



THE HONG KONG BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY

GPO BOX 12460, HONG KONG

BULLETIN NO. 135 MARCH 1990

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 1990 AGM will be held on Tuesday 27 March at 1830h in the Auxiliary Police Officers' Mess, 3/F, Beaconsfield House, Queen's Road Central.

When the business part of the meeting has been concluded there will be a slide show and talk on Poyang Lake given by John Holmes. Once again the evening will end with an informal dinner for all who wish to join in (venue to be decided on the night).

SOCIETY NEWS

- i) Changes of 'What's about' contact. Mike Turnbull has kindly agreed to take over the receiving and dissemination of recent sightings to relieve the pressure on Mike Chalmers. From now on please telephone Mike Turnbull on _____ (H) or write to him at 608 The Hermitage, 42 Kennedy Road, Hong Kong to report interesting sightings, dates etc. Only record cards should continue to be sent to Mike Chalmers.
- ii) The 1990 Big Bird Race. This takes place on 7 April so members are urged to complete and send in the enclosed pledge form immediately. Successful management of the Marsh is vital and the funds raised this year will therefore go towards management expenses rather than the acquisition of further land rights.
SPONSOR A TEAM NOW.

The next committee meeting will be held in mid-May 1990; if any Society member wishes a matter raised please contact one of the committee members on the telephone numbers given below.

Hong Kong Bird Watching Society officers and committee members:

Gavin Cooper	, Richard Stott
, Janet Stott	, Mike Chalmers
, John Edge	, Peter Kennerley
, C.Y. Lam	, David Melville
, Verity Picken	, Anthony Tse
, Michael Webster	0).

VISITING BIRDERS' TALKS

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society and WWF Hong Kong are jointly presenting a talk entitled 'Birds and Men' by Dr Jim Flegg on Monday, 2 April 1990 at 1830h in the WWF office at 1 Battery Path, Central. Jim is well-known in the UK for his television broadcasts so it is good to have this opportunity of hearing him speak on birdwatching and conservation. Please telephone Miss Cheng at the WWF office on 526 1011 to reserve a seat.

NOTES AND PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED

Preparation of the 1989 Report is already underway and as usual I should be most grateful for photographs or slides which would reproduce well in black and white for use in the Report; photographs will, of course, be credited. It would also be appreciated if contributions for the 'Notes' section could be submitted as soon as possible. All items should be sent to the editor, Verity Picken at C22 Carolina Gardens, 30 Coombe Road, Hong Kong

CHRISTMAS COUNT 1989 (C.Y. Lam)

The fifth Christmas count took place on 31 December 1989. In spite of the awful weather, a total of some 170 species was reported which is seven more than the number of species seen in the 1988 count. Many thanks to all those who braved the wind and rain on that day.

Species which were reported for the first time in a Christmas count included Mandarin, Ruddy Crake, Hoopoe, Blyth's Leaf Warbler, Greater necklaced Laughing-thrush, White-bellied Yuhina, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch and White-throated Fantail. The White-throated Fantail is a first for Hong Kong, but will probably be classified as a Category E (escapes) species together with the nuthatch. Reports of a few other species are being scrutinized by the Recorder. Therefore, the decision on who will get a copy of the 'Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Hong Kong' for putting in the correct guess of the total number of species seen will be postponed to a later date. A full report on the count will appear in the 1989 Annual Report.

(Roger: You submitted a report for Ho Chung without giving your surname. Please inform C.Y. Lam so that due acknowledgment can be made in the full report).

MAI PO UPDATE (Michael Lau)

The Peter Scott Field Studies Centre was officially opened by His Excellency the Governor, Sir David Wilson, on 22 February 1990. Lady Scott, whose late husband Sir Peter Scott did so much to initiate and encourage the establishment of Mai Po Wildlife Education Centre and Nature Reserve, was our guest of honour at the ceremony.

The first training course will be offered to a group of Vietnamese scientists and reserve staff from the Red River Delta in mid-April.

The guest rooms on the ground floor are for rent to keen naturalists when not being used by training course participants. The souvenir shop has been moved to the new Field Studies Centre and its opening time is from 2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends and public holidays.

The tower hide has been completed and for security reasons, it will only be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and from 8:15 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. on weekends and public holidays.

Goldeneye and Snew have been bought from the market and released into the Captive Waterfowl Collection, making a total of 21 species. Lesser Treeduck and Red-breasted Merganser will be added later this year. The birds from the U.K. are doing very well and we have suffered only a few losses so far. This project is very successful in terms of attracting wild birds into the ponds. Uncommon species such as Mandarin, Common Pochard, Baer's Pochard and Scaup have been spotted and some of them are still together with the captive birds. The captive waterfowl are still quite shy - it will take a little while for them to get used to people.

The mudskipper collectors are back! If you find them or fishing boats on the Hong Kong side of inner Deep Bay, please notify WWF HK staff at the Education Centre. At the moment, the government is looking into the feasibility of listing inner Deep Bay under the Sixth Schedule of Cap. 170, thus granting it the same status as the Mai Po Marshes. Keep up the struggle, folks.

'RAMSAR' AND CONSERVATION OF DEEP BAY/MAI PO (David Melville)

Following the opening of the Peter Scott Field Studies Centre at Mai Po on 22 February (see elsewhere this Bulletin) the question of the conservation status of Deep Bay has been raised again (SOMP editorial 24 February 1990).

Hong Kong has been a party to the 'Ramsar' Convention on the Conservation of Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat for over 10 years.

The Inner Deep Bay Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), recognised by the Hong Kong Government, includes all of the Bay east of a line from Tsim Bei Tsui to the western end of the Fu Tien reserve in Shenzhen. This area, together with the adjacent Mai Po Marshes SSSI, qualify for inclusion in the 'List of Wetlands of International Importance' under the Convention - this is recognised by both the Hong Kong Government and the Ramsar secretariat, but so far the Government has taken no steps to have the area listed. Inclusion in the list would not offer any legal protection but would be a clear sign of the Government's determination to safeguard the area (already demonstrated by the commissioning of the Deep Bay Environmental Review which outlined a management strategy for the Bay) and would result in their efforts receiving well-deserved international recognition.

At present Government is concerned that if at some future date it was necessary to change the boundaries to reduce the area, or to delete the Inner Deep Bay/Mai Po area from 'The List', it would be unable to

compensate by listing an alternative area. Clearly one hopes that it will not be necessary to delete the site in future but provision is made under the Convention for such action due to 'urgent national interests'.

However, the Government's worries seem to be unfounded. From Articles 2(5) and 4(2) it is apparent that Hong Kong's special situation of having only one major wetland remaining would be recognised and thus this need not prevent Hong Kong listing the area - this being confirmed by international legal authorities.

China is not yet a party to the Ramsar Convention but has sent observers to recent conferences thus indicating its interest in wetland conservation. This interest is also shown by the substantial number of wetlands established as National Nature Reserves in recent years, including Mai Po's 'sister' reserve at Fu Tien.

We have all worked hard to save the Mai Po/Deep Bay area. Now let's get it the international recognition it deserves. Please write to:

The Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands
Murray Building
Garden Road
Hong Kong

asking him to have the Deep Bay/Mai Po wetland placed on the Ramsar list.

HIDE-BOUND

Recent misunderstandings regarding correct behaviour while approaching and in the hides have been dealt with and it is hoped that there will be no recurrences. If, however, you do see any incorrect behaviour please report it to the Reserve Manager, Michael Lau, on 471 6306 immediately. A reminder to all Society members on hide etiquette will surely not be taken amiss:

Be as quiet as possible on approaching and leaving hides

Do not talk loudly when in the hides even if the tide is 200 yards out or there are no 'crippers' in the immediate vicinity

On no account walk around the side or in front of the hides

Do not stretch your arms out through the openings when pointing out a bird

Take up only a reasonable amount of space on the benches - move along to give others room when possible

Remember to close all shutters and doors on leaving

An individual permit does not entitle the holder to take guests on to the Marsh.

Carry your WWF membership card with you at all times when visiting the hides. These facilities have been provided by WWF and may only be used

by members of WWF Hong Kong. Spot checks will be undertaken by Marsh staff and anyone not carrying a membership card may be asked to leave; visitors will be able to take out WWF membership at both the Wildlife Education Centre and at the new Field Studies Centre in the car park.

CAUGHT THROUGH GREED

A juvenile Bonelli's Eagle was found on the Marsh in late January after having devoured half a Grey Heron; weighing considerably more than normal and doubtless suffering from indigestion, it was unable to take off. The hapless bird was ringed and measured before release.

HOLIDAY BIRD LISTS

It would be much appreciated if members would lodge a copy of their holiday bird lists (particularly those covering the southeast Asian and China region) with the Society library; this is for the benefit of other members when planning trips. Please contact the librarian, Peter Kennerley, on 833 2062.

BOOK REVIEW: THE AVIFAUNA OF CHANGBAI MOUNTAIN (Editor in chief:

Prof. Zhao Zhengjie) (Simba Chan)

Until the past few years, China has been virtually closed to foreign birdwatchers, so it is useful to check Chinese material for recent sightings. This book on the birds of Changbai, or 'Everwhite' Mountain on the Sino-Korean border, contains some 400 pages but there are no colour plates and the illustrations are very rough. Nevertheless, it provides useful information such as the description, distribution, population, breeding and feeding habits, status, and the inevitable 'economic value' of the avifauna of the area. The book has a checklist of birds of different altitudes and habitats, an estimate of the population of birds in broadleaf forests, a migratory calendar and a key to identification. So although it might not be used in field, it serves as a good reference to that area, particularly if you plan to go birdwatching in northeast China and Korea.

The book is written in Chinese, but English and Latin names are given. It costs US\$5.00, or Renminbi in equivalent, including p&p. If you're interested in this book, you can ask Michael Lau or me to show you a copy when you're at Mai Po. It is not for sale in local bookshops but you can buy it by writing to Prof. Zhao Zhengjie (18 Weixing Lu, Changchun Shi, Jilin Sheng, N.E. China), or contact Simba Chan (471 6306) before the end of June.

LEITZ BINOCULARS AND LEICA CAMERAS

Schmidt & Co. (H.K.) Ltd. are offering the following terms on the purchase of the above items : binoculars at 15% discount and cameras at 10% discount. In addition, at the end of each year the Company will donate the equivalent of 5% on each item sold to our members to the Society's accounts.

It can be pointed out that with the Trinovid binoculars members may be able to get themselves a better deal than 15% at the shops as, with the imminent appearance of a new model of binocular which will allow focusing down to a very short distance, the Trinovids may well come down in price.

Members wishing to purchase these items should contact Mr Jacky Chan on 833 0222. The office is on the 18th Floor, Great Eagle Centre, 23 Harbour Road, Wanchai. The member must be in possession of some form of evidence that he is a bona-fide member of the HKBWS by showing either his most recent receipt for membership dues or a letter signed by the Chairman.

BINOCULARS MINISTRAP

A novel strap for carrying binoculars or cameras without putting weight on your neck is available from the USA. A light adjustable man-made fibre cord passes over both shoulders to hold binoculars. The cost will be around US\$9.00. If anyone is interested please contact the Secretary on 524 9938 by 15 April.

CALLING ALL LISTERS AND TWITCHERS (Mike Chalmers)

Few of us openly admit to being driven on by the desire to increase our personal lists (and some even pretend not to keep lists at all!) However, most of us would agree that, if pressed, there is a certain satisfaction in adding that discreet tick in the margin of our checklist or entering that new name to our P.C.-based spreadsheet, especially to the group sub-headed 'Lifers' or 'Planet Earth'.

Last year Richard Lewthwaite achieved a remarkable year list of over 300 Category A to D species. I thought that this was worth publishing and, at the same time, decided to add a little spice by setting the record straight on some of the other highest local lists.

I was immediately confronted with the question of what should be counted. I decided to include Categories A to D of the Hong Kong Checklist, and not include splits published by others such as Yellow-legged Gull and Black-backed Wagtail. Because of ongoing discussions on hybrids I also decided not to include any Slaty-backed or Glaucous-winged Gull records. However, I have counted both Great and Lesser Frigatebirds based on Harrison's 'ampits', species in the hand and species pending acceptance. For this last group I had to face the thorny dilemma of A/D/E allocations. For the purposes of this article I have used the following assumptions (which I hasten to add do not reflect any decision yet made by the Records Committee):-

Category A: Relict Gull, Slender-billed Gull, Pied Wheatear, Two-barred Greenish Warbler, Ijima Leaf Warbler, Russet Bush Warbler (=Zeebit) and Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler.

Category D: Brown-breasted (Anderson's) Bulbul and Bohemian Waxwing.

Category E: Velvet-fronted Nuthatch and Pallas's Rosefinch (I can hear the jeers!). I have also retained Hill Mynah in E for the time being, contrary to Bird Race rules.

On this basis the highest Hong Kong lists that I know of at 11 February 1990 are as follows:

Highest Day List: 164 = 159A + 4C + 1D
held by the 'Stonechats' (i.e. David Bakewell, Mike Bishop, Geoff Carey, and Tony Lawrence) in the Big Bird Race on 9 April 1988.

Highest Year List: 307 = 299A + 5C + 3D
held by Richard Lewthwaite during 1989. Note that the 299 A species includes three pending acceptance (viz. Pied Wheatear, Two-barred Greenish and Russet Bush Warblers).

Highest Hong Kong List: 351 (as at 11 February 1990)
jointly held by both Peter Kennerley and myself! Peter's tally is 339A + 5C + 7D = 351 including three A species in the hand, four A species pending acceptance (viz. Slender-billed Gull, Relict Gull, Pied Wheatear and Russet Bush Warbler) and the two D species pending.

On the other hand, my score is 340A + 6C + 5D = 351 including three A species pending (viz. Slender-billed Gull, Ijima Leaf Warbler in the hand and Russet Bush Warbler) and one of the pending D species (Brown-breasted Bulbul).

The situation remains very active and may have changed by the time this bulletin is issued. For example at the start of 10 February we were both on 349. By 0940h Peter had drawn ahead with Thick-billed Warbler at Tam Kon Chau Police Post and by 1130h had added Slender-billed Gull at the boardwalk. By 1200h I had pulled back one with the Slender-billed Gull and by 1230h the next day had again equalised with Red-headed Tit at Sek Kong. Watch this space!

Highest Ringing List: 129 (A to D)
held by David Melville (including Ijima Leaf and Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler) but hotly pursued by Paul Leader.

Highest Number of Firsts: 12 (11A + 1D)
defined as finding or being present at the first sighting of the first record of any Categories A to D species in Hong Kong. Again held by David Melville. Note that six of his species were in the hand. The total list is as follows: Velvet Scoter, Pectoral Sandpiper, Glaucous Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Bridled Tern, Short-eared Owl, Blyth's Reed Warbler, Large Grass Warbler, Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler, Ijima Leaf Warbler, Chiffchaff and Grass Owl.

ORIENTAL BIRD CLUB NEWS

OBC Meeting in the Orient

Denis Yong (OBC Malaysia representative) is organising an OBC Meeting in Malaysia from 5 to 10 October 1990. Starting in Kuala Lumpur, the group will travel to Fraser's Hill on 6 October for a day's birdwatching followed by a talk by leading ornithologist David Wells and a night ringing session. On 7 October the meeting will move to Taman Negara where there will be three days of birdwatching in Malaysia's best-known national park. After the meeting it is hoped

that members will travel to Kuala Selangor to take part in the sponsored Selangor International Bird Race (to be held on 13 October, running over 24 hours), to raise funds for the Kuala Selangor Nature Park. For further details of the OBC field meeting write to Denis Yong, c/o Malayan Nature Society, PO Box 10750, 50724 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and for more information on the Bird Race contact Selangor Bird Race, Selangor Branch, Malayan Nature Society at the same address.

The Forktail-Leica Award

Leica UK have generously donated £500 for this award in 1990. The Forktail-Leica award will be given to a project which fits one or more of the following categories:-

1. A forest survey useful for conservation.
2. A survey or study of globally-threatened species.
3. A study of a little-known protected area.
4. Conservation education which has an emphasis on birds.

Project applications are welcomed from individuals and non-affiliated groups, as well as groups organised by a conservation organisation or university. Applications from nationals in the Orient region (which can include the support of an on-going project) are particularly encouraged.

The closing date for applications is 15th August 1990. The winning project will be announced at the AGM in December.

Applications, which should include a summary of objectives and details of implementation, should be sent to The Conservation Officer, OBC, c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Beds. SG19 2DL, UK.

Survey Grants

Information on the habitats, status and migration routes of many Oriental birds, and the threats they are facing, is urgently required for use by Departments of Wildlife Conservation and National Parks, by national bird clubs and by other non-governmental societies and organisations. OBC members can make valuable contributions by undertaking surveys. Examples include:

1. Contributing to check-lists of poorly-known protected areas held on national database.
2. Surveys of habitat types which are currently unprotected in the country concerned.
3. Surveys of threatened or little-known species.
4. Identification of migration stop-over sites.

There are opportunities for surveys lasting from a few days to a few months. Oriental Bird Club members visiting or living in the Oriental region are asked to consider undertaking a survey. The OBC will award small grants each year to facilitate and encourage such survey work. The grant will be towards alleviating the extra expenses incurred in reaching remote areas, hiring local guides etc, and is unlikely to exceed £250. Applications, which should include a summary of the survey's objectives and details of implementation, will be considered at any time during the year. Applications for funding are especially

welcome from nationals in the Orient.

Recipients of the Forktail-Leica Award and of the survey grants will be expected to produce a written report which will be made available to relevant government bodies and conservation organisations. They will also be encouraged to publish the results of their project in either 'Forktail' or the OBC Bulletin.

For further information on these initiatives or for help in developing a project please write to The Conservation Officer, OBC, c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Beds SG19 2DL, UK. Ideas for survey work were published in OBC Bulletin 10.

OBC Membership

Society members might be interested in joining the OBC which publishes two informative bulletins and an excellent journal, 'Forktail', annually. The Membership Secretary's address is OBC c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Beds SG19 2DL, UK.

OVERSEAS BIRDING

Poyang Lake Nature Reserve, Jiangxi Province, China (Paul Leader)

Mike Chalmers, Richard Hale, Mark Bezuijen, Dylan Thomas (shouldn't he be writing this?) and I visited Poyang between 9 and 14 December 1989.

After a traumatic overnight in Nanchang (discovering that Mike Chalmers wears pyjamas and losing a contact lens to the city's sewers) it was a relief to be out birding and get the first lifer on the list: Rustic Bunting. Well anywhere that has buntings must be good. And we still had things like cranes and geese to look forward to. So we all piled into our boat and chugged off up river, passing lots of gulls (which I would have counted properly had I known then how thorough the 'keeper of the log' was going to be!). We saw only Black-headed and Herring Gulls, which proved disappointingly to be the only gulls of the trip.

About half way up, we stopped to have a look at Dahu Lake and suddenly realised just what Poyang is about. Although the light was dreadful, and the birds distant, the thousands of ducks, swans, geese and cranes was a truly breathtaking sight. We didn't really get to grips with much but nine Dalmatian Pelicans, one Brown Crake, a Lapland Bunting and a Black Stork were of interest.

Being extremely enthusiastic the next morning, we walked down the Wu Cheng Peninsula to Dahu, hoping to get better views of the birds at Duku. The walk there was very productive for open country birds: lots of Water Pipits, Yellow-bellied Tits, Oriental Skylarks, 40 Vinous-throated Parrotbills, 3 Red-headed Tits, and six species of bunting including 40 Rustic, five Yellow-throated and four Meadow Buntings, one of the male Meadow Buntings giving really crippling views.

Suitably distracted we arrived at Dahu later than planned. The light was much better but still not wonderful, and the birds again were rather distant. However we plodded off towards the water and managed

to get reasonable views of stacks of birds including 700 Siberian, 1,200 White-naped and two Hooded Cranes, 1,000 Avocet, 1,000 Mallard, 5,000-plus Swan Geese, etc., etc.

On the 11th the lure of Great Bustards and Japanese Marsh Warblers took us to Ling Gong Zhou. As the whole island had been completely cut there was no long grass and no Marsh Warblers, but there were about 10 Pallas' Reed Buntings and lots of geese - about 4,000 White-fronts, and 1,000 Bean of which we had good views. Mike suddenly drew our attention to an albino goose which was in fact a Bar-headed Goose! He quickly redeemed himself, unfortunately, by spotting and identifying a small group of Lesser White-fronts. We then found the Bustard flock, 34 in all, which showed well and were for me one of the highlights of the trip. Very nice they were too. Due to our obvious disappointment at dipping on the marsh warblers we were taken to Bang Hu where at the very least we were promised long grass, which we agreed was a start (which completely confused Mark as he said he thought they were warblers). We did eventually find some long grass and after flushing some brown things, I erected a couple of single shelf nets I'd brought along for the very purpose of catching Japanese Marsh Warblers. As we started to walk the birds towards the net we flushed a tiny rail which when it landed, about 10 feet away, showed gleaming white tips to the secondaries: SWINHOE'S RAIL. We then caught three Japanese Marsh Warblers which were ringed on Chinese rings (another tick!). We flushed the rail another four times before leaving, and returned warm from the afterglow of a truly excellent day's birding.

The following morning we visited Sha Hu which yielded no real surprises although we found three dead Skylarks, one Oriental and two Northern, which helped us sort out the differences between the two. In the afternoon we returned again to Dahu and had our best views of the trip of the cranes. We counted 1,020 Sibes and 1,200 White-naped which with 10,000-plus Swan Geese, 1,000-plus Bewicks Swans, 2,000 Avocet, 1,000 Dunlin and 2,000-plus duck formed the most impressive birding spectacle I've ever seen (sorry David!)

The next day Dylan, Richard and Mark did the peninsula while Mike and I crossed the river and went to Dacha Hu. We did really well, seeing 350 Ruddy Shelduck, 27 Greylag and one Lapland Bunting feeding with non-identifiable Northern and Oriental Skylarks, Peregrine, 16 Hooded Cranes and a Snow Goose in with about 500 White-fronts. At lunch time we got the ferry back and fired by our success ignored warmth and food and headed off up the peninsula where we had more Yellow-throated Buntings and added Grey-backed Thrush, Red-flanked Bluetail, and Chinese Bush Warbler to the trip list. We returned cold, tired and hungry to find that not only had Mark and Dylan eaten a lunch for five between them but had been playing pool all afternoon. Unable to decide whether their birding needed more practice or their pool, we let the matter drop!

On our last day at Poyang we visited Meixi Hu. Looking onto Ling Gong Zhou on the way we saw that the Great Bustards had increased to 48. Meixi had two Black-faced Spoonbills, new to the trip, a superb Hen Harrier and 18 Snew, the highest count of the week. After lunch time we got the boat back to the pick-up point where the late appearance of the bus enabled us to get some last-ditch birding in which was very productive; a cracking male Merlin was very nice, two Red-flanked

Bluetails, two Bramblings, 450 Oriental Greenfinches, and hearing some cranes overhead I looked up to see two Sibes, and remarkably, two Common Cranes, the only one we hadn't previously seen.

The drive back to Nanchang was rather bizarre and a bath at the Friendship Hotel was a holiday tick (towards the end of the week there had been some disparaging remarks about personal hygiene but coming from someone who keeps himself even cleaner than he keeps the Hong Kong list, these were largely ignored!) These were followed by a very nice dinner courtesy of Richard which included about seven plates of chips - REAL CHIPS.

Including Dusky Thrush at the airport the week's total was 109 which must include some of Asia's best birds, and if you haven't been you really are missing out.

PO YANG LAKE - 23 - 28 December 1989 (John Holmes)

Nigel Croft, Mike Turnbull and I followed the earlier group a fortnight behind. We were not expected by the Jiangxi Forestry Bureau and thus relied on public transport. The airport bus was painless, but the hotel we found in Nanchang was like Ice Station Zebra. Having invested a few cents in a map we found the ferry the next morning without mishap. We also managed to get off at Wu Cheng - the right stop - after a windswept seven hours.

And the birds? Po Yang really is magnificent, and worth the arduous journey to get there. Generally we saw similar numbers of birds to the others. Our best bird by far was a Christmas Day Chinese Merganser seen to the east of Ling Gong Zhou.

CHRISTMAS IN KANHA NATIONAL PARK, MADHYA PRADESH, INDIA (John Ferguson)

It may seem to be a long way to go to see some different species but this trip started out as a tiger watch, and developed into such a complete natural history extravaganza that we wished more birdwatchers, botanists and biologists had been with us.

India has made great strides in recent years, not without strong political opposition, to preserve great tracts of land for the benefit of nature, and we were privileged to enjoy the benefits of the drive towards conservation and protection of endangered species. Aided by Mrs Ann Wright, one of the Trustees of WWF India, we trekked by plane, train, and landrover to the middle of India to spend Christmas in the beautiful forests and meadows of this 1945 sq km park. Established in 1933, and surrounded by a buffer zone which keeps the local farmers at a safe distance, the park is a grand mixture of lush forest, open meadow and high plateaux which gives the indigenous wildlife freedom to develop in a natural environment.

