of this species may be declining. All records from MPNR unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: one from the Mai Po boardwalk on 15 January is a rare winter record. In spring, recorded from 31 March to 16 May, peak count only five on several dates in April. One at Tung Ping Chau on 8 April.

Second winter period: singles occasionally from 30 August to 4 November.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
102	76	86	80	39	34	100	46	40	30	34	5

Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* 大濱鷸 I VU

Common passage migrant, mainly in spring, and scarce winter visitor, to Deep Bay intertidal areas; highest count 560 on 8 April 2001.

Winter records in high numbers in both periods. All records from Deep Bay unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: recorded from 14 January with 27 on 29 January, 80 on 26 February and the peak count 120 on 31 March. Last record on 23 June.

Second winter period: recorded from 21 August to 17 December, high count 40 on 5 September with 11 on 7 December.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
560	91	161	201	231	41	340	127	372	301	157	120

Red Knot *Calidris canutus* 紅腹濱鷸 I

Common passage migrant, mainly in spring, and scarce winter visitor, to Deep Bay intertidal areas; highest count 200 on 6 May 1990.

Scarce in spring with the lowest peak count since 1982. All records from Deep Bay.

First winter period: two recorded from 14 January with six on 18 February. In spring, peak count only seven on 30 April. Last record on 28 May.

Second winter period: recorded from 29 August to 18 October, high count three on 14 September. Four on 7 December.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
31	94	65	120	16	16	144	52	19	26	25	7

Sanderling *Calidris alba* 三趾濱鷸 I

Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in spring, to Deep Bay intertidal areas; extreme dates 19 March to 8 June and 3 August to 22 November, highest count 67 on 4 May 1993.

The lowest peak count since *The Avifauna*. All records from Deep Bay unless otherwise stated.

Spring: recorded from 21 March to 28 May, mostly singles with a low peak count of three on 17 April.

Autumn: one from the boardwalk on 5 October was the only record.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
6	9	4	16	11	23	10	15	12	4	10	3

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

Abundant passage migrant, mainly in spring, scarce in winter and occasional summer records, to Deep Bay intertidal areas; highest count 3,756 on 11 April 2010.

Another poor year with the lowest peak count since *The Avifauna*, although this comes after very high counts between 2002 and 2010. All records from the Deep Bay area unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: winter high count seven on 3 February. Spring peak count a low 460 on 17 April. Two at Shui Hau, Lantau on 16 March. Last record on 1 June.

Second winter period: recorded from 7 August, high count only four on 31 August, last record two on 7 December. One at Starling Inlet on 16 September.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
540	2,575	2,302	2,239	1,909	1,478	2,239	741	2,700	3,756	956	460

Plate 18 Little Stint *Calidris minuta* 小濱鷸
Mai Po NR, 18th April 2012 米埔 2012年4月18日
John and Jemi Holmes 孔思義及黃亞萍

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* 小濱鷸 I

Uncommon spring passage migrant with two autumn and one winter record, to Deep Bay intertidal areas; extreme spring dates 20 March to 8 June, highest count six on 25 April 2004.

Up to two recorded regularly at MPNR from 1 April to 15 May. One at MPNR on 5 August is a rare autumn record.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* 青腳濱鷸 I

Common winter visitor and migrant, mostly to the Deep Bay area; extreme dates 27 August to 27 May, highest count 152 on 18 October 1997.

All records from the Deep Bay area unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: peak count 59 on 1 January is the highest since *The Avifauna*, with 31 in the April WC and last record on 27 April. Away from MPNR, recorded at San Tin and Wetland Park.

Second winter period: recorded from 22 August, highest count eight at Nim Wan on 8 October and at San Tin on 21 November.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
24	35	36	15	16	43	37	16	30	58	41	59

Plate 19 Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta* 長趾濱鷸
Mai Po NR, 21st April 2012 米埔 2012年4月21日
Lee Yat Ming 李逸明

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta* 長趾濱鷸 I

Common passage migrant, mainly in spring, and scarce winter visitor, mostly to the Deep Bay area; extreme dates 28 July to 27 May, highest count 175 on 13 April 1993.

All records from the Deep Bay area unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: first record on 11 March at LMC. Then from 4 to 30 April, peak count 54 from the Mai Po Access Road on 19 April. Two at Pui O on 27 April.

Autumn: recorded from 20 July to 24 October, high count nine in the August WC with three at Hoo Hok Wai on the last date. Two at Long Valley on 28 November was the only record from that location.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
19	29	12	36	7	44	39	54	32	77	84	54

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* 斑胸濱鷸 I

Rare passage migrant, primarily in spring, to Deep Bay intertidal areas; extreme dates 1 April to 23 May and 20 September to 21 October, highest count two on 21 October 1995.

Singles at MPNR on 14 and 30 April and 3 May.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* 尖尾濱鷸 I

Common passage migrant, mainly in spring, to Deep Bay intertidal areas; extreme dates 22 March to 9 June and 27 July to 2 December, highest count 300 on 10 May 2004.

The lowest peak count since 1975. All records from the Deep Bay area unless otherwise stated.

Spring: recorded from 1 April to 1 June, peak count only 15 on 7 April. One on Po Toi on 8 May.

Autumn: recorded from 23 July (JAA), a new earliest autumn record, to 3 October, high count eight on 29 August.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
65	246	231	300	48	68	175	86	22	59	130	15

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* 彎嘴濱鷸 I

Abundant passage migrant, primarily in spring, occasional in winter and summer, to Deep Bay intertidal areas; highest count 10,982 on 17 April 2007.

As in 2011, lower numbers following four years of high peak counts from 2007 to 2010. All records from Deep Bay unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: recorded from 14 February to 15 June, peak count 6,147 on 17 April. Migrants from Po Toi were 50 on 24 April and 40 on 6 May.

Second winter period: recorded from 20 July to 5 October, high count 52 on 1 August.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
5,770	4,490	4,535	6,000	3,947	4,151	10,982	9,012	9,168	9,296	5,794	6,147

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* 黑腹濱鷸 I

Abundant winter visitor and scarce passage migrant to Deep Bay intertidal areas; extreme dates 31 July to 20 June, highest count 5,845 on 9 January 1995.

Another high peak count. All records from the Deep Bay area unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: peak count 3,100 in the February WC, last record on 20 April.

Second winter period: recorded from 2 August, high count 2,182 on 10 November.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
3,100	1,430	2,430	2,303	222	701	174	2,000	3,036	2,500	3,870	3,100

Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus* 勺嘴鷸 I CE

Scarce spring migrant, with some autumn and winter records, to Deep Bay intertidal areas; highest count 13 on 3 April 2005.

A fairly good year with a high total count.

Spring: singles from the Mai Po boardwalk from 8 March to 20 April with two from 6 to 18 April, probably five birds involved in total, the third highest since this statistic was started in 2005.

Peak counts and estimated total number of birds in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
2	1	2	5	13	1	5	2	1	1	2	2
-	-	-	-	21	1	7	2	2	2	4	5

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* 闊嘴鷸 I

Common passage migrant to Deep Bay intertidal areas, mainly in spring with some winter records; highest count 320 on 16 April 1988.

The lowest peak count since 1983. Numbers of this species have declined since 1999. All records from MPNR.

First winter period: three on 29 January. Spring passage from 3 March to 17 May, peak count only 27 on 6 April.

Second winter period: recorded from 2 August to 26 October, high count 20 on 5 September. One on 10 November.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
140	60	123	81	116	39	78	137	94	55	95	27

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* 流蘇鷸 I

Scarce passage migrant to Deep Bay intertidal areas, rare in winter and one summer record; highest count 10 on 25 October 1999.

First winter period: one at MPNR from 21 to 30 March with probably the same bird at Wetland Park on 1 April.

Second winter period: one from the Mai Po boardwalk on 12 September.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
3	1	3	5	3	5	4	1	2	2	4	1

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* 紅頸瓣蹼鷸 I

Common passage migrant, mostly to coastal waters but sometimes inland, with occasional high counts and rare winter records; highest count 1,572 on 3 October 1995.

A new highest count. All records from southern waters and MPNR unless otherwise stated.

Spring: one on 19 February in the East Lamma Channel is a rare February record. Recorded from 2 March to 11 May, peak count 2,490 passing northeast offshore from Po Toi in two hours on 5 April (GW), a new highest count, with 80 at Mirs Bay on 7 April and 300 in the East Lamma Channel on 11 May. One from the Mai Po boardwalk on 5 July is an unusual summer record.

Autumn: 47 from Po Toi on 5 September was the only record.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
70	367	120	250	1,000	952	939	102	360	128	610	2,490

Red Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius* 灰瓣蹼鷸 I

Five records, mostly in spring.

2005. One in southern waters on 17 April (AC).

Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum* 普通燕鴴 I

Passage migrant, common in spring and uncommon in autumn, to lowland areas of NT; highest count 530 on 5 October 1994.

Most records in spring, from the Mai Po area and southern waters.

First winter period: recorded at MPNR from 2 March to 21 June, peak count 21 on 5 June with 15 on 10 March and 10 on 21 June. Over southern waters and from Po Toi from 28 March to 9 April, high count 13 on 28 March. One at Long Valley on 27 April.

Second winter period: all records from MPNR. An adult feeding a juvenile on 3 July. Then from 16 August to 13 October, high count eight on 18 September.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
20	15	10	32	9	71	22	32	21	70	250	21

Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* 三趾鷗 I

Rare spring passage migrant with some winter records; extreme dates 13 January to 22 May.

An adult off Po Toi on 11 March (BK) and another adult there on 28 March (GW).

Brown-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus* 棕頭鷗 I

Rare winter visitor and migrant to Deep Bay, extreme dates 21 October to 1 May; highest count three on 7 March 1992.

An adult from the Mai Po boardwalk on 11 and 28 February.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* 紅嘴鷗 I

Abundant winter visitor to Deep Bay and coastal waters; highest count 20,629 on 13 January 1996.

The peak counts of this species have been declining over the past 20 years. All records from Deep Bay unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: high count 4,964 in the January WC, last record on 22 June. 20 near Lung Kwu Chau on 23 February.

Second winter period: one at MPNR on 30 August is a rare August record. Thereafter from 31 October, peak count 6,993 in the December WC.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
13,500	13,000	12,601	9,322	8,985	14,016	11,978	11,600	5,643	10,575	9,160	6,993

Saunders's Gull *Chroicocephalus saundersi* 黑嘴鷗 I VU

Common winter visitor to Deep Bay; extreme dates 23 October to 30 May, highest count 172 on 10 February 1994.

An earliest autumn record by over six weeks. All records from Deep Bay.

First winter period: peak count 75 on 1 March, last record on 2 May.

Second winter period: an adult at the boardwalk on 5 September (WHS) and then recorded regularly throughout autumn is an earliest autumn record by 48 days. The next bird arrived on 10 November, high count 46 on 2 December.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
50	61	46	15	57	51	60	61	75	74	58	75

Pallas's Gull *Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus* 漁鷗 I

Scarce winter visitor and spring migrant to Deep Bay; extreme dates 25 November to 7 April; highest count four on 8 March 1994.

A second winter from the Mai Po boardwalk on 3 January and an adult in breeding plumage there on 1 and 2 March.

Plate 20 Black-tailed Gull *Larus crassirostris* 黑尾鷗
Mai Po NR, 31st March 2012 米埔 2012年3月31日
Kinni Ho 何建業

Black-tailed Gull *Larus crassirostris* 黑尾鷗 I

Common winter visitor to intertidal areas of Deep Bay and spring passage migrant to coastal waters; extreme dates 30 August to 8 June with two summer records; highest count 293 on 22 February 2003.

First winter period: recorded at MPNR to 10 May, high count 14 on 2 April, and in southern waters from 26 February to 1 April, peak count 172 on the earliest date, the third highest count on record. One at Discovery Bay on 22 March and two at Kat O on 25 March. An adult off Po Toi on 10 June (BK) is a new latest date.

Second winter period: two off Po Toi on 12 September and one there on 16 September.

Mew Gull *Larus canus* 海鷗 I

As the full characters for separation of *L.c. heinei* are uncertain, only *L.c. kamschatschensis* and *L.c. brachyrhynchus* (one accepted record) are on the HK List although birds showing characteristics of *L. c. heinei* have been recorded nine times.

Scarce winter visitor and migrant to Deep Bay; almost all first-winters; extreme dates 10 January to 29 March, highest count two.

Single first-winter *kamtschatschensis* from the Mai Po boardwalk from 12 to 14 February and another or the same from 3 to 16 March.

Plate 21 Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus* 北極鷗
Mai Po NR, 14th February 2012 米埔 2012年2月14日
Yu Pak Wai 余柏維

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus* 北極鷗 I

Rare winter visitor to Deep Bay; extreme dates 14 December to 3 April.

A first winter at the Mai Po boardwalk from 21 January to 2 April (BK *et al.*).

Vega Gull *Larus vegae* 織女銀鷗 I

Scarce winter visitor to Deep Bay; extreme dates 31 December to 3 April, highest count four on 9 March 2010.

All records from the Mai Po boardwalk.

First winter period: recorded from 15 January to 16 March, peak count five on 29 January and 11 February (GJC) is a new highest count.

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans* 蒙古銀鷗 I

Uncommon winter visitor to Deep Bay and coastal waters; extreme dates 28 November to 17 April, highest count 25 on 13 March 2000.

All records from the Deep Bay area.

First winter period: recorded from 15 January to 6 April, peak count 12 on 12 February.

Plate 22 Slaty-backed Gull *Larus schistisagus* 灰背鷗
Mai Po NR, 2nd March 2012 米埔 2012年3月2日
Yu Pak Wai 余柏維

Slaty-backed Gull *Larus schistisagus* 灰背鷗 I

Scarce winter visitor to Deep Bay and coastal waters; extreme dates 26 November to 3 April, highest count seven on 25 January 2000.

First winter period: recorded regularly at the Mai Po boardwalk in ones and twos from 16 January to 6 March, peak count three on 13 March.

Heuglin's Gull *Larus fuscus* 烏灰銀鷗 I

Common winter visitor to Deep Bay and spring passage migrant to coastal waters; extreme dates 6 September to 30 April, highest count 865 on 28 January 2000.

First winter period: in Deep Bay, peak count 455 on 13 March, last record on 11 April. On Po Toi, migrants from 21 February to 29 March, high count 168 on 6 March and a total of 645 recorded during the passage period. Singles at Discovery Bay on 16 February and Lung Kwu Chau on 23 February.

Second winter period: first record in Deep Bay on 15 November, high count 88 in the December WC.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
474	780	543	237	460	345	291	305	635	700	276	455

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* 鷗嘴噪鷗 I

Common spring migrant, scarce in autumn, some summer records; mainly recorded in the Deep Bay area; extreme dates 3 March to 20 October, highest count 731 on 19 April 2009.

Numbers of this species have been increasing since *The Avifauna*. All records from MPNR unless otherwise stated.

Spring: recorded from 20 March to 24 May, peak count 333 on 14 April. Four off Po Toi on 17 May.

Summer: up to three from 23 June to 24 July.

Autumn: up to three in the Mai Po area from 28 August to 20 October.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
415	67	255	172	266	100	600	311	731	465	323	333

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* 紅嘴巨鷗 I

Common spring migrant, scarce in winter and autumn. Most birds recorded in the Deep Bay area, but small numbers occur offshore. Highest count 150 on 30 March 2004.

A new highest count. All reports from the Deep Bay area.

First winter period: recorded from 6 March, peak count 164 at MPNR on 8 April (RWL), a new highest count, last record on 16 May. One in the June WC.

Second winter period: two from 10 to 15 November.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
32	19	75	150	9	10	30	22	102	47	96	164

Greater Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii* 大鳳頭燕鷗 I

Common spring passage migrant through coastal waters with occasional summer and autumn records; extreme dates 1 April to 3 October, highest count 33 on 21 April 2010.

All records from southern waters.

Spring: recorded from 4 April to 31 May, peak count 23 off Po Toi on 19 April.

Autumn: three off Po Toi on 20 September.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
0	2	10	1	6	4	12	9	21	33	19	23

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons* 白額燕鷗 I

Uncommon spring passage migrant through coastal waters and in Deep Bay, scarce in autumn with two summer records; extreme dates 4 March to 20 June and 2 August to 9 November; highest count 400 on 2 May 1999 (Typhoon Leo).

Spring: recorded from 1 April to 3 June at MPNR and southern waters, peak count 12 in the East Lamma Channel on 8 April.

Summer: two at Lut Chau on 22 July is the third summer record after the first in 2009.

Autumn: one at MPNR on 31 October.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
16	6	48	22	7	6	12	32	40	60	6	12

Aleutian Tern *Onychoprion aleuticus* 白腰燕鷗 I

Uncommon passage migrant through coastal waters, mostly in spring; extreme dates 5 April to 7 June and 2 August to 15 October; highest count 865 on 2 May 1999 (Typhoon Leo).

All records from southern waters.

Spring: recorded from 21 April to 3 June, peak count 108 off Po Toi on 28 April.

Autumn: three off Po Toi on 13 September.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
0	2	70	2	20	130	112	44	200	430	21	108

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Aleutian Tern (Figure 5) shows that most records since *The Avifauna* have occurred in spring whereas most *Avifauna* records were in autumn since the first in 1992. This is probably due to a substantial increase in seabird watching activity in spring since 2006 rather than any change in the species' behaviour.

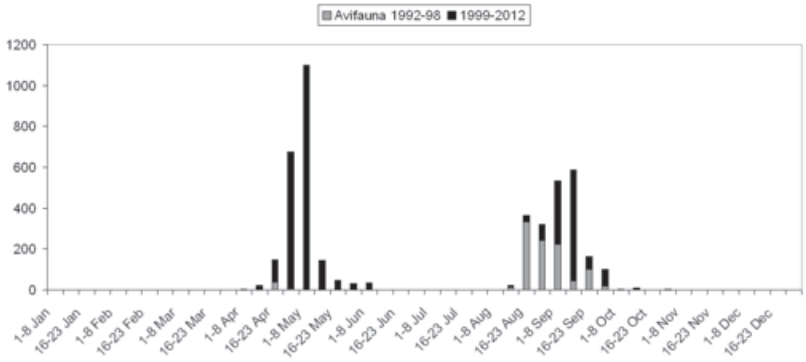


Figure 5. Weekly Occurrence Graph – Aleutian Tern *Onychoprion aleuticus* 白腰燕鷗

Bridled Tern *Onychoprion anaethetus* 褐翅燕鷗 I

Common summer breeder and passage migrant mostly in Mirs Bay and southern waters; extreme dates 12 April to 3 October; highest count 749 on 25 September 1993 (Typhoon Dot), highest breeding bird count in Mirs Bay 650 in summer 2004.

Recorded from 29 April to 5 September, high count 57 past Po Toi on 31 May.

Surveys during the breeding season recorded 520 in Mirs Bay with a further 206 in southeastern and southern HK waters (AFCD data). Survey coverage has increased substantially since 2010 which may be partly responsible for increased numbers in 2012.

Breeding season peak counts in Mirs Bay in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
525	451	528	650	450	244	201	400	369	375	332	520

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* 粉紅燕鷗 I

Uncommon summer breeder in southern and eastern waters; extreme dates 29 April to 29 September; highest breeding bird count in Mirs Bay 231 in summer 1998.

Recorded from 12 May to 1 August, mostly from breeding islands in eastern and southern waters. 15 including several juveniles in a mixed flock with Black-naped Terns near Mui Wo on 1 August.

Surveys during the breeding season recorded 136 in Mirs Bay with a further 71 in southeastern and 64 in southern HK waters (AFCD data). Survey coverage has increased substantially since 2010 which may be partly responsible for increased numbers in 2012.

Breeding season peak counts in Mirs Bay in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
15	8	50	69	5	3	0	91	42	69	19	136

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

Common summer breeder and migrant in southern and eastern waters; extreme dates 6 April to 16 October, highest breeding bird count in Mirs Bay 274 in summer 2004.

Recorded from 11 April to 1 August, mostly from breeding islands in eastern and southern waters. 45 including many juveniles in a mixed flock with Roseate Terns near Mui Wo on 1 August.

Surveys during the breeding season recorded 333 in Mirs Bay, a new highest count for Mirs Bay, with a further 170 in southeastern and 159 in southern HK waters (AFCD data). Survey coverage has increased substantially since 2010 which may be partly responsible for increased numbers in 2012.

Breeding season peak counts in Mirs Bay in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
153	107	202	274	139	32	45	81	86	120	182	333

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* 普通燕鷗 I

Uncommon passage migrant through coastal waters, extreme dates 22 March to 26 October; highest count 2,100 on 2 May 1999 (Typhoon Leo). At least two taxa occur: longipennis *and birds from the* tibetana/minussensis *group, with the former dominating.*

All records from southern waters unless otherwise stated.

Spring: recorded from 4 to 30 April, high count 18 on 21 April. One *longipennis* in the Tolo Channel on 3 June is a late record.

Autumn: the only record was 62 off Po Toi on 16 September, the peak count for the year.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1	50	70	0	20	330	48	56	25	38	27	62

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* 鬚浮鷗 I

Common passage migrant, occasional summer and winter records; occurs at inland wetlands and coastal waters; extreme dates 8 August to 28 June, highest count 150 on 16 September 2003.

All records from the Deep Bay area and southern waters.

Spring: recorded from 11 February to 21 May, high count 11 from the Mai Po Access Road on 7 April with ten off Po Toi on 16 May.

Autumn: two in the July WC. Then recorded from 26 August to 24 October, peak count 23 at San Tin on 4 October. One at MPNR on 18 December.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
12	50	150	20	57	26	138	77	95	60	30	23

White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* 白翅浮鷗 I

Common passage migrant, mostly in spring, with some summer records; occurs at inland wetlands and coastal waters, occasional large movements occur; extreme dates 3 April to 31 October, highest count 3,000 on 12 May 1986.

All records from the Deep Bay area and southern waters unless otherwise stated.

Spring: one off Po Toi on 1 April (BK) is an earliest record. Then recorded from 29 April to 5 June, peak count 177 off Po Toi on 28 April and 117 from the Mai Po boardwalk on 30 May. One from the Mai Po Access Road from 28 to 30 June.

Autumn: singles at MPNR on 24 July, off Po Toi on 2 September and 44 at MPNR on 29 September.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
84	31	42	5	8	500	750	280	111	700	70	177

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus* 中賊鷗 I

Scarce spring passage migrant through offshore waters, occasional autumn records often typhoon-related, extreme dates 10 February to 16 May and 26 September to 5 November; highest count 47 on 26 October 1998 (Typhoon Babs).

No records, as in 2011.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
0	0	0	0	2	9	10	3	5	7	0	0

Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus* 短尾賊鷗 I

Scarce spring migrant through offshore waters, extreme dates 4 April to 19 June; highest count 16 on 2 May 1999 (Typhoon Leo).

Recorded off Po Toi from 7 to 24 April and on 3 June, peak count six on 9 April.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
0	0	0	0	5	10	2	4	4	6	3	6

Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus* 長尾賊鷗 I

Uncommon spring migrant through offshore waters, occasional autumn records often typhoon-related, extreme dates 12 March to 19 May and 21 August to 5 November; highest count 69 on 5 April 2006.

Recorded off Po Toi from 6 to 14 April, peak count eight on 7 April. Three off Po Toi on 3 June (BK) is a new latest spring date.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
0	0	0	0	20	69	24	40	8	8	1	8

Jaeger sp. *Stercorarius* sp.

Unidentified jaegers were recorded off Po Toi as follows – ten on 1 April, four on 9 April, two on 24 April and one on 27 May.

Plate 23 Ancient Murrelet *Synthliboramphus antiquus* 扁嘴海雀
Southern Waters, 21st April 2012 南部水域 2012年4月21日
Isaac Chan 陳家強

Ancient Murrelet *Synthliboramphus antiquus* 扁嘴海雀 I

Uncommon early spring passage migrant and rare winter visitor to coastal waters, extreme dates 22 November to 29 May; highest count nine on 19 February 2006.

Two in the East Lamma Channel on 18 January. Recorded off Po Toi and in southern waters from 14 March to 21 April, peak count three on 11 April.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1	1	0	1	0	9	5	6	3	5	2	3

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Ancient Murrelet (Figure 6) shows that most records since *The Avifauna* have occurred in spring. As for Aleutian Tern (Figure 5), this is probably due to a substantial increase in seabird watching activity in spring since 2006 rather than any change in the species behaviour.

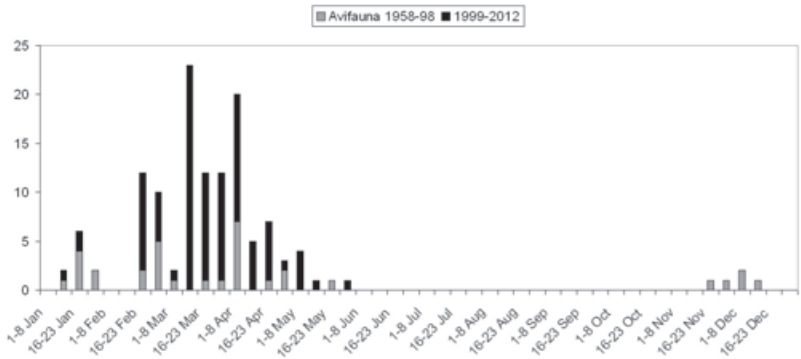


Figure 6. Weekly Occurrence Graph – Ancient Murrelet *Synthliboramphus antiquus* 扁嘴海雀

Japanese Murrelet *Synthliboramphus wumizusumi* 冠海雀 I

One record, one in southern waters on 5 May 2007.

One in southern waters on 21 April (J&JH *et al*) is the second HK record. This bird had damage to wing feathers which probably prevented it from flying, similar to the first record in 2007.

Domestic Pigeon *Columba livia* 原鴿 IIB

Locally common resident, especially in urban areas, commensal with man.

Most records from MPNR and Long Valley systematic counts and KFBG recoveries. Peak count 181 at Yuen Long on 15 September. Regular records of displaced racing pigeons with Taiwan RPA leg bands occur on Po Toi.

Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis* 山斑鳩 I

Common and widespread winter visitor to most natural or semi-natural lowland habitats, almost certainly breeds in the Deep Bay area in some years; largest numbers present November to February, highest count 706 on 3 January 1996.

Recorded in all months except July but with most records from November and December, mostly from the northwest NT, particularly the Deep Bay and Long Valley areas, and on Po Toi. Peak count 141 near the Shenzhen River on 15 January.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* 灰斑鳩 IIB

Locally common breeding resident in the northwest NT, highest count 46 on 14 October 2011.

Recorded in all months with most records from the Deep Bay area, particularly from San Tin, with a peak count of 25 there on 12 January. Singles at Lam Tsuen on 21 January, Shek Kong on 12 June and at Long Valley on 15 and 22 October.

Red Turtle Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica* 火斑鳩 I

Common passage migrant, mostly in autumn, and winter visitor to open country lowland habitats, especially in the Deep Bay area; extreme dates 26 July to 13 June, highest count 106 on 2 October 2006.

Most records from September to December.

First winter period: all records from the Deep Bay area, high count six at MPNR on 20 February. One at MPNR on 14 June (DAD) is a new latest spring date.

Second winter period: recorded from 7 September with autumn records from more widespread locations than spring, including Long Valley, Sai Kung, Chek Lap Kok and on Po Toi. Peak count 19 at San Tin on 15 November.

Spotted Dove *Spilopelia chinensis* 珠頸斑鳩 I

Abundant resident in diverse habitats in urban and rural areas; highest count 138 on 5 February 2008.

Recorded in all months with most records coming from systematic surveys at MPNR, Long Valley and from KFBG recoveries. Peak count 100 at MPNR on 22 February.

Cuckoo Dove sp. *Macropygia* sp.

A Cuckoo Dove sp, *Macropygia* sp, was at Tai Po Kau on 21 December.

Common Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica* **綠翅金鳩 I**

Uncommon but widespread resident, locally common in some areas, in closed-canopy shrubland and forest habitats; highest count seven on 11 July 1982.

Recorded in all months and from widespread locations in north, central and eastern NT , Hong Kong Island, Cheung Chau and Lamma. Peak count six at Tai Po Kau on 14 April.

Yellow-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua sulphurea* **小葵花鳳頭鸚鵡 IIB CE (for native population)**

Locally common resident, mostly recorded on Hong Kong Island.

Recorded from Hong Kong Park, Happy Valley and the Aberdeen/Ap Lei Chau area, peak count 40 in Hong Kong Park on 19 October. Four on Stonecutter's Island on 7 February.

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* **紅領綠鸚鵡 IIB**

Locally common resident, mostly recorded on Hong Kong Island, has declined considerably since 1980.

Recorded from Hong Kong Park and Ap Lei Chau.

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis* **褐翅鴉鵑 I**

Widespread and common resident in lowland shrubland areas; highest count 25 on 21 April 2008.

Recorded in all months with most records coming from regular surveys at MPNR, Long Valley, Nim Wan, Siu Lam and Po Toi. Peak count 20 at MPNR on 6 May.

Plate 24 Lesser Coucal *Centropus benghalensis* 小鴉鵑
Fung Yuen, 14th January 2012 鳳園 2012年1月14日
Ken Fung 馮漢城

Lesser Coucal *Centropus benghalensis* 小鴉鵑 I

Widespread but uncommon resident in areas of grassland or grassland/shrubland; highest count 13 on 16 April 2007.

Recorded in most months with records from north, central, southeast and east NT, Lamma, Lantau and Po Toi. Peak count five from several locations.

Chestnut-winged Cuckoo *Clamator coromandus* 紅翅鳳頭鵑 I

Uncommon spring and summer visitor, scarce in autumn, to closed-canopy shrubland and woodland, most records in April to June; extreme dates 5 March to 19 November; highest count ten on 26 April 1997.

Recorded from 8 April to 13 July from north, central and east NT, HK Island, Lantau and Po Toi, peak count three at Lau Shui Heung on 20 May. Two autumn records, singles at MPNR on 13 September and at Mount Davis on 3 November, a late date.

Asian Koel *Eudynamys scolopaceus* 噪鵑 I

Common and widespread, recorded in all months though less frequently in winter, from urban and rural areas with trees; highest count 37 on 2 October 2011.

Recorded in all months and from widespread locations in NT and islands, peak count 20 at MPNR on 13 July.

Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus* 八聲杜鵑 I

Common, mainly recorded in spring and summer when calling and less frequently in autumn and early winter, in open lowland areas; highest count seven at Ho Sheung Heung on 24 September 1993.

Recorded from 28 January to 22 October and then from 22 December to year end, from north, central and east NT with most records from Long Valley. Peak count four at Kam Tin on 4 April and at Ho Sheung Heung on 14 May.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Plaintive Cuckoo (Figure 7) shows the species can be seen throughout the year but most records are concentrated in the period March to May. This pattern has not changed since *The Avifauna*.

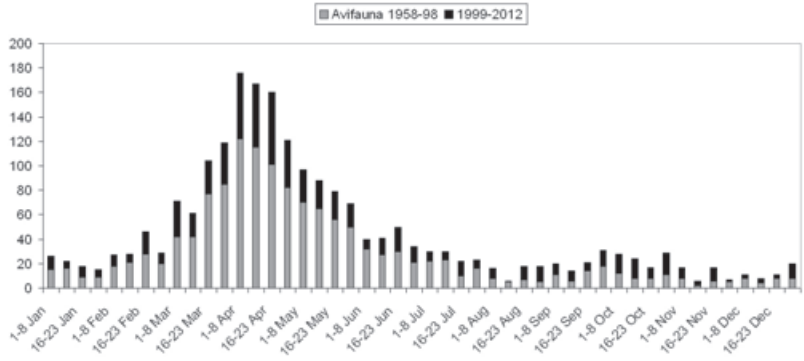


Figure 7. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus* 八聲杜鵑

Large Hawk Cuckoo *Hierococcyx sparverioides* 大鷹鵑 I

Locally common spring and summer visitor to closed-canopy shrubland and woodland; extreme dates 8 February to 25 September; highest count ten on 22 March 2001.

Recorded from 1 March to 25 August, mostly singing birds in the period up to end June, from the north, central and southeast NT, HK Island and Lantau, with a peak count of four at Ho Sheung Heung on 23 April.

Plate 25 Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo *Hierococcyx nisicolor* 霍氏鷹鵑
Tai Po Kau, 5th August 2012 大埔滘 2012年8月5日
Wallace Tse 謝鑑超

Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo *Hierococcyx nisicolor* 霍氏鷹鵑 I

Uncommon spring and summer visitor to closed-canopy shrubland and woodland with extreme dates of 27 March to 2 September, peak count three.

Another good year continuing the increase in records of this species since 2003.

One at Lam Tsuen on 26 March (MH) is an earliest spring record. Then from 4 April to 20 May, mainly from Tai Po Kau but also Hok Tau, Plover Cove Road, Fung Yuen, Lam Tsuen, Shing Mun, Lead Mine Pass and Po Toi, peak count two. Juveniles at Tai Po Kau from 5 to 20 August.

Lesser Cuckoo *Cuculus poliocephalus* 小杜鵑 I

Rare autumn passage migrant with one spring record; extreme dates 22 May and 3 September to 16 October.

One heard calling at Lam Tsuen on 27 June (EMSK) is the second spring record following a similar one there in 2011. One on Po Toi on 11 October (GW).

Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus* 四聲杜鵑 I

Locally common spring and summer visitor to open woodland habitats; extreme dates 10 March to 10 August, highest count seven.

Recorded from 11 April to 27 June from north NT, HK Island, Lamma, Lantau and Po Toi with a peak count of five at MPNR on 6 May.

Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus optatus* 東方中杜鵑 I

Scarce passage migrant, extreme dates 26 March to 21 May and 28 August to 23 October; highest count five on 9 May 1999.

A very poor year with just two records.

Spring: one taken into care at KFBG from To Kwa Wan on 25 April and subsequently released at MPNR is the only confirmed record. A *Cuculus* cuckoo, (Oriental, Himalayan *C. saturatus* or Common *C. canorus*), at Airfield Road on the very early date of 18 March (RWL) could not be identified to species.

Autumn: one on Po Toi on 18 September was the only record.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Oriental Cuckoo (Figure 8) shows the species has slightly more records in spring than in autumn.

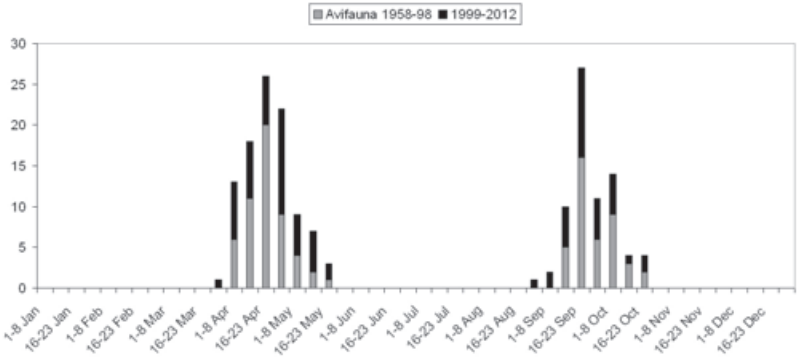


Figure 8. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus optatus* 東方中杜鵑

Collared Scops Owl *Otus lettia* 領角鴞 I

Common and widespread resident in lowland areas of closed-canopy shrubland and woodland; highest count 11 on 17 April 2001.

Recorded in all months, mostly calling birds or birds taken into care at KFBG. Regular locations for calling birds were Tai Po Kau, TPK Headland and Siu Lam and breeding occurred at Wonderland Villas. Peak count three at Tai Po Kau on 20 October. 21 were taken into care at KFBG during the year from various locations including HK Island.

Oriental Scops Owl *Otus sunia* 紅角鴞 I

Scarce autumn passage migrant with one spring and one summer record; extreme dates 11 April to 13 June and 1 October to 18 December.

Singles recorded from 25 October to 5 December at Robin's Nest, Cloudy Hill, Tsing Yi and on Po Toi, with individuals taken into care at KFBG between 16 October and 14 December from Kennedy Town, Ngau Tau Kok and Lam Tsuen.

The report in 2011 HKBR of one heard calling in Tai Po Kau on 5 May was in error.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Oriental Scops Owl is given as Figure 9. Most records have occurred since *The Avifauna*.

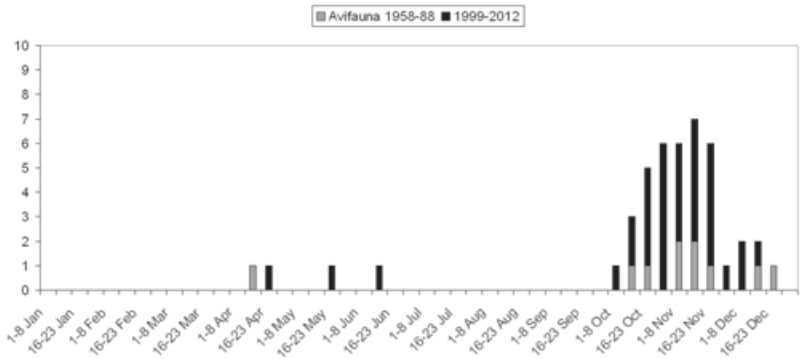


Figure 9. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Oriental Scops Owl *Otus sunia* 紅角鴞

Plate 26 Oriental Scops Owl *Otus sunia* 紅角鴞
Robin's Nest, 15th November 2012 紅花嶺 2012年11月15日
Koel Ko 高偉琛

Eurasian Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo* 鵰鴞 I

Scarce and locally-distributed resident in remote areas of hill slope grassland.

Four records, singles at Ngong Ping on 2 February, at MPNR on 21 March, near Lok Ma Chau Police Station on 10 October and at Kam Tin on 27 November. These almost certainly do not represent the true status of what is a secretive and under-recorded species.

Brown Fish Owl *Ketupa zeylonensis* 褐漁鴞 I

Scarce and locally-distributed resident at the interface of large freshwater streams and the coast or at reservoirs, both in areas of mature shrubland or woodland.

A good year with records from two locations in the northeast NT, two locations on Lantau Island and one each in Tai Lam CP, Tai Po Kau, Sai Kung East CP and on Cheung Chau, peak count two.

Brown Wood Owl *Strix leptogrammica* 褐林鴞 I

Scarce resident in Tai Po Kau and the Lam Tsuen Valley, first record on 6 November 2007.

Up to two recorded calling in the Lam Tsuen Valley in most months and at Tai Po Kau in February and October.

Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides* 斑頭鴗鶹 I

Common though locally-distributed resident with most records from forest and open-country areas in the north and central NT; highest count six on 11 May 2001.

Recorded in all months, all records from the north NT and Tai Po Kau, peak count three at MPNR on 12 September and 21 October.

Northern Boobook *Ninox japonica* 鷹鴞 I

Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in spring, to woodland and shrubland areas especially on offshore islands; extreme dates 24 March to 26 May and 3 October to 29 November, highest count five over southern waters on 5 May 2007.

Spring: recorded from 25 March, the earliest date since 1979, to 23 May with most records from Po Toi but also from Tai Lam CP and Lamma Island, peak count two on 6 April. Birds taken into care at KFBG from HK International Airport, Mo Tat and Kwai Chung.

Autumn: one on Po Toi on 18 November.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Northern Boobook is given as Figure 10. Most records have occurred since *The Avifauna*.

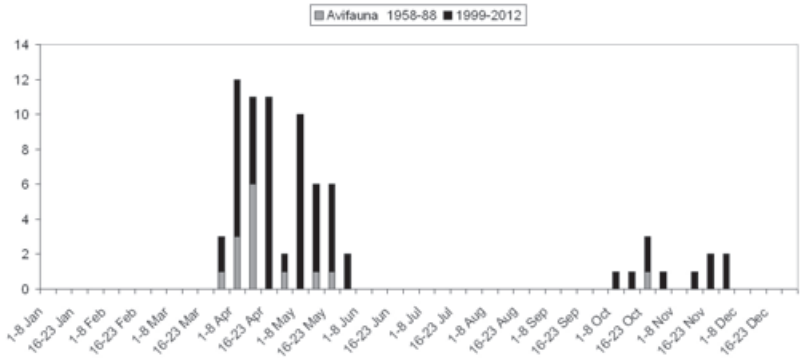


Figure 10. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Northern Boobook *Ninox japonica* 鷹鵑

Grey Nightjar *Caprimulgus jotaka* 普通夜鷹 I

Scarce passage migrant with some summer records, to areas of closed-canopy shrubland; extreme dates 1 February to 29 November; highest count five on 8 May 2001.

One on Po Toi on 9 April, one taken into care at KFBG from Tuen Mun on 24 October and one at Robin's Nest on 24 November.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Grey Nightjar is given as Figure 11. Most records came from the Nightbird Survey 2000-01; there have been few records and no summer records since that time, although this may be observer-related.

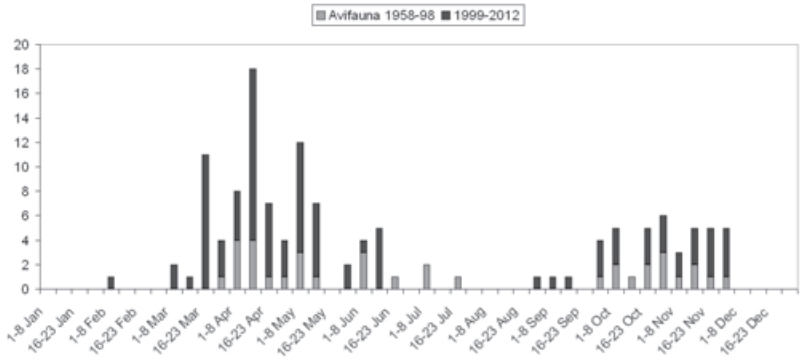


Figure 11. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Grey Nightjar *Caprimulgus jotaka* 普通夜鷹

Savanna Nightjar *Caprimulgus affinis* 林夜鷹 I

Uncommon and locally-distributed resident in areas of lowland grassland; highest count 22 on 8 October 2000.

Recorded in most months, from north NT, Siu Lam and Discovery Bay. Peak count seven at MPNR on 19 September with four at Tit Hang on 1 May and four in the Discovery Bay area all summer. Singles on Po Toi on 29 May and 7 November and at Pak Sha O on 22 December.

Himalayan Swiftlet *Aerodramus brevirostris* 短嘴金絲燕 I

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; extreme dates 29 August to 25 May.

Two on Po Toi on 16 and 17 May and one at Long Valley on 4 December.

White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus* 白喉針尾雨燕 I

Scarce spring passage migrant with two autumn records; extreme dates 25 March to 15 May and 19 September to 27 October; highest count 23 on 2 May 1999.

Four in the East Lamma Channel on 15 April, one on Po Toi on 22 April and one at Shek Kong on 12 May.

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

Scarce spring passage migrant with isolated summer and two autumn records and occasional high counts; extreme dates 2 March to 11 May, 8 June to 21 July and 29 September to 8 October; highest count 150 on 2 April 1995.

15 at Sunset Peak, Lantau on 18 March, singles on Po Toi on 21 and 24 March, Long Valley on 5 April and Po Toi again on 6 April, two at Lam Tsuen on 9 April and finally one in the East Lamma Channel on 15 April.

Brown-backed Needletail *Hirundapus giganteus* 褐背針尾雨燕 I

No records.

One on Po Toi on 24 March (LC) is the first record for Hong Kong. This was of the subspecies *indicus* from northern parts of Southeast Asia.

There were at three needletails in the group from which this individual was photographed. The other two were not identified and were recorded as needletail *sp.*

Pacific Swift *Apus pacificus* 白腰雨燕 I

Common spring passage migrant and summer visitor, some autumn and a few winter records, mostly to the Deep Bay area and islands; two taxa occur, the nominate on passage and kurodae *breeding* (Leader 2011)*; highest count 3,000 on 4 April 1987.*

No large early spring flocks of this species have been reported since *The Avifauna.*

Recorded from 17 February to 22 September, mostly from MPNR and Po Toi, highest early spring counts ten from the Mai Po Access Road on 3 March, 20 on Po Toi on 13 March and 25 at Tung Chung on 15 March. Higher counts occurred in late spring with peak count 50 on Po Toi on 11 May. One at Tai Mei Tuk on 28 November.

House Swift *Apus nipalensis* 小白腰雨燕 I

Abundant spring passage migrant, mostly to the Deep Bay area, and widespread common resident; highest count 3,000 on 18 March 1985, 30 March 1991 and 26 February 1993.

Residents recorded in all months from widespread locations. Peak spring migrant count 500 from the Mai Po access road on 11 February with 100 at Hoo Hok Wai on 12 February and 150 at San Tin on 29 February.

Oriental Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis* 三寶鳥 I

Common and widespread passage migrant with one summer record; extreme dates 30 March to 5 June and 24 August to 28 November, highest count 16 on 21 April 1988.

Spring: a better spring after two poor years. Recorded from 19 April to 12 May, most records from Lam Tsuen and Po Toi, peak count seven at Lam Tsuen on 28 April.

Autumn: recorded from 30 August to 21 October at more widespread locations than spring including HK, Lamma and Lantau Islands, peak count of seven on Po Toi on 1 September.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Oriental Dollarbird is given as Figure 12. More records have occurred in autumn since *The Avifauna.*

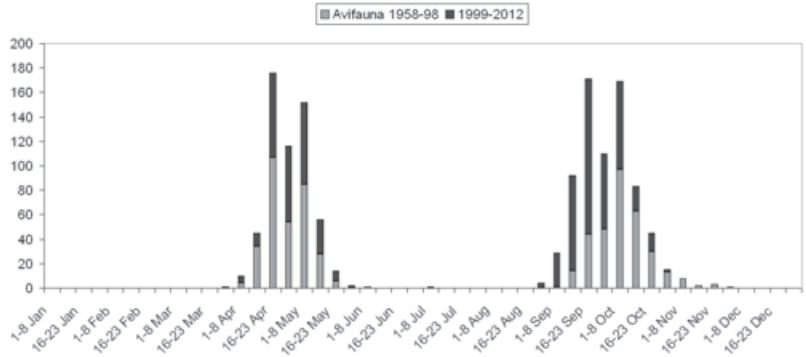


Figure 12. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Oriental Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis* 三寶鳥

White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis* 白胸翡翠 I

Common and present all year, mostly in wetland areas, with numbers much reduced in the period April to June (breeds mostly away from wetlands); highest count 46 on 15 October 2000 and 18 December 2005.

Recorded in all months, mainly from regular counts in the Deep Bay area and Long Valley, Nim Wan, Starling Inlet and Siu Lam but also other locations in central NT and Lamma, Lantau and Po Tois, peak count 22 in the October WC. Breeding season records at Kam Tin, MPNR, Nim Wan, Ho Sheung Heung, Tai Po Kau Headland and Tseung Kwan O.

Peak counts in the Deep Bay WC in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
31	44	35	39	46	36	33	43	32	24	26	22

Black-capped Kingfisher *Halcyon pileata* 藍翡翠 I

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor with occasional summer records in Deep Bay and relatively undisturbed coastal areas; highest count 20 on 19 October 1986.

The numbers of this species appear to be declining.

First winter period: recorded up to 19 April from Deep Bay and Starling Inlet with a peak count of three in the January WC at both locations.

Second winter period: singles on Po Toi from 16 to 19 September and in the September to December Deep Bay and Starling Inlet WC. Also recorded in the Pui O area of Lantau from 7 November with two there on 27 December.

Peak counts in the Deep Bay WC in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
8	17	18	11	10	13	13	10	9	5	5	3

Plate 27 Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* 普通翠鳥
Mai Po NR, 23rd December 2012 米埔 2012年12月23日
Andy Li 李偉仁

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* 普通翠鳥 I

Common and present all year in wetland areas but peak numbers occur on passage; highest count 70 on 10 September 2006.

Recorded throughout the year with summer records at MPNR and Long Valley, peak count 72 in the October WC, a new highest count. Passage on Po Toi from 1 March to 19 April and 4 September to 14 November. Elsewhere, regular records came from Nim Wan and Starling Inlet.

Peak counts in the Deep Bay WC in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
55	59	66	64	64	70	65	53	46	60	68	72

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* 斑魚狗 I

Common resident in fishpond and other wetland areas, especially Deep Bay; highest count 34 on 11 June 2006.

Recorded throughout the year with summer records at MPNR, Long Valley and Nim Wan, peak count 23 in the October WC. All records from the Deep Bay, Long Valley and Starling Inlet areas.

Peak counts in the Deep Bay WC in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
24	16	20	26	25	34	28	20	16	26	22	23

Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus* 栗喉蜂虎 I

Uncommon passage migrant, extreme dates 4 April to 22 May and 25 September to 1 November; highest count 121 on 5 October 2007.

Spring: recorded from 17 April to 17 May at MPNR, Long Valley and on Po Toi with a high count of ten at MPNR on 28 April.

Autumn: recorded from 2 to 16 October with all records from the MPNR area except for six at Cheung Chau on the last date, peak count 43 at MPNR on 9 October.

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops* 戴勝 I

Uncommon winter visitor, migrant and occasional summer visitor, with two breeding records.

F**irst winter period:** singles up to 17 March at Tsim Bei Tsui, Kam Tin, Lo Wu, Long Valley and Pui O.

Second winter period: singles from 22 July at San Tin, Lok Ma Chau, Ho Sheung Hung, Ng Tung Chai, Braemar Hill and on Po Toi.

Great Barbet *Megalaima virens* 大擬啄木鳥 I

Uncommon resident in mature secondary broadleaf forest in central and southeast NT, mostly Tai Po Kau. Appears to be declining; highest count 14 on 21 May 1994.

Recorded in most months with all records except two from forest areas of central NT, mostly calling birds, high count three in the Tai Po Kau area on several dates. In southeast NT, two in Ma On Shan CP on 19 February, one there on 16 June and peak count four at Kowloon Peak on 3 July.

Plate 28 Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* 蟻鴷
Mai Po NR, 9th November 2012 米埔 2012年11月9日
K.Y. Shum 沈冠宇

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* 蟻鴷 I

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor to lightly wooded areas; extreme dates 28 August to 23 April, highest count four on 1 April 1978.

First winter period: recorded up to 24 March from MPNR, Nim Wan, LMC, Hoo Hok Wai and Lam Tsuen, peak count two at Nim Wan on 8 March.

Second winter period: recorded from 3 September to year end, mostly at MPNR but also Lau Fau Shan, Nam Sang Wai, Wetland Park, San Tin, LMC, Long Valley, Tai O and Chek Lap Kok, peak count two at MPNR on 7 December.

Speckled Piculet *Picumnus innominatus* 斑姬啄木鳥 I

Five records, mostly in winter but including a newly-fledged juvenile on 25 July 1996.

One photographed at Tai Po Kau on 17 June (JC) and another photographed at Long Valley on 6 July (Website report). Singles at Tai Po Kau again from 8 to 20 October (KPK) and at Kap Lung on 8 December (JAA).

A sudden increase in records for this difficult-to-observe species, particularly with summer records, may indicate a change in status.

Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis* 黃嘴栗啄木鳥 I

Rare resident of mature broadleaf secondary forest with most records from Tai Po Kau.

Up to two recorded from Tai Po Kau including TPK Headland, mostly in the second half of the year. One heard calling at Ng Tung Chai on 16 September.

Fairy Pitta *Pitta nympha* 仙八色鶇 I VU

Rare spring and autumn passage migrant; extreme dates 10 April to 6 May and 26 August to 29 September.

One on Po Toi on 20 September (GW) and photographed there on 27 September (AH).

Black-winged Cuckooshrike *Coracina melaschistos* 暗灰鵙鴴 I

Common passage migrant and scarce winter visitor to closed and open woodland; extreme dates 1 September to 26 May, highest count four on 3 October 1994.

First winter period: recorded from northwest and central NT and Lantau Island, peak count three at Shing Mun on 1 March, last record at MPNR on 24 May, a late date.

Second winter period: recorded from 15 September, mostly from northwest and central NT but also from east NT, HK, Cheung Chau, Lamma and Lantau Islands, peak count three at MPNR on 18 September and Shing Mun on 30 September.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Black-winged Cuckooshrike, Fig. 13, shows that more records occur in autumn and early winter, as in 2012.

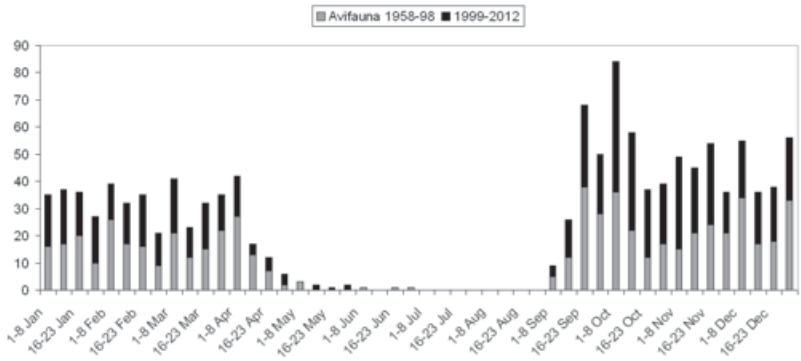


Figure 13. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Black-winged Cuckooshrike *Coracina melaschistos* 暗灰鵑鴴

Swinhoe's Minivet *Pericrocotus cantonensis* 小灰山椒鳥 I

Scarce passage migrant to open woodland, extreme dates 26 March to 5 May and 1 to 22 October; highest count 13 on 8 October 1998.

Three at MPNR on 10 October and one on Po Toi on 11 October.

Ashy Minivet *Pericrocotus divaricatus* 灰山椒鳥 I

Uncommon passage migrant, mostly in spring, to woodland areas, extreme dates 18 March to 21 May and 7 September to 27 November; highest count 50 on 8 April 1993.

Spring: recorded from 4 to 14 April at MPNR, Bride's Pool, Tai Po Kau Headland and Po Toi, peak count 55 at Tai Po Kau Headland on 9 April (RB), a new highest count. Other high counts of 15 on Po Toi and 12 at Bride's Pool.

Autumn: recorded in singles only from 25 September to 8 November, on Po Toi and at Tai Po Kau.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
0	1	25	50	5	17	21	16	18	40	32	55

Grey-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris* 灰喉山椒鳥 I

Locally common resident, possibly with winter visitors, in mature closed-canopy woodland; highest count 100 on 14 November 1992.

Recorded in most months from central and northeast NT, mostly from Tai Po Kau, peak count 27 at KFBG on 10 August with 17 at Tai Lam CP on 28 January.

Plate 29 Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus speciosus* 赤紅山椒鳥
Sai Kung, 1st October 2012 西貢 2012年10月1日
Andrew Hardacre

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus speciosus* 赤紅山椒鳥 I

Common resident in mature closed-canopy woodland and woodland edge, even adjoining urban areas; highest count 80 on 22 December 1984.

Recorded in all months with widespread reports from central, northeast and east NT, peak count 14 at Lau Shui Heung on 24 December.

Plate 30 Tiger Shrike *Lanius tigrinus* 虎紋伯勞
Mai Po NR, 17th September 2012 米埔 2012年9月17日
Martin Hale 夏敖天

Tiger Shrike *Lanius tigrinus* 虎紋伯勞 I

Rare passage migrant in early autumn; extreme dates 29 August to 26 September .

A first winter at MPNR on 17 September (JAA).

Bull-headed Shrike *Lanius bucephalus* 牛頭伯勞 I

Scarce late autumn migrant and winter visitor to woodland edge; extreme dates 16 October to 27 March.

First winter period: singles at Ng Tung Chai on 2 March and Nam Sang Wai from 3 to 7 March.

Second winter period: singles at Long Valley from 6 November to 10 December, at Pak Sha O on 14 November and at Shing Mun on 6 December.

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus* 紅尾伯勞 I

L.c. lucionensis: *common passage migrant and scarce winter visitor;* L.c. cristatus: *scarce passage migrant, mainly in autumn. Both occur in open country habitats. Extreme spring dates 19 April to 7 June, highest count 89 on 21 May 2008. Earliest autumn record 25 July, passage occurring until late October.*

The subspecies *confusus*, which is recognised by IOC, has been accepted onto the HK List on the basis of past records in both spring and autumn.

First winter period: wintering singles at Kam Tin, Long Valley, Sha Tau Kok, Pui O and on Po Toi with two at Kam Tin on 14 March. Spring records to 4 June, a late date, from MPNR, Long Valley, Tai Po Kau Headland, Wonderland Villas and Po Toi, peak count 35 on Po Toi on 5 May with 33 there on 11 May. All *lucionensis* where recorded.

Second winter period: recorded from 30 August at widespread locations, high count three. Wintering singles at Shek Kong, Chek Lap Kok and Po Toi.

Peak counts in recent years:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
40	7	15	4	2	83	30	89	37	28	75	35

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* 紅背伯勞 I

Two records; extreme dates 6 to 9 October.

One at Long Valley on 30 September (SHC) with a different bird there on 3 November (BL). These are the third and fourth HK records and set new extreme dates. Both were initially identified from website photographs.

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach* 棕背伯勞 I

Common resident in open country habitats; highest count 19 on 24 July 2010.

Recorded throughout the year with most records from regular surveys at MPNR, Long Valley and Nim Wan, peak count 17 at MPNR on 14 August with 13 at Long Valley on 13 August.

Plate 31 Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* 紅背伯勞
Long Valley, 30th September 2012 塱原 2012年9月30日
Cheung Sao Ho 張秀好

White-bellied Erpornis *Erpornis zantholeuca* 白腹鳳鶲 I

Uncommon resident in closed-canopy shrubland and woodland; highest count 15 on 2 September 1990.

