



THE HONG KONG BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY

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

BULLETIN NO. 141

SEPTEMBER 1991

Society News

Bulletin Illustrations

This edition of the Bulletin is greatly enhanced by **Jeremy Pearse's** beautiful line drawings. We are very grateful to him for taking the time and trouble to produce these drawings, and hopefully he will be able to continue in future editions. He can be contacted at PO Box 2757, Hong Kong, if anyone would like to discuss specific commissions with him. If anyone else would like to provide drawings, illustrations or cartoons they would be most welcome. Please contact Liz Leven (540 9753 H).

Proofreaders Needed

Can you read? If so, your help is urgently needed with proofreading for the 1990 Bird Report. It doesn't matter if you have never proofread before, it just involves carefully reading an article and highlighting spelling mistakes, typos and so on. The more people who help, the wider the load is spread, so even if you only have time to proofread one article it would be a great help. Contact **Verity Picken (849 6985)(H) NOW!!!**

Bird Report Back Numbers

A few copies of 1984/85, 1987 and 1988 are still available, contact Verity Picken if you are interested.

Curry Lunch

Once again the Annual Curry Lunch will be held on **Sunday December 15th at the RHKP New Territories Depot, Fanling**, after the Hok Tau outing. Please complete the tear off slip at the end of the Bulletin and return it to Ian Tyzzer by December 1st. Cost will be about \$50, pay on the day, with a cash bar.

HK to Shanghai

The Chairman, Gavin Cooper, has very generously offered to sell, in aid of Society funds, **two return tickets on the HK to Shanghai ferry**. The tickets are valid for any sailing date before the end of November. The committee has decided to auction the tickets in aid of Society funds. Send your offer in a sealed envelope to HKBWS, PO Box 12460, GPO, Hong Kong to arrive on or before 11th October. Please write Ferry Tickets in the top left hand corner of the envelope. The tickets will be sold to the highest bidder.

The next committee meeting will be in early November 1991. If any member wishes a matter raised, please contact one of the committee members listed below

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

Society Library

Recent additions to the Library include:

Wild Birds No. 539 1991 - The magazine of the Wild Bird Society of Japan, including a review of the 1989 HK Bird Report in Japanese!

'Strix' 1990 Vol. 90 - A publication of the Research Centre, The Wild Bird Society of Japan (in Japanese)

The following journals are regularly received:

World Birdwatch - The monthly newsletter of the International Council for Bird Protection.

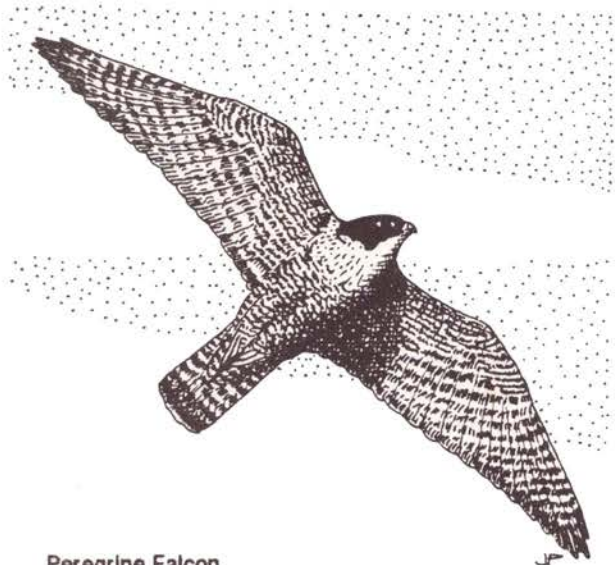
Wingspan - The Quarterly Journal of the Australian Ornithologists' Union.

Bangkok Bird Club Bulletin (in Thai)

Nature - The monthly journal of the JAPB (in Japanese)

If you wish to make use of the Library, please contact Peter Kennerley, tel 833 2062 (O)

Feathers and Bird Flight Saturday 12th October



Peregrine Falcon

The Society, in conjunction with WWF HK, and with the help of the British Council, has organised a talk by British Zoologist, Dr. T.J.Seller, on the design and function of

feathers, and how and why birds have adapted themselves for flight. The talk will be held on **Saturday, 12th October 1991, at 18.30, in the Auxiliary Police Officers' Mess, 3/F Beaconsfield House, Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong.** Please contact Ian Tyzzer, tel 861 5416 (O) to book seats.

Membership Telephone List

Attached to the end of this Bulletin is the most up to date list of telephone numbers. If your number is wrong please inform Richard Stott, the Membership Secretary, by writing to him at PO Box 12460, GPO Hong Kong. The list is only as good as the information provided.

Records Committee

Appointment of Secretary

In order to deal with the paperwork more efficiently, the Records Committee has appointed a secretary, Paul Leader, who can be contacted on 891 4446 (H)

Submission of Record Cards for Rarities

The list of species requiring descriptions has recently been revised (see June Bulletin for the full list), and many regularly occurring species have been removed from the list. Those species still on the list are considered to be genuinely rare or difficult to identify, and as such, can only be properly assessed if detailed descriptions are submitted.

In the past it was felt unreasonable to ask observers for descriptions of commoner species, such as Spotted Eagle (almost all records of which were accepted without descriptions). This is no longer the case with the revised list. **Records with no or inadequate descriptions cannot be considered.**

Photocopies of notes and sketches of the bird are a great help when assessing records and should, where possible, be attached to the card. Detailed guidelines for submitting

records can be found at the back of the 1989 Bird Report.

Any fortunate observer, finding a new species for Hong Kong, (unless an obvious escape) is requested to submit details immediately to enable the Committee to review the bird's identity, consider in which category it should be allocated and, where necessary, consult with overseas experts.

Records can be submitted at any time, there is no need to wait until the deadline at the end of the year. Early submission is a great help to the Committee as it reduces the rush of records in January

Species List

Congratulations to those of you who spotted the deliberate error in the list of species issued with the last bulletin. Hodgson's Hawk Eagle has not yet made it to Hong Kong. It should have read Hodgson's Hawk **CUCKOO!** Of course, if you do see a Hodgson's Hawk Eagle, a description would definitely be required!

Zeebit Alert!!!

If you hear a "Zeebit" warbler calling, (*Bradypterus seebohmi*), this winter, please contact Paul Leader, as the Records Committee wishes to confirm the identification of this species, in preparation for a paper intended for publication in the 1991 Bird Report.

Photos and Descriptions Wanted

If any member is fortunate enough to possess photos and/or detailed descriptions of large gulls (especially immatures), or any *Accipiter* species, the Records Committee would like to hear from you.

Deadlines

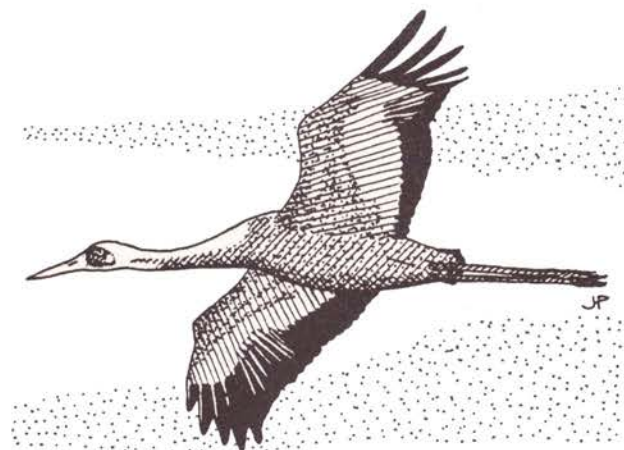
Don't forget that all records for 1991, must be submitted by **31st January 1992**. Make it easy for yourself, start writing them now! If you are thinking of submitting an article or a short note (which would be very welcome) for the 1991 Report, contact Verity Picken to discuss it

Trip to Mindanau, Philippines.

Anyone inspired by Gavin Cooper's descriptions of his trips to Mindanau (see page 8 of this Bulletin, and page 5 of the March 1991 issue) will be able to visit the area themselves as Gavin is organising a trip in **February 1992**. It will be an excellent opportunity to visit some areas not easily accessible, in this bird rich country. Contact Gavin tel 481 6788 (O) for details of itinerary and exact timing.

Visiting Poyang Lake, Jiangxi, China

The Jianxi Tourism Bureau is organising an Observation Month from **December 16th 1991 to January 15th 1992**. During this time the Bureau will be organising a varied programme, and welcomes anyone interested in migratory birds to join in. The Bureau will be able to assist in organising a visit for anyone interested, contact Liz Leven (tel 540 9753) for details. Alternatively, we have received details of a seven day trip organised by a Chinese agent which would include a visit to **Lushan Mountain and Jingdezhen as well as Poyang Lake**, for the very reasonable price of **HK\$3347**, plus the cost of the flight to Nanchang. Again, contact Liz Leven if you want more information.



White-naped Crane

Trip to China

Richard Lewthwaite is hoping to organise a trip to the **Yangtse Valley area in December 1991 or early January 1992**. Areas to be visited include: Yan Cheng, a coastal Reserve near the Yangtse Delta; Dong Ting, in the Yangtse Valley; and Ya Shan, a forest Reserve near Po Yang. Contact Richard for details, tel 665 8190

Getting to Mai Po

If you are thinking of visiting Mai Po by car, now that Autumn passage is with us, **be warned**. The new by pass has recently opened and it is easy to get lost (the editor has done so twice already!) especially approaching from Fanling. From Fanling leave the dual carriage-way at the junction signposted Sham Chun Border Crossing and follow the signs to Sam Tin to reach the old road to Mai Po Village, where the turn off to Mai Po has not changed. Approaching from Yuen Long, Mai Po is signposted so there should be no problem.

Threat to Khao Sam Roi Yot National Park, Thailand.

The Society has received a plea for help from the Bangkok Bird Club to prevent the continued damage to this important site. The Park, 275 km. south of Bangkok, is an area of coastal marshes, paddies and mangroves, and includes the largest freshwater marsh in Thailand. It is listed as a site of international importance in the IUCN Directory of Asian Wetlands.

The Park has a large breeding population of water birds, and is an important wintering area for water birds and passerines (it is the only known wintering site for *Acrocephalus (agricola) tangorum*). The Park has suffered severe illegal encroachment in recent years, and this is increasing. The main outflow of the marsh has been dredged, increasing water loss, road improvements have dammed the water flow north and south, and to add insult to injury a potentially threatening golf course is proposed at the northern end of the marsh.

The Bangkok Bird Club has a series of proposals to save the Park, and feels that

international pressure is needed to convince the government of Thailand of the Park's value. The Club proposes a letter writing campaign, asking people to write to the Prime Minister and the English Language Press (or Thai Press if any member can write in Thai). If any member wishes to help in this campaign **contact Ian Tyzzer or Liz Leven** for more details.

Systematic List of Hong Kong Birds

Richard Lewthwaite has prepared a systematic list of Hong Kong birds, price \$20. Contact Richard tel 665 8190, for details.

A Guide to The Birds of Thailand

Boonsong Lekagul and Philip D. Round 1991

Phil Round will be known to most HKBWS members as a member of the **ever dominant PROFESSIONALS Team** in the BBR, as well as Thailand's leading field birder.

This long awaited guide is a successor to Lekagul and Cronin's (1974) 'Bird Guide of Thailand', which has been out of print for a number of years.

In format it closely follows the earlier book with a short species text opposite the relevant plate, or at most a page or two away, thus allowing for very easy access to information. The 135 full colour plates show all of the 915 species recorded in Thailand (up to March 1989), many of the species being illustrated more than once to show differences in plumage due to age and sex, as well as flight patterns etc. The plates, by two Thai artists, are of a very high standard although some have been printed too dark. My main criticism is that in a number of plates some of the birds are very small due to the mixing of scale illustrations of birds of markedly different sizes.

The text is concise, highlighting distinctive field marks and describing calls. Relatively few calls were known 10 years ago when Phil began his field work, and this is a very important contribution to Oriental ornithology.

A coloured map shows breeding, winter, passage and resident ranges for each species based on the distribution studies which Phil has been conducting.

Some 350 species recorded from Hong Kong (c.80%) are illustrated. This guide will be invaluable to birdwatchers visiting southern and southwest China, and indeed throughout southeast Asia.

David Melville

The Society intends to order a number of copies of 'The Birds of Thailand' and by making a bulk order should be able to reduce the cost of a copy. At the moment we do not know how much the book will cost. If you are interested in purchasing a copy please contact Ian Tyzzer (8615416 (O)) as soon as possible.

The Hamlyn Photographic Guide to the Birds of the World

This recently published guide includes photographs from various Society members including John Holmes, Martin Williams, Sue Earle and Ray Tipper. It is available in Hong Kong for \$340. Both this book and the Thai guide would make excellent Christmas Presents for keen birdwatchers!

New to the List

Stewart Smith's hardworking secretary, Katherine, does her bit for the Society each year by typing up the first draft of the Records Committee Report. Her unfamiliarity with birds has combined this year with the Recorder's idiosyncratic hand to produce an interesting list, given below with some identification notes for the unfamiliar. Many of these species have been seen well from Porky Outcrop.

Purple Gallisude: an apopletically angry bird of indeterminate taxonomy known for passing itself off as a farmyard chicken, or a Frenchman (the reports are confused).

Think-billed Warbler: unconventional disposition of brain not obvious in field. Discomposed bird will scratch 'head' vigorously,

giving rise to noticeably abraded alula.

White-browed Shrink Babbler: mostly leucistic, noisy Jungian, symbiotic with preceding species.

Chestnut-floated Whiteeye: flightless, the biological antithesis of the Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*, and closely allied to the Darwinian finches, has learned to fashion booties from chestnuts and spends its life waterbourne. Mostly seen at Tai Tam regatta.

Siber-eared Thesia: the only extant dentate species, with auricular canines, first identified in Australia.

Green Jag: a prey to gin traps and liming, but a tonic when seen. Mostly reported by WY, VBP.

Slaty-bashed Gull: one of our two Ebbw Vale endemics, the only *Larus* sp. which, not always to its cranial advantage, nests under the eaves of artisans' dwellings.

White-vested Mynah: the other Ebbw Vale species. Bright yellow patch on head. Melodic, though mostly subterranean, song suggests links with Manx Shearwater. The American ecological counterpart also has top hat, white tie and curiously, tails (sic)

OVERSEAS BIRDING

India 2-10 May 1991

(Marlyn and Ian Tyzzer)

43 degrees Celsius, and not a cloud in the sky - we must be mad I thought, and yet here we were in Delhi at the beginning of May, a good two months before the monsoon! This was to be our first holiday in which we concentrated on bird watching, and despite the heat, it was the only time we could get away from Hong Kong. To make matters worse I was more than a little apprehensive that we could identify all these new species of birds. We needn't have worried however, as the holiday turned out to be a resounding success with birds not only easy to see, but also easy to identify. We can recommend it therefore, to even the most casual of bird watcher.

In Delhi we stayed at the Oberoi Intercontinental hotel, which offered us a good package deal. It was also most comfortable, and importantly, near to Delhi zoo. The first two days saw us able to see some of the sights of Delhi and clock up 45 species of bird. White Backed, and Long Billed Vultures were common, nesting by the hotel, whilst in Delhi Zoo the highlights were Brahminy Kite, Common Grey Hornbill, Coppersmith, Streaked Weaver, White Pelican and Adjutant Stork. Other attractive and plentiful species around the area included Jungle Babbler, Purple Sunbird, Hoopoe, Indian Robin and the ubiquitous Mynahs.

After visiting Agra and Fatehpur Sikri, we then spent four lovely days in Keoladeo Ghana National Park - simply called Bharatpur - about 150 miles south of Delhi. We found the park everything it is cracked up to be, and although it was so hot, at least we had the park to ourselves being the only residents of the Forest Lodge. We overcame the heat by birding in the early morning and evening when the temperatures were quite comfortable. We also noted that, because of the very low humidity, there were no mosquitos or other insect pests to annoy us.

Migrant birds had already gone, but there were plenty of residents in the park, where in the four days we were there we saw 119 species. Water birds were not only plentiful, but very visible with highlights being Bronzewinged and Pheasant-tailed Jacanas, Indian Darter, Painted Snipe, Purple Gallinule, Lesser Whistling Teal, Cotton Teal, Comb Duck, Ruddy Shelduck, and Bar-headed Goose. The larger birds included Indian Pond Heron, Painted Stork, Black-necked and White-necked Storks, Open-billed Stork, White Ibis and the magnificent Sarus Crane. All four species of Vulture were present and besides the two species seen in Delhi there were good numbers of Egyptian and King Vultures. Raptors generally however, were scarce and the only other species seen were Grey-headed Fishing Eagle, Osprey and Marsh Harrier.

One of the delights of Bharatpur is the variety of habitat and even in the forest, birds are plentiful and relatively easy to see. Highlights in this part of the Park included Common

Wood, Indian Grey and Bay-backed Shrikes, Golden-backed and Mahrati Woodpeckers, Small Minivet, Common Iora, Large Hawk Cuckoo (well seen) and Green Pigeon. The adjacent scrub and light woods yielded Red Wattled Lapwing, Stone Curlew, Little Green Bee Eater, several lovely male Bluethroats, Indian Roller, Pied Bushchat, Golden Oriole, Rufous-tailed Finch Lark, Baya and Black-throated Weaver, and White-bellied Drongo.

Whilst there were many glorious moments when viewing these species, undoubtedly the greatest thrill of the trip came on our last evening when we chose to go out with a guide. Even with his help, we needed stealth and patience, but we were rewarded with magnificent views of the Dusky Horned Owl. This splendid bird perched close to us and then silently glided over our heads and away into the forest. In contrast, the other owl we saw in the park, the Spotted Owlet, was more plentiful and quite comical with its bobbing motion as it stayed on its branch looking at us.

All too soon it was time to return to Delhi and continue our flight to England. However, we have resolved to return - in the cooler weather of course - to continue our exploration of the park.

Species List (English names as in Collin's Handguide to the Bird's of the Indian Subcontinent)

Delhi (45 species)

White Pelican, Great Cormorant, Little Cormorant, Indian Pond Heron, Night Heron, Little Egret, Painted Stork, Adjutant Stork, Red-wattled Lapwing, White-breasted Waterhen, Moorhen, White-backed Vulture, Long-billed Vulture, Pariah Kite, Brahminy Kite, Coppersmith, Common Grey Hornbill, Little Green Bee Eater, Peafowl, Koel, Blue Rock Dove, Little Brown Dove, Collared Dove, Rose-ringed Parakeet, Hoopoe, White-breasted Kingfisher, House Crow, Jungle Crow, Common Myna, Pied Myna, Bank Myna, Brahminy Myna, Jungle Babbler, House Swift, Crested Bulbul, Red-vented Bulbul, White-cheeked Bulbul, Magpie Robin, Indian Robin, Common Wood Shrike, Chiffchaff, Purple Sunbird, Streaked Weaver, Baya Weaver, House Sparrow

Agra (2 species)

Black Drongo, Scavenger Vulture

Fatehpur Sikri (1 species)

Red-rumped Swallow

Bharatpur (119 species)

Little Grebe, Little Cormorant, Indian Darter, Indian Pond Heron, Night Heron, Grey Heron, Purple Heron, Great Egret, Intermediate Egret, Little Egret, Cattle Egret, Painted Stork, Black-necked Stork, White-necked Stork, Open-billed Stork, White Ibis, European Spoonbill, Sarus Crane, Yellow-nibbed Duck, Lesser Whistling Teal, Garganey, Cotton Teal, Comb Duck, Ruddy Shelduck, Bar-headed Goose, Red-wattled Lapwing, Wood Sandpiper, Common Sandpiper, Spotted Redshank, Snipe, Painted Snipe, Stone Curlew, Black-winged Stilt, White-breasted Waterhen, Moorhen, Bronze-winged Jacana, Coot, Purple Gallinule, Pheasant-tailed Jacana, Peafowl, Grey Partridge, Common Bustard Quail, White-backed Vulture, Long-billed Vulture, Egyptian Vulture, King Vulture, Grey-headed Fishing Eagle, Marsh Harrier, Osprey, Indian River Tern, Whiskered Tern, Spotted Owlet, Dusky Horned Owl, Brainfever Bird, Koel, Greater Coucal, Maharti Woodpecker, Golden-backed Woodpecker, Coppersmith, Common Grey Hornbill, Little Green Bee Eater, Blue Rock Dove, Little Brown Dove, Collared Dove, Red Turtle Dove, Green Pigeon, Rose-ringed Parakeet, Hoopoe, Indian Roller, White-breasted Kingfisher, Pied Kingfisher, Common Kingfisher, House Crow, Jungle Crow, Treepie, Common Mynah, Pied Mynah, Bank Mynah, Brahminy Mynah, Black Drongo, White-bellied Drongo, Golden Oriole, Jungle Babbler, Common Babbler, Large Grey Babbler, House Swift, Red-rumped Swallow, Wire-tailed Swallow, Red-vented Bulbul, White-cheeked Bulbul, Magpie Robin, Indian Robin, Common Woodshrike, Indian Grey Shrike, Rufous-backed Shrike, Bay-backed Shrike, Chiffchaff, Tailor Bird, Indian Prinia, Great Reed Warbler, Purple Sunbird, Bluethroat, Pied Bushchat, Small Skylark, Richards Pipit, Indian Pipit, Paddyfield Pipit, Rufous Tailed Finch Lark, Citrine Wagtail, Large Pied Wagtail, Yellow Wagtail, Small Minivet, Com-

mon Iora, White-throated Munia, Red Avadavat, House Sparrow, Yellow-throated Sparrow, Baya Weaver, Black-throated Weaver

Mindanao 24 - 26 MAY

(Gavin Cooper)

On our February visit to Mount Katanglad we were joined by two English birders who had recently been in the Bislig area on the eastern coast of Mindanao. Their reports on the birds were very encouraging, but the reports on habitat destruction were horrifying, so Hugh Buck and I decided that we had better get down there quickly before it had all disappeared. The area is notable for its extensive lowland forest which is adjacent to a smaller area of montane forest.

This whole vast area is administered by the Paper Industries Corporation of the Philippines (PICOP) under licence from the central Government and has been in their hands for many years. It is still under active logging but there appears to be an intelligent replanting strategy and there is much original forest remaining and we were told that this was a deliberate environmental policy. There was certainly no reason to believe that the place was on the point of imminent total devastation.

Hugh and I met up in Manila on the evening of 23rd May and, got a few hours sleep before catching a 0530 flight to Davao City in southern Mindanao. We were met by a car and driver and, armed with a pass from PICOP and a rough map from Tim Fisher, we arrived at the boundary gates at 1030. We elected to turn down the first road which leads to the montane area. After about 10 kms the car packed up on us so we got out and walked slowly upwards seeing a good few birds on the way. We continued to a fairly high point but by no means as far as we could have gone, but by now the mist was too thick to see anything so, having found one of our target birds right there, the Apo Sunbird *Aethopyga boltoni*, we turned around and started back.

By now our driver had hired a second vehicle and Hugh and I and our driver and the game

warden had great fun riding up and down the mountain on this motor-bike, together, of course, with its driver! During this highly entertaining manouvre we were delighted to find a pair of Amethyst Brown Doves *Phapitreron amethystina* feeding out on the road and were able to approach very close to them and to sort out the differences in plumage characters from the much more common White-eared Brown Dove *Phapitreron leucotis*.

Later we were listening to and getting within a couple of feet of some Bushhens *Amaurornis olivaceus* which were in long grass by the side of the road, but we were quite incapable of seeing them. However, a little later, when motoring down the mountain, two dashed out into the road across our bows and we came close to having Bushhen adobo for dinner. There was a very good spread of species in this area, they were relatively easy to see from the road and, as there was no logging in this area, it was also pleasant walking. We packed it in at 16.30 and then had a two hour run to our hotel, the "Town and Country" in a barrio just outside Bislig (which we never did get to see).

The little hotel was more than adequate for our needs and the food was superb, especially the bouillabaise, which we scoffed in great quantities. Needless to say the beer was cold and the service warm. We also met Mr Ernie Mendoza, the Corporation's PR Manager, and the man who had signed our pass. He offered every assistance to any future birders wishing to visit the area.

Next morning, we left before 0430 and ran into heavy rain but once it stopped it stayed dry for the rest of the day. It was apparently the first rain of the season? We were going to scour the lowland forest area this day and although it was only 36 kms to our starting point the road was so dodgy that it took an hour and a half to get there. This spot was a shallow pond beside the road in which a Silvery Kingfisher *Ceyx argentatus* was known to lurk but try as we could, including Hugh wading in mud up to his armpits while he checked out a nearby stream, we never did find it. Which is one very good reason for me wanting to go back there!

We had a long and tiring, but very rewarding,

day. It was hot and very humid, we stayed pretty much on the roads but occasionally managed to follow tracks into the forest edges. We saw a great number of birds, several new to both of us, and the high-point was seeing three Pink-bellied Imperial Pigeons *Ducula poliocephala* our main 'target species' and at one moment I had one of these pigeons and a Jerdon's Baza *Aviceda jerdoni*, another of my targets, in the bins at the same time. We actually did very well on pigeons, recording no less than eight species and these included the Pompadour Green Pigeon *Treron pompadora*, Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica* (quite common) and the Yellow-breasted Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus occipitalis*.

We also nailed the Writhed Hornbill *Rhyticeros leucocephalus*, Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus* (a mega-target species for me), the Pygmy Tree-babbler *Stachyris plateni*, Grey-throated Oriole *Oriolus steerii*, Naked-faced Spider Hunter *Arachnothera clarae* and, probably best of all, the Rufous Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone cinnamomea*, and until you've seen this one you've never seen a Paradise Flycatcher before!! One of its calls, incidentally, is almost exactly like our Long-tailed Tailorbird.

On our last day we were away again by about 0430 and again met with a lot of rain on the way to the pond but during the drive saw many White-throated Kingfishers *Halcyon smymensis*, Philippine Serpent Eagles *Spilornis holospinus* and, incredibly, a Steere's Pitta *Pitta steerii*. After all the trouble we had gone to to find this bird on Bohol we now saw it easily and by accident. Although we knew it had previously been recorded from PICOP we were, nevertheless, surprised and pleased to get it ourselves.

This morning we had an awful lot of rain, got quite wet, but whenever the rain stopped the birds came out in good numbers and thus we found another of our target species, the Philippine Leafbird, *Chloropsis flavipennis* which proved to be the last for the trip. We left the area completely at about 1400 and after a tiring but not unpleasant journey back to Davao, during which a number of birds were added to the list, we had time for a leisurely meal before catching the flight back to Manila.

Species List (per Gonzales/Rees)(88 species)

Cattle Egret*, Cinnamon Bittern*, Jerdon's Baza, Philippine Serpent Eagle, Grey-faced Buzzard-eagle, Philippine Falconet, White-browed Crake, Bushhen, Slender-billed Cuckoo-dove, Emerald Dove, Zebra Dove*, White-eared Brown Dove, Amethyst Brown Dove, Pompadour Green Pigeon, Yellow-breasted Fruit Dove, Pink-bellied Imperial Pigeon, Rock Dove, Guiaiabero Blue-crowned Racket-tail, Colasisi, (Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo), Plaintive Cuckoo, (Brush Cuckoo) Violet Cuckoo, Drongo Cuckoo, (Koel), Black-faced Coucal, Philippine Coucal, Pygmy Swiftlet, Uniform (Grey) Swiftlet, Purple Needletail, Asian Palm Swift*, Whiskered Treeswift, White-throated Kingfisher, Collared Kingfisher*, Dollarbird, Tropic Hornbill, Writhed Hornbill, Rufous Hornbill, Coppersmith Barbet, Philippine Woodpecker, Greater Goldenback, Sooty Woodpecker, Steere's Pitta, Pacific Swallow*, Black and White Triller, Scarlet Minivet, Philippine Leafbird, Wattled Bulbul, Yellow-vented Bulbul, Philippine Bulbul, Yellow Bulbul, Magpie Robin* Pygmy Tree-babbler, Brown Tit-babbler, Common Tailorbird, (Black-headed Tailorbird), Philippine Verditer Flycatcher, Snowy-browed Flycatcher, Citrine Flycatcher, Black-naped Monarch, Rufous Paradise Flycatcher, Elegant Tit, Sulphur-billed Nuthatch, Stripe-headed Rhabdornis, Brown-throated Sunbird, Olive-backed Sunbird, Purple-throated Sunbird, Apo Sunbird, Mountain Sunbird, Naked-faced Spider Hunter, Olive-capped Flowerpecker, Bicoloured Flowerpecker, White-bellied Flowerpecker, Everett's White-eye, Mountain White-eye, Mindanao Parrot-finch White-bellied Munia, Chestnut Munia, Tree Sparrow*, Philippine Glossy Starling*, Coletto, Black-naped Oriole, Grey-throated Oriole, Balicassio, White-breasted Wood-swallow Slender-billed Crow, Large-billed Crow.

* Indicates birds which were not seen in the Reserve but were seen on the road from Davao to PICOP.

Entries in brackets were heard only.

OUTING REPORTS

Mai Po 14 July 1991

(Richard Stott)

We made an early start along the road on this seasonally warm morning. Summer is not a time for high species diversity but acquaintance may be renewed with species which return to breed each year. Little Green Heron and Yellow Bittern both breed on the marsh and were sighted regularly during the outing as were Black Drongos. The lone Coot seen did not seem to have been so fortunate! Three of the four resident Kingfishers were seen, Pied, Common and White-breasted. Small numbers of waders were passing through, particularly Wood Sandpiper, Common and Spotted Redshank. A Fan-tailed Warbler afforded a brief glimpse and the total species count was a modest 35.

Mai Po 11 August 1991

(John Edge)

A surprisingly high total of 17 (I think!) turned out on a relatively cool and mainly overcast morning. The group became very fragmented so I cannot be sure of the day's species total, but by my reckoning it was 51.

An exceptionally high tide (2.9m at 1100) meant that the mud in front of the Deep Bay hide was covered by 0750, concentrating the waders on the shallower parts of the managed area. There was evidence of the beginning of autumn migration, with c. four Curlew Sandpiper, 18 Asiatic Dowitchers performing beautifully in front of the 'disabled' hide, two plus Black-tailed Godwits, two or three Terek Sandpipers, one Grey-rumped Sandpiper, c.10 Whimbrel and at least 100 Redshank. A flock of c. 30 Curlew may have summered.

Also seen were singles of Purple Heron, Coot, Shoveler, Banded Rail (immature) and Black-capped Kingfisher. An early Dusky Warbler was heard, and two Red Avadavats were seen near the Education Centre. Yellow Bitterns and Little Green Herons were much in evidence.

Altogether a most pleasant morning.

REPORT ON THE BIRDS

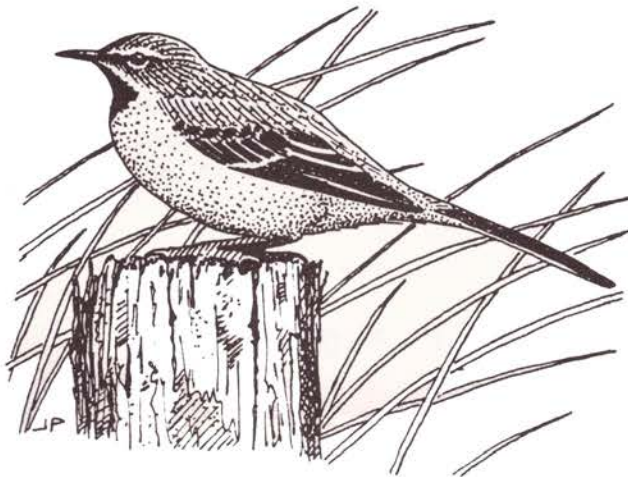
(These unchecked reports include sightings of possible escapes)

1 June to 31 August

(Mike Turnbull)

June

On 15th two Grey Wagtails were at Mai Po



Grey Wagtail

and a Black Baza was seen from the highway near Tai Po. Also that day single free-flying male Baer's Pochard and Garganey were present in the collection (PJL). A Barred Owlet was seen in Tai Po Kau on 16th (MMC), two Red-winged Crested Cuckoos were reported from Shek Kong on 22nd and a juvenile Black-winged Cuckoo-Shrike was seen in Sassoon Road, Pokfulam on 25th (PRK). On 30th two Black-naped Terns were seen in Mirs Bay, but there was no evidence of breeding at the sites where this has taken place in the past (ARL).

July

A Black Baza was seen near Ting Kok on 1st, when three Grey Herons were present amongst the Great Egrets at Plover Cove. Other reports of Black Bazas involved one at

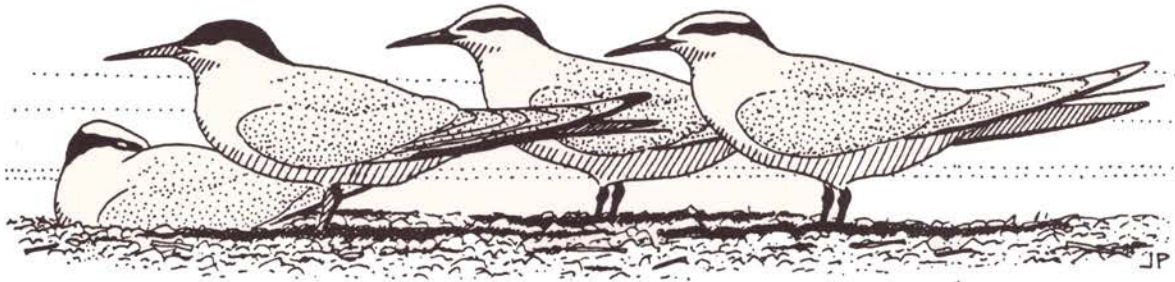
Tai Po Kau on 5th, a party of three at Tai Mei Tuk on 10th, and one at Luk Keng on 21st. Also, an Osprey was regularly seen in the Shuen Wan/Plover Cove area at this time (RWL,JNP). A Hobby was seen at Mai Po on 12th (JH).

August

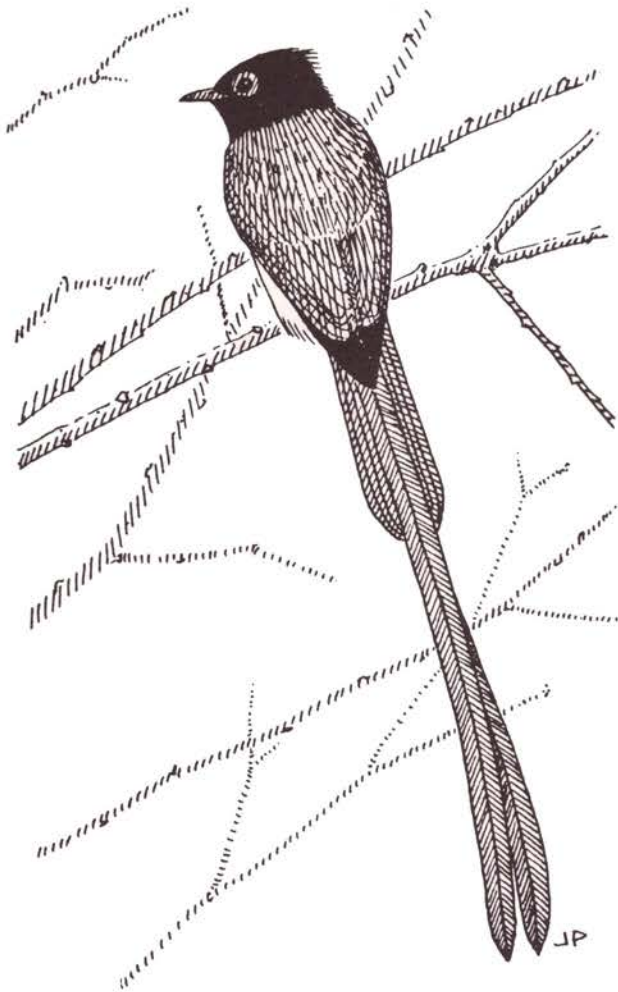
On 3rd three female/immature Watercocks were present in the paddies at Tai Long Wan, Sai Kung (ARL), on 4th at least 4 Large Grass Warblers were seen on Tai Mo Shan (AGY,WLY), while on 8th a Hoopoe gave one observer quite a surprise when it put in an appearance at Chater Garden in Central (PJL). Wader passage appeared to gather momentum around this time and by 9th 510 Redshanks were counted at Mai Po, along with 123 Greenshanks and 36 Curlews. Six Asiatic Dowitchers, three Grey-rumped Sandpipers and a Terek Sandpiper were also present (RWL). The first Red-necked Phalarope of the autumn was seen at sea off Tai Long Wan on 9th. An immature Buzzard and a Blue Rock Thrush were reported from Bluff Head, Sai Kung on 11th, when eight Common Terns were seen in Mirs Bay (ARL). Also on 11th a white-phase Reef Egret was seen at Shuen Wan (RWL). On 15th, with Typhoon Fred close to Hong Kong, a total of 88 Common Terns were seen off Cheung Chau, and an Australian Curlew and five Redshanks were also noted there (MDW). A trip out near Po Toi on 17th produced a further 45 Common Terns, as well as 20 White-winged Black, two Black-naped and a Roseate (IT,PJL,MR&EPL), while on 18th a



White-winged Black Tern



Roseate and Black-naped Terns



Asian Paradise Flycatcher

further three Red-necked Phalaropes were noted, again off Tai Long Wan (ARL). Also on 18th, 2 Rufous-necked Scimitar-babblers were heard at Black's Link. The first report of an Asian Paradise Flycatcher came from Cheung Chau on 21st (MDW).

By 24th the total number of waders at Mai Po had grown to approximately 1700 birds of 24 species, including one Knot and five Swinhoe's Snipe, and a male Chestnut Bittern was also seen (RWL,PJL). Amongst birds trapped there on 27th were singles of the latter two species, and also a Long-toed Stint (PJL). At Tin Shui Wai on 28th approximately 800 waders were present, including five Great Knot and a Sanderling (RWL). On 31st no less than four juvenile Tricolour Flycatchers and one Brown Flycatcher were trapped at Mai Po (PJL) whilst there were single Asian Paradise, Hainan Blue and Tricolour Flycatchers and an Arctic Warbler at Tai Po Kau (AGY,WLY).

FUTURE MEETINGS

DATE	LEADER	VENUE	TIME
6 October Sunday	C Y Lam Richard Stott	Mai Po++*	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 Shui parking impossible take KCR to University Station	Ferry 07.15
INDOOR MEETING 12 October Saturday		FEATHERS AND FLIGHT A Talk by Dr.T.J.Seller 3/F Beaconsfield House Queen's Road, Central Please complete tear off slip	18.30
20 October Sunday	LI Wai-ki Mike Chalmers	Tsim bei Tsui++ Bilingual	10.00-14.00
INDOOR MEETING 21 October Monday		MALAYSIA REVISITED Where to go, how to go and what to see when you get there! Peggy and Peter Stevens give you the benefit of their recent trip. WWF, Tramway Path, Central	18.30
3 November Sunday	Stewart Smith	Ping Yeung Meet: where road ends in Ping Yeung Village	07.30
9 November Saturday	John Edge	Tai Po Kau Meet: Car Park	07.30

16 November Saturday	John Holmes	Lam Tsuen Valley Meet: Chung Uk Tsuen Car Park	07.30
24 November Sunday	C Y Lam Andrew Young	Mai Po*!! Bilingual	10:00-15:00
30 November Saturday	John Edge	Wu Kau Tang Meet: Car Park	07.30
8 December Sunday	Li Wai-ki Michael Leven	Tsim Bei Tsui!!! Bilingual	10:00-16:00
15 December Sunday	Mike Turnbull	Hok Tau Reservoir Meet: Reservoir Car Park off Sha Tau Kok road	07.30
		followed by THE CURRY LUNCH - FPT Please complete enclosed form	
22 December Sunday	Mike Chalmers Simba Chan	Mai Po*!! Bilingual	10.00-16.00
29 December Sunday		CHRISTMAS COUNT	
1992			
4 January Saturday	Nigel Croft	Tai Po Kau Meet: Car Park	07.30
18 January Saturday	Peter Stevens	Tai Mei Tuk Meet: Tei Mei Tuk Visitor Centre	07.30
26 January Sunday	C Y Lam Wendy Young	Mai Po *!! Bilingual	10.00-16.00

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

++ If any member wishes to use the coach, leaving Kowloon Tong one hour before assembly time and returning there after the outing, but did not send off the form in the last bulletin, please phone Ian Tyzzer to see if there are still seats available. Please bring packed lunch and drink.

|| 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.