The open, 30-year-old landrover is not the ideal platform from which to observe the sights, especially when in motion over the rough tracks, but we did enjoy, with the help of our eagle-eyed driver, sights of birds, flora and fauna to delight the most jaded Hongkonger. At every moment of the day (and night) there are the sounds and sights of nature - bird calls, rumblings and grumbings and the rustle of leaves - and one must be totally insensitive to ignore them. I determined to treat

the tiger as a side show (five sighted during our five-day stay) and concentrated on the birds, which were in abundance at all times. Having been dissuaded from taking the ten volumes of ornithological mystery held by the Chairman of the Hong Kong Birdwatching Society, I armed myself with Collins Handguide to the Birds of the Indian Sub-Continent (curiously enough published by the South China Printing Company of Hong Kong) and found this to be an excellent spotter's guide for the amateur birdwatcher, although the pictures and text do not do justice to the many sub-species in existence there.

My modest list of some 80 species included the most obvious, and we delighted in the antics of the proliferation of Indian Rollers, bulbuls, mynahs and babblers as much as the stately perching of Crested Serpent Eagles, Pallas's Fish Eagle, Kestrel and White-backed Vulture, and the paddling Painted Stork, Pond Heron (Paddy Bird) and many species of egret, the glorious colours of the Scarlet Minivet and Blossom-headed Parakeet, Blue-tailed Bee-eater and Golden and Black-headed Orioles, the colourful Treepies and the comical Hoopoe in abundance. One frequent and unconcerned inhabitant is the Red-wattled Lapwing, joined by the Black Ibis and Racket-tailed Drongo, together with his more common cousins. The largest of wildfowl sighted were the beautiful Common Peafowl, followed on the ground by Red Junglefowl in all their glory, and the duck were plentiful, especially Pintail, Teal and Ferruginous (a problem for our driver to get his tongue around). The Grey Hornbill was occasionally seen, as was the Jungle Owlet, White-necked Stork, innumerable shrikes, bushchats, redstarts and weavers too swift to settle. In their various haunts, we found sandpipers, green pigeons, White-breasted Kingfisher and Collared and Spotted Doves and Blue Flycatcher. I was fortunate to spend a brief time with the director of WWF from Nagpur, who was more acquainted with the bird calls than I and pointed out several species which we did not sight. This was truly a feast, and I urge any birdwatcher bored with Hong Kong's count to take a trip to India to enjoy the wonderful abundance of birdlife which is thriving in this great country.

Return to Feng Xian (Gavin Cooper)

Having been invited to spend the Lunar New Year Holidays in January 1990 in Shanghai, I resolved to re-visit the reed beds at Feng Xian which Peter Kennerley and I had found in April 1988 (See Bulletin No. 129).

I was given a police car and driver and set off at the civilised hour of 0800h after a warming breakfast, the day being quite cold. We were able to cross the river by vehicular ferry and made the journey in about 1 hour 45 minutes and without any wild driving - the driver having been suitably cautioned by his boss the night before!

I managed to find the exact area again without any trouble and, after wrapping up extremely well, ventured out for what I hoped would be an exciting return trip. This was not to be however. Just as Peter and I had dreaded, the place had been either developed into fish ponds or ploughed over and planted with carrots, of all things - most of which appeared to be left to rot.

There were still some reeds round the edges of the ponds but basically the area had been destroyed. The weather became increasingly cold,

there was some wind and a slight drizzle, just enough to blur one's vision, so birding was not pleasant but I stuck it for three hours. This was much to the amazement, and, I believe, respect of the driver who thought I was some kind of hero (or fool) as he told me he had been cold sitting in the car with the heater on!

After looking over the area thoroughly I made my way through Feng Xian town to the coast and found that a massive sea wall had been built for thousands of yards along it, leaving no space for waders or other shore birds.

In those three hours I recorded only about 15 species, four of which were buntings including Rustic which was a new one for me. There were Richard's Pipits, Skylarks, Small Skylark and two Dusky Thrushes (at about the same time as the twitchers in the UK were watching one?) The only waders were a couple of Common Sandpipers, two Common Snipe and three Kentish Plovers.

The only raptor was a Buzzard, there was one Grey Heron, three or four Herring Gulls and a single adult Common Gull, a first for me in China. The most common bird (apart possibly from Tree Sparrows and Feral Pigeons) were Japanese Reed Buntings. There was no sign of Common or Pallas's Reed Buntings nor unfortunately was there any sign of the Chinese Parrotbill which gave this site its major importance.

If the ploughed area was left alone for a year I am confident the reeds would grow back and the bird eventually return. So perhaps, if I do return to Shanghai at Easter, I ought to give it one more go? On the catering front I had a very, very good meal in the town with some decent beer but best of all was the flask of whisky-laced coffee which I had the foresight to pack that morning. Oh yes, have you ever tried using chopsticks with woollen gloves on? Not all that easy. I do not think I have been so cold (I think it was around 0°C) since my last winter at sea off the Korea coast in 1952-53, which, if nothing else, tends to date me a little! (Only a little? - Ed.).

OUTING REPORTS

Lam Tsuen Valley - 10 December 1989 (Wendy Young)

Not a remarkable day by any means but nevertheless good views of the usual Lam Tsuen species were had by all, including an obliging Black-tailed Hawfinch which perched nicely on an overhead wire for some minutes, giving us all excellent views. It called as it flew off and hopefully some of us will be able to keep it in our memories for further use.

A most interesting occurrence for the day was a male Daurian Redstart which had taken an interest on its own image in the glass window of one of the village huts. The bird spent quite a long period fluttering up to the window investigating this image.

A total of 49 species for the day.

Wu Kau Tang/Lai Chi Wo - 16 December 1989 (John Edge)

This joint outing, attended by around 15 early risers, was blessed with

good weather and, as always, provided a lovely walk even if the birds were not too plentiful.

54 species were recorded, consistent with totals on previous outings. Once the group reached Lai Chi Wo, it became somewhat fragmented; as far as I know, no-one got lost on the way back to Wu Kau Tang, and it did mean that quite a lot of ground was covered. We had superb views of a male Scarlet-backed Flower-pecker, hovering very close to us and showing off his field marks, and of a Crested Serpent Eagle at Sam A Tsuen, where we also found a freshly-dead Chestnut Bunting. We were alarmed to find that the noodle-stall there was closed, but fortunately the proprietor reappeared just in time, with an empty box-trap on his shoulder.

The day's list was generally unremarkable but a White-bellied Yuhina was found at Ha Miu Tin, an unusual record away from its Tai Po Kau haunt, and Peter Kennerley and Paul Leader, with typical patience, managed to get a skulking warbler Bradypterus seebohmi (common name pending!) to show itself long enough to make a positive identification. They also added Greater Necklaced Laughing Thrush, Chestnut Bulbul, Chestnut-flanked White-eye and Tristram's Bunting.

Tai Po Kau - 6 January 1990 (T R Costin)

Over the past six months my visits to this area have been singularly uneventful, often struggling to reach double figures, frequently in the rain. So it was with some misgivings that I approached Tai Po Kau that morning in dull and overcast conditions. As we emerged from the car we were greeted by an Orange-bellied Leafbird and soon after by a Pekin Robin. Perhaps today was going to be different - and indeed it was.

The low tide at Mai Po assured a reasonable attendance and our party of twelve moved off in anticipation. By the time we had reached the orange grove one gent in our group had disappeared into the bushes never to be seen again - perhaps it was something that I said!

We decided to stick to the low elevation Red Walk and at the dam we split into two groups. The main activity was concentrated around the dam and along the path to the clearing. The anticlockwise group did not progress much beyond the Forestry buildings such was the abundance of birds. Mixed flocks of minivets, foraging parties of Yellow-browed, Pallas's and Blyth's Leaf Warblers together with White-bellied Yuhinas and Grey-headed Flycatchers delighted the eye, often at distances of no more than a few metres.

Along towards the clearing were Yellow-cheeked Tits and more minivets. In the clearing a male and female (no trace of orange on the breast - immature?) Orange-bellied Leafbirds gave us a rendering of their mimicry repertoire. A male Chestnut Bunting also perched conveniently. Our attention was soon drawn to the murmuring of a small flock of a dozen or so Silver-eared Mesias feeding in low shrubs. Seen moving with this group were the recent visitors, the White-throated Fantail Flycatchers.

The outing concluded with a view of the Velvet-fronted Nuthatch down by the car park. It had been a truly memorable morning for me, one of the best I have spent in Tai Po Kau. For the record we logged 46 species.

Mai Po - 8 January 1990 (Richard Stott)

This outing was held on the first sunny weekend following the dull weather of Christmas and the New Year, and had the added attraction of being an afternoon start. C.Y. Lam and I had been appointed to lead this dual-language outing and all this combined persuaded over 70 people to arrive for the outing. John Holmes kindly volunteered to become a leader too which meant that three groups of around 25 was a much more manageable prospect for all concerned.

One advantage of having three groups was that if one group only briefly saw something overflying, then there was a chance that the others got a better view and when comparing notes afterwards all would be revealed. This turned out to be most useful in the case of a Peregrine Falcon, which my group saw only briefly and against the sun, but others had much better views and were able to confirm our suspicions as to its identity. There were far too many people to even consider using the boardwalk hide which meant that the pelicans remained unseen. All four of the common kingfishers were seen by one group or another and there were good numbers of duck and waders on the pools inside the fence. The WWF scrape turned out to be rather barren. The Falcated Teal drakes looked very well in the afternoon sun and a pair of Tufted Duck was seen on one of the pools through the fence. Black-faced Spoonbills were to be seen feeding avidly and amongst those on the bank was a single White Ibis. There were a number of Intermediate Egrets present, obligingly not too far for enquiring telescopes. Generally, waders were present in good numbers if not great variety - Curlew, Spotted Redshank, Greenshank and Avocet being among those well represented. Among a flock of Greenshank was a lone Black-tailed Godwit which was surprisingly difficult to locate in spite of its larger size.

The passerines yielded nothing unusual, although a lone Yellow Wagtail was seen on the road towards the warden's hut. The total species was a modest 52 but it was a beautiful afternoon and everyone enjoyed the walk in the quiet of Mai Po.

Ting Kok Road - 26 January 1990 (Nigel Croft)

There were seven of us who met up at the Visitors' Centre at Tai Mei Tuk on the first holiday of the Lunar New Year period. We set off along the catchment which, although quite productive, was not as good as it had been earlier in the week. Most of us had excellent views of a Crested Goshawk perched on a nearby telegraph pole. We also had good views of Greenfinches and Red-flanked Bluetails but thrushes were mainly heard, not seen. The path down from the catchment to the paddy area was relatively clear and elicited no adverse comments - don't use this path until after the Chung Yeung festival in autumn. This area was disappointing, perhaps, understandably, in view of the extensive road works in process. The woods by the school at Ting Kok produced a White's Thrush. Along the seaward side of the road, we were able to bash through the old paddy fields which are normally very overgrown. Unfortunately the tide was in and it was not possible to do the coastline.

We recorded 53 species and then rushed off to twitch the Anderson's Bulbuls at Luk Keng.

Tsim Bei Tsui - 4 February 1990 (Gavin Cooper and C.Y. Lam)

This was a bilingual outing and the first one for which a bus has been hired, this part being organised very efficiently by C.Y. Lam. The traffic along the Tuen Mun highway was very bad and so we started about 30 minutes late, at 1430h instead of 1400h.

C.Y. took half the group, which numbered about forty persons in all, down the Fence while I took the remainder down the road. My group included a few visitors and the bus had been a godsend in getting them to the starting point. We covered the big paddy area thoroughly and eventually the first big pond down the wire before packing in at 1800h.

C.Y.'s party found plenty of duck including Gadwall and as the tide was high he had no trouble getting his group (mostly new members) to see the birds.

My party found lots of Grey-backed Thrushes, three species of dove including the Red Turtle Dove, Black-tailed Hawfinch and a Rose-ringed Parakeet which appeared to be the bird of the day for many in the party! It was an enjoyable outing with an easy pace, fair weather and plenty of birds about. The bus idea is an excellent one and I hope we can continue it.

The worst part of the day was the drive up to TBT from Ping Shan: virtually the whole area is now one big container dump and what little land is left is already being bull-dozed. It really is a horrific sight and one which can only get worse.

Tai Po Kau - 10 February 1990 (John Edge)

There was a strong police (and ex-marine police) presence among the eleven bods on this outing, which meant that everyone behaved themselves. As usual, we split into two groups going in opposite directions around the Red Walk; the weather was mainly overcast with temperatures in a pleasant range of 18-20°C.

We met back at the dam at mid-day and neither group was cock-a-hoop with excitement with what had been seen. When we started putting a list together, however, it became apparent that there were some good birds about, e.g. Orange-bellied Leafbird (3+ - this species will cause untold problems on BBR Day, imitating perfectly Crested Goshawk and Hair-crested Drongo, for example); Pekin Robin, 4+; several White-bellied Yuhinas; Yellow-cheeked Tit, 6+; Sulphur-breasted Warbler; Blyth's Leaf Warbler, 2+; Grey-headed Flycatcher, 2+; Treepie, Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike and Ashy Drongo. Minivets and Chestnut Bulbul one almost takes for granted these days.

Gavin's group got onto a green-backed version of the Great Tit, which has been seen in northern and western Guangdong but not, as far as I know, in Hong Kong. The day's crippler for me, however, was a beautiful Orange-headed Ground Thrush, well seen by everyone for several minutes at the very end of the outing, only 50 m. from the lower car park; for several in the group it was a 'first' and this individual had no white on the head or throat, though the two dark bars on the head were present.

Total for the morning was a good 40, plus an unidentified owl (probably Barred Owllet); thrushes were heard often enough but none was identified.

Sek Kong Catchment - 24 February 1990 (Gavin Cooper)

Despite very threatening and cold weather six of us turned up at the appointed place at 0730h. We were barely a quarter mile along the catchment when the drizzle started and this had turned to real rain by the time we reached the pig farm. So, on a suggestion from Nigel, we decided the other side of the New Territories might be a better proposition, it having been clear there when Nigel had driven in.

He had to go back home first and wash down his dog which was smelling atrociously, having rolled in something quite unmentionable. Two others sensibly decided to call it a day and Mark Nunns took the remainder of us home to Tai Po Kau for coffee and breakfast. When this was over the weather had become even worse so we all decided that home was the best place to be and called the whole thing off.

Notwithstanding the short time we spent on the catchment almost 20 species were recorded of which the Pallas's Warbler was probably the 'best'.

REPORT ON THE BIRDS (Mike Chalmers) (1 December 1989 to 28 February 1990)

December

Netting at Kadoorie Farm on 2nd produced a Chestnut-flanked White-eye, a Mountain Bush Warbler and the first record of the Central Asian race humei of Yellow-browed Warbler (PL). The same day a Yellow-eyed Flycatcher Warbler and at least six Robin Flycatchers were noted at Tai Po Kau (SPS), a Hoopoe at Shatin (NC), three Mountain Bush Warblers, a Brown Thrush and an Imperial Eagle at Plover Cove and two Robin Flycatchers and two Plumbeous Water Redstarts at Bride's Pool (CAV, JSRE). Red-flanked Bluetails were numerous and widespread indicating a large arrival with, for example, over 30 at Bride's Pool. On 6th and 7th a Bar-tailed Cuckoo Dove was found at Hok Tau Reservoir (RWL). The first two Dalmatian Pelicans arrived in Deep Bay on 9th and a Japanese Quail, Spoon-billed Sandpiper and, surprisingly, a Plumbeous Water Redstart were all recorded at Mai Po the same day (CAV, MT). A gull showing many of the characteristics of a first-winter Glaucous-winged Gull was seen off the boardwalk, but doubts remain over hybridisation due to evidence of secondary bar and tail band (DSM, CAV, PRK). At least one Black-tailed Gull was present in Deep Bay from this time, and a wild Mandarin turned up with the captive birds in the Mai Po collection (ML, RWL). A probable Pied Harrier was seen at Mai Po on 23rd when 22 Black-faced Spoonbills were also counted (CAV). A possible Shikra or Japanese Sparrowhawk was seen at Cheung Chau on 30th (MDW) and the Christmas Count the next day turned up around 170 species with another Mountain Bush Warbler at Sai Kung (ARL).

January

The new year began with the White-throated Fantail seen again at Tai Po Kau together with five Red-headed Tits and one Blyth's Leaf Warbler (JHCG). On 4th six Silver-eared Mesias, a Verditer Flycatcher and

male Hainan Blue Flycatcher were also reported there (NJGC) and throughout the month there were regular reports of several Orange-bellied Leafbirds and White-bellied Yuhinas, one or two Yellow-cheeked Tits, several Blyth's Leaf Warblers and Grey-headed Flycatchers. Red-headed Tits continued to be seen in small numbers at Tai Po Kau. On 5th and 6th a Red-headed Tit was also recorded at Cheung Chau (MDW) and on 5th a Yellow-eyed Flycatcher Warbler and at least one Chestnut Bunting were found at Tai Po Kau (RWL, WY). Also on 6th 42 Black-faced Spoonbills, a Ruff and a Brown-headed Gull were reported at Mai Po (RWL) while the next day four Penduline Tits were recorded there (DSM). New sightings at Tai Po Kau included a Northern Goshawk and a Velvet-fronted Nuthatch (the latter being presumed to be one of the birds seen in late 1989) (NJGC, JH). Two separate White-throated Fantails were also considered to be present (TRC). At Lok Ma Chau two Black Vultures were noted (JHCG) and a Hoopoe was found in Shek Kong Woods (NJGC, JH). On 9th the numbers of Dalmatian Pelicans in Deep Bay had increased to nine (ML). On 11th six Penduline Tits were netted at Mai Po (PL). A Ruddy Crake was found at Tsim Bei Tsim on 12th (RWL) and the next day a Sulphur-breasted Warbler and 12 Silver-eared Mesias (Category E) were noted at Tai Po Kau (MT). The Waterfowl count on 14th showed that about 38,000 birds were present with new high counts for Cormorants (over 3,400) and several waders, but duck numbers were considerably reduced from previous years. Other records the same day included a Hoopoe, a male Pied Harrier, up to ten Imperial Eagles and two Spotted Eagles at Ma Tso Lung (NJGC, JH, WYF). As usual Imperial and Spotted Eagles continued to be seen regularly throughout the winter in the Deep Bay and border areas. On 16th an adult male White-tailed Robin (Category E) was found at the lower entrance to the ZBG (NSG). The next day two mystery leaf warblers, possibly White-tailed, were watched at Tai Po Kau (RWL, MDW). On 20th a wintering Great Knot and Australian Curlew were observed from Mai Po boardwalk and remained in the area for several weeks (CAV, MIC). The next day a second-winter Common Gull was seen from the boardwalk (MT), a Brown Thrush and up to six Red-headed Tits were reported from Aberdeen Country Park (VBP) and two Grey Bushchats were seen at Kat O Chau (JHCG). On 2nd a Black-necked Grebe was observed on the pond in front of the rocky outcrop at Mai Po (MT) and seen on several subsequent occasions. A Brown-breasted (or Andersons) Bulbul was found at Luk Keng on 24th (GC, WY). This is a new species for Hong Kong and will probably be admitted to Category D. On 26th the humei Yellow-browed Warbler was retrapped at Kadoorie Farm and a mystery reed warbler was killed by a Dusky Shrike in a bird net at Mai Po (PL). The reed warbler is as yet unidentified but could be Paddyfield, which would be new to Hong Kong. The same day two Brown-breasted Bulebuls were found at Luk Keng (PRK) and remained until at least mid February. A pair of Rufous-necked Scimitar Babblers continued to be heard and seen at Aberdeen Country Park (VBP, WY). On 28th Pelican numbers rose to 13 at Mai Po and a Great Black-headed Gull, Baer's Pochard and flock of 25 Penduline Tits were also observed there (PRS, JHCG, PRK et al.) A flock of Silver-eared Mesias was sighted at Lead Mine Pass (PRK). On 29th a female Pied Harrier and male Marsh Harrier were seen at Mai Po (PRK, VBP), while on 31st 350 Dunlin were counted there.

