



THE HONG KONG BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY

P. O. Box 12460, G. P. O., Hong Kong.

BULLETIN NO. 140

JUNE 1991

Society News 1991 AGM

The 1991 AGM was held on 26th March. The minutes of the meeting, including the Chairman's report, are enclosed with this bulletin.

New Secretary

As was announced in the last bulletin, Shirley O'Brien could no longer continue as Secretary and the Club was looking for a new Secretary. At the AGM, Ian Tyzzer volunteered to take over. The Secretary is probably the most time consuming job in the Club, and we all appreciate Ian taking on the task. Thanks are due to Shirley for all her work, whilst in office.

Farewell Dinner for Mike Webster

As was announced at the AGM Mike Webster will soon be leaving Hong Kong for Thailand. A Farewell Dinner is being organised on July 24th. at the American Restaurant, Lockhart Road, Wanchai. If you wish to come along and wish Mike 'Bon Voyage', please complete the tear off slip at the back of the bulletin and return it to Ian Tyzzer before July 18th. Cost will be about \$100. We will be gathering in the Old China Hand, Lockhart Road, Wanchai from 5.30 pm onwards.

Outdoor meetings

As usual the list of forthcoming meetings is at the end of the bulletin. If you are attending an outdoor meeting please let the leader know you will be there, so that he/she knows how many to expect, and can plan accordingly. For Mai Po visits this has now become essential. WWF has asked that all participants on a Mai Po outing must inform the leader they will be attending, **before the meeting**. The exceptions are those members using the Society coach, who will have confirmed their attendance by completing the tear off slip.

Would leaders please make the effort to produce a short account (max. 250 words) of outdoor meetings. This is not just to fill up the bulletin, but to assess whether sites are worth revisiting, and at what time of year.

Wanted - Old Bird Reports

Does any member no longer want his/her old Bird Reports, or have any spare copies? There have been requests from overseas for the years 1958-65,67,68,76-78,83. If anyone has any of these Reports and is about to throw them out, please contact Verity Picken (tel 849 6985), who will find them a good home!

The new committee members, elected at the AGM are listed below. The next committee meeting will be on 14 th. August 1991. If any member wishes a matter raised, please contact one of the committee members.

Gavin Cooper
Mike Chalmers
Peter Kennerley
David Melville

Richard Stott
Simba Chan
C Y Lam
Verity Picken
Li Wai-ki

Ian Tyzzer
John Edge
Mike Turnbull
Liz Leven

Submission of Records

All records, including rarities and accompanying descriptions, should now be sent to Mike Turnbull, Flat 39, Buxey Lodge, 37 Conduit Road Hong Kong. Descriptions will then be forwarded to the Records Committee. Members should submit all records on the Society's record cards, for all species. All records should include the species' systematic number. This is of vital importance to the sorting of cards and the entry of data into the computer. Records submitted without numbers may be returned, as it is very time consuming having to add numbers to lazy members' records. **So be warned!** Systematic numbers can be found in the Annotated Checklist (1985), or in subsequent Annual Reports.

Revision of Records Committee List

The list of species for which descriptions are required has recently been revised, and is included at the end of the bulletin in advance of its publication in the 1990 Annual Report. The list has been considerably shortened by deleting many species which are now regular and no longer pose identification or status problems.

Luk Keng

Members may not be aware of the threat to the Luk Keng Marsh Area. There is a proposal to build a 27 hole golf course on the marsh and surrounding hillsides. The loss of what is probably the largest raised freshwater marsh in Hong Kong is very serious, and WWF are making major efforts to fight the proposal. At the moment WWF needs ammunition. If you have any records for Luk Keng, faunal or floral, which could help in establishing the ecological value of the site, please contact David Melville at WWF (tel 526 1011) as soon as possible.

WWF Habitat Survey.

The Luk Keng proposal highlights the need for adequate data on the habitats left in Hong Kong. WWF is currently organising a Territory wide survey of the major habitat types.

Any information on a favourite site, or your local patch would be very helpful. Again please contact David Melville if you have any data or want further information on the survey.

Birds of Guangdong and Fujian - Information needed.

Since March 1984 there have been various visits by Hong Kong birdwatchers to sites in Guangdong and Fujian. Originally these trips were organised with the help of WWF HK. Today visits are much more easily arranged, and this has meant that records of more recent trips are not usually published.

After his last visit to China in June 1988, Clive Viney drew up a record of species seen in the forestry reserves of Guangdong (excluding Hainan) and Fujian, between March 1984 and June 1988. Some of this information was used in the revised fourth edition of Birds of Hong Kong. Clive is now producing a fully revamped sixth edition, in English and Chinese, which will cover mainland Guangdong and Fujian as well as Hong Kong. He is also hoping to produce a systematic list, to be published by the Society, consolidating the information from all the visits to the area in recent years.

If you have been birdwatching in Guangdong (excluding Hainan) or Fujian since June 1988, please pass a copy of your records/ lists and any other useful information (especially field descriptions of species or races not known in Hong Kong, or inaccurately portrayed in Birds of Hong Kong) to Clive. Handwritten notes are very welcome, and full acknowledgements will be given. Please phone Clive on 573 6425 (H), 848 2322 (O) or send him the data direct to: 87 Mount Nicholson Gap, Stubbs Road, Hong Kong. Many Thanks.

Oriental Bird Club - Forktail Leica Award

The OBC, with Leica Cameras, will again be making an award in the field of bird conservation. This year the award has been increased to GBP1000, and will be given to a project in one of the following categories:

1 A habitat survey useful to bird conservation

2 A survey or study of a globally threatened bird species

3 A study of a little known protected area.

4 Conservation education with an emphasis on birds.

Applications from nationals working in countries in the Orient are particularly welcome. The 1990 winners were Zhang Yin-sun and He Fen-qi, who are studying the breeding ecology of Relict gull *Larus relictus*.

Closing date for submissions is 1st October 1991. Further details and advice on project development is available from Conservation Officer, OBC, c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL, UK.

Where have all the Egrets gone?

The numbers of breeding egrets in the Territory this year appears to be considerably down on last year. The Tsim Bei Tsui egretty appears deserted, and numbers at Mai Po are down by 50%. If you have found any new breeding sites this year or counted any of the traditional sites, please contact Mike Turnbull tel 517 1015

Birds of the China Sea

Shi Zerong, who led David Melville to the first known breeding ground of Saunders' gull, has recently published 'The Birds of the China Sea', a book with 250,000 Chinese characters, 20,000 English words and 10,000 Latin words, so even Linnaeus might find it interesting! The book is available for HK\$33 (inc p&p) from Simba Chan tel 471 6306. No-one in Hong Kong has seen a copy yet, but \$33 is little enough to invest for what at worst is a useful checklist, and will provide valuable support and encouragement to Chinese ornithologists.

Peter Scott Centre Mai Po

Don't forget you can stay now stay at Mai Po, and save yourself all the hassle of getting up at 4.00am to get on the marsh for dawn - you won't have to get up till 5.30! Contact WWF tel. 526 1011 for details.

Mai Po Update

Gei Wei 18

The earthmoving work in gei wei 18 will start again this September. The remaining work will need two months to complete. The large hide near the border fence between gei weis 17 and 18 will be closed during this period because the access floating bridge will be disconnected.

Tower Hide

To improve the habitat for birds in front of the Tower Hide, habitat engineering work will be carried out this winter. This will involve: deepening and opening the area in front of the hide with isolated small, low islands to attract ducks, herons, egrets and waders; retaining certain grassy swamps for rails and jacanas; enlarging the existing cross bund on the far side with fill material. Trees will be planted next spring, and hopefully an egretty will be established in time.

Voluntary Work

Volunteers are needed for removing mangrove seedlings in front of the Floating Hide on 21st September 1991, from 2pm-4pm. Those who are interested in body-surfing on liquid mud, or taking a mud bath with numerous mud skippers and crabs, please contact Michael Lau, tel 471 6306, as soon as possible. Spaces are limited!

Colour ringed Chinese egrets

Taej Mundkur of the Asia Wetland Bureau has been colour ringing Chinese Egrets on Shin Island, South Korea. The birds have green and white or blue and white rings. If you see one of these birds please pass the information to David Melville at WWF HK, who will make sure it reaches Taej.

British Birds Bird Photograph of the Year

Congratulations to Ray Tipper, former resident and still frequent visitor to Hong Kong for gaining 8th place for his photo of Squacco Heron, and 11th place for his Black-winged Stilt. The winner was Philip Perry's photo of a Mute Swan family

Christmas Trip to Kinabalu

The Hong Kong Natural History Society is organising a trip to Mount Kinabalu National Park from 22nd-29th December 1991. There are a few places left but numbers must be confirmed as soon as possible. Contact Donald Smith tel. 523 0774(O) 849 6805(H) for details immediately!!!.

Big Bird Race 1991

The eighth Big Bird Race repeated last years format in that it was held over two days, starting at 18:00 hrs on 5th April and finishing twenty four hours later at 18:00 on 6th April. Fifteen teams took part, but thanks to the timing of the tides at Mai Po congestion in the hides was avoided.

There had been a few worried teams muttering over the lack of waders at Mai Po in the preceding weeks, but Mai Po came good just at the right time providing some wonderful birdwatching (as well as quite a few species for the talley!). Tai Po Kau is best remembered for the torrential early morning rain, but it provided the Professionals Team with the Cooper's Crippler Trophy for their sighting of Pale Blue Flycatcher!

At the end of the day the Race was a tie between the WWF HK team and the Wandering Tattlers with 160 species. The Society team greatly improved its position on last year, coming in joint 9th with 138 (compared to last years 123 species and 13th position). Richard Stott and the team should be congratulated for all their hard work (and all the other teams of course).

The point of the whole event is to raise money for Mai Po. A total of \$1,259,219 was raised, which, whilst a little less than the target, was a tremendous effort in view of the present recession. Getting money was not easy this year and everybody concerned, corporate sponsors, individual sponsors, prize donors, team members (and long suffering families) and WWF staff and helpers should be congratulated on their success.

The Race

1st	Wandering Tattlers and WWF HK	160
3rd	Professionals	158
4th	Chinese University of Hong Kong	155
5th	Stonechats	150
6th	National Mutual /Scollared Cops	146
8th	China Resources	143
9th	Birdbrains and HKBWS	138
11th	Locals	137
12th	Ladies	136
13th	Mai Po	131
14th	All Stars	126
15th	Army	119

Trophy for team raising most individual sponsorship

1st Professionals	\$250,736
2nd WWFHK	\$72,257
3rd Birdbrains	\$43,895

Total number of species recorded was 217
Winner of the Zeiss 10x40 binoculars was Mr. Howard Gorges

OVERSEAS BIRDING

Oriental Bird Club Trip to Malaysia 5th - 11th October, 1990

(Rachel Tindall)

The trip started in the lobby of the Federal Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, when we all met up for the first time. There were 15 of us, with Hong Kong being well represented (Mike & Liz Leven, Diane Tonge and myself) - the others were from England, Denmark, Holland, Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia. The tour leader was Dennis Yong, who is the OBC representative in Malaysia and without doubt a world authority on Malaysian birds.

Early the next morning we set off by coach for Fraser's Hill, on the way getting good views of Blyth's Hawk Eagle and some Wreathed Hornbills, and arrived at the Merlin Hotel in time for lunch. After which we set off for our first real birding, eagerly clutching copies of King's Birds of S.E. Asia. Frasers's Hill is 1500m above sea level, hilly and

thickly forested - so most of the birds found there are upland forest species. We saw quite a lot immediately, the most abundant and visible were the parties of Long-tailed Sibia, but also seen were Black-throated Sunbird, Silver-eared Mesia, Chestnut-capped Laughing Thrush, Streaked Spiderhunter, Buff-bellied Flowerpecker and Cutia. We ended up at a private property called "High Pines" where we got great views of Blue Nuthatch. On the way back we came across a large bird-wave with Orange-bellied Leafbird, Green Magpie, Golden Babbler, Black-and-Crimson Oriole, Large Niltava, Fire-tufted, Golden-throated and Black-browed Barbets. Greater and Lesser Yellownapes completed a fruitful first day.

Back at "High Pines" very early next morning in the mist we were rewarded with a Brown Bullfinch. Then it was back down to the Gap for breakfast from where we saw a Black Eagle overhead and heard and eventually saw a troop of siamang (gibbons) swinging in the trees, which was a real highlight for me.

We then set off north for Taman Negara, changing from coach to boats at Kuala Tembeling for the 3 hour trip up river to the park headquarters at Kuala Tahan. Taman Negara consists of 4,343 sq km of dense primary tropical rain forest and the birds which occur there are lowland forest species, which meant there was practically no overlap with Fraser's Hill. Around the camp the most common birds were Magpie Robin and Greater Racket-tailed Drongo and also Large Green Pigeon, which roosted in large numbers in a tree next to the restaurant. The first evening there, we went out with torches after supper and were lucky to pick up a lesser mouse-deer and a palm civet cat from their eyes and eventually a Collared Scops-Owl that we had been hearing continuously landed silently on a branch right next to the path.