Recorded throughout the year from Tai Po Kau, peak count two. Also regular records from Lau Shui Heung, Shing Mun and Pak Sha O.

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis* 黑枕黃鸝 I

Passage migrant, common in autumn and scarce in spring, with some winter and breeding records, to open woodland areas; highest count 30 on 21 September 1986.

First winter period: three singles recorded from 20 March to 15 May at Shing Mun, Tai Po Kau Headland and Po Toi.

Autumn: recorded from 9 September to 8 December, mostly at MPNR and on Po Toi, peak count 21 on Po Toi on 11 October. Also recorded from Pak Nai, LMC, Crest Hill, Long Valley, Brides Pool, Shek Kong Airfield Road, Lam Tsuen and Lantau Island, high count eight at Shek Kong Airfield Road on 2 October.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Black-naped Oriole is given as Figure 14. This shows how the species has changed from a regular summer breeder in the 1960s to now being a passage migrant, mostly in autumn.

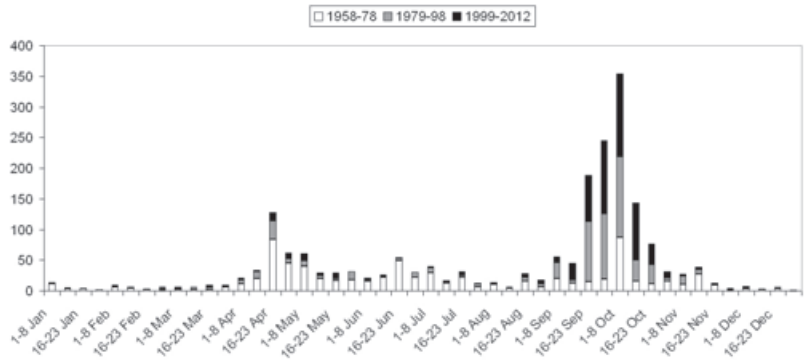


Figure 14. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis* 黑枕黃鸝

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus* 黑卷尾 I

Common passage migrant, mainly in autumn, and locally common breeder and winter visitor to open-country areas; highest count 1,000 on 12 October 2010.

Winter records at Nam Sang Wai, MPNR and San Tin. First spring arrival on Po Toi on 17 April, high spring counts of nine at MPNR on 6 May and ten on Po Toi on 16 May. Juveniles recorded from MPNR, Nim Wan, Long Valley and Po Toi. High autumn counts, 30 at Nim Wan on 24 September, 19 on Po Toi on 2 October and the peak count 116 at MPNR on 10 October. Winter records all from the Deep Bay area and Long Valley.

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus* 灰卷尾 **I**

Uncommon winter visitor to woodland areas; extreme dates 11 September to 18 May, highest count eight on 5 November 2008.

Records in both periods include both grey and white-cheeked individuals.

First winter period: recorded to 18 April with most records from Lam Tsuen, Tai Po Kau and Shing Mun, high count three at Shing Mun on 5 March.

Second winter period: recorded from 19 September, mostly at Lam Tsuen, Tai Po Kau and Shing Mun but also Wonderland Villas and Hong Kong Island, Lantau and Po Toi, peak count four at Shing Mun on 29 October.

Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus* 髮冠卷尾 **I**

Common winter visitor, migrant and locally common resident in wooded areas; highest count 67 on 6 October 2007.

Recorded in all months and from widespread locations in the north, central and east NT and islands. Peak count 69 at Shek Kong on 15 December (KL), a new highest count, with 26 on Po Toi on 11 October, 25 at Lam Tsuen on 25 March, 20 at Sai Kung on 9 February and 20 at Tai Po Kau on 17 October. Juveniles and summer records from Kam Tin, Ho Sheung Heung, Shuen Wan and Kowloon Peak.

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea* 黑枕王鶲 **I**

Uncommon winter visitor and migrant to woodland areas; extreme dates 17 September to 27 April; highest count three.

First winter period: winter records of singles from Tin Shui Wai, Hoo Hok Wai, Long Valley, Ho Pui, Shing Mun, Cheung Chau and Po Toi. Spring records up to 23 April, all from Po Toi and Ho Sheung Heung, high count two.

Second winter period: widespread records from 22 September from north, central and east NT, HK Island, Lamma and Po Toi, peak count three at Shek O CP on 22 November. Winter records from Kam Tin, Fung Yuen, Kap Lung, Sai Kung and Cheung Chau.

Asian Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi* 綬帶 I

Passage migrant, uncommon in autumn, scarce in spring, and rare winter visitor to woodland areas; extreme dates 2 August to 6 May; highest count four on 30 September 2004.

First winter period: singles at Aberdeen CP on 16 March, a very early record if a migrant, on Po Toi on 7 April and at MPNR on 6 May, equalling the latest spring date.
Second winter period: recorded from 12 August, mostly at MPNR, Shing Mun, Tai Po Kau and on Po Toi but also northeast and east NT, HK and Lamma Islands, peak count three at Shing Mun on 17 September and last record at Pak Sha O on 9 December.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Asian Paradise-Flycatcher is given as Figure 15 and shows the greater frequency of records for this species in autumn.

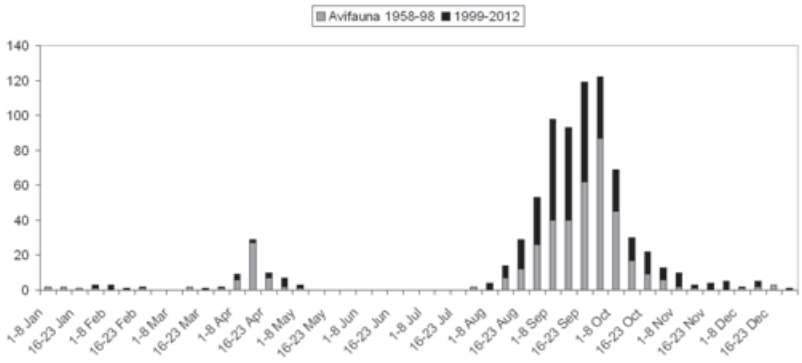


Figure 15. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Asian Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi* 綬帶

Japanese Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone atrocaudata* 紫綬帶 I NT

Uncommon passage migrant to woodland areas; extreme dates 28 March to 31 May and 20 August to 18 November, highest count six on 13 April 1992.

Spring: a male on Po Toi from 7 to 9 April with another at Tai Po Kau on 14 and 15 April.

Autumn: recorded from 13 September to 14 November, mostly at MPNR, Shing Mun, Tai Po Kau and on Po Toi but also at Lau Shui Heung, Cheung Chau and Lamma Island, peak count two.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Japanese Paradise-Flycatcher is given as Figure 16. This species, which is classified as Near Threatened, is now less frequently recorded in spring than in the 1990s.

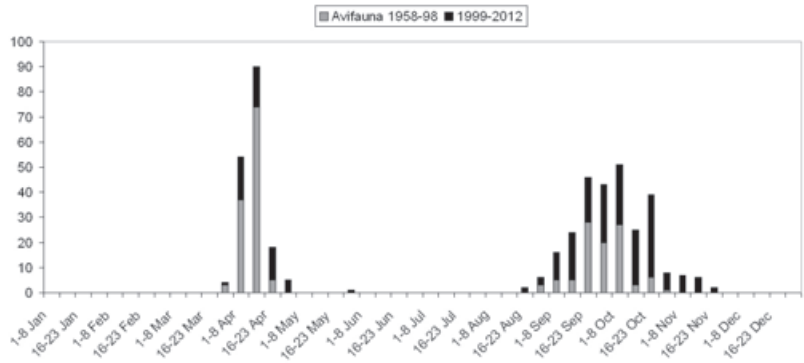


Figure 16. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Japanese Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone atrocaudata* 紫綬帶

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius* 松鴉 I

Previously a scarce and localised resident of central and northeast NT; now rare, with few records since 2000.

One at Ping Che on 14 April with an unsuccessful breeding attempt elsewhere in the northeast NT from April to July. These are the first records since 2008 and the first breeding record since *The Avifauna*.

Azure-winged Magpie *Cyanopica cyanus* 灰喜鵲 I

Locally common breeding resident especially in the Mai Po area since 2003; highest count 47 on 20 August 2006.

Recorded throughout the year with most records from the Mai Po area, peak count 52 there on 11 October (JAA), a new highest count. Elsewhere up to two regularly reported from Long Valley in the first half of the year and occasional records from Hoo Hok Wai, with the highest count there being 11.

Red-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythroryncha* 紅嘴藍鵲 I

Common resident of closed-canopy shrubland; highest recent count nine on 23 October 2011.

Recorded in all months from widespread locations with most records from north and central NT, HK and Lantau Islands, peak count eight at Lower Shing Mun on 1 November.

Grey Treepie *Dendrocitta formosae* 灰樹鵲 I

Locally common resident of closed-canopy shrubland; previously recorded as an irruptive species with a highest count 80 on 27 November 1977; highest count since The Avifauna *13 on 4 July 2002.*

Recorded throughout the year but with most reports from September onwards, mostly from the northeast NT, peak count 11 in Plover Cove CP on 30 September. Also recorded from Tai Lam CP, Kap Lung, Tai Po Kau Headland, Ma On Shan CP, Pak Sha O and Mount Davis.

Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica* 喜鵲 I

Common resident of open country and urban edge habitats. Highest count 80 on 28 November 1999.

Recorded in every month of the year with most records from systematic surveys at MPNR, Long Valley and Nim Wan, peak count 60 at MPNR on 3 February.

House Crow *Corvus splendens* 家鴉 IIB

Locally common resident, mainly in the Cheung Sha Wan area; peak count 38 on 26 August 2010.

Only three records, although this may not represent the true status, peak count ten at Shek Kip Mei on 27 May. Observers are encouraged to report all sightings of this species particularly away from Kowloon.

Collared Crow *Corvus torquatus* 白頸鴉 I NT

Locally common resident, mainly in coastal areas; highest count 143 on 3 June 2011.

A Near Threatened species for which Hong Kong is a stronghold.

Recorded in all months, with most records from MPNR where the peak count was 127 on 14 August. Elsewhere widespread records from north, central and east NT and HK Island, highest count eight at Sai Kung on 26 October.

Peak counts at MPNR in recent years show that numbers there have been increasing steadily over the last ten years, although this year's peak count was slightly below the previous two years.

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
45	31	72	74	81	77	99	100	112	141	143	127

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos* 大嘴烏鴉 I

Common resident of open rural and wooded urban-edge habitats, highest count 200 on 20 January 2008.

Widespread records in all months, peak count 71 gathering to roost at Aberdeen CP on 23 February. Dispersing or migrant birds seen on Po Toi from 7 March to 18 April, high count 12 on 1 April.

Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis* 方尾鶲 I

Uncommon winter visitor to woodland areas; extreme dates 8 October to 25 April, highest count 11 on 11 February 2007.

First winter period: recorded up to 22 March, most records from Shing Mun, Tai Po Kau and Tai Po Kau Headland, peak count three at Shing Mun on 1 February. Elsewhere recorded from Bride's Pool, Fung Yuen and Ng Tung Chai.

Second winter period: recorded from 9 October with most records from Lam Tsuen, Tai Po Kau, Tai Po Kau Headland and Shing Mun, peak count three at Shing Mun on 12 November. Elsewhere recorded from HK, Lamma and Po Tois.

Varied Tit *Poecile varius* 雜色山雀 I

No records.

One on Po Toi on 16 September (PM *et al*) remained there until 23 October. This is the first record for Hong Kong, and was part of an irruption of the species into eastern China in autumn 2012. Subsequently a different bird was photographed at the Tai Tong entrance to Tai Lam CP on 22 December (YML) and remained to year end.

Cinereous Tit *Parus cinereus* 蒼背山雀 I

Common resident in open and closed-canopy woodland, shrubland and parkland areas; highest count 38 on 16 January 2004.

Almost all records from regular surveys at MPNR, Ho Sheung Heung, Tai Po Kau Headland and Braemar Hill, high count 17 at MPNR with ten at Braemar Hill. However, the peak count of 23 came from Keung Shan Catchwater, Lantau on 6 October.

An apparent hybrid Cinereous/Japanese Tit *P. cinereus*/*P. minor* was photographed at Airfield Road on 21 December (IS *et al.*).

Yellow-cheeked Tit *Parus spilonotus* 黃頰山雀 IIA

Locally uncommon resident of mature woodland in central NT; highest count 15 on 2 September 1990.

Recorded from Tai Po Kau including the Headland in most months with juveniles in summer, peak count five on 4 August. Elsewhere singles at Shing Mun on 12 May and 13 October and at Tai Lam CP on 8 December.

Chinese Penduline Tit *Remiz consobrinus* 中華攀雀 I

Common autumn migrant and winter visitor to reedmarshes, mostly in the Deep Bay area, but can be difficult to observe; extreme dates 10 October to 23 May, highest count 120 on 14 November 2011.

Most records from MPNR, including birds trapped, and Long Valley.

First winter period: recorded until 3 May, high count 64 including trapped birds at MPNR on 2 January and eight at Long Valley on 19 March. Records also from Hoo Hok Wai and Kam Tin, and 24 at Kuk Po on 23 January was an exceptional count away from the Deep Bay area.

Second winter period: recorded from 4 November. Peak count 125 at MPNR on 6 November (PJL), a new highest count which included 85 fly-over migrants, with other high counts there of 90 on 19 November and 50 on 11 December. Six at Hoo Hok Wai on 19 November.

Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* 大短趾百靈 I

One record, 12 October 1982.

One photographed at Long Valley on 31 March (KML) was determined as probably ex-captive.

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis* 雲雀 I

Uncommon autumn passage migrant and scarce winter visitor with extreme dates of 9 October to 3 April; highest count 15 on 28 October 2010.

Another very good year, the third in succession.

First winter period: one at Long Valley up to 19 March.

Second winter period: recorded from 9 October to 6 December, most records from Long Valley and MPNR, peak count seven at Long Valley on 18 October. Also five at Nim Wan and four at San Tin on 10 October, three at Ping Che on 14 October, two at Lam Tsuen on 20 October and six at Hoo Hok Wai on 25 October.

Plate 32 Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis* 雲雀
Long Valley, 21st October 2011 塱原 2011年10月21日
K.Y. Shum 沈冠宇

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus* 紅耳鵯 I

Abundant resident in most habitats except woodland interior; highest count 300 on 22 September 2008.

Widespread records with the peak count 67 at Ho Sheung Heung on 27 August.

Chinese Bulbul *Pycnonotus sinensis* 白頭鵯 I

Abundant all year, with migrants and winter visitors occurring; present in nearly all habitats, the most abundant and widespread species in HK; highest count 5,000 on 30 March 2010.

Widespread records with the peak count 282 at Kam Tin on 14 February, other high counts 179 at MPNR on 22 February, 185 at Tai Po Kau Headland on 9 April, a migrant flock of 150 on Po Toi on 25 October and 178 at MPNR on 6 November.

Sooty-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster* 白喉紅臀鵯 I

Common resident in open country habitats away from urban and marshy areas; highest count 80 on 25 April 1987.

Widespread records in all months, peak count 18 at Ho Sheung Heung on 10 December.

Mountain Bulbul *Ixos mcclellandii* 綠翅短腳鵯 I

Uncommon and local resident in closed-canopy woodland, with increasing range and numbers; highest count 15 on 24 September 2011.

Recorded in all months except June and July with most records from Tai Po Kau, Ng Tung Chai and Shing Mun. Records from an increasing number of other locations confirm the spread of this species from the central NT, including Tai Lam CP, KFBG, Bride's Pool and Mui Tsz Lam, peak count 20 there on 20 October (GC) is a new high count.

The number of locations from which this species has been recorded in each year since the first record at Tai Po Kau in 2001 is as follows:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1	1	2	3	2	2	4	7	7	6	8	9

Chestnut Bulbul *Hemixos castanonotus* 栗背短腳鵯 I

Common resident and winter visitor to closed-canopy shrubland and woodland throughout HK; subject to periodic winter irruptions; highest count 466 on 7 April 2011.

Widespread reports from the north, central and east NT, and HK, Lamma, Lantau and Po Tois., peak count 98 at Shek O CP on 22 November is low by recent standards and from an unexpected location. Summer records almost equally widespread including Ma On Shan, Sai Kung West and Aberdeen CP and several locations on Lantau Island.

Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus* 黑短腳鵯 I

Irruptive winter visitor and scarce passage migrant to woodland areas; extreme dates 27 September to 3 June; highest count 200 on 16 February 1992.

Very few records with a low peak count.

First winter period: two at both Tai Po Kau and Leadmine Pass on 26 February, five at Tai Po Kau Headland on 21 March, the peak count eight at Nim Wan on 13 April and singles at Lam Tsuen on 30 April and on Po Toi on the late date of 5 May.

Second winter period: five at Chek Lap Kok on 31 December.

Pale Martin *Riparia diluta* 淡色沙燕 I

Uncommon passage migrant although occasionally in large numbers, and rare winter visitor to open country habitats, especially fish ponds and reedmarshes in the northwest NT; extreme dates 8 August to 10 June; highest count 3,000 on 3 May 2000.

All records from the Mai Po - Lok Ma Chau area unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: singles at Hoo Hok Wai on 21 February and MPNR on 11 March were both early records. Spring passage from 4 April to 21 May with peak count 30 at MPNR on 27 April and singles elsewhere at Pui O, Long Valley and on Po Toi.

Second winter period: one at MPNR on 24 July (JAA) is a new earliest date and coincided with Typhoon Vicente. Then recorded from 1 October to 17 December, high count ten at MPNR on 18 October and three at Long Valley on 29 October.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Pale Martin (Fig. 17) includes two exceptional records, 1,370 on 5 May 1994 and 3,000 on 3 May 2000. Excluding these, most records occur in April and October.

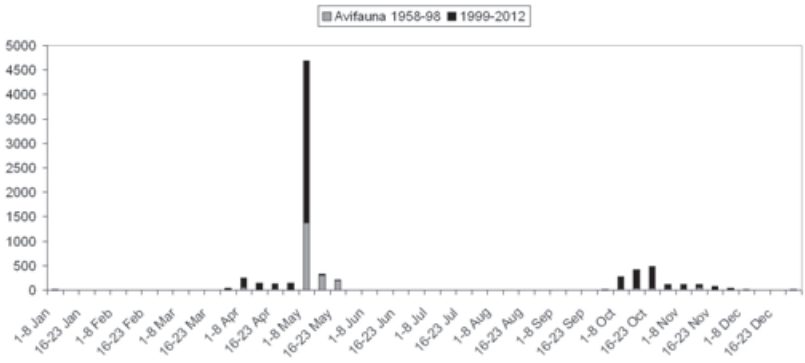


Figure 17. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Pale Martin *Riparia diluta* 淡色沙燕

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* 家燕 I

Abundant passage migrant, common breeding species and uncommon winter visitor; highest count 5,500 on 4 April 1996.

Most records from the Deep Bay and Long Valley areas.

First winter period: a poor spring passage with a high count of only 150 at Nam Sang Wai on 19 May. 50 migrants coming in off the sea on Po Toi on 22 March.

Summer: most records from regular counts at Long Valley, MPNR and Nim Wan with high counts of 56, 142 and 122 respectively.

Second winter period: recorded up to 10 December with the peak count of 350 at MPNR on 4 September, the lowest peak count since 2006. A leucistic individual photographed at San Tin on 12 November.

Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum* 白腹毛腳燕 I

Three records, all from 20 to 22 November 2009.

One at Tai Sang Wai on 9 December (J&JH) is the fourth Hong Kong record.

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

Uncommon spring passage migrant,occasionally in high numbers, scarce in autumn and rare in winter; extreme dates 13 September to 24 May, highest count 400 on 4 April 1996.

A good year.

First winter period: recorded from 23 January to 14 March, mostly in the Deep Bay area, peak count 15 at MPNR on 23 January with 11 at LMC on 13 March. Also recorded from Kam Tin, Luk Keng, Nam Chung, and Shap Long, Lantau.

Second winter period: three at The Peak on 29 October. Then recorded from 28 November to 9 December from more widespread locations than spring including Long Valley, Luk Keng, Nam Chung, Tai Mei Tuk, Kap Lung, Shek Kong Airfield Road, Lam Tsuen, Lin Au and Pui O, peak count 100 at Shek Kong Airfield Road on 9 December.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* 金腰燕 I

Common passage migrant and winter visitor, occasionally in quite large flocks, with a very small, recently-established localised breeding population; highest count 350 on 8 December 1982.

A very good year with high counts in both seasons and breeding season records.

First half year: recorded from 27 January to 11 March, all records from the Deep Bay area, high count 55 at Hoo Hok Wai on 25 February. One on Po Toi on 11 May.

Breeding season: up to six recorded in the Mai Po area.

Second half year: most records from MPNR, San Tin and Long Valley, high counts 130 at MPNR on 24 November and 5 December, 27 at Long Valley on 28 November and the peak count of 282 at San Tin on 7 December, easily the highest since *The Avifauna*. Also recorded at Lam Tsuen, southwest Lantau, Chek Lap Kok, Pui O and on Po Toi.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Red-rumped Swallow is given as Figure 18. Records for this species peak in the last seven weeks of the year.

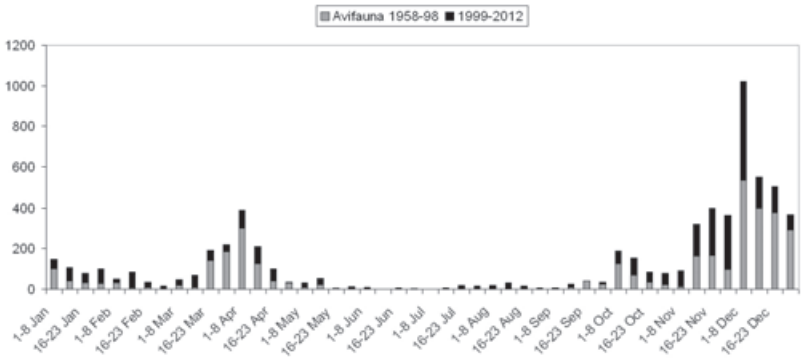


Figure 18. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* 金腰燕

Plate 33 Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* 金腰燕
Tai Sang Wai, 2nd December 2012 大生圍 2012年12月2日
John and Jemi Holmes 孔思義及黃亞萍

Pygmy Wren-babbler *Pnoepyga pusilla* 小鷦鶯 I

Locally common resident in closed-canopy shrubland and woodland, mostly in central and northeast NT but expanding southeast and east; highest count nine on 14 November 2007.

Recorded in all months, mostly from the strongholds of central and northeast NT, peak count 11 at Tai Po Kau on 4 February (JAA) is a new highest count. Also recorded from Mui Tsz Lam, Ma On Shan, in February, June and October and from Sai Kung West CP in November and December, with the first record from Lantau Island, at Ngong Ping, on 20 October. This last record complements November records on Lamma and Po Toi in 2010, suggesting dispersal of birds raised in HK or winter visitors from elsewhere.

The number of locations from which this species has been recorded in each year since the first record at Tai Po Kau in 2000 is as follows:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
0	2	4	4	7	5	9	7	11	15	12	15

Mountain Tailorbird *Phyllergates cuculatus* 金頭縫葉鶯 I

Uncommon resident and locally common winter visitor in closed-canopy shrubland and woodland; highest count 14 on 6 June 2011.

First half year: most records from central and northeast NT, peak count ten at Ng Tung Chai on several dates. Also recorded from HK Island, Po Toi and Tung Ping Chau.

Breeding season: recorded from Hok Tau, Pat Sin Leng, Ng Tung Chai, Tai Mo Shan, Tai Po Kau, Wonderland Villas, Sai Kung West CP, Kowloon Peak and Victoria Peak, high count six at Tai Po Kau on 2 July.

Second half year: most records were from central and northeast NT with high counts five at Tai Po Kau on 4 August and 12 between Lead Mine Pass and Chuen Lung on 12 October. Also recorded at Sai Kung West CP and Hong Kong, Cheung Chau, Lamma and Po Tois.

This species has expanded rapidly in Hong Kong since the first record in 1999. The number of locations from which it has been recorded in each year in recent years is as follows:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1	0	7	10	13	13	13	17	25	38	23	33

Plate 34 Japanese Bush Warbler *Horornis diphone canturians* 日本樹鶯
Mai Po NR, 9th April 2012 米埔 2012年4月9日
Jacky Chan 陳家華

Although field separation criteria between Japanese Bush Warbler, *H. diphone* (ssp. *canturians*) and Manchurian Bush Warbler *H. borealis* have yet to be fully resolved, this is considered to be a Japanese Bush Warbler due to the rather uniform upperparts, extensively rich crown and lack of grey on the nape (PJ Leader in litt.).

因其較平均的上半部、深色的頭頂及缺乏灰色的頸部，所以辨認爲遠東樹鶯 *H. borealis* 而非日本樹鶯

Japanese Bush Warbler *Horornis diphone* 日本樹鶯 I *and* Manchurian Bush Warbler *H. borealis* 遠東樹鶯 I

The taxonomy of Japanese/Manchurian Bush Warbler has been revised. Two species are now accepted to occur in Hong Kong: Japanese Bush Warbler, *H. diphone* (ssp. *canturians*) and Manchurian Bush Warbler *H. borealis*. Criteria for field separation of these two taxa has yet to be fully resolved, so all records of the two species are combined in this account.

Uncommon winter visitors and migrants to shrubland and lightly wooded areas; numbers appear to be declining; extreme dates 26 September to 8 May; highest count 40 on 15 November 1992.

Widespread records from north and central NT and islands although numbers remain low compared to the 1990s.

First winter period: recorded to 9 April, mostly from Po Toi, high count four there on 13 March, also from MPNR, Long Valley, Sha Lo Tung, Ho Pui, Lam Tsuen and Lamma Island.

Second winter period: recorded from 24 October, peak count five on Po Toi on 22 November with four at Dragon's Back on 22 November, MPNR on 29 November and Ngong Ping on 27 December, also recorded from Kam Tin, Sha Tau Kok, Hok Tau, Sha Lo Tung, Airfield Road, Ho Pui, Lam Tsuen, Pak Sha O, Deep Water Bay and Chek Lap Kok.

Brown-flanked Bush Warbler *Horornis fortipes* 強腳樹鶯 I

Locally common winter visitor to shrubland and woodland edge, breeding in increasing numbers in upland shrubland since at least 2003; highest count 29 on 25 February 2009.

First winter period: relatively few reports compared to recent years, high count ten at Ng Tung Chai on 6 March.

Breeding season: singing birds at Pat Sin Leng, Cloudy Hill, Pun Shan Chau, Tai Mo Shan and Beacon Hill. High counts of 35 between Tai Mo Shan and Tai Po Kau on 6 May (JaM), a new high count, 28 at Tai Mo Shan on 8 May and 18 at Pat Sin Leng on 29 June.

Second winter year: widespread records from 11 October at MPNR, Lau Shui Hang, Sha Lo Tung, Fung Yuen, Shek Kong, Tai Lam CP, Ng Tung Chai, Lam Tsuen, Leadmine Pass, Lin Au, Sai Kung East CP, Chek Lap Kok and on Po Toi, high count five on Po Toi on 6 December.

Asian Stubtail *Urosphena squameiceps* 鱗頭樹鶯 I

Common winter visitor to forest and closed-canopy shrubland; extreme dates 2 October to 12 April; highest count 20 on 27 November 1993.

Widespread records in both winter periods from the north, central and eastern NT and HK Island, Lamma, Lantau and Po Toi.

First winter period: recorded to 8 April with most records in January, high count three at Tai Po Kau and Tai Lam CP.

Second winter period: recorded from 20 October, peak count 13 at Shek O CP on 22 November with 27 between Kap Lung and Tai Lam on 8 December (JAA), a new high count.

Black-throated Tit *Aegithalos concinnus* 紅頭長尾山雀 IIA

Scarce and localised resident in small numbers, restricted to Shing Mun, Tai Po Kau and Kowloon Hills.

Recorded from Shing Mun, Tai Po Kau and Kowloon Hills, peak count ten at Shing Mun on 24 September. Two on Po Toi on 25 December is a new location for this species and were possibly winter visitors from outside of HK.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* 褐柳鶯 I

Abundant winter visitor and migrant to shrubland and open country areas; extreme dates 6 September to 17 May, highest count 100 on 20 October 1990.

Widespread records from north NT, Lam Tsuen and islands.

First winter period: recorded up to 3 May, peak count 26 at MPNR on 13 January.

Second winter period: recorded from 16 September, peak count 63 at MPNR on 6 November with 50 at Nam Sang Wai on 21 November, 22 at Kam Tin on 1 December, 40 in Long Valley and 18 on Po Toi on 4 December and 29 at San Tin on 7 December.

Yellow-streaked Warbler *Phylloscopus armandii* 棕眉柳鶯 I

Rare late autumn passage migrant with one winter record; extreme dates 16 October to 26 November and 3 February.

One singing at Ping Che from 9 to 11 April (JAA) is the first spring record. One trapped at MPNR on 6 November (JAA *et al.*).

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

Uncommon autumn passage migrant and rare winter visitor to shrubland and open-country areas; extreme dates 6 October to 24 February; highest count three on 24 October 1992.

An exceptional second winter period.

First winter period: one on Po Toi on 29 January is a rare winter record.

Second winter period: recorded from 10 October to 15 December from 19 different locations in north and central NT, HK Island, Lamma and Po Toi, mostly singles and twos, but three at Nam Sang Wai on 21 November and MPNR on 24 November, five at Sok Kwu Wan on 20 November and the peak count six at Mount Davis on 19 November (BK), a new highest count. At least 33 individuals involved but probably many more.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Radde's Warbler is given as Figure 19. Almost all HK records are in autumn.

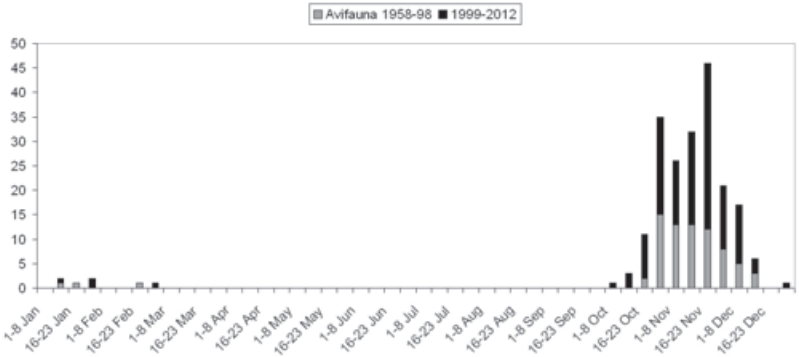


Figure 19. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* 巨嘴柳鶯

Plate 35 Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* 巨嘴柳鶯
Tai Po Kau, 17th November 2012 大埔滘 2012年11月17日
Kwan Po Kuen 關保權

Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* 黃腰柳鶯 I

Common winter visitor and migrant to forest and closed-canopy shrubland; extreme dates 24 October to 19 April, highest count 100 on 13 December 1996.

Records in both winter periods from north, central and east NT and HK Island, Cheung Chau, Lamma, Lantau and Po Toi.

First winter period: widespread records to 4 April, peak count 20 at Ngong Ping on 9 January.

Second winter period: recorded from 2 November, high count 19 at Nei Lak Shan, Lantau on 27 December.

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

Abundant and widespread winter visitor and migrant to wooded and open-country areas; extreme dates 8 September to 9 May, highest count 100 on 12 December 1993.

Widespread records in both winter periods from north, central and east NT and HK Island, Cheung Chau, Lamma, Lantau and Po Toi.

First winter period: recorded to 6 May, peak count 57 at Aberdeen CP on 8 January, the highest since *The Avifauna.*

Second winter period: recorded from 19 September, high counts 55 at Shek O CP on 22 November, 32 at Kam Tin on 1 December and 43 from Kap Lung to Tai Lam on 8 December.

Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei* 淡眉柳鶯 I

Nine records, extreme dates 4 November to 5 February and 13 April.

One on Po Toi on 14 October (BL) is a new earliest record.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* 極北柳鶯 I *and* Japanese Leaf Warbler *P. xanthodryas* 日本柳鶯 I

The Arctic Warbler complex has been split into three species. Two of these have now been accepted to occur in Hong Kong: Arctic Warbler *P. borealis* and Japanese Leaf Warbler *P. xanthodryas*. The third, Kamchatka Leaf Warbler *P. examinandus*, may also occur but no records have yet been accepted.

Due to difficulties in field identification, all records of this species group are included under a single entry in this report.

Passage migrant, common in autumn and uncommon in spring, to lightly wooded areas; extreme dates 30 March to 27 May and 18 August to 4 December, highest count 60 on 18 September 1988.

As in previous years, autumn records were much more widespread. Whether different species are involved in the two seasons has yet to be established, although it is possible that some spring records refer to *P. xanthodryas* while most autumn records probably refer to *P. borealis*.

Spring: recorded from 7 April, an early date, to 17 May, most records from Po Toi with a high count of 11 there on 8 May. Also recorded from MPNR, Fung Lok Wai, Tai Po Kau and Wong Tai Sin.

Autumn: recorded from 5 September to 8 November, peak count 12 on south Lamma on 15 September with ten on Po Toi on 16 September and at MPNR on 18 September. Also recorded from Lau Fau Shan, Kam Tin, LMC, Ho Sheung Heung, Lai Chi Wo, Fung Yuen, Kap Lung, Shing Mun, Tai Po Kau, Wonderland Villas, Lung Fu Shan and Braemar Hill.

Two-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus* 雙斑柳鶯 I

Uncommon passage migrant, mostly in autumn, and winter visitor to shrubland and woodland areas; extreme dates 16 September to 24 April, highest count five on 18 October 2009.

A good year. Records of this species have increased substantially since 2005, probably due to improved understanding of its identification.

First winter period: winter singles at MPNR, Fung Yuen, Shing Mun, Tai Po Kau and Shap Long, Lantau. Spring singles, including singing birds, up to 19 April at MPNR, Tai Po Kau, Po Toi and Tung Ping Chau.

Second winter period: recorded from 2 October to year end at MPNR, Ng Tung Chai, KFBG, Lam Tsuen, Tai Po Kau, Pak Sha O, Aberdeen CP, Braemar Hill, and on Po Toi, mostly singles and twos but three on Po Toi on 9 October and Tai Po Kau on 23 October.

Pale-legged Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus tenellipes* 淡腳柳鶯 I *and* Sakhalin Leaf Warbler *P. borealoides* 庫頁島柳鶯 I

Since reliable criteria for separation in the field remain to be established, records of these two species are combined, unless birds are trapped, allowing for known differences in wing formula to be used for identification. All records refer to the combined species unless otherwise stated.

Uncommon passage migrant, mostly in autumn, and scarce winter visitor to lightly wooded areas; extreme dates 31 August to 5 May, highest count nine on 11 September 2005. Based on trapping records, tenellipes *is more common than* borealoides *in a ratio of 2:1, with this ratio being 3:1 in September and 1:1 in October. Only* tenellipes *has winter records; the latest date for* borealoides *is 17 November.*

First winter period: recorded from 16 March to 21 April with most records from Po Toi, high count there of four on 7 April, also recorded at MPNR, south Lamma and Ngong Ping.

Second winter period: recorded from 2 September from widespread locations with a peak count of five at Tai Po Kau on 22 September and seven in southwest Lantau on 6 October. December records from Ho Pui, Kap Lung and Pak Sha O.

Pale-legged Leaf Warblers were trapped at MPNR between 15 September and 6 October and Sakhalin Leaf Warblers were trapped at MPNR between 8 September and 11 October.

Plate 36 Probable Sakhalin Leaf Warbler *P. borealoides* 擬似庫頁島柳鶯
Tai Po Kau, 15th September 2012 大埔滘 2012年9月15日
Peter and Michelle Wong 黃理沛 江敏兒

Identified as probably Sakhalin Leaf Warbler based on primary projection (PJ Leader *in litt.*), although Pale-legged Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus tenellipes* cannot be conclusively ruled out.

雖然不可能完全排除是淡腳柳鶯 *Phylloscopus tenellipes*，但憑其初級飛羽突出部分可以辨認爲庫頁島柳鶯。

Eastern Crowned Warbler *Phylloscopus coronatus* 冕柳鶯 I

Uncommon autumn passage migrant, scarce in spring and rare in winter, to shrubland and woodland; extreme dates 7 August to 18 April, highest count ten on 6 September 1982.

First winter period: recorded from 28 March to 15 April at Ng Tung Chai, Tai Po Kau and on Po Toi, high count three at Ng Tung Chai on the earliest date.

Second winter period: recorded from 18 August to 22 November, peak count five at Tai Po Kau on 8 October. Also recorded from MPNR, Kuk Po, Lau Shui Heung, Ng Tung Chai, Lam Tsuen, Shing Mun, Pak Sha O and HK, Lantau and Po Tois.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Eastern Crowned Warbler is given as Figure 20.

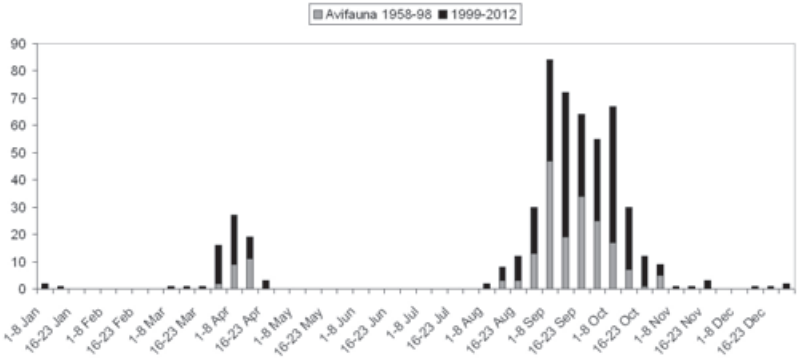


Figure 20. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Eastern Crowned Warbler *Phylloscopus coronatus* 冕柳鶯

Goodson's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus goodsoni* 古氏[冠紋]柳鶯 I

Following a split in the Blyth's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides* complex, only the taxon *P.g. goodsoni* is considered to certainly occur in Hong Kong, based on the extensive yellow on the underparts and face that is diagnostic of this taxon. Although it is considered that birds with less extensive yellow are likely to refer to *P.g. fokiensis*, this is not proven, as Claudia's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus claudiae* cannot be excluded. Observers are encouraged to submit records as *P.g. goodsoni* or *fokiensis/claudiae*, where appropriate.

Locally common winter visitor to shrubland and woodland; extreme dates 5 September to 4 April, highest count ten on 12 November 1990.

All records from Tai Po Kau unless otherwise noted.

First winter period: singles recorded to 11 March at Hok Tau, Shing Mun, Tai Po Kau and Wong Chuk Heung with one singing at Ng Tung Chai on 1 April. One *fokiensis/claudiae* at Hok Tau on 5 February was the only record specified to taxon.

Second winter period: recorded from 6 October with most records from Tai Po Kau, peak count five, three *goodsoni* and two *fokiensis/claudiae*, there on 12 December. Also recorded at Sam A. Tsuen, Airfield Road, Kap Lung, KFBG, Lam Tsuen, Shing Mun and Pak Sha O and on HK and Cheung Chau Islands. Of records attributed to taxon, *goodsoni* was recorded four times, with *fokiensis/claudiae* recorded ten times.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Goodson's Leaf Warbler is given as Figure 21. This includes records of both *fokiensis/claudiae* and *goodsoni*, which are recorded in an approximate ratio of 2:1.

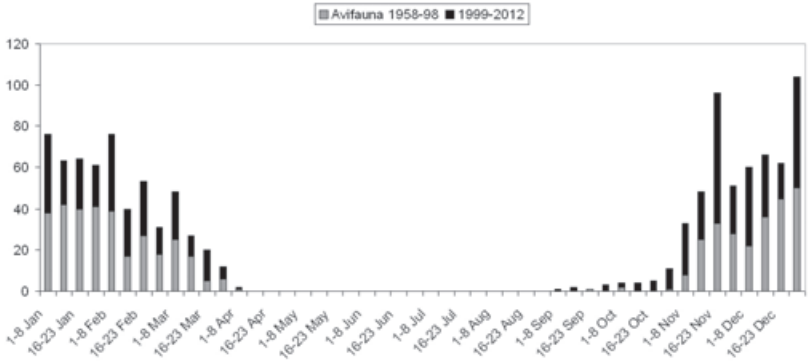


Figure 21. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Goodson's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus goodsoni* 古氏[冠紋]柳鶯

Sulphur-breasted Warbler *Phylloscopus ricketti* 黑眉柳鶯 I

Three records, one spring and two autumn.

One at KFBG on 8 December (EMSK) is the fourth HK record and the latest.

Bianchi's Warbler *Seicercus valentini* 比氏鵐鶯 I

Four records, extreme dates 9 October to 2 January.

Singles at Tai Lam CP on 8 December (JAA) and on Po Toi on 26 December (A&BL).

Plate 37 Alström's Warbler *Seicercus soror* 純色尾鶲鶯
Tai Po Kau, 13th October 2012 大埔滘 2012年10月13日
Peter and Michelle Wong 黃理沛 江敏兒

Alström's Warbler *Seicercus soror* 純色尾鶲鶯 I

Two records; extreme dates 9 to 16 October.

Three singles, at Tai Po Kau on 30 September (P&MW), at MPNR from 9 to 11 October (JAA) and on Po Toi on 9 October (GW). These are the third to fifth Hong Kong records.

Spectacled Warbler sp. *Seicercus* sp. 眼眶鶲鶯

Scarce winter visitor to forest, extreme dates 9 September to 1 April.

This includes birds of the genus *Seicercus* not certainly identified to species level. Species involved may include White-spectacled Warbler, Bianchi's Warbler, Grey-crowned Warbler and Alström's Warbler.

Singles at Tai Po Kau on 29 September, Lam Tsuen on 13 October, on Po Toi from 30 October to 11 November with a different bird there on 21 November and at KFBG on 9 December.

Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Seicercus castaniceps* 栗頭鶲鶯 I

Rare winter visitor to forest; extreme dates 5 November to 25 March, highest count two on 22 November 2004.

One at Kap Lung on 9 December.

Oriental Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis* 東方大葦鶯 I

Common passage migrant, especially in autumn, with occasional winter and summer records, to reedmarsh, tall grassy vegetation and even urban edge parkland habitats; typically within dates of 16 March to 8 June and 24 August to 15 November, highest count 300 on 25 September 1997.

First winter period: recorded from 21 February to 24 May, all records from MPNR except one at Hoo Hok Wai on the first date, high count five on 22 April.

Second winter period: recorded from 28 August to 7 December with most records at MPNR and Long Valley, peak count 36 at MPNR on 2 October with 14 at Long Valley on 15 October. Also recorded at Nim Wan, Hoo Hok Wai, Ping Che, Lam Tsuen and on Po Toi.

Black-browed Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps* 黑眉葦鶯 I

Common passage migrant and scarce winter visitor to reedmarsh and damp vegetated areas; extreme dates 25 August to 30 May, highest count 120 on 13 October 2001.

First winter period: winter records at MPNR, LMC and Long Valley, then recorded up to 15 May with all records from Kam Tin, MPNR, San Tin and Long Valley, high count nine at MPNR on 6 May.

Second winter period: recorded from 18 September with most records in October and November from MPNR, Long Valley and Lam Tsuen, peak count 60 at MPNR on 16 October with eight at Long Valley on 1 October and four at Lam Tsuen on 23 October. Also recorded from Nim Wan, San Tin, Tai Po Kau, an unusual record there, southwest Lantau and Po Toi.

Manchurian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus tangorum* 遠東葦鶯 I VU

Scarce autumn passage migrant to reedmarsh and damp vegetated areas, two winter and two spring records; extreme dates in autumn 4 September to 2 November.

Another very good year. Regular records at MPNR in recent years suggest this is an important stopover location during autumn migration for this Vulnerable species.

Recorded from 11 September to 3 November, followed by six records of singles trapped at MPNR up to 11 December (JAA *et al.*). A total of at least 20 different birds

were involved, a record annual count, with 17 individuals trapped at MPNR and singles at Pak Sha O on 12 October and 3 November, Tsim Bei Tsui on 14 October and Lam Tsuen on 21 October.

Plate 38 Manchurian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus tangorum* 遠東葦鶯
Tsim Bei Tsui, 14th October 2012 尖鼻咀 2012年10月14日
Allen Chan 陳志雄

Thick-billed Warbler *Iduna aedon* 厚嘴葦鶯 I

Scarce autumn migrant to shrubland and reedmarsh-edge with five winter and spring records; most records between 29 August and 30 November.

One at Kam Tin on 4 April was a rare spring record. In an excellent autumn, singles recorded from 6 September to 20 November, mostly ringed at MPNR but also recorded at Lam Tsuen, Sok Kwu Wan and on Po Toi with two at San Tin on 14 November. Probably a total of nine individuals involved, giving a record total of ten individuals in the year.

Russet Bush Warbler *Locustella mandelli* 高山短翅鶯 I

Uncommon winter visitor to mixed grassland-shrubland; rare breeding species in highest areas; highest count nine on 10 November 2002.

First winter period: recorded up to 26 March with many records from Lam Tsuen, high count three there on 15 January, but also from Crest Hill, Ping Che, Tan Shan Valley and Sha Lo Tung.

Summer: records of singles in the Tai Mo Shan area in May and August.

Second winter period: recorded from 21 October at MPNR, Tam Shui Hang, Ho Pui, Lam Tsuen, Lin Au, Tai Mo Shan, Ma On Shan, Mount Davis, Tung O, Lamma and Po Toi, peak count five at Tai Om Shan on 12 November.

Plate 39 Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata* 矛斑蝗鶯
Long Valley, 20th October 2012 塱原 2012年10月20日
Ho Kam Wing 何錦榮

Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata* 矛斑蝗鶯 I

Uncommon autumn passage migrant with a few late winter and spring records; occurs in a variety of vegetated habitats, extreme dates 7 February to 22 May and 2 September to 18 December, highest count eleven on 22 October 2009.

First winter period: singles at MPNR on 2 January and Po Toi on 5 May were unusual winter and spring records respectively.

Second winter period: recorded from 17 September to 7 December with most records at MPNR, Long Valley, Lam Tsuen and on Po Toi, peak count nine trapped at MPNR on 16 October with three together in a water channel at Lam Tsuen on 27 October.

Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella ochotensis* 北蝗鶯 I

Three records; extreme dates 26 to 27 February and 26 to 29 October.

One trapped at MPNR on 11 September (JAA *et al.*). This is the fourth HK record and the earliest in autumn.

Styan's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella pleskei* 史氏蝗鶯 I VU

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, mostly to reedmarsh and mangroves at MPNR; extreme dates 9 September to 12 May.

Singles recorded singing from mangroves at MPNR from 19 April to 4 May.

Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella certhiola* 小蝗鶯 I

Common autumn passage migrant, scarce in spring and winter, to damp grassland and reedmarsh areas, though occasionally found in urban parks and other open areas on migration; extreme dates 23 August to 18 May, highest count 55 on 13 September 1991.

First winter period: singles at LMC on 19 January, MPNR on 29 January and LMC again on 13 March with two at Long Valley on 9 May.

Second winter period: recorded from 30 August to 11 December with most records at MPNR, including many trapped, Long Valley and on Po Toi, peak count 21 trapped at MPNR on 20 September with nine the high count at Long Valley on 27 September. Also recorded from LMC and Tin Shui Wai.

Japanese Swamp Warbler *Locustella pryeri* 斑背大尾鶯 I NT

Four records; extreme dates 10 November to 19 January.

One trapped at MPNR on 23 November (JAA *et al.*) is the fifth Hong Kong record.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* 棕扇尾鶯 I

Common passage migrant and winter visitor to grassy and reedmarsh areas, breeds in Deep Bay area and possibly elsewhere; highest count 100 on 5 December 1997.

First winter period: recorded up to 26 March, mostly from Long Valley, high count 15 at Lam Tsuen on 15 January and 12 at Long Valley on 26 March.

Breeding season: singles at MPNR in June and July.

Second winter period: recorded from 30 August when one was at Fung Yuen, an unusual record there. More widespread records than spring although most from Long Valley and MPNR, peak count 20 at Long Valley on 1 October. Also recorded from other locations in the Deep Bay area plus Ping Che, Plover Cove CP, Lam Tsuen, Lamma, Lantau and Po Tois.

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis* 金頭扇尾鶯 I

Locally common winter visitor to grassland; extreme dates 19 August to 28 April, highest count 23 on 2 October 2011.

First winter period: recorded up to 9 April, all records from the north NT, high count five at Ping Che on the last date.

Second winter period: recorded from 6 September, mostly from the northeast NT and Lam Tsuen with records also from HK, Lamma, Lantau and Po Tois. Peak count 17 at Ping Che on 14 October with 16 at Ping Yeung on 16 November; also ten at Kai Kung Leng in Lam Tsuen CP on 12 November.

This species has expanded rapidly in Hong Kong in recent years. However, there have been fewer records in the last two winters at Long Valley and Po Toi, where records were previously more regular. The number of locations from which it has been recorded is as follows:

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
4	1	2	10	14	8	10	21	19	20	24	22

Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris* 黃腹鷦鶯 I

Abundant resident in a variety of non-woodland habitats.

Recorded throughout the year with most records from systematic surveys at MPNR, Long Valley and Nim Wan, peak count 67 at MPNR on 6 May with 21 in the Long Valley area on 14 March.

Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata* 純色鷦鶯 I

Locally common resident in grassy and reed habitats.

Recorded throughout the year with most records from systematic surveys at MPNR and Long Valley. The peak count was 20 at Kam Tin on 1 December with 17 at MPNR on 22 February and 16 at San Tin on 7 December and in Long Valley on 19 November. Also recorded from Starling Inlet, Ping Che and on Lamma and Po Toi.

Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius* 長尾縫葉鶯 **I**

Widespread and common resident in diverse shrubland and wooded habitats.

Most records from systematic surveys at MPNR, Nim Wan, Long Valley, Tai Po Kau Headland, Braemar Hill and on Po Toi. As in 2011, these do not show any regular fluctuation in numbers over the course of the year in any location.

Plate 40 Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficollis* 棕頸鈎嘴鶥
Tai Po Kau, 29th September 2012 大埔滘 2012年9月29日
Wallace Tse 謝鑑超

Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficollis* 棕頸鈎嘴鶥 IIA

Widespread and locally common resident in closed-canopy shrubland and woodland; highest count 20 on 4 January 2003.

Recorded in all months with most records from the central and northeast NT, Tai Lam, Ma On Shan and Sai Kung West CP, HK and Lamma Island. Peak count ten at Shek O CP on 22 November with eight at Tai Lam CP on 28 January and four at Tai Po Kau Headland on several dates.

Rufous-capped Babbler *Stachyridopsis ruficeps* 紅頭穗鶥 IIA

Common resident in closed-canopy shrubland and woodland, mainly in the central NT; highest count 20.

Recorded in all months with most records from the central and northeast NT, Tai Lam, Ma On Shan and Sai Kung West CPs. Peak count 37 in Tai Lam CP on 28 January (JAA), a new highest count, with 24 at Tai Po Kau and 15 at Tai Po Kau Headland. One at Mount Davis on 7 November was a rare record from HK Island.

Huet's Fulvetta *Alcippe hueti* 黑眉雀鶥 IIA

Following a split in the Grey-cheeked Fulvetta complex, the species occurring in HK has been demonstrated to be Huet's Fulvetta *Alcippe hueti*, based upon vocalisations. The population is considered to be self-sustaining and because this species is resident in Guangdong, it has now been included within the Hong Kong List in Category IIA.

Uncommon resident of forest areas in central NT; highest count 24 on 11 January 2011.

Recorded in most months, mostly from Tai Po Kau but also Ho Pui Reservoir, Kap Lung, Ng Tung Chai and Shing Mun, peak count 11 at Tai Po Kau on 4 August.

Six at Tai Tam Reservoir on 27 May is the first record from HK Island since 1993, that record also at Tai Tam Reservoir. It is possible that these are not Huet's Fulvetta *Alcippe hueti* but another similar *Alcippe* species.

Chinese Grassbird *Graminicola striatus* 大草鶯 I NT

Scarce and localised resident of grassland above 200m in NT and on Lantau; highest count seven on 3 June 1995.

The Hong Kong population may be globally important and observers are encouraged to submit all records to help understand the status of this species.

All records except one were from the Tai Mo Shan area, mostly between 1 April and 4 June, with a peak count of four on 6 May; also two above KFBG on 2 December. Elsewhere, two at Pat Sin Leng on 26 June.

Chinese Babax *Babax lanceolatus* **矛紋草鶥 IIC**

Previously a scarce resident of upland grassland, but the established population on Tai Mo Shan is no longer believed to be self-sustaining; highest count 14 on 25 August 1984.

Two records, both from Tai Mo Shan, two on 1 April and one on 8 May.

Chinese Hwamei *Garrulax canorus* **畫眉 I**

Common and widespread resident in shrubland; highest count since The Avifauna, *21 on 2 May 2009.*

Recorded in all months from widespread locations in north, central, east and southeast NT and HK, Lamma and Lantau Islands, peak count 21 at Shek O CP on 22 November equals the highest count since *The Avifauna*.

Masked Laughingthrush *Garrulax perspicillatus* **黑臉噪鶥 I**

Abundant resident in diverse urban and rural lightly-wooded habitats.

Widespread records in all months, peak count 52 in Long Valley on 15 October with 46 at MPNR on 27 June.

Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax pectoralis* **黑領噪鶥 IIA**

Widespread and locally common resident in closed-canopy shrubland and woodland of NT and HK Island.

Recorded throughout the year and from widespread locations in north, central, southeast and eastern NT and from HK Island, peak count 18 at Pak Sha O.

Black-throated Laughingthrush *Garrulax chinensis* **黑喉噪鶥 IIA**

Widespread and locally common resident in closed-canopy shrubland and woodland, in NT and on HK Island, its previous stronghold.

Recorded throughout the year and from widespread locations in north, central, southeast and eastern NT and from HK Island, peak count nine at Shek O CP.

White-browed Laughingthrush *Garrulax sannio* 白頰噪鶥 IIA

Uncommon locally-distributed resident of shrubland and shrubland edge.

Recorded from Lam Tsuen and Ho Sheung Heung in most months, peak count of eight at Ho Sheung Heung on 3 December. Also recorded from the Tai Po Kau area and at Tit Hang near LMC.

Blue-winged Minla *Minla cyanouroptera* 藍翅希鶥 IIB

Locally common resident in closed-canopy shrubland and woodland of NT; highest count 50 on 8 September 1999.

Recorded in all months, with most records from the central and northeast NT, peak count 19 at Tai Po Kau on 4 February with 12 at Tai Po Kau Headland on 30 September. Also recorded from Kowloon Peak, Mui Tsz Lam and Sai Kung West CP.

Silver-eared Mesia *Leiothrix argentauris* 銀耳相思鳥 IIB

Locally common resident in closed-canopy shrubland and woodland in NT and HK Island; highest count 42 on 4 February 2006.

Most records from the central NT with the peak count of 24 at Tai Po Kau Headland on 26 December. Also recorded from northeast NT, Shek Kong, Lam Tsuen and Lion Rock CP with 15 at Lau Shui Heung on 7 December.

Red-billed Leiothrix *Leiothrix lutea* 紅嘴相思鳥 IIA

Uncommon localised resident in shrubland and woodland in central NT; highest count 20 on 28 January 2006.

All records from Tai Mo Shan, Shing Mun and Tai Po Kau with the peak count of eleven at Tai Mo Shan on 1 April.

This species seems to have declined in Tai Po Kau in recent years although it is still well-established at Tai Mo Shan. Observers are encouraged to submit all records.

Vinous-throated Parrotbill *Sinosuthora webbiana* 棕頭鴉雀 IIA

Uncommon localised resident of upland dwarf bamboo, grassland and shrubland edge, almost exclusively reported from Tai Mo Shan; highest count 25 on 11 May 2002.

All records from Tai Mo Shan between 18 March and 25 August, peak count 22 on the last date.

Chestnut-collared Yuhina *Yuhina castaniceps* 栗耳鳳鹛 I

Irruptive, otherwise uncommon, winter visitor to wooded areas, with occasional summer records; highest count 84 on 26 November 2009.

First winter period: recorded in January and March from KFBG, Tai Po Kau and Wonderland Villas, high count 30 at KFBG on 29 January and Tai Po Kau on 1 and 11 March.

Breeding season: 18 at Lion Rock CP on 6 June including at least two juveniles.

Second winter period: recorded from 26 November in large flocks indicating an irruption. Recorded from central, northeast and east NT, HK and Lantau Islands, peak count 80 at Lau Shui Heung on 17 December with high counts 44 in Tai Lam CP, 40 at KFBG, Lam Tsuen and Mount Davis, 35 at Sha Lo Tung and 30 at Pak Sha O.

Chestnut-flanked White-eye *Zosterops erythropleurus* 紅脇繡眼鳥 I

Scarce winter visitor to woodland areas; extreme dates 21 October to 8 April, highest count eight on 3 December 1995.

First winter period: two at Jubilee Reservoir on 3 March and one at Tai Po Kau Headland on 7 April.

Second winter period: two at Mount Davis on 4 November with singles on Po Toi on 18 November and at MPNR on 6 December.

Japanese White-eye *Zosterops japonicus* 暗綠繡眼鳥 I

Abundant and widespread resident of urban and rural wooded habitats with increased numbers in winter; highest count 300 on 4 January 1997.

Recorded throughout the year, mostly from regular surveys at MPNR, Nim Wan, Long Valley, Tai Po Kau Headland, Braemar Hill and Po Toi; high counts were 105 at MPNR on 13 July, 50 at Braemar Hill on 12 October, 74 in Long Valley on 5 November, peak count 175 on Po Toi on 4 December, and 120 at Lau Shui Heung on 24 December.

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis* 絨額鴷 IIB

Locally common resident of mature woodland in central NT; highest count 20 on 4 January 2004.

Recorded in all months, mostly from Tai Po Kau including the Headland but also Lau Shui Heung, Fung Yuen, Shek Kong, Ho Pui, Kap Lung, Lam Tsuen and Shing Mun, peak count 15 at Tai Po Kau Headland on 8 July.

Plate 41 Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis* 絨額鳾
Lui Kung Tin, 28th January 2012 雷公田 2012年1月28日
Vivian Cheung 張香妹

Crested Myna *Acridotheres cristatellus* 八哥 I

Abundant resident of lowland habitats including urban areas; highest count 600 on 7 October 1997.

Widespread records in all months, peak count 187 at Nim Wan on 2 February with 153 in Long Valley on 22 October, 120 from the Mai Po Access Road on 9 November and 101 at Pui O on 27 December.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* 家八哥 IIB

Locally common resident of open-country areas in the northwest NT; highest count 41 on 9 December 2011.

Recorded in all months from Deep Bay and Long Valley with high count 23 at San Tin on 12 January. Elsewhere, the peak count was 29 at Airfield Road on 2 October with two at Lam Tsuen in October and three at HK Baptist University on 21 December.

Red-billed Starling *Spodiopsar sericeus* 絲光椋鳥 I

Abundant winter visitor to open-country areas, mainly in northwest NT; recent years have seen summer records including breeding. Highest numbers occur from October to April, highest count 11,260 on 25 December 2006.

The lowest peak count since *The Avifauna* with a very poor second half.

First winter period: widespread records, mostly from the northwest NT but also northeast and central NT, Cheung Chau, Lantau and Po Toi, peak count 1,076 at San Tin on 9 February with 336 at MPNR on 22 February and 282 from Braemar Hill on 26 January, last record on Po Toi on 3 June.

Breeding season: most records from MPNR, high count 40 on 28 June.

Second winter period: recorded from 29 September, high count a very low 407 at MPNR on 7 December.

White-cheeked Starling *Spodiopsar cineraceus* 灰椋鳥 I

Locally common winter visitor to open-country areas, particularly Deep Bay, with recent breeding records; mainly present October to April, highest count 430 on 14 December 1996.

First winter period: most records from MPNR and Long Valley, peak count 223 at San Tin on 9 February with 140 at Kam Tin on 14 February. Singles on Po Toi from 20 March to 3 May and at Pui O on 23 April.

Breeding season: records including juveniles from MPNR, Hoo Hok Wai and Long Valley, high count 34 at Hoo Hok Wai on 17 June.

Second winter period: recorded from 19 September from the Deep Bay area and Long Valley, high count 32 at Ho Sheung Heung on 3 December. One on Po Toi on 25 October.

Black-collared Starling *Gracupica nigricollis* 黑領椋鳥 I

Common resident of open-country, village edge and urban habitats; highest count 280 on 29 October 1996.

Widespread records in all months. As in 2011, the highest count at MPNR was in summer, 98 on 13 July, and at Long Valley in early autumn, 317 on 10 September (LVP), the peak count and a new highest count for HK.

Daurian Starling *Agropsar sturninus* 北椋鳥 I

Uncommon autumn passage migrant to open-country areas, rare in spring with two winter records; extreme passage dates 12 April to 12 May and 4 September to 10 November. Highest count 50 on 26 September 2003.

A poor year with no spring records, few autumn records and a low peak count.

First winter period: a female at LMC on 10 February was only the third winter record following winter singles at the same location in 2005 and 2006.

Autumn: two on Po Toi from 13 to 22 September with one there on 11 October and up to three at Long Valley from 26 September to 8 October.

Chestnut-cheeked Starling *Agropsar philippensis* 栗頰椋鳥 I

Scarce passage migrant, mainly in autumn, to open-country areas; extreme dates 28 March to 30 April and 26 September to 20 November, highest count four on 22 April 1989.

One at Long Valley on 8 April was the only record.

White-shouldered Starling *Sturnia sinensis* 灰背椋鳥 I

Locally common passage migrant and breeding species, and uncommon winter visitor to open-country and village edge habitats mainly in the northwest NT; breeding population has increased due to the use of artificial nest sites; highest count 120 on 23 September 2006.

First winter period: recorded from 2 February, most records from the northwest NT and Po Toi, high counts 39 on Po Toi on 7 April and 55 at LMC on 13 April. Elsewhere, four at Ping Che on 9 April and also at Pui O on 23 April.

Breeding season: recorded from the northwest NT, high counts 44 at MPNR on 27 June, 49 at Hoo Hok Wai on 17 July and 75 at MPNR on 1 August, the peak count for the year.

Second winter period: most records from Long Valley and Po Toi between 9 September and 17 October, high count 40 on Po Toi on 18 September. Last record three at San Tin on 7 December.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for White-shouldered Starling (Fig. 22) shows the change in occurrence over three periods, 1958-78, with fewer records mostly in autumn and winter, 1978-98, with most records in spring and 1999-2012, with most records in spring, summer and autumn.

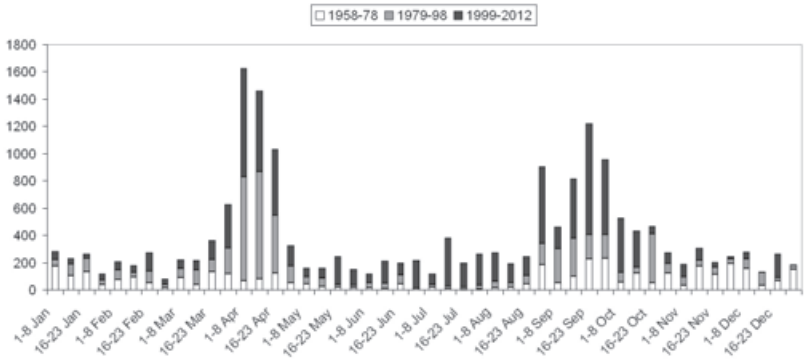


Figure 22. Weekly Occurrence Graph - White-shouldered Starling *Sturnia sinensis* 灰背椋鳥

Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnia malabaricus* 灰頭椋鳥 I

Rare winter visitor, with four previous records; extreme dates 12 January to 17 March. Birds that breed in Kowloon Park are considered to derive from ex-captive individuals.

Only recorded from Kowloon Park, where up to two were present all year.

Rosy Starling *Pastor roseus* 粉紅椋鳥 I

Eight records; extreme dates 24 September to 28 April.

An adult male at LMC on 14 March (MRL) and a juvenile on Po Toi from 1 to 3 October (HC). Another juvenile on Po Toi on 25 October (AC) was a different bird to the earlier date, and was probably ex-captive.

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* 紫翅椋鳥 I

Scarce and declining late autumn passage migrant and winter visitor to open country areas; extreme dates 16 October to 10 April, highest count 12 on 11 January 1987.

First winter period: no records.

Second winter period: one at San Tin on 7 November, five at Lut Chau on 13 November with three there on 15 November and two on 13 December and one at MPNR on 20 November and 1 December, possibly just five birds involved in total.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Common Starling is given as Fig. 23. This suggests the species is less common in winter than in *The Avifauna* years, possibly due to habitat degradation at its previous stronghold of Kam Tin.

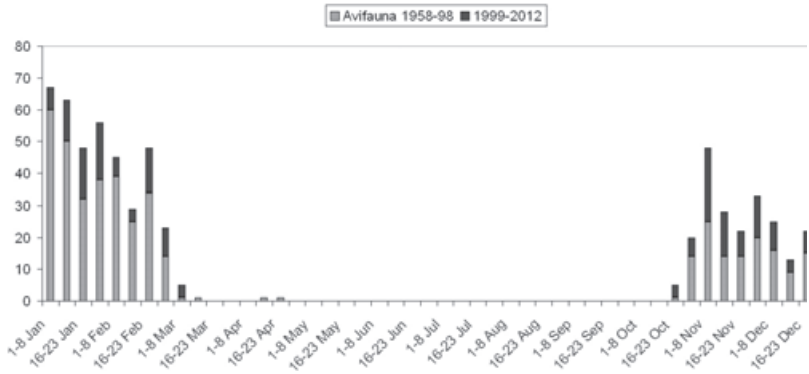


Figure 23. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* 紫翅椋鳥

Blue Whistling Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus* 紫嘯鶇 I

Common and widespread resident in closed-canopy shrubland and woodland, often near streams and in urban areas.

Widespread in all months, peak count five at Siu Lam on 13 October.

Orange-headed Thrush *Geokichla citrina* 橙頭地鶇 I

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant, and rare breeding species in forest and closed-canopy shrubland; highest count three on 21 August 2003.

An exceptional year, with at least 16 individuals recorded including a breeding record and a new highest count.

First winter period: one at Tai Po Kau on 29 January and 4 February with four there on 14 April, three singing males and a female (GJC), a new highest count. A female at CUHK campus on 13 April killed by a window strike.

Breeding season: an adult with two juveniles at Tai Po Kau Headland on 15 July.

Second winter period: two at Cheung Sheung on 2 September with singles at Tai Po Kau on 15 September and 6 October, at CUHK on 21 September, at Lung Fu Shan on 28 September, on Po Toi from 29 September to 1 October and at Pak Sha O on 16 October. Two at Tai Po Kau Headland from 22 November to 5 December and singles again at Victoria Park from 27 November to 6 December and at South Lantau Catchwater on 27 December.

Plate 42 Siberian Thrush *Geokichla sibirica* 白眉地鶇
Shing Mun, 30th December 2012 城門 2012年12月30日
Cherry Wong 黃卓研

Siberian Thrush *Geokichla sibirica* 白眉地鶇 I

Scarce migrant and winter visitor to wooded areas; extreme dates 16 September to 23 April, highest count four on 7 February 1996.

Three females at Mui Tsz Lam on 20 October and a well-photographed first winter male at Shing Mun from 21 December to year end.

White's Thrush *Zoothera aurea* 懷氏地鶇 I

Uncommon winter visitor and migrant to woodland edge and open woodland; extreme dates 30 September to 8 May, highest count nine on 21 January 1992.

First winter period:.singles at Wonderland Villas on 24 January, Po Toi on 21 February and Tai Po Kau on 11 March.

Second winter period: recorded from 31 October at Kap Lung, Tai Mo Shan, Shing Mun, Tai Po Kau, Tai Po Kau Headland, Lin Au, Pak Sha O, Mount Davis, South Lantau Catchwater and on Po Toi, peak count two at Mount Davis on 31 December.

Grey-backed Thrush *Turdus hortulorum* 灰背鶇 I

Common winter visitor and migrant to lightly-wooded areas, shrubland and forest; extreme dates 2 November to 27 April, highest count 70 on 11 February 2008.

First winter period: recorded to 7 April, all records except one from north and central NT, high count seven at Ho Sheung Heung on 13 February. One on south Lamma on 1 April.

Second winter period: recorded from 7 November from north, central and east NT, Lantau, Lamma and Po Tois, peak count 12 at KFBG on 8 December.

Japanese Thrush *Turdus cardis* 烏灰鶇 I

Common winter visitor and migrant to wooded areas; extreme dates 25 October to 8 May, highest count 56 on 25 November 2009.

First winter period: recorded up to 7 April from north, central and southeast NT, Lamma, Lantau and Po Toi, high count eight on Po Toi on 1 March with seven on south Lamma on 1 April.

Second winter period: recorded from 7 November from north, central, southeast and east NT, and HK, Lamma, Lantau and Po Toi, peak count 14 on Po Toi on 14 November with eight at Shek O CP on 22 November.

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula* 烏鶇 I

Common winter visitor and migrant to lightly wooded areas, rare breeding species; typically present early October to March; highest count 500 on 24 November 1988.

First winter period: recorded up to 22 March from north, central and southeast NT, high count 15 at Wong Tai Sin on 20 February.

Breeding season: breeding for the sixth successive year near the MPNR car park. A juvenile at LMC on 10 August.

Second winter period: widespread records from 2 October from NT and islands, with 29 in Long Valley on 4 November, the peak count of 45 at Lam Tsuen on 12 November, 21 on Po Toi on 14 November and 30 at Ping Yeung on 16 November.

Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus* 白眉鶇 I

Uncommon passage migrant and scarce winter visitor although with some high counts, to lightly wooded areas, extreme dates 13 October to 16 May, highest count 150 on 27 April 1988.

First winter period: two at Wu Kau Tang on 22 January, one at Mui Tsz Lam on 19 February and peak count six at Ngong Ping on 6 March.

Second winter period: recorded from 7 November at widespread locations, Yuen Long, KFBG, Tai Tong, Wonderland Villas, Sai Kung, Braemar Hill, Lung Fu Shan and Mount Davis on HK Island, Chek Lap Kok and Po Toi, peak count six there on 4 December.

Plate 43 Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus* 白眉鶇
Tai Tong, 22nd December 2012 大棠 2012年12月22日
Chi Tat Chan 陳志達

Pale Thrush *Turdus pallidus* 白腹鶇 I

Common winter visitor and migrant to lightly wooded areas, extreme dates 4 November to 1 May , highest count 51 on 21 January 1992.

First winter period: two wintering on Po Toi until 22 April was the only record.

Second winter period: recorded from 18 November at widespread locations including MPNR, KFBG, Lam Tsuen, Tai Po Kau including TPK Headland, Shing Mun, Wonderland Villas, Sai Kung West, Braemar Hill, Dragon's Back and Mount Davis on HK Island, Lantau and Po Tois, peak count 13 there on 21 November.

Brown-headed Thrush *Turdus chrysolaus* 赤胸鶇 I

Scarce winter visitor and migrant to lightly-wooded areas, extreme dates 20 November to 4 May.

First winter period: no records.

Second winter period: recorded on Po Toi from 20 November to year end with three on 22 November (GW) a new highest count. Singles at Tung O, Lamma on 25 November, Airfield Road from 10 December, Tai Po Kau Headland on 29 December and Deep Water Bay on 31 December.

Naumann's Thrush *Turdus naumanni* 紅尾鶇 I

Rare winter visitor; extreme dates 12 November to 19 April.

An adult male at Chek Lap Kok from 27 December (EMSK), unfortunately found dead on 29 December, possibly due to a Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*.

Plate 44 Naumann's Thrush *Turdus naumann*i 紅尾鶇
Chek Lap Kok, 28th December 2012 赤鱲角 2012年12月28日
Koel Ko 高偉琛

Dusky Thrush *Turdus eunomus* 斑鶇 **I**

Scarce, previously irruptive, winter visitor to open country areas; extreme dates 31 October to 5 May. Highest count 100 on 18 February 1984, an irruption year.

First winter period: no records.

Second winter period: one at Long Valley on 12 November and 4 December, two at Pui O on 8 December, singles at Cheung Chau on 8 and 13 December and at Tai Po Kau Headland on 9 December.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Dusky Thrush (Fig. 24) shows how relatively few records have occurred since *The Avifauna* years. Many of *The Avifauna* records occurred in five major irruption winters, the last of which was in the winter 1994/5.

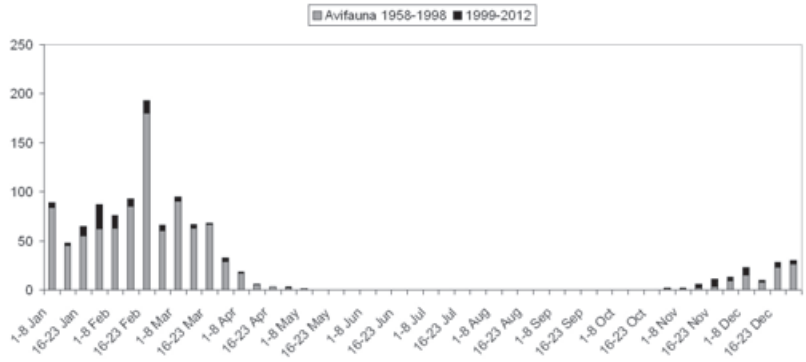


Figure 24. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Dusky Thrush *Turdus eunomus* 斑鶇

Chinese Thrush *Turdus mupinensis* 寶興歌鶇 **I**

Two records, 16 February to 24 March and 18 November.

One on Po Toi on 5 December (GW), the third HK record.

Japanese Robin *Erithacus akahige* 日本歌鴝 **I**

Rare winter visitor to woodland; extreme dates 19 November to 29 March, highest count two on 4 February 1995.

A male at Tai Po Kau on 2 January.

Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophris* 白喉短翅鶇 I

Locally common resident and winter visitor to closed-canopy shrubland and woodland, a recent colonist; highest count six.

Recorded in all months except June and July with most records from central NT, particularly Lam Tsuen, Ng Tung Chai and Tai Po Kau, peak count seven at Tai Om on 12 November (JAA), a new highest count, with six at Ng Tung Chai on 1 April but only two at Tai Po Kau. Elsewhere up to two recorded from northeast NT and Sai Kung West CP. Two at Mount Davis from 3 November to year end was the first record for HK Island.

Observers are encouraged to submit all records of this species in order that its status and colonisation can be better understood.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* 藍喉歌鴝 I

Locally common winter visitor to damp, lowland open country areas, including reedmarsh; extreme dates 27 September to 6 May, highest count 13 on 28 January 1994 .

First winter period: recorded to 16 April at Long Valley with high count of two there on the last date. Also two at LMC on 13 January.

Second winter period: recorded from 9 October at MPNR and Long Valley, peak count three there on 4 December. Also singles at Lam Tsuen on 12 November, a first record there, Kam Tin on 1 December, Wu Kau Tang on 2 December, Pui O on 9 December and two at Hoo Hok Wai on 17 December.

Siberian Rubythroat *Luscinia calliope* 紅喉歌鴝 I

Common winter visitor and passage migrant to grassland-shrubland, open country and reedmarsh; extreme dates 28 September to 10 May, highest count 59 on 27 November 1996.

First winter period: recorded to 26 April, mostly from MPNR, Long Valley, Lam Tsuen and Po Toi but also northeast NT, HK, Lantau and Lamma Islands, high count three.

Second winter period: recorded from 24 September, a new earliest date, when one was trapped at MPNR (JAA *et al*.). Then quite widespread reports from north and central NT, HK, Lantau, Lamma and Po Tois, peak count 30 at Nam Sang Wai on 21 November, with other high counts 25 at MPNR, 16 at Shek O CP, 15 on south Lamma and 11 on Po Toi.

Siberian Blue Robin *Luscinia cyane* 藍歌鴝 I

Scarce passage migrant to shrubland and woodland, with four winter records; extreme passage dates 1 April to 29 April and 4 September to 21 October, highest count three on 25 September 2004.

Spring: an adult male at MPNR on 11 April.

Autumn: singles on Po Toi on 13 September and at MPNR on 22 September.

Rufous-tailed Robin *Luscinia sibilans* 紅尾歌鴝 I

Common winter visitor and passage migrant to woodland and closed-canopy shrubland; extreme dates 16 October to 23 April, highest count 25 on 2 April 2010.

First winter period: recorded to 11 April from northeast, central and east NT and most islands, mostly singing birds in March and April, peak count 14 on Po Toi on 6 April.

Second winter period: recorded from 1 November from north, central and east NT and most islands, high count 12 on south Lamma on 25 November.

Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* 紅脇藍尾鴝 I

Common winter visitor and passage migrant to shrubland and woodland, numbers variable each winter; extreme dates 23 October to 18 April, highest count 39 on 21 January 1992.

First winter period: recorded up to 29 March from just three locations, four at Ngong Ping on 7 January, one at Airfield Road on 11 February and up to three on Po Toi to last date. 2011/12 was a poor winter for this species.

Second winter period: recorded from 6 November from widespread locations in north, central and east NT and HK, Lantau, Lamma and Po Tois, peak count 16 between Kap Lung and Tai Lam on 8 December with eight on Po Toi on 22 November and seven at Pak Sha O on 9 December.

Oriental Magpie Robin *Copsychus saularis* 鵲鴝 I

Abundant resident in urban and rural areas, including mangrove.

Almost all records from systematic counts at Long Valley, MPNR, Nim Wan and Tai Po Kau Headland, peak count 27 in Long Valley on 14 March and at MPNR in June and July.

Daurian Redstart *Phoenicurus auroreus* 北紅尾鴝 **I**

Common winter visitor to shrubland and open woodland; extreme dates 13 October to 2 May, highest count 30 on 5 February 1995.

First winter period: rather few records with the last on 5 April, an early latest date, peak count only four in Long Valley and at Nim Wan. 2011/12 was a poor winter for this species, as for Red-flanked Bluetail.

Second winter period: by contrast, an exceptional autumn. Recorded from 15 October at very widespread locations in north, central and east NT and HK Island, Lamma, Lantau and Po Toi, and in high numbers with counts of ten or over at Kam Tin, MPNR, LMC, Shek O, Sok Kwu Wan, Discovery Bay and Shap Long on Lantau with the peak count of 23 on Po Toi on 4 November, the highest since *The Avifauna*.

Plumbeous Water Redstart *Rhyacornis fuliginosa* 紅尾水鴝 **I**

Uncommon winter visitor to rocky streams and water catchments; extreme dates 24 October to 19 April.

First winter period: single males recorded in the Tai Mei Tuk/Chung Mei area to 19 February, possibly two birds involved.

Second winter period: recorded from 28 October with a male at San Tau, Lantau followed by a female on Po Toi on 4 November, male and female in the Shing Mun area from 17 November, a female at Tso Kung Tam from 19 November to 9 December and another female at Tai Po Kau on 28 November.

Stejneger's Stonechat *Saxicola stejnegeri* 黑喉石鴴 **I**

Common passage migrant and winter visitor; extreme dates 25 August to 6 May, highest count 60 on 6 November 1993.

First winter period: recorded until 23 April, mostly from Long Valley where the high count was 17 on 9 January, also from the northwest, northeast and central NT and Po Toi, high count four.

Second winter period: recorded from 11 September from more widespread locations in north, central and east NT, Lantau, Lamma and Po Toi, and in higher numbers, peak count 25 in Long Valley on 7 December with ten at MPNR on 27 September and 13 at San Tin on 7 December.

Plate 45 Grey Bush Chat *Saxicola ferreus* 灰林鵰
Long Valley, 29th December 2012 塱原 2012年12月29日
Augustine Choi 蔡浩然

Grey Bush Chat *Saxicola ferreus* 灰林鵰 I

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant; extreme dates 14 September to 20 April, highest count four on 13 April 1955.

First winter period: no records.

Second winter period: singles recorded from 2 October at Long Valley, MPNR, Bride's Pool Road, KFBG, Lam Tsuen (a long-staying female from 13 October to year end), Ma On Shan CP, Sai Kung, Sok Kwu Wan, Cheung Chau (a female and then a male, the first records for Cheung Chau), and Po Toi, making a good second winter period with eleven different birds.

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius* 藍磯鶇 I

Locally common passage migrant and winter visitor, mostly to rocky or coastal areas but sometimes village edge or farmland, with isolated summer records; typically present September to May, highest count 14. Two subspecies occur, philippensis *and* pandoo*, with most records being* philippensis.

First winter period: recorded until 23 May, high count five on Po Toi on 27 March. Also recorded from Nim Wan, Tai Mei Tuk, Tai Mo Shan, Lam Tsuen, Tai Wai, Shek Pik, south Lamma, and Braemar Hill, the latter being only *pandoo* reported in the year.

Second winter period: recorded from 12 September, peak count eight on Po Toi on 3 October. Also recorded from Mai Po village, Chau Tau, KFBG, Sai Kung, Tseung Kwan O, Braemar Hill, Chek Lap Kok, Lantau Peak, Mui Wo and Tung O, Lamma.

White-throated Rock Thrush *Monticola gularis* 白喉磯鶇 I

Rare passage migrant and winter visitor; extreme dates 17 October to 28 March.

An exceptional year with probably four individuals, three in the second winter period.

First winter period: a male photographed at Shing Mun on 25 January (PH).

Second winter period: a male in the Lam Tsuen Valley on 11 October (MH), a new earliest date, with possibly the same male photographed at Kap Lung, 7 kms distant, on 13 October (T&TW). A female at Mount Davis on 19 October (BK) and another female at Wonderland Villas on 21 October (T&TW).

Plate 46 White-throated Rock Thrush *Monticola gularis* 白喉磯鶇
Shing Mun, 25th January 2012 城門 2012年1月25日
Pasha Ho 何家偉

Grey-streaked Flycatcher *Muscicapa griseisticta* 灰紋鶲 I

Uncommon passage migrant, mostly in spring, to shrubland and open woodland; extreme dates 25 March to 26 May and 29 August to 25 November; highest count 50 on 8 May 1999 in the aftermath of Typhoon Leo.

Spring: recorded from 17 April to 13 May, most records from MPNR and Po Toi, peak count six on Po Toi on 6 May. Also recorded from Lam Tsuen, Tai Po Kau including the Headland and Lantau Island, the highest count from these sites being two.

Autumn: singles recorded from 16 September to 7 October at MPNR, Lam Tsuen and on Po Toi.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Grey-streaked Flycatcher is given as Fig. 25. Grey-streaked Flycatcher winters mostly in The Philippines, Borneo and eastern Indonesia, and is predominantly a spring migrant through Hong Kong, but also regular in autumn.

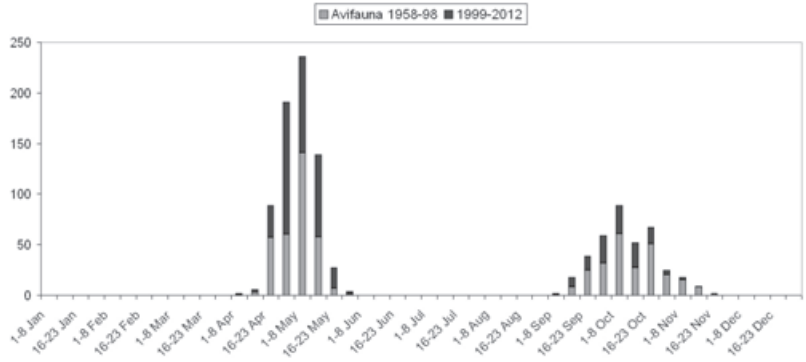


Figure 25. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Grey-streaked Flycatcher *Muscicapa griseisticta* 灰紋鶲

Dark-sided Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica* 烏鶲 I

Uncommon autumn passage migrant to woodland areas, with four spring records; extreme dates 31 March to 8 May and 26 August to 26 December, highest count five on 19 September 2009.

Spring: one photographed on Po Toi on 5 May (VC) is the fifth spring record.

Autumn: first record from Po Toi on 26 August, equaling the previous earliest record, then to 9 December mostly from Tai Po Kau and Po Toi but also Nim Wan, MPNR, Plover Cove CP, Lau Shui Heung, Lam Tsuen, Shing Mun, Lung Fu Shan, Mount Davis, Braemar Hill and Lantau Island, peak count three at Lau Shui Heung on 27 November. One at Mount Davis on 22 December was a late record.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Dark-sided Flycatcher is given as Fig. 26. Dark-sided Flycatcher winters in southeast Asia and is predominantly an autumn migrant through Hong Kong with very few spring records.

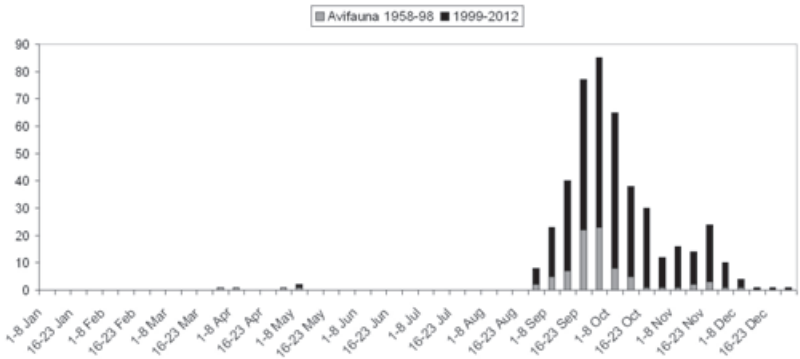


Figure 26. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Dark-sided Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica* 烏鶲

Plate 47 Dark-sided Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica* 烏鶲
Po Toi, 18th October 2012 蒲台 2012年10月18日
Herman Ip 葉紀江

Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa latirostris* 北灰鶲 I

Common autumn passage migrant and winter visitor to open and closed-canopy woodland areas; extreme dates 27 August to 12 June; highest count 40 on 18 October 1959.

First winter period: winter records of singles from MPNR, Ho Sheung Heung, Wu Kau Tang, Yuen Leng, Lam Tsuen, Mui Shue Hang and HK Park. A brief spring passage from 5 to 25 April with records from five locations, MPNR, Plover Cove Road, Po Shan Road, Tung Ping Chau and Po Toi, high count three on Po Toi on 17 April.

Second winter period: one on Po Toi on 26 August (BK) is a new earliest autumn date. A good autumn passage with widespread records and high counts, mostly from northwest and central NT and HK, Lantau and Po Tois, peak count nine on Po Toi on 10 October. December records from northwest, central and east NT, HK and Lantau Islands, high count two.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Asian Brown Flycatcher is given as Fig. 27. Asian Brown Flycatcher is predominantly an autumn migrant also wintering in Hong Kong.

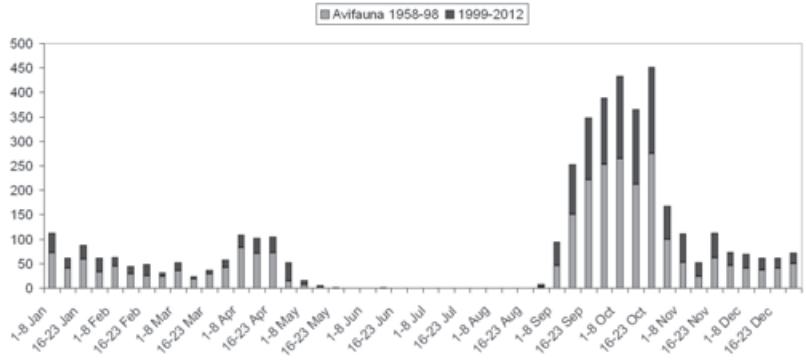


Figure 27. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa latirostris* 北灰鶲

Brown-breasted Flycatcher *Muscicapa muttui* 褐胸鶲 I

Five records, extreme dates 2 September to13 April.

An adult with two juveniles at Tai Po Kau on 13 and 16 July (KF,WT). This is the first breeding record for Hong Kong. An adult photographed in the same location on 28 August (LWC) may have been one of the breeding birds.

Ferruginous Flycatcher *Muscicapa ferruginea* 棕尾褐鶲 I

Uncommon spring passage migrant to shrubland and woodland with five autumn records; extreme dates 3 March to 2 May and 23 September to 8 November, highest count five on 1 April 1994.

Spring: recorded from 24 March to 19 April, mostly on Po Toi but also at Lam Tsuen, Plover Cove Road, Shing Mun and on Cheung Chau, peak count two.

Autumn: one at Kowloon Park on 25 October continues a recent sequence of autumn records.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Ferruginous Flycatcher is given as Fig. 28. Ferruginous Flycatcher is predominantly a spring migrant with a few autumn records, wintering mostly on The Philippines, Greater Sundas and southeast Asia.

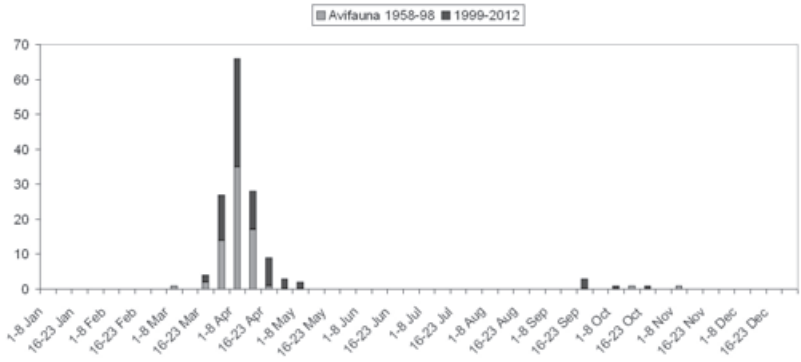


Figure 28. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Ferruginous Flycatcher *Muscicapa ferruginea* 棕尾褐鶲

Yellow-rumped Flycatcher *Ficedula zanthopygia* 白眉姬鶲 I

Uncommon autumn passage migrant to shrubland and woodland with four spring records; extreme dates 5 to 30 April and 17 August to 17 October, highest count ten on 9 September 2000.

Autumn: two at MPNR on 2 August (JAA,KL) is an earliest autumn record by 15 days. Then recorded from 27 August to 6 October, most records from MPNR, Tai Po Kau and Po Toi but also Lau Shui Heung, southwest Lantau and south Lamma, peak count two.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Yellow-rumped Flycatcher is given as Fig. 29. Yellow-rumped Flycatcher is predominantly a autumn migrant with very few spring records, and winters in Southeast Asia.

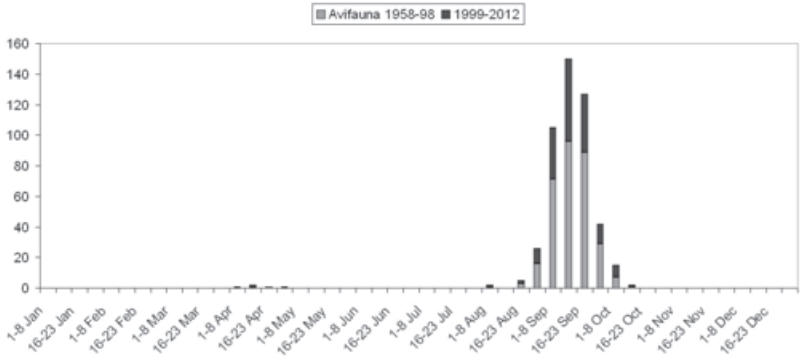


Figure 29. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Yellow-rumped Flycatcher *Ficedula zanthopygia* 白眉姬鶲

Narcissus Flycatcher *Ficedula narcissina* 黃眉姬鶲 I

Uncommon spring passage migrant to woodland areas with seven autumn records; extreme dates 19 March to 2 May and 7 October to 18 November, peak count five on 3 April 2004. Most records are of nominate narcissina *but there have been records of* owstoni *in recent years.*

Spring: recorded from 4 to 29 April, mostly on Po Toi but also at Tai Po Kau, Po Shan Road and Tung Ping Chau, peak count four on Po Toi on 5 April.

Autumn: a female at Mount Davis on 18 November. Another female at Mount Davis on 16 December (BK) is a latest autumn record by 28 days.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Narcissus Flycatcher is given as Fig. 30. Narcissus Flycatcher is predominantly a spring migrant with a few autumn records, wintering mostly in The Philippines and Borneo.

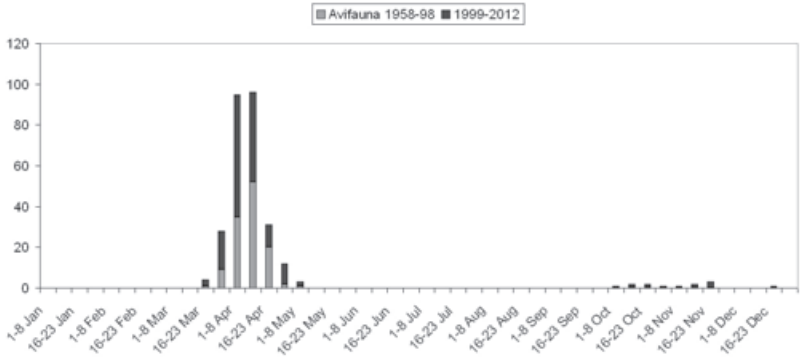


Figure 30. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Narcissus Flycatcher *Ficedula narcissina* 黃眉姬鶲

Female-type Narcissus Flycatcher *owstoni* / Green-backed Flycatcher *Ficedula narcissina owstoni* / *Ficedula elisae* 黃眉姬鶲 / 綠背姬鶲 I

After close examination of several records and of skins, the Records Committee have decided it is not possible to distinguish between female-type (female and some first-summer male) Narcissus Flycatchers of the taxon *owstoni* and female-type Green-backed Flycatchers *F. elisae*. This is of particular relevence given the increasing number of records of male *owstoni* in Hong Kong. Consequently, records of female-type birds of *owstoni* and *elisae* will be recorded as 'either/or' until better identification characteristics become available.

One on Po Toi on 23 October (P&MW).

Plate 48 Mugimaki Flycatcher *Ficedula mugimaki* 鳴姬鶲
Shek Kong, 9th December 2012 石崗 2012年12月9日
Chi Tat Chan 陳志達

Mugimaki Flycatcher *Ficedula mugimaki* 鴝姬鶲 I

Uncommon autumn migrant and scarce winter visitor and spring migrant to woodland areas; extreme dates 10 October to 15 May, highest count 30 on 23 November 1969.

An exceptional year for this species, particularly in late autumn.

First winter period: recorded in winter at Wu Kau Tang, Shing Mun, Tai Po Kau, Wonderland Villas, Pak Sha O, Ngong Ping and Mount Davis, high count two. All records in April from Po Toi, latest date 15 April, high count four.

Second winter period: recorded from 13 October with many records from mid-November to early December, from northeast, central and east NT, HK Island, Cheung Chau, Lantau, Lamma and Po Toi, high counts five at Mount Davis, five at Tai Mo Shan and four at Tai Po Kau, all on 18 November, peak count eight at Airfield Road on 9 December, the highest peak count since *The Avifauna*.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Mugimaki Flycatcher is given as Fig. 31. This shows that Mugimaki Flycatcher was previously more frequently recorded as a winter visitor but is now predominately a late autumn passage migrant with fewer recent winter records.

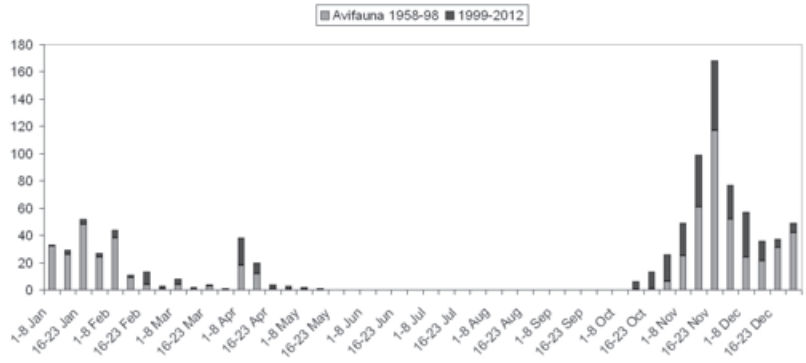


Figure 31. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Mugimaki Flycatcher *Ficedula mugimaki* 鴝姬鶲

Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophiata* 橙胸姬鶲 I

Rare winter visitor; extreme dates 28 November to 28 February.

An adult male at Tai Po Kau on 12 December.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* 紅胸姬鶲 I

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; extreme dates 26 October to 21 April.

Reported from 16 November at MPNR, Shing Mun, Tai Po Kau, Aberdeen CP, Mount Davis, Braemar Hill and on Po Toi, mostly singles but two at Mount Davis including an adult male, probably nine individuals in total, a record year count.

Red-throated Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla* 紅喉姬鶲 I

Common migrant and winter visitor to lightly wooded and open country habitats; extreme dates 13 September to 27 April, highest count 12 on 25 October 1981.

First winter period: winter records to 18 February from eleven locations, peak count four at Long Valley on 22 January. In spring, an adult in breeding plumage at Airfield Road up to 9 April.

Second winter period: recorded from 18 September, again widespread but most records from MPNR, Shek Kong, Lam Tsuen, Shing Mun and on Po Toi, peak count three on Po Toi on 13 November and at Airfield Road on 7 December.

Blue-and-white Flycatcher *Cyanoptila cyanomelana* 白腹姬鶲 I

Locally common passage migrant, mainly in spring, to woodland areas; extreme dates 25 February to 4 May and 29 August to 28 December, highest count 15 on 2 April 1983.

Spring: recorded from 26 March to 12 April from MPNR, Ng Tung Chai, Tai Po Kau and Po Toi, peak count five at Tai Po Kau on 9 April.

Autumn: recorded from 18 September to 1 December with most records from Po Toi but also MPNR, Tai Po Kau, Mui Tsz Lam, Lung Fu Shan and Braemar Hill, high count two.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Blue-and-white Flycatcher is given as Fig. 32. Blue-and-white Flycatcher is predominantly a spring migrant with regular autumn records, wintering mostly in The Philippines, Greater Sundas and Southeast Asia.

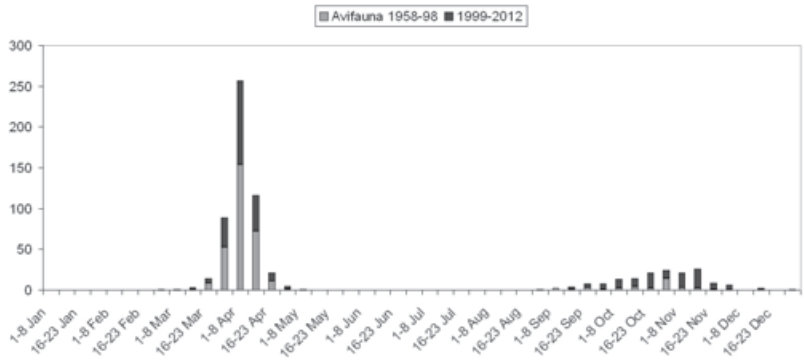


Figure 32. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Blue-and-white Flycatcher *Cyanoptila cyanomelana* 白腹姬鶲

Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassina* 銅藍鶲 I

Uncommon winter visitor to woodland areas; extreme dates 9 September to 15 April, highest count four on 5 December 1970.

First winter period: recorded to 20 March with singles and twos at Bride's Pool, Ng Tung Chai, Lam Tsuen, Shing Mun, Tai Po Kau, Sai Kung and Lung Fu Shan, peak count six at Lead Mine Pass on 26 February (JL), a new highest count.

Second winter period: recorded from 30 September with widespread reports from northeast, central and east NT, HK and Po Tois, high count two.

Plate 49 Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassina* 銅藍鶲
KFBG, 13th February 2012 嘉道理農場暨植物園 2012年2月13日
Cheung Lap Wing 張立榮

Hainan Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis hainanus* 海南藍仙鶲 I

Locally common summer visitor, passage migrant and scarce winter visitor to closed-canopy shrubland and woodland habitats; approximate dates for peak numbers 24 March to 30 September, highest count 13 on 13 June 2010.

A male at Wu Kau Tang on 23 January is an unusual winter record. Then recorded from 11 March to 14 October with singing records in April and May from Ho Pui, Plover Cove Road, Shing Mun, Tai Po Kau, Tai Po Kau Headland and Shek O CP, and records including juveniles from Tai Po Kau, Tai Po Kau Headland and Hoi Ha, Sai Kung West CP. Peak count 11 at Sai Kung West CP on 15 July with eight at Shing Mun on 23 April. Winter records in the second half included up to three at Pak Sha O until year end.

Hill Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis banyumas* 山藍仙鶲 I

No previously accepted Category I records.

A male on Po Toi from 24 November to 1 December (BK,GW) was accepted as Category I in a review of all past Blue Flycatcher records. Other records accepted as Hill Blue Flycatcher Category I were

15 December 1968 – one at Bethanie near Pok Fu Lam
9 January 1986 – one at Tai Po Kau
2 January 1996 – one at Kap Lung
7 January 1996 – one at Hatton Road
18 March 2009 – one at Mount Davis
4 February 2011 – one at Sam A Tsuen

A paper on the review of all past Blue Flycatcher records will appear in the 2013 HK Bird Report.

Chinese Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis glaucicomans* 中華仙鶲 I

Four records; extreme dates 16 January to 2 May.

A male at Tai Po Kau on 18 August (KPK) was considered to be probably ex-captive.

Fujian Niltava *Niltava davidi* 棕腹大仙鶲 I

Scarce winter visitor to woodland; extreme dates 22 October to 10 April.

A female at Tai Po Kau on 1 January was the only record in the first part of the year. In the second winter period, singles only recorded, including a male at Shing Mun on 5 December, a male at Wonderland Villas on 8 December, a female at Mount Davis on 9 December, males at Shing Mun on 10 and 29 December and a male at Pok Fu Lam Reservoir on 24 December. A minimum of six individuals were recorded in the year, five of which were in the second winter period. This species has been recorded more regularly since 2007.

Small Niltava *Niltava macgrigoriae* 小仙鶲 **I**

Rare autumn and winter visitor to woodland; extreme dates 29 October to 4 March.

A female on Po Toi on 25 October (GW), a new earliest date, and another at KFBG on 15 December.

Orange-bellied Leafbird *Chloropsis hardwickii* 橙腹葉鵯 **I**

Uncommon resident and winter visitor in closed-canopy woodland; highest count five on 4 October 1997.

Recorded in most months with most records from Tai Po Kau, high count two. Also recorded from Bride's Pool, Hok Tau, Ng Tung Chai, KFBG, Mui Tsz Lam, Sai Kung and Pak Sha O.

Plate 50 Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus* 紅胸啄花鳥
Tsing Yi Park, 12th December 2012 青衣公園 2012年12月12日
Godwin Chan 陳錫能

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

Uncommon winter visitor and rare breeding species in shrubland and woodland areas; highest count eight on 7 April 2002.

Recorded in all months except July and August in small numbers, mostly from Tai Po Kau and central NT but also Pat Sin Leng, Hok Tau, Lau Shui Heung, Airfield Road, Pak Sha O, Lung Fu Shan and Mount Davis, peak count four at Tai Po Kau on 12 May and 23 October.

Plate 51 Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum* 朱背啄花鳥
Tsing Yi Park, 12th December 2012 青衣公園 2012年12月12日
Godwin Chan 陳錫能

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum* 朱背啄花鳥 I

Common resident of open woodland and village edge; highest count 17 on 2 January 2010.

Recorded in all months and from widespread locations in north, central, east and southeast NT and on Lantau and Po Toi. Peak count 18 in Sai Kung West CP on 15 July (JAA), a new high count, with 17 between Wu Kau Tang and Sam A Tsuen on 16 November and 13 at Plover Cove CP on 30 September.

Plate 52 Fork-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga christinae* 叉尾太陽鳥
Tai Po Kau, 28th January 2012 大埔滘 2012年1月28日
Arshad Kanzhada

Fork-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga christinae* 叉尾太陽鳥 I

Common and widespread resident and winter visitor in woodland and shrubland; highest count 32 on 21 April 2008.

Recorded in all months and from widespread locations in north, central, east and southeast NT, HK Island, Lantau, Lamma and Po Toi. Peak count 24 at Tai Lam CP on 28 January, with 18 at Shek Kong on 7 April and 12 at Shek O CP on 22 November.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* 樹麻雀 I

Abundant resident of lowland habitats, commensal with man; higher numbers sometimes recorded in fish pond areas and on offshore islands in spring. Highest count 500 on 27 January 2009.

Records from some systematic counts show distinct fluctuations in abundance over the course of the year. At Long Valley, highest numbers in the period November to January with the peak count 299 on 10 December. On Po Toi, only recorded from 13 March to 5 December with a high count of 55 on 26 April and no winter records.

White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata* 白腰文鳥 I

Common resident of lightly-wooded urban and village-edge habitats; highest count 350 on 25 July 2009.

Highest recent counts usually at Long Valley in response to seeding rice, with the peak count there this year being 279 on 16 July. Elsewhere, widespread but with most counts below ten.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata* 斑文鳥 I

Abundant resident in open-country grassy habitats; highest count 580 on 29 August 1995.

Most records from MPNR and Long Valley systematic counts with high counts 322 at Long Valley on 5 November and 192 at MPNR on 14 August. Peak count 350 at Palm Springs on 22 June with 280 at Hoo Hok Wai on 15 October.

Forest Wagtail *Dendronanthus indicus* 山鶺鴒 I

Uncommon passage migrant, mostly in autumn, scarce in winter; occurs mainly in mature secondary broadleaf forest, but also a variety of other wooded habitats; extreme dates 28 July to 1 May, highest count three.

No records in the first winter period. In the second winter period, recorded from 4 September with singles at MPNR, Long Valley, Luk Keng, Airfield Road, Shing Mun, Tai Po Kau, Kowloon Reservoir, south Lamma and Po Toi, last record at Shing Mun on 24 December.

Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis* 東黃鶺鴒 I

Observers are encouraged to record the taxon whenever possible.

M.t. taivana

Common passage migrant and winter visitor; extreme dates 22 August to 18 May, highest count 1,000 on 12 February 1989.

Recorded up to 28 April, peak count 103 at San Tin on 12 January, and from 2 September, high count 59 at San Tin on 7 December.

M.t. macronyx

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor; extreme dates 9 September to 20 May, highest count 50 on 7 October 1995.

In the first winter period, recorded up to 11 February, high count two. In spring, recorded from 5 to 28 April, high count three. In the second winter period, recorded from 7 December, peak count eight.

M.t. tschutschensis

Common passage migrant, mostly in spring, and scarce winter visitor; extreme dates 20 August to 25 May, highest count 3,840 on 4 May 1999.

One at Kam Tin on 14 February. In spring, recorded between 17 April and 17 May, peak count 85 at MPNR on 28 April. In autumn, recorded from 5 September to 7 November, high count eight.

Records unascribed to taxon

Common passage migrant and winter visitor; extreme dates 15 August to 8 June.

Recorded up to 7 May and from 21 August, peak count 105 in Long Valley on 18 December, the lowest since *The Avifauna*.

Plate 53 Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* 黃頭鶺鴒
Long Valley, 22nd December 2012 塱原 2012年12月22日
Lee Yat Ming 李逸明

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* 黃頭鶺鴒 I

Uncommon winter visitor and migrant; extreme dates 30 September to 10 May; highest count five on 17 April 2010.

All records from Long Valley.

First winter period: recorded up to 27 February, peak count four. In spring, an adult male on 3 and 4 April.

Second winter period: recorded from 30 September, equaling the earliest date, to year end, peak count four on 26 December.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* 灰鶺鴒 I

Common winter visitor and passage migrant, mostly to watercourses but also other lowland wetland areas; extreme dates 28 July to 31 May with occasional summer records, highest count 1,000 on 16 October 1991.

No large winter roost counts of this species have been reported in recent years.

First winter period: widespread records until 29 May, high count nine at Kam Tin on 7 January and on Po Toi on 11 May.

Second winter period: recorded from 10 August, peak count 11 at Airfield Road on 2 October.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* 白鶺鴒 I

Observers are encouraged to record the taxon whenever possible, in particular, breeding season reports and records of *M.a. ocularis*.

M.a. leucopsis

Common and present all year but most common on spring passage and in winter, usually in wetland areas but also breeds in other lowland habitats, including village and village-edge, parks and gardens, residential housing; highest count 200 on 18 February 1997.

First winter period: peak count 80 at Kam Tin on 7 January and San Tin on 12 January. Overwintering birds on Po Toi remained until 10 April.

Breeding season: most records from MPNR and Long Valley. Breeding pair at Ap Lei Chau.

Second winter period: wintering birds returned to Po Toi on 4 September. High count 52 at Long Valley on 26 December.

M.a. ocularis

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor; extreme dates 24 September to 17 May; highest count 190 on 25 March 1995.

First winter period: recorded to 13 April, peak count 40 at Kam Tin on 7 January.

Second winter period: recorded from 2 October, high count eight at Kam Tin on 1 December.

M.a. lugens

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; extreme dates 1 October to 12 April, highest count four on 28 December 2011.

Singles at Sha Po on 3 January, Kam Tin on 7 January, San Tin on 9 February and Nam Sang Wai on 10 December.

Records unascribed to taxon

Recorded in all months, high count only 57 at Nim Wan on 4 September.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi* 理氏鷚 I

Common passage migrant, winter visitor and locally common resident; migratory taxa occur in low-lying open country areas, particularly agricultural land and are common on passage, particularly autumn, and in winter; highest count 102 on 12 October 1979; resident taxon A.r. sinensis *is locally common and breeds in grassy and open country areas, often in upland areas; highest count 15 on 20 July 2003.*

Low counts only, with no survey data from Chek Lap Kok where the peak counts usually occur.

First winter period: recorded up to 5 May with most records from Long Valley, where the high count was 11 on 5 March. Also recorded from the Deep Bay area, Lam Tsuen and Po Toi, high count ten at San Tin on 12 January. One coming in off the sea at south Lamma on 12 April.

Breeding season: recorded from Tai Mo Shan, high count 11 on 12 May, and Pat Sin Leng, seven on 29 June.

Second winter period: recorded from 5 September, peak count 12 flying south at MPNR on 9 October with ten at Long Valley on several dates.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* 樹鷚 I

Common winter visitor and passage migrant to lightly wooded and open country areas, including village edge and parks; extreme dates 28 September to 15 May, highest count 150 on 9 January 1961.

First winter period: recorded to 20 April, most records from Long Valley with high count 73 on 30 January, also from the Deep Bay area, central NT, HK Island, Lantau and Po Toi, high counts 18 at Ngong Ping on 8 January and 20 at Lam Tsuen on 15 January and 4 April.

Second winter period: one at Lam Tsuen on 15 September (EMSK) is an earliest autumn date. Thereafter recorded from 1 October from widespread locations in north, central and east NT, HK Island, Lamma, Lantau and Po Toi, peak count 75 in Long Valley on 26 November with 20 at Ping Yeung on 16 November and 39 at Kam Tin on 1 December.

Pechora Pipit *Anthus gustavi* 北鷚 I

Scarce passage migrant to damp, lowland areas with dense vegetation; extreme dates 9 April to 29 May and 3 September to 10 November, highest count 103 on 3 May 1999 (Typhoon Leo).

A poor year following a very good year in 2011, with the fewest records since 2004.

Spring: no records for the first time since 2000.

Autumn: singles at MPNR on 6 September and Long Valley from 24 September to 2 October with the peak count of two there on 1 October.

Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus* 粉紅胸鷚 I

Two records; extreme dates 10 to 16 May.

One at Long Valley from 28 October to 6 November (WHY *et al.*). This is the third HK record and the first in autumn.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* 紅喉鷚 I

Common passage migrant and winter visitor to lowlands, usually in wet areas; extreme dates 16 September to 17 May, highest count 250 on 17 April 1992.

First winter period: recorded to 23 April, all records from the Deep Bay and Long Valley areas, high count 40 at Long Valley on 20 February with 34 at Kam Tin on 3 January. A leucistic individual at Kam Tin on 14 February.

Second winter period: recorded from 24 September from more widespread locations in the north NT and on Lantau, including migrants. Peak count 50 flying south over MPNR on 18 October with 23 at Kam Tin on 1 December and 46 at Long Valley on 4 December. Up to three at Pui O from 21 November to year end.

Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens* 黃腹鷚 I

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor to lowland wetland areas; extreme dates 18 October to 12 April, highest count 20.

First winter period: recorded to 16 January at Long Valley, high count two. One at Tam Kon Chau on 29 March moulting into breeding plumage.

Second winter period: recorded from 22 October, all records from Deep Bay and Long Valley, peak count 20 flying south over MPNR on 6 December equals the highest count, elsewhere high count three at Hoo Hok Wai, Long Valley and Lut Chau.

Upland Pipit *Anthus sylvanus* 山鷚 I

Uncommon but widespread resident in upland grassland; highest count 20 in late August 1983.

Recorded from Pat Sin Leng, Tai Mo Shan, Kowloon Peak and Ngong Ping over the period 15 March to 3 July, peak count three at Tai Mo Shan. This species has been recorded from most of the high peaks of HK over the last four years.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* 燕雀 I

Scarce passage migrant with one winter record; extreme dates 3 March to 28 April and 28 October to 29 November.

No spring records. In autumn, up to two, male and female, recorded on Po Toi from 21 October (many observers), a new earliest date, to 8 November. Two males at LMC on 31 October, a female at Mount Davis from 3 to 11 November and a male at Long Valley from 13 to 23 November.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* 普通朱雀 I

Scarce winter visitor and migrant to open-country areas; extreme dates 28 September to 3 May, highest count 33 on 13 January 1980.

One on Po Toi on 21 November was the only record in the year.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Common Rosefinch (Fig. 33) shows the species is considerably less common now than in *The Avifauna* years, but 2012 was a very poor year even by recent standards.

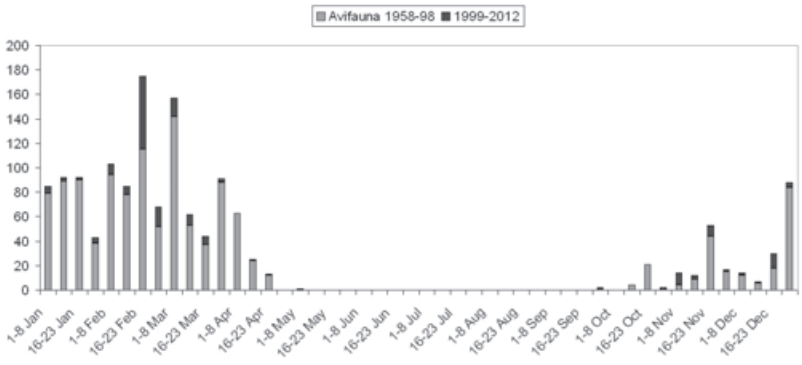


Figure 33. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* 普通朱雀

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* 錫嘴雀 I

No previously accepted Category I records.

One on Po Toi on 1 November (YTC *et al.*).

Acceptance of this record as Category I was followed by a review of all previous records of Hawfinch and the acceptance of the following into Category I

26 December 1984 and 5 January 1985 – one at Mong Tseng, Tsim Bei Tsui
17 November 1994 – one at Mui Wo
22 January 2006 – one at Mong Tseng
14-23 January 2009 – one at Shek Kong
19 February 2009 – one at Ping Che
21-23 February 2011 – two at Yuen Long
24 February – 6 March 2011 – one at Ping Long

Chinese Grosbeak *Eophona migratoria* 黑尾蠟嘴雀 I

Common winter visitor and scarce breeding species in recent years, in wooded, open-country habitats; mostly present November to mid-April, highest count 130 on 30 December 1988.

First winter period: all records except one from the northwest NT and Lam Tsuen; high counts 35 at Tsim Bei Tsui on 21 January, 26 at Sheung Shui on 22 January, 20 at Ho Sheung Heung on 6 February and 24 at MPNR on 6 April. One at Cheung Chau on 4 May.

Breeding season: all June and July records from the MPNR area with 12, including at least one juvenile, on 25 June being the highest count at this time.

Second winter period: recorded from 2 October from the Deep Bay area, Ho Sheung Heung and Lam Tsuen, peak count 37 at MPNR on 17 December. One over-flying Pak Sha O on 3 November.

Grey-capped Greenfinch *Chloris sinica* 金翅雀 I

Scarce resident of open country and village edge; much reduced in numbers since 1970s but with an increase in records in recent years; highest count since 1999, 30 on 17 October 2010.

The resurgence in records and numbers for this species has continued, together with another confirmed breeding record.

First winter period: six at Kuk Po and peak count 25 at Lai Chi Wo on 23 January continue the recent records from northeast NT. Similarly records have continued in the west NT with three at the Gold Coast on 18 February and one at Siu Lam on 27 February. Elsewhere, one on Po Toi from 21 February to 22 April and one at Mai Po village on 21 March.

Breeding season: a family party of six photographed at Tuen Mun on 12 May, two

adults and four juveniles. One at Tap Mun on 21 May and six at MPNR on 13 July.

Second winter period: up to two recorded at Long Valley from 3 September to 6 November and one at San Tin on 15 November.

Figure 34 shows the number of locations at which Grey-capped Greenfinch has been recorded in each year since 1970.This species was common and widespread in Hong Kong up to 1980 when the numbers and locations recorded declined quite suddenly through to 1999. Both have been increasing in recent years but remain well below the levels in the 1970s.

Figure 34. Number of Locations 1970-2013 - Grey-capped Greenfinch *Chloris sinica* 金翅雀

Eurasian Siskin *Spinus spinus* 黃雀 I

Scarce and irruptive winter visitor to woodland areas; extreme dates 26 October to 4 April, highest count 60 on 28 November 1990.

All records in a good second winter period, with high counts from several locations.

Recorded on Po Toi from 13 October (KCK), a new earliest date, to 18 November, with a high count of 12 between 20 and 31 October. Recorded at Tai Po Kau from 23 November to 25 December, peak count 50 on the last date, the highest since *The Avifauna*. Ten at Cheung Chau on 7 December and finally 30 at Lam Tsuen on 29 December, possibly part of the Tai Po Kau flock.

Crested Bunting *Emberiza lathami* 鳳頭鵐 I

Once a common resident, now rare, with no records between 2000 and 2009.

Two at Lin Au on 2 December (DT). This is the third successive year with records of this species, after a gap of ten years.

Plate 54 Eurasian Siskin *Spinus spinus* 黃雀
Po Toi, 23rd October 2012 蒲台 2012年10月23日
Lee Yat Ming 李逸明

Tristram's Bunting *Emberiza tristrami* 白眉鵐 I

Uncommon winter visitor to woodland and shrubland areas; extreme dates 20 October to 1 May. Highest count 21 on 22 January 1992.

First winter period: one at Lau Shui Heung on 7 January, the peak count eight at Wu Kau Tang on 23 January, singles at Ho Pui on 28 January and Tai Po Kau from 30 January to 4 February.

Second winter period: recorded on Po Toi from 20 October to 6 December, high count four, with singles and twos from 1 December to year end at Lau Shui Heung, Tai Lam CP, Kap Lung, Lam Tsuen, Wonderland Villas, Pak Sha O, Mount Davis and Chi Ma Wan, Lantau.

Chestnut-eared Bunting *Emberiza fucata* 栗耳鵐 I

Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in autumn, with some winter records to grassland and open country areas; extreme dates 6 October to 28 April, highest count 30 on 19 January 1967.

First winter period: recorded at Long Valley from 7 January to 7 April, high count two. Two at MPNR on 6 April and one on Po Toi on 9 April.

Second winter period: a very good period. Recorded from 14 October to 10 December, mostly from Long Valley and MPNR with peak count six at Long Valley on 28 November, the highest since *The Avifauna*, and five at MPNR on 6 November. Elsewhere, two at Ping Che on 14 October with singles at Lam Tsuen on 14 October, Po Toi on 14 November and Lai Chi Wo on 8 December.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Chestnut-eared Bunting is given as Figure 35, split into three periods, 1958-78, 1979-98 and 1999-2012. Prior to 1979, the species was a common winter visitor; since 1979 it is mostly a passage migrant. Records have been increasing over the past six years, particularly in autumn.

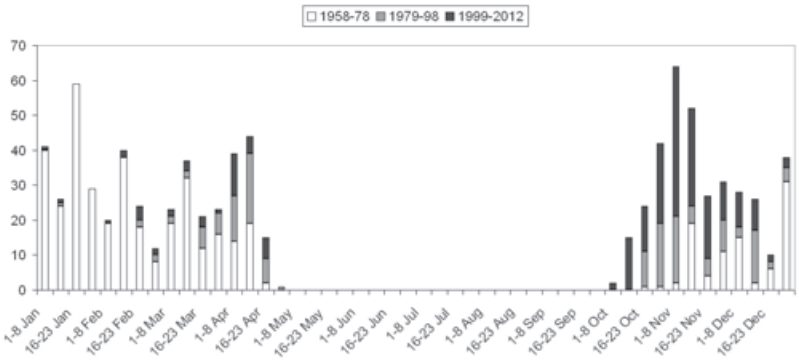


Figure 35. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Chestnut-eared Bunting *Emberiza fucata* 栗耳鵐

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* 小鵐 I

Common winter visitor and passage migrant in open country areas, especially inactive dry agriculture; extreme dates 24 September to 26 May, highest count 150 on 15 December 1985.

First winter period: recorded until 16 May with most records from Long Valley and Lam Tsuen up to 27 April, high count 11 at Long Valley on 11 February. Migrants on Po Toi from 14 March to 16 May.

Second winter period: recorded from 29 September from more widespread locations in north and central NT, HK Island, Lantau and Po Toi. Also in higher numbers than in spring, peak count 20 at Nam Sang Wai and MPNR on 6 December with 13 at Ho Sheung Heung on 15 October, nine at Dragon's Back on 22 November and ten at Kam Tin on 1 December.

Plate 55 Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* 小鵐
Long Valley, 14th January 2012 塱原 2012年1月14日
Vivian Cheung 張香妹

Yellow-browed Bunting *Emberiza chrysophrys* 黃眉鵐 I

Scarce migrant to open-country areas; extreme dates 9 February to 1 May and 23 September to 28 December; highest count five on 15 November 1992.

Another good year for this species, which has become more regularly recorded since 2007.

First winter period: one on Po Toi on 15 April with two over southern waters on the same day. One at Fung Lok Wai from 24 to 27 April.

Second winter period: two on Po Toi on 22 September (P&MW) is a new earliest autumn record. Subsequently recorded on Po Toi until 4 December with the peak count four on 16 October. Up to two at Long Valley from 14 October to 19 November and one at Tsung Yuen Ha, northern NT, on 19 October.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Yellow-browed Bunting (Fig. 36) shows the increase in records since *The Avifauna* years, with a very brief spring passage in April and a much longer autumn passage from late September into December.

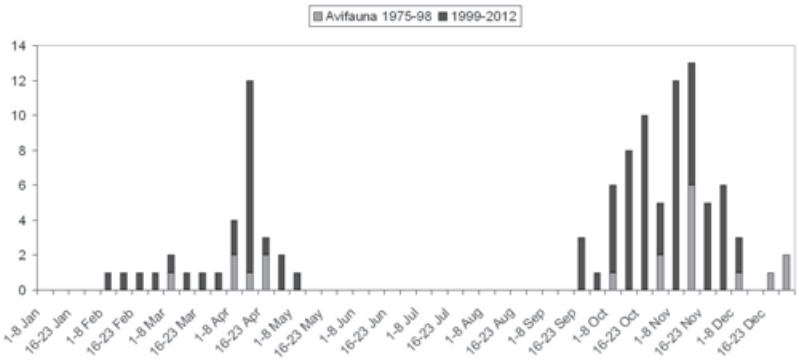


Figure 36. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Yellow-browed Bunting *Emberiza chrysophrys* 黃眉鵐

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica* 田鵐 I

Rare winter visitor; extreme dates 10 November to 10 March.

A female at Long Valley on 17 March (KFS), a new latest date. Another adult female at Long Valley from 3 to 7 November (LWC *et al.*), a new earliest date.

Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola* 黃胸鵐 I VU

Common autumn passage migrant but with a recent decline in numbers, scarce in spring and rare in winter, to open-country areas; extreme dates 28 August to 23 May, highest count since 1999, 150 on 10 October 2001.

A very good second winter period by recent standards.

First winter period: three at Hoo Hok Wai on 30 January. In spring, only recorded on 27 and 28 April but from four locations, Long Valley, Hoo Hok Wai, San Tin and Tai Sang Wai, high count three.

Second winter period: recorded from 27 September with most records from Long Valley and MPNR, peak count 50 at MPNR on 16 October with 47 at Long Valley on 4 December. Elsewhere several records from Lam Tsuen, high count five on 12 October, and singles on Po Toi and at Tai Po Kau Headland on 13 October, and at Ping Che also on 13 October.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Yellow-breasted Bunting (Fig. 37) is split into three periods, 1958-78, 1979-98 and 1999-2012. It shows a clear peak of records in all three periods in the third week of October. It also shows that spring records are a relatively recent phenomenon.

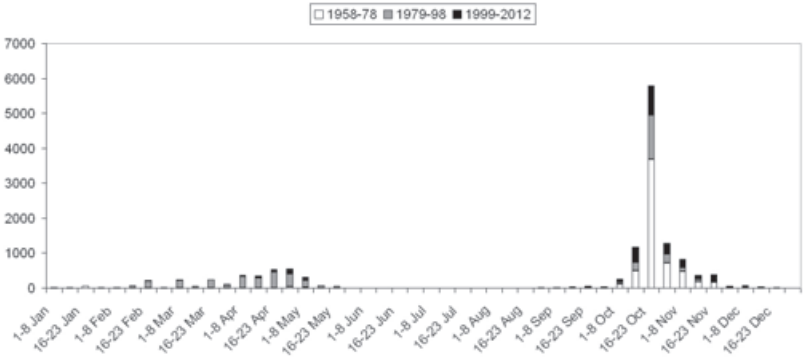


Figure 37. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola* 黃胸鵐

Plate 56 Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola* 黃胸鵐
Long Valley, 28th April 2012 塱原 2012年4月28日
Lee Yat Ming 李逸明

Chestnut Bunting *Emberiza rutila* 栗鵐 I

Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in autumn, with occasional winter records, to shrubland areas; extreme dates 28 September to 16 May, highest count 200 on 6 November 2000.

A very good second winter period.

First winter period: five at Lam Tsuen on 15 January. One spring record, a single on Po Toi on 29 April.

Second winter period: recorded from 3 October to 15 December from many locations in north, central and southeast NT, HK Island, Lantau and Po Toi, high counts 50 on Po Toi on 20 October, 15 at MPNR on 27 October, 16 at Mount Davis on 4 November, and the peak count 150 at Lin Au, Lam Tsuen on 2 December, the highest peak count since 2000.

Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala* 黑頭鵐 I

Scarce autumn migrant and winter visitor to open-country habitats; extreme dates from 11 October to 14 February, highest count three.

An adult male at Long Valley on 4 January. At least three first winter/females at Long Valley from 18 October to 6 November.

The experience gained with the separation of female and first-winter Black-headed and Red-headed Buntings has allowed a review of all early records of unidentified 'Black-headed or Red-headed' Bunting. Following this review, the following records have been accepted as Black-headed Bunting

17 – 19 October 1992, Ho Chung, now becomes the earliest record accepted as Black-headed Bunting in Category I

12 - 27 October 1994, Tsim Bei Tsui

31 October – 1 November 1997, MPNR

With these additions, the Weekly Occurrence Graph for Black-headed Bunting given as Figure 38.

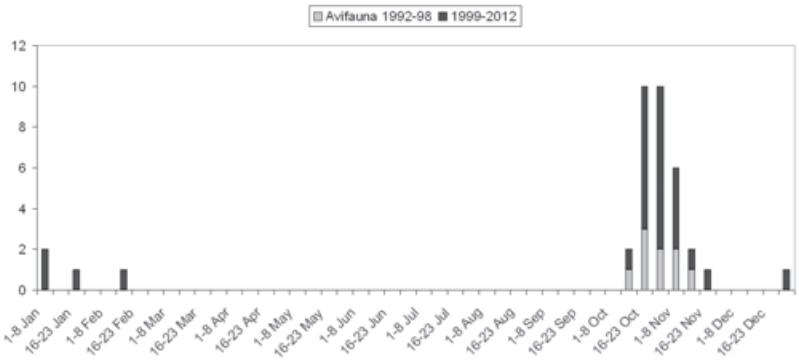


Figure 38. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala* 黑頭鵐

Red-headed Bunting *Emberiza bruniceps* 褐頭鵐 I

No previously accepted Category I records.

A first winter male at Long Valley on 23 December (CFL *et al.*).

Acceptance of this record as Category I was followed by a review of all previous records of Red-headed Bunting and the acceptance of the following into Category I

10 January 2008, Mai Po access road
23 December 2010, Long Valley
27 December 2010, She Shan

Japanese Yellow Bunting *Emberiza sulphurata* 硫黃鵐 I VU

Scarce spring passage migrant with a few recent autumn records, to open-country areas; extreme dates 27 March to 8 May and 30 October to 28 November, highest count 17 on 6 April 1996.

Spring: singles at Lions Nature Education Centre, Sai Kung on 28 March and on Po Toi on 6 April.

Autumn: singles on Po Toi on 11 November and 4 December (GW), a new latest autumn date, and at Sok Kwu Wan, Lamma on 20 November with two at Lin Au on 2 December. These continue the succession of autumn records which first started in 2007.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Japanese Yellow Bunting is given as Figure 39. This shows the decline in spring numbers since *The Avifauna* years and also the recent emergence of autumn records.

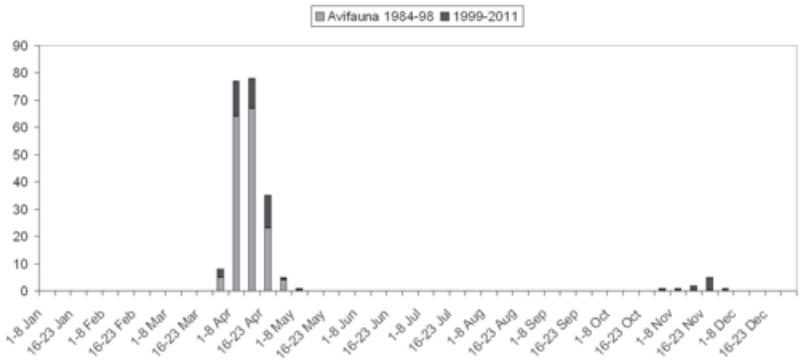


Figure 39. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Japanese Yellow Bunting *Emberiza sulphurata* 硫黃鵐

Black-faced Bunting *Emberiza spodocephala* 灰頭鵐 I

Common passage migrant and winter visitor to open-country areas; extreme dates 19 September to 29 May, highest count 200 on 24 March 1992.

First winter period: recorded up to 25 April with most records from MPNR, Nim Wan, Long Valley and Po Toi. The peak count of 51 leaving a roost at Sha Po, Kam Tin on 14 February is the highest peak count since *The Avifauna* and one on Po Toi on 3 June (BK) is a latest spring date.

Second winter period: recorded from 18 October, mostly from MPNR, Long Valley, Lam Tsuen and Po Toi but also Kam Tin, northeast NT, Sai Kung and HK Island with high counts 13 near Sha Tau Kok on 22 November, nine at Shek O CP on 22 November and eight at Ho Sheung Heung on 5 November.

Plate 57 Pallas's Reed Bunting *Emberiza pallasi* 葦鵐
Long Valley, 12th November 2012 塱原 2012年11月12日
Owen Chiang 深 藍

Pallas's Reed Bunting *Emberiza pallasi* 葦鵐 I

Rare autumn migrant; extreme dates 28 September to 14 December.

One photographed at Long Valley on 12 November (OC). Singles trapped at MPNR on 19 November and 6 December (JAA *et al.*).

Common Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* 蘆鵐 I

Rare winter visitor; extreme dates 27 December to 15 April.

One trapped at MPNR on 21 January (JAA *et al.*).

CATEGORY III

Species for which all published HK records are considered likely to relate to birds that have escaped or have been released from captivity.

Swan Goose *Anser cygnoides* III

One at MPNR on 14 November (YYT), determined as the domesticated form often called Chinese Goose.

Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria* III

Recorded at Kowloon Park throughout the year, peak count three. Up to three at Long Valley between 2 April and 6 November, four at Ping Yeung on 25 April and up to 13 regularly recorded at MPNR between 1 June and 23 November.

Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax monileger* III

Singles at Tai Lam on 25 January (KL) and at Tai Po Kau on 8 October (KPK).

Common Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa* III

Singles at Mai Po village on 12 February and Shing Mun Valley Park on 14 November.

White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus* III

Singles at Lower Shing Mun on 2 June (JL), Sha Tau Kok on 16 November and Sha Tin on 12 December (Website photographs).

White-capped Redstart *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus* III

A male at Tso Kung Tam, near Tsuen Wan, from 16 to 30 November (AP) and probably the same bird at Tsing Yi Park on 13 December (Website photographs).

White-tailed Robin *Myiomela leucura* III

A female at Shing Mun from 26 December (TC) to year end.

Vivid Niltava *Niltava vivida* III

A male on Po Toi from 24 November to 1 December (BK *et al.*).

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* III

A male and two females at Long Valley from 3 to 6 November (AC).

Russet Sparrow *Passer rutilans* **III**

A male trapped at MPNR on 4 October (PJL). Up to 14 individuals, including both males and females, at Long Valley from 25 October to 2 November (many observers). A male on Po Toi on 15 December (AP).

Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava* **III**

One trapped at MPNR on 24 September (JAA).

White-rumped Seedeater *Crithagra leucopygia* **III**

Three at San Tin on 29 October (TMC). This is a new addition to the Category III list.

Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica* **III**

One at Nam Sang Wai on 17 February with three at Fung Lok Wai on 18 February. Singles on Po Toi from 12 to 29 April and on 11 September.

Grey-necked Bunting *Emberiza buchanani* **III**

One at Sai Kung on 10 April (EL).

References

Anon 2012. *Population Survey of Terns in Hong Kong, 2012*. Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, HKSAR Government..

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.

Hearn, R., Xudong, T. and Hilton, G. 2013. A species in serious trouble: Baer's Pochard *Aythya baeri* is heading for extinction in the wild. *BirdingASIA*. 19: 63-67.

Leader, P. J. and Carey, G. J. 2003. Identification of Pintail Snipe and Swinhoe's Snipe. *British Birds*. 96: 178-198.

Robson, C. 2013. From the Field. *BirdingASIA*. 19: 123-128.

So, W. Y., Wan, H. C., Lee W. H. and Cheng W. W. 2012. Study on the Distribution and Habitat Characteristics of the Chinese Grassbird (*Graminicola striatus*) in Hong Kong. *Hong Kong Biodiversity* Issue No. 22: 1-9.

Yu, Y.T. and Chen, Z.H. 2008. Dalmatian Pelican *Pelicanus crispus*; the largest waterbird in East Asia, and the rarest. *BirdingASIA* 9: 62-66.

Waterbird Count Data

The attached tables show the Waterbird Count Data in Deep Bay for each month from January to December 2012. Note the data includes counts at Futian NR on the Shenzhen side of Deep Bay.

2012 WC Count Data	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
date of count	15	12	11	22	20	17	22	19	16	14	11	16
Common Shelduck	0	6	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Falcated Duck	0	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eurasian Wigeon	2,077	1,030	1,254	15	0	0	0	0	0	49	541	907
Mallard	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Northern Shoveler	7,560	6,955	1,681	202	1	3	0	0	0	200	3,174	2,771
Northern Pintail	1,889	2,413	84	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	316	129
Garganey	98	70	79	10	0	0	0	0	23	10	23	40
Common Teal	830	605	511	1	0	0	0	0	0	164	150	512
Common Pochard	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Baer's Pochard	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Tufted Duck	551	3,308	1,323	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,805	5,987
Greater Scaup	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Duck sp.	471	11,007	1,183	0	0	0	2	0	0	980	2,710	2,080
Little Grebe	151	192	212	128	132	88	119	96	160	193	223	217
Great Crested Grebe	83	124	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	515
Oriental Stork	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1
Eurasian Spoonbill	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Black-faced Spoonbill	442	446	355	62	37	0	5	2	2	26	323	277
Great Bittern	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Yellow Bittern	0	1	0	2	14	5	5	13	14	6	0	0
Von Schrenck's Bittern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

2012 WC Count Data	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
date of count	15	12	11	22	20	17	22	19	16	14	11	16
Cinnamon Bittern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Black-crowned Night Heron	8	44	50	36	63	246	78	46	61	104	44	27
Striated Heron	0	0	0	0	5	3	7	5	1	0	0	0
Chinese Pond Heron	137	161	109	117	151	147	230	234	302	419	229	183
Eastern Cattle Egret	3	33	46	123	50	158	113	48	42	35	56	46
Grey Heron	771	595	607	77	16	10	6	27	190	755	845	705
Purple Heron	1	1	6	3	2	0	1	4	1	8	2	6
Great Egret	620	418	399	363	339	812	1,146	629	581	668	828	701
Intermediate Egret	16	33	8	5	7	4	5	3	56	45	4	10
Little Egret	830	912	640	441	433	784	1,235	814	921	887	888	724
Swinhoe's Egret	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Great Cormorant	8,303	9,636	5,907	0	7	0	0	0	4	1,729	3,958	8,178
Western Osprey	6	17	8	0	1	0	1	0	2	6	12	11
Black Kite	11	71	7	22	18	21	17	24	28	37	27	70
Eastern Marsh Harrier	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1
Common Buzzard	3	10	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	2
Greater Spotted Eagle	1	7	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Eastern Imperial Eagle	1	8	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4
Peregrine Falcon	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
White-breasted Waterhen	41	22	32	40	60	42	61	47	38	74	68	23
Common Moorhen	156	126	176	55	9	15	24	29	17	69	111	91
Eurasian Coot	9	7	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	9	5
Black-winged Stilt	303	720	335	175	50	16	29	20	112	245	306	620
Pied Avocet	11,315	14,604	8,323	4,680	1,294	66	2	10	1	42	224	2,392
Northern Lapwing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Grey-headed Lapwing	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	4
Pacific Golden Plover	341	775	350	24	0	0	0	200	460	396	3	20
Grey Plover	430	536	1	5	4	0	0	0	0	10	0	476

2012 WC Count Data	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
date of count	15	12	11	22	20	17	22	19	16	14	11	16
Little Ringed Plover	123	41	93	23	4	2	64	37	33	58	53	44
Kentish Plover	2,640	301	9	6	0	1	10	1	1	2	24	544
Lesser Sand Plover	20	5	0	8	0	0	0	21	0	0	30	0
Greater Sand Plover	0	0	2	27	36	0	6	0	124	23	0	1
Greater Painted Snipe	0	0	0	2	3	0	2	0	2	1	0	0
Pheasant-tailed Jacana	1	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Pintail/Swinhoe's Snipe	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	4	1	4	1	0
Common Snipe	27	5	10	0	0	0	0	3	5	7	17	5
Asian Dowitcher	0	0	0	5	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0
Black-tailed Godwit	172	520	0	901	1	34	74	220	368	502	1	300
Bar-tailed Godwit	1	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	5	0	1	3
Whimbrel	0	1	1	7	19	1	23	67	35	6	0	13
Eurasian Curlew	805	979	305	23	11	16	62	75	85	134	57	266
Spotted Redshank	26	0	1	40	4	0	0	0	0	12	2	182
Common Redshank	207	365	176	476	52	2	736	711	387	447	8	125
Marsh Sandpiper	797	2,237	682	350	1	1	3	17	376	898	685	392
Common Greenshank	478	741	850	305	85	42	397	1,276	691	837	526	369
Nordmann's Greenshank	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Green Sandpiper	20	26	12	2	0	0	14	6	5	25	31	26
Wood Sandpiper	145	48	80	238	0	0	86	300	480	114	51	28
Grey-tailed Tattler	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Terek Sandpiper	2	10	0	53	227	125	24	0	0	0	1	1
Common Sandpiper	93	74	63	96	10	0	18	61	68	87	76	59
Ruddy Turnstone	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Great Knot	18	4	0	3	7	6	0	0	16	6	1	0
Red Knot	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
Sanderling	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red-necked Stint	0	0	8	129	105	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

2012 WC Count Data	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
date of count	15	12	11	22	20	17	22	19	16	14	11	16
Temminck's Stint	4	2	0	31	0	0	0	9	2	1	3	4
Long-toed Stint	0	0	1	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	0	0	0	4	5	0	1	6	0	0	0	0
Curlew Sandpiper	0	0	242	623	17	0	12	30	0	0	0	0
Dunlin	1,050	3,100	110	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	481	1,289
Broad-billed Sandpiper	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	17	0	0	0
Small wader spp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	440	0
Wader sp.	3	200	0	0	0	0	25	41	0	30	710	4,002
Oriental Pratincole	0	0	10	0	6	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Black-headed Gull	4,964	4,227	1,932	66	0	0	0	0	0	0	330	6,993
Saunders's Gull	42	57	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	6	0
Black-tailed Gull	0	11	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Glaucous Gull	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caspian Gull	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slaty-backed Gull	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heuglin's Gull	8	305	187	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Large Gull spp.	240	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	88
Gull-billed Tern	0	0	0	95	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caspian Tern	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0
Whiskered Tern	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	19	16	0	0
White-throated Kingfisher	12	13	9	2	1	4	15	17	14	22	14	13
Black-capped Kingfisher	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Common Kingfisher	29	30	25	15	12	10	25	35	36	72	68	30
Pied Kingfisher	11	8	9	14	15	13	13	22	13	23	18	17
Collared Crow	21	17	41	32	23	27	16	35	35	32	30	26
Red-billed Starling	588	1,055	2,214	0	0	13	12	0	11	7	939	412

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* at Mai Po Nature Reserve

The first Hong Kong record accepted as Category I

Brendan Klick
c/o HKBWS, 7C, V Ga Building, 532 Castle Peak Road, Lai Chi Kok, Kowloon, Hong Kong

On 9 March 2013 I was birding at Mai Po and went to check *Gei wai* #16/17 for waders and ducks. Upon arriving at the hide, I almost immediately noticed a duck which looked quite interesting. At first its back was facing me, and its large size and buff brown colour made me think it could be a female Gadwall *Anas strepera*. When it turned I saw that it had a yellow tip to the bill and my next thought was a Chinese Spot-billed Duck *A. zonorhyncha*, but the pale cheek patch and dark cap and the overall colour did not fit that species.

Based on my memory I suspected that it could be a female Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*. At that point I proceeded to take some photographs and telephoned Richard Lewthwaite, who I knew was in the vicinity, and also text messaged a number of other people. Shortly afterwards, the bird took flight but fortunately did not leave the *gei wai*. A broad white wing stripe was visible in flight, which further confirmed my suspicion that this was a Red-crested Pochard. Several other people, including members of the Records Committee, arrived quickly and were able to see the bird. The bird was present until dark and was seen briefly on Pond #20 the next morning, but was not seen again. The following observations were made at the time.

The size was larger than Eurasian Wigeon *A. penelope* by about 20%. The wings, back and tail were all buff-brown colour. The head pattern was distinctive, with a dark cap extending from the eye to the crown, and a pale cheek patch. The nape was dark brown. In flight a broad white wing-stripe was visible on the secondaries, extending to the outer primaries. The legs and feet were greenish-yellow. The upper mandible was black at the base with pale spot near the tip. The lower mandible was more extensively yellow.

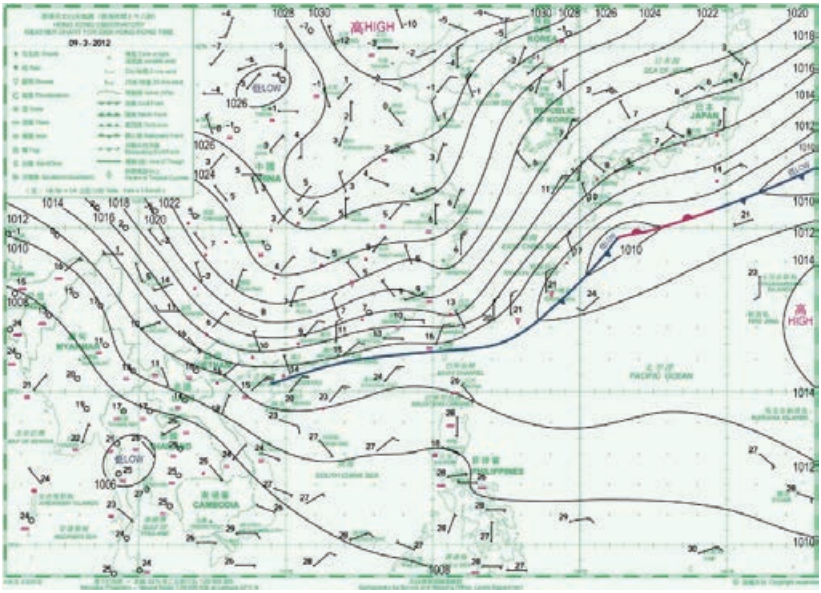
Examination of the bird in the field and of photographs showed no evidence of feather damage. The bird was able to fly normally, and was freely associating with other waterfowl.

The bird's occurrence in Hong Kong coincided with the type of frontal system (Figure 1) which ia often associated with the occurrence of rare birds in Hong Kong in spring. Red-crested Pochard is a scarce winter visitor to north Myanmar but a vagrant further east in Southeast Asia (Robson 2008). It winters in central China and has been recorded in winter in east China from Hebei and Jiangsu although is rare there, and is a vagrant to Taiwan, Korea and Japan (Brazil 2009) .

Plate 58. Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* 赤嘴潛鴨
Female, probably first-summer 可能是首次度夏的雌鳥
MPNR 9th March 2012 米埔 2012年3月9日
Brendan Klick

Plate 59. Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* 赤嘴潛鴨
Female, probably first-summer 可能是首次度夏的雌鳥
MPNR 9th March 2012 米埔 2012年3月9日
Brendan Klick

Figure 1. Weather Chart for 9th March 2012. HKO.
圖表一　2012年3月9日的天氣圖（香港天文台）



Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Yu-Yat Tung for providing a listing of previous records in Hong Kong and China and for Geoff Welch for his helpful comments.

Records Committee Comment

Fortunately this bird remained long enough to be seen by many individuals, who were alerted to its presence thanks to Brendan quickly passing out the information. The identity was not in doubt and it was assessed as a female, probably first summer. The question for the Records Committee concerned category.

Red-crested Pochard has been recorded twice previously in Hong Kong, both times at Mai Po. The first was an immature male on 11th July 1999 (Yu 2004). Given the date and the fact it was not a juvenile, it was thought that the possibility of it being an ex-captive was high and it was added to Category III of the Hong Kong list. The second record was a male on 15th June 2008. Photographs showed extensive damage to the tertials and tail feathers, suggesting the bird also was of captive origin.

Red-crested Pochard breeds and winters in western and central China and, although surprisingly rare in eastern China, recent winter records have occurred in Hebei, Beijing and Jiangsu, and so the possibility exists of a wild bird occurring in Hong Kong. Given the date, the absence of any indication that it was ex-captive, either in

behaviour or appearance, and the fact that it arrived with a cold front, the Records Committee accepted it as the first record of a wild bird in Hong Kong. The previous two records continue to be regarded as referring to ex-captive individuals and remain in Category III.

References

Brazil, M. 2009. *Birds of East Asia*. Christopher Helm, London.

Robson, C. 2008. *A Field Guide to the Birds of South-East Asia*. New Holland, London.

Yu Y.T. 2004. Red-crested Pochard at Mai Po. *Hong Kong Bird Report 1999-2000* p 201. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Hong Kong.

米埔自然護理區的赤嘴潛鴨

香港首個第 I 類紀錄

Brendan Klick
香港九龍荔枝角青山道532號偉基大廈7樓C座 香港觀鳥會 轉交

2013年3月9日我在米埔觀鳥，並打算前往16及17號基圍看涉禽和鴨。剛抵達觀鳥屋，我立即發現一隻頗特別的鴨。最初牠背對著我，其體型之大及暗黃棕色令我以爲是一隻雌性的赤膀鴨 *Anas strepera*。當牠轉身過來，我發覺牠喙尖帶黃，這令我想到是一隻中華斑嘴鴨 *A. zonorhyncha*，但其淺色的面頰、深色的頭頂和整體的色調和此一物種並不吻合。

根據我的記憶，我懷疑牠是一隻雌性赤嘴潛鴨 *Netta rufina*。此時我拍了一些照片，並致電我知道當時在附近的 Richard Lewthwaite，也發短訊通知其他數人。沒多久這隻鳥飛起，幸而並沒有離開基圍。飛行時可見到其寬闊白色翼斑，這更肯定了我對牠是赤嘴潛鴨的估計。包括紀錄委員會成員在內的其他數人很快便到達，他們也看到此鳥。牠逗留至晚上，並於翌日早上短暫出現於20號塘，但之後便不見影蹤。以下的描述來自當時的觀察。

其體型較赤頸鴨 *A. penelope* 大了約20%。翼、背及尾部均帶暗黃棕色。頭部特徵十分特別，深色的頭頂部分由眼開始伸延至冠部，並有一淺色的面頰。枕部爲深棕色。飛行時可見一寬闊的白色翼斑由次級飛羽伸延至外圍的初級飛羽。腳爲帶綠的黃色。上喙底部爲黑色，並在接近喙尖位置有淺色的斑點。下喙則廣泛呈黃色。

野外的觀察及照片均沒有顯示羽毛有損害。此鳥能正常地飛行，並自由地和其他水鳥共存。

此鳥在香港出現和春季冷鋒同時發生（圖表1），此時香港經常會出現罕有鳥類。赤嘴潛鴨是緬甸北部稀少的冬候鳥，在東南亞東部則是迷鳥（Robson 2008）。赤嘴潛鴨在華中度冬，華東的河北及江蘇省也偶有冬季紀錄，台灣、韓國及日本則有迷鳥紀錄（Brazil 2009）。

紀錄委員會評註

由於Brendan迅速地向外公報此鳥的訊息，再加上此鳥逗留了一段頗長的時間，令很多人都能親眼目睹。不容置疑，此鳥是一隻雌性的赤嘴潛鴨，有可能是首次渡夏。紀錄委員會餘下的關注只是有關類別的問題。

赤嘴潛鴨曾於香港出現過兩次，兩次均於米埔。首次爲1999年7月11日的未成年雄鳥(Yu 2004)。由於牠不是幼鳥及非於遷徙季節出現，所以此項紀錄被認爲是圈養的個體並納入爲第III類別。

第二次紀錄是2008年6月15日的一隻雄鳥。相中的鳥的三級飛羽及尾羽都甚爲破舊，證明牠曾被圈養。

赤嘴潛鴨於華中及華西過冬及繁殖，華東的紀錄甚少，但近年亦於河北，北京及江蘇有紀錄，增加了在香港出現的可能性。

由於在適當的時候出現，而此個體亦沒有任何表面及行爲上有曾被圈養的跡象，加上與冷峰的時間脗合，紀錄委員會鑑定此項紀錄爲香港首項野生紀錄，之前的兩個紀錄，繼續被定爲曾被圈養的個體。

鳴謝

感謝余日東提供香港及中國以往的紀錄，以及 Geoff Welch 有用的意見。

Brown-backed Needletail *Hirundapus giganteus* on Po Toi

The first Hong Kong record

Louis Cheung
c/o HKBWS, 7C, V Ga Building, 532 Castle Peak Road, Lai Chi Kok, Kowloon, Hong Kong

On 24th March 2012 I arrived on Po Toi at about 10.45am and soon afterwards proceeded to the football ground area next to the Sisters' Café. I found at least three Needletails flying over the area. Looking at one through binoculars, I saw it had a silver back, a white V-shaped vent and a dark throat; it lacked a forked tail, but had typical Needletail wings. I believed it to be a Silver-backed Needletail *Hirundapus cochinchinensis*.

All the birds were flying fast about 5 to 10 meters above the ground and over a Banyan tree. I thought this was a great chance to get a good photo as they were close to me, so I immediately chose the closest one in the group. I was successfully able to take about 30 shots of this one individual within a one minute period.

The birds then flew in the direction of the Tin Hau Temple and started soaring over the bay beyond the ferry pier. Using my binoculars to observe, I found that while at least one of them had a very obvious silver back, another two had brown backs, which I thought were perhaps juveniles. They all soon flew in the direction of the helicopter pad and disappeared from view.

After reviewing the photos I had taken, I could see that the bird I photographed actually had a brown back with white lores and a dark-coloured throat. I began to think some of the group might be Brown-backed Needletails *H. giganteus*, which was confirmed when I posted the photographs on the HKBWS website later that evening. I was lucky to have photographed the right bird.

Records Committee Comment

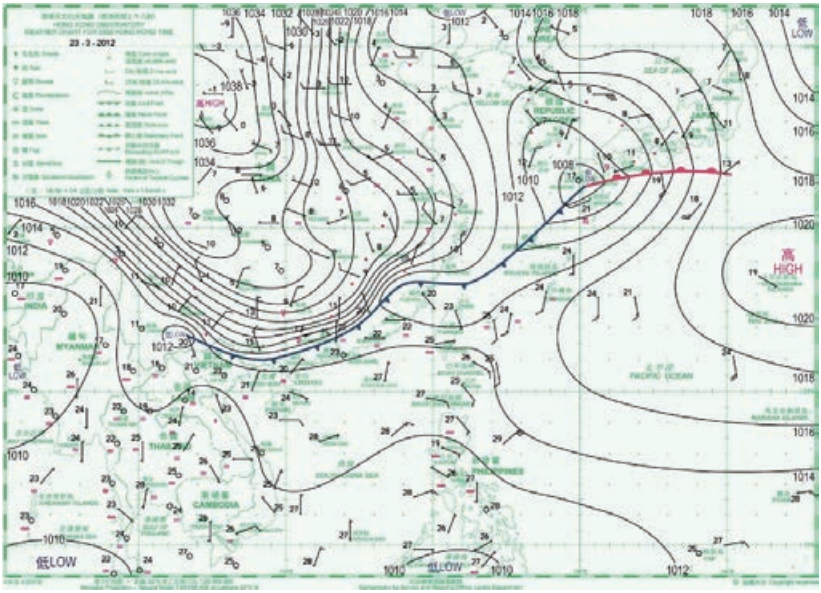
Needletails are difficult to photograph given their flight speed and changes of direction. Louis Cheung is to be complimented on the excellent photographs he obtained which made acceptance of this record relatively easy, even though it was entirely unexpected. The brown saddle, dark throat and long tail spines, all clearly visible in the photographs, separate this species from all other needletails in the region, while the white loral patch identifies it as the subspecies indicus*, which is found in the northern part of Southeast Asia with East Tonkin in Vietnam the closest to Hong Kong on known range (Robson 2008). The arrival of this bird coincided with the passage of a cold front through Hong Kong (Figure 1), a weather system that often brings migrant falls and unusual species in spring.*

This is the first record of the species for China.

Plate 60. Brown-backed Needletail *Hirundapus giganteus* 褐背針尾雨燕
Po Toi 24th March 2012 蒲台 2012年3月24日
Louis Cheung 張勇

Plate 61. Brown-backed Needletail *Hirundapus giganteus* 褐背針尾雨燕
Po Toi 24th March 2012 蒲台 2012年3月24日
Louis Cheung 張勇

Figure 1. Weather Chart for 23rd March 2012. HKO.
圖表 1. 2012年3月23日天氣圖 香港天文台.



References

Robson, C. 2008. *A Field Guide to the Birds of South-East Asia*. New Holland Publishers (UK) Ltd, London.

蒲台的褐背針尾雨燕

香港首個紀錄

張勇
香港九龍荔枝角青山道532號偉基大廈7樓C座 香港觀鳥會 轉交

2012年3月24日，大約在上午10時45分抵達蒲台後，我立即前往姐妹茶座旁邊的足球場。我發現至少三隻針尾雨燕在該處的上空飛翔。以雙筒望遠鏡觀察，看見其中一隻有著銀白色背部、白色V型臀部和深色喉部；牠沒有叉狀尾部，但有典型的針狀翼尾。我相信牠是白背針尾雨燕 *Hirundapus cochinchinensis*。

這群鳥在一棵榕樹上快速地飛行，離地面約五至十米。當牠們飛得很接近我時，我想這是拍得好照片的大好機會，所以立即選了飛得最靠近我的一隻鳥來拍攝，並成功地在一分鐘內爲這鳥拍攝了約30張照片。

這群鳥隨即向天后廟飛去，又在碼頭那邊的海灣開始高飛。我用雙筒望遠鏡觀察，發現至少一隻鳥的背部顯然是銀白色的，而其餘兩隻的背部則是褐色的，我認爲這或因牠們是幼鳥的緣故。牠們很快就向直昇機停機坪飛去，然後消失了蹤影。

後來我重看照片，察覺拍攝到的那隻鳥事實上有著褐色的背，白色眼先和深色的喉部。我這才考慮這群鳥其中有些可能是褐背針尾雨燕 *H. giganteus*。當天黃昏，我把照片上載到香港觀鳥會的網頁後，這想法得到證實。我眞幸運，找對了拍攝的對象。

紀錄委員會評註

因爲針尾雨燕飛行速度快和常常改變方向，故此難於拍攝到照片。張勇能拍到這些精彩的照片值得恭賀；也完全出乎委員會意料之外。不過正因此而使得委員會較爲容易接納這個紀錄。在照片上能清楚見到：褐色的背部，深色的喉部和尾部凸出的針狀長刺，使這個鳥種與區域內的其他針尾雨燕區分辨來；同時眼先白斑可識別其爲亞種 indicus，這亞種可以在東南亞北部，包括越南的東京東部（East Tonkin）找到，是已知最接近香港的區域 (Robson 2008)。這鳥之所以到來，其路線與經過香港的一道冷鋒脗合（圖表1）。此氣象常在春天帶來候鳥和不常見的鳥種。

這鳥種是中國首個紀錄。

參考資料

Robson, C. 2008. *A Field Guide to the Birds of South-East Asia*. New Holland Publishers (UK) Ltd, London.

Varied Tit *Poecile varius* on Po Toi

The first Hong Kong record

Paul Mak Dai Kwok
c/o HKBWS, 7C, V Ga Building, 532 Castle Peak Road, Lai Chi Kok, Kowloon, Hong Kong

On 16th September., 2012, I took my camera to Po Toi hoping to take some photos of migrant birds. Not much was seen that day and I was just about to pack my photographic equipment to catch the ferry when I saw a small bird land in the tree next to the ferry pier. I was lucky enough to take a few shots before it flew off.

I knew it was a species I had not seen before, so I put a photograph on the HKBWS website later that evening (Plate 62) and was surprised to learn it was a Varied Tit *Poecile varius*, a new species for Hong Kong.

Plate 62.
Varied Tit *Poecile varius varius*
雜色山雀
Po Toi 16th Septmber 2012
蒲台 2012年9月16日
Paul Mak麥大國

Records Committee Comment

When the photograph of this bird was first posted on the HKBWS website, it was immediately identified as a Varied Tit Poecile varius *of the Japan, Korea and northeast China subspecies* varius*, and assumed to be an ex-captive bird, in spite of its immaculate condition and behaviour as a wild bird, since the species was reported as sedentary (Harrap* et al. *1996) and a common cagebird in Japan (Brazil 2009).*

However, news started to arrive that a flock of eight Varied Tits of the same taxon had been found on Xiao Yangshan Island, 30 km southeast of Shanghai in the East China Sea, on 15th September, the day before the Po Toi bird arrived. This was quickly followed by reports from Nial Moores of unusual movements of large numbers of Varied Tits flying west from the southern mainland of South Korea and offshore islands in the Yellow Sea in late August and early September, indicating an irruption of the species was occurring (N.Moores, pers. comm.).

Further records of Varied Tits were reported in late September from the immediate areas of Shanghai and then in early October from Qingdao, Dalian, Ningbo and near Tainan on Taiwan. By late October, most of the forest parks surrounding Shanghai had a small flock and records were coming from the Botanical Gardens in Beijing, while the original group remained on Xiao Yangshan Island into November (Birdforum 2012, T. Devaram, pers comm.).

This spread of records through eastern China indicated an irruption of the South Korean population of Varied Tit into eastern China. Given the location of the original Shanghai Varied Tit records near to a deepwater port just one day before the Po Toi bird arrived, there is a possibility that the Po Toi bird was ship-assisted, at least for the latter part of its journey. However, there was no indication of human assistance and, according to past policy, this enabled the Records Committee to accept the Po Toi bird as wild and place it in Category I. It remained on Po Toi until 23rd October, and a different Varied Tit was found at the Tai Tong entrance of Tai Lam CP on 22nd December, with up to four there in January and February 2013, and another was seen at Zhongshan Park, Shenzhen on 23rd January 2013, which confirmed the irruption extended into south as well as east China.

While the main Chinese population of this taxon of Varied Tit is restricted to Liaoning and Jilin provinces in the far northeast of China, a small population of an unknown taxon is known to exist in forest at Ba Bao Shan (1250-1400m) and Mang Shan in the Nanling Mountains of northern Guangdong and southern Hunan (Lewthwaite 1996). Although the subspecies involved is not known, it is intriguing to speculate that this population may have originated from a similar previous irruption of the species.

References

Birdforum. 2012. http://www.birdforum.net/

Brazil, M. 2009. *Birds of East Asia*. Christopher Helm, London.

Lewthwaite, R.W. 1996. Forest birds of Southeast China. *Hong Kong Bird Report 1995*: 150-203.

Harrap, S. & Quinn, D. 1996. *Tits, Nuthatches & Treecreepers*. Christopher Helm, London.

蒲台的雜色山雀 *Poecile varius*

香港首個紀錄

麥大國
香港九龍荔枝角青山道532號偉基大廈7樓C室　香港觀鳥會 轉交

2012年9月16日我帶備攝影器材到蒲台碰碰運氣，希望拍攝一些過境遷徙鳥的照片，可惜當日收穫不多。當我正在收拾攝影器材準備趕上船之際，發現一隻細小的雀鳥在碼頭旁邊的大樹上降落，非常幸運地我能在牠飛走之前拍了幾張照片。

當時我只知這是我自己從未見過的鳥種，所以便於當晚上載到香港觀鳥會討論區(圖62)，後來得知這雜色山雀原來是香港首次發現的新鳥種，眞的非常驚訝！

紀錄委員會評註

當此雀鳥的照片上載到香港觀鳥會討論區已即時辨識爲雜色山雀 Poecile varius *於日本、韓國及中國東北分佈的亞種* varius*。然而，儘管此雀鳥的羽毛非常潔淨整齊而行爲也如野鳥無異，當時卻不得不假定是從籠養逃逸的雀鳥，因爲跟據研究顯示此鳥種擁有不遷徙的特性 (Harrap* et al. *1996)及於日本爲普遍的籠養雀鳥(Brazil 2009)。*

然而新的消息不斷傳來，在雜色山雀到達蒲台的前一天即9月15日，在上海東南30公里外位於東海的小洋山島亦發現了一群共8隻同一亞種的雜色山雀。 接著 Nial Moores 的報告指出在8月下旬至9月初期間，有大群的雜色山雀由南韓南部大陸及離岸島嶼向西飛，這種不尋常的遷移顯視此鳥種的族群正在出現突然湧入的現象 (N.Moores,私人通訊)。

其後有更多雜色山雀的報告，由9月下旬於上海外圍，以至10月初於青島、大連、寧波及台灣台南附近均有記錄。直至10月下旬，差不多每個上海外圍的森林公園都有一小群出現，北京的記錄來自植物園，而原來在小洋山島的群組則逗留至11月(Birdforum 2012, T. Devaram, 私人通訊)。

在中國東部分散的記錄顯示了南韓的雜色山雀族群正在突然湧入中國東部的現象。由於在上海首群雜色山雀出現的地點位於一深水港附近，而且比蒲台的早一天出現，故有可能蒲台的雜色山雀是或多或少借助於順風船。由於沒有證據顯示有人爲協助的成分，跟據慣例紀錄委員會接受蒲台的雜色山雀爲野鳥並歸入第I類。蒲台的個體一直逗留至10月23 日，12月22日另一不同個體在大欖郊野公園大棠入口出現，此個體與另外最多4隻一起逗留至2013年1月及2月，而在2013年1 月23日深圳中山公園亦出現了一隻，這些記錄均確實了雜色山雀的湧入並擴散至中國南部及東部。

雜色山雀在中國大陸的原生的族群只限在中國東北偏遠的遼寧和吉林兩省出現，而另一未確定亞種的細小族群則可見於八寶山的森林 (1250-1400米)及位於廣東北部及湖南南部南嶺山脈的莽山(Lewthwaite 1996)，雖然此群落所屬的亞種尚未確定，但卻可推測此族

群有可能是在之前類似情況下出現突然湧入的群落。

參考資料

Birdforum. 2012. http://www.birdforum.net/
Brazil, M. 2009. Birds of East Asia. Christopher Helm, London.
Lewthwaite, R.W. 1996. Forest birds of Southeast China. *Hong Kong Bird Report 1995*: 150-203.
Harrap, S. & Quinn, D. 1996. *Tits, Nuthatches & Treecreepers*. Christopher Helm, London.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Accession into Category I

Chung Yun Tak
***Geoff Welch**, Secretary and on behalf of HKBWS Records Committee*
c/o HKBWS, 7C, V Ga Building, 532 Castle Peak Road, Lai Chi Kok, Kowloon, Hong Kong

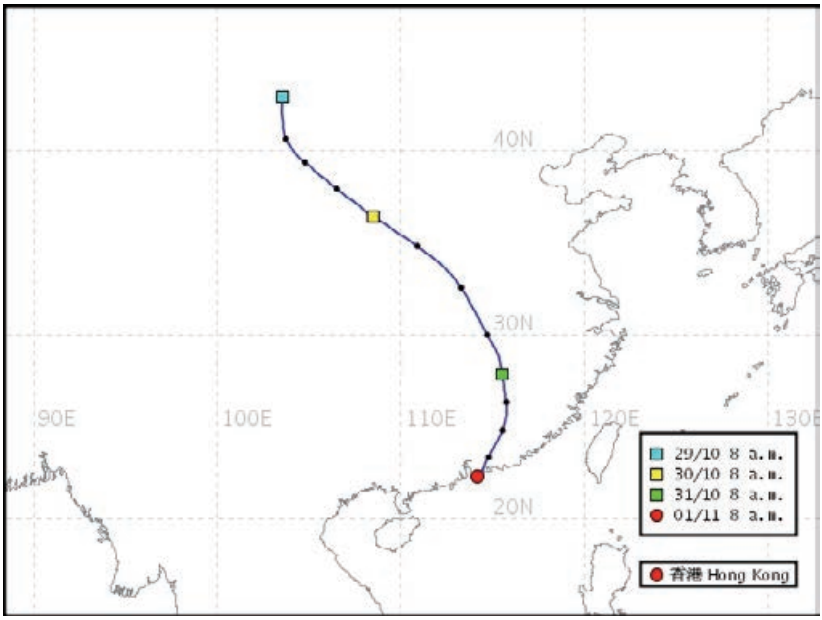
On 1st November 2012, Chung Yun Tak visited Po Toi with his father Chung Wing King and two friends. As they approached the trees below the lower school, he noticed a bird about the size of a bulbul with a dark underwing and a broad white diagonal mark across the wing landing in the bamboo tree below the lower school building. He alerted his companions and they all hurried up to the lower school building to take photographs. Fortunately, the bird had not left and they were able to take good photographs of the bird, one of which is provided here (Plate 63). Shortly afterwards, the bird flew off and they were unable to relocate it.

Plate 63. Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* 錫嘴雀
Po Toi 1st November 2012 蒲台 2012年11月1日
Chung Wing Kin 鍾永乾

Records Committee Discussion

The photographs left no doubt as to the identity of this bird as a Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*. The question for the Records Committee was the category in which to place this record. Several factors supported a wild origin: there was nothing in the many photographs of this bird to indicate any cage damage; the Backward Trajectory Map showed that the air mass arriving in Hong Kong on 1st November had come from northern China (Figure 1); the bird's behaviour, using the tall bamboo trees below the lower school as a vantage point, was typical both of a wild Hawfinch and of a freshly arrived migrant on Po Toi; and two other finch species arriving in Hong Kong from the north, Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* and Eurasian Siskin *Carduelis spinus*, were also present on Po Toi on the same day. Based on these factors, the Records Committee were unanimous in their opinion that the species should be re-assigned to Category I.

Figure 1. Backward Trajectory Map for 1st November 2012. HKO.
圖表 1 香港天文台11月1日的反軌跡路線圖



Hawfinch breeds widely across the Palearctic from Europe through Russia and central Siberia to the Russian Far East, northeast China and north Japan. It winters south to Japan, Korea and central, south and southeast China with regular records as far south as Fujian and Guizhou provinces (del Hoyo, 2010). It is therefore not an unexpected winter vagrant to Hong Kong.

Hawfinch is a difficult species to assess for category because it is also commonly kept as a cagebird in northern China. Of the previous ten records, two were almost certainly ex-captive birds and a further two were considered to show signs of cage damage suggesting previous captivity. The other six had been assigned to Category III using the conservative principle adopted by the Records Committee in similar situations, with the proviso that further records could change the assessment. The Committee agreed the following general rule to be used in these situations:

'The hurdle to achieve Category I should remain high; however, once a species is accepted as Category I, past records should be reviewed in the context that the species is a Category I species'

Acceptance of the Po Toi bird into Category I therefore prompted a review of the previous ten records, to determine which could be considered as wild birds. The circumstances regarding the two records previously determined as almost certainly ex-captive (8-12 May 1976 and 7 October 1998) prevented acceptance of these as wild birds. Of the remaining records, one was insufficiently described for acceptance (12 September 1993). The five records without signs of captivity were accepted as relating to wild individuals. The remaining two records, showing possible cage damage, were reviewed and it was agreed that the extent of damage was insufficient to prevent acceptance of these as wild birds.

In addition to the bird on Po Toi, the following seven records of Hawfinch are therefore considered to relate to wild individuals:

26 December 1984 and 5 January 1985 – one at Mong Tseng

17 November 1994 – one at Mui Wo

22 January 2006 – one at Mong Tseng (Plate 64)

14-23 January 2009 – one at Shek Kong (Plate 65)

19 February 2009 – one at Ping Che (plate 66)

21-22 February 2011 – two at Yuen Long Plate (67)

25 February to 6 March 2011 – one at Ping Long

References

del Hoyo, J., Elliot, A., Sargatal, J. & Christie, D.A. 2010. *Handbook of the Birds of the World, Vol. 15: Weavers to New World Warblers*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona, Spain.

Plate 64.
Hawfinch
Coccothraustes coccothraustes
錫嘴雀
Mong Tseng 22nd January 2006
輞井 2006年1月22日
John and Jemi Holmes
孔思義及黃亞萍

Plate 65.
Hawfinch
Coccothraustes coccothraustes
錫嘴雀
Shek Kong 18th January 2009
石崗 2009年1月18日
Allen Chan 陳志雄

Plate 66.
Hawfinch
Coccothraustes coccothraustes
錫嘴雀
Ping Che 19th February 2009
坪輋 2009年2月19日
Martin Hale 夏敖天

Plate 67.
Hawfinch
Coccothraustes coccothraustes
錫嘴雀
Yuen Long 22nd February 2011
元朗 2011 年2月22日
Kitty Koo 古愛婉

錫嘴雀 *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

納入香港鳥類名錄第 I 類別

鍾潤德
Geoff Welch, 香港觀鳥會紀錄委員會秘書
香港九龍荔枝角青山道532號偉基大廈7樓C室　香港觀鳥會 轉交

鍾潤德在2012年11月1日跟他的父親鍾永乾及兩位友人到蒲台。他們差不多到達較近碼頭的學校時，鍾潤德注意到有一隻跟鴉差不多大小的雀鳥，著陸在學校下方的竹樹下。該鳥有深色翼下，有寬闊的白色斜紋橫跨翅膀。他通知友人立即到學校處拍照，此鳥並沒有離開，他們都很幸運能夠拍得一些優質相片，其中一張在這裡（圖片63）提供。不久牠飛走了，而他們無法再找到此鳥。

紀錄委員會評註

毫無疑問該批照片顯示這是一隻錫嘴雀，紀錄委員會的工作只是判斷牠應被歸納的類別。有幾個因素支持該鳥爲野鳥：許多照片都看不到牠有任何被困在雀籠的損傷；反軌跡路線圖顯示，氣團在11月1日從中國北部抵達香港（圖表1）；行爲－牠使用較近碼頭的學校下面高聳的竹樹作爲一個據點，是典型野生錫嘴雀以及遷徙鳥剛抵達蒲台的行爲；當天還有另外兩種燕雀科的鳥－燕雀 *Fringilla montifringilla* 及黃雀 *Carduelis spinus* 從北方飛抵蒲台。基於以上因素，紀錄委員會一致認爲該鳥種應被重新納入到第一類別。

錫嘴雀在古北界廣泛地繁殖，由歐洲到俄羅斯及西伯利亞中部至俄羅斯遠東地區、中國東北和日本北部。牠們南遷到日本、韓國和中國中部、南部及東北部度冬，在中國南部的福建及貴州省都定期有紀錄（del Hoyo, 2010）。因此，我們對這個迷鳥紀錄並不感到意外。

除了今次在蒲台發現的紀錄外，香港過往有十個錫嘴雀的紀錄。錫嘴雀在中國北部常被用作籠鳥，因此把牠評定爲香港鳥類名錄的那個類別是一道難題。

在這十個紀錄中，有兩個紀錄肯定是籠養鳥，而另外有兩個紀錄亦看到雀鳥受傷的跡象，顯示牠們之前是籠養鳥。以紀錄委員會在類似情況下 一貫採用的保守原則，其他六個紀錄被評定爲第三類別，如發現更多紀錄的時候便會變更評估的條件。委員會同意在以下情況下使用的一般規則：

“納入第一類別的門檻應維持高水平，但是當該鳥種被納入第一類別的時候，應加以審查過去的紀錄是否應被接受爲第一類別”

在蒲台發現的錫嘴雀被納入爲第一類別後，紀錄委員會重新審查之前的十個紀錄，以確定那些紀錄可以被接受爲野生雀鳥。有兩個先前被確定爲籠養鳥的紀錄肯定不是野鳥(1976年5月8日至12日及1998年10月7日)。餘下的紀錄裡，其中一個的描述並不足以被確

定爲錫嘴雀(1993年9月12日)。有五個沒有籠養跡象的紀錄被接納爲野鳥，而剩下的兩個紀錄顯示籠養損傷的可能性，但再一次複審時認爲損傷的程度不足以確認牠們並非野鳥。

除了在蒲台的發現外，以下七個錫嘴雀紀錄均考慮爲野生個體:
1984年12月26日及1985年1月5日 – 在輞井有一隻
1994年11月17日 – 在梅窩有一隻
2006年1月22日 – 在輞井有一隻 (圖片64)
2009年1月14至23日 – 在石崗有一隻 (圖片65)
2009年2月19日 – 在坪輋有一隻 (圖片66)
2011年2月21至22日 – 在元朗有兩隻 (圖片67)
2011年2月25日至3月6日 – 在坪朗有一隻

參考資料

del Hoyo, J., Elliot, A., Sargatal, J. & Christie, D.A. 2010. *Handbook of the Birds of the World, Vol. 15: Weavers to New World Warblers*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona, Spain.

Red-headed Bunting *Emberiza bruniceps*

Accession into Category I

Lisa Mak Wing-sze
***Geoff Welch**, Secretary and on behalf of HKBWS Records Committee*
c/o HKBWS, 7C, V Ga Building, 532 Castle Peak Road, Lai Chi Kok, Kowloon, Hong Kong

On 23rd December 2012 at around 5pm, Lisa Mak Wing-sze was walking along the trail between paddy field 176 and field 150 at Long Valley when she noticed a man taking photographs of a sparrow-like bird perching on a pole at the corner of field 176. She thought it might be a Red-headed Bunting *Emberiza bruniceps*, and immediately took a photograph of the bird (Plate 68). She showed the photograph to Lo Chun-fai who was nearby, and he confirmed that it was a male Red-headed Bunting. Together they waited until it re-appeared on an overhead line between paddy field 175 and 176, taking some more photographs (Plate 69). It stayed for a few minutes and then flew away again, but it could not be relocated.

Records Committee Discussion

The excellent photographs of this bird by Lisa Mak and Lo Chun-fai quickly allowed its identification as a winter male Red-headed Bunting *Emberiza bruniceps*. As with the previous records of this species, Records Committee discussion centred on category.

Red-headed Bunting breeds in central Asia east to Xinjiang province in China, and migrates in a southerly direction to winter across much of northern India into Bangaladesh. There are also records from Hebei, Shanghai, South Korea and Japan. However, it is rare in China outside of Xinjiang and much less common than Black-headed Bunting *E. melanocephala* in East Asia, probably because the latter migrates in an easterly direction from its breeding grounds in southwest Europe and west Asia, meaning that it is more likely to overshoot into East Asia.

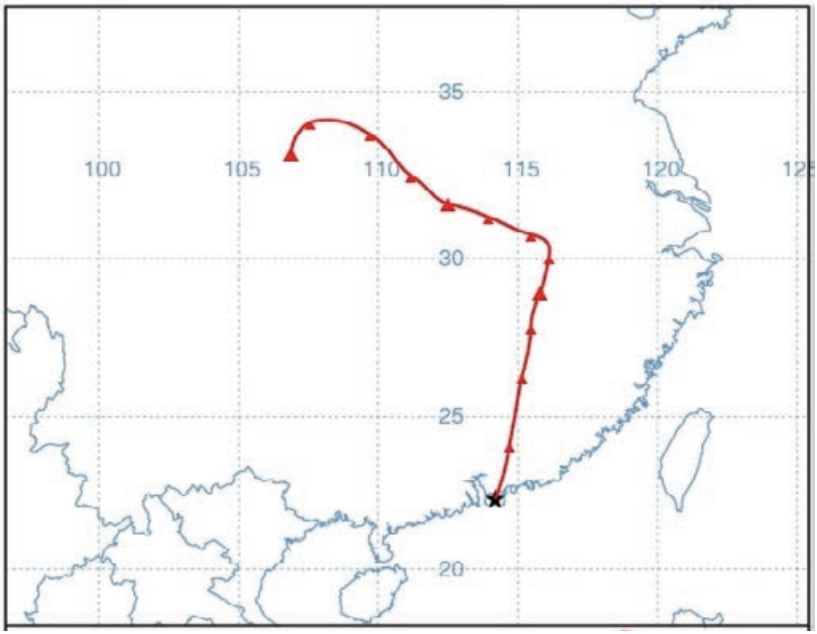
There are three previously accepted records of Red-headed Bunting, all of which were allocated to Category III. Photographs of the first record, a first-winter bird on the Mai Po access road on 10th January 2008 (Chua 2011), showed apparent anomalies in the feathering, in particular different age feathers on each side of the tail (Plate 70), which was considered at the time to be abnormal. The second record, another first-winter at Long Valley on 23rd December 2010, showed some abrasion to the tail feathers, which may have resulted from previous captivity but could potentially be present on a migrant (Plate 71). The third record, at She Shan, Lam Tsuen from 27th to 28th December 2010, was an immaculately plumaged winter male (Plate 72). The decision to place the latter two records in Category III followed the conservative principle used by the Records Committee in these situations, given that this species is relatively common in captivity in west China, but with the proviso that further records could change the assessment.

Plate 68. Red-headed Bunting *Emberiza bruniceps* 褐頭鵐
Male, winter plumage 雄性冬羽
Long Valley 23rd December 2012 塱原 2012年12月23日
Lisa Mak Wing-sze 麥穎思

Plate 69. Red-headed Bunting *Emberiza bruniceps* 褐頭鵐
Male, winter plumage 雄性冬羽
Long Valley 23rd December 2012 塱原 2012年12月23日
Lo Chun-fai 勞浚暉

The record on 23rd December 2012 prompted a review of the category allocation for this species. The Long Valley bird showed no plumage damage or behavioural issues indicative of previous captivity, and followed two days of strong northerly winds with a favourable Backward Trajectory (Figure 1). However, it should be noted that autumn records of the species in Hebei and Jiangsu suggest an alternative route is possible via the east China coast or offshore islands.

Figure 1. Backward Trajectory Map, 23rd December 2012 (HKO)
圖表1 2012年12月23日反軌跡路線圖(香港天文台)



Very similar favourable Backward Trajectories exist for both of the 2010 birds, neither of which showed significant signs of captivity. The Committee also noted the similarity of dates for these three records, which occurred between 23rd and 27th December and, given there are records of the species elsewhere in East Asia, it was felt there was sufficient reason to upgrade the species to Category I.

Discussion then focussed on the 2008 record. Subsequent experience of first-winter buntings trapped at MPNR has shown that atypical tail feather replacement is quite common in early winter. Other feather anomalies for this bird were not conclusive on their own, and although the date, 10th January, was somewhat outside the period of occurrence of the other three records, it was not felt to be an issue.

It was therefore unanimously decided to accept all four records into Category I.

Plate 70.
Red-headed Bunting
Emberiza bruniceps 褐頭鵐
First winter 首次度冬鳥
Mai Po access road 10th January 2008
担竿洲路 2008年1月10日
Teddy Chua Sai Kit 蔡世傑

This photograph shows the differences in tail feather moult on each side of the tail, as mentioned in the text.
如文中所述，這照片顯示了尾羽兩面的不同換羽程況

Plate 71.
Red-headed Bunting
Emberiza bruniceps 褐頭鵐
First winter 首次度冬鳥
Long Valley 23rd December 2010
塱原 2010年12月23日
K.C. Kong 江覺忠

Plate 72.
Red-headed Bunting
Emberiza bruniceps 褐頭鵐
Male, winter plumage 雄性冬羽
She Shan 27th December 2010
塱原 2010年12月27日
Peter and Michelle Wong
黃理沛 江敏兒

Review of early records of Black-headed and Red-headed Buntings

Black-headed Bunting was first accepted to the Hong Kong list in 1995. The decision to accept Red-headed Bunting as a Category I species, thereby joining Black-headed Bunting on the Hong Kong List, prompted a review of the identification of early records of these two similar species in Hong Kong.

Most records of this species pair in Hong Kong relate to females or immatures, the identification of which is extremely difficult. Most early records were therefore not conclusively identified and were considered to be either Black- or Red-headed Bunting; Carey *et al.* (2001) list eight such records between 1992 and 1997. Identification features to separate the two species in this plumage are now better understood, the key features for identification of female or first-winter Red-headed Bunting being:

1. near-absence of streaking on the crown and especially the forecrown;
2. relatively short primary projection with just 4 tips visible beyond the tertials;
3. dusky underparts;
4. sandy-buff fringes to the coverts & remiges (typically whitish fringes on Black-headed);
5. lightly-streaked brown mantle and plain brown rump, with no suggestion of chestnut or rufous colouration;
6. plain head pattern, lacking a hooded appearance; and
7. smaller bill size.

Given this better understanding, the Records Committee reviewed the three early unspecified records for which photographs exist, and decided the following should be accepted as Black-headed Bunting:

- Two females/immatures at Ho Chung on 17th – 19th October 1992 (which now becomes the earliest accepted record for Black-headed Bunting);
- Female/immature at Tsim Bei Tsui on 12th – 27th October 1994; and
- Female/immature at Mai Po Nature Reserve on 31st October – 1st November 1997.

Black-headed Bunting is now considered a scarce but annual autumn passage migrant and occasional winter visitor, with most records occurring between mid-October and mid-November. The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Black-headed Bunting following these additions is given in the Systematic List as Figure 38 on page 204.

References

Carey, G.J., M.L. Chalmers, D.A. Diskin, P.R. Kennerley, P.J. Leader, M.R. Leven, R.W. Lewthwaite, D.S. Melville, M. Turnbull and L. Young. 2001. *The Avifauna of Hong Kong*. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Hong Kong.

Chua S.K. 2011. Red-headed Bunting *Emberiza bruniceps* near Mai Po. *Hong Kong Bird Report 2007-08* p306. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Hong Kong.

褐頭鵐 *Emberiza bruniceps*

納入香港鳥類名錄第 I 類別

麥穎思
Geoff Welch, 香港觀鳥會紀錄委員會秘書
香港九龍青山道532號偉基大廈 7樓C室 香港觀鳥會 轉交

在2012年12月23日大約下午5時，麥穎思在塱原176號及150號稻田之間的小路上步行時，留意到有一位男子正在拍攝一隻站立於176號稻田角落木柱上的雀鳥。由於牠的頭是紅色，身爲黃色，於是她想該鳥可能是褐頭鵐 *Emberiza bruniceps*，並立即拍下照片(圖片68)。她將照片向當時在附近的勞浚暉展示，而他確認是一隻雄性褐頭鵐。他們一起再等，直至該鳥重新出現在175號和176號稻田之間的電線上，並再拍下照片(圖片69)。該鳥逗留大約數分鐘後就飛走，但之後無法再找到牠。

紀錄委員會評註

從麥穎思及勞浚暉出色的照片，能夠馬上分辨出該鳥是雄性冬羽的褐頭鵐 *Emberiza bruniceps* 。與之前的數個紀錄相同，紀錄委員會集中討論牠該納入那一個類別。

褐頭鵐在中亞東至中國新彊內繁殖，並於冬季向南越過北印度大部分地區到達孟加拉。在河北、上海、南韓及日本均曾有過紀錄。但是，除新彊外，牠在中國屬於罕見，而在東亞亦比黑頭鵐 *E. melanocephala* 更不常見，很可能是因爲後者從牠們在西南歐及西亞的繁殖地遷徙時採取較東的方向，意思是牠們有更大機會闖入東亞。

過去有三個被接納的褐頭鵐紀錄，全部都納入第III類。首個紀錄的照片是一隻首次度冬鳥，在2008年1月10日於往米埔的通道上拍攝(Chua 2011)。照片顯示該鳥的羽毛明顯異常，尤其是不同年份的羽毛同時在尾羽的兩側出現(圖片70)，在當時被視爲不正常。第二個紀錄是另一隻首次度冬鳥，在2010年12月23日於塱原發現。當時的照片顯示該鳥尾羽有磨損，這很可能是由被困時所造成，但亦可能是遷徙時所導致(圖片71)。第三個紀錄在2010年12月27至28日於林村的社山錄得。該鳥是未完全換成冬羽的雄鳥(圖片72)。由於這個物種在中國西部是一種較爲普遍的籠養鳥，於是紀錄委員會根據過去這種情況較爲保守的做法，將後兩個紀錄納入第III類，但不排除將來的紀錄有可能改變當時的分類。

2012年12月23日的紀錄使紀錄委員會覆核該鳥的分類。塱原的紀錄顯示該鳥沒有出現曾因被籠養而導致的任何羽毛破損或行爲異常，並伴隨過去兩天相宜的強烈北風及反軌跡出現(圖表1)。但是，須注意河北及江蘇的秋季紀錄顯示該種雀鳥有可能沿另一條華東海岸或沿岸離島的路線前來。

非常相似而有利的反軌跡氣流在2010年的兩個紀錄都曾出現，而該兩個紀錄的雀鳥均沒有明顯被籠養的跡象。委員會亦留意到三個紀錄出現的時間都是在12月23至27日之間，而且在東亞其他地方亦有該鳥種的紀錄，故可見有足夠理由將該鳥種提升至第I類。委

員會的討論隨後集中於2008年的紀錄。期後在米埔自然護理區網捕的經驗亦顯示不一致的尾羽換羽在初冬頗爲普遍。該鳥其他羽毛異狀亦不能提供任何結論，雖則該紀錄是在1月10日，在日子上與其他三個紀錄有一定距離，但委員會覺得這並不是一個問題。

因此，委員會決定將所有四個紀錄都納入第I類。

覆核黑頭鵐與褐頭鵐的早期紀錄

黑頭鵐的首個香港紀錄是在1995年。在接納褐頭鵐爲第I類的鳥種，與黑頭鵐一同列入香港名錄時，委員會決定覆核早期對這兩個相似鳥種的辨識。

大部分在香港有關這兩個鳥種的紀錄都是雌鳥或亞成鳥，辨識牠們極之困難。因此很多早期紀錄難以確切分辨而只能考慮爲黑頭鵐或褐頭鵐。Carey *et al.* (2001)在1992-1997年列出八個這樣的紀錄。現在，分辨這兩個鳥種的辨識特徵有較詳細的資料，分辨雌性或第一次度冬的褐頭鵐的主要特徵有：

1. 冠幾乎無紋，尤其前冠
2. 相對較短的初級飛羽突出部分，只有四端突出三級飛羽
3. 褐色下體
4. 飛羽及覆羽邊沿爲泥黃色(黑頭鵐爲白色邊沿)
5. 淺紋啡色上背和啡色腰，無栗色及紅色感
6. 無頭紋，欠頭罩外型，及
7. 較細的嘴

基於以上更詳細的資料，紀錄委員會覆核早期三個有相片而未被確立的紀錄，並決定接納爲黑頭鵐：

- 1992年10月17 -19日蠔涌兩隻雌鳥/亞成鳥(現在成爲最早被接納的黑頭鵐紀錄)
- 1994年10月12-27日尖鼻咀雌鳥/亞成鳥，及
- 1997年10月31日至11月1日米埔自然護理區雌鳥/亞成鳥

黑頭鵐現在被視爲稀少，但每年都有在秋季過境的遷徙鳥和度冬的紀錄，而大部分的紀錄都在10月中旬至11 月中旬出現。加入以上的紀錄，黑頭鵐每星期出現次數的圖表可見於分類總覽第204頁的圖38。

參考資料

Carey, G.J., M.L. Chalmers, D.A. Diskin, P.R. Kennerley, P.J. Leader, M.R. Leven, R.W. Lewthwaite, D.S. Melville, M. Turnbull and L. Young. 2001. *The Avifauna of Hong Kong*. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Hong Kong.

Chua S.K. 2011. Red-headed Bunting *Emberiza bruniceps* near Mai Po. *Hong Kong Bird Report 2007-08* p306. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Hong Kong.

The identification of grey-cheeked fulvettas in Hong Kong as Huet's Fulvetta *Alcippe hueti* and its addition to Category IIA of the Hong Kong List

M.R. Leven, C. S. Leven and G.J. Carey
AEC Ltd., 127 Commercial Centre, Palm Springs, Yuen Long, N.T., Hong Kong

Background

Based on the findings of Zou *et al.* (2006) and Song *et al.* (2009), which showed strong genetic divergence between the taxa within the polytypic Grey-cheeked Fulvetta complex, previously treated as a single species *Alcippe morrisonia*, the International Ornithological Congress (IOC) now recognizes four species within the complex: Grey-cheeked Fulvetta *A. morrisonia* (monotypic); David's Fulvetta *A. davidi*, with subspecies *davidi* and *schaefferi*; Yunnan Fulvetta *A. fratercula*, with subspecies *fratercula* and *yunnanensis*; and Huet's Fulvetta *A. hueti*, with subspecies *hueti* and *rufescentior*. The representative of the species complex in southeast China (Guangdong and Fujian Provinces) is *A. h. hueti*.

Carey *et al.* (2001) placed Grey-cheeked Fulvetta in the then Category E of the Hong Kong list as, while there had been a number of Hong Kong records since the first observation (in Tai Po Kau on 25th October 1984), the pattern of records in terms of frequency, locality and numbers suggested that recently-escaped or released individuals were involved, and that no self-sustaining population existed.

The Hong Kong List follows the taxonomic decisions of the IOC. Accordingly, when Grey-cheeked Fulvetta was split into four species, the Records Committee had to determine which of the species had been recorded in Hong Kong. Whilst it was considered most likely that this would prove to be Huet's Fulvetta, the species present in Guangdong Province, this could not be assumed as some southwest China babbler species, such as Blue-winged Minla *Minla cyanouroptera* and Silver-eared Mesia *Leiothrix argentauris* are established in Hong Kong, and in the case of at least one species, Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax pectoralis*, both the southeast China subspecies *G. p. picticollis* and a western form were thought to be present by Carey *et al.* (2001). Unfortunately, though Zou *et al.* (2006) included some tentative discussion of morphological differences between taxa, the Records Committee was unaware of any firm morphological or vocal features that would allow the Hong Kong records to be assigned to a particular taxon. Accordingly, albeit somewhat unsatisfactorily, Grey-cheeked Fulvetta was removed from the Hong Kong List and recent Hong Kong Bird Reports have referred to records of 'Grey-cheeked Fulvetta' *Alcippe* sp.

Identification of the fulvettas in Hong Kong

As an element of a wider study of vocalisations of species in this complex, we recorded singing fulvettas in Tai Po Kau on 20 March 2004 and 11 February 2013. Sonagrams prepared from these recordings were then compared with recordings of the song of Huet's Fulvetta obtained in Guangdong Province and David's Fulvetta *A. davidi* obtained in Hunan (Figures 1 to 5).

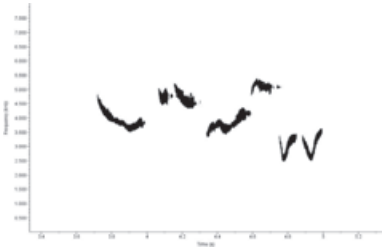


Figure 1. Huet's Fulvetta *Alcippe hueti*. Tai Po Kau, Hong Kong. 20 March 2004. G.J. Carey.

圖表 1 黑眉雀鸝 *Alcippe hueti*. 香港大埔滘 2004 年3月20日 賈知行

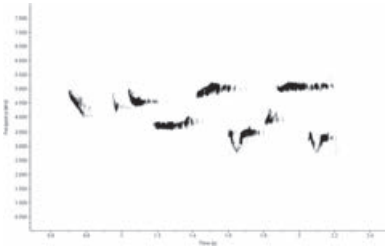


Figure 2. Huet's Fulvetta *Alcippe hueti*. Tai Po Kau, Hong Kong. 11 February 2013. M.R. Leven.

圖表2 黑眉雀鸝 *Alcippe hueti*. 香港大埔滘 2003 年2月11日 利偉文

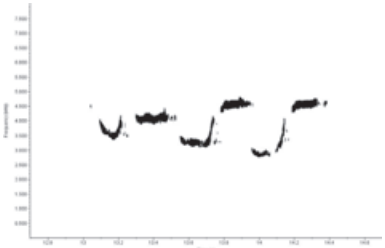


Figure 3. Huet's Fulvetta *Alcippe hueti*. Nan Kun Shan, Guangdong. 3 July 2011. J. Martinez.

圖表3 黑眉雀鸝 *Alcippe hueti*. 廣東南昆山 2011 年7月3日 J. Martinez.

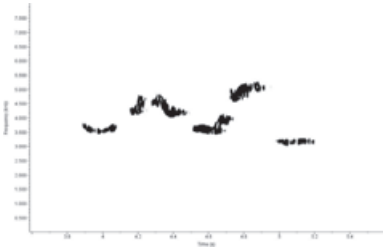


Figure 4. Huet's Fulvetta *Alcippe hueti*. Nan Ling Shan, Guangdong. 2 June 2010. P. Holt.

圖表4 黑眉雀鸝 *Alcippe hueti*. 廣東南昆山 2010 年6月2日 P.Holt

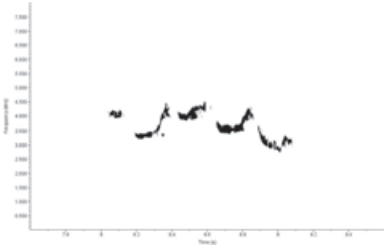


Figure 5. David's Fulvetta *Alcippe davidi*. Yueyang, Hunan. 26 June 2010. J. Martinez.

圖表5 灰眶雀鸝 *Alcippe davidi* 湖南岳陽 2010 年6月26日 J. Martinez.

The song of *Alcippe morrisonia* (*sensu lato*) is somewhat variable within each taxon. Broadly speaking, however, the song strophe of *hueti* comprises a short series of elements, each of which is somewhat higher or lower in pitch to that which precedes or follows; in addition, there is a terminal inflection of pitch at or near the end of most strophes.

With regard to *davidi*, there is less variation in pitch across the whole strophe, less marked changes in pitch in successive elements, usually a drop in pitch at the end of each strophe and each element appears to run into the next somewhat; these characteristics are illustrated in Figure 5.

Given the similarity between the song of birds in Hong Kong with those of Huet's Fulvetta in Guangdong Province, and the consistent difference from the song of David's Fulvetta (and other members of the complex), it is concluded that the 'Grey-cheeked Fulvettas' in Hong Kong are Huet's Fulvetta.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Paul Holt and Jonathan Martinez for providing recordings from China.

Records Committee Comment

The Committee concluded unanimously that the recordings proved that the fulvettas occurring in Hong Kong are Huet's Fulvetta. However, it also had to consider the status of the species. Huet's Fulvetta has increased significantly in Hong Kong in recent years, with records throughout the year, especially from Tai Po Kau and Shing Mun, including two counts of 25 birds from the first of these sites in 2011 (Welch 2013). In the light of this change in status, the Committee considered that it should be upgraded to the main Hong Kong list. However, in view of the uncertain origin of the Hong Kong population (Carey et al. 2001, Leven & Corlett 2004), Huet's Fulvetta has been placed on category IIA of the List.

References

Carey, G.J., Chalmers, M.L., Diskin, D.A., Kennerley, P.R., Leader, P.J., Leven, M.R., Lewthwaite, R.W. and Young, L. 2001. *The Avifauna of Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Hong Kong.

Leven, M.R. and Corlett, R.T. 2004. Invasive birds in Hong Kong, China. *Ornithological Science* 3: 43-55.

Song, G., Qu, Y., Yin, Z., Li, S., Liu, N. and Lei, F. 2009. Phylogeography of the *Alcippe morrisonia* (Aves: Timaliidae): long population history beyond late Pleistocene glaciations. *BMC Evolutionary Biology* 9: 143. http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2148/9/143.

Welch, G. 2013. Systematic List 2011. *Hong Kong Bird Report* 2011: 20-186.

Zou, F., Lim, H.C., Marks, B.D., Moyle, R.G. and Sheldon, F.H. 2006. Molecular phylogenetic analysis of the Grey-cheeked Fulvetta (*Alcippe morrisonia*) of China and Indochina: a case of remarkable genetic divergence in a 'species'. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 44: 165-174.

Plate 73. Huet's Fulvetta *Alcippe hueti* 黑眉雀鹛
Tai Po Kau, 1st January 2012 大埔滘 2012年1月1日
Lee Yat Ming 李逸明

確定在香港出現的灰眶雀鸝為黑眉雀鸝並納入為香港鳥類名錄IIA類

利偉文、C.S.Leven及賈知行
香港新界元朗加州花園商業中心127號AEC

背景

基於 Zou *et al.* (2006)及 Song *et al.* (2009)的新近研究發現，過往一直被視爲單一鳥種的灰眶雀鸝 *Alcippe morrisonia* 內的單元的基因變化頗明顯，並可分爲四種鳥種。跟據國際鳥類學議會(IOC)的分類，現存四種雀鸝包括單型的台灣雀鸝 *A. morrisonia*；包含亞種 *davidi* 及 *schaefferi* 的灰眶雀鸝 *A. davidi*；包含亞種 *fratercula* 及 *yunnanensis* 的雲南雀鸝 *A. fratercula* 和包含亞種 *hueti* 及 *rufescentior* 的黑眉雀鸝 *A. hueti*。分佈在中國東南（廣東及福建省）的群落爲 *A. h. hueti*。

自1984年10月25日於大埔滘首次紀錄後，灰眶雀鸝有多次紀錄。其出現的頻次、地點及數目皆顯示牠爲逃逸或籠放出來的，並且未能維持一個穩定群落，所以 Carey *et al.* (2001)將灰眶雀鸝納入香港鳥類名錄E類。

及後鳥類名錄根據國際鳥類學議會將灰眶雀鸝分爲四個鳥種。香港鳥類名錄跟隨其決定，但卻不能確定在香港出現的是那一種。雖根據分佈，在香港出現的應爲在廣東分佈的黑眉雀鸝，但考慮到香港有多種原生於中國西南部的的鸝（包括藍翅希鸝 *Minla cyanouroptera* 及銀耳相思 *Leiothrix argentauris*，及 Carey *et al.* (2001)估計包含了東南及西部亞種的黑頜噪鸝 *Garrulax pectoralis*），所以這個推斷未能確定。雖然 Zou *et al.* (2006)提出了不同鳥種的型態上的特徵，但紀錄委員會未能找出確定的型態及鳴聲上的特徵作參考以確定在香港的種群。因而灰眶雀鸝在香港鳥類名錄中被剔除，並在香港鳥類報告中只描述爲「灰眶雀鸝」類別 *Alcippe* sp. 。

鑑定香港的雀鸝

爲詳細研究這個類別的叫聲變化，我們在2004年3月20日及2013年2月11日在大埔滘收錄了雀鸝的鳴叫聲，並將聲納圖跟在廣東錄得的黑眉雀鸝及湖南的灰眶雀鸝 *A. davidi* 作比較（圖表1至5）。

Alcippe morrisonia (以整個種群來說)的鳴叫較變化多端。而在黑眉雀鸝的音節中包含了一連串的音段，每段的前或後都有較高或較低的音調；此外在多數的音節的尾段都有轉調的情況。

至於灰眶雀鸝，每音節的音調變化較少，通常都在每節的最後的音調較低，而一段接著另一段。這些特徵都在圖表5中顯示了出來。

基於跟廣東的黑眉雀鸝相似，而與灰眶雀鸝及其他近似的雀鸝不同，故確定在香港出現的是黑眉雀鸝。

鳴謝

我們感謝Paul Holt 及 Jonathan Martinez 提供在中國的錄音。

紀錄委員會評註

紀錄委員會一致認同在香港出現的雀鸝爲黑眉雀鸝，並討論牠們在香港出現的狀況。黑眉雀鸝在香港近年明顯增多，並全年均有紀錄，特別是在大埔滘及城門（Welch（2013）報告曾在大埔滘有兩項多於25隻的紀錄）。基於其出現狀況的轉變，紀錄委員會將此納入在香港鳥類名錄的主要類別內。由於香港的群落出處不明(Carey et al. 2001, Leven & Corlett 2004)，所以將牠納入IIA類別之中。

參考資料

Carey, G.J., Chalmers, M.L., Diskin, D.A., Kennerley, P.R., Leader, P.J., Leven, M.R., Lewthwaite, R.W. and Young, L. 2001. *The Avifauna of Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Hong Kong.

Leven, M.R. and Corlett, R.T. 2004. Invasive birds in Hong Kong, China. *Ornithological Science* 3: 43-55.

Song, G., Qu, Y., Yin, Z., Li, S., Liu, N. and Lei, F. 2009. Phylogeography of the *Alcippe morrisonia* (Aves: Timaliidae): long population history beyond late Pleistocene glaciations. *BMC Evolutionary Biology* 9: 143. http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2148/9/143.

Welch, G. 2013. Systematic List 2011. *Hong Kong Bird Report* 2011: 20-186.

Zou, F., Lim, H.C., Marks, B.D., Moyle, R.G. and Sheldon, F.H. 2006. Molecular phylogenetic analysis of the Grey-cheeked Fulvetta (*Alcippe morrisonia*) of China and Indochina: a case of remarkable genetic divergence in a 'species'. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 44: 165-174.

Brown-breasted Flycatcher *Muscicapa muttui* breeding at Tai Po Kau

The first Hong Kong breeding record

Gary K L Chow and Ken Fung Hong Shing
c/o HKBWS, 7C, V Ga Building, 532 Castle Peak Road, Lai Chi Kok, Kowloon, Hong Kong

Brown-breasted Flycatcher *Muscicapa muttui* breeds in broadleaved evergreen forests from northeast India to southwest, west and south China and north Vietnam; in winter it migrates to the south, to southwest India, Sri Lanka, north Myanmar and east and northwest Thailand (Mackinnon 2000). The species was first recorded in Hong Kong in winter 2001-02 in Tai Po Kau (Tai *et al.* 2007). Since then it been recorded four times, all in the Tai Po area,in February 2003, April 2009 and the most recent two records, in 2010 and 2011, both in September.

On 13th July 2012, when Ken Fung was birding along the Red Trail near picnic area number 3 at Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve, an unusual flycatcher appeared very briefly before flying back into the woodland. He managed to find it again and take a few photographs before it disappeared. He later posted a photograph on the HKBWS website (Plate 74), which attracted the attention of the Records Committee.

Sightings of flycatchers in summer in Hong Kong forest are mostly attributed to the sole locally breeding species, Hainan Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis hainanus*. However, the features shown in the photograph safely rule out this species, as they show a pronounced rufous tone to the upperparts, a distinctive long bill and pale pinkish legs. The coverts and mantle feathers are broadly fringed with light orange brown, indicating a newly-fledged juvenile.

Based on these features, the bird was identified as a juvenile Brown-breasted Flycatcher *Muscicapa muttui*. As there are only a few records of this species in Hong Kong, all from autumn to spring, its occurrence in midsummer was unexpected. The plumage pattern indicated a newly-fledged bird, but the question remained as to whether it had been raised locally.

The question was quickly answered on 16th July 2012 when Wing Tang and Fung Tsz Ho found two juvenile Brown-breasted Flycatchers perched on a mid-level tree branch (Plate 75) near the location of the earlier record, and also briefly saw an adult flycatcher with the juveniles. This sighting confirmed the first Hong Kong breeding record of the species.

The breeding range of this species is expanding eastwards in southern China. According to Cheng (1987), who took into account records published up to 1982, the breeding range extended from southeast Gansu through parts of Sichuan and Guizhou and possibly also Yunnan, east to Yaoshan in Guangxi. Subsequently, up to three adults were noted at 850-1100m at Yao Shan on 13-15 June 1994, but, with the

Plate 74. Brown-breasted Flycatcher *Muscicapa muttui* 褐胸鶲
Juvenile 幼鳥
Tai Po Kau 13th July 2012 大埔滘 2012年7月13日
Ken Fung 馮漢城

exception of winter records in Hong Kong, none were found east of this site between 1984 and 2006 (Lewthwaite 1996, RWL unpublished data). However, since 2007, this flycatcher has been found breeding in northern and western Guangdong and occurring in spring or summer in the southwest and centre of the province as well as in the Pearl River Delta. A summer record of one at Guanyinshan, Fogang on 16 June 2007 (China Ornithological Society 2008) was followed by sightings of an adult with at least four dependent young at Dinghu Shan in May 2008 (Lei Jinyu *in litt*), three individuals at Dawuling, Xinyi on 1 May 2009 (China Ornithological Society *in prep*.), up to three at Ba Bao Shan on 28 and 30 May 2009 (China Ornithological Society *in prep*., Wendy Yu *in litt*.), two adults and a dependent juvenile at 1000m there on 4 August 2012 (RWL unpublished data) and one at Sun Yat-sen University campus, Guangzhou on 6 April 2010 (HKBWS web-site posting).

Although this record can be regarded as range extension at the edge of a species normal breeding range, it also provides supportive evidence that, after several decades of reforestation, Hong Kong forest is capable of supporting successful breeding of forest specialist species.

Acknowledgement

We are grateful to Wing Tang and Fung Tsz Ho for their photographs and details of their sightings, and to Richard Lewthwaite for details of the latest breeding range extensions in southern China.

Plate 75. Brown-breasted Flycatcher *Muscicapa muttui* 褐胸鶲
Juveniles 幼鳥
Tai Po Kau 16th July 2012 大埔滘 2012年7月16日
Fung Tsz Ho 馮子豪

Records Committee Comment

With the expansion of breeding range in southern China and a recent history of September records for Brown-breasted Flycatcher in Hong Kong, it is perhaps not so surprising that a first breeding record has now occurred. There are many other examples of recent natural range extension into Hong Kong, and it remains to be seen whether Brown-breasted Flycatcher will join this list of species that become regular breeding species.

References

Cheng, T.H. 1987. *A Synopsis of the Avifauna of China*. Science Press, Beijing.

China Ornithological Society 2008. *China Bird Report 2007*. Beijing.

Lewthwaite, R.W. 1996. Forest Birds of South-east China: Observation during 1984-1996. *Hong Kong Bird Report 1995: 150-203*. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Hong Kong

MacKinnon, J. and Philipps, K. 2000. *A Field guide to the Birds of China*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Tai, S.L. and Wong, C.O. 2007. Brown-breasted Flycatcher *Muscicapa muttui* at Tai Po Kau, the First Hong Kong Record. *Hong Kong Bird Report 2001: 197-201*. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Hong Kong.

褐胸鶲 *Muscicapa muttui* 於大埔滘繁殖

香港首個繁殖紀錄

周家禮 及 馮漢城
香港九龍青山道532號偉基大廈 7樓C室 香港觀鳥會 轉交

褐胸鶲 *Muscicapa muttui* 繁殖於印度北部、中國的西南、西和南部及越南北部的常綠闊葉森林。在冬季牠們會遷移到南方，例如印度的西南部、斯里蘭卡、緬甸北部和泰國的東及西北部(Mackinnon 2000)。在香港，這鳥種在2001至2002年的冬季於大埔滘首次被發現。及後亦先後在大埔範圍被記錄過四次，包括在2003年2月、2009年4月、2010年和2011年的9月。

2012年7月13日，馮漢城在大埔滘自然護理區中沿著紅路接近三號郊遊地點觀鳥的時候，瞥見一隻不尋常的鶲正在飛入密林中。他跟隨牠的蹤跡並且成功拍得數張照片。相片在香港觀鳥會的討論區發佈後引起了紀錄委員會的關注。

在香港夏天出現的鶲主要是本地唯一在港繁殖的海南藍仙鶲 *Cyornis hainanus*，可是這次發現的鶲並不是此種，因爲它上體呈現的赤褐色、獨有的長喙和淺粉紅色的腳，覆羽及背部都有淺橙啡色的羽緣，由此可見這是一隻羽翼剛成的未成年鳥。

根據以上特徵，此鳥被辨認爲褐胸鶲 *Muscicapa muttui* 的未成年鳥。因爲香港甚少有發現這鳥種的記錄，而且牠們出沒的記錄多是在秋天到春天，令人難以預計在盛夏的時間仍能發現牠們的身影。雖然憑牠的羽毛可知牠是一隻幼鳥，但在當時，到底此鳥種有否在香港落地生根仍然有待查證。令人鼓舞的是這疑問很快就在2012年7月16日有了答案。觀鳥者鄧詠詩和馮子豪在之前發現未成年的褐胸鶲的地方附近，見到兩隻幼年褐胸鶲在一中層的樹枝上棲息，同時亦短暫地看到一隻成年的鶲在那些幼鳥旁出現。這證實了香港首次有褐胸鶲繁殖的記錄。

褐胸鶲的繁殖範圍正於中國南部向東擴展。根據 Cheng(1987)，他統計了直至1982年的紀錄，繁殖範圍由甘肅東南部擴展至四川及貴州甚至可能雲南，東延至廣西瑤山 。隨後於1994年6月13-15日於瑤山海拔850-1100米範圍之內發現三隻成鳥。於2006-1984年間，除了香港的冬季記錄外，沒有更多出現於東部的記錄(Lewthwaite 1996, RWL未公開資料)。但是直至2007年，褐胸鶲被發現於廣東北部及西部繁殖，並於廣東西南部、中部及珠江三角洲的春季或夏季出現。2007年6月16日，於廣東省佛岡縣觀音山(中國鳥類學會2008) 有一隻。2008年5月，於鼎湖山有一隻成鳥，及至少四隻幼鳥(Lei Jinyu *in litt*)。2009年5月1日，於信義大霧嶺有三隻(China Ornithological Society *in prep*.)。2009年5月28日及30日，於八寶山有至少三隻(China Ornithological Society *in prep*., Wendy Yu *in litt*.)。2012年8月4日，於八寶山1000米高的地方再次發現兩隻成鳥以及一隻幼鳥(RWL未公開資料)。2010年4月6日，於廣州中山大學校園裡亦錄得一隻(見於香港觀鳥會討論區)。

雖然這只是一個繁殖地擴展的記錄，但這記錄無疑證明了在重新造林的幾十年後，香港的森林有潛力提供理想的環境讓一些林鳥繁殖。

鳴謝

我們感謝鄧詠詩和馮子豪提供照片及其詳細的觀察描述，以及感謝Richard Lewthwaite提供最新的褐胸鶲於南中國繁殖的詳細資料。

紀錄委員會評註

有鑑於褐胸鶲於南中國的繁殖範圍擴展以及近年於香港九月份的紀錄，我們對第一個於香港繁殖的紀錄並不感驚訝。近年亦有不少其他鳥種的繁殖地擴展至香港，而褐胸鶲會否恆常於香港繁殖則拭目以待。

參考資料

Cheng, T.H. 1987. *A Synopsis of the Avifauna of China*. Science Press, Beijing.

China Ornithological Society 2008. *China Bird Report 2007*. Beijing.

Lewthwaite, R.W. 1996. Forest Birds of South-east China: Observation during 1984-1996. *Hong Kong Bird Report 1995: 150-203*. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Hong Kong

MacKinnon, J. and Philipps, K. 2000. *A Field guide to the Birds of China*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Tai, S.L. and Wong, C.O. 2007. Brown-breasted Flycatcher *Muscicapa muttui* at Tai Po Kau, the First Hong Kong Record. *Hong Kong Bird Report 2001: 197-201*. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Hong Kong.

Post-release monitoring of the northward migration of a Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis* from its wintering site in Hong Kong

Carrie K.W. Ma
Wetland and Fauna Conservation Division, AFCD
Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices
303 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong

The Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) is a large piscivorous waterbird which is widespread in Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, New Zealand and on the eastern coast of North America. The taxon *P.c. sinensis* is distributed from central and south Europe to India and China (Orta 1992; Clement 2007; Dickinson 2003).

In China, known breeding locations of Great Cormorant of the taxon *P.c. sinensis* include large waterbodies in Heilongjiang Province, Jilin Province, Nei Mongol Zizhiqu (Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region), Qinghai Province, western and northern part of Xinjiang Uygur Zizhiqu (Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region), and western and southern part of Zizang Zizhiqu (Tibet Autonomous Region). The Great Cormorant migrates through northern China to overwinter in provinces south of the Yangtze River including coastal area of Hong Kong, Taiwan, Fujian, Guangdong, and Hainan Provinces. Captive populations are used for catching fishes in Hebei, Shandong, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Fujian and Guangxi Provinces (邢蓮蓮及楊貴生 1995; 鄭作新等 1997; 中國沿海水鳥同步調查項目組 2009 and 2011).

Great Cormorant winters in Hong Kong from October to April. Records are widespread; locations with sightings recorded in the last decade include the Deep Bay area (including Lok Ma Chau and Hoo Hok Wai), Long Valley, Tai Lam Chung Reservoir, Ho Pui Reservoir, Tuen Mun River, Long Ke Wan, Nai Chung, Sam A Chuen, Lai Chi Wo, Starling Inlet, Bride's Pool, Plover Clove Reservoir, Chung Mei, Tai Mei Tuk, Shuen Wan, Sham Chung, Lai Chi Chong, High Island Reservoir, Po Toi, Victoria Harbour and north Lantau (Turnbull *et al.* 2007; Carey and Lockey 2009 and 2010; Carey *et al.* 2001 and 2011; Viney *et al.* 2005; 蘋果日報 2011). There have been records of Great Cormorants roosting in Mai Po Marshes Nature Reserve and Nam Sang Wai since 1989; about 10,000 individuals have been recorded roosting and feeding in the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site and its vicinity every winter since 2005 (Carey *et al.* 2001; Anon 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, and 2011a), representing about 10% of the regional population of this species (Wetland International 2012). There is a lack of information on migration and breeding areas of Great Cormorants wintering along the coast of south China including Hong Kong. This article reports the findings of a satellite tracking study by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on the migratory route of a Great Cormorant in spring 2012.

Method

On 23 November 2011, an adult Great Cormorant was found at a fishpond in Mai Po San Tsuen in the northwestern New Territories, having swallowed a piece of hook with fishing line. The bird was collected by AFCD Nature Wardens and sent to the Wild Animal Rescue Centre of Kadoorie Farm and Botanical Garden (KFBG) for examination and treatment. The bird eventually regurgitated the fishing hook without any injury, and was in good body condition and considered suitable for immediate wild release. It was decided that this was also an opportunity to deploy a satellite transmitter on the bird to study its migration route as well as habitats and movements at the wintering site, staging sites, stopover sites and breeding site.

Biometric data was collected from the Great Cormorant (Table 1) before it was fitted with a Platform Terminal Transmitter (PTT/ ID number 104199) (North Star Science and Technology, LLC, http://www.northstarst.com/) on its back using a backpack harness made from Teflon ribbon. A 'weak point' was incorporated in the harness allowing the transmitter to detach from the bird after a certain period of time, thus ensuring that the tag would not remain attached indefinitely. The PTT was solar powered to minimize weight (30 gram), and the battery lifetime was expected to be sufficient to allow continuous collection of data during the wintering period, the subsequent northward migration, breeding season, and the following southward migration. All data were transmitted from the PTT to polar-orbiting satellites at periodic intervals, and were received by the Argos Service provided by Collecte Localisation Satellites (CLS). Location information was downloaded directly from the CLS website. Accuracy of telemetry locations varied with location class (labeled A, B, Z and 0-3, which was an estimate of reliability from the Argos Service for doppler fixes) and the location information was supplemented by Global Positioning System (GPS) or sensor data which collected information such as location and temperature, which further enhanced accuracy of the data collected. The PTT duty cycle was programmed to transmit location information at varying intervals; the PTT was switched on at 8 hour intervals every 3 days during wintering (December to early March) and breeding season (May to mid-August), and at 8 hours intervals every 2 days during spring (early March to May) and fall migration (mid-August to November). GPS signals were collected once every 6 hours throughout the year.

The Great Cormorant was kept at the KFBG for one week after tagging to observe its response to the transmitter and backpack harness. When it was confirmed that the bird was in good condition and was not affected by the transmitter or harness, it was released on 1 December 2011 at *Gei wai* #6 of the Mai Po Marshes Nature Reserve (MPMNR) (Plate 76).

Table 1: Biometric information of the Great Cormorant.

Metal ring no.	1187962
Age	Adult
Wing length	328 mm (from carpal joint to tip of longest primary)
Tail length	160 mm
Bill (culmen length)	64.3 mm
Weight	1,750 g (at release)

Locations of the Great Cormorant from the wintering season were overlaid onto aerial photos obtained from the Lands Department of the HKSAR Government, while those obtained during migration were overlaid onto photos from Google Earth (version 7.0.3.8542), to help visualize the migration route and habitat used. The English names of places in China were referenced to Liu (1996).

The 'wintering site' was regarded as an area where an individual remained over an extended period of months in winter; the 'staging site' was regarded as an area used by the individual for multiple days before further migration; the 'stopover site' was regarded as an area that the individual stopped for overnight or resting before continuing migration immediately; 'summer/breeding site' was regarded as the area where the individual remained over a period of weeks or months for summer or breeding activities. The 'total migration distance' from the wintering site in Hong Kong was calculated by summing the distance between each location from the start of northward migration until arrival on the summer/breeding site.

Results

Wintering in Hong Kong

A total of 152 high quality signals (including Argos class 3, GPS fixes and sensor data) were received at the wintering site in Hong Kong from 1 December 2011 to 15 March 2012 (Figure 1), during which time the tagged Great Cormorant visited the MPMNR, the intertidal mudflat in the Inner Deep Bay area, Hong Kong Wetland Park, fishponds in Nam Sang Wai, Luen Hing Wai, Tai Sang Wai, Lut Chau, Shan Pui River and Kam Tin River. From the signals received, over 74% were received during daylight hours from late morning (0900hr) to early afternoon (1300hr), while fewer signals were received in early morning and late evening. Table 2 shows multiple signals were received from certain favoured locations in MPMNR (Gei wai #11, 21, 22 and 24) and fishponds in Nam Sang Wai, which showed the day-time and night-time roosting sites of the Great Cormorant. There were also signals received from fishponds, intertidal mudflat and river which suggested that the tagged Great Cormorant was possibly feeding or swimming in water.

Table 2. Summary of locations and activities of the tagged Great Cormorant at the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay area, Hong Kong, from 1 December 2011 to 5 March 2012.

Activity	Location	No. of high quality signals received	% of total signals	Total signals for each activity(%)
Day roosting on trees/ pond bunds	MPMNR (*Gei wai* #11, 21, 22 and 24)	12	7.9	98 (64.5)
	Fishponds in Nam Sang Wai	80	52.6	
	Fishponds in Lut Chau, Tai Sang Wai and Luen Hing Wai	4	2.6	
	Tidal ponds near Shan Pui River	1	0.7	
	Hong Kong Wetland Park	1	0.7	
Night-time roosting on trees	MPMNR *Gei wai* #11	5	3.3	30 (19.7)
	Fishponds in Nam Sang Wai	25	16.4	
In water at day-time	Fishponds in Nam Sang Wai	9	5.9	15 (9.9)
	Kam Tin River	2	1.3	
	Inner Deep Bay intertidal mudflat	1	0.7	
	Fishponds in Lut Chau and Tai Sang Wai	3	2.0	
In water at night-time	Fishponds in Nam Sang Wai	4	2.6	6 (3.9)
	Inner Deep Bay mudflat	1	0.7	
	Fishponds in Luen Hing Wai	1	0.7	
Others	Over hills (*presumably in flight between locations when the signals were received*)	3	2.0	3 (2.0)
Total		152	100	

Remarks: Day-time 06:30 – 18:30; Night-time: 18:30-06:30. There was information gap on habitat usage during the time when the programmed PTT was switched off.

Northward migration

From the end of February to early March 2012, the arrival of cold fronts resulted in unstable weather conditions with cloudy and occasional rainfall in the area of south China (China Meteorological Association 2012). This caused poor signal reception and thus reduced chance of locating the tagged Great Cormorant. The last signal of the bird received in Hong Kong was in the afternoon of 5 March 2012 at Nam Sang Wai. No further signal was received until 17 March 2012, when the bird was located at a stopover site near Ji'an Shi in Jiangxi Province. It subsequently moved slowly through Jiujiang Shi in Jiangxi Province and Zhuzhou Shi in Hunan Province of China, where

it remained until 21 March 2012. These sites are located approximately 495km north of Hong Kong. The northward migration from the wintering site therefore started sometime between 5 and 17 March 2012.

The tagged Great Cormorant was subsequently tracked north and later northwest towards the summer/breeding site. A summary of the migration and detailed information each stopping location is listed in Table 3 and 4, locations along the migration route are plotted in Figure 2, and the daily migration distances are shown in Figure 3.

From 21 to 24 March 2012, the Great Cormorant migrated northward from Jiangxi Province for about 1,000km, across Hubei Province and reached Henan Province. During this period it appears to have roosted overnight at wetland habitats including riverside, farmland and reservoirs in mountain valleys.

On 25 March 2012, it migrated about 560km to the northwest, passing the Taihang Shan mountains, entered Huangtu Gaoyuan (Loess Plateau) and reached Yulin Shi in northern Shanxi Province in the evening. It remained at the upper river of Yuxi He at the north of the Yulin Shi for 24 days from 27 March to 19 April 2012. During this staging period signals showed that it stayed at Lijialiang Reservoir in the lower river during daytime and roosted overnight about 13km to the north at Zhongyinpan Reservoir.

On 21 and 22 April 2012, it left the staging site and continued northwest to the river meander of Huang He (Yellow River) at Bayannur Meng in Nei Mongol Zizhiqu. It appears to have moved further to the border of Mongolia, before returning to an aquaculture zone near Lake Ulansuhai (Wuliangsuhai) in Urad Zhongqi. From 23 to 30 April, it remained at the aquaculture zone for eight days. Signals suggested it was very mobile in this staging area, making return flights of 100km to the north on 23 April, 205 km to the north and the northwest on 25 April, and 180km to the east on 27 April 2012.

On 1 May 2012, it departed Nei Mongol Zizhiqu to the northwest and entered Mongolia. It then flew over the desert in Umnugobi Aimag (aimag is the Mongolian for 'province') and Dundgovi Aimag, and reached a stopover site in the steppe in Uvurkhangai Aimag on 2 May. From 3 to 11 May, it stayed in an area of steppe and woodland in Khoid Tamir Gol in Arkhangai Aimag for eight days. During the stay, it made a movement of about 250km to a river valley at Tosontsengel in Zavkhan Aimag in the northwest on 8 and 9 May 2012, and then returned to Khoid Tamir Gol.

On 12 May 2012, it arrived at Dood Booroljuut Gol ('lower Booroljuut river') in the central Khangai Mountains. Subsequent signals until 27 May 2012 were received from the same location (two small movements of 10m and 100m on each side of the river may be signal errors). The signals received in this period also showed the 'body temperature' fluctuated between 6°C and 46°C. Since signals had been received which showed the bird flying further northwest before the last location at Dood Booroljuut Gol, and given that river valley habitat at this final location is not suitable for breeding Great Cormorants, it was speculated that the tagged Great Cormorant died or the PTT had dropped whilst still on northward migration towards its breeding site.

The total migration distance that the Great Cormorant travelled from Hong Kong to Dood Booroljuut Gol in Arkhangai Aimag in Mongolia was at least 5,444 km.

Table 3. Summary of the Great Cormorant migration from wintering area in Hong Kong to the site where the last transmission was received in Mongolia.

Departure from wintering site	Between 5 and 17 March 2012
Duration of total migration	68 days · Migration/stopover: 28 days; · Staging: 40 days
Number of stopover and staging sites	c. 21 sites · Stop over: 17 sites · Staging: 3 sites
Total migration distance	5,444 km

Table 4. Summary of stopover or staging site of the tagged Great Cormorant .

Date (in 2012)	Place	Duration of migration (days)	Known number of Stopover site (M) and Staging site (S)	Distance (km)	Remarks
(1) 5 to 17 March	Mai Po Inner Deep Bay area in Hong Kong [*wintering site*] to Ji'an Shi in Jiangxi Province, China	<12	M	495	
(2) 17 to 21 March	Between Ji'an Shi and Jiujiang Shi in Jiangxi Province and Zhuzhou Shi in Hunan Province	4	M (3)	339	
(3) 21 to 26 March	From Ji'an Shi in Jiangxi Province, via Anlu Shi and Suizhou Shi in Hubei Province, Pingdingshan Shi in Henan Province, to Yuxi He at Yulin Shi in Shanxi Province	6	M (6)	1446	
(4) 27 March to 19 April	Remained at the upper Yuxi He at the north of Yulin Shi	24	S (1)	61	*Distance excludes repeated daily travel between daytime foraging and evening roosting sites*

Date (in 2012)	Place	Duration of migration (days)	Known number of Stopover site (M) and Staging site (S)	Distance (km)	Remarks
(5) 21 April	From Yuxi He in Shanxi Province to Yellow River Meander in Bayannur Meng, Nei Mongol Ziziqu	1	M (1)	300	
(6) 22 April	Moved around the border between China and Mongolia, and then back to Bayannur Meng	1	M (1)	584	
(7) 23 to 30 April	Stayed in Urad Zhongqi, near Ulansuhai in Bayannur Meng	8	S (1) M (3)	788	*Three apparent movements to the N, NW and E on 23, 25 and 27 April respectively*
(8) 1 to 3 May	From Nei Mongol Ziziqu, China via Umnugobi Aimag, Dundgovi Aimag, and Uvurkhangai Aimag, to Khoid Tamir Gol in Arkhangai Aimag, Mongolia	3	M (1)	1364	
(9) 3 to 11 May	Stayed in Khoid Tamir Gol	8	S (1) M (1)	748	*Also recorded to the north at Tosontsengel in Zavkhan Aimag on 8 and 9 May.*
(10) 12 May	From Khoid Tamir Gol to Dood Booroljuut Gol, in the central Khangai Mountains	1	M (1)	107	
Total		68 days		5,444 km	

Discussion

Movements within Hong Kong

In Hong Kong, the tagged Great Cormorant preferred wetland habitats in the Inner Deep Bay area, including intertidal mudflat, tidal ponds, river, and inland area including *gei wai* and fishponds. Table 2 showed the bird spent about 11% and 77% of time in MPMNR (*Gei wai* #11, 21, 22 and 24) and Nam Sang Wai respectively; these were used as day-time and night-time roosting sites. It also showed the bird spent 7.9% time in fishponds at Lut Chau, Tai Sang Wai and Nam Sang Wai, possibly feeding in water. However, as the PTT was set to collect GPS signal at 6 hour intervals, most of the signals were received roosting in daytime after early morning (64.5%) and it is not possible to be conclusive about feeding and habitat usage.

Previous studies by AFCD on day-time movements of wintering Great Cormorant in the Inner Deep area have revealed that 60-73% of the Great Cormorant utilised the intertidal mudflat, and about 12-25% utilised fishponds (Anon 2011b and 2012). These wetland habitats provide predictable food supply. The enhanced foraging opportunities for Great Cormorant may improve their pre-migratory body condition and increase the chance of survival (Glahn *et al*. 1999; Hebert *et al*. 2008; Scherr *et al*. 2010). The improved fitness condition may also continue into the breeding season (Drent *et al*. 2006); in sea birds, better body condition of adults may increase the behavioral flexibility to respond to the energetic demands of breeding resulting in improved breeding success (Erikstad *et al*. 1998; Tveraa *et al*. 1998) and ultimately increased population size (Lewis *et al*. 2006).

Migration route, stopover sites and staging sites

On 5 January 1998, a Great Cormorant tagged in Zhalong in Heilongjiang Province was recovered in Minjiang Estuary at Chengle in Fujian Province. Since this time it has been widely quoted in various publications that Great Cormorants migrate from northeastern China to winter in south China (張孚允及楊若莉 1997; 趙學敏 2006). A recent study by a Taiwan researcher T.S. Ding (丁宗蘇 2006) mentioned that the breeding site of Great Cormorants in Zhalong no longer exists, and that active breeding sites in Mainland China included Ussuri River of Heilongjiang Province, Ulansuhai of Nei Mongol Zizhiqu, Qinghai Lake and Eling Lake of Qinghai Province. Ding also compared concentration of stable isotopes (δD, $\delta^{18}O$, $\delta^{15}N$, and $\delta^{13}C$) of feathers of this species collected from these breeding sites with that from feathers collected at Kinmen in Taiwan, and the results suggested that Great Cormorants in Kinmen probably breed either in eastern Russia north of the Amur River or on the southern side of Lake Baikal. The findings of the current study offer support for the idea that at least some cormorants wintering in south China breed in the vicinity of Lake Baikal.

The study identified up to 17 'stopover sites' where the Great Cormorant stopped overnight or resting for a short duration before continuing northward migration (Table 3 and 4). These sites included Ji'an Shi and Jiujiang Shi in Jiangxi Province, Zhuzhou Shi in Hunan Province, Anlu Shi and Suizhou Shi in Hubei Province, Pingdingshan Shi in Henan Province, Yulin Shi in Shanxi Province and Bayannur Meng in Nei Mongol Zizhiqu in Mainland China; in Mongolia, the stopover sites include central

Khangai Mountains in Arkhangai Aimag and Tosontsengel in Zavkhan Aimag. Habitats of these stopover sites were mainly rivers (including adjacent woodland), reservoirs, lakes, aquaculture ponds, desert and steppe.

The study also identified 3 'staging sites' that the Great Cormorant stayed for multiple days before continuing on northward migration. These staging sites were at Yuxi He at Yulin Shi in Shanxi Province (24 days), an aquaculture zone near Ulansuhai in Urad Zhongqi of Nei Mongol Zizhiqu (8 days) in China, and Khoid Tamir Gol in the central Khangai Mountains at Arkhangai Aimag (8 days) in Mongolia. Staging sites such as these provide opportunities for resting and replenishing energy prior to continuing migration, which allows individuals to complete their migration without having to stop frequently along the way to forage (Hedenstrom and Alerstam, 1997; Weber *et al*., 1998). During the staging period near Ulansuhai in Nei Mongol Zizhiqu, China (23, 25 and 27 April 2012) and in Khoid Tamir Gol in Arkhangai Aimag, Mongolia (8 May 2012), the bird made a total of four excursions to other sites in various directions before returning to the main staging site. This possibly indicated the migrating Great Cormorant was able to adjust it movement directions among the varying habitats, and therefore improve its chance of survival during the migration journey.

The area between Ji'an Shi and Jiujiang Shi in Jiangxi Province and Zhuzhou Shi in Hunan Province could possibly represent a 'staging site', as the bird stayed in the area for at least 4 days. However, there was a lack of information before 17 March 2012 caused by the unstable weather condition limited reception of signals. Further study would be required for verification.

Final location of the Great Cormorant and status of this species in Mongolia

A site visit was conducted to the valley of Dood Booroljuut Gol during the author's private trip to Arkhangai Aimag in late August 2012. No PTT could be found at and around both sides of the meander and the lakes nearby. The remains of a wing of an adult Great Cormorant was found near the location where the last transmission signal was received (48.1998°N 100.1298°E), but it was not possible to verify whether they were the same individual or exact cause of mortality based on the remains found at the last location.

The valley lies adjacent to a hill named Santiin Gozgor, which was a breeding site of up to 40 Eurasian Black Vultures (*Aegypius monachus*) during the visit. According to the GPS signal collected, the slight movement of 10 m and 100m of the cormorant recorded on two occasions on 12 May and 27 May 2012 at Dood Booroljuut Gol indicated the possible chance of signal error, or chance that the carcass was moved by other animals, for example Eurasian Black Vultures, Steppe Eagles, Black Kites, Red Fox, and domestic dogs, all of which were common in the area.

The nearest known breeding colony of Great Cormorant was Terkhiin Tsagaan Lake which is located 25km to the west of Dood Booroljuut Gol. On 29 August 2012, up to 500 Great Cormorants were observed on a small island near the west coast of the lake, about 20 of which sitting on nests at the western side of the island.

Most major lakes in west-central Mongolia have colonies of Great Cormorant and they regularly visit nearby rivers (B. Nyambayar *pers. comm.*). There have been observations

in the Mongolian Altai of Great Cormorants fishing in rivers at about 30km from the breeding site (A. Braunlich *pers. comm.*). The Terkhiin Tsagaan Lake and the Dood Booroljuut Gol are connected by a river named Suman Gol which may be used by Great Cormorants as a flight corridor. The lake was designated as a Ramsar Site in 1998 (Ramsar 2012). It was also listed as an Important Bird Area (MN031) (BirdLife International 2012), which regularly supports at least 1% of the regional population of Great Cormorants.

In Mongolia, ornithologist B. Nyambayar commented that there were two different beliefs relating to increasing Great Cormorant populations in the last decade. The first was a widespread public conception throughout the country that the population increase of this species has coincided with an increase in complaints of their negative impacts to fish stocks, which has led to persecution in some places in northern Mongolia by local government and private funded projects. The second was that researchers in Mongolia have noted this species has become concentrated at fewer sites, possibly because of water level change affected fish in major lakes. As a result of habitat loss and food supply reduction, the populations at remaining suitable locations have increased, and movements within their breeding range have become more frequent and which has caused some nuisance. There is, however, insufficient population monitoring data in Mongolia for verification of either of these views.

This AFCD tracking study provided new information on the northward migratory movement of Great Cormorant from its overwintering site in Hong Kong. The result indicated the breeding site was possibly in west-central Mongolia or further to the north. Further telemetry study on Great Cormorant may be beneficial to find out more about their movement range at wintering site and staging sites, migratory route(s), location of stopover and staging sites, and summer/breeding grounds in both sexes, adult and sub-adult cormorants.

Plate 76. Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, fitted with a PTT at its back
普通鸕鷀在背部戴上以鐵氟龍布帶製作的衛星追蹤器背包
Mai Po NR 1st December 2011 米埔 2011年12月1日
Carrie K.W. Ma 馬嘉慧

Figure 1 Locations visited by the tagged Great Cormorant in the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar area, Hong Kong.

圖表一　該已繫放的普通鸕鷀在香港米埔內后海灣國際重要濕地內的出沒位置。

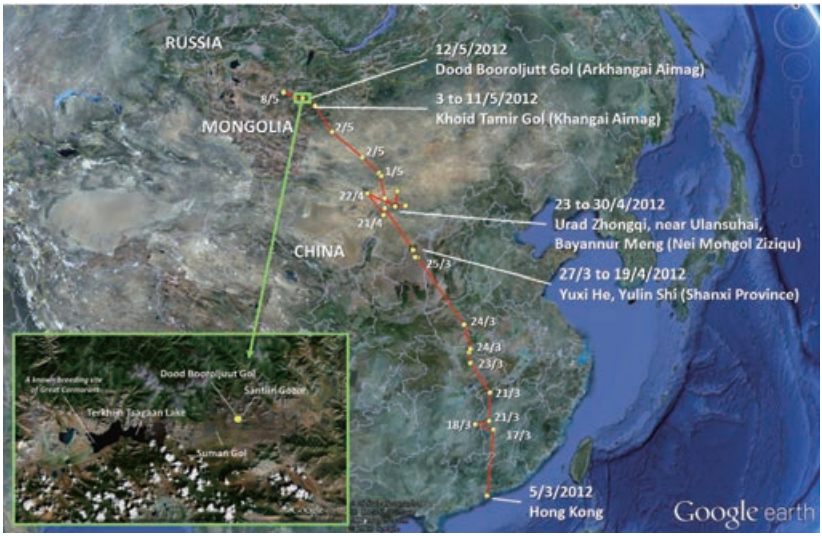


Figure 2 The northward migration route of the tagged Great Cormorant from Hong Kong to Mongolia from March to May 2012. The green box shows the location where the last signal was received (Base map attributed to Google Earth v 7.0.3.8542; US Dept of State Geographer; © Cnes/Spot Image; © 2013 Mapabc.com; and © Google. Base map of the zoomed in figure attributed to Google Earth v 7.0.3.8542; and © 2012 TerraMetrics).

圖表二　2012年3月至5月該已繫放的普通鸕鷀從香港遷飛至蒙古的路線。圖中綠色圖文框顯示該鳥的最後發現地點。

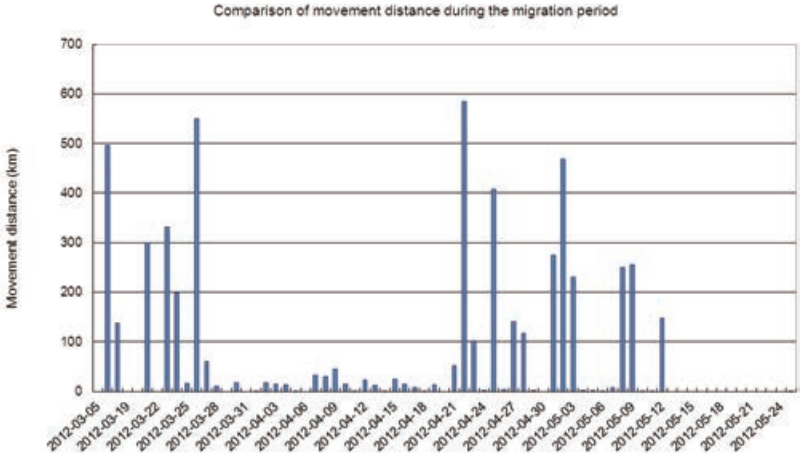


Figure 3 Daily migration distance of the tagged Great Cormorant

圖表三　該已繫放的普通鸕鷀每日遷徙距離

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Wetland and Fauna Conservation Division of the AFCD for providing various support and resources including tracking equipment and Argos service from CLS for the tracking study; W.Y. Yam and nature wardens of AFCD for rescuing the trapped Great Cormorant. Thank you to N.Y. Lai and D.J. Stanton who reported to AFCD the finding of the trapped bird at Mai Po San Tsuen; A. Grioni, A. Huggs and L. Ko of the Wild Animal Rescue Centre of KFBG for assessing and taking care of the bird before it was released at the MPMNR; P.J. Leader for providing field observation record of the bird at Nam Sang Wai. I appreciate the help of Y.S. Tam and J.A. Allcock for biometric measurement and providing valuable comments on bird migration; B. Nyambayar of Wildlife Science and Conservation Centre of Mongolia, and A. Braunlich for advice and sharing information of habitats and behavior of Great Cormorants in Mongolia; and A. Cachellis for trip logistics. Thanks also to B. Nyambayar, J.A. Allcock and Y. Liu for providing comment on the previous draft.

References

邢蓮蓮及楊貴生主編. 1995. *內蒙古烏梁素海鳥類志*. 內蒙古：內蒙古大學出版社. 第45至47頁.

鄭作新主編. 1997. 中國動物志—鳥綱第一卷. 北京：科學出版社.第 106至108頁.

張孚允及楊若莉. 1997. *中國鳥類遷徙研究*. 北京：中國林業出版社.

丁宗蘇. 2006. *鸕鷀生態調查研究（二）*. 內政部營建署金門國家公園管理處委託研究報告.

趙學敏. 2006. *中國大陸野生鳥類遷徙動態與禽流感*. 北京：中國林業出版社. 第62至63頁.

中國沿海水鳥同步調查項目組. 2009. *中國沿海水鳥同步調查報告(9.2005 – 12.2007)*. 香港：香港觀鳥會有限公司.

中國沿海水鳥同步調查項目組. 2011. *中國沿海水鳥同步調查報告(1.2008 – 12.2009)*. 香港：香港觀鳥會有限公司.

蘋果日報. 2011. *1,600鸕鷀湧屯門*. 2011年2月21日. 香港：蘋果日報

Anon. 2006. *Winter 2005-06 Report on Waterbird Monitoring at the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site*. Report by Hong Kong Bird Watching Society to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government.

Anon. 2007. *Winter 2006-07 Report on Waterbird Monitoring at the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site*. Report by Hong Kong Bird Watching Society to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government.

Anon. 2008. *Winter 2007-08 Report on Waterbird Monitoring at the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site*. Report by Hong Kong Bird Watching Society to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government.

Anon. 2010. *Winter 2009-10 Report on Waterbird Monitoring at the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site*. Report by Hong Kong Bird Watching Society to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government.

Anon. 2011a. *Winter 2010-11 Report on Waterbird Monitoring at the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site*. Report by Hong Kong Bird Watching Society to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government.

Anon. 2011b. *Study of the Day Time Movement of Great Cormorant in Inner Deep Bay in 2010-2011 winter*. Report by Hong Kong Bird Watching Society to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government.

Anon. 2012. *Study of the Day Time Movement of Great Cormorant in the Deep Bay area in 2011-2012 winter*. Report by Hong Kong Bird Watching Society to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government.

BirdLife International. *2012 Important Bird Areas factsheet: Terkhiin Tsagaan Lake*. Available from http://www.birdlife.org (accessed September 2012)

Carey, G.J., M.L. Chalmers, D.A. Diskin, P.R. Kennerley, P.J. Leader, M.R. Leven, R.W. Lewthwaite, D.S. Melville, M. Turnbull and L. Young. 2001. *The Avifauna of Hong Kong*. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Hong Kong. 124-125 pages.

Carey, G.J., and H. Lockey, (editors). 2009. *Hong Kong Bird Report 2003-04*. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Hong Kong. 16 pages.

Carey, G.J., and Lockey, H. (editors). 2010. *Hong Kong Bird Report 2005-06*. The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Hong Kong. 17 pages.

Carey, G.J., Allcock, J., Chow, G., and Geoff, W. (editors). 2011. *Hong Kong Bird Report 2007-08*. The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Hong Kong. 17 pages.

China Meteorological Association中國氣象網. 2012. Available from http://www.weather.com.cn/ (accessed March 2012)

Clement, J.F. 2007. *The Clements Checklist of the Birds of the World*. 6th Edition. Christopher Helm. London. 16 pages.

Dickinson, E.C., (editor). 2003. *The Howard & Moore Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World*. 3rd Edition. Christopher Helm, London. 91 pages.

Drent, R.H., A.D. Fox and J. Stahl, 2006. Travelling to breed. *Journal of Ornithology 147*: 122–134.

Erikstad, K.E., P. Fauchald, T. Tveraa, and H. Steen. 1998. On the cost of reproduction in long-lived birds: the influence of environmental variability. *Ecology* 79: 1781–1788.

Glahn, J.F., M.E. Tobin, and J.B. Harrel. 1999. *Possible effects of catfish exploitation on over-winter body condition of Double-crested Cormorants*. in Tobin, M.E. technical coordinator. Symposium on Double-crested Cormorants: population status and management issues in the Midwest. 9 December 1997, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. *Technical Bulletin* 1879. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Washington, D.C., USA. 107-114 pages.

Google Earth V 7.0.3.8542. 2012. The northward migration route of the tagged Great Cormorant from Hong Kong to Mongolia from March to May 2012. 34° 02'21.76"N, 105° 48'26.53"E, elevation 2366M. Available through http://www.google.com/earth/index.html (acessed May 2013).

Google Earth V 7.0.3.8542. 2012. Zoomed map of the Great Cormorant in Dood Booroljuut Gol. 48° 04'59.98"N, 99° 38'14.56"E, elevation 2159M. Available through http://www.google.com/earth/index.html (accessed November 2012).

Hebert, C.E., M. Burr, D. Shermann, and J.L. Shutt. 2008. Sulfur isotopes link overwinter habitat use and breeding condition in Double-crested Cormorants. *Ecological Applications* 18: 561-567.

Hedenstrom, A., and T. Alerstam. 1997. Optimum fuel loads in migratory birs: distinguishing between time and energy minimization. *Journal of Theoretical Biology* 189: 227-234.

Lewis, S., D. Gremillet, F. Daunt, P. G. Ryan, R. J. M. Crawford, and S. Wanless. 2006. Using behavioural and state variables to identify proximate causes of population change in a seabird. *Oecologia* 147: 606–614.

Liu, B. (editor), 1996. *Atlas of China. China Cartographic Publishing House*. Beijing, China.

Nyambayar, B., and N. Tseveenmyadag (editors.). 2009. *Directory of Important Bird Areas in Mongolia: Key sites for conservation*. Wildlife Science and Conservation Center of Mongolia, Institute of Biology of MAS, and BirdLife International, Ulaanbaatar. 53 pages.

Orta, J. 1992. Family Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants) in *Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 1* (J. del Hoyo, A. Elliott, and J. Sargatal, Eds). Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. 326-353 pages.

Ramsar. 2012. Annotated Ramsar List: Mongolia. Available from http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-pubs-notes-anno-mongolia/main/ramsar/1-30-168%5E16502_4000_0__ (accessed September 2012)

Scherr, H., J. Bowman, and K.F. Abraham. 2010. Migration and Wintering Movements of Double-crested Cormorants Breeding in Georgian Bay, Ontario. *Waterbird*s 33(4): 451-460.

Tveraa, T., B-E. Saether, R. Aanes, and K. E. Erikstad. 1998. Regulation of food provisioning in the Antarctic Petrel; the importance of parental body condition and chick body mass. *Journal of Animal Ecology* 67: 699–704.

Turnbull, M., Carey, G.J., and Lockey, H. (editors). 2007. *Hong Kong Bird Report 2001-02*. The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Hong Kong. 22 pages.

Viney, C., Phillipps, K., and Lam, C.Y. 2005. *Birds of Hong Kong and South China* 8th Edition. Information Services Department, Hong Kong Special Administrative Government. 38 pages.

Weber, T.P., B.J. Ens, and A.I. Houston. 1998. Optimal avian migration: a dynamic model of fuel stores and site use. *Evolutionary Ecology* 12: 377-401.

Wetlands International. 2012. *Waterbird Population Estimates – fifth edition*. Wetlands International, Wageningen, The Netherlands. Available from http://wpe.wetlands.org (accessed July 2012).

普通鸕鷀 *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis* 於野放後從香港越冬地向北遷徙的監察

馬嘉慧
漁農自然護理署濕地及動物護理科
香港九龍長沙灣道303號長沙灣政府合署

普通鸕鷀(*Phalacrocorax carbo*)是一種大型食魚水鳥，廣泛分布於歐洲、亞洲、非洲、澳大利亞、新西蘭及北美洲東岸，其中亞種 *P.c. sinensis* 的分布範圍包括歐洲中部至南部、至印度及中國(Orta, 1992; Clement 2007; Dickinson 2003)。

中國目前已知普通鸕鷀 *sinensis* 亞種的繁殖地包括吉林省、黑龍江省、內蒙古自治區、青海省、新疆維吾爾自治區的西部及北部、以及西藏自治區的西部及南部的大型水域。這種水鳥由中國北方南遷至長江以南地區，包括香港、台灣、福建、廣東和海南省的沿岸越冬。此外，在河北、山東、江蘇、江西、福建和廣西等省份有人工蓄養的普通鸕鷀用於捕魚活動(邢蓮蓮及楊貴生, 1995; 鄭作新等, 1997; 中國沿海水鳥同步調查項目組, 2009 and 2011)。

每年十月至四月，普通鸕鷀在香港越冬，牠們的分布廣泛，過去十年的曾有紀錄的觀察位置包括后海灣一帶(包括落馬洲及蠔殼圍)、塱原、大欖涌水塘、河背水塘、屯門河、浪茄灣、泥涌、三椏村、荔枝窩、沙頭角海、新娘潭、船灣、深涌、荔枝莊、萬宜水庫、蒲台、維多利亞港及大嶼山北部(Turnbull, *et al*, 2007; Carey and Lockey, 2009 and 2010; Carey *et al*, 2001 and 2011; Viney *et al*, 2005; 蘋果日報, 2011)。自1989年起，米埔自然護理區及南生圍開始有普通鸕鷀的紀錄，而米埔內后海灣拉姆薩爾濕地及鄰近地方，2005年起每年冬季均錄得約10,000隻普通鸕鷀棲息和覓食(Carey *et al*., 2001; Anon, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, and 2011a)，數量約佔地區種群的10% (Wetland International, 2012)。目前，有關在南中國沿岸包括香港越冬的普通鸕鷀的遷徙及其最終飛向何繁殖地等資料缺乏，本文記錄漁農自然護理署(下稱「本署」)研究一隻裝上衛星發射器的普通鸕鷀，於2012年春季野放後向北遷徙的路線。

調查方法

2011年11月23日在新界西北米埔新村的魚塘，有一隻普通鸕鷀成鳥被發現吞下一個繫著魚線的鈎，隨即被本署的自然護理員送往嘉道理農場暨植物園野生動物拯救中心檢查及治理。其後，普通鸕鷀吐出魚鈎，並無受傷，而且身體健康，可隨時進行野放。筆者考慮這是一個安裝衛星發射器的機會，並可從中研究這種鳥相關的遷徙資訊，包括路線、越冬地、停棲地、中途站及繁殖地的生境及遷移位置等。

在度量了普通鸕鷀的身體數據(表一)之後，以鐵氟龍布帶製作背包帶，將衛星發報器(發報器終端機平台 PTT/ ID number 104199, North Star Science and Technology, LLC,

http://www.northstarst.com/)配戴在該鳥的背部，並在背包帶上加上一個「弱點」，讓衛星發報器在一段時間從雀鳥身上自行脫落，而不致造成永久負擔。該衛星發報器以太陽能充電，較爲輕便(30克)，以便能連續收集越冬時間、北遷路程、繁殖季節及往後的南遷路程的資料。衛星發報器定期發出的數據至繞極軌道衛星，然後由 Collecte Localisation Satellites (CLS)提供的 Argos 服務接收。有關遙測追蹤位置的準確程度分爲多個級別(Argos 服務爲多普勒定點估算並以A、B、Z及0至3級等不同準確程度的標籤)、配合衛星定位系統(GPS)及感應器數據收集例如位置及溫度等輔助，提高接收數據的準確性。該衛星發報器亦輸入了固定的工作程式以定時發出訊號：越冬(12月至3月初)及繁殖期間(5月至8月中)，每3日開啓8小時；春季(3月初至5月)及秋季(8月中至11月)遷徙時間，每2日開啓8小時；全年時間，GPS訊號會每6小時接收一次。

該普通鸕鷀隨後在嘉道理農場暨植物園飼養一星期，以便觀察能否適應發報器和背包帶。待在確認該鳥狀況理想及不受發布器和背包帶影響之後，隨即於2011年12月1日於米埔自然護理區6號基圍野放(圖76)。

表一：普通鸕鷀的身體數據

腳環編號	1187962
年齡	成鳥
翅長	328毫米 (翼角至最長的初級飛羽)
尾長	160毫米
喙長	64.3毫米
體重	1,750 克 (野放時的重量)

該普通鸕鷀在越冬期間的位置，使用香港特別行政區政府地政總署的空中圖片顯示；而在遷徙期間，則會以 Google 地球(7.0.3.8542版)顯示遷徙路線及所利用的生境位置。有關中國境內地名的英文譯名是參照 Liu(1996)。

本文所指的「越冬地」是鳥類個體於冬季期間持續多月逗留在同一範圍；「停棲地」是指鳥類於某地停留多日然後繼續遷飛；「中途站」是指鳥類於某地做短暫停留過夜或休息，隨後即時繼續遷飛；「越夏/繁殖地」是鳥類於夏季或繁殖期間持續多月逗留在同一的範圍；「總遷徙距離」是由越冬地香港開始，於北遷至越夏/繁殖地期間途經每個地點每段距離的總和。

結果

香港越冬

2011年12月1日至2012年3月15日，該裝上衛星發報器的普通鸕鷀於米埔自然護理區、內后海灣的潮汐灘涂、南生圍、聯興圍、大生圍和甩洲的魚塘，以及錦田河錄得；在香港的越冬地一共接收了152個高質量的訊號(包括 Argos 第3級、GPS 定位及感應器數據)(圖表一)。這些數據中，有超過74%的日間數據是在早上較後(9時)至下午初段(1時)錄得，清早及旁晚的數據較少。表二可見部分地方曾多次錄得普通鸕鷀，包括米埔自然護理區(基圍#11, 21, 22及24)及南生圍的魚塘，這表示該地方爲日間和晚間棲息地。另外在

魚塘、潮汐灘涂及河流錄得的位置數據，顯示該鳥可能在水中覓食。

表二：2011年12月1日至2012年3月15日期間，該已繫放的普通鸕鷀在香港米埔內后海灣的位置及活動情況

活動情況	位置	高質量訊號的數量	訊號總計的百分比 (%)	活動的訊號數量(%)
日間在樹上及塘邊棲息	米埔自然護理區 (基圍#11, 21, 22及24)	12	7.9	98 (64.5)
	南生圍魚塘	80	52.6	
	甩洲、大生圍和聯興圍魚塘	4	2.6	
	山貝河潮汐塘	1	0.7	
	香港濕地公園	1	0.7	
晚間在樹上棲息	米埔自然護理區 (基圍#11)	5	3.3	30 (19.7)
	南生圍魚塘	25	16.4	
日間在水中	南生圍魚塘	9	5.9	15 (9.9)
	錦田河	2	1.3	
	內后海灣潮汐灘涂	1	0.7	
	甩洲和大生圍魚塘	3	2.0	
晚間在水中	南生圍魚塘	4	2.6	6 (3.9)
	內后海灣潮汐灘涂	1	0.7	
	聯興圍魚塘	1	0.7	
其他地點	山上 (*估計在接收訊號期間該鳥可能正在飛行*)	3	2.0	3 (2.0)
	總計	152	100	

註: 日間時間爲06:30至18:30；晚間時間爲18:30至06:30。在衛星追蹤器程式控制的關閉時間會接收不到訊號，因而缺乏資料。

向北遷徙

2012年2月底至3月初，有數個冷鋒抵達南中國一帶，帶來多雲及間中下雨的天氣(中國氣象網2012)，這不但減弱訊號接收，還減低了能確定該已繫放普通鸕鷀位置的機會。該鳥最後一次在香港紀錄的位置是在2012年3月5日於南生圍，此後一直接收不到訊號。直至3月17日，從接收的訊息顯示該鳥在江西省吉安市停棲，然後移動至九江市和湖南省株洲市，並逗留至3月21日。這些地點距離香港約495公里，估計該鳥於2012年3月5至17日期間從越冬地北遷。

該已繫放的普通鸕鷀首先向北遷徙，然後向西北方直達越夏/繁殖地。有關遷徙的行程記要及每個停留地點的詳情見表三及表四，有關遷徙路線見圖表二，有關該鳥每日的遷徙距離見圖表三。

2012年3月21至24日，普通鸕鷀由江西省飛行約1,000公里，越過湖北省到達河南省，這段期間這鳥似乎於河岸、農地及山谷內的水庫等濕地環境晚棲。

2012年3月25日，普通鸕鷀飛行約560公里，經太行山脈進入黃土高原，旁晚時分到達陝西省北部的榆林市。隨後在3月27日至4月19日的24天內，一直在榆林市的榆溪河上遊逗留。這段停棲時間，該鳥每日往南飛約13公里往下遊的李家梁水庫，晚間返回上遊的中營盤水庫棲息。

2012年4月21及22日，普通鸕鷀啓程向西北飛行，遷至內蒙古自治區巴彥淖爾市黃河河套區。該鳥似乎飛往中蒙邊境，並在這一帶徘徊，然後南下到附近的烏拉特中旗烏梁素海附近的水產區，並於4月23日至30日共8天逗留在水產區內。這段期間，該鳥於這停棲地的移動較頻繁，曾於4月23日向北來回飛行約100公里、4月25日向北及西北來回飛行約205公里、以及4月27日向東來回飛行約180公里。

2012年5月1日，普通鸕鷀離開內蒙古自治區向西北方飛往蒙古國，途經南戈壁省及中戈壁省的荒漠環境，於5月2日到達前杭蓋省的草原生境。5月3至11日共8天，該鳥在後杭蓋省塔米爾河一帶的草原及樹林環境停棲，並曾於5月8至9日該鳥來回飛行約250公里到扎布汗省托遜臣格勒的河谷，然後返回塔米爾河。

2012年5月12日，普通鸕鷀到達中部杭蓋山區 Booroljuut 河下遊，其後直至5月27日，所接收的訊號顯示(除其中有兩次輕微移動10米和100米，可能顯示訊號接收方面有錯)該鳥並無移動跡象，有關「體溫」亦顯示介乎6ºC 至46ºC之間。由於接收的訊號顯示該鳥在到達 Booroljuut 河的下遊前曾向西北方飛，加上最後位置的河谷生境不適合作爲普通鸕鷀繁殖場所，筆者推測該鳥在遷徙至繁殖地之前可能已經死亡，或者給它佩戴的關衛星發報器已經掉落。

該普通鸕鷀由香港遷飛至蒙古國後杭蓋省中部杭蓋山區 Booroljuut 河下遊的總遷徙距離至少5,444公里。

表三：普通鸕鷀由香港越冬地開始遷徙直至到達蒙古國最後一個接收訊號位置的行程記要

離開越冬地	2012年3月5至17日之間
總遷徙時間	68日 ・ 遷徙及中途站：28日； ・ 停棲地：40日
中途站及停棲地數目	約 21 地點 ・ 中途站：17個地點 ・ 停棲地：3個地點
總遷徙距離	5,444 公里

表四：普通鸕鷀的中途站或停棲地一覽

日期 (2012年)	地點	遷徙時間 (日)	中途站(M)及停棲地(S)的數目	距離 (公里)	備註
(1) 3月5至17日	香港米埔內后海灣一帶[越冬地]至中國江西省吉安市	<12	M	495	
(2) 3月17至21日	江西西省吉安市及九江市、及湖南省株洲市之間	4	M (3)	339	
(3) 3月21至26日	江西西省吉安市飛經湖北省安陸市及隨州市、河南省平頂山市、至陝西省榆林市	6	M (6)	1446	
(4) 3月27日至4月19日	陝西省榆林市榆溪河上遊停棲	24	S (1)	61	不包含每日重覆往返晚棲地的行程
(5) 4月21日	陝西省榆溪河飛至內蒙古巴彥淖爾市近黃河河套	1	M (1)	300	
(6) 4月22日	北飛至中蒙邊境，返回巴彥淖爾市	1	M (1)	584	

日期 (2012年)	地點	遷徙時間 (日)	中途站(M)及停棲地(S)的數目	距離 (公里)	備註
(7) 4月23至30日	內蒙古巴彥淖爾市烏拉特中旗烏梁素太鄉牧羊海子水產區停棲	8	S (1) M (3)	788	4月23、25及27日曾三次嘗試向北、西北及東面飛行，然後返回
(8) 5月1至3日	從中國內蒙古，飛經蒙古國南戈壁省、中戈壁省、到達後杭蓋省杭蓋山區塔米爾河	3	M (1)	1364	
(9) 5月3至11日	蒙古國塔米爾河停棲	8	S (1) M (1)	748	5月8至9日曾北飛至扎布汗省托遜臣格勒，然後返回
(10) 5月12日	蒙古國塔米爾河飛至中部杭蓋山區 Booroljuut 河下游	1	M (1)	107	
總數		68日		5,444 公里	

討論

在香港的移動位置

這隻已繫放的普通鸕鷀在香港時，較多時間在米埔內后海灣一帶逗留，包括潮汐灘涂、潮汐塘、河流、以及內陸基圍及魚塘環境。表二顯示該鳥在日間及晚間於米埔自然護理區(基圍#11, 21, 22 and 24)及南生圍棲息的時間分別佔11%及77%；而在甩洲、大生圍及南生圍魚塘的時間約佔7.9%，牠可能正在這些地點覓食。不過，由於該發佈器設定於每6小時接收一次 GPS 訊號，但大部分的訊號均在早上較後時間接收(64.5%)，這顯示在收集覓食和生境資料方面仍存在局限性。

過往本署曾有普通鸕鷀於內後海灣一帶日間活動的研究，結果顯示60-73%的鸕鷀使用潮汐泥灘生境、12-25%使用魚塘生境(Anon, 2011b and 2012)。這些濕地提供鸕鷀可預期的食物供應，普通鸕鷀在增加覓食機會的情況下，有助於遷徙前改善身體狀況，增加個體適合度從而改善其存活機會(Glahn *et al*., 1999; Hebert *et al*., 2008; Scherr *et al*., 2010)。良好的身體狀況所帶來的積極效果可以持續到繁殖季節(Drent *et al*., 2006)；而對海鳥來說，如成鳥有良好的身體狀況，牠們會增加行爲的可塑性去應對繁殖的能量需求，從而

增加成功繁殖的機會(Erikstad *et al*., 1998; Tveraa *et al*., 1998)，最終可以幫助增加種群數量(Lewis *et al*., 2006)。

遷徙路線、中途站和停棲地

1998年1月5日，有一隻曾在黑龍江省扎龍繫放的普通鸕鷀在福建省長樂閩江口重捕，自此這個由東北遷徙至南中國越冬的資料，一直被廣泛引用(張孚允及楊若莉, 1997; 趙學敏2006)。直至最近一位台灣學者(丁宗蘇, 2006)提及扎龍已經無普通鸕鷀繁殖，而中國大陸仍有一些已知的繁殖地包括黑龍江的烏蘇里河、內蒙古自治區的烏梁素海、青海省青海湖和鄂陵湖。有關研究亦比較了中國大陸不同繁殖地以及台灣金門所收集的普通鸕鷀飛羽的穩定性同位素組成(δD, δ^{18}O, δ^{15}N, and δ^{13}C)，結果發現於金門越冬的普通鸕鷀可能主要來自俄羅斯境內阿穆爾河(烏蘇里江)流域、或是貝加爾湖南側一帶。本研究提供了進一步資料，證實南中國越冬的普通鸕鷀至少於貝加爾湖附近繁殖的推測。

本研究發現17個普通鸕鷀的「中途站」，用作短時間停留過夜或休息棲後繼續向北遷飛(表三及四)。這些地點包括位於中國江西省吉安市和九江市、湖北省隨州市、河南省平頂山市、陝西省愉林市、內蒙古自治區巴彥淖爾市；而位於蒙古國的地點包括後杭蓋省中部的杭蓋山區、以及紮布汗省托遜臣格勒。這些停留的生境主要爲河流(包括旁邊的林地)、水庫、湖泊、水產養殖區、荒漠和草原。

本研究亦發現三個普通鸕鷀的「停棲地」，用作該只個體北遷飛過程中進行多日停留的場所。這些地點包括位於中國陝西省愉林市愉溪河(停留24日)、內蒙古自治區烏拉特中旗烏梁素河附近的水產區(停留8日)；位於蒙古國的地點包括後杭蓋省中部杭蓋山區泰咪爾河(停留8日)。這些停棲地用作休息，補充繼續遷徙時所需的能量，讓普通鸕鷀於遷徙期間不用頻繁停留覓食(Hedenstrom and Alerstam, 1997; Weber *et al*., 1998)。於中國內蒙烏梁素海附近(2012年4月23、25及27日)，以及於蒙古國後杭蓋省泰米爾河(2012年5月8日)的逗留期間，該普通鸕鷀共計四次嘗試由停棲地向不同方向來回遠飛，推測該鳥在遷徙旅途內的不同生境之間調整飛行方向，以增加其生存的機會。

該鳥曾於江西省吉安市和九江市、以至湖南省株洲市之間有至少四天的停留，這一帶可能也是「停棲地」，不過由於2012年3月17日之前的天氣不穩等原因，使得接收訊號並不十分清晰。因此，這方面需有待將來的研究確定。

最後發現位置與蒙古的鸕鷀概況

筆者曾於2012年8月底私人旅行到訪蒙古國後杭蓋省 Booroljuut 河下遊的山谷，期間到達最後接收訊息位置的河套兩旁及附近的湖泊，但找不到該衛星發報器，不過在附近(48.1998° N 100.1298° E)找到一隻成年普通鸕鷀的翅膀殘骸，但已無法單憑殘骸去確定是否與本研究的屬同一隻鳥，以至其死亡原因。

這個山谷旁邊的山稱爲 Santiin Gozgor，是禿鷲(*Aegypius monachus*)的繁殖地，是次行程共觀察到超過40隻。根據 GPS 訊號，該鸕鷀曾於5月12至27日期間，在 Booroljuut 河下遊有兩次10米及100米的移動，這可能顯示訊號接收方面有錯誤，或是屍體曾被其他動物移動，這可能包括當地常見的禿鷲、草原鵰、赤狐或飼養的犬隻等。

距離該地最近的普通鸕鷀的繁殖地是位於 Booroljuut 河下遊以西約25公里的特爾欣查干湖。2012年8月29日筆者於當地觀察到超過500隻鸕鷀於湖西岸附近的一個小島棲息，其中有約20隻於島的西面坐巢。

蒙古國中部以西很多大型湖泊都可找到普通鸕鷀的繁殖群體，牠們會經常飛到附近的河流(B. Nyambayar 私人通訊)。蒙古阿爾泰山也曾有鸕鷀從繁殖地飛至30公里附近的河流捕食魚類(A. Braunlich 私人通訊)。特爾欣查干湖與 Booroljuut 河下遊之間由蘇曼河連接著，估計可能是普通鸕鷀的飛行通道。該湖於1998年被列爲國際重要濕地(Ramsar, 2012)，以及被國際鳥盟列爲國際重要鳥區(BirdLife International, 2012)，支持著普通鸕鷀地區種群約1%的數量。

蒙古國鳥類學家 B. Nyambayar 認爲過去十年當地人對於普通鸕鷀的種群數量有兩種不同的看法，其一是民眾覺得全國普通鸕鷀數量、連同這個鳥種捕食魚類的相關投訴正在上升，因此蒙古國以北有地區政府及私人經費項目中會將牠們殺害。另一種是研究人員認爲這鳥種出現的地點數量在減少，原因可能是大型湖泊的水位改變，影響魚類數量；生境和食物的減少，導致剩餘合適棲地的普通鸕鷀在數量上升，牠們於繁殖範圍的活動更頻繁，造成更多干擾。儘管如此，目前仍未有足夠的監察數據去證實這些不同的看法。

本署的追蹤研究提供了普通鸕鷀遷徙的新資料，結果發現於香港越冬的鸕鷀的繁殖地可能位於蒙古國中部以西或更北的地方。將來繼續進行有關普通鸕鷀的遙測追蹤有助於探索更多關於這鳥種雀鳥的成年雄性和雌性，或者未成年鳥的越冬地及停棲地的移動範圍、遷徙路線、中途站及停棲地的位置、越夏或繁殖地的情況。

鳴謝

筆者要感謝本署濕地及動物護理科亦提供各種支持包括提供追蹤的設備、向 CLS Argos 購買接收訊息的服務，以及本署職員任永耀和自然護理員協助拯救該普通鸕鷀。黎毅儀和 D.J. Stanton 向本署提供該鳥於米埔新村被困的訊息；嘉道理農場暨植物園野生動物拯救中心A. Grioni、A. Huggs 和高志行協助在米埔自然護理區進行野放之前，照料和評估該普通鸕鷀的狀況；P.J. Leader 提供南生圍的觀察記錄。筆者更要感謝譚業成和J.A. Allcock協助量度及提供雀鳥遷徙方面的寶貴意見；Wildlife Science and Conservation Centre of Mongolia 的 B. Nyambayar，以及 A. Braunlich 分享蒙古的普通鸕鷀的行爲和生境資料，以及提供意見; A. Cachellis 協助安排行程。筆者要感謝 B. Nyambayar、 J.A. Allcock 及劉陽爲本文初稿提供意見。

參考資料 ： 見英文版

Observations on the migration pattern of some commoner land bird migrants: Po Toi 2006-2012

Geoff Welch
23A Block 25, South Horizons, Ap Lei Chau, Hong Kong

Introduction

Po Toi is now recognized as the premium location in Hong Kong for observing the migration of land birds and seabirds. As an island in the far southeast of Hong Kong with a small and easily accessible area of quality habitat, it is ideal for the study of migrating land birds using a coastal or over-sea migration route as well as for seabirds migrating through the Dangan Channel – for details see Welch (2011).3

The study described in the above reference has continued for a further four years, giving a total of seven years of comparable data which confirm the basic results given previously. The purpose of this paper is to look in more detail at the migration patterns of some of the commoner land bird species, particularly where they differ from or add further information to that given in *The Avifauna*, Carey *et al.* (2001). Since few species over-winter on Po Toi and even fewer over-summer, the migration pattern of many species is much clearer to see on Po Toi than in Hong Kong as a whole.

The data presented here has all been collected as part of the study and does not include data from other individuals or sources. Species counts were done using a standard methodology as described in Welch (2011). The graphs use the same format as the 'Red Charts' described on page 116 of *The Avifauna*, showing an aggregate of the peak weekly count made for the species over the seven years from 2006 to 2012, and can be compared with their equivalent in *The Avifauna* where that exists. The reference pages are noted as '*Avi* p' followed by the page number in *The Avifauna*. Where no graph is given in *The Avifauna*, this is noted by the phase 'no *Avi*'.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*, Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*, Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus* and Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus*.

These four egrets are common throughout the year in Hong Kong, with migrants, breeding and wintering birds mixed together (*Avi* p130-136). Their migration patterns are clearer to see from Po Toi (Figs. 1 and 2) where they are only seen as migrants. Egrets can be seen migrating off-shore from Po Toi in both spring and autumn, with the smaller species often in mixed flocks. Unlike many migrants, their migration period is extensive in both spring and autumn, covering more than two months in both seasons.

The numbers of the three smaller species are shown here combined (Fig. 1) as their migration patterns are very similar. They are more frequently seen in spring although

Figure 1. Little Egret, Eastern Cattle Egret and Chinese Pond Heron combined

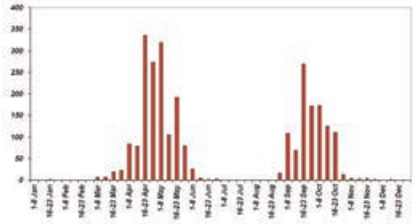
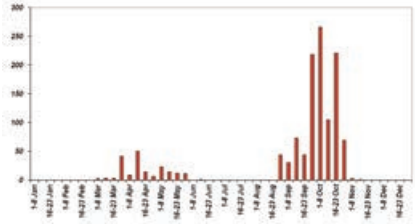


Figure 2. Great Egret

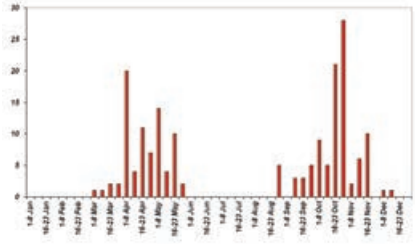


the difference between spring and autumn is not large. Great Egret (Fig. 2) is much commoner in autumn, often seen in large flocks heading southeast about one hour after dawn in late September and October, sometimes with Little Egrets in the flock. Great Egret presumably has a different spring migration route since their numbers in spring are much smaller with no large flocks.

All four species are probably migrating coastally around the south China coastline, but it is possible that some Great Egrets are migrating to The Philippines, given their direction of flight and their absence in spring.

Black-crowned Night Heron
Nycticorax nycticorax

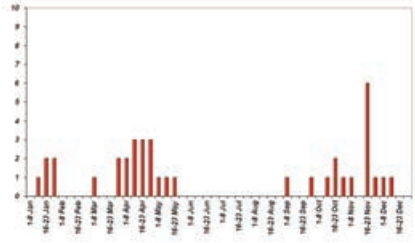
Figure 3. Black-crowned Night Heron



Black-crowned Night Heron (Fig. 3, no *Avi*) is also seen as a spring and autumn passage migrant on Po Toi, sometimes in flocks of mixed adults and immatures. It has an extensive migration period in both spring and autumn. Some immature birds remain on the island for several weeks, although the adults usually move on quickly. Migrating birds can often be heard at dusk flying around the harbour, apparently encouraging others to join them before they start the next leg of their migration.

White-breasted Waterhen
Amaurornis phoenicurus

Figure 4. White-breasted Waterhen



White-breasted Waterhen is stated in *The Avifauna* as resident in Hong Kong although a northern migratory population is mentioned. On Po Toi, it is an annual spring and late autumn passage migrant with some birds over-wintering (Fig. 4, no *Avi*). Most are single birds, the peak daily count is two. It is possible that these are from a northern migratory population, although some of the early autumn records may be dispersing from local breeding sites.

By comparison, **Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*, was recorded only once on Po Toi in the period 2006-2012, a single bird in April.

Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis* and Red Turtle Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica*

Figure 5. Oriental Turtle Dove

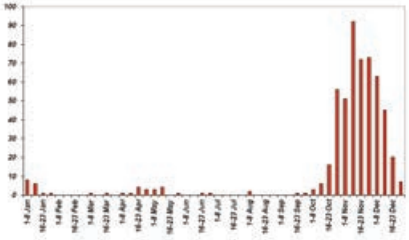
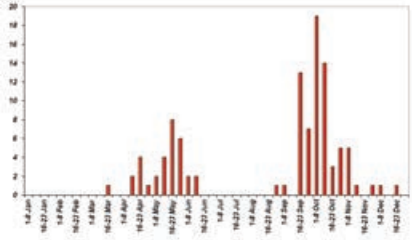


Figure 6. Red Turtle Dove

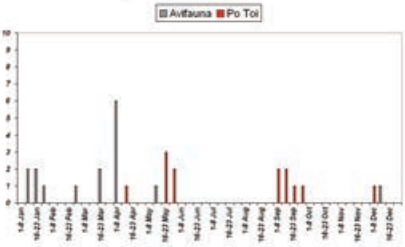


Oriental Turtle Dove (Fig. 5, *Avi* p288) is a late autumn migrant, with numbers peaking in mid-November and then falling away in the second half of December, although some birds will stay until late January. Birds which stay on Po Toi in December and January are usually in moult, in some cases becoming partially flightless and very vulnerable to cats and snakes. The species has a very small return passage in spring, from mid-April to mid-May.

By contrast, Red Turtle Dove (Fig. 6, *Avi* p289) is a late spring and early autumn passage migrant, showing a much later spring passage on Po Toi than that given in *The Avifauna*, with birds seen annually into late May and in two years into early June.

Himalayan Swiftlet
Aerodramus brevirostris

Figure 7. Himalayan Swiftlet

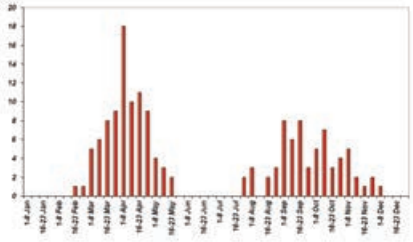


Himalayan Swiftlet (Fig. 7, no *Avi*) is not a common species but its migration pattern on Po Toi is distinct and very different to that given for the species in *The Avifauna*. Of the thirteen swiftlet records in *The Avifauna*, twelve are in winter and early spring between 10 December and 8 April. Of the nine swiftlet records on Po Toi, seven have occurred in either late May or in September, a pattern which may indicate breeding close to Hong Kong.

This difference in timing between records on Po Toi and Hong Kong as a whole has continued since *The Avifauna* although some early autumn records have now occurred elsewhere.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Figure 8. Common Kingfisher

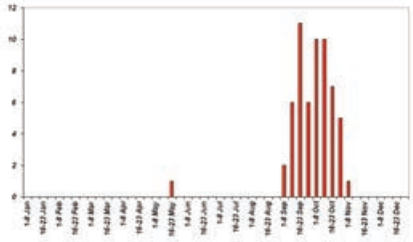


Common Kingfisher (Fig. 8, no *Avi*) is a spring and autumn passage migrant on Po Toi, with an extensive migration period in both seasons. Some birds in early autumn are dispersing juveniles, presumably from nearby breeding grounds, while other birds may have travelled long distances. One arriving on the south coast rocks in April 2009 immediately fell asleep just a few metres away, typical of birds on Po Toi which have just completed a long migratory journey.

Common Kingfishers are very aggressively territorially on migration stop-overs on Po Toi.

Black-winged Cuckoo Shrike *Coracina melaschistos*

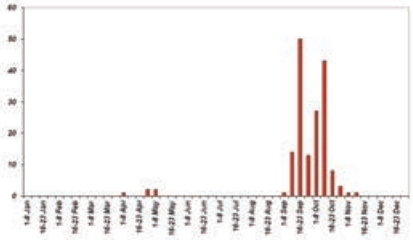
Figure 9. Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike



Black-winged Cuckoo Shrike (Fig. 9, *Avi* p342) is almost exclusively an autumn passage migrant on Po Toi from mid-September to end October, with just one spring record. An early autumn migration pattern such as this is unusual on Po Toi for a species with a wintering population in Hong Kong, which are usually late autumn migrants on Po Toi. The reason for this is not clear.

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*

Figure 10. Black-naped Oriole



Black-naped Oriole (Fig. 10, *Avi* p474) is almost exclusively an early autumn passage migrant on Po Toi, with very few spring records. *The Avifauna* graph shows that Black-naped Oriole has changed from being an equally distributed spring and autumn migrant with summer records to mainly an autumn migrant, and it seems that the migration pattern for this species is gradually becoming more heavily weighted towards autumn with fewer spring records.

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus* and Hair-crested Drongo *D. hottentottus*

Figure 11. Black Drongo

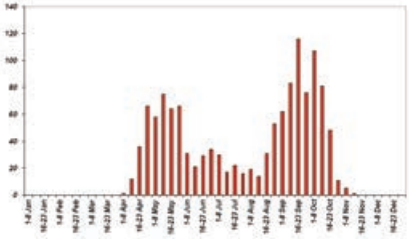
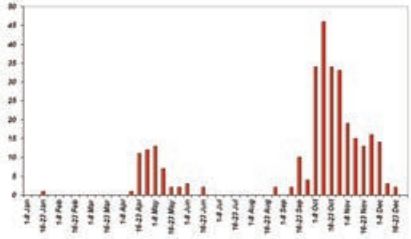


Figure 12. Hair-crested Drongo



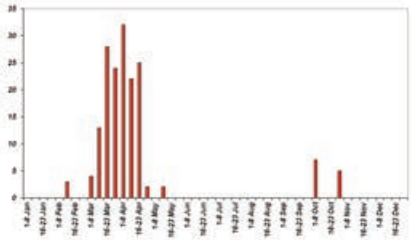
Black Drongo (Fig. 11, no *Avi*) breeds on Po Toi with up to five pairs each year, but also occurs on passage, mostly in autumn from late September to early October. It migrates during the day and can frequently be seen departing or arriving at the south peninsular in the migration period.

Hair-crested Drongo (Fig 12, no *Avi*) is a mostly autumn passage migrant with a smaller spring passage. It is a later autumn migrant than Black Drongo, between late October and early November. Hair-crested Drongos on Po Toi feed on large insects such as beetles; these larger insects may remain active later into the autumn than the smaller flying insects preferred by Black Drongo.

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*

Large-billed Crow (Fig 13, no *Avi*) is a fairly recent colonist of Hong Kong and southern Guangdong, and its migration pattern on Po Toi may show how this has been achieved.

Figure 13. Large-billed Crow

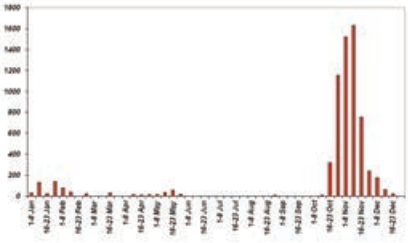


Po Toi has a resident breeding pair which is not included in the graph. However, in early spring through March and April, small flocks of Large-billed Crows can regularly be seen flying across the island from west to east and heading out to sea towards the Dangan Islands. Possibly these are dispersing flocks prior to breeding. On two occasions, a pair from one of these flocks has remained to breed on the eastern side of Po Toi, away from the resident pair, showing the strategy of early spring dispersal could be a successful colonizing strategy.

How these spring flocks form is not known, but the offspring of the local resident pair always leave the island in autumn and post-breeding dispersing juveniles may group together during the winter, eventually moving as a flock in spring in a pre-breeding dispersal movement.

Chinese Bulbul *Pycnonotus sinensis*

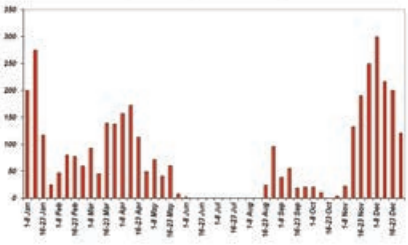
Figure 14. Chinese Bulbul



Chinese Bulbul (Fig. 14, no *Avi*) has a resident breeding population on Po Toi of about ten pairs which is not included in the graph. However, every year large flocks of Chinese Bulbuls, often numbering in hundreds, arrive in late October and throughout November, presumably from a migrant northern population. The flocks are mainly found at this time on the eastern side of the island, and can frequently be seen flying off the island heading south in the early morning, particularly on calm days in late November and December. Some flocks arriving in November move inland and occupy the central area of Po Toi, in particular the valley above the restaurant. These will remain through most of the winter, although numbers gradually fall and most are gone by the end of March.

Japanese White-eye *Zosterops japonicus*

Figure 15. Japanese White-eye



Japanese White-eye (Fig. 15, no *Avi*) was originally believed to be a resident species on Po Toi. Observations show it is not resident and, as the graph shows, there are no records in summer or for a brief period in late October. It appears there are three distinct periods of occurrence – an annual winter population arriving in November and staying in declining numbers through to May of the following year, a less regular spring peak in late March and April, and an autumn population arriving in late August and leaving by mid-October. There is then a short but noticeable gap before the November population arrives.

The Avifauna also mentions three peaks with similar dates matching the observations on Po Toi. These possibly refer to a wintering population coming from the north in late autumn with an occasional peak as they return on northerly migration in spring, and dispersing flocks of juveniles from local breeding in late summer.

Red-billed Starling *Spodiopsar sericeus* and White-shouldered Starling *Sturnia sinensis*

Figure 16. Red-billed Starling

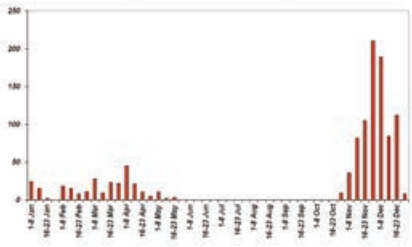
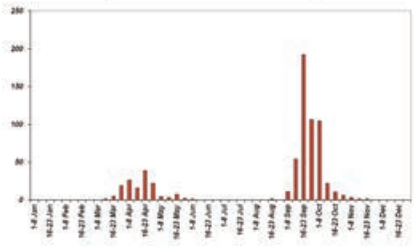


Figure 17. White-shouldered Starling



Red-billed and White-shouldered are the two commonest starling species seen on Po Toi and their migration patterns are quite different (Figs 16 and 17, *Avi* p465 and 471).

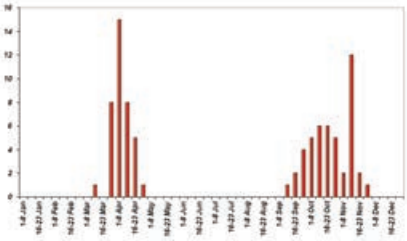
Red-billed Starling is a late autumn passage migrant with some birds over-wintering and a small spring passage, a Po Toi pattern typical of a bird wintering in Hong Kong. It has regular May records on Po Toi not shown in *The Avifauna*, which may be due to a genuine change in occurrence reflecting its recent breeding records in Hong Kong.

White-shouldered Starling is a passage migrant on Po Toi, mostly in early autumn, with a smaller but distinct spring passage. In autumn the peak occurs in the last week of September and most birds have left before the first Red-billed Starlings arrive. *The Avifauna* shows a stronger spring passage than in autumn for White-shouldered Starling, the reverse of that on Po Toi, which may be related to the recent increase in the Hong Kong breeding population of this species.

Blue-and-white Flycatcher *Cyanoptila cyanomelana*

Blue-and-white Flycatcher (Fig. 18, *Avi* p419) is a spring and autumn passage migrant, mainly in spring, but the balance between spring and autumn has changed since *The Avifauna*, and autumn counts are now relatively higher than before. This can be seen from the Po Tio graph.

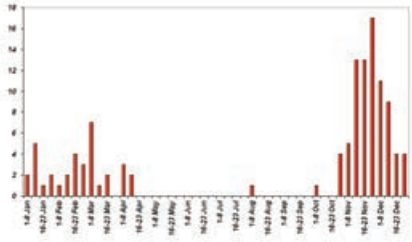
Figure 18. Blue-and-white Flycatcher



This graph also shows the interesting fall of Blue-and-white Flycatchers on Po Toi in November 2011, an unusual autumn event when at least 12 birds arrived following the passage of a tropical storm across the Luzon Strait which possibly diverted birds heading from east China to The Philippines into the Hong Kong area.

Fork-tailed Sunbird
Aethopyga christinae

Figure 19. Fork-tailed Sunbird

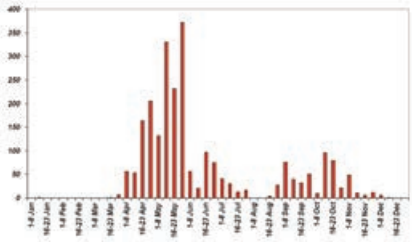


Fork-tailed Sunbird (Fig. 19, no *Avi*) is primarily a late autumn passage migrant on Po Toi with some birds remaining to winter. Although some of these birds may be dispersing breeders of Hong Kong origin, it is possible that many are from neighbouring Guangdong or further afield.

A similar pattern is shown on Po Toi for Mountain Tailorbird *Phyllergates cuculatus* and Brown-flanked Bush Warbler *Horornis fortipess*, possibly all of Guangdong as well as of Hong Kong origin and wintering on Po Toi.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Figure 20. Eurasian Tree Sparrow

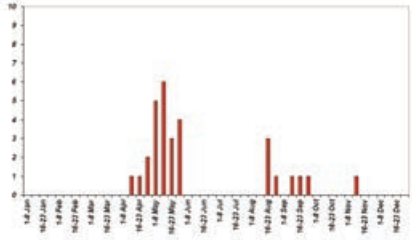


Whilst Eurasian Tree Sparrow is clearly a resident in most of urban Hong Kong, it is a pure migrant on Po Toi (Fig. 20, no *Avi*), and no birds are present during the winter. The first arrivals appear in early April with numbers peaking at the beginning of May, when they tend to congregate around the lighthouse on the southeast peninsular. Numbers fall rapidly as birds depart, although some stay over summer and a few pairs have successfully bred. Autumn migration is much less apparent, and all birds have gone by early December.

This appears to be a migrant population of Tree Sparrows. Such a migrant population is not unknown - spring movements of Tree Sparrow were noted by La Touche on the islands off-shore from Shanghai in the early part of the last Century (La Touche 1912) and very similar movements, both in timing and numbers, have been recorded at Fair Isle in UK, another off-shore island (Summers-Smith, 1995). However, even for a migration population, they still favour urban-type locations, remaining around buildings such as the lighthouse or the restaurant on Po Toi.

Yellow-fronted Canary
Crithagra mozambica

Figure 21. Yellow-fronted Canary



Yellow-fronted Canary (Fig 21, no *Avi*) is an annual summer visitor in small numbers on Po Toi, probably breeding annually although breeding is only proven for one year when an adult was seen feeding a juvenile. They arrive in late April and have mostly departed by

the end of September. It is not known where these birds winter, but quite possibly somewhere else in the local area. Brazil (2009) mentions evidence of seasonal migration of the feral Yellow-fronted Canary populations on Taiwan.

Conclusions

My main conclusion is that even the most common species can have interesting patterns of occurrence giving some clues as to their migratory or dispersive behaviour. These patterns become clear within a few years provided data is collected consistently and regularly since each species is consistent and predictable in its behaviour. However, changes do occur gradually as species respond to changes in their environment and these can be detected if comparable data is collected over a more substantial period of time.

Detecting these changes is important. All over the world, migrant species numbers are declining. Apart from the natural dangers of weather, food supply and predation, birds are finding increasing pressure from habitat destruction by man in their breeding, migration and wintering areas, something that is particularly relevant in our region with increasing development. Even over the seven years of this Po Toi study, almost every successive spring has had lower species numbers than the previous spring, a sequence which is unlikely to be due to chance and may be due to habitat destruction in wintering areas although weather may also play a part.

We in Hong Kong are in a unique position to influence development in our region in a positive way, by protecting our own environment and encouraging the same in other parts of our region. Then we can continue to enjoy the pleasure of observing bird migration for many years to come.

Acknowledgement

I am particularly grateful to Paul Leader for suggesting I made a daily record of the numbers of every non-resident species right from the start of my Po Toi study. This has resulted in one of my most satisfying life experiences and I recommend the same approach to anyone who has the opportunity. It will pay off in the end.

References

Brazil M. 2009. *Birds of East Asia*. Christopher Helm, London.

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.

La Touche, J.D. 1912. *List of Species on the Island of ShaWeiShan*. Bull BoC 24:124-160

Summers-Smith J. 1996. *The Tree Sparrow*. The Bath Press, Bath, UK.

Welch G. 2011. *Bird Migration on Po Toi, Hong Kong*. Hong Kong Bird Report 2007-08 p310, Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Hong Kong.

蒲台 2006-2012 年：數種常見陸棲季候鳥的遷徙模式

Geoff Welch
鴨脷洲海怡半島 25 座 23A

導言

蒲台已成爲香港一個觀察陸棲季候鳥及海鳥遷徙的熱點。蒲台是一個位處香港東南端的小島，擁有優良的生境加上交通便利，是一個研究使用沿岸或海上遷徙路線的陸棲季候鳥及取道担杆通道的海鳥的理想地－詳情請參考 Welch (2011)。

剛提及的研究現已經延長了四年，總共累積七年的數據，確立早前提出的論點。這篇報告更詳盡探討幾種常見陸棲季候鳥的遷徙模式，特別是與《香港鳥類名錄》Carey *et al* (2001) 的紀錄作比對及補充。因爲很少鳥類會選擇在蒲台度冬，度夏的更少之又少，所以蒲台較香港其他地區更能顯示清晰的候鳥遷徙模式。

本報告的所有數據都是此項目收集得來，沒有包含其他人或從任何其他渠道取得的資料。鳥類統計採取標準的計算方法，詳情可參考 Welch (2011)。本報告的圖表以《香港鳥類名錄》第 116 頁中「鳥類紅色圖表」的相同形式臚列 2006-2012 這七年間各種鳥類每周最高累積數字，並與《香港鳥類名錄》同類鳥類作比較。如《香港鳥類名錄》有相關的圖表，該圖會標示爲「「名錄」第 __ 頁」；如《香港鳥類名錄》沒有相關的圖表，該圖會標示爲「名錄沒有」以之識別。

大白鷺 *Ardea alba*、**小白鷺** *Egretta garzetta*、**牛背鷺** *Bubulcus coromandus* **及池鷺** *Ardeola bacchus*

圖 1. 小白鷺、牛背鷺及池鷺的總和

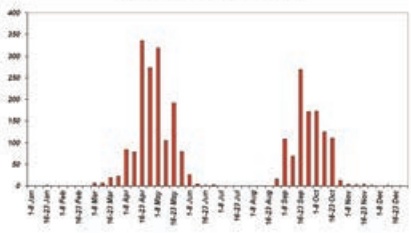
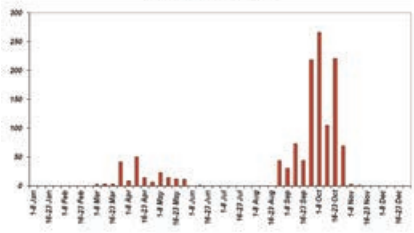


圖 2. 大白鷺



大白鷺、小白鷺、牛背鷺及池鷺在香港繁殖，是全年常見的鷺鳥，當中部分是過境及度冬的個體 (「名錄」 第 130-136 頁)。因爲蒲台上只有遷徙鳥，所以這些數據更清晰揭示牠們的遷徙季節 (圖 1 及圖 2)。在春秋兩季，蒲台的岸邊不難見到鷺鳥與其他體形較小的鳥類集體遷徙。與大部分的候鳥不同，鷺鳥在春秋兩季的遷徙時間十分廣泛，兩季均可長達兩個月以上。

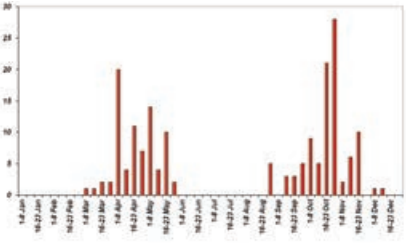
三種較小型的鷺鳥 (小白鷺、牛背鷺及池鷺) 遷徙模式相似，故此，我們綜合分析牠們的資料 (圖 1)。雖然春秋兩季的數字差別不大，但春天略多。在秋天九月底、十月黃昏後約 1 小時，大白鷺 (圖 2) 在秋天較常見，在破曉後的一小時常被發現混在飛往東南方的候鳥群中，不時還可發現小白鷺的踪影。 因爲在春天的數目較少且沒有大群出現 ，所以估計大白鷺在春天採取不同的遷徙路線 。

四種鷺鳥都是沿南中國岸邊遷徙，但按大白鷺的飛行方向及春季甚少見其踪影，牠們有些可能遷徙到菲律賓。

夜鷺 *Nycticorax nycticorax*

夜鷺 (圖3，名錄沒有) 亦是於春、秋兩季經蒲台遷徙的遷徙鳥，有時更會見到成鳥連同亞成鳥一起遷徙。春、秋兩季的遷徙期都很長，一般而言，成鳥逗留時期通常很短，而亞成鳥則會逗留在島上達數星期之久。候鳥通常在黃昏時間在碼頭上空盤旋鳴叫，召集其他同類加入隊伍，然後才展開新的遷徙之旅。

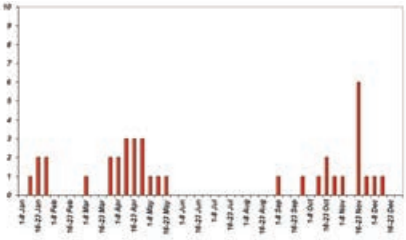
圖 3. 夜鷺



白胸苦惡鳥 *Amaurornis phoenicurus*

《香港鳥類名錄》中把白胸苦惡鳥定爲留鳥，只有小部分是爲來自北方的候鳥。每年春天及深秋白胸苦惡鳥都會途經蒲台遷徙，亦有些在香港逗留過冬 (圖4，名錄沒有)。大多數的白胸苦惡鳥都是單獨遷徙，最高的單日記錄是兩隻。這些個體有可能屬於北方候鳥群，但初秋的記錄有可能是本地繁殖後擴散的個體。

圖 4. 白胸苦惡鳥



相比之下，黑水雞 *Gallinula chloropus* 只有在四月份的單一次及一隻的記錄。

山斑鳩 *Streptopelia orientalis* **及火斑鳩** *Streptopelia tranquebarica*

圖 5. 山斑鳩

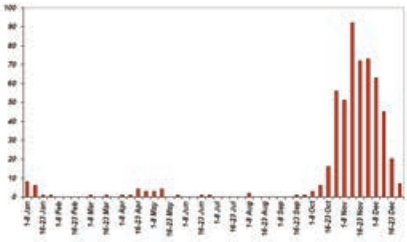
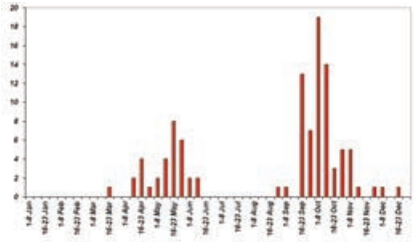


圖 6. 火斑鳩

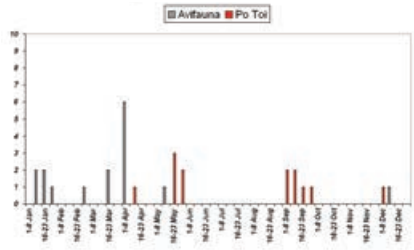


在蒲台，山斑鳩 (圖 5，名錄第 288 頁) 屬於晚秋時分的過境遷徙鳥，高峰期是 11 月中旬，到 12 月份中旬後減少，當中有些個體會逗留到 1 月底。在 12 及 1 月份在蒲台逗留的山斑鳩通常正在換毛，有些甚至完全不能飛行，此時很易受到貓或蛇的襲擊。春天很少山斑鳩經蒲台遷徙，集中於 4 月中旬至 5 月中旬。

相反，火斑鳩 (圖 6，名錄第 289 頁) 晚春及初秋經蒲台遷徙，較《香港鳥類名錄》記載的時間更遲，直至 5 月下旬仍見其蹤跡、甚至有兩年在 6 月上旬出現。

短嘴金絲燕 *Aerodramus brevirostris*

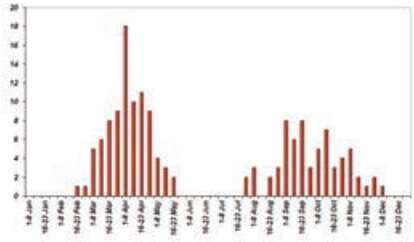
圖 7. 短嘴金絲燕



短嘴金絲燕 (圖7，名錄沒有)不是一種常見的鳥種，在蒲台的遷徙季節相當明顯，而且與《香港鳥類名錄》的記錄差別很大。《香港鳥類名錄》的13次短嘴金絲燕紀錄中有12次在冬季及初春，分布於12月初至4月初。可是，蒲台的9次短嘴金絲燕紀錄，有7次在5月底或9月份出現，由此可推測短嘴金絲燕在香港鄰近地區繁殖。儘管近年蒲台以外有數個9月份短嘴金絲燕的紀錄，但本人發現蒲台的記錄與《香港鳥類名錄》上所提到在香港的記錄有明顯的差別。

普通翠鳥 *Alcedo atthis*

圖8. 普通翠鳥

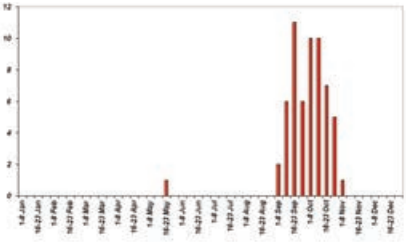


普通翠鳥 (圖8，名錄沒有) 在蒲台屬春及秋季過境遷徙鳥，兩季的遷徙期間長。在初秋，部分的普通翠鳥是幼鳥，估計是來自附近的繁殖地，而有些則可能是長途拔涉到達蒲台。2009年4月份，有一只普通翠鳥剛到達蒲台南岸離海數米的大石，隨即昏睡。很多雀鳥剛結束長途遷徙飛行到達蒲台之後，也有同樣的反應。普通翠鳥在蒲台這個中途休息站表現出很強的地域性，會主動驅趕入侵者。

暗灰鵙鹎 *Coracina melaschistos*

暗灰鵙鹎（圖9，名錄第342頁）在蒲台幾乎是自9月中旬至10月底出現的秋季過境遷徙鳥，其中只有一個春季紀錄。對於一個在本港有度冬種群的鳥類來說，此初秋的遷徙模式有點不尋常，因牠們多是在秋季後期於蒲台出現的遷徙鳥。

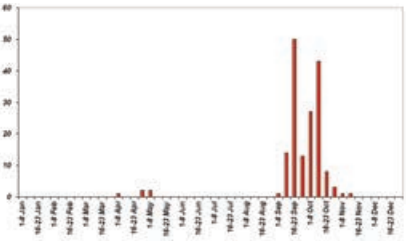
圖9. 暗灰鵙鹎



黑枕黃鸝 *Oriolus chinensis*

黑枕黃鸝（圖10，名錄第頁474）在蒲台幾乎是秋季初期出現的過境遷徙鳥，只有少數春天紀錄。和「香港鳥類名錄」的圖表比較顯示，黑枕黃鸝已由在春季和秋季分佈相若而又帶有夏季紀錄的遷徙模式，轉變成主要是秋季遷徙，而且分佈似乎逐漸側重於秋季，春天紀錄則較少。

圖10. 黑枕黃鸝



黑卷尾 *Dicrurus macrocercus* **和髮冠卷尾** *D. hottentottus*

圖 11. 黑卷尾

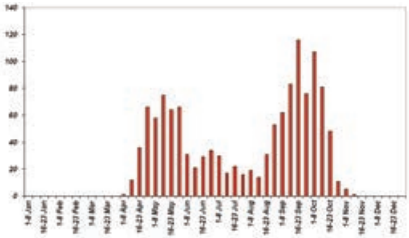
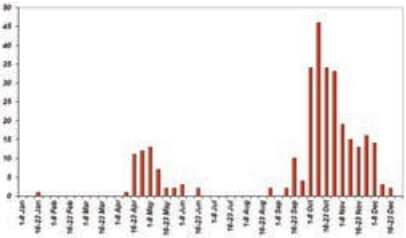


圖 12. 髮冠卷尾

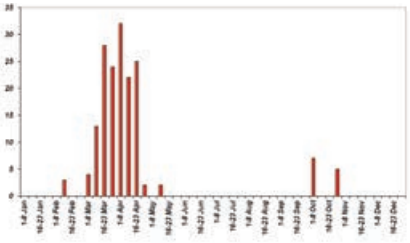


黑卷尾（圖 11， 名錄沒有）在蒲台每年有多至五對的繁殖紀錄，但也有作過境遷徙，多在由 9 月上旬至 10 月上旬的秋季出現。牠們在日間進行遷徙，故於遷徙季節時，經常發現離開或剛剛抵達南邊半島的個體。

髮冠卷尾（圖 12，圖表沒有）主要是秋季過境遷徙鳥，也有少數於春季過境。牠乃較黑卷尾遲出現的秋季後期遷徙鳥，見於 10 月底至 11 月初之間。髮冠卷尾於蒲台以較大的昆蟲如甲蟲爲食物，和黑卷尾喜歡較小的飛行昆蟲相比，這些較大的昆蟲在秋末仍然活躍。

大嘴烏鴉 *Corvus macrorhynchos*

圖13. 大嘴烏鴉

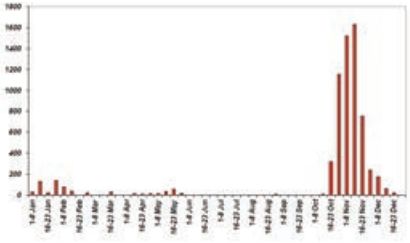


大嘴烏鴉（圖13，名錄沒有）在香港和華南的群落相對比較近期出現，這從牠們在蒲台的遷徙模式可以看出端倪。

蒲台有一對大嘴烏鴉在島上繁殖而沒有在圖表中顯示出來。在 3 至 4 月的初春，可觀察到小群的大嘴烏鴉由西至東經過蒲台飛往面向担扞島的海面。這可能是繁殖前散佈中的群落。在其中兩次，這些群落中的其中一對停留於蒲台東邊，遠離原來的一對繁殖，顯示初春的散佈可能是成功開闢新領域的策略。

對於這些春季群落如何組成仍是未知，但原本島上的一對留鳥的後代都會在秋季時離開蒲台，這些散佈中的幼鳥可能於冬天聚集在一起，最後在春季成爲繁殖前一起移動的散佈群落。

圖14. 白頭鵯

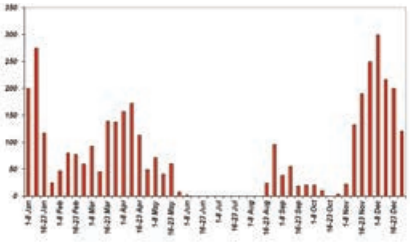


白頭鵯 *Pycnonotus sinensis*

有約十對在蒲台繁殖的白頭鵯在圖表中沒有顯示（圖14，名錄沒有）， 但每年10月底至11月都有大量估計來自北方的白頭鵯種群經蒲台遷徙，每群多達數百隻。這些群落此時多見於在島的東邊，並經常可在11月底和12月平靜無風的日子在清晨看到牠們往南飛離蒲台。部分於11月抵達的群落會進入島內部，並佔據島的中央位置，特別是酒樓後的山谷。 這些個體會整個冬季逗留在島上，但數目會逐漸下降，至3月大部分便會離開。

暗綠繡眼鳥 *Zosterops japonicus*

圖15. 暗綠繡眼鳥



暗綠繡眼鳥（圖15， 名錄沒有）本被認爲在蒲台是留鳥，但觀察顯示牠們不是留鳥，如圖表所示，牠們在夏季以及11月底的短暫時間均沒有紀錄。牠們的出現似乎有三段分開的時間，一個每年冬天於11月到達，數目逐漸下降並停留至翌年5月的種群；一個較不固定於3月底至4月出現的春季種群，以及一個於8月底到達至10月中旬離開的秋季種群，此後會有一短暫但明顯的空缺，直至11月的種群到達。

《香港鳥類名錄》也提及與蒲台上觀察到的日子脗合的三個高峰期。這可能顯示有一於秋季後期出現來自北方的冬季種群、一個當牠們在春季往北遷徙時偶然出現的種群，以及在夏季末期由幼鳥組成的散佈群落。

絲光椋鳥 *Spodiopsar sericeus* **和灰背椋鳥** *Sturnia sinensis*

圖 16. 絲光椋鳥

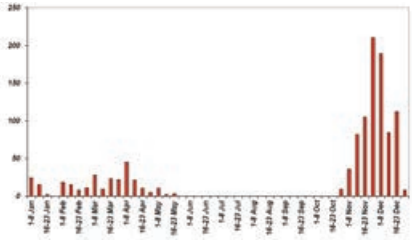
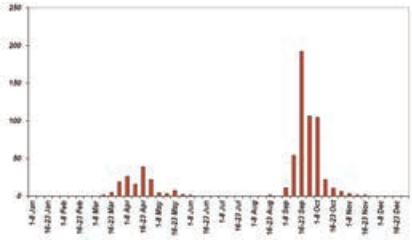


圖 17. 灰背椋鳥

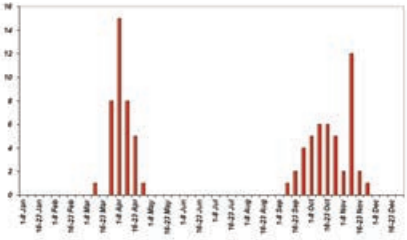


絲光椋鳥和灰背椋鳥是兩種在蒲台最常見的椋鳥，但牠們的遷徙模式卻有頗大分別（圖16及17，香港鳥類名錄第465及471頁）。絲光椋鳥乃秋季後期過境遷徙鳥，有部分會度冬，以及少數會在春季過境，這是一個典型在香港度冬鳥種的模式。牠們在蒲台有一個《香港鳥類名錄》沒有顯示的固定五月紀錄，這可能反映了因近來在香港出現的繁殖紀錄而另其在港分佈的轉變。

灰背椋鳥在蒲台是主要出現於初秋的過境遷徙鳥，也分別有小量的春季過境鳥。在秋季，高峰出現於 9 月的最後一週，多數會於絲光椋鳥抵達前離開。《香港鳥類名錄》顯示相對秋季較多的春季遷徙紀錄，這和蒲台觀察到的紀錄相反，這可能因近年此鳥種在香港繁殖的種群有所增加而所引致的轉變。

白腹姬鶲 *Cyanoptila cyanomelana*

圖18. 白腹姬鶲

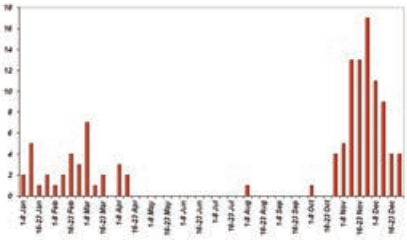


白腹姬鶲（圖18，香港鳥類名錄第419頁）是春季及秋季過境遷徙鳥，主要出現於春季，但自《香港鳥類名錄》後春秋兩季的分佈已有轉變，秋季的數目較以前爲多。

此圖表也顯示於 2011 年 11 月發生的有趣現象，最少有 12 隻鳥在一道不尋常地於秋季出現的熱帶氣旋橫過呂宋海峽後到達蒲台，這風暴可能將部分原來由中國東部前往菲律賓的鳥帶至香港範圍。

叉尾太陽鳥 *Aethopyga christinae*

圖19. 叉尾太陽鳥

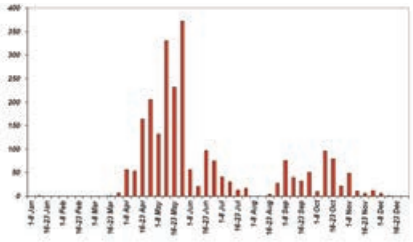


叉尾太陽鳥（圖19，名錄沒有）在蒲台主要是秋季後期的過境遷徙鳥，也有部分停留度冬。儘管部分可能是來自香港本土繁殖留鳥的散佈群落，也有不少可能是來自鄰近廣東甚或更遠的地方。

金頭縫葉鶯和強腳樹鶯也在蒲台顯示相似的模式，牠們都可能是來自廣東或香港本土的群落來到蒲台度冬。

樹麻雀 *Passer montanus*

圖20. 樹麻雀



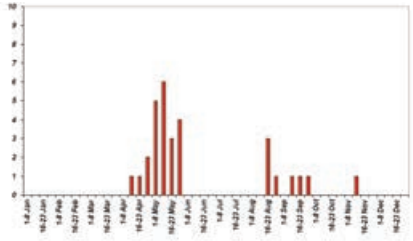
無疑樹麻雀在香港市區明顯是留鳥，但牠們在蒲台卻是遷徙鳥（圖20，名錄沒有），在冬季沒有任何紀錄。最早到達的群落於4月初出現，並在5月到達高峰，牠們多聚集於東南部半島的燈塔。雖然有部分停留渡過夏季，有數對並成功繁殖，但當離去後數目便快速下滑。秋季的遷徙沒有那麼明顯，全部於12月初離開。

這些紀錄似乎是樹麻雀的遷徙群落。但這個遷徙現象並非新發現：La Touche在上世紀初於離開上海的島嶼便已記錄樹麻雀的春季遷徙(La Touche 1912)。類似時間和數目的遷移也在另一離岸島嶼 - 英國的費爾島有記錄(Summers-Smith, 1995)。

但即使是遷徙群落，牠們也偏好市區地點，停留在蒲台的建築物如燈塔及酒樓附近。

黃額絲雀 *Crithagra mozambica*

圖21. 黃額絲雀



黃額絲雀（圖21，名錄沒有）在蒲台是數目不多的夏候鳥。雖然只在其中一年有一只成鳥被目睹餵飼幼鳥，但牠們可能每年都在此繁殖。牠們於4月底到達，並於9月底以前大抵離開。對於牠們在何度冬仍然未知，但很大可能是附近的地點。Brazil（2009）曾提及台灣的野生黃額絲雀種群季節性遷徙的證據。

總結

我主要的總結是即使是最常見的鳥種，牠們也可能有十分有趣的出現模式，以顯示牠們的遷徙或分佈行爲。因每一鳥種的行爲均爲一致及可預計的，只要持續地收集數據，這些模式在數年間便會變得清晰。由於鳥種的行爲會對環境改變而作出轉變，故分佈也會慢慢發生變化，在一較長的時間內收集這些可互相比較的數據便可察覺這些轉變。

找出這些轉變是重要的。在全球，遷徙物種的數量均在下降。除了如天氣、食物供應及被捕食等自然威脅外，人類在鳥類繁殖、遷徙及度冬地點做成的生境破壞也對鳥類的生存做成愈來愈大的壓力，在我們所處的區域，日漸增多的發展對鳥類種群更顯得息息相關。就在蒲台七年的研究，幾乎每個春季的鳥種數目都比上季有所下降，這不太可能是巧合所致，雖然氣候因素也有影響，但也可能是因度冬地生境的破壞而引致。

在香港，我們有獨特的途徑可以正面地影響我們區域的發展，以在保護我們自己的環境之餘，也鼓勵我們附近區域內其他地方作出相同的行爲。這樣，我們便可以繼續在往後的日子享受觀察鳥類行爲的樂趣。

鳴謝

我十分感謝利雅德在我開始蒲台研究時便提議我就每一種非留鳥作詳細的記錄。這成爲其中一個我最有滿足感的人生經驗，我也建議擁有這機會的人作相同的詳細紀錄。最終會有回報的。

參考資料

Brazil M. 2009. *Birds of East Asia*. Christopher Helm, London.

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.

La Touche, J.D. 1912. *List of Species on the Island of ShaWeiShan*. Bull BoC 24:124-160

Summers-Smith J. 1996. *The Tree Sparrow*. The Bath Press, Bath, UK.

Welch G. 2011. *Bird Migration on Po Toi, Hong Kong*. Hong Kong Bird Report 2007-08 p310, Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Hong Kong.

The Status of White-bellied Sea Eagle in Hong Kong with reference to a breeding behaviour study in 2012

Gary K L Chow
c/o HKBWS, 7C, V Ga Building, 532 Castle Peak Road, Lai Chi Kok, Kowloon, Hong Kong

Introduction

White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* is a monotypic Australasian raptor distributed from India and Sri Lanka through Southeast Asia, Philippines, Wallacea, New Guinea and the Bismarck Archipelago to Australia and Tasmania (del Hoyo *et al.* 1994). It generally prefers coastal and estuary habitat but also roams over wooded and open country habitats near coastal areas, with occasional observations at inland freshwater ponds or reservoirs (Ferguson-Lees 2001).

Raptor species can be considered as an indicator species for the health of the environment owing to their apex position at the top of biological food chain. As a raptor species with its life cycle entirely reliant on nature coastal habitat, White-bellied Sea Eagle is often considered as an indicator of the quality of the coastal and marine environment.

Status in southern China

The White-bellied Sea Eagle is under threat in coastal southern China due to persecution from the fishing community, along with urban development encroaching onto natural coastline. Probably as a consequence, despite suitable habitat throughout coastal south China, it is rare outside Hong Kong and Macau, where it receives some protection.

The first record in China was an adult male specimen obtained on 27 July 1886 at Fuzhou (Styan 1887, La Touche 1925-34). Historical records appear in late 19th century from Fujian, Guangdong and Hainan provinces, with records from Zhejiang, Jiangsu and Shanghai which are now untraceable. Although Cheng (1987) stated it is a locally common resident in Guangdong and Fujian, it now appears to be rare away from the Hong Kong area. Records elsewhere in south China in last two decades are few, mainly confined to Guangdong and Hainan (China Ornithological Society 2004, 2006). The only record from Taiwan was in 1988 and it is considered as a vagrant there (Severinghaus *et al* 2012).

Status in Hong Kong

The earliest record of White-bellied Sea Eagle from Hong Kong is a specimen taken some time between 1887 and 1903 (Styan Collection, BMNH Register). Vaughan & Jones (1913) reported that a pair roamed between Hong Kong and Macao over a 4-year period in early 1900s and nested on an island a few miles from Macao. Carey *et al* (2002) estimated the HK population at ten pairs, based on casual observations rather than detailed surveys. In Hong Kong, White-bellied Sea Eagle is mostly associated with rocky coastal habitat and particularly off-shore islands but individuals occasionally

roam over reservoirs and fishponds. Their nesting sites are exclusively in proximity to coastal areas.

The conservation of White-bellied Sea Eagle firstly caught public awareness in the late 1990s, when a theme park was proposed in northeast Lantau near a well-established White-bellied Sea Eagle nesting site. Since then, public interest has further increased into conflict between development and coastal protection, and more conservation effort has put on the species.

An annual survey of White-bellied Sea Eagle breeding sites have been conducted since 2002 by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) to give a more accurate account of the population and distribution of White-bellied Sea Eagles in Hong Kong. According to the survey findings, they are quite widely distributed in Hong Kong territory, with the highest density in Sai Kung area. Between six and 12 breeding pairs were reported annually between 2002 and 2011 (So and Lee 2010, CKL unpublished data). The population has remained stable over this period, with no ongoing change in the number and distribution. Given the status elsewhere in southern China, the stable population in Hong Kong can be considered as of national importance.

In 2012, Hong Kong Bird Watching Society received a grant from the Environmental and Conservation Fund (ECF) to conduct a survey of White-bellied Sea Eagles and a study of their breeding ecology. A total of 16 nests were recorded by the study; although it cannot be certain whether this is the entire breeding population in Hong Kong, it is the highest number ever recorded and must be close to the actual breeding population in Hong Kong. Table 1 summarizes the nest locations found in 2012.

Table 1: Locations of White-bellied Sea Eagle nests found in 2012 survey

Nest	District	Location
Yeung Chau, Kat O	Northeastern Waters (including Tolo Harbour)	Island
Port Island		Island
Sham Chung		Mainland
Yeung Chau, Plover Cove		Island
Tsim Chau	Eastern Waters	Island
High Island		Mainland
Wang Chau		Island
Ninepin		Island
Jin Island		Island
Ma Nam Wat		Mainland
Steep Island		Island
Round Island	Southern Waters	Island
Bluff's Head		Mainland (at HK Island)
Sung Kong		Island
Shek Kwu Chau		Island
Lung Kwu Chau	Western Waters	Island

Plate 77. An adult defending its territory against an intruder juvenile Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciata*
一隻白腹海鵰正擊退入侵其領域的白腹隼鵰幼鳥
Lung Kwu Chau 19th February 2012 龍鼓洲 2012年2月19日
Christina Chan 陳燕明

Plate 78. A pair of White-bellied Sea Eagles nesting at an electric power pylon
一對白腹海鵰在電塔上築巢
Tin Wan 17th November 2007 田灣 2007年11月17日
Alan Chan 陳慶麟

Nesting Habitat

Breeding males and females usually form permanent pairs and are mostly sedentary once a home range has been established, but will forage over a wide range. Juveniles can disperse over considerable distances. In a radio-tracking study of a juvenile in Hong Kong in 2002, daily flight distances varying from 3km to 15km were observed, with an average of 8.8km (Griffiths and Tsim 2004).

Most nests in the 2012 survey were located on islands. The greatest number of nests were recorded in eastern waters (seven nests), followed by northeastern and southern waters (four nests each). Only one nest was found in western waters, possibly due to a lack of suitable undisturbed coastal habitat.

In Hong Kong, White-bellied Sea Eagle nests are exclusively found on rocky shorelines. Their nests can be found in sheltered areas such as Plover Cove and Kat O, as well as exposed rocky shores such as Wang Chau and Ninepin Island. In summarizing the 2012 study result, it was found that 12 nests out 16 or 75% of the total number were located on uninhabited island. This suggests that the White-bellied Sea Eagle purposely avoids nesting sites accessible by humans and finds uninhabited islands more suitable for nesting. The higher number of uninhabited islands in eastern waters may explain why it sustains a higher population in this area.

White-bellied Sea Eagle nests are mostly built in hillside trees but sometimes also on the rock surface over sea cliffs. Some nests are rather exposed without shelter whilst others are heavily covered under the thick canopy. The nest is usually about 1.5m wide and comprises exclusively twigs and branches. Tsim *et al* (2003) listed five tree species used by White-bellied Sea Eagles nesting in Hong Kong:. *Ficus variegata* var. *chlorocarpa*, *Ficus microcarpa*, *Acacia confusa*, *Machilus* sp. and *Cinnamomum camphora*. Both live and dead trees are used. Old nests are often reused in subsequent years but are sometimes abandoned, in which case a new nest will normally be built in close proximity.

An unusual nesting location in Hong Kong occurred in 2007 when a pair was found nesting on top of an electricity pylon at Tin Wan waterfront. Use of artificial nesting substratum has never been recorded in Hong Kong before. The attempt was unsuccessful and the nesting location has not been used again. The incident may reflect the lack of suitable nesting location in Hong Kong.

Pair and Site Fidelity

Pairs are usually monogamous, although a paired female has been seen copulating with an intruding adult whilst the male partner was nest sitting (Tsim *et al* 2003). This extra-pair copulation behavior has not been recorded again but it reveals that White-bellied Sea Eagle may not be strictly monogamous.

Observations suggest that if one of the pair dies or leaves, the remaining individual will hold the nesting territory to wait for a new partner. This could explain why some nesting locations are abandoned for a few years but abruptly become active again, as has happened at both Green Island and Lung Kwu Chau. The Lung Kwu Chau pair had a long history of successful breeding from at least 2005 until 2011 but were unsuccessful in 2012. The site became active again in 2013, but one individual involved was a late sub-adult, indicating a new partner using the same nesting location.

Plate 79. Twin juveniles sitting on their nest
一對幼鳥坐在巢中
Sai Kung 3rd April 2012 西貢 2012年4月3日
Gary Chow 周家禮

Plate 80. A breeding White-bellied Sea Eagle pair is usually a permanent bond
白腹海鵰的繁殖配對通常都是永久的
Kat O 8th August 2012 吉澳 2012年8月8日
Gary Chow 周家禮

Breeding chronology in Hong Kong

In the 2012 White-bellied Sea Eagle breeding ecology study, close monitoring was conducted through the nestling and fledgling period for two breeding pairs in High Island and Yeung Chau Kat O. This was the first in-depth study of the timing of breeding behaviour of White-bellied Sea Eagle in Hong Kong, especially for the early stages of breeding.

Unlike most birds in Hong Kong, White-bellied Sea Eagle starts breeding activity in winter, normally starting nest building as early as October. There is no record on the exact date of egg-laying in Hong Kong, but it is assumed to be around mid-October to January, as the hatching date has been recorded from late November to early February and the incubation period is around 40 days (Debus 2008). The hatching time in 2012 for the breeding pair in Sai Kung, where two nestlings hatched, was between mid and late January. Both male and female share the responsibility of incubating. The 2012 study observed a relatively small portion of time being spent on foraging and noted that most of the foraging activity was concentrated in the late afternoon. This observation is in line with previous study (Tsim *et al* 2003) that noted an adult spent on average 46% of the daytime (0700-1900) incubating and an average of 19% on foraging.

The subsequent nestling period (the period the juveniles stayed in the nest) was about 75 days in Sai Kung, which is in line with other studies, for example 70-80 days is given in Olsen *et al* (1993). In the early post-nestling stage, the juveniles were still largely dependent on parental care for at least two months, during which they relied on parental feeding and attempted fishing only occasionally. Parental guidance on practicing flying skill was recorded, the adult making some short distance flights carrying prey to lure the juvenile to follow, probably to help the juvenile learn manoeuvering skills.

Juveniles attain independent foraging ability in around 21 weeks (2 July 2012). After this period they are seldom found within the nesting territory or within 2km of the nest. In the 2012 study, total independence was confirmed at 33 weeks old (23 September 2012), when the juvenile disappeared from the nest area. Two weeks later, the juvenile was traced and recorded making a 15km distance flight away from the nest area, which confirmed the juvenile had already attained an ability to fly and forage outside its nest area.

The new breeding season starts again in October when the adult pair re-chooses or refurnishes the nest in preparation for the new breeding year. Juveniles occasionally revisit the nest area, presumably returning to the nest in which they hatched since they are sometimes recorded around incubating adults without being driven away.

Conservation

With more survey effort put into conservation of White-bellied Sea Eagle breeding sites in last decade, the breeding population in Hong Kong is now known to be rather stable. A total of 16 nests were recorded in Hong Kong territory in 2012, which is the highest density of this species in south China. Despite this, their long-term survival in Hong Kong is not without pressure.

As revealed from the choice of nesting location, it appears that breeding birds are sensitive to the presence of human activities and typically choose areas remote from human activity for their nesting sites (the unsuccessful nesting attempt at Tin Wan being an obvious exception). The rather high proportion of the nests on uninhabited islets may imply a need to move further offshore to avoid human intrusion, although we can not rule out other factors such as a lower abundance of non-human predators on offshore islands.

Amongst all potential limiting factors, lack of suitable breeding habitat is probably the key constraint to their population growth. Particularly, White-bellied Sea Eagle has a habit of repeated use of same breeding location for considerable years; which suggests that any impact or disturbance to a nesting site may have a long-term impact.

In coming years, it is expected that more coastal area will be used for urban or infrastructure development. The associated reclamation, increased marine traffic or increased human activities will compromise breeding and foraging opportunities for White-bellied Sea Eagle. Even if the breeding habitat is retained, highly disruptive activities adjacent to the nesting or foraging range would inevitably affect the birds. If continued coastal development is unavoidable, balancing this against nature conservation will be an important consideration. For better protection of the species, it is essential to implement long-term monitoring of the breeding population to establish a database of its nesting location in Hong Kong. It is recommended that the existing and previous nesting locations should be recognized as ecologically sensitive areas and suitable effort should be put into assessing the impact to White-bellied Sea Eagle if these sites or the adjacent area are proposed for development. No measures are known for direct mitigation or compensation for the loss of their breeding sites, therefore it is preferably that any identified nesting site as well as the habitat around should be preserved for the sake of species conservation.

Acknowledgement

The breeding ecology survey in 2012 is an ECF funded project; the study would not be possible without its support. I am grateful to ECF and HKBWS for supporting the project. Also thanks to WBSE Research Group member, Eric Tsang and Cheung Mok Jose Alberto for their technical support; Richard Lewthwaite for compiling the historical record in China; and John Allcock for reviewing the draft version. Specially thanks to Tang M Y for his wholehearted dedication to WBSE study and continuous support to my research.

Reference

Breeden, S. & Slater, P. 1968, *Birds of Australia*, Angus & Robertson, Sydney

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. & 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.

China Ornithological Society. 2004. *China Bird Report 2003*. China Ornithological Society. Beijing, China.

China Ornithological Society. 2006. *China Bird Report 2005*. China Ornithological Society. Beijing, China.

Cupper, J. & Cupper, L. 1981, *Hawks in Focus*, Jaclin, Mildura, Vic.

Debus S.J.S. 2008 Biology and Diet of the White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* Breeding in Northern Inland New South Wales. *Australian Field Ornithology* 2008, 25, 165-193.

Del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A. and Sargatal, J. (eds.) 1994. *Handbook of the Birds of the World. Vol. 2. New World Vultures to Guineafowl*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.

Ferguson-Lees, J & Christie, D.A. 2001 *Raptors of the World*. Christopher Helm. London.

Hollands, D. 1984, *Eagles, Hawks and Falcons of Australia*, Nelson, Melbourne.

La Touche, J.D.D. 1925-34. *A handbook of the birds of eastern China. 1931-34.* Taylor and Francis, London.

Olsen, P., Crome, F. & Olsen, J. 1993, *Birds of Prey and Ground Birds of Australia*, Angus & Robertston, Sydney.

Olsen, P. 1999, "Winged pirates", *Nature Australia* 26(6), 30-37.

Severinghaus, L.L., Ding, T.S., Fang, W.H., Lin, W.H., Tsai, M.C., Yen, C.W., 2012. *The avifauna of Taiwan*. 2nd edition. Forest Bureau, Council of Agriculture. Taipei, Taiwan.

So, I.W.Y. and Lee, W.H. 2010 Breeding Ecology of White-bellied Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) in Hong Kong – A Review and Update. *Hong Kong Biodiversity* February 2010 #18

Styan, F.W. 1887. On a Collection of Birds from Foochow. *Ibis* 1887:215-234

Tsim, S.T., Lee, W.H., Cheung, C.S., Chow, K.L., Ma, Y.N. and Liu, K.Y 2003 The Population and Breeding Ecology of White-bellied Sea-eagle in Hong Kong. *Hong Kong Biodiversity* August 2003 #5

Vaughan, R.E. and Jones, K.H. 1913. 1913. The birds of Hong Kong, Macao and the West River or Si Kiang in South-East China, with special reference to their nidification and seasonal movements. *Ibis* 1913:17-76,163-201,351-384.

根據 2012 年進行的繁殖研究而總括白腹海鵰在香港的狀況

周家禮
香港九龍青山道532號偉基大廈 7樓C室 香港觀鳥會 轉交

前言

白腹海鵰 *Haliaeetus leucogaster* 是一種單種屬的猛禽，分布於印度、斯里蘭卡以至東南亞、菲律賓、華萊士區、新畿內亞、俾斯麥群島，以至澳洲及塔斯曼尼亞 (del Hoyo *et al*. 1994)。牠普遍喜歡沿海及河口區，亦會遊蕩於近岸的樹林及開闊地帶，偶然亦見於內陸的淡水塘及水塘 (Ferguson-Lees 2001)。

猛禽是處於食物鏈的頂點位置，故常被視爲一個生態環境的健康指標。因白腹海鵰完全依賴天然海岸而生，故亦被視爲海岸生境質素的指標。

在南中國的狀況

白腹海鵰在南中國沿岸都受著各種威脅，包括漁民的捕獵及沿岸的市鎮發展。可能由於這個原因，儘管南中國沿岸有不少適合的生境，牠們的數目都較稀少 (香港及澳門兩個較多保護的地方除外) 。

在中國最早期的標本於 1886 年 7 月 27 日在福州採得 (Styan 1887, La Touche 1925-34)。白腹海鵰過往曾於 19 世紀晚期於福建、廣東及海南省有紀錄，而浙江、江蘇及上海的紀錄現時已無從稽考。雖然鄭作新 (1987) 評定牠們在廣東及福州是地區性普遍，但現時觀察所得牠們除了在香港外應頗爲稀有。過往廿年在南中國一帶只在廣東及海南錄得 (中國鳥類學會 2004, 2006)。台灣於 1998 年唯一紀錄亦只是一隻迷鳥 (Severinghaus *et al* 2012)。

香港的狀況

香港最早的紀錄是於 1887 年至 1903 年之間採得的標本 (Styan Collection, BMNH Register)。Vaughan & Jones (1913) 紀錄了 1900 年代初有一對連續四年在香港與澳門之間出現，並在澳門對出幾里以外一個小島上築巢。Carey *et al* (2002) 憑著零碎的觀察紀錄估算在香港當時約有 10 對。在香港，白腹海鵰主要在岩岸生境及沿海小島出沒，但亦偶有飛入水塘及內陸魚塘。但牠們的巢區只在沿岸位置。

白腹海鵰的保育最初是在 1990 年代後期當大嶼山東北構建主題公園時引起關注。自此公衆對生態的關注觸發發展與保育間的矛盾，從而更多保育資源投放在這鳥種上。

自 2002 年起漁農自然護理署每年都進行白腹海鵰繁殖地的調查，以跟進牠們的數目及分布。跟據紀錄，牠們在香港頗爲廣泛分布，且主要集中於西貢一帶。在 2002 至 2011

年期間每年錄得 6 至 12 對 (So and Lee 2010, CKL 未公布資料)。期間的數目頗爲穩定，而分布上亦不見明顯變化。鑑於在南中國其他地區的現況，香港的群落應視爲國家級別上具重要性的。

2012 年香港觀鳥會獲得環境及自然保育基金的資助下進行一項白腹海鵰及其繁殖行爲的研究。其間共錄得 16 個鳥巢。雖然這個數字可能未包括整個香港的群落，但相信離實際數字亦不差太遠。**表 1** 總括了 2012 年所發現的白腹海鵰巢區。

表 1. 2012 年調查中確認的白腹海鵰鳥巢地點

巢區	地區	位置
吉澳洋洲	東北水域 (包括吐露港)	島嶼
赤洲		島嶼
深涌		大陸
船灣洋洲		島嶼
尖洲	東部水域	島嶼
糧船灣		大陸
橫洲		島嶼
果洲		島嶼
吊鐘洲		島嶼
麻南笏		大陸
青洲		島嶼
銀洲	南部水域	島嶼
黃麻角		大陸 (香港島)
宋崗		島嶼
石鼓洲		島嶼
龍鼓洲	西部水域	島嶼

巢區生境

繁殖的雄性及雌性通常會結成長久的伴侶。當地域建立後牠們會長期留守，但亦會飛往較遠方覓食。幼鳥的擴散性較強。在 2002 年一項無線電追蹤研究發現幼鳥每日的飛行距離可由 3 公里至 15 公里，平均爲每天 8.8 公里 (Griffiths and Tsim 2004)。

2012 年調查中大部分的鳥巢都是在島嶼。東邊的海域較多鳥巢紀錄 (七個)，繼而是東北部及南部 (各四個)。西部只錄得一個鳥巢，可能由於該區缺乏合適而不受滋擾的海岸生境的緣故。

在香港，白腹海鵰只在岩岸附近築巢。其巢區的環境包括內海區 (如船灣及吉澳)，亦可以是外海區 (如橫洲及果洲)。 總括 2012 調查發現，16 個巢當中的 12 個巢 (又或 75%) 是築在未有人居住的島嶼上。這現象可能顯示牠們刻意避開人類可到達的地區築巢。從而解釋了爲何擁有較多無人居住小島的東部水域會有較高數目的白腹海鵰。

白腹海鵰的巢主要築在山坡的大樹上，但亦可在臨海的峭壁上築巢。有些巢會較顯露，而有些則較隱蔽於茂密的樹冠中。巢的直徑約爲 1.5 米闊，主要由樹枝及幼枝築成。Tsim *et al* (2003) 列出五種白腹海鵰用作築巢的樹種，當中包括青果榕、細葉榕、台灣相思 、潤楠及樟樹。生和死樹都會被用到。舊巢通常在隨後幾年重覆使用，但亦會被棄而在附近另築新巢。

2007 年曾發生一件不尋常的營巢事件。當時有一對白腹海鵰在田灣海傍的電塔上築巢。用建築物作爲營巢地點在香港之前從未發現。最終該對白腹海鵰並沒有成功繁殖，而該地點亦沒有被重用。但此事件可反映著香港正缺乏適合作白腹海鵰營巢的生態環境。

對配偶及巢區的貫切性

雖然白腹海鵰是一夫一妻制的，但(Tsim *et al* 2003)曾目睹已有配偶的雌性在牠的伴侶坐巢期間和另一隻雄性交配。這種行爲及後頗爲少見，但卻顯示牠們並非完全的一夫一妻制。

從觀察所發現，若其中一隻死亡或離開，另一隻會留在巢區等待新配偶。這行爲解釋了爲何有些巢區被棄用數年後突然會被重用。這現象在青洲及龍鼓洲曾發生過。其中在龍鼓洲的那一對在2005年至2011年期間連續數年皆有成功繁殖，但到2012年卻沒有紀錄。該巢在 2013 年被重用，而其中一隻更是亞成鳥，顯示在同一巢區有新配偶的組成。

在香港的繁殖年表

在 2012 年的研究期間對糧船灣及吉澳洋洲兩個巢區進行了深入的觀察。此乃在香港首項對白腹海鵰繁殖行爲時間尤其是繁殖初期的深入觀察。

與香港大部分鳥類不同，白腹海鵰主要在冬季繁殖，通常早至十月便開始築巢。香港沒有白腹海鵰的產卵日期的紀錄，但此研究發現雛鳥從十一月下旬至二月上旬孵出，及以往紀錄的約 40 日孵化期 (Debus 2008)，實際的產卵日期推算是十月中至一月。2012 調查期間觀察到西貢糧船灣的一對白腹海鵰雄性及雌性成鳥皆會坐巢孵卵，而兩隻雛鳥的孵出日期爲一月中至下旬。2012 調查期間觀察到糧船灣的一對白腹海鵰只花小部分時間在覓食，而覓食時間主要集中於近黃昏時分，與較早的研究 (Tsim *et al* 2003) 相符。之前的研究記錄繁殖的成鳥用平均 46 % 時間在早上七時至晚上七時期間坐巢，以及 19 % 時間覓食。

在西貢的觀察中，育雛期（雛鳥在巢期間）約爲 75 日，與其他研究，如 Olsen *et al* (1993) 所觀察的 70 至 80 日相符。在成長的後期，幼鳥最少有兩個月仍需靠父母照顧，在此期間牠們依靠父母的餵養，並只偶然嘗試捕食。而父母對雛鳥的飛行技巧亦有指導，研究期間曾觀察到成鳥以食物餌誘幼鳥跟隨其飛行，很可能是協助幼鳥掌握飛行技巧。

幼鳥約於 21 週歲後可獨立覓食（2012 年 7 月 2 日）。此階段後牠們較少於巢域及巢的 2 公里內出現。2012 的研究確定幼鳥最遲在 33 週歲（2012 年 9 月 23 日）可完全獨立，當時幼鳥完全在巢區內失踪。兩週後該幼鳥被發現可飛行至少 15 公里巢區以外的地方，確定牠已有足夠的飛行能力並於巢區外覓食。

新的繁殖期由 10 月重新開始， 成鳥會選擇新位置築巢或修築舊巢。往年的幼鳥會偶然回到舊巢，當牠們回到巢區成鳥亦不會驅趕。

保育

憑著過往十年來對白腹海鵰繁殖地的調查，現時在香港繁殖的白腹海鵰群落已被得知較爲穩定。2012 總共有 16 個鳥巢在香港，亦是在南中國最高密度的地方。儘管如此，牠們在香港的長遠存活並非無憂。

從牠們選擇築巢地點的觀察，繁殖中的成鳥對人爲活動較爲敏感，從而選取較爲偏遠的地點築巢（田灣的失敗例子只屬例外）。較高比例的巢都是築在無人居住的小島上，這顯示牠們有需要遠離人類的滋擾。當然亦不排除有其他非人爲因素，如小島山較少捕獵者。

在種種因素中，缺乏合適的繁殖生境可能是限制牠們數目增長的主要原因。由於牠們會多年重覆使用同一位置築巢，任何對巢區的影響及滋擾都可能對牠們有長遠的影響。

未來數年，香港的海岸陸續會被用作城市及基建發展。其相關的塡海、海上交通及人流的增加都會影響白腹海鵰的繁殖及覓食活動。儘管繁殖地可被保留，但在巢區及覓食地附近進行頻繁活動都無可避免會影響牠們。若持續的海岸發展是無可避免的事實，那麼我們必須與自然保育作出平衡。爲提供更好的保護，長遠監察牠們的繁殖群落並建立一個資料庫是必要的。此外亦建議將現時及過往的繁殖地點列爲生態敏感地帶，若在該地點或附近進行工程便須評估對白腹海鵰的影響。由於現時仍未有任何措施可直接緩減或補償繁殖地減損的影響，所以盡可能應保護所有白腹海鵰的繁殖地及附近的環境，以作爲對這鳥種的長遠保育方法。

鳴謝

2012 的繁殖生態調查是由環境及自然保育基金撥款贊助的項目，沒有基金的贊助此項研究便不能成事。本人非常感激環境保育基金及香港觀鳥會對此項目的支持。此外亦感謝白腹海鵰研究小組組員、曾昭烈及張振國的技術支援；Richward Lewthwaite 提供在中國的舊紀錄及柯祖毅協助檢查初稿。特別感謝鄧滿堯盡心貢獻於白腹海鵰的調查，以及支持此研究項目。

參考資料

Breeden, S. & Slater, P. 1968, *Birds of Australia*, Angus & Robertson, Sydney

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. & 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.

China Ornithological Society. 2004. *China Bird Report 2003*. China Ornithological Society. Beijing, China.

China Ornithological Society. 2006. *China Bird Report 2005*. China Ornithological Society. Beijing, China.

Cupper, J. & Cupper, L. 1981, *Hawks in Focus*, Jaclin, Mildura, Vic.

Debus S.J.S. 2008 Biology and Diet of the White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* Breeding in Northern Inland New South Wales. *Australian Field Ornithology* 2008, 25, 165-193.

Del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A. and Sargatal, J. (eds.) 1994. *Handbook of the Birds of the World. Vol. 2. New World Vultures to Guineafowl*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.

Ferguson-Lees, J & Christie, D.A. 2001 *Raptors of the World*. Christopher Helm. London.

Hollands, D. 1984, *Eagles, Hawks and Falcons of Australia*, Nelson, Melbourne.

La Touche, J.D.D. 1925-34. *A handbook of the birds of eastern China. 1931-34.* Taylor and Francis, London.

Olsen, P., Crome, F. & Olsen, J. 1993, *Birds of Prey and Ground Birds of Australia*, Angus & Robertston, Sydney.

Olsen, P. 1999, "Winged pirates", *Nature Australia* 26(6), 30-37.

Severinghaus, L.L., Ding, T.S., Fang, W.H., Lin, W.H., Tsai, M.C., Yen, C.W., 2012. *The avifauna of Taiwan*. 2nd edition. Forest Bureau, Council of Agriculture. Taipei, Taiwan.

So, I.W.Y. and Lee, W.H. 2010 Breeding Ecology of White-bellied Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) in Hong Kong – A Review and Update. *Hong Kong Biodiversity* February 2010 #18

Styan, F.W. 1887. On a Collection of Birds from Foochow. *Ibis* 1887:215-234

Tsim, S.T., Lee, W.H., Cheung, C.S., Chow, K.L., Ma, Y.N. and Liu, K.Y 2003 The Population and Breeding Ecology of White-bellied Sea-eagle in Hong Kong. *Hong Kong Biodiversity* August 2003 #5

Vaughan, R.E. and Jones, K.H. 1913. 1913. The birds of Hong Kong, Macao and the West River or Si Kiang in South-East China, with special reference to their nidification and seasonal movements. *Ibis* 1913:17-76,163-201,351-384.

A Survey of Black-faced Spoonbill (*Platalea minor*) in the Korean Yellow Sea, summer 2012

Chong Jong-ryol
Center for Biodiversity, State Academy of Sciences, Democratic People's Republic of Korea & Wildlife Research Center, Korea University in Tokyo Japan

Introduction

History on the conservation of Black-faced Spoonbill in Democratic People's Republic of Korea

More than twenty years ago, there were only a few people working on the wintering Black-faced Spoonbills and no one knew where their breeding ground was located. Researchers in Taiwan and Hong Kong had conducted some studies of the wintering populations but the species was not yet considered of conservation concern in the Korean Peninsula. A photo of Black-faced Spoonbills with chicks from Prof Pak U-il, the Deputy Director of Zoological Institute of DPRK, attracted the attention of the editor from the Japanese science magazine 'Newton' by chance and it was then included in a special issue about rare birds in Korean Peninsula.

The special issue aroused the interest of Japanese researchers. During the first symposium on migratory birds between Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and Japan convened at the Korea University, I reported the situation of Black-faced Spoonbills. Conservation measures including surveys and captive breeding of the species were agreed to be important in the meeting. A captive breeding program started immediately after the meeting in Japan in 1987, although it did not start smoothly, it was still an important milestone of international cooperation in conservation of the species (Chong *et al.* 1999).

In 1994, conservation of the Black-faced Spoonbill became an international issue at the BirdLife World Conference held at Rosenheim, Germany. At the meeting, we reported the conditions of this species in the DPRK and proposed some conservation projects. After that, an international action plan was compiled by Severinghaus *et al.* (1995). To implement the Action Plan, the first international workshop inviting seven Asian countries and districts was held in Beijing in 1996. At the workshop the following actions were discussed:

1. Distribution of questionnaires and leaflets to understand its distribution.
2. Boat and aircraft surveys at potential breeding sites.
3. Satellite tracking for migratory routes.
4. Understanding the environment and conservation status of breeding and wintering grounds.
5. Joint census of Black-faced Spoonbills at wintering grounds.
6. Education and promotion activities.

The project proceeded in an amazing speed in the next three years. In October 2005, an international workshop and symposium on drafting an updated conservation action plan for Black-faced Spoonbill was held at the Korea University, Tokyo to discuss compilation of the Action Plan for the next decade. After more than a decade of research and conservation activities, all of the six targets discussed in Beijing have been achieved (Chan 2007).

Currently, the annual international census of wintering Black-faced Spoonbills held every January is coordinated by the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society. In January 2013 there were 2,725 birds recorded (Yu *et al.* 2013). That is a big increase from 535 birds when the synchronous census was first started in 1997. Despite the actual growth of the population, the reasons of such increase could also be the success of promotion as there are more people recording the birds in field, therefore increasing the chance of finding Black-faced Spoonbills, or maybe due to deterioration of unknown sites, the birds are now more concentrated.

The census of Black-faced Spoonbills in DPRK was started in mid-1990s. During the count in 1997, less than a hundred Black-faced Spoonbills were recorded at the islands in the Korean Yellow Sea (Chong and Park 1999). In 1998, the number of Spoonbills increased to 196 individuals, which were counted in the South and North Pyongan Province and in the South Hwanghae Province. The number of Spoonbills recorded increased to 499 in the 2011 census (author unpub. data).

Objectives of the 2012 survey

The Black-faced Spoonbill breeds mainly on the Korea Yellow Sea and so regular updates of the breeding or gathering places in this area are very important for the conservation of this species. The census in 2012 was conducted in the Korean west coastal areas to identify the sites and habitats of this species in the coastal areas of Korean West Sea and to estimate the population of the Black-faced Spoonbill in DPRK.

Methodology
Study Periods

As it is difficult to estimate the number of Black-faced Spoonbills during the breeding season when they are scattered around many uninhabited islands, the study periods to survey population size and distribution were scheduled in a post-breeding period from late August to mid-September when the birds are gathered in large flocks before migration. The survey periods were scheduled as: (1) First period: 30 August – 3 September, 2012 (5 days) and (2) Second period: 12 September – 14 September, 2012 (3 days).

Study Area

32 census sites along the west coast in 11 counties/cities were selected, mainly based on the result of satellite-tracking survey (Lee Ki-sup unpub. data) and casual records from the locals (Figure 1 and Table 1).

Figure 1. Map of census areas identified by satellite survey. (Source: Google Earth 2013)

Table 1. List of census areas.

Census Area	County / City
Area 1	Sonchon County, North Pyongan Province
Area 2	Kwaksan County, North Pyongan Province
Area 3	Jongju City, North Pyongan Province
Area 4	Unjon County, North Pyongan Province
Area 5	Mundok County, South Pyongan Province
Area 6	Sukchon County, South Pyongan Province
Area 7	Ongjin County, South Hwanghae Province
Area 8	Kangryong County, South Hwanghae Province
Area 9	Chongdan County, South Hwanghae Province
Area 10	Yonan County, South Hwanghae Province
Area 11	Paechon County, South Hwanghae Province

This survey comprised two parts – questionnaire surveys and field surveys

Part I : Population Estimation through questionnaires and interviews

150 copies of questionnaires with photo of Black-faced Spoonbill and its ecological character were distributed to 80 local people and 30 institutions including schools, cooperative farms and fishery offices. About 40 interviews were conducted with local people living around the areas identified by satellite survey. The questionnaires and interviews aimed at estimating the distribution and population size at the particular area.

Part II : Field Surveys by Stationary and On-the-march Observation

Field surveys were conducted at the 32 identified sites in 11 areas (Table 1). A stationary observation was conducted in 2-hour intervals from 7am to 7pm at each site. Parameters recorded included number of Black-faced Spoonbills, site location, habitat condition, weather and wind direction, flight direction and behaviours (flying, feeding, resting).

Results

Part I : Population estimation through questionnaires and interviews

Figure 2. Distribution map of Black-faced Spoonbill from questionnaires and interviews.

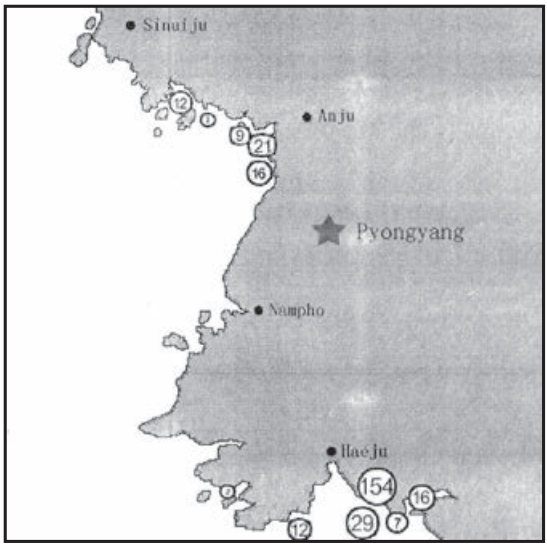
Conservation messages have been effectively conveyed to local communities since Black-faced Spoonbill and its ecological characters have been introduced to over 3000 local people and students through the questionnaire or interview. They showed great interest in the bird and awareness on its ecology and habitat protection was raised.

The locals were asked to recall the presence and flock size of Black-faced Spoonbills encountered in the area. The questionnaire responses and interview results showed that the population size of Black-faced Spoonbill in the coastal areas of Korean West Sea was over 250. The distribution (Figure 2) was similar to the habitats identified by the satellite survey, with additional records in Ongjin County and Kangryong County in South Hwanghae Province. The population size recorded in South Hwanghae Province was larger than that in North Pyongan Province where local economy thrives.

Part II : Field Surveys by Stationary and On-the-ground Observation

The field counts were conducted at 32 sites in the 11 census areas and 292 Black-faced Spoonbills were observed at 17 sites in 10 areas (Table 2 and Figure 3). Most of them were recorded at intertidal flats during their feeding period.

Figure 3. Distribution map of Black-faced Spoonbill from field counts.



Area 1: Sonchon County, 12 Black-faced Spoonbills were observed in the waters around Island Nabi off Wonbong-ri and Sokhwa-ri and most of them were feeding at the intertidal mudflats.

Area 2: Kwaksan County, only two Black-faced Spoonbills were found in intertidal mudflat off Island Mok.

Area 3: Jongju City, nine individuals were observed resting at the intertidal mudflat off Island Son, then flew south towards Island Ae for feeding.

Area 4: Unjon County, no Black-faced Spoonbill was found during the field surveys.

Area 5: Mundok County, many Black-faced Spoonbills were observed around Island Yo near Soho-ri. They were mainly feeding in the area.

Area 6: Sukchon County, 16 individuals were counted at estuary of the Haechang River off July 6 Co-operative Farm.

Area 7: Ongjin County, two Black-faced Spoonbills were observed only on August 30 in Ongjin Bay. The intertidal area was small and it seemed unfavourable for BFS feeding in this area.

Area 8: Kangryong County, 12 individuals were observed at mudflat of Kangryong County where they were foraging.

Area 9: Chongdan County, 195 Black-faced Spoonbills were observed in Chongdan County. Most of them were found feeding or resting at the lock gate of September 18 Reservoir and the intertidal mudflat nearby. The others were found feeding in the tidal flat around the islands in the County. More Black-faced Spoonbills were observed at low tide in the afternoon than in the morning.

Area 10: Yonan County, seven Black-faced Spoonbills were recorded at saltpans in Yomjon Worker's District. This was the only area that Spoonbills were recorded at saltpans instead of intertidal mudflat during the field surveys.

Area 11: Paechon County, 16 feeding Black-faced Spoonbills were observed during field surveys.

Table 2. Records of Black-faced Spoonbills during the field surveys.

No.	Survey Area	Site	Abundance	Behaviour		
				Feeding	Resting	Flying
1	Sonchon County	Is. Juk, Wonbong-ri	1	1		
		Is. Nabi, Wonbong-ri	11	2	5	4
		Is. Hongen, Sokhwa-ri	0			
		Is. Rak, Sokhwa-ri	0			
2	Kwaksan County	Is. Sarapho, Samdan-ri	0			
		Is. Mok, Samdan-ri	2		2	
		Hwangpo Reservoir	0			
		Komiyang Reservoir 1	0			
		Komiyang Reservoir 2	0			
3	Jongju City	Is. Son, Sema-ri	9	9		
		Is. Udon, Ilhae-ri	0			
4	Unjon County	Is. Ppalgan, Kwanhae-ri	0			
5	Mundok County	Is. Yo, Soho-ri	21	21		
		Estuary of Chong River, Tongrim-ri	0			
6	Sukchon County	Saltpans in Namyang District	0			
		Estuary of Haechang River, near July 6 Co-operative Farm	16	15		1
		Middle Stream of Haechang River	0			
7	Ongjin County	Karang in Sohae-ri	2	2		
		Is.Sin, Namhae-ri	0			
8	Kangryong County	Mudflat towards Is.Yonpyon, Ssangkyo-ri	8	8		
		Teungsangos, Tungam-ri	0			
		Mudflat towards Chongdan Pupho District	0			
		Cholsan Reservoir	4	4		

No.	Survey Area	Site	Abundance	Behaviour		
				Feeding	Resting	Flying
9	Chongdan County	September 18 Reservoir, Yongsan-ri	12	9	3	
		Mudflat near September 18 Reservoir	154	154		
		Is.Yugeub, Yongsan-ri	6	6		
		Is.Hyongje, Yongsan-ri	20	20		
		Is.Uoo, Yongsan-ri	3	3		
10	Yonan County	Saltpans (towards Is.Yonpyon) in Yomjon Worker's District	5	5		
		Chonghwa-ri (towards September 18 Reservoir)	0			
		Saltpans (towards Is.Kyodong) in Yomjon Worker's District	2	2		
11	Paechon County	Mudflat (towards Is.Kyodong) in Yokgeudo-ri	16	13	3	
Total			**292**	**270**	**13**	**5**

Plate 81. Black-faced Spoonbills resting at intertidal mudflat off Sep 18 Reservoir, Chongdan County.
黑臉琵鷺於青丹郡 9.18 貯水池潮間帶泥灘外棲息
Chong Jong-ryol 鄭鐘烈

Plate 82. Black-faced Spoonbills in flight at the Sep 18 Reservoir, Chongdan County.
在青丹郡 9.18 貯水池飛行中的黑臉琵鷺
Chong Jong-ryol 鄭鐘烈

Conclusion

Baseline data are needed for preparing the protection measures for the endangered Black-faced Spoonbill through census or survey on population and distribution in DPRK. In this study, both satellite survey (Lee Ki-sup unpub. data) and sightings by local people were used as preliminary study to identify potential habitats and to estimate population size. Questionnaires and interviews were still effective tools to promote conservation awareness in DPRK.

A total of 292 Black-faced Spoonbills were counted at 17 sites of 10 areas in the Korean west coastal areas identified by satellite survey, questionnaires and interviews. In particular, 154 individuals were found at September 18 Reservoir in Chongdan County in a single count. However, the total number recorded in this survey had a decrease of 35% compared to the 449 individuals recorded in 2011. The largest sites were found in Chongdan, Ongjin and Yonan County in the previous survey, while Chongdan County still held the largest flock of Black-faced Spoonbills, followed by Mundok County in this survey.

Another 1,125 Black-faced Spoonbills were recorded at 24 sites by 25 surveyors in Republic of Korea (ROK) in the same period of this survey (Lee Ki-sup pers. comm.). This was a decrease of 5% compared to that of the previous year, when 1,186 birds were recorded. It is encouraging to see the joint census of the Black-faced Spoonbills has happened in the breeding season on the Korean Peninsula. Despite the simmering tension of the area, the joint census between DPRK and ROK has started but there is still a lot of room for improvement, such as coordinating exact dates and sites. It is believed that by several years of joint census of Black-faced Spoonbills undertaken

in both DPRK and ROK, together with the figures obtained from the International Census of wintering Black-faced Spoonbills, we could better understand the trends, population changes and distribution of the Black-faced Spoonbill.

Acknowledgements

Thanks must go to who have supported the Black-faced Spoonbill conservation activities in the DPRK and I hope we will have more supports and collaborations in future. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to those who have supported this project: Yat-tung Yu of The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Simba Chan of BirdLife International and Dr Ki-sup Lee of Republic of Korea. Finally, I am so grateful to Helen H.N. Fong and Ivan W.L. Tse of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society for helping preparation of this article.

References

Chan, S. 2007. Evaluation on the implementation of the 1995 Black-faced Spoonbill Action Plan. In: Hong Kong Bird Watching Society. 2007: 96-100. *Keeping Asia's Spoonbills Airborne: Proceeding of International Symposium on Research and Conservation of the Black-faced Spoonbill, Hong Kong*, 16-18 January 2006. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society. Hong Kong. 104pp.

Chong, J.R., Izumi, T. and Heizo, S. 1999. Captive breeding of Black-faced Spoonbill . In: Ueta, M., Kurosawa, R. and Allen, D. (eds.). 1999: 47-53. *Conservation and research of Black-faced Spoonbills and their habitats. Proceeding of the international workshop in Tokyo*, 12-16 June 1997. Wild Bird Society of Japan, Tokyo, Japan.

Chong, J.R. and Park, U.I. 1999. The breeding sites and distribution of Black-faced Spoonbills *Platalea minor* in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). In: Ueta, M., Kurosawa, R. and Allen, D. (eds.). 1999: 5-9. *Conservation and research of Black-faced Spoonbills and their habitats. Proceeding of the international workshop in Tokyo*, 12-16 June 1997. Wild Bird Society of Japan, Tokyo, Japan.

Severinghaus, L.L., Brouwer, K., Chan, S., Chong, J.R., Coulter, M.C., Poorter, E.P.R. and Wang, Y. 1995. *Action plan for the study of the Black-faced Spoonbill Platalea minor*. Wild Bird Society of ROC, Taipei, Taiwan ROC. 75pp.

Yu, Y.T., Chan, K.T., Fong, H.H.N and Tse, I.W.L. 2013. *International Black-faced Spoonbill Census 2013. Black-faced Spoonbill Research Group*. The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society. Hong Kong.

2012年夏季朝鮮西海黑臉琵鷺 (*Platalea minor*) 調查

鄭鐘烈
朝鮮國家科學院生物多樣性中心 及 日本東京的朝鮮大學野生生物研究中心

引言

朝鮮民主主義人民共和國的黑臉琵鷺保育發展史

二十多年前，只有少數人研究度冬的黑臉琵鷺，甚至對其繁殖地一無所知。即使台灣及香港的研究員已經開始度冬種群的研究工作，但是朝鮮半島的人們對黑臉瑟鷺的保育仍然置若罔聞。直到一張由朝鮮動物研究所副總監朴宇日教授攝得的黑臉琵鷺與幼雛的照片被日文版《牛頓》自然科學雜誌的編輯偶然發現後，並把它刊登於介紹朝鮮半島罕有雀鳥的專刊中，引起了日本研究員的注意。

之後我在高麗大學舉行的第一屆有關朝鮮及日本遷徙鳥的座談會中，彙報了黑臉琵鷺的情況。此次會議肯定了調查及圈養繁殖等黑臉琵鷺保育措施的重要性。會議完結後，一項圈養繁殖的計劃開展了，其時爲1987年。雖然計劃開展得並不是十分順利，不過它仍然成爲了國際間合作保育黑臉琵鷺的重要里程碑 (Chong *et al.* 1999) 。

於1994年在德國羅森海姆舉行的國際鳥盟世界大會中，黑臉琵鷺的保育成爲了國際議題。在此次大會中，我們彙報了黑臉琵鷺於朝鮮的現況以及提議了一些保育計劃。在大會之後， Severinghaus等人(1995)編撰了黑臉琵鷺的國際行動綱領。爲了配合行動綱領，第一個國際工作坊於1996年在北京舉行，當中邀請了7個亞洲國家及地區參加。於工作坊中，參加者共討論了以下數項保育及研究工作：

1. 進行問卷調查及單張派發以了解黑臉琵鷺的分布；
2. 於潛在繁殖地進行海上及空中調查；
3. 利用衛星追蹤遷飛路線；
4. 了解繁殖地及越冬地的環境及保育狀況；
5. 黑臉琵鷺越冬地點聯合普查；
6. 教育及推廣活動。

令人驚喜的是在工作坊完結之後的三年間，計劃快速地推行。於2005年10月，一個有關編撰未來十年的黑臉琵鷺保育行動綱領的國際工作坊及座談會於東京的朝鮮大學舉行。另一方面，各地區經過十多年的研究和保育工作，成功達成了在1996年的北京工作坊中定下的六個目標 (Chan 2007)。

現在，由香港觀鳥會統籌的度冬黑臉琵鷺的年度全球普查於每年1月進行。於2013年1月，統計到共2,725隻黑臉琵鷺 (Yu *et al.* 2013)。比較起由1997年第一次全球普查統計到的535隻，黑臉琵鷺的數目大幅上升。除了種群數字的實際增長外，統計數字得以上升

也建基於成功向更多人推廣對此鳥種進行野外記錄，令在野外找到黑臉琵鷺的機會增加，亦可能由於一些未被發現的度冬地情況惡化，令雀鳥分布更爲集中。

朝鮮的黑臉琵鷺調查始於90年代中期。1997年的調查顯示，少於100隻黑臉琵鷺於朝鮮西海上的島嶼上活動(Chong and Park 1999)。於1998年，黑臉琵鷺的數目上升至196隻，調查地區包括平安南道、平安北道及黃海南道。至2011年，黑臉琵鷺的數目上升至499隻(非公開數據)。

2012年朝鮮西海調查目的

黑臉琵鷺主要於朝鮮西海繁殖，所以於此處定期的繁殖地及聚居地資料更新對保育此鳥種尤其重要。2012年調查主要覆蓋朝鮮西岸，爲找出於朝鮮西海沿岸有黑臉琵鷺出沒的地點及生境，以及統計於朝鮮的黑臉琵鷺數目。

調查方法

調查地點

是項調查主要根據李起燮博士進行的衛星追蹤研究結果 (非公開數據)，以及當地居民的觀察記錄，於西部沿岸11個郡或城市選取了共32個調查點 (地圖 1及表 1)。

地圖1. 衛星追蹤研究初步識別出11個調查地區。 (地圖來源：Google Earth 2013)

表 1. 調查地區列表。

調查地區	郡 / 市
地區 1	宣川郡, 平安北道
地區 2	郭山郡, 平安北道
地區 3	定州市, 平安北道
地區 4	雲田郡, 平安北道
地區 5	文德郡, 平安南道
地區 6	肅川郡, 平安南道
地區 7	甕津郡, 黃海南道
地區 8	康翎郡, 黃海南道
地區 9	青丹郡, 黃海南道
地區 10	延安郡, 黃海南道
地區 11	白川郡, 黃海南道

調查時間

由於在繁殖季時，黑臉琵鷺主要散佈於無人居住的島嶼上，故此很難準確地估算出牠們的數目。因此，調查種群數目及分布的日子定於繁殖季尾聲，由8月下旬至9月中旬，其時黑臉琵鷺會大群聚集準備南遷。調查日子最後定爲： (1) 第一次調查：2012年8月30日至9月3日 (五天) 及 (2) 第二次調查： 2012年9月12日至14日(三天)。

是項調查主要分爲兩部分：(1) 問卷調查及 (2) 實地調查。

第一部分：採用問卷調查及訪問當地居民進行種群大小估算

問卷調查中總共派出150份附有黑臉琵鷺相片及生態資料的問卷予80名當地居民及30間機構，包括學校、農場及漁業辦公室。根據之前衛星追蹤調查的結果，向居住在附近地區的居民進行了大約40次訪問。問卷調查及居民訪問主要是爲了估計於特定範圍內種群的分布及大小。

第二部分：實地定點調查

是次研究總共於11個地區中32個地點進行了實地調查(表 1)。 每一個地點都進行了爲時由朝七至晚七的12小時定點調查，取樣間隔爲2小時。主要記錄黑臉琵鷺數目、出現的地點、生境、天氣情況、風速、飛行方向及行爲(飛行中、覓食或休息)。

結果

第一部分：採用問卷調查及訪問當地居民進行種群大小估算

成功透過問卷及訪問向超過3000名當地居民及學生介紹黑臉琵鷺的生態及傳達保育訊息。他們都對黑臉琵鷺展現了極大的興趣，並表示會更關注黑臉琵鷺的生態及其生境的保育。

我們同時亦希望以此得出當地居民過往目擊黑臉琵鷺的記錄及集群大小。問卷及訪問的結果顯示出朝鮮西海的黑臉琵鷺數目多於250隻。牠們的分布 (地圖2) 與衛星追蹤研究得出的棲地分布相似, 另外亦有位於黃海南道甕津郡及康翎郡的新記錄。於黃海南道的種群數目大於平安北道，主要是由於平安北道的發展較爲蓬勃，適合黑臉琵鷺的生境相對較少。

地圖2　由問卷調查及訪問統計出的分布及數量

第二部分：實地定點調查

總調查範圍包括11個分區中的32個地點，結果總共於10個分區中的17個地點發現了292隻黑臉琵鷺 (表2及地圖3)。大部分黑臉琵鷺都記錄於牠們在潮間帶泥灘覓食的時候。

地區1: 宣川郡 — 於円峯里的Nabi島附近區域記錄到12隻黑臉琵鷺，當時大部分正於潮間帶泥灘覓食。

地區2: 郭山郡 — 於Mok島的潮間帶泥灘記錄到2隻黑臉琵鷺。

地區 3: 定州市 — 於Son島的潮間帶泥灘記錄到9隻正在休息的黑臉琵鷺，之後向南飛至Island Ae覓食。

地區 4: 雲田郡 — 於調查期間未發現黑臉琵鷺。

地區 5: 文德郡 — 於西湖里附近的Yo島附近記錄到大量黑臉琵鷺，大部分正在覓食。

地圖 3　實地調查中黑臉琵鷺的分布地圖

地區 6: 肅川郡 — 於7月6日合作農場外的Haechang 河河口記錄到16隻黑臉琵鷺。

地區 7: 甕津郡 — 只於8月30日在甕津灣紀錄到2隻黑臉琵鷺。此處的潮間帶太小，並不適合黑臉琵鷺在此覓食。

地區 8: 康翎郡 — 於康翎郡的泥灘記錄到12隻正在覓食的黑臉琵鷺。

地區 9: 青丹郡 — 於青丹郡記錄到195隻黑臉琵鷺。大部分琵鷺都是在發現於9.18貯水池的閘口及附近的泥灘上休息及覓食。其他琵鷺於郡中的島嶼附近的泥灘上覓食。下午退潮記錄的黑臉琵鷺數目較上午爲多。

地區 10: 延安郡 — 於Yomjon 勞動者區中的鹽田中記錄到7隻黑瞼琵鷺。這是此次調查中唯一一個地區於鹽田中而非泥灘上記錄到黑臉琵鷺。

地區 11: 白川郡 — 記錄到16隻覓食中的黑臉琵鷺。

表 2. 調查中的黑臉琵鷺記錄.

編號	調查地區	調查地點	豐度	習性		
				覓食	休息	飛行
1	宣川郡	円峯里 Juk島	1	1		
		円峯里 Nabi島	11	2	5	4
		石和里 Hongen島	0			
		石和里 Rak島	0			
2	郭山郡	三端里 Sarapho島	0			
		三端里 Mok島	2		2	
		黃浦貯水池	0			
		高味陽貯水池1	0			
		高味陽貯水池2	0			
3	定州市	瑞馬里 Son 島	9	9		
		逸海里 Udon 島	0			
4	雲田郡	觀海里 Ppalgan 島	0			
5	文德郡	西湖里 Yo 島	21	21		
		東林里清川江河口	0			
6	肅川郡	南陽區鹽田	0			
		Haechang 河河口 (近７月６日農場)	16	15		1
		Haechang 河中游	0			
7	甕津郡	西海里 Karang	2	2		
		南海里 Sin島	0			
8	康翎郡	雙橋里泥灘 (近 Yonpyon 島方向)	8	8		
		登岩里 Teungsangos	0			
		釜浦區泥灘(青丹郡方向)	0			
		鐵山貯水池	4	4		
9	青丹郡	迎山里9.18貯水池	12	9	3	
		迎山里9.18貯水池附近的泥灘	154	154		
		迎山里 Yugeub 島	6	6		
		迎山里 Hyongje 島	20	20		
		迎山里 Uoo 島	3	3		
10	延安郡	Yomjon 勞動者區鹽田 (近 Yonpyon 島方向)	5	5		
		青花里 (近9.18貯水池方向)	0			
		Yomjon 勞動者區鹽田 (近 Kyodong 島方向)	2	2		
11	白川郡	域久道里泥灘 (近 Kyodong島方向)	16	13	3	
總數			292	270	13	5

總結

朝鮮黑臉琵鷺種群及分布調查中提供的基線數據對準備瀕危黑臉琵鷺的保護措施是非常重要的。在此次研究中，衛星追蹤調查(李起燮博士的非公開研究數據)及當地居民的目擊記錄用於擬定黑臉琵鷺的潛在棲地及進行初步的種群估算。另外，在朝鮮中以問卷調查及訪問來進行推廣保育的工作仍然是非常有效的。

在是次朝鮮西海沿岸調查中，於透過衛星追蹤調查、問卷調查及訪問識別出的地點進行實地點算，總共記錄到292隻黑臉琵鷺，分布於其中10個地區中的17個地點。其中共154隻是於青丹郡的9.18貯水池中的單次調查記錄的。不過，調查中記錄到黑臉琵鷺的總數相較起2011年的449隻下跌了35%。於2011年的調查中，記錄到最多黑臉琵鷺的地方爲青丹郡、甕津郡及延安郡，而今次調查中青丹郡記錄到最多的黑臉琵鷺，其次爲文德郡。

另外於同一時期，另外25名調查員於韓國24個地點記錄到1,125隻黑臉琵鷺。(李起燮博士的私人通訊)。比起往年的調查結果所得的1,186隻，今年的記錄到的數目下降了5%。無論如何，看到在繁殖期進行朝鮮半島黑臉琵鷺定期聯合調查的可能性依然令人鼓舞。由於緊張的地區局勢，已開展的朝鮮及韓國聯合調查仍有很多進步空間，例如協調調查的日子及地點等等。相信整合數年朝鮮及韓國黑臉琵鷺聯合調查和全球黑臉琵鷺普查所得結果後，我們可以更爲理解黑臉琵鷺的種群趨勢、分佈及數量改變等資料。

鳴謝

在此向支持朝鮮黑臉琵鷺保育的人士致謝，並希望將來我們可以得到更多的支持及合作機會。我亦衷心感謝香港觀鳥會的余日東先生、國際鳥盟的陳承彥先生及韓國的李起燮博士支持這個項目。最後亦感謝香港觀鳥會的方海寧小姐及謝偉麟先生準備此文章。

參考資料

Chan, S. 2007. Evaluation on the implementation of the 1995 Black-faced Spoonbill Action Plan. In: Hong Kong Bird Watching Society. 2007: 96-100. *Keeping Asia's Spoonbills Airborne: Proceeding of International Symposium on Research and Conservation of the Black-faced Spoonbill, Hong Kong*, 16-18 January 2006. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society. Hong Kong. 104pp.

Chong, J.R., Izumi, T. and Heizo, S. 1999. Captive breeding of Black-faced Spoonbill . In: Ueta, M., Kurosawa, R. and Allen, D. (eds.). 1999: 47-53. *Conservation and research of Black-faced Spoonbills and their habitats. Proceeding of the international workshop in Tokyo*, 12-16 June 1997. Wild Bird Society of Japan, Tokyo, Japan.

Chong, J.R. and Park, U.I. 1999. The breeding sites and distribution of Black-faced Spoonbills *Platalea minor* in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). In: Ueta, M., Kurosawa, R. and Allen, D. (eds.). 1999: 5-9. *Conservation and research of Black-faced Spoonbills and their habitats. Proceeding of the international workshop in Tokyo*, 12-16 June 1997. Wild Bird Society of Japan, Tokyo, Japan.

Severinghaus, L.L., Brouwer, K., Chan, S., Chong, J.R., Coulter, M.C., Poorter, E.P.R. and Wang, Y. 1995. *Action plan for the study of the Black-faced Spoonbill Platalea minor*. Wild Bird Society of ROC, Taipei, Taiwan ROC. 75pp.

Yu, Y.T., Chan, K.T., Fong, H.H.N and Tse, I.W.L. 2013. *International Black-faced Spoonbill Census 2013. Black-faced Spoonbill Research Group*. The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society. Hong Kong.

Attempted predation of Chinese Noctule *Nyctalus plancyi* by Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*

David J Stanton
c/o AEC Ltd, 127 Commercial Centre, Palm Springs, Yuen Long, Hong Kong

On the evening of 14th March 2012, I was making casual observations of Black Kites *Milvus migrans* over Aberdeen Country Park, as they headed to the large roost at Magazine Gap. At 1805, some 37 minutes prior to sunset, a Chinese Noctule *Nyctalus plancyi* was seen flying erratically over tall shrubland pursued by three Large-billed Crows *Corvus macrorhynchos*, which were managing to peck at the bat whilst in flight. The bat climbed to a height of approximately 20-30m above the shrub canopy as an evasive manoeuvre and then tumbled from its apex in a further bid to escape from the crows, when it was snatched from the air by a nearby Black Kite. The kite flew off with the bat firmly in its talons out of view.

It was not clear whether the crows were attempting to catch the bat or mob it. My initial thoughts were that the crows were attempting to mob the bat (for unknown reasons), because I assumed that the bat was both too fast and big to warrant predation by crows; Chinese Noctule has a head-body length between 65 and 75mm and a forearm length between 47 and 50mm (Smith & Xie 2008) and weighs between 19 and 29 grams (Shek 2006),.

Aerial hunting by Large-billed Crows has previously been observed elsewhere in its range, however, including birds preying on Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta affinis* in the Andaman Islands (Manchi & Sankaran 2009) and Lesser Short-nosed Fruit Bat *Cynopterus brachyotis* in Singapore (Seow & Subarai 2006). House Crows *Corvus splendens* have also been reported predating Lesser Short-nosed Fruit Bat in Singapore (Seow & Subarai 2006) and even prey as large as Indian Flying Fox *Pteropterus giganteus* in India (del Hoyo *et al.* 2009). Both of these bat species are larger than Chinese Noctule: Lesser Short-nosed Fruit Bats have a forearm length of 55-65mm and weigh between 21 and 32 grams (Payne *et al.* 1985), while Indian Flying Foxes are very large bats with a head-body length of 198-300mm and forearm of 152-186mm (Smith & Xie 2008). Outside Asia, the American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos* has been reported to attack a Little Brown Bat *Myotis lucifugus* and consume it (Hernández *et al.* 2007); this species is slightly smaller than Chinese Noctule but is similarly manoeuvrable in flight. Given that corvids are known to hunt bat species that are larger than Chinese Noctule, and species that are highly agile, there is indeed a chance that the three crows observed in pursuit were attempting to predate the bat.

Chinese Noctules are amongst the earliest bat species to emerge in Hong Kong and are frequently seen foraging high over suitable habitats before sunset. Records of bats taken in flight by Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo* and Peregrine Falcons *F. peregrinus* are not uncommon (Carey *et al.* 2001), however for such a fast-flying, manoeuvrable species to fall prey to less renowned aerial hunters such as crows and kites, ia unusual.

References

Carey, G.J., Chalmers, M.L., Diskin, D.A., Kennerley, P.R., 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.

del Hoyo, J., Elliot, A. & Christie, D.A. eds. 2009. *Handbook of the Birds of the World. Vol. 14. Bush-shrikes to Old World Sparrows*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.

Hernández, D.L., Mell, J.J & Eaton, M. D. 2007 Aerial predation of a bat by an American Crow. *Wilson. J. Orn*. 119:63-764

Manchi, S., & Sankaran, R., 2009. Predators of swiftlets and their nests in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. *Indian Birds* 5 (4): 118–120.

Payne, J., C. M. Francis, and K. Phillips. 1985. *A Field Guide to the Mammals Of Borneo*. Malaysia: The Sabah Society. p.173.

Seow, G. & Subaraj, R. 2006. *The House Crow and the bat*. Downloaded From [http://www.besgroup.org/2006/04/20/the-house-crow-and-the-bat/] on 6th August 2013.

Shek, C.T. 2006. *A Field Guide to Hong Kong Mammals*. Friends of the Country Parks, Hong Kong.

Smith, A. T. & Xie, Y. eds. 2008. *A Guide to the Mammals of China*. Princeton University Press, Princeton and Oxford

大嘴烏鴉 *Corvus macrorhynchos* 試圖捕獵褐山蝠 *Nyctalus plancyi*

David J Stanton
香港元朗加洲花園商場127號 AEC Ltd 轉交

2012年3月14日傍晚，我在香港仔郊野公園觀看黑鳶 *Milvus migrans* 飛返馬己仙峽的大型鷹巢。在6:05 p.m.，即日落前的37分鐘，我發現一隻褐山蝠 *Nyctalus plancyi* 因被三隻大嘴烏鴉(*Corvus macrorhynchos*)追逐而不正常地於高大的灌木林以上飛行，而烏鴉則追啄飛行中的蝙蝠。蝙蝠以攀升至灌木冠約20至30米以上，作爲躲避烏鴉攻擊的策略，然後俯衝而下，卻於空中被接近的黑鳶抓著，鷹爪牢牢地握蝙蝠並在我的眼前飛走了。

我不清楚烏鴉是否試圖捕捉蝙蝠或是在欺凌牠。我初步認爲烏鴉是試圖欺凌蝙蝠（原因不明），因爲我覺得蝙蝠飛得既快而身型大，對於大嘴烏鴉來說難以捕獵。褐山蝠體長65至75毫米，前臂長度爲47至50毫米(Smith & Xie 2008) ，體重爲19至29克(Shek 2006)。

事實上，大嘴烏鴉於空中狩獵也曾在其出沒範圍被觀察得到，例子包括於安達曼群島的白腹金絲燕 *Collocalia esculenta affinis* (Manchi & Sankaran 2009)和於新加坡的短耳犬蝠 *Cynopterus brachyotis* (Seow & Subarai 2006)。而家鴉也曾於新加坡捕獵短耳犬蝠(Seow & Subarai 2006)，甚至於印度曾記錄捕獵比自己體型更大的印度狐蝠 *Pteropterus giganteus* (del Hoyo *et al*. 2009)。這兩種蝙蝠比褐山蝠的體型爲大，短耳犬蝠的前臂長爲55至65毫米，體重爲21至30克，而印度狐蝠的體長爲198至300毫米，前臂長152至186毫米(Smith & Xie 2008)，屬於非常大型的蝙蝠。於亞洲以外，短嘴鴉 *Corvus brachyrhynchos* 曾被記錄攻擊一隻小棕蝠 *Myotis lucifugus* 並把其吃掉 (Hernández *et al.* 2007)，而短嘴鴉比大嘴烏鴉稍微小一點，但飛行時的機動性相若。衆所周知，鴉科鳥類會狩獵比褐山蝠較大的蝙蝠，而鴉科鳥類高度靈活，所以那三隻大嘴烏鴉確有機會試圖捕獵蝙蝠。

在香港，褐山蝠差不多是最早於黃昏前在合適的生境出沒覓食的蝙蝠，而蝙蝠於飛行中被燕隼 *Falco subbuteo* 和遊隼 *Falco peregrinus* 捕捉並不罕見(Carey *et al*. 2001)，不過，如褐山蝠這種飛行機動性很高的蝙蝠，成爲空中狩獵能力較弱的鴉和鳶的獵物則較爲少見。

參考資料

Carey, G.J., Chalmers, M.L., Diskin, D.A., Kennerley, P.R., 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.

del Hoyo, J., Elliot, A. & Christie, D.A. eds. 2009. *Handbook of the Birds of the World. Vol. 14. Bush-shrikes to Old World Sparrows*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.

Hernández, D.L., Mell, J.J & Eaton, M. D. 2007 Aerial predation of a bat by an American Crow. *Wilson. J. Orn*. 119:63-764

Manchi, S., & Sankaran, R., 2009. Predators of swiftlets and their nests in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. *Indian Birds* 5 (4): 118–120.

Payne, J., C. M. Francis, and K. Phillips. 1985. *A Field Guide to the Mammals Of Borneo*. Malaysia: The Sabah Society. p.173.

Seow, G. & Subaraj, R. 2006. *The House Crow and the bat*. Downloaded From [http://www.besgroup.org/2006/04/20/the-house-crow-and-the-bat/] on 6th August 2013.

Shek, C.T. 2006. *A Field Guide to Hong Kong Mammals*. Friends of the Country Parks, Hong Kong.

Smith, A. T. & Xie, Y. eds. 2008. *A Guide to the Mammals of China*. Princeton University Press, Princeton and Oxford

Sloughed Snake Skins as nesting material for Crested Mynas *Acridotheres cristatellus*

David J Stanton
c/o AEC Ltd, 127 Commercial Centre, Palm Springs, Yuen Long, Hong Kong

On 20th April 2011, whilst conducting routine bird surveys in the fishponds of Wo Shang Wai, I noticed two adult Crested Myna *Acridotheres cristatellus*, at a distance of approximately 50m. Both birds were carrying large items (c. 100mm and 300mm in length) in their beaks that I assumed to be large pieces of bread (which is often present around these ponds as food for fish). Both birds then flew off carrying these objects into a hole in the corner casting of a nearby shipping container, where the pair was presumably nesting.

Once the birds had flown, I was able to make a closer examination of the location where I saw the birds pick up the unusual objects. Upon approach, it became apparent that the objects were not bread, was the sloughed skin of a large snake, possibly a Common Rat Snake *Ptyas mucosus*. Common Rat Snakes are common in fish pond habitats because food sources, especially rats, are particularly abundant, especially around structures and stored fish food. Sloughed skins of the species are commonly found in these habitats in spring (pers obs.).

Quite whether the Crested Mynas utilised the snake skin as a nesting material is not known. Crested Myna nests are usually an untidy mix of straw, dry grass, pine needles, wool and other materials (del Hoyo *et al.* 2009), and it may be that the snake skins are simply another suitable material for nest construction. Similar use of snake skin for nesting is, however, not unusual in Crested Mynas in Southeast Asia (del Hoyo *et al.* 2009), although this appears to be the first such record in Hong Kong. The closely related Common Myna has also been known to use a variety of odds and ends in nests (Hume 1889), including snake skin (Ali & Ripley 2001, Ali *et al.* 2011).

Mynas are not alone with decorating their nests with sloughed snake skins. In North America, Great Crested Flycatchers *Myiarchus crinitus* are well known for their habit of including a snake skin in the nest or dangling it from the cavity opening (Bolles 1890, Bent 1942). It has been shown that the use of snake skins by this species may deter mammalian predators, particularly the southern flying squirrel *Glaucomys volans* (Medlin & Risch 2006). Other species reported to do the same on occasion include tufted titmice *Baeolophus bicolor* and blue grosbeaks *Passerina caerulea* (*ibid*.).

Other studies have surmised other reasons for the use of snake skins in construction of nests. In a Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* population in southwestern Slovakia, studies revealed that there was no difference in predation rates of artificial nests that did or did not contain sloughs, and it was suggested that snake skins in Great Reed Warbler nests may instead serve as a post-pairing signal revealing female parental quality (Trnka & Prokop 2011). It has also been proposed that Black Kites *Milvus migrans* in Spain decorate nests with bright materials such as white plastic as a

signal to keep away other birds of the same species (Blas *et al*. 2011). The reasons for such activity in Mynas is not known.

References

Ali, S & Ripley, S.D. 2001. *Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan, Volume 5* (2 ed.). India: Oxford University Press.

Ali, A.M.S., S. Asokan, R. Manikannan & P. Radhakrishnan 2011. Checklist and nesting patterns of avifauna in and around Mayiladuthurai region, Tamil Nadu, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 3(6): 1842–1850.

Bolles, F. 1890. Snake skins in the nest of *Myiarchus crinitus*. *Auk* 7:288.

del Hoyo, J., Elliot, A. & Christie, D.A. eds. 2009. *Handbook of the Birds of the World. Vol. 14. Bush-shrikes to Old World Sparrows*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.

Hume, A. O. 1889. *The Nests and Eggs of Indian Birds* (Volume 1). R.H. Porter; London.

Karsen, S.J., Lau M.W.N. & Bogadek, A. 1998. *Hong Kong Amphibians and Reptiles*. Urban Council, Hong Kong.

Medlin, E. C. & Risch, T. S. 2006. An experimental test of snake skin use to deter nest predation. *Condor* 108(4): 963-965.

Sergio, F. Blas, J., Blanco, G., Tanferna, A.;,Lopez, L., Lemus, J. A.; & Hiraldo, F. 2011. Raptor Nest Decorations Are a Reliable Threat Against Conspecifics. *Science* 331 (6015): 327–330.

Trnka, A. & Prokop, P. 2011. The use and function of snake skins in the nests of Great Reed Warblers *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*. *Ibis* 153 (3): 627–630.

八哥 *Acridotheres cristatellus* 以蛇的脫皮作築巢物料

David J Stanton
香港元朗加洲花園商場127號 AEC Ltd 轉交

2011年4月20日，當我在和生圍進行一次鳥類調查的時候，我看見兩隻八哥 *Acridotheres cristatellus* 成鳥，大約在50米以外。該兩隻八哥用牠們的嘴攜帶著一些大型的東西(長約100至300毫米)，而我估計那些可能是大塊的麵包(以作爲魚糧而放於魚塘周圍)。這兩隻八哥帶著這些東西飛往附近貨櫃角落的一個可能是牠們築巢的洞中。

當這兩隻八哥飛離開的時候，我可以走近一點觀察那洞中的東西。當我越走越近的時候才發覺那些東西不是麵包，而是一條可能是水律 *Pytas mucosus* 的蛇皮。由於在魚塘有很多食物，尤其是大量的老鼠會出沒於一些構築物或儲存的食物附近，所以水律在魚塘是很常見的。

雖然八哥利用蛇皮作爲築巢的物料鮮爲人知，牠們其實經常會利用各式各樣物料築巢，例如飲管、乾草、松樹葉和羊毛等等，所以牠們利用蛇皮築巢不足爲奇。事實上，八哥在東南亞被記錄利用蛇皮築巢並不罕見，只是今次可能是於本港的首個紀錄。而牠的近親家八哥也會利用各式各樣的物料築巢，包括蛇皮。

並不只有八哥利用蛇皮裝飾鳥巢的。在北美洲，大冠蠅霸鶲 *Myiarchus crinitus* 時常會利用蛇皮築巢，或把蛇皮掛在鳥巢出口(Bolles 1890, Bent 1942)。事實上有研究發現，利用蛇皮可以嚇退一些哺乳類動物獵食者，例如是南方鼴鼠 *Glaucomys volans* (Medlin & Risch 2006)。而其他物種，包括美洲鳳頭山雀 *Baeolophus bicolor* 和斑翅藍彩鹀 *Passerina caerulea* 也有類似紀錄(*ibid.*)。

其他研究也嘗試推測利用蛇皮築巢的原因。在斯洛代克西南部，有關大葦鶯(*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*)的研究發現，不管人工鳥巢有沒有蛇皮，對於被獵食的機率沒有分別，卻與雌鳥完成配對作爲訊號有關(Trnka & Prokop 2011)。而在西班牙，黑鳶(*Milvus migrans*)曾被利用一些光身的物料，如白色塑料等以作爲嚇退同類的訊號(Blas *et al*. 2011)。但我們對八哥這些行爲卻所知不多。

參考資料

Ali, S & Ripley, S.D. 2001. *Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan, Volume 5* (2 ed.). India: Oxford University Press.

Ali, A.M.S., S. Asokan, R. Manikannan & P. Radhakrishnan 2011. Checklist and nesting patterns of avifauna in and around Mayiladuthurai region, Tamil Nadu, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 3(6): 1842–1850.

Bolles, F. 1890. Snake skins in the nest of *Myiarchus crinitus*. *Auk* 7:288.

del Hoyo, J., Elliot, A. & Christie, D.A. eds. 2009. *Handbook of the Birds of the World. Vol. 14. Bush-*

shrikes to Old World Sparrows. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.

Hume, A. O. 1889. *The Nests and Eggs of Indian Birds* (Volume 1). R.H. Porter; London.

Karsen, S.J., Lau M.W.N. & Bogadek, A. 1998. *Hong Kong Amphibians and Reptiles*. Urban Council, Hong Kong.

Medlin, E. C. & Risch, T. S. 2006. An experimental test of snake skin use to deter nest predation. *Condor* 108(4): 963-965.

Sergio, F. Blas, J., Blanco, G., Tanferna, A.;,Lopez, L., Lemus, J. A.; & Hiraldo, F. 2011. Raptor Nest Decorations Are a Reliable Threat Against Conspecifics. *Science* 331 (6015): 327–330.

Trnka, A. & Prokop, P. 2011. The use and function of snake skins in the nests of Great Reed Warblers *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*. *Ibis* 153 (3): 627–630.

Guidelines for the Submission of Records

HKBWS Records Committee

Recording and record submission

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 the Society and other researchers can draw conclusions about 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 species that are common and widespread in appropriate habitat, unless these have been recorded as part of a systematic study. In particular, we welcome records of all but the most common migrants and winter visitors, of scarce residents or records of common residents occurring in unusual numbers or habitat. If in doubt, it is best to submit the record.

The Society prefers to receive records entered into a simple Excel spreadsheet as this facilitates 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, date, place, number of birds, notes and observer name. Observations can then be entered, using one row for each record. A sample and blank copy of the Excel file is given on the HKBWS website.

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 or is undergoing change. Further, field identification techniques for some species still require refinement. 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 those of rarities. The list of species for which substantiation is required is given in the HK List provided on the HKBWS website. Adequate substantiation in the form of a written description, photograph, video, audio recording or some combination of these is required if the record is to be considered valid and published. A standard recording form for unusual records (URF) is available on the HKBWS website.

Ideally, field notes of 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 projections, hind claw length etc).
6. The most detailed description possible of plumage and bare parts, and not just those considered helpful in identification, should be provided. 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. Vocalisations. Try to indicate the quality of the sound (harsh, piercing, rattling, hoarse, liquid etc), the volume and the pitch, 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.

If you are able to take reasonable notes of a bird but still cannot identify it, send in the description as it may be possible for the Committee to identify it for you. 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.

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、推動環境教育和帶頭實踐公眾參與，為完成使命全力以赴。

自然保育

推行塱原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。

政策監察

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

能源保育

分析香港的能源政策，探討及推動社區內的節能減碳項目。

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。

社區參與

推行「零山火」計劃，向市民派發菊花，感恩掃墓人士以鮮花代替燃燒冥錢，一起預防零山火紀錄，保護生態。

中國項目

在中國雲南省興建沼氣廁所，解決偏遠地區砍林燒炭引起的環境問題。

香港九龍青山道476號百佳商業中心1樓102室
電話：(852) 2728 6781
傳真：(852) 2728 5538
網址：www.cahk.org.hk
電子郵件：cahk@cahk.org.hk

長春社 The Conservancy Association

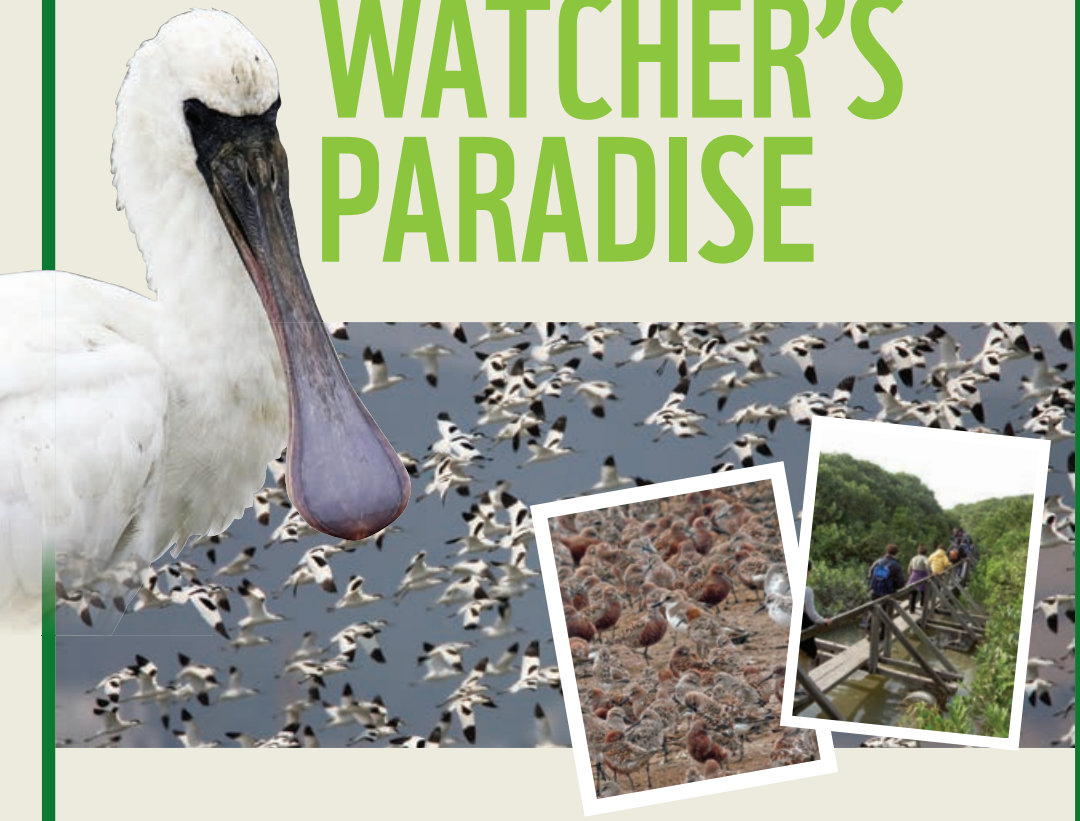
THE CONSERVANCY ASSOCIATION

成為長春社會員，一同參與本地環境保護工作！

MAI PO NATURE RESERVE

A BIRD-WATCHER'S PARADISE

觀鳥者天堂：米埔自然保護區



Mai Po Nature Reserve is one of the top birdwatching destinations in Hong Kong and throughout China. Visitors can enjoy the sight of tens of thousands of migratory birds, including Black-faced spoonbills, Nordmann's greenshank, Asian dowitcher and Spoon-billed sandpiper.

Your support to WWF will help to protect the diverse habitats in Mai Po, home to a wide range of species, and provide facilities for the present and future generations. Further volunteering and membership information can be found at wwf.org.hk.

米埔自然保護區多年來一直深受區內觀鳥者歡迎的雀鳥天堂。訪客可在此欣賞成千上萬的候鳥，例如黑臉琵鷺、小青腳鷸、半蹼鷸及勺嘴鷸。

世界自然基金會期待有您的支持，協力保護米埔這具重要生態價值的地方，令這裡繼續成為野生物種及自然愛好者的天堂。歡迎到 wwf.org.hk 了解更多義務工作機會及成為會員的詳情。

PHOTO CREDITS (FROM THE LEFT): ANGUS LAU, JOHN & JEMI HOLMES, NEIL FIFER, LORETTA LUK

Notes for applications to visit Mai Po Marshes Nature Reserve

Members should note that entry to the Mai Po Nature Reserve is restricted in order to minimize disturbance to the wildlife. Applications for permits to enter the restricted area will not normally be entertained unless the applicants are experienced bird watchers, scientists conducting research or on official duty to 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
Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices
303 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong

You should send photocopies of the following together with your application letter:

- HKID card or Passport
- Hong Kong Bird Watching Society membership fees receipt
- WWF-Hong Kong 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. Furthermore, it is a requirement of WWF-Hong Kong, who manages the Reserve, that users of its facilities are members of that organization. Relevant applicant forms for HKBWS and WWF-Hong Kong could be obtained from the following websites:

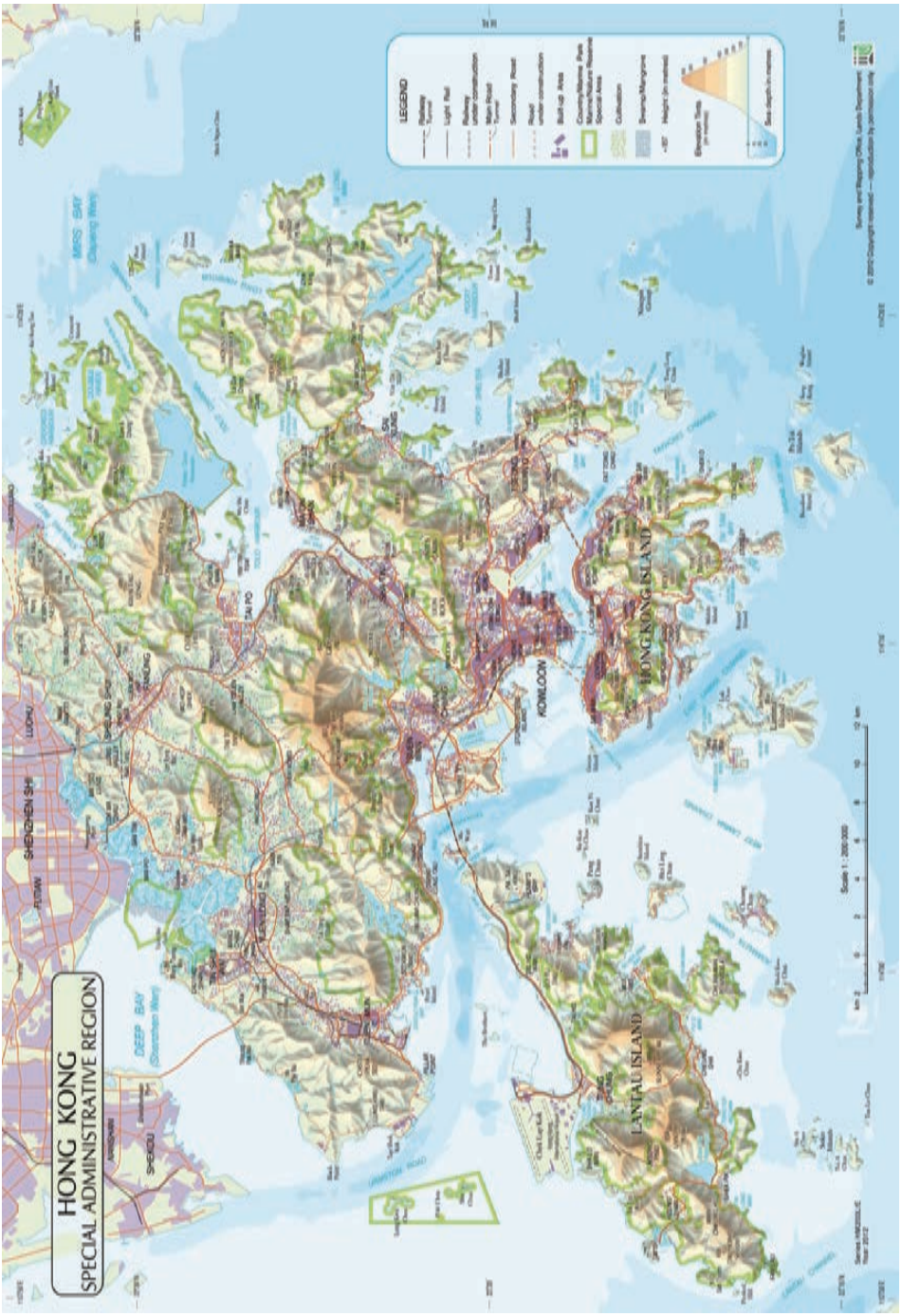
www.hkbws.org.hk/BBS/

https://apps.wwf.org.hk/eng/membership.php

Further details about access to Mai Po, including information about how to apply for a Frontier Closed Area (FCA) permit to visit the floating bird watching hides, are available from the following websites:

http://www.hkbws.org.hk/BBS/viewthread.php?tid=6183&extra=page%3D1

http://www.wwf.org.hk/en/getinvolved/gomaipo/



Absolutely brilliant.

The Leica APO-Televid 82 high-performance spotting scope.

Look forward to **pin-sharp and focused observation** – at extreme distances and deep into the twilight hours, too. This high-end spotting scope impresses with a wide field of view and sets new standards on the spotting-scope market.

- fluoride lenses for maximum color fidelity and contrast
- water- and dirt-repellent AquaDura™ coating
- precise focusing, thanks to the dual focus system with microfocusing
- extreme wide-angle eyepiece 25–50x WW ASPH.

Further information is available online at www.leica-sportoptics.com