February

The trees around the Police Post at Mai Po produced a surprise on 3rd with an Eastern Chiffchaff, only the third for Hong Kong (PL, PRK

et al.). All three records have been in winter and suggest a pattern of vagrancy previously expected for this species in south-east China. Other records the same day included 13 Red-breasted Mergansers, 80 Tufted Duck and about 30 Red-rumped Swallows near Tsim Bei Tsui (MIC) and a Brown Thrush at Tai Po Kau (PRK). Many of the species seen in January continued to be recorded there including Red-headed Tits and a White-throated Fantail (WY). The Chiffchaff was seen again at Mai Po on 4th (MIC) and 6th (RWL). A Styan's Grasshopper Warbler was netted at Mai Po on 4th (PRK, MT). Whilst looking for the Chiffchaff on 10th a Thick-billed Warbler was found in the same trees (PRK, MT). However, the biggest surprise of the day was to come later with the finding of an adult Slender-billed Gull among the Black-headed Gulls off the boardwalk (PRK, MT, RWL, MIC). This bird was conspicuous for its strong pink colouration on the underparts. It is a first for Hong Kong and follows several sightings in recent years in Thailand - this species doesn't normally winter east of India. The same day Pelican numbers rose to 19, and a Sulphur-breasted Warbler and Orange-headed Ground Thrush were recorded at Tai Po Kau. On 11th a flock of Red-headed Tits was reported at Sek Kong Woods, together with a Black-naped Monarch Flycatcher (MIC) while record numbers of 143 Saunders' Gulls and over 500 Curlew were counted in Deep Bay (GC).

An adult Great Black-headed Gull was seen off the Mai Po boardwalk on 13th (RWL). On 17th a House Crow (Category E) was found near the Education Centre at Mai Po and two more Penduline Tits were trapped there. Up to this point 14 Pendulines had been trapped with no retraps, indicating a probable passage of these former vagrants. On 19th 260 Grey Plover were counted at Mai Po.

On 22nd several needletails were seen at Mai Po during a movement of swifts and swallows which also include good numbers of Large White-rumped Swifts (KCS). The same day a male Fukien Niltava was found at Cheung Chau (MDW). The Niltava was seen again over the next two days, together with a single Red-headed Tit. On 24th a flock of Black-tailed Gulls was found in Starling Inlet (CAV) and the next day 41 were counted including one adult. However, the big surprise that day was the finding of the Slender-billed Gull at Starling Inlet two weeks after its first sighting at Mai Po. To complete the tally of rare gulls, a Brown-headed Gull was also located at Starling Inlet (PRK et al.)

P.S. For those quickly scanning the captive waterfowl collection, please note two ducks and several red-head swans recorded on 18th - please don't rush to claim a new species!

MAI PO TOWER HIDE

This new hide is now open and offers wide views of the marsh from the top floor.

STOP PRESS: It is possible that visiting birders other than Jim Flegg (see p. 2 and next page) will also give talks either side of the Big Bird Race. Keep your ears to the ground - more should be known by the time of the AGM, and we will do our best to publicise them.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LEADER</u>	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
24 March Saturday	Mike Bishop	Luk Keng/Nam Chung# Meet: Luk Keng car park	0730
27 March Tuesday		ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 3/F - BEACONSFIELD HOUSE	1830
2 April Monday		BIRDS AND MEN - WWF OFFICE Talk by Dr Jim Flegg	1830
15 April Sunday	C.Y. Lam	Mai Po* Bi-lingual	0930 - 1700
21 April Saturday	John Edge	Tai Long Wan Meet: top deck Tolo Harbour ferry. Check time with HK & YF Co. Leaves from Ma Liu Shui (Chinese University) where parking is difficult/impossible - best take KCR.	Ferry 0715
28 April Saturday	Anthony Tse Janet Stott	Mai Po^^ COMPLETE ENCLOSED FORM Bi-lingual	1400 - 1800
29 April Sunday	Paul Leader	Mai Po Meet: car park	0800
6 May Sunday	Peter Kennerley Verity Picken	Mai Po^^ Meet: car park	0600
12 May Saturday	Wendy Young	Tai Po Kau Meet: car park	0700
13 May Sunday	Mike Chalmers C.Y. Lam	Tsim Bei Tsui^^ COMPLETE ENCLOSED FORM Bi-lingual	0930 - 1300
19 May Saturday	Peter Kennerley Richard Lewthwaite	Luk Keng/Nam Chung# Meet: Luk Keng car park	0700
26 May Saturday	Clive Viney	Tai Po Kau - Survey** Meet: car park	0600