Our first day in Taman Negara was incredible, as we came across one bird-wave after another. We started off with Blue-rumped Parrot, Scarlet-rumped Trogon, Chestnut-breasted and Raffle's Malkohas, Black-and-Red Broadbill, Green Iora, Blue-winged Leafbird and various Bulbuls. All the while Dennis was demonstrating his incredible skill at identifying and imitating the bird calls - he was especially good at bringing the skulking

babblers into view for us. Next he really excelled by delivering the piece de resistance of the trip for me, after nearly an hour of playing the tape - a Garnet Pitta, which we all got good views of through the scope. We saw Black Hornbill several times and frequently heard Rhinoceros and Helmeted Hornbills, but never managed to see them. To complete a perfect day we later came across a Red-bearded Bee-eater, which posed beautifully for us, Green Broadbill, Asian Fairy Bluebird, Black-and-Yellow Broadbill, Brown Barbet, Buff-necked and Rufous Woodpeckers.

Not surprisingly the next day was a lot quieter, Dennis took us on a different trail in the hope of seeing some of the impressive pheasants which are found in the park. Although we heard the Great Argus close by, it remained out of sight. The only new birds of interest were Greater Green Leafbird, Red-throated Barbet, Crested Serpent-Eagle, Sultan Tits, Bronzed Drongo and Black-thighed Falconet. Only three of us saw a Banded Pitta, which was tantalizingly close, but we all did manage (eventually) to see a Large Wren-babbler after what seemed like hours of tape playing and standing motionless, peering into the undergrowth.

The last day we were lucky to encounter a bird-wave with Black-capped Babbler, Dark-throated Oriole and Crested Jay. Then we all finally got to see White-rumped Shama really well and Siberian Blue Robin. We spent about 2 hours trying to flush out a Rail Babbler, which everyone was keen to see. It eventually ran across the path but only two or three people saw it fleetingly. Luckily we saw two huge squirrels high up in a tree soon afterwards - a Giant Black Squirrel and a Prevost's Squirrel - which cheered everybody up. On that note we decided to call it a day at an idyllic swimming hole in the river and all dived in.

The last morning one of the party went out alone before breakfast and found three male Crested Firebacks, causing much envy, and bringing the total for the trip to 160. As we all said our farewells, everyone agreed that since this, the first O.B.C. trip actually in the Orient, had been very successful.

Sabah 23-30 December 1990

(John Edge)

I had long wanted to visit Sabah, having bought Smythies "Birds of Borneo" ten years ago, and I decided to forego the rigours of a Hong Kong Christmas in favour of some birding and a gentle stroll up Mount Kinabalu. A wise choice, I think; some of the birding was terrific and the climb up Kinabalu was both testing and rewarding. Armed with plenty of practical advice from Karen Phillipps, Smythies as aforesaid, King's "Birds of South-East Asia" and the Pocket Guide to the Birds of Borneo (poor colours but portable) I spent one day in Kota Kinabalu, three full days in Kinabalu National Park and a day and a half at Poring on the lower slopes of Kinabalu; the latter should be as famous for its birds as for its hot springs. In the following article, common names are as per Smythies, scientific names are only used to avoid confusion, or if the bird is of particular interest.

My room at the Hyatt in Kota Kinabalu was on the top floor and, fortunately for me, facing inland. Mount Kinabalu was clear and dominated the town, even though it was about 50 miles away. From the balcony I quickly picked up the "town birds", the first being White-breasted Wood Swallow; others included White-bellied Swiftlet, House Swift and Philippine Glossy Starling. Chestnut Munias were nesting in a large pot plant at the side of the hotel. A scan over the sea produced nothing so I spent several hours on Signal Hill, KK's Peak, with some splendid houses set amongst impressive trees; there is also plenty of secondary growth and scrubby hill-sides. Birds seen here included Blue-throated Bee-eater, Red-tailed Tailorbird, Striped Tit-babbler and Crested Goshawk.

In the afternoon I went back over Signal Hill and found a nice, if rather scruffy, piece of wetland on the far side, marked "Reserve" on the city map but otherwise anonymous; it appears to be difficult to get really close to it. This session added Orange-bellied Flower-pecker, (Indian) Grackle, Brown-throated Sunbird, Purple Heron, Pacific Swallow, Collared Kingfisher (unmistakeable!), Pied Triller and the impressive Green Imperial Pigeon. KK had produced 31 species in generally

pleasant surroundings.

I hired a car to take me to Kinabalu National Park. The Park Headquarters are situated in original tropical montane forest and the trails are lovely for walking; the Kiau View trail, which I did twice, was the best for birds, while the Liwagu circuit was the most beautiful, but thin on birds - eighteen species in almost five hours, but they did include White-browed Shrike Babbler. There are many shorter trails around the Headquarters themselves.

The Park generally was short on quantity but long on quality. I had six Bornean endemics here - Chestnut-crested Babbler *Yuhina everetti*, Mountain Wren-babbler *Napothera crassa*, Mountain Blackeye *Chlorocharis emiliae*, Short-tailed Bush Warbler *Cettia whiteheadi*, Bornean Mountain Whistler *Pachycephala hypoxantha* and the totally-crippling Whitehead's Broadbill *Calyptomena whiteheadi*. All these birds have their attractions: the Yuhinas were common, and flocked noisily like the Collared Siva; the Blackeye was often one's only avian companion high up the mountain; the Wren-babbler was much more handsome than illustrations indicate and, on the Kiau View trail, forms confiding flocks of up to six; the Bush-warbler is more brightly coloured than its Hong Kong namesake, with a very creamy eyebrow and mouse-like behaviour; and as for the Broadbill: it is a large (10"), short-tailed, round-bodied lime green bird with black streaking, a black throat and an impressive "umbrella". A stunner, which does not keep to the canopy and is therefore quite easy to see; even better, it does not mind being watched.

Other good birds here were Indigo and Snowy-browed Flycatchers, Wreathed Hornbill, Golden-naped Barbet, Chestnut-capped and Grey-and-Brown Laughing-thrushes, Scarlet Sunbird, White-crowned Forktail, Short-tailed Green Magpie, Black-capped White-eye, Mountain Scops Owl and Mountain Blackbird.

The walk up the mountain was spread over two days. I shared a guide with a New Zealand couple on their honeymoon and we started out from 6,000' at 0800 on Christmas Day, reaching Laban Rata Resthouse at 11,000' at 1230. We reached the summit (Low's Peak - 13,455') at 0530, before dawn,

on Boxing Day. We were first there and joined by others later for a spectacular sunrise. The cold soon drove us off the summit and after a rest at Laban Rata we got back to Headquarters at 1300. Above the treeline, the only birds were the Blackeye and the Blackbird; I missed the endemic Kinabalu Friendly Warbler which has been forced off the main trail by sheer numbers of people. Local knowledge is necessary for this one, but our guide could not help.

At Headquarters I met three English birders who were on a month's tour of Malaysia and Indonesia - Nick Cobb, Nigel Wheatley and Alan Mansfield. We shared my prearranged car to Poring and I was extremely grateful to have them around, for the extra pairs of eyes, their expertise and their congenial company. After buying our victuals and visiting a bank at Ranau, we walked up to Langanan waterfall in the afternoon, where the 'special' of the bamboo is Whitehead's Spider-hunter; only Alan saw it and it was virtually a birdless trail, wet and very humid. That was the only disappointing session of the week.

I need not have worried; the next day was phenomenal, with all the birds seen within a short distance of the hot springs. The pre-breakfast list is mouthwatering: Straw-headed, Spectacled, Grey-cheeked and Black-headed Bulbuls; Red-billed and Chestnut-breasted Malcohas; Cinnamon-rumped and Red-naped Trogons; Grey-breasted and Yellow-eared Spiderhunters; Dark-throated Oriole, Asian Fairy Bluebird, Purple-naped Sunbird and Siberian Blue Robin - among others. After a break for refreshments we spent two hours on the canopy walkway, suspended high up between huge trees; we did not see many birds here, but it must be included in any itinerary - its potential is enormous even though it does not open until, I think, 0900. On the way back to base we hit an impressive bird-wave of not more than thirty birds, but of at least a dozen different species. These included Chestnut-backed Scimitar Babbler, Black-naped Monarch and Maroon-breasted Flycatchers (the latter is large and bulky, and looks black in poor light; a bird of secondary growth); Maroon Woodpecker, which likes to start climbing trees right from the base; Spotted Fantail, White-bellied Yuhina, Crimson-breasted Flowerpecker, Yellow-bellied Bulbul, and the spectacular Black-

and-red Broadbill and Crested Jay. Further digging around the hot springs produced Raffles' Malkoha, Long-billed Spiderhunter, Plain Sunbird, Golden-whiskered Barbet and the very smart Black-and-yellow Broadbill. Quite a day.

Early the next morning we found a staked-out Rufous-collared Kingfisher, a real depths-of-the-forest job, before taking a car back to KK. All in all, it had been an excellent week; my tally was 137 species, of which at least half were new and of these, the Broadbills were probably the most exiting. I am now contemplating a trip to Danum Valley to look for hornbills and pittas - the others went there after my return to Hong Kong and had their best birding of the trip; Nigel has provided me with details of how to organise this, together with a copy of their trip-list.

Lastly, a tip to anyone visiting Kinabalu Park Headquarters - avoid lunch at the main restaurant, as individuals or small groups are virtually ignored in favour of the busloads of day-trippers; it is an awful waste of good birding time.

Nan Kun Shan 26-29 April 1991

(C.N. Ng)

C.Y. Lam, W.K. Li, H.F. Cheung and I made a visit to Na Kun Shan at the end of April this year, apparently the first local Chinese team ever to have visited this well-known reserve in Guangdong. We took an early morning through train to Guangzhou where we changed to a motor vehicle prearranged by the Forestry Bureau for Nan Kun Shan (NKS).

We arrived at the Reserve Headquarters in the early afternoon and started our birding almost straight away - I mean after a pretty full meal. We were immediately rewarded by seeing four Black Bazas displaying superb aerobatics right above us and a Slaty-backed Forktail on the side of a small pond next to our hotel. Not a bad start, I suppose.

Since we had only two and a half days at NKS, we decided to visit each type of habitat once except for the catchment close to the Reserve Headquarters where we would spend various odd hours. The weather was generally fine but with occasional light rain.

The catchwater near the Reserve Headquarters provided an excellent birdwatching trail, in fact we saw more birds here than at any other site at NKS. Chestnut Bulbul, Hair-crested Drongo, Grey-throated Minivet and Treepie were very common here. Other interesting birds we saw included Red-winged Crested Cuckoo, Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush, Short-eared Owl, White-cheeked Grey Drongo and Black-capped Kingfisher. We also heard the calls of Collared Pygmy Owllet and Brown Hawk Owl, the latter was in fact heard from the hotel at night.

The second day was spent in the climax forest. At our request a local policeman was brought in to act as a guide and he took us into the forest to retrace a path used by the previous group in 1989. The trail itself, though a pleasant walk, proved to be somewhat of a disappointment with birds being hard to come by. This is probably due to the increasing human disturbance in this part of the Reserve - we were passed by a group of tea collectors and several loggers on the way up to the Reserve. By the time we reached the top of the trail near the southern boundary of the Reserve only 12 species has been recorded of which a Barred Owllet, several Grey-cheeked Fulvettas and White-bellied Yuhinas, a White-cheeked Laughingthrush and a Brown-capped Fulvetta were most interesting.

The return journey to Sheung Ping was more exciting though. As we did not wish to retrace our path of the morning, we took a different route down the valley and thus ventured into a more remote part of the Reserve which turned out to be the territory of poachers. En route we met with more than a dozen animal traps which were so skilfully made that even the human beings found them difficult to avoid and one of our party embarrassingly fell into one. However, he was not the sole victim - a lot of bird feathers with black and white streaks were also found near some traps. According to our guide these would have come from struggling 'Mountain Cocks' - the local name for Silver Pheasants.

On the third and final full day we took in the catchment early, getting two Horsefield's Goshawks, a Mountain Hawk-eagle, two Mountain Bulbuls and, at last, an obliging White-crowned Forktail on the path. However, the rest of the day was unremarkable. In the

morning we visited the edge of a bamboo forest near the waterfall and found very little except rain. When the weather brightened up in the afternoon we went to the reservoir area and only saw several Blue Magpies, a couple of White Wagtails and the inevitable Chestnut Bulbuls.

On the last day we managed to do a bit of birding in the catchment before we left NKS at about 9 am. This little bit of extra effort was rewarded with two Rufous-necked Scimitar Babblers, a Speckled Piculet and a Jay.

In order to avoid traffic jams on the outskirts of Guangzhou we took our motor vehicle to Weizhou where we changed to a taxi for Shenzhen.

A final note: the birding at NKS was quite good but the birds were extremely wary and it was not hard to see why as every adult male we came across told us of his experience of shooting birds - mainly doves and 'mountain cocks'. Indeed any visitor can have a go if he or she likes, a shotgun can be hired at only 20 dollars a day at NKS.

OUTING REPORTS

Mai Po 3rd March 1991

(John Edge and C.Y.Lam)

Twenty-eight members turned up on a cool, overcast and fresh morning for this bilingual outing. C.Y. took one group onto the boardwalk while my group went clockwise around the marsh; time (and tide) did not permit us to get onto the boardwalk. The captive wildfowl collection attracted a lot of attention; it is a good means of getting to recognise species one might see in the wild.

Notables included 10 Dalmation Pelicans on Deep Bay, one of which soared elegantly over the marsh at the end of the outing; both spoonbills, two Mallard, Imperial and Spotted Eagles, a Peregrine, a fair spread of waders including some early arriving Curlew-sandpipers, 26 Saunders' Gulls (on the marsh), up to 70 Silky Starlings in the casuarinas, and a probable Yellow-browed Bunting in the same area. Before the outing started, four Chinese Greenfinches flew over the carpark and a superb male Rubythroat

was in the bushes next to it.

Although it was generally felt that it was a quiet day by Mai Po standards, 81 species were recorded. About 70 Oriental White Storks were still present.

Mai Po 31st March 1991

(Michael Leven)

A mixed group of 10 - six visitors to Hong Kong, three interested bird-race sponsors and one new resident - met me in the Mai Po car park at 7.30. A cold front brought continuous rain, heavy at times, and the temperature was only about 15C.

On account of the rain most birding was done from the hides and was only moderately productive: the last Dalmation Pelican soaring over the marsh and a Bluethroat and 2 Rubythroats were of note but waders were distinctly scarce on the scrape. Of most interest, albeit not fully appreciated by the visitors, was a stalled passage of hirundines and swifts including at least 4 Red-rumped Swallows and 10 Asian House Martins. The latter were feeding around the car park at head height for some time providing exceptional opportunities to note their key features: distinctly grey-brown underparts and wash on the rump suggests that these might have been of the nominate race rather than *nigri-mentalis*.

Tai Po Kau 13th April 1991

Stewart Smith)

Here follows my first flavourless report... Viney's promise "...one of Tai Po Kau's memorable days when the trees seem full of scarce flycatchers, minivets and warblers and the forest floor alive with thrushes and babblers". Smith's reality: "a more or less totally featureless amble on a fine and hot day, not improved even by splitting into two parties". Hainan Blue and another flycatcher sp. heard and a "brown" flycatcher briefly seen; otherwise Serpent Eagle, a well-examined male Scarlet Minivet, a Barred Owlet calling and a narrow miss by an Emerald Dove as we left were perhaps the best of the day. An unidentified two-note call was heard, the same as that recorded by the ladies on race day. Nine members, 31 species of bird,

one monkey and one skink.

Tai Long Wan 20th April 1991

(John Edge)

Following last year's challenge - to record 100 species on this outing - thirteen people covered the area well. Clive Viney and Co. started from near Sai Wan and visited Luk Wu plateau en route for Chek Keng, whilst the rest of us took the usual ferry route from Ma Liu Shui. In the event we fell 21 species short of the target on a day when birds were never plentiful; 100 for the day is possible, however, given full coverage and a good fall of migrants.

The star bird had to be an Eagle Owl, of which Roger Costin had excellent views, in "Black Baza valley" near Chek Keng. Other additions to the list of Category A species included Long-toed Stint (which gave wonderfully close views, together with a Red-necked, in Ham Tin paddies); Chestnut Bulbul (long expected) at Tai Long; and Two-barred Greenish Warbler (CAV *et al*) and Grey-headed Bunting (JH,KAL) near the "saddle" The number of "A" list species for the area now stands at 202. Other good species included 3 Eye-browed Thrushes, a Pale-legged Leaf Warbler, singing Rubythroats, two Sanderlings, Greater Sand Plover, a solitary Broad-billed Roller, at least 2 Ospreys at Ham Tin/Sai Wan, two Bonelli's and at least one Serpent Eagle, plus Crested Goshawk and one unidentified falcon.

Some "regulars" for this trip were missing, for example Chestnut Bittern, Horsfield's Goshawk, snipe spp., Grey-rumped Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Black-naped Tern, Stonechat and Yellow-breasted Bunting. With even a percentage of these, we could have beaten last year's total of 83; nevertheless, we had a pleasant, if unspectacular, days birding and a good walk, in cool weather. And the challenge remains.

Tsim Bei Tsui 28th April 1991

(Mike Chalmers)

Seven enthusiasts turned out on this warm and humid morning. The tide was at its peak at the start when we headed off down the

fence. The main egretty of the last few years was not being used; instead, up to 50 Little Egrets had moved closer to the Police Post, but only one nest was visible. Apart from a mixture of waders and a flock of Yellow Wagtails, no evidence of migration was seen. After the customary stop at the Mong Tseng village drinks store, we headed back overland, taking the wrong path on only two occasions, and eventually obtained satisfactory views of those three elusive calling birds, the Koel, and Indian and Plaintive Cuckoos.

Luk Keng 18th May 1991

(John Holmes)

A substitute leader and five hardy souls turned up in overcast weather for what must now be considered a traditional late spring swamp bash. We were rewarded early on with good views of a close-flying group of seventy White-winged Black Terns

Once into the paddy we put up a number of Yellow Bitterns before the appearance of a medium-sized crane. After consideration of the barred underparts, rufous head and gerbil-grey legs the cognoscenti were unanimous in their verdict: Slaty-legged Crane. Two Black Bazas in a talon-locking courtship display provided a brief distraction before we discovered the object of the days' exercise - a female Von Schrenks Little Bittern.

Flushed with success we went on to Wu Kau Tang where we called out a Red-winged Crested Cuckoo and had good views of a perched Horsefield's Goshawk. A most enjoyable day ended with lunch and liquid refreshment at Sam Mun Tsai.

Luk Keng fans are advised to make the most of it while they can; there are plans to despoil the area with a golf course.

Tai Po Kau Breeding Bird Survey 25th May 1991

(Mike Turnbull)

A turn-out of ten members on what eventually turned out to be a hot Saturday morning ensured adequate cover in this fourth attempt to survey the birds breeding in Hong Kong's premier forest area.

Surprises were few. All the regular breeding

species were noted with the exception of White-bellied Yuhina and potential new breeders were recorded in the form of Fire-breasted Flowerpecker and Black-throated Laughing Thrush. Other interesting records were of a Red-winged Crested Cuckoo which was briefly heard, a probable juvenile Velvet-fronted Nuthatch and a pair of recently fledged Collared Scops Owls.

Tai Mo Shan 1st June 1991

(John Holmes)

A party of four turned out at the lower car park on a surprisingly sticky morning. One may view this as a basically three-specialty-bird outing, and we only got the Vinous-throated Parrotbills. They were seen about one hundred metres down a track to the left of the lone aerial that stands in a square fenced-off area.

Mai Po 9th June 1991

(John Edge)

Match abandoned without a ball being bowled.

Clive Viney and I arrived at Mai Po at 0615 not seriously expecting anyone else to turn up in the conditions. It really was persisting down. In fact, a family who had not been to Mai Po before did arrive for the outing, but did not require much persuading to do an about turn. On the way off the marsh, we passed John Holmes in his jeep with the top off, looking remarkably cheerful. Sunstroke perhaps?

Report on the Birds

1 March to 31 May

(Mike Turnbull)

March

The first report of the year of a Hainan Blue Flycatcher came from Tai Po Kau on 1st. On 2nd a Verditer Flycatcher and a flock of about 30 Siskins were noted there (JCHG), and the Skylark flock, found near Mai Po in February, still contained at least four birds (MT). Two hundred Silky Starlings were also at Mai Po

that day (PJL). The following day a Brown-headed Gull, a Black-tailed Gull and 86 Mongolian Sandpipers were noted from the Boardwalk. A White Wagtail showing characters of the race *lugens* - commonly referred to as Black-backed Wagtail - was also seen on the Marsh (PRK,PJL), and fleeting views were obtained in the casuarinas of what may have been a Yellow-browed Bunting (JSRE). On 5th two more White Wagtails apparently of the race *lugens* were reported from Lamma (JNP). A Dusky Thrush on Cheung Chau on 6th (MDW) was unusual, while the same day at Mai Po the first Oriental Pratincoles of the year were seen, three being present (WLY). By 8th 57 were at Tsim Bei Tsui (RWL).

A pair of Collared Scops Owls which bred at the Chinese University had fledged three young by 9th (GJC,SES, *et al*). Also on 9th a young female Japanese Sparrowhawk and a Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler were amongst the birds trapped at Mai Po. These also included several Little Buntings, which were present in greater numbers than previously, and a Great Reed Warbler, four of which were in song. At the Boardwalk a Relict Gull was once again seen (PRS), as well as a Great Black-headed Gull and a Common Gull, both felt to be second-winter, and a first winter Black-tailed Gull. Twenty-two Grey Starlings, a species which appears to have been scarcer than usual this winter, were also on the Marsh (PRK *et al*). The same day a Red-headed Tit was seen in Aberdeen Country Park (WLY,AGY). On 10th two second-winter Common Gulls were again seen from the Boardwalk, as well three adult Brown-headed Gulls and a first-winter Black-tailed Gull (PJL,MLC *et al*). A Grey-faced Buzzard Eagle was seen over Victoria Park on 11th (PA).

On 13th two Velvet-fronted Nuthatches were seen in Coombe Road, near The Peak, apparently exchanging a food item (WLY). Also around this time two male Hainan Blue Flycatchers, five Grey-headed Flycatchers, ten Yellow-bellied Tits, seven Yellow-cheeked Tits and a Red-headed Tit were seen in Tai Po Kau. On 16th a Besra was claimed in Tai Po Kau (RDES,MH,PG) and about 20 Little Buntings were trapped at Mai Po. Several Yellow-breasted Buntings were also seen (PRK), and one was at Tsim Bei Tsui the following day, together with another two White Wagtails apparently of the race

lugens amongst very large numbers of that species (PA *et al*). Also on 17th a large owl, almost certainly an Eagle Owl, was seen at Chau Tau, as well as two Savannah Nightjars (WLY,SO'B).

On 23rd two or three Siskins were in the casuarinas at Mai Po. One of them was trapped, as was a Von Schrenck's Reed Warbler. Three hundred Curlew Sandpipers and a handful of Broad-billed Sandpipers were also noted (PRK), with an estimated 500 Grey Wagtails in the mangroves around the Boardwalk Hide (RWL). Evidence of thrush passage around this time came from Mt. Nicholson and Aberdeen Country Park with greater numbers than had previously been present being reported. Grey-backed, Grey and possibly Eye-browed Thrushes were involved (CAV,VBP). A Painted Snipe was seen at Lok Ma Chau on 26th.

A *Charadrius* plover amongst Kentish and Mongolian Plovers at the Boardwalk on 29th was almost certainly a Ringed Plover, and thus Hong Kong's second record of that species, though some difficulties remained over entirely eliminating the very similar Semipalmated Plover *C. semipalmatus* of North America (MR&EPL). The first Japanese Yellow Bunting and the first Nordmann's Greenshank of the year were also reported from Mai Po, both birds being seen again on 30th and 31st. Twenty-three Red-breasted Mergansers at the Boardwalk, a possible Common Cuckoo at the Fence and up to 600 Black-tailed and three Bar-tailed Godwits were also seen on 29th (MR&EPL,RWL,JNP) and the first report of the year of Red-necked Phalaropes was received when four were seen near Tap Mun (CAV,JSRE). A ringed bird was amongst the Caspian Terns at Mai Po and at least 58 Grey-faced Buzzard Eagles passed through in three flocks over the Marshes that day, including one of 36. There was a similar number on 30th, this time including one flock of up to 20 (PRS,WLY *et al*). Eight were also reported from Tap Mun on 29th (CAV,JSRE) and five from Shek Kong on 30th (RDES). A Little Tern, and the first of several Asian House Martins and Red-rumped Swallows were also seen that day at Mai Po, as well as two Asiatic Dowitchers and two Sharp-tailed Sandpipers (*per* PRK), while about 20 White-vented Needletails were seen at Sek Kong Catch-

ment (RDES). However, the most exciting report on 30th was of a Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica* seen briefly over the Ringing Hut at Mai Po, a potential first for Hong Kong (MLC). On 31st a Redpoll *Carduelis flammea/hornemanni*, felt to be an Arctic Redpoll *C. hornemanni*, was seen near Clearwater Bay (JEB). Also on 31st the Rufous-bellied Woodpecker was seen again in Tai Po Kau after a gap of several weeks with no reported sightings (LWK,CYL *et al*). A Sooty Flycatcher was also seen that day (IT).

April

Another Japanese Yellow Bunting was found at Mai Po on 1st, when a Russet Sparrow was in the Police Post trees (PRK,MT) and the lone remaining Dalmatian Pelican was last seen. Two Grey-faced Buzzards were also seen, and at least one Nordmann's Greenshank. The first of several reports in the early part of the month of small flocks of Red-necked Phalaropes, mainly seen from the Outlying Islands ferries, was also received (MDW) and a Chinese Greenfinch was at Mt. Nicholson (CAV). Another Japanese Yellow Bunting, a male, was at Plover Cove on 2nd. A further report of a Grey-faced Buzzard Eagle came from Aberdeen Country Park on 3rd (VBP), and, also that day, three Japanese Yellow Buntings were seen at Mai Po and the distinctive immature Black-tailed Gull was last reported. A considerable influx of Japanese Yellow Buntings, presumably the result of strong north-easterly winds around 2nd to 4th, also involved four at Lok Ma Chau and two at Tsim Bei Tsui and another sighting at Plover Cove, all on 5th (MT *et al*). A Yellow-eyed Flycatcher Warbler, a Short-tailed Bush Warbler and a Treepie were noted near Hong Kong University on 4th (VBP). The same day at Mai Po 17 Nordmann's Greenshanks, five Little Terns and a Gull-billed Tern were seen from the Boardwalk and the first Spoon-billed Sandpipers, three at Tsim Bei Tsui, were reported (PRS). There were also two Crested Buntings at Nam Chung (PRS) and 80 Herring Gulls in the western part of the Harbour (JNP).

The Big Bird Race of 5th/6th inevitably produced several interesting records and happily coincided with a marked increase in the momentum of migration. In addition to

some of the birds already referred to, reports included a Narcissus Flycatcher at Mai Po, a Japanese Paradise Flycatcher, a Blue-and-White Flycatcher and at least two Ferruginous Flycatchers in Tai Po Kau, and a potential first record for Hong Kong of Pale Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis unicolor* also in Tai Po Kau (PDR *et al*). However, in the minds of many of those who saw them, if not of the "Cooper's Crippler" committee, the show was stolen by the party of at least seven, and possibly nine, Japanese Waxwings *Bombicilla japonica* found in Lam Tsuen Valley on 5th and still present on 6th, also a first record for Hong Kong (JNP *et al*). Probably around a hundred Black-tailed Hawfinches were in the same locality, with lesser numbers elsewhere. On 5th a Hobby and a Wryneck were seen at Mai Po, and a Chinese Greenfinch was noted in Lam Tsuen Valley (MT *et al*). Also the Purple Gallinule put in one of its rare appearances, a Great Black-headed Gull and two Common Terns were seen at Mai Po and a Sooty Flycatcher was at Lok Ma Chau Police Post on 6th (CAV). Non-competing visitors, having sensibly fled to Cheung Chau, reported up to 15 Grey Thrushes, one Pale and one Dusky, and at least one Blackbird on 6th.

Interesting reports on 7th were of an Eastern Crowned Warbler and a Red-winged Crested Cuckoo in Tai Po Kau, a Styan's Grasshopper Warbler and a Japanese Yellow Bunting trapped at Mai Po, where four were present, a male Daurian Redstart, also at Mai Po, and a male Rustic Bunting on the Landfill nearby (PJL,PRS,FW *et al*). Also that day a flock of seven Pechora Pipits was seen in Tai Po Kau (HB); there had been an unconfirmed report of this species from Lamma on 4th.

A female Rustic Bunting was seen at Mai Po on 8th and a Brown Shrike was noted on Lamma (JNP). On 10th another Narcissus Flycatcher was seen in Tai Po Kau (MH). A Russet Sparrow was again seen at Mai Po on 11th and the number of Nordmann's Greenshanks there reached a new record of at least 47 around this time. A Ruddy Crake, also at Mai Po, on 13th was in almost exactly the same spot as a bird seen last December (PRK *et al*). The first reports of Black Bazas also came on 13th, with two at Tsim Bei Tsui

and three at Luk Keng (RWL).

On 15th three Red-winged Crested Cuckoos were calling continuously above Conduit Road between 7 pm and midnight (MT). One had, in fact, been seen at Mount Austin on 14th (JSRE). Also on 15th a male Japanese Sparrowhawk was seen on Lamma (JNP). A Pectoral Sandpiper, which was subsequently to prove rather elusive, was found on 17th, being seen again once on 20th. A male Siberian Blue Robin was at the Royal Observatory, Kowloon on 17th and 18th (CYL) and visits to Tai Long Wan on these dates produced sightings of 15 and 12 Black Bazas respectively (RWL,MDW). On 19th a Little Stint and a Black-shouldered Kite were found at Mai Po (RWL). Both species were again reported on 21st (MT,PJL).

The arrival of just a little of the usual April weather at this time in fact resulted in several other exciting discoveries. These included a Thick-billed Warbler and five Blue-tailed Bee-eaters at Mai Po (JNP *et al*), but also Hong Kong's first apparently entirely satisfactory Blunt-winged Warbler *Acrocephalus concinens*, seen on 20th and trapped on 21st and, most unexpectedly, also on 20th, Hong Kong and China's first White-browed Crake *Porzana cinerea*. This bird gave excellent views until at least 28th (PJL,PRK *et al*). Waders seen at Tai Long Wan on 20th included two Sanderlings. Other interesting birds were an Eagle Owl, a Two-barred Greenish Warbler, a Pale-legged Leaf Warbler and a Grey-headed Bunting (JSRE *et al*). At least one Japanese Yellow Bunting was again present at Mai Po on 21st (MT) and a Swinhoe's Egret was also found (KCS,KP). Also that day an enormous movement of Horsfield's Goshawks took place. Up to about 50 moved north-east at Mai Po, but an estimated 400 were seen heading in the same direction within a short period in mid-morning over Tai Tam (JEB). On 22nd there were four Swinhoe's Egrets at Mai Po and a Mountain Hawk Eagle was seen at Tai Po Kau (GJC,MDW).

A Swinhoe's Egret was again seen at Mai Po on 25th, when an Oriental Plover was found there (ARL,PRS). The egret was seen again several times, but the plover was only reported again once, on 27th, when six Blue-tailed Bee-eaters were also at Mai Po and two

Black-naped Terns were seen near Tap Mun (PA). On 29th a Water Rail was at the same spot at Mai Po as the other two rare rails seen earlier in the month (RPT). A Red-breasted Parakeet was seen on a couple of occasions around this time at Lok Ma Chau Police Station, where a small group of Black-tailed Hawfinches was seen on 26th (JH).

May

Two Blue-tailed Bee-eaters were at Lok Ma Chau on 1st (JH), while on 2nd, after a period of almost a month with no sightings of the bird Hong Kong is probably most famous for, and after many overseas visitors had returned home disappointed, the arrival of wet weather brought three Spoon-billed Sandpipers to Mai Po. A Pectoral Sandpiper was also seen, perhaps not the same individual as in April, though apparently identical (WLY,MRL *et al*). Up to two Swinhoe's Egrets were frequently reported there around this time, at least one being present to 8th, and on 3rd a flock of up to 100 Needletails, at least two of which were White-throated, and three Blue-tailed Bee-eaters were seen (RWL *et al*). Also at Mai Po, a Pechora Pipit was seen on 4th, as well as six species of tern - including up to 30 White-winged Black, about ten Whiskered and eight Common - plus two Horsfield's Goshawks, at least 40 Sand Martins and possibly two Purple Gallinules (PRK *et al*).

Interesting breeding records received at this time were of Velvet-fronted Nuthatch and White-bellied Yuhina at Tai Po Kau (WLY).

The three Spoon-billed Sandpipers were seen again at Tsim Bei Tsui on 5th, when Brown Shrikes and Grey-streaked Flycatchers were present at widespread locations in much bigger numbers than had previously been the case (PRK,PJL *et al*). Also on 5th a Japanese Quail was seen near Lau Fau Shan. Large numbers of Yellow Wagtails, apparently of the race *simillima*, were also noted, particularly in northward flight over Mai Po between 2nd and 5th (RWL *et al*). On the latter date five Black Bazas were seen near Sha Tau Kok (JH). Other reports of this species included singles at Shuen Wan on 10th (RWL) and at Tai Long Wan on 11th (MT), and at least two at Plover Cove on 12th (JH).

A visit to Tai Long Wan on 6th produced

several interesting records including a male Von Schrenck's Little Bittern, a Watercock, an Oriental Cuckoo, ten Black-naped Terns, six Common Terns, and another tern which was either a Bridled Tern or a Sooty Tern (RWL *et al*). Near Mai Po the same day nine more Blue-tailed Bee-eaters were seen. Two Bonelli's Eagles were also noted (JH). Twelve Black-naped Terns were seen in Tolo Channel on 7th (MH).

Four species of wild duck - Mandarin, Garganey, Falcatad Teal and Baer's Pochard - were amongst the captive birds at Mai Po on 8th, and an immature Black-tailed Gull was also still present. The following day yet another Blue-tailed Bee-eater was seen in Lam Tsuen Valley (RWL *et al*).

Whiskered and White-winged Black Terns continued to be regularly reported from Mai Po, and 120 of the latter were seen around Tap Mun on 11th (MT). At Tai Mo Shan on 12th most of the local specialities were seen, and also a Crested Honey Buzzard and two White-vented Noddies. The same day at Mai Po single Spoon-billed Sandpipers and Horsfield's Goshawks were seen. There were

also two Nordmann's Greenshanks (JSRE,CAV). This species was in fact present in small numbers until 30th. A pair of Upland Pipits were seen carrying food near the summit of Tai Mo Shan on 12th and at least two Vinous-throated Parrotbills were also noted (WLY). On 15th an hepatic phase cuckoo at Mt. Nicholson Gap was either Oriental or Common (MH).

On 18th a Society thrush of Luk Keng swamp put up a male Von Schrenck's Little Bittern and a Slaty-legged Crake (JH *et al*), while on 19th Hong Kong's second Long-tailed Skua was seen, in flight over the beach on the seaward side of High Island Reservoir Dam (ARL).

As persistently hot and sunny weather set in and several particularly active members left the Territory on expeditions elsewhere reports for the rest of the month were extremely scanty. The continuing presence of at least one Black-naped Oriole at the Chinese University suggested possible breeding (GJC). At Lok Ma Chau a Hobby was seen on 27th and a single Bonelli's Eagle on 31st (JH).

FUTURE MEETINGS

DATE	LEADER	VENUE	TIME
14 July Sunday	Mike Turnbull	Mai Po* Meet: Car Park	06:30
INDOOR MEETING			
29 July Monday		BIRD IDENTIFICATION Talk by C Y Lam (In Cantonese) Museum Of Natural History Kowloon Park Admission Free	18:15-19:45
11 August Sunday	John Edge	Mai Po* Meet: Car Park	06:30
8 September Sunday	Gavin Cooper Li Wai-ki	Mai Po* Meet: Car Park	07:30
14 September Saturday	Wendy Young	Tai Po Kau Meet: Car Park	07:00
15 September Sunday	Mike Leven	Luk Keng/Nam Chung Swamp Bash - wear wellingtons or long trousers!	07:30
22 September Sunday	John Holmes Simba Chan	Mai Po*!!! Bilingual	10:00-15:00
28 September Saturday	Peter Stevens	Tai Po Kau Meet: Car Park	07:00
6 October Sunday	C Y Lam Richard Stott	Mai Po*!!! Bilingual	10:00-15:00
12 October Saturday	Mike Turnbull	Tai Long Wan Meet: Top Deck Tolo Harbour ferry Check time with HK & YF CO. Leaves from Ma Lui parking impossible, take KCR to University Station	07:15

20 October Sunday	Li Wai-ki Mike Chalmers	Tsim Bei Tsui!! Bilingual	10:00-14:00
3 November Sunday	Stewart Smith	Ping Yeung Meet: where road ends in Ping Yeung Village	07:30

Leaders are requested to find a substitute leader if they are unable to take an outing.

|| A coach will collect members from Kowloon Tong KCR one hour before assembly time and will return them there at the end of the outing. Please return the form at the end of this Bulletin with a cheque for \$30 (#15 for students) made out to the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society if you wish to use the coach. Please bring drink and packed lunch.

* WWF HK has asked that all participants on a Mai Po outing must inform the leader they will be attending before the meeting. Please co-operate with this request as there have been problems of too many people attending, in the past. Members using the coach need not inform the leader, as they will have already confirmed their attendance by returning the coach booking slip.