



# 香港觀鳥會

THE HONG KONG BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY

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**BULLETIN NO. 158      DECEMBER 1995**

## SOCIETY NEWS

### MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please resubscribe **NOW**. Form enclosed with this Bulletin. The Society's greatest expenditure is in December, when the Annual Report has to be paid for, so prompt payments will save the Society from Debt. The new membership secretaries are Mr and Mrs T.P.Luk who have taken over this thankless task from Janet Stott. Many thanks to Janet for her sterling efforts over the years-she will be a hard act to follow!

**INDOOR MEETING** On February 27th. Paul Leader will give a light-hearted talk on "Difficult to see species, how to see them and what they really look like". Species covered will range from common birds to very rare ones, and is aimed at beginners and experts alike. Paul has the ability to communicate his experience in a very down to earth way, and an interesting evening is guaranteed. The talk will be illustrated with slides. Tuesday 27th February at WWF Central Office, Tramway Path starting at 6:30 pm.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**R Stott**            Chairman  
**Wong Ah Ping**    Secretary  
**J Webster**        Treasurer  
**T.P.Luk**            Membership  
**M Chalmers**      Recorder  
**Chan Ming Ming** Bulletin  
**G Carey**          Bird Report

### 1996 IS NEW HIDE YEAR!!!

Work on the new Society hide and Boardwalk project at Mai Po will begin on January 1st with a **MANGROVE CLEARANCE WORKPARTY**

The task: to cut a 140 metre line through the mangroves from the existing boardwalk to the site of the new hide overlooking Deep Bay.

Volunteers are needed!!

The Venue: Meet at the Peter Scott Centre at 08:45am, from where the Mai Po reserve lorry will take you to the site. Latecomers are welcome, to take over from the advance party when they are knackered. Just make your own way to the boardwalk.

Bring: tools will be provided, but bring any special cutters or choppers that will make the job easier, sharpening stone, first aid kit, clean water. The oldest clothes you have, and the worst shoes. It is impossible to stay clean! Bring food and drink for lunch. **Phone Peter Hopkin** to register your intent to come; number below.

Afterwards, there will be a "Bring Your Own" **BAR-B-QUE** at Island House hosted by David Melville.

Time: when the job is done.

**C Y Lam**          Vice Chair  
**D Melville**        WWF Liason  
**Ng Cho-nam**      Conservation & Slide Library

**Cheung Ho Fai**    Library  
**P Hopkin**          Bulletin  
                          Editor:Fax

**BIRDLINE HOTLINE**

國際保護鳥類委員會香港分部

HONG KONG SECTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR BIRD PRESERVATION

PRINTED ON RE-CYCLED PAPER

## REWRITE PAGE TWO!!

As this Bulletin was going to press, the Society was in serious talks with contractors about the construction of the new boardwalk hide at Mai Po. There is a chance that it will be built this winter. The Hide Fund already stands at \$170,000- a fantastic effort by you the members, but not adequate, and there we are still taking donations with the re-subscriptions!

We owe a special thanks to Richard Stott, Mike Chalmers and David Melville for all their hard work on this on this time consuming project.

**RECORD CARDS** All members are requested to send their record cards for 1995 to Mike Leven (Note new address below) before the end of January 1996. Records submitted after this date will not be included in the report. Please also send Description Species to Mike as well, as he seems to be the only member of the rarities committee with a fixed abode. Descriptions are welcome in Chinese, although non-description species would be appreciated in English. The editor of the Bird Report would like to make a special appeal for punctuality!

### Address for sending Record Cards:

Mike Leven, 11c La Claire Mansion, 92 Pok Fu Lam Road, Pok Fu Lam, Hong Kong.

**Blank Cards** are stored at WWF Central Office, but only Rosanna knows where to find them. There is also a stock in the Mai Po shop.

**Rejection slips** for over-optimistic records are currently being processed. There have been some delays with the new system and the slips will soon be in the post.

**THE HKBWS LIBRARY** was thoroughly indexed in the summer. A complete list of Library items ( books or journals) is now available from the Librarian, Cheung Ho Fai. It is available as either hard copy or on disk (Exel only), and copies are available for \$10.

### BREEDING SURVEY Results.

Please send all Breeding Survey data for 1995 now to Mike Chalmers, 1 Fairview Villa, 52 Ma Luk Path, Kau To Shan, Shatin.



SWAROVSKI  
OPTIK

**WORLD BIRDWATCH DAY** on October 8th was celebrated by the Society and **SWAROVSKI OPTIK** with a presentation of photographs and information in Kowloon Park. About 4000 people watched birds through telescopes for the first time during guided birdwatching tours in the park. The day's success was the result of hard work by many dedicated members, producing display boards and drawing and designing and printing leaflets to hand out to visitors, donating photographs, writing and organising the press release, and organising co-sponsorship by the Conservancy Association which helped to cut some red tape.

The Society is very grateful for their contribution towards the promotion of the concept of birdwatching in Hong Kong. We would also like to thank Swarovski Optic for generously sponsoring the World Birdwatch Event and to the Management of Kowloon Park for the use of the venue.

### PLEA FOR HELP

Tim Woodward and Geoff Carey are in the process of completing a book with a working title of "Where to Watch Birds and Other Wildlife in Hong Kong and Guangdong" and would be very grateful for some help with the completion of the maps. These have been completed with the exception of adding the Chinese character placenames. Ideally these should be in simplified characters for the mainland maps and Hong Kong standard for the Hong Kong maps. Does anyone have access to a PC that can do all of this and would be willing to provide some help? They are also looking for some help with regard to access to a scanning machine. Their terms are negotiable !!

The anticipated date for going to print is now March 1996. In the meantime if anyone has any information on good or even not so good birding sites in Guangdong outside the well-known reserves Tim would be very keen to receive this. All information received will be acknowledged.

**STOP PRESS !!** Christmas Count details are still being finalised as the Bulletin goes to press. The Count form and a list of Area Leaders should appear on the final page of this bulletin. The Christmas Count offers an opportunity for coordinated fieldwork for the whole society.

**THE BIRD REPORT-** a note from the Editor, Geoff Carey.

Over the past two years the cost of producing the bird report has risen substantially, primarily due to the increased price of paper. Because of this I have been forced to make changes in its production to keep the price (and hence subscriptions) down, without sacrificing quality. Inevitably, this has meant a greater workload for myself, although it does have the benefit of allowing me more control over the finished product. However, I am stymied by two things. Firstly, the lack of a thorough understanding of the printing process and, most especially, the computer software that is used. One particular area of difficulty lies in the preparation of graphs, charts and maps. Secondly, there is the lack of a Macintosh computer on which to complete final editing before handling a disk to the printer.

**Printing experience needed!**

In order to continue to keep costs down in the future, and to ease report production, I need help in two areas. Firstly, does anybody in the Society have a good knowledge of the printing process, from typesetting through to final printing, or know somebody who has such knowledge, who would be willing to offer me the benefit of their experience. Initially this would simply be over the phone, with, perhaps, the odd phone call subsequently to answer specific questions. Secondly, does anybody have, or know of, a Macintosh computer (minimum **8Mb of RAM**) that might be available for donation to the Society specifically for Report production, if required. This computer would not only be used for the Report however, it would also be needed for the new edition of the Checklist which has commenced preparation.

If you are able to help with any of those matters, please contact me on 2608-1281, (Typesetting or printing houses able to offer substantial reductions on the cost of their services would also be most welcome).

**THE AFRICAN BIRD CLUB**

The African Bird Club shares much the same approach and many of the aims of the Oriental Bird Club. These are to provide a worldwide focus for African ornithology, encourage an interest in the conservation of the birds of the region and liaise with and promote the work of existing societies. It produces a bi-annual colour bulletin in very

much the same format as the OBC, and has developed a Conservation Research Fund. If anybody is interested in further information regarding the Club, I have a number of leaflets and one of the bulletins for inspection. Please contact Geoff Carey at Flat 11D Block 3, Royal Ascot, Fo Tan, New Territories. Otherwise, write to the African Bird Club, c/o BirdLife International, Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge CB3 0NA, UK.

**MAI PO NEWS**

By Lew Young.

Boardwalk Visits for WWF members:

There will be visits to the Floating Boardwalk Hide on the following dates:

January 27th.

February 3rd, 4th, 10th, 25th.

March 3rd, 9th.

**WWF FACILITIES AT MAI PO** Please be reminded that you must be a member of WWF Hong Kong to use the hides. WWF staff will be again checking permits and membership in 1996.

The Discover Mai Po Event which was held last year for the first time will be repeated on **January 21st**. This is a high profile event which enables members of the general public into the reserve. There will be a great deal of disturbance on this day to the birds, but anything that shows the value of the reserve to the residents of Hong Kong has to be worthwhile.

**RAMSAR DESIGNATION** for Inner Deep Bay and Mai Po was finally declared on 4th September by the British Government. The marshes are now **WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE UNDER THE RAMSAR CONVENTION**. The site comprises an area of 1500 hectares and comprises the inter-tidal mudflats of Inner Deep Bay, the Mai Po Marshes Nature Reserve, and the fish ponds in Buffer Zone One. Management of the site will be under the Director of the Agriculture and Fisheries Department and in the spring of 1996, AFD will be initiating a 9 month consultancy study on the future management of the whole Ramsar Site.

**DEVELOPMENTS AROUND MAI PO** continue to threaten the integrity of the wetlands. The Shenzhen River dredging will start in the new year, and changes in the hydrological balance of Deep Bay are inevitable. Recent large scale reclamations adjacent to the Futien Reserve in China were not included in the hydrological modelling, and impacts on the wildlife in Deep Bay can only be guessed at. The scheme is officially for flood alleviation, but improved navigation to Shenzhen is also included in the agenda.

It is ironic that less than one week after the announcement of the Ramsar designation that a Town Planning Appeal case began to consider a 31 hectare housing development within Buffer Zone Two at Wing Kei Tsuen. The hearing is now complete and the developer has since lost the case.

The legal arguments concentrated on planning issues, but another consideration was the importance of fishponds for wildlife, and whether the ponds act as a buffer between Mai Po and urban developments. The developer hired the same team of ecologists as in the Nam Sang Wai case, which still awaits the Court of Appeal. The view of the ecological team is that fish ponds are degraded and polluting habitats with minimal value to wildlife. Therefore it is acceptable to allow the developments to proceed since in many cases the developing companies also propose some kind of a nature reserve which would be better for wildlife than the habitat that has been destroyed.

However the ecological team do not seem to have consulted any of the local naturalists or academics about the wealth of information that is available on the value of fish ponds. The October 1995 issue of Porcupine! summarises some of the evidence. (The Bulletin Editor has copies if any member wants one).

Obviously, only a small part of one side of the argument can be presented here, and it would be helpful to hear other points of view for or against the conservation of these fish ponds in future issues of the Bulletin.

For this reason, we have invited Eco-schemes Asia Ltd to summarise their arguments against retention of the fish ponds: see below!

## THE DEEP BAY DEVELOPMENT DEBATE.

Eco-schemes Asia Ltd have been acting as environmental consultant for some of the developers in the Deep Bay area. Here, Gary Grant and Nigel Wheatley outline some of their arguments that have been presented at recent planning enquiries. This is followed by a response written by Michael Lau.

### Cooperation and Compromise will be better than Confrontation for the Special Birds of Deep Bay.

By Gary Grant and Nigel Wheatley

Nineteen species of birds are listed under Hong Kong in "Birds to Watch 2; The World List of Threatened Birds" (birds threatened with worldwide extinction) and the conservation of these species must be a priority. Virtually all of them are primarily associated with Deep Bay when they visit Hong Kong. They require a protected, pollution-free estuary.

At present Deep Bay is becoming seriously polluted. Ironically, it seems likely that this pollution has led to an increase in the capacity of the bay to feed many species of birds. Moderate levels of pollution (presumably organic pollution, sewerage etc, Ed) increase the numbers of certain mud-dwelling invertebrates which benefit from the increased food supply which pollution brings. These invertebrates are, in turn, fed on by some species of bird.

Unfortunately pollution decreases the overall biodiversity of the bay as pollution sensitive species decline. There is also the danger that break point (total ecosystem collapse) could be reached, when pollution levels are so high that even the most tolerant invertebrates disappear (and the birds with them). Such a situation already appears to exist at the mouth of the Shenzhen River. Once this break point has been reached in the bay as whole, the ecosystem will never fully recover and many species will be lost forever. Preventing this must also therefore be a conservation priority for Deep Bay.

The development at Nam Sang Wai will include the means to intercept and remove effluent heading for Deep Bay and to treat

the development's own waste to the highest standards, so that the net effect of the scheme will be an overall reduction in the pollution of Deep Bay. That scheme, as well as some others proposed, will therefore benefit the bay.

That the mud flats and waters of Deep Bay are a critically important food source for both endangered and common birds is surely not in question. A suggestion was made recently by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, that part of the bay be reclaimed in order to create more fish ponds to mitigate the loss of fishponds due to government drainage works. This idea should be resisted, because the mud flats and waters of the bay are far, far more important for nature conservation than fishponds, many of which will remain whichever development pattern is eventually adopted.

Fishponds and their value to birds has become a major issue since we began work on the Nam Sang Wai/Lut Chau development proposal in January 1993. This has surprised us given the acknowledged loss of nature conservation value caused through the construction of fish farms on natural wetlands, not only in Hong Kong but throughout the Tropics. We maintain the position we held when we first started to survey fishponds; that they do support birds, but that the species involved are mostly highly adaptable and common, and that the proposed development areas in question rarely support any of the nineteen threatened or near-threatened species. These areas are not as important for birds as, for example, Deep Bay, Mai Po NR or the lagoons at Tsim Bei Tsui. The fishponds themselves are re-creatable habitats and it is possible to mitigate against their loss by restoring remaining fishponds to a more natural condition and actively managing them (as proposed, for example, at Lut Chau which is to be funded by the Nam Sang Wai development). Recent statements by officials that existing fishponds would be better for wildlife than proposed nature reserves may bolster their arguments against proposed conservation/housing schemes, but they ignore and undermine the whole modern conservation philosophy of restoration, enhancement and active management.

It is our view that the do-nothing approach of maintaining fishponds will not help to secure the future for the threatened and near-

threatened species for which Hong Kong is so important. Our argument is that fishponds are not the best habitat for the margins of Deep Bay because they do not provide the best possible high tide feeding and roosting sites for those birds that rely first and foremost on the bay. Fishponds are not managed for wildlife, but for commercial purposes. Their value to birds is incidental and may be reduced through the intensification of farming. Instead of the retention of fish farms we would like to see the restoration of mangrove and the creation of shallow lagoons, vegetated freshwater lakes and freshwater marshes to be managed as reserves, especially within the Ramsar Site, but also on parts of development sites in Buffer Zone 2.

We believe that the restoration approach will benefit all birds, but especially the threatened and near-threatened species. The government has the option of doing this with the ponds it owns. Developers are offering to do this on some of the land they own and they have the resources to not only restore these habitats, but to provide money for future management (HK\$3 million per annum, index linked, for Lut Chau, for example).

It is important to remember that Buffer Zone 2 (where developments will occur) is not a rural paradise, but a bustling mosaic of housing estates, open storage yards, sawmills, scrap yards and unsewered villages as well as fishponds, bounded by busy roads and within earshot of both Yuen Long and Shenzhen. No conservation management occurs. Unless sensitively redeveloped, these areas are in danger of becoming so degraded that the little value they have for birds will eventually be lost anyway. Even dereliction, if it occurs following a development freeze, will not be entirely beneficial, because dereliction is always accompanied by an increase in pollution and tipping in the urban fringe. To temporarily stifle the economic ambitions of those who have an interest in the area at such a pivotal moment in the Territory's history is to invite future disaster for the birds. We see this not as a threat but as a realistic evaluation of the situation. We would like to see the current confrontation move towards dialogue, compromise and active partnership.

Gary Grant and  
Nigel Wheatley

The following reply was written by Michael Lau:

The article by Messrs Grant and Wheatley contains many half truths. They are saying that if we want to protect the threatened birds of Deep Bay, then the inter-tidal mudflats are the most important. Without having conducted any scientific studies themselves, and ignoring published information by local scientists and naturalists, they conclude that commercial fish-ponds are unimportant for birds and so can be filled in for the construction of private housing. Then the developers will create small nature reserves containing a variety of habitats. This argument is flawed. Readers of the Autumn 1995 issue of Porcupine will have seen a 6 page feature summarising the results of studies by local naturalists on the ecological value of fish-ponds, which includes 136 species of birds, 11 species of mammal, 30 species of Dragonfly, and the list goes on. How much fieldwork has Eco-schemes Asia done, and at what time of year, and where are their results?

The 750 fishponds in the North East New Territories can store up to 25% of the annual rainfall in the area, and so reducing the risk of flooding in the district. Development of floodplain areas is severely restricted in the U.K. for this reason-cover the marches with concrete and the flooding problem gets worse. The fish-ponds also provide a living for many local families and provides fish from sustainable sources for the market. The current use of the Deep Bay fish ponds therefore benefits both people and wildlife and is a good example of the wise and sustainable use that the Ramsar Convention puts so much emphasis on.

The developer's agents such as Ecoschemes Asia are trying to shift the argument away from the fish ponds that will be destroyed to say that the mudflat is the most important habitat to protect the threatened birds of the Deep Bay area. They do not mention that many of these threatened species also use fish ponds as feeding habitats or as roosting sites, especially during the spring and autumn migrations. They say that the fish pond species are "common and adaptable", such as Black-faced Spoonbill?

Everyone knows that the water quality in Deep Bay is bad, but data from the

Environmental Protection Department shows that the pollution is not continuing to deteriorate. While the attempts by the developers to lower existing levels of effluent and to minimise their own pollution by building water treatment plants is to be applauded, the benefits of these plants is grossly exaggerated. Every day, an estimated 90,000 kg of BOD (an index of pollution) enters Deep Bay from China and Hong Kong. The proposed treatment plants will reduce BOD in the Yuen Long and Kam Tin rivers by 1,511 kg/day or 1.7% of the total. Much of the existing Hong Kong effluent comes from pig and other organic farm waste, so that when the EPD enforces the Livestock Waste Control Act in the Deep Bay catchment in 1996, the pollution will decrease anyway.

Nature reserves are also promised as part of the developments, but how big are these? At Nam Sang Wai, a 40 hectare reserve will be created after filling in 98 hectares for a golf course. At Wing Kei Tsuen (which has since failed at Planning appeal..Ed) there will be a 3.5ha reserve after filling in 19ha for housing. The Government doubts that enough money will be provided to manage these reserves properly, and there is no legal mechanism to guarantee that the promises will be followed through. It is very easy to make a reserve, far more difficult to keep it going. The loss of the current fishponds, with known wildlife value, does not justify the gain of a small reserve with an uncertain future.

The main threat to wetland conservation is the gradual loss of the fishponds. If all of the proposed public and private developments are approved, 42% of the remaining wetlands will be lost. These wetlands are an integral part of the Deep Bay ecosystem, and much of the loss would be in Buffer Zone Two. These areas are not as disturbed as the Developers claim: there are still beautiful areas of wetlands that will be destroyed, as anyone who has been to Nam Sang Wai can testify. The Government has clearly said that certain types of developments can be allowed, provided they follow clear planning guidelines. These developments do not.

The modern thinking over wetland conservation is not about restoration, enhancement or active management, all of which are remedial, but for no net loss of wetlands which is the pro-active way for conservation.

Compromise between developers and conservationists is inevitable and necessary over the future of Deep Bay, but any discussion should be between parties who can be honest in arguing their case and not distort the facts.

Editor's Note. I make no apology for printing these two opposing viewpoints more or less unedited. I welcome comments from you the membership that will add to the debate, and there will be space for your comments in the next issue. Gary Grant has offered to present a talk to the Society, and we are hoping that this can be arranged in the New Year. Watch this space!

Feedback. I receive very few comments about this Bulletin, and would welcome all feedback. Obviously content is determined by what is written, and this is a particularly meaty issue, but if there is anything that you would like to see or read, or too much of any one aspect, please give me a call. I really can recommend Porcupine! as a newsletter which is easy and informative to read, and essential to all nature lovers in Hong Kong. Phone me for details.

No apologies either for the ancient joke that follows in the next item:

## **OVERSEAS BIRDING HOLIDAYS**

Queensland, June 1995.

By John Holmes and Nigel Croft.

Australian Immigration Official to Tourist : "Do you have a criminal record?"

Tourist: "I'm sorry, I didn't realise it was still required..."

Arrival formalities aside, CAIRNS is an easy, direct, six-and-a-half hour flight from Hong Kong. The morning air in June is pleasantly crisp and there is plenty of tourist information for the first-time visitor. Nigel and I were armed with notes and advice from Richard & Janet STOTT. We made straight for the esplanade at Cairns. Birds on the mud ignoring passing strollers included Australian (Royal) Spoonbill, White Ibis, Australian Pelican, and a pretty tame bunch of egrets and waders.

If you stand still with bins for more than five minutes you are likely to be gently accosted by one Andy P. Anderson, a professional bird tour guide. Hiring him would certainly be the

easy way (he has a car) to get many of the local specialities. Determined to misidentify the local avifauna by ourselves, Nigel & I loaded the hire car with essential supplies (Fosters, XXXX, VB etc.) and headed for Kingfisher Park, about 120 kms away. The drive along the Cook highway is glorious, with Brahminy Kite & White-bellied Sea Eagle over the water.

The people at Kingfisher Park have self catering cabins for AUS\$80 per night and are central (as their advertising blurb says) for a variety of habitats. We watched honeyeaters come to their feeders, including Macleay's, Lewin's and Blue-checked. Compared to other Australian birds, many honeyeaters are rather dull so this is the way to see them. Woken to the call of the Kookaburra, we also saw Australian Bee-Eaters, Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, Turkey Fowl and Spotted Catbird.

We moved down to Daintree and stayed at Red Mill House with Chris Dahlberg for two nights. Dawn boat trips with him brought us several new birds, including Pacific Baza, Great-billed Heron, Little and Azure Kingfishers. Barking Owls were photographed in the garden. Post-trip breakfasts are HIGHLY recommended.

Returning to Kingfisher Park we hired the services of Lloyd Neilsen, a local ornithologist, and this was money well spent, with Wedge-tailed Eagle and Rufous Owl amongst others added to our list.

Our last two nights in the Tablelands were at Lake Eacham where Duck-billed Platypus and Sugar Gliders were well seen.

Addresses :Kingfisher Park Birdwatchers Lodge, P.O.Box 3, Julatten 4871, Qld. Fax 011-61-70-953754.

Andy P. Anderson, Box 7999, CAIRNS North Qld. 4870.

The CHAMBERS, P.O. Box 87, Yungaburra, Far North Qld. Australia 4872

Fax : 011-61-70-953754

So, North Queensland is an ideal summer break, although the air fare can be expensive. It's a comfortable trip with good birding, and the natives almost speak English. We managed nearly 200 birds in ten days of very casual birding.

## CHINESE BIRDING HOLIDAYS

### NAN KUN SHAN

August 1995

By Tim Woodward

This was a three day trip over the August bank holiday and proved to be unexpectedly fruitful. John Holmes's directions were excellent and the journey involving a train, two buses and three motorbikes, was very smooth. I had expected Ha Ping, the village in the centre of reserve, to be small and poor with one dingy guesthouse. So I was surprised to find that it's booming, not because of any new fashion for hiking in the maintains but because it's a convenient spot for Guangzhou men to liaise with 'public relations girls' from Human and similar poor provinces. It's important to get a very quiet room in the hotel of your choice, and not just because of the karaoke.

Birding in August at Nan Kun Shan is more fun than Hong Kong. It's relatively cool for a start and there were a number of interesting species down by the river including Dipper and Slaty-backed Forktails. For some reason the area is full of Necklaced Laughingthrushes, however none would turn themselves into Lesser versions. The perimeters of the reserve are good too: each morning I took a motorbike ride out to one of the remoter villages and then walked back. I climbed to the top of what I think is Nan Kun Shan on one day, though the peak was shrouded in cloud, and the hiked back through Seung Ping and Jung Ping. Between the two I came across a large group of Hair-crested Drongos which noisily landed in some secondary growth trees and flushed out a smaller, shyer bird - which proved to be a female Silver Oriole. Frustratingly I had a good view for only 15 seconds or so before it flew off and was gone.

I returned the same route through Wing Han and Zhengcheng to Shilong. On the ride down from the Nan Kun Shan valley to Ha Ping I searched in vain for the Rickett's Hill Partridge seen by Paul Aston and John Holmes in June 1994.

Nan Kun Shan is a good place to go and there is an abundance of hotel accommodation and variety of food and although the four owl species seen in restaurant cages in previous years were not here, the local eateries were offering 'mong sue' (Bamboo rat) and another larger beaver-like species called a 'shan lei' (mountain animal). If anyone knows what this is please give me a call.

### SHANTAO-CHAOZHOU

November 1995

By Tim Woodward.

This four day trip was very much a fact-finding mission to see if there's anything left worth saving in eastern Guangdong. The only notes I had to go on were La Touche and things seem to have changed since then - for example I saw no sign of Painted Storks (of course these are only Summer visitors !!). What's new since La Touche's day is Black-shouldered Kite - I saw one near Fenghuangshan (Phoenix Mountain) and a couple near the ferry to Nanao Island. Added to another seen in central coastal Fujien in June, I get the impression this species is sweeping into south-east China with a vengeance.

Generally the mountains north of Chaozhou were barren and lacking in decent forest, although I did not have enough time to get as far north as Meizhou where Yinna Shan is reputed to be good.

Where I did have some success was in finding an area similar in habitat to Tsim Bei Tsui on the road from Chenghai to the ferry to Nanao Island. There is a large area of fishponds on one side of the causeway and mudflats on the other. Interesting species included one or two Hoopoes, a Peregrine, 12 Caspian Terns, 25 Temminck's Stints, 120+ Dunlin, a single Tufted Duck, 60 Wigeon, 100 Little Egrets, and a single Orinetal Pratincole. I recorded more than 50 species there in a day's birdwatching (this is good for Guangdong for all those die-hard Hong Kong - only birdwatchers) I was surprised to see that there was no evidence of hunting even on a Sunday. Nanao island itself, despite having reserve status, seemed awful - it is said to be good for migrants but the only ones there, apart from a few stray Daurian Redstarts, were the public relations girls (see Nan Kun Shan) from all parts of China.

Getting to Shantao airport was hilarious - it must have secret status as it is not marked on any maps or signposted in any way. It is located behind an industrial estate near some market gardens. I arranged a motorbike ride to get there only to be stopped halfway when we came to a police checkpoint, as my rider had no licence. After I had paid him off he generously waved down a bus for me so I could continue my journey.



## INVENTORY OF GLOBALLY THREATENED BIRDS

-Contributed by David Melville.

13 globally threatened and 13 near-threatened bird species have been recorded from Hong Kong according to the latest edition of 'Birds to Watch - The World List of Threatened Birds', published by BirdLife International. This places Hong Kong 33 among 188 geopolitical units considered by BirdLife, based on the number of critical and endangered species occurring. The most critically threatened species in Hong Kong is the Black-faced Spoonbill - a quarter of the world population winters at Mai Po.

China has 86 globally threatened species, 5 of which are critically endangered : White-eared Night Heron, Crested Ibis, Black-faced Spoonbill, Sichuan Hill Partridge and Chinese Crested Tern.

The latest edition of Birds to Watch records 1111 species, approximately 11% of the world's avifauna as being threatened, with a further 11 species being dependent on active conservation measures for their continued survival.

### List of birds recorded in Hong Kong which are globally threatened or near threatened:

#### Critical

Black-faced Spoonbill

*Platalea minor*

#### Endangered

Chinese Egret

*Egretta eulohotes*

Oriental Stork

*Ciconia boyciana*

Spotted Greenshank

*Tringa guttifer*

Saunders' Gull

*Larus saundersi*

#### Vulnerable

Dalmatian Pelican

*Pelecanus crispus*

Christmas Island Frigatebird

*Fregata andrewsi*

Japanese Night-heron

*Gorsachius goisagi*

Baer's Pochard

*Aythya baeri*

Greater Spotted Eagle

*Aquila clanga*

Imperial Eagle

*Aquila heliaca*

Spoon-billed Sandpiper

*Eurynorhynchus pygmaeus*

Yellow Bunting

*Emberiza sulphurata*

#### Near-threatened

Schrenck's Bittern

*Ixobrychus eurhythmus*

Black-headed Ibis

*Threskiornis melanocephalus*

Mandarin Duck

*Aix galericulata*

Cinereous Vulture

*Aegypius monachus*

Long-billed Plover

*Charadrius placidus*

Grey-headed Lapwing

*Vanellus cinereus*

Far Eastern Curlew

*Numenius madagascariensis*

Asian Dowitcher

*Limnodromus semipalmatus*

Relict Gull

*Larus relictus*

Japanese Waxwing

*Bombycilla japonica*

Fukian Niltava

*Niltava davidi*

Silky Starling

*Sturnus sericeus*

Chestnut-cheeked Starling

*Sturnus philippensis*

Criteria for determining the status of individual species involves a complex matrix of factors such as population size and rate of decline, and distribution pattern and geographical range. Ideally these factors, together with a knowledge of the species biology, allows a ~ population viability analysis' (pva) which would permit the determination of probabilities of extinction.

Critical

probability of extinction > 50% within 5 years

Endangered

probability of extinction > 20% within 20 years

Vulnerable

probability of extinction > 10% within 100 years

In the case of Birds to Watch pva was not done, but the above criteria give an indication of what might be expected for each species.

## **BIRD NEWS...BIRD NEWS...BIRD NEWS...BIRD NEWS...BIRD NEWS**

September - November 1995 By Richard Lewthwaite.

**Black-necked Grebe** - October : one off the Tsim Bei Tsui pier on 28th (PA), a 4th record if accepted.

**Petrel sp** - October : two unidentified petrels at Cape d'Aguilar on 3rd were probably pterodroma petrels, which includes species such as Stejneger's, Bonin and Tahiti Petrels. (PJL et al).

**Schrenck's Bittern** - September : two at Luk Keng on 9th and singles near Lut Chau on 19th and at Long Valley on 27th October : one at Tai O, Lantau on 8th.

**Chestnut Bittern** - September : singles near Lut Chau on 19th and at Long Valley on 27th. October one at Ho Chung on 21st.

**Black Bittern** - September: One at Mai Po on 3rd (PJL,MRL) and 20th (WY).

**Black Stork** - September : one flying over Tai Mei Tuk on 14th (WY).

**Black-headed Ibis** - October : an adult at Kam Tin, a new location for this species, on 4th and an adult at Tsim Bei Tsui on 24th & 28th. November : an adult at Tsim Bei Tsui on 12th.

**Black-faced Spoonbill** - September : three immatures, presumably the over-summering individuals, at Mai Po on 29th. October : five on 21st and 17 at Tsim Bei Tsui on 28th. November : counts at Mai Po of 50 on 7th, 62 on 12th and rising to 99 by the months end. This is a new high count, and approximately one quarter of the world population (RWL).

**Garganey** - October : a total of 710, a new high, on the abandoned fish ponds at the northern end of the Fence on 7th (MRL, PJL).

**Baikal Teal** - November : a female at Kam Tin on 18th-19th (PJL at all).

**Scaup** - November : an immature male at Mai Po on 12th (RWL).

**Black Baza** - A fairly good autumn with 49 bird-days, 18th September-15 October. September: seven over the Mai Po egretty on 18th (PJL), two at Ng Tung Chai on 21st, and four at Ho Chung and three at Ping Yeung on 23rd. October: passage continued with 13 at Mui Wo on 2nd, seven at Tin Shui Wai reclamation on 13 at another site (location unclear) (MR) on 14th.

**Crested Honey Buzzard** - October : one at Mai Po on 22nd (RWL) and six at Mount Davis on 29th (MT). Single large raptors, either Crested Honey Buzzard or Mountain Hawk Eagle, were reported from Tin Shui Wai on 14th (DAD) and Mui Wo, Lantau on 15th (PJH).

**Hen Harrier** - October : a ring-tailed harrier thought to be this species at Crest Hill on 8th (WP).

**Pied Harrier** - October : singles at Mai Po on 7th (CAV) and Chep Lap Kok on 10th (GJC). November : an immature at Ping Yeung on 19th (JAH).

**Japanese Sparrowhawk** - October : one at Mai on 8th, two at Chep Lap Kok on 10th, one at Kam Tin on 13th, singles at Nam Sang Wai and Mui Wo on 15th, and six at Fan Lau, Lantau on 21st. November : singles at Yung Shue O on 1st and Mong Tseng on 11th.

**Besra** - September : singles at Mai Po on 12th and Fung Kat Heung on 27th. October: one at Big Wave Bay on 3rd, three at Mai Po on 7th, one at Nam Sang Wai on 20th and 22nd and one at Shuen Wan on 24th. November : one at Sha Lo Tung, on 5th and 11th and Tung Chung on 18th (PJL,GJC,JSRE,PA,MT,RWL,JEB).

**Chinese Goshawk** - October : an immature at Mai Po on 22nd (RWL) and one at Lut Chau on 28th (PA).

**Northern Sparrowhawk** - October : Singles at Mong Tseng on 8th (JAH), Dong Ping Chau on 14th (GJC), Lam Tsuen Valley on 22nd (PJL), Kam Tin on 25th (MH,PJL) and Ma Tso Lung on 28th (PJL). November : one at Kam Tin on 5th (CHF,RWL,YYT).

**Grey-faced Buzzard** - September : one at Mai Po on 19th. November : one at Victoria Park on 9th.

**Imperial Eagle** - November : one at Lut Chau and three at Ma Tso Lung on 4th and three at Mai Po on 18th.

**Spotted Eagle** - November : two at Nam Sang Wai on 3rd, singles at Lut Chau and Ma Tso Lung on 4th and three at Mai Po on 18th.

**Mountain Hawk Eagle** - October : one drying its wings after heavy rain at Long Valley on 5th (RWL), a 3rd record if accepted.

**Hobby** - A good autumn with 30 bird-days, 19th September - 19th October. Best counts were five at Tin Shui Wai reclamation on 14th and a total of 10 from scattered sites on 15th October.

**Common Peasant** - November : two near Ping Yeung on 15th (per NJGC).

**Yellow-legged Buttonquail** - October : singles at Long Valley on 1st, Lut Chau on 18th (PJL) and Tin Shui Wai on 28th (RWL). Unidentified buttonquails were reported in ones and twos from Lut Chau, Long Valley, Tin Shui Wai, Sha Lo Tung and Baguio reclamation on thirteen dates, 8th September -18th November.

**Barred Buttonquail** - September : one at Mai Po on 22nd (RWL).

**Pheasant-tailed Jacana** - November : one at Ma Tso Lung on 9th.

**Watercock**- September : singles at Long Valley on 27th and Mai Po on 30th. October : one at Long Valley on 14th & 15th. November : one at Long Valley on 1st.

**Painted Snipe** - September : counts of 12 on 15th, 10 on 19th and 18 on 23rd, all from Long Valley. October: about 20 at Long Valley on 29th. November : one at Wu Kau Tang, a new site, on 4th and 19 at Kam Tin the same day and 17 there on 11th.

**Oriental Pratincole** - October : a flock of 12 at Long Valley on 5th.

**American Golden Plover** - October : one among a flock of Pacific Golden Plovers in front of the Mai Po boardwalk on 8th (RWL) will be first for Hong Kong if accepted.

**Jack Snipe** - October: one near the Mai Po boardwalk on 7th (CAV) is a potential first.

**Asian Dowitcher** - September : one from the Mai Po boardwalk on 24th. October: one at Long Valley during 6th-8th October and a different individual in front of the Mai Po boardwalk on 21st, a new late date.

**Long-billed Dowitcher** - November : two in front of the Mai Po boardwalk on 22nd (GJC).

**Little Whimbrel** - October : two at Long Valley on 6th (PJL) and one at Kam Tin on 28th (DAD), a new late date. These are the first in autumn for over ten years.

**Woodcock** - September : one at Mount Austin on 28th. October : one found freshly dead at the Royal Observatory on 23rd (CYL). November : singles at Sha Lo Tung on 5th and Hok Tau on 18th.

**Red-necked Phalarope** - October : a count of 1,572, a new autumn high, at Cape d'Aguilar on 3rd (GJC).

**Brown-headed Gull** - October : a winter-plumaged adult on 21st, a new early date.

**Greater Crested Tern** - October : one at Tai O on 3rd (PJH). Three large terns at Cape d'Aguilar on the same date were probably this species (GJC, RWL).

**Black-naped Tern** - September : six near Tap Mun on 2nd (JW). October : three off Cheung Chau on 3rd.

**Common Tern** - September : six at Cape d'Aguilar on 1st. October : two at Cheung Chau, four at Cape d'Aguilar and 400 at Tai O, Lantau on 3rd.

**Aleutian Tern** - September : a total of 175 at Cape d'Aguilar between 6:30 - 9:15 am on 1st. October singles off Cheung Chau on 3rd and near Dong Ping Chau on 14th, a new late date.

**Bridled Tern** - October : one at Long Valley on 3rd was the first inland record of this species. There were also ten at Cape d'Aguilar and one at Cheung Chau on the same day.

**Sooty Tern** - October : singles at Cheung (MDW) and Tin Shui Wai (DAD) reclamation, the first inland record, on 3rd.

**White-winged Black Tern** - September : four at Lim Barn Tsuen on 27th. October : totals of 15 at Cheung Chau, 300 at Long Valley, 30 at Cape d'Aguilar and 100 at Tai O, Lantau, all on 3rd.

**Large Hawk Cuckoo** - Two rare autumn reports. September : one calling at Kap Lung Forest Trail on 10th. October : one seen at Mount Austin on 9th (VBP).

**Oriental Cuckoo** - September : singles at Long Valley on 15th, Mai Po on 18th and Kam Tin on 23rd. October : one at Mui Wo on 15th.

**Brown Fish Owl** - September : one near Chek Keng (EMSK) on 2nd.

**Grey Nightjar** - October : one at Mong Tseng on 22nd. November : one found dead at Cape d'Aguilar on 2nd (MRL).

**White-throated Needletail** - September : singles near Lut Chau on 19th and at Long Valley on 24th (PJL et al), the first autumn records. October : an unidentified Needletail at Long Valley on 5th.

**Himalayan Swiftlet** - November : one at Mong Tseng on 12th (JAH).

**Crested Kingfisher** - October : one at High Island Reservoir on 8th (JMCW)

**Blue-tailed Bee-eater** - October : one at Tsim Bei Tsui on 3rd (per CHF), six at Tsim Bei Tsui on 14th (CHF) and then a total of 55 on 15th, comprising three at Sha Tin sewage works (MRL), four at Tsim Bei Tsui (JMCW), at least 33 at Long Valley (CHF, JGH, PJL, RWL et al) and 15 at Mai Po (per MRL). The previous high count was 14 on 12th October 1994.

**Hoopoe** - September : singles at Ta Kwu Ling on 25th and Mt Austin on 27th. October : singles at Ho Chung on 21st on Long Valley on 29th. November : one at Long Valley on 18th-19th.

**Wryneck** - September : singles at Lut Chau on 19th, Kam Tin and Tin Shui Wai on 30th and two at Tsim Bei Tsui on the latter date. October : singles at Sha Lo Tung on 19th and Lam Tsuen Valley on 22nd. November : singles at Tin Shui Wai on 1st, Tan Shan Valley on 4th, Sha Lo Tung on 11th and Ho Sheung Heung on 21st.

**Woodpecker sp** - September : one heard at Mount Austin on 14th (JEB). November : one heard at Ng Tung Chai on 5th (RWL et al).

**Northern Skylark** - November : two at Mai Po on 11th (MRL) and one at Kam Tin on 18th (PJL).

**Asian House Martin** - September : twelve at Mai Po on 21st and ten there on 26th.

**Pechora Pipit** - September : one at Mai Po reclamation on 27th (GJC). October : one at Mai Po on 9th (PJL, MRL).

**Blyth's Pipit** - September : one at Mai Po on 11th (PJL), HK 1st if accepted.

**Forest Wagtail** - September : singles at Tsim Bei Tsui on 20th, Fung Yuen on 23rd, Happy Valley on 27th and Long Valley on 30th. October : one at Tai Po Kau on 7th.

**Citrine Wagtail** - The run of records continues. September : one at Long Valley on 30th. October at least two different first-winters at Long Valley, 1st-14th, and adult female at Lut Chau, 27th-28th. November : adult females at Long Valley on 1st and Kam Tin on 11th, 18th & 19th.

**Black-backed Wagtail** - three at Dong Ping Chau on 18th (EMSK).

**Black-winged Cuckoo-Shrike** - September : singles at Mong Tseng on 17th, Tai Mo Shan on 23rd, Kowloon Park on 27th, Sha Lo Tung on 28th and two at Kowloon Park on 30th. October : two in Kowloon Park on 7th, and singles at Ho Chung on 12th and Kam Tin on 13th. November : one at Tai Po Kau on 1st and one at Sha Lo Tung on 11th and 14th.

**Ashy Minivet** - October : six at Kam Tin on 14th and five near Sai Kung on 29th. November : three at Sha Lo Tung and one at Cheung Chau on 5th.

**Blue-winged Leafbird** - September : one in Kowloon Park on 30th (Cat E).

**Siberian Blue Robin** - A record September with 19 bird-days. September : noted on ten days, 16th-27th, from Mount Austin, Ho Chung, Ng Tung Chai, Kap Lung Forest Trail, Ngong Ping and Sha Lo Tung. October : one in Tai Po Kau on 7th.

**Grey Bushchat** - November : one at Ho Chung on 16th.

**Orange-headed Ground Thrush** - September : two at Kap Lung Forest Trail, 10th-16th.

**Siberian Thrush** - September : two at Kap Lung Forest Trail on 16th, a new early date.

**Slaty-backed Forktail** - September-November : one or two on several dates at Ng Tung Chai.

**Brown Bush Warbler** - HK 3rd & 4th records if accepted. October : one at Sha Lo Tung on 26th (RWL). November : one trapped at Sha Lo Tung on 18th and seen there again on 19th (PJL et al).

**Bright-capped Cisticola** - October : three at Sha Lo Tung on 26th, a new early date. November : up to five regularly reported at Sha Lo Tung.

**Lanceolated Warbler** - September : four bird-days, 21st-30th, from Kowloon Park, Long Valley and Tin Shui Wai. October : four bird-days, 14th-21st, from Ma Tso Lung, Ma Wan and Mount Austin. November : three bird-days, 1st-11th, at Long Valley and Sha Lo Tung.

**Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler** - September : a total of 38 bird-days, 2nd-27th from Long Valley, Mai Po, Ma Tso Lung, Lut Chau and Fung Yuen. October : four bird-days, 14th-28th, from Ma Wan, Nam Sang Wai, Tin Shui Wai and Happy Valley.

**Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler** - 3rd to 5th records if accepted. September : singles trapped at Mai Po on 24th and Long Valley on 30th September (PJL et al). October : one seen at Mai Po on 7th October (RWL).

**Great Reed Warbler** - September : biggest counts were 60+ at Mai Po on 18th, 80 there on 24th and 80 at Lim Barn Tsuen on 27th.

**Manchurian Reed Warbler** - September : a first-winter at Mai Po on 18th-20th and one at Long Valley on 23rd (PJL et al).

**Thick-billed Warbler** - A good autumn. September : singles at Mai Po on 17th (JAH), Kowloon Park on 20th (PA) and Mai Po on 24th (PJL). October : singles at Nam Sang Wai on 18th and Mai Po on 25th (MRL, PJL). November : one at Sha Lo Tung on 18th (PA, MT).

**Radde's Warbler** - November : at least one at Sha Lo Tung, 5th-22nd. Also, singles at Ng Tung Chai on 11th, Tung Chung on 18th and KARC on 19th.

**Brown-chested Flycatcher** - September : one at Kap Lung Forest Trail, 16th-20th, HK 1st if accepted (MH, PJH, PJL, RWL et al). November : one in Aberdeen Country Park on 18th (JEB).

**Chinese Blue Flycatcher** - November : two in Aberdeen Country Park on 18th (JEB) and one at Ho Pui Reservoir on 20th (DS), HK 3rd & 4th records if accepted.

**Hainan Blue Flycatcher** - September : a male at Kap Lung Forest Trail on 16th-17th.

**Blue-and-white Flycatcher** - September : singles at Ng Tung Chau on 9th and Tai Mo Shan on 23rd.  
**Sooty Flycatcher** - September : a record month with 16 bird-days, 16th-25th. Noted at Kap Lung Forest Trail, Tai Mo Shan, Kowloon Park, Pak Nai, Lam Tsuen and Sha Lo Tung. October : singles at Mount Davis and Tai Po Kau on 7th. November : one at Tung Chung on 18th.  
**Grey-streaked Flycatcher** - September : singles at Pak Nai on 20th, Mai Po on 21st, Tai Mo Shan on 24th and Lam Tsuen Valley on 25th. October : singles at Mount Davis on 3rd and 7th and at Mui Wo, Lantau on 15th.  
**Brown Flycatcher** - September : a total of 38 bird-days from 2nd, including 15 at Mai Po on 24th. October : a total of 22 bird-days up to 24th, with seven at Lam Tsuen Valley on 22nd.  
**Mugimaki Flycatcher** - November : fifteen bird-days, 9th-22nd, from Sha Lo Tung, Cloudy Hill, Tai Po Kau, Kap Lung Forest Trail, KARC and Ho Pui Reservoir.  
**Yellow-rumped Flycatcher** - September : at least 22 bird-days, 3rd-25th, with a high count of at Kap Lung Forest Trail on 13th. Also noted at Tai Mo Shan, Kowloon Park, Mai Po and Lam Tsuen.  
**Grey-headed Flycatcher** - October : one at Lam Tsuen Valley on 22nd. November : singles at La Tsuen on 9th and Tai Po Kau on 18th.  
**Asian Paradise Flycatcher** - A total of nine bird-days, 2nd September-7th October. September : singles at Tai Po Kau on 2nd, Kap Lung Forest Trail on 10th, 16th, 17th and 23rd, Kowloon Park on 16th, Ng Tung Chai on 21st and Lam Tsuen Valley on 23rd. October : one at Kowloon Park on 7th (PA).  
**Japanese Paradise Flycatcher** - A total of 14 bird-days, 2nd September-28th October. September : singles at the Royal Observatory and Tai Po Kau on 2nd, Kap Lung Forest Trail on 9th, 16th, 17th and 23rd (two), and Ng Tung Chai on 21st. October : two in Tai Po Kau on 7th and singles at Shing Mun on 15th, Ng Tung Chai on 17th, Mai Po on 22nd and Long Valley on 28th.  
**Black-naped Monarch** - October : singles at Mount Davis on 7th, Tin Shui Wai on 21st and Long Valley on 28th. November : singles at Cheung Chau on 5th, Long Valley on 12th, Tung Chung on 18th and Ho Pui Res on 20th.  
**Grey-cheeked Fulvetta** - September : one at Ng Tung Chai on 9th (DAD).  
**Striated Yuhina** - September : four at Ng Tung Chai on 9th (DAD).  
**Yellow-bellied Tit** - The first reports for over a year. September : at least one in Tai Po Kau on 1st. October : three near Tai Po Kau on 13th. November : two in Tai Po Kau on 1st and one there on 18th.  
**Chestnut-flanked White-eye** - October : one trapped at Kadoorie ARC on 31st.  
**Bull-headed Shrike** - October : singles at Shek Kong on 7th and Tung Chung, Lantau on 22nd. November : one at Ho Chung on 15th.  
**Brown Shrike** - A better than average autumn for this species. September : twelve bird-days, 3rd-27th, with a highest count of four at Mount Austin on 6th. October : singles in Kowloon Park on 17th and 24th. November : one at Mui Wo on 15th.  
**Daurian Starling** - An excellent autumn for this species with 78 bird-days, 17th September-25th October (CHF et al). September : a total of 23 bird-days, including a flock of 15 near Shuen Wan on 28th. October : a total of 55 bird-days, including flocks of 19 at Nam Sang Wai on 20th and 11 at Kam Tin on 22nd.  
**Chestnut-cheeked Starling** - The best ever autumn for this species. October : two at Nam Sang Wai on 21st, one there on 22nd, three at Kam Tin on 22nd, two there on 23rd and one there on 25th, and one (location unclear) on 26th (RWL et al).  
**Chinese Starling** - September : double-figure counts of 59 at Cheung Chau on 1st, 30 at Nam Sang Wai on 8th and 25 at Tsim Bei Tsui on 20th. October : double-figure counts of 65 at Nam Sang Wai on 20th, 68 there on 21st, 50 at Sha Po on 22nd and 30 at Kam Tin on 28th (PA).  
**Common Starling** - November : up to four at Kam Tin, 5th-9th. Also one at Tsim Bei Tsui on 5th.  
**Black-tailed Hawfinch** - November : four at Kam Tin on 5th.  
**Japanese Yellow Bunting** - November : one at Ho Chung 15th-16th (MH).  
**Rustic Bunting** - November : one at Kowloon Park on 22nd (PA).  
**Yellow-browed Bunting** - November : one at Tsim Bei Tsui on 12th (JAH).  
**Black-headed Bunting** - October : a female/immature at Lut Chau (PJL et al) on 27th. November one at Mai Po, 6th-9th (PJL). Also a Black-headed/Red-headed Bunting at Sha Lo Tung on 5th (DAD).  
**Pallas's Reed Bunting** - November : one trapped near Mai Po on 8th (MRL, PJL) and a first-winter male at Lim Barn Tsuen on 20th (PJL), HK 2nd & 3rd records if accepted.

## FUTURE MEETINGS

Please contact the leader several days before the meeting to confirm attendance, otherwise you may miss out on changes in timing.

DATE	LEADER	VENUE	TIME
31 December Sunday	Ian Tyzzer	<b>Christmas Count</b>	
1 January Monday	Peter Hopkin David Melville	<b>Boardwalk Workparty</b> Meet Peter Scott Centre, Mai Po	09:00
14 January Sunday	Chan Ming Ming Richard Stott	<b>Tsim Bei Tsui</b> Coach from Kowloon Tong	09:00-15:00 08:00
27 January	Paul Leader **	<b>Tseung Pak Long</b> Meet at Car Park	14:30
6 February	C Y Lam #	Talk for <b>Beginners and New Members</b> Royal Observatory	18:30
11 February Sunday	Jemi Wong (TBA)	<b>Mai Po Bi-lingual</b> Coach from Kowloon Tong	09:00-15:00 08:00
25 February Sunday	Fung Po Kei	<b>Kowloon Park</b> Meet Tsim Sha Tsui MTR mosque Exit	08:00-10:30
27 February Tuesday	Paul Leader	Talk on " <b>Difficult to See Species</b> " WWF Central Office	18:30
10 March Sunday	Ng Cho Nam (TBA)	<b>Mai Po Bi-lingual</b> Coach from Kowloon Tong	09:00-15:00 08:00
17 March	Li Wai Ki **	<b>Tai Po Kau</b> Meet At Car Park	08:00-12:00
31 March Sunday	Chan Ming Ming	<b>Zoological and Botanical Gardens</b> Meet opposite Governor's Residence	08:00-10:30
8 April Monday (PH)	Cheung Ho Fai (TBA)	<b>Mai Po Bi-lingual</b> Coach from Kowloon Tong	09:00-15:00 08:00
19/20 April Friday/Saturday		<b>Big Bird Race</b>	

\*\* Own Transport required.

# Talks for beginners, illustrated with slides. C.Y.Lam will speak in Cantonese. Please send return slips to the address shown on the slip, to register your intent to come.

(TBA) English speaking leader to be arranged.

The maximum number of members who can attend a **Mai Po** meeting is 50, as set by the AFD permit. It is therefore essential that members inform the leader whether they will attend in advance. Failure to do so will result in other members being refused access to Mai Po. Members who use the coach must confirm their attendance by using the booking slip.

Please phone leader five days in advance to confirm departure time. A coach will collect members from Kowloon Tong KCR one hour before assembly time and return there after the meeting. Contact the leader to find out exactly where the coach collection point is.

Please return the form given at the end of this bulletin with a cheque in **English** (note the prices for guests) made out to the **Hong Kong Birdwatching Society** if you wish to use the coach. Payment can also be made by Electronic Transfer to Account No 004-567-899661-001 Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank in favour of "**The Hong Kong Birdwatching Society**", but please send the attendance slip in as well to confirm your payment and attendance.

Please bring drink and food, and appropriate clothing (e.g. Wellington Boots for Tsung Pak Long), and suncream!

Leaders are requested to find a substitute leader and contact C.Y.Lam if they are unable to attend.

Telephone numbers : Cheung Ho Fai ; Ian Tyzzer ;  
Li Wai Ki ; Paul Leader , Fung Po Kei

Remainder of numbers on the front cover.

**The date for the Annual General Meeting has not yet been fixed. It is traditionally at the end of March, so it will be advertised in the next bulletin.**

## CHRISTMAS COUNT 1995

The 1995 Christmas Count will take place on **Sunday 31 December 1995** and **ALL** members of the Society are urged to take part ( and build up an appetite for the New Year's Eve festivities). The more areas that are covered, the better the survey.

As usual leaders/coordinators have been assigned to the more important areas and it would be appreciated if members could contact a leader in the area they wish to cover so that the best coverage can be arranged.

Christmas count forms are attached, and when completed these should be returned either to the coordinator for the area, or direct to :- **Ian Tyzzer, Flat 39, Mount Nicholson Gap 6/F, 103 Mount Nicholson Road, Hong Kong.**

AREA	LEADER	HOME No	OFFICE No
Mai Po	Mike Chalmers		
Tsim Bei Tsui/Mong Tseng	LI Wai-Ki		
Castle Peak incl Nim Wan	CHEUNG Ho-fai		
North NT incl Pak Nai, San Tin	Mike Leven		
Sekkong, Tai Mo Shan, Kam Tin	Gavin Cooper		
Shing Mun/Kowloon Hills			
Lam Tsuen, Ng Tung Chai	Nick Grimshaw		
North East NT incl Luk Keng, Plover Cove	John Edge		
Sha Lo Tung	David Melville		
Shuen Wan	Richard Lewthwaite		
Tai Po Kau	Richard Stott		
Tai Long incl Tolo	John Holmes		
Ho Chung, Sai Kung, Ma On Shan			
Kowloon	YU Yat-tung		
Stonecutters Island	Jim Ades		
Hong Kong Island	Verity Picken		
Lamma Island			
Cheung Chau Island	Martin Williams		
Lantau Island	Peter Hopkin		



**TSIM BEI TSUI BI-LINGUAL 14 JANUARY 1996**

I wish to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places on the coach.

( ) \$40 Members ( ) \$60 Guests ( ) \$20 Students

I enclose a cheque for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (In English, payable to **Hong Kong Birdwatching Society**) / I have paid by Bank Transfer.

Return to: C.Y.Lam, Royal Observatory, 134a Nathan Road, Kowloon, to arrive by 1st January.

NAME.....TELEPHONE.....

Meetform4

**BEGINNER'S INDOOR MEETING-C.Y.LAM**

I wish to reserve .....places for the talk on 6th February.

Send to C.Y.LAM , Royal Observatory, 134a Nathan Road, Kowloon, to arrive before 1st February.

NAME.....TELEPHONE.....

Meetform2

**MAI PO BI-LINGUAL SUNDAY 11 FEBRUARY 1995**

I wish to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places on the coach.

( ) \$40 Members ( ) \$60 Guests ( ) \$20 Students

I enclose a cheque for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (In English, payable to **Hong Kong Birdwatching Society**) / I have paid by Bank Transfer.

Return to: C.Y.LAM, Royal Observatory, 134a Nathan Road, Kowloon, to arrive by 1st February.

NAME.....TELEPHONE.....

Meetform3

**MAI PO BI-LINGUAL SUNDAY 10 MARCH 1996.**

I wish to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places on the coach.

( ) \$40 Members ( ) \$60 Guests ( ) \$20 Students.

I enclose a cheque for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (In English) payable to **Hong Kong Birdwatching Society** / I have paid by Bank Transfer.

Return to: C.Y.Lam, Royal Observatory, 134a Nathan Road, Kowloon, By 1st March.

NAME.....TELEPHONE.....

Meetform1

**MAI PO BI-LINGUAL MONDAY 8 APRIL 1996**

I wish to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places on the coach.

( ) \$40 Members ( ) \$60 Guests ( ) \$20 Students

I enclose a cheque for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (In English, payable to **Hong Kong Birdwatching Society**) / I have paid by Bank Transfer.

Return to: C.Y.LAM, Royal Observatory, 134a Nathan Road, Kowloon, to arrive by 1st February.

NAME.....TELEPHONE.....

Meetform3



Christmas Count, December 199

Observer(s) :

Places visited :

Remarks :

My/our guess : Total number of species seen in Hong Kong

= \_\_\_\_\_.

(When reporting, please give approximate numbers of birds seen in each area - see map. Avoid phrases like 'several', 'a few hundred', etc.; use numbers e.g. 4, 70, 300, 6000.)

001 Little Grebe	041 Falcated Teal	074 Spotted Eagle
002 Great Crested Grebe	042 Gadwall	075 Imperial Eagle
006 Cormorant	043 Baikal Teal	076 Bonelli's Eagle
007 Dalmatian Pelican	044 Teal	077 Osprey
009 Lesser Frigatebird (Sp)	045 Mallard	079 Kestrel
010 Bittern	046 Yellow-nib Duck	083 Peregrine Falcon
013 Chestnut Bittern	047 Pintail	084 Chinese Francolin
016 Night Heron	048 Garzaney	085 Japanese Quail
017 Little Green Heron	049 Shoveler	088 Slaty-legged Crake
018 Chinese Pond Heron	050 Common Pochard	090 Banded Rail
019 Cattle Egret	051 Baer's Pochard	095 White-breasted Waterhen
021 Reef Egret	052 Tufted Duck	096 Moorhen
022 Little Egret	053 Scaup	097 Watercock
023 Intermediate Egret	056 Red-breasted Merganser	098 Coot
024 Great Egret	Stew	101 Painted Snipe
025 Grey Heron	059 Black-shouldered Kite	103 Black-winged Stilt
026 Purple Heron	060 Black Kite	104 Avocet
027 Black Stork	061 White-bellied Sea Eagle	106 Little Ringed Plover
028 White Stork	062 Black Vulture	107 Ringed Plover
030 White Ibis	063 Serpent Eagle	108 Kentish Plover
031 European Spoonbill	064 Marsh Harrier	109 Lesser Sand Plover
032 Black-faced Spoonbill	068 Japanese Sparrowhawk	110 Greater Sand Plover
036 Ruddy Shelduck	069 Sparrowhawk (Sp)	112 Asiatic Golden Plover
037 Shelduck	070 Crested Goshawk	113 Grey Plover
039 Mandarin	073 Buzzard	114 Grey-headed Lapwing
040 Wigeon		

115. Gull	140 Black-tailed Gull	228 Red-rumped Swallow
116 Great Gull	142 Herring Gull	230 Richard's Pipit
117 Knot	143 Slaty-backed Gull	231 Opland Pipit
119 Red-necked Stunt	168 Caspian Tern	232 Olive-backed Pipit
120 Temminck's Stunt	179 Red Turtle Dove	234 Red-throated Pipit
121 Long-coed Stunt	180 Rufous Turtle Dove	235 Water Pipit
124 Dunlin	181 Spotted Dove	237 Yellow Wagtail
129 Paraul Snipe	183 Emerald Dove	239 Grey Wagtail
130 Paraul Snipe	189 Plainive Duckoo	240 White Wagtail
135 Woodcock	193 Koel	242 Black-winged Duckoo Shrike
136 Black-tailed Godwit	194 Greater Coucal	245 Grey-throated Minivet
139 Whimbrel	195 Lesser Coucal	246 Scarlet Minivet
140 Curlew	196 Collared Scops Owl	247 Crested Bulbul
142 Spotted Redshank	200 Barred Owl	248 Chinese Bulbul
143 Redshank	208 Pacific Swift	249 Red-vented Bulbul
144 Marsh Sandpiper	209 House Swift	250 Chestnut Bulbul
145 Greenshank	210 White-breasted Kingfisher	251 Black Bulbul
147 Green Sandpiper	211 Black-capped Kingfisher	251.1 Orange-bellied Leafbird
148 Wood Sandpiper	212 Common Kingfisher	255 Red-tailed Robin
150 Common Sandpiper	213 Pied Kingfisher	256 Rubythroat
153 Red-neck Phalarope	217 Hoopoe	257 Bluethroat
156.1 Relict Gull	218 Great Barbet	259 Red-flanked Bluetail
157 Saunders' Gull	219 Wryneck	260 Daurian Redstart
158 Black-headed Gull	225 Oriental Skylark	261 Plumbeous Water Redstart
159 Brown-headed Gull	227 Swallow	262 Magpie Robin

263 Stonechat	294 Rufous-faced Flycatcher Warbler	325 Hamei
264 Grey Bushchat	295 Large Grass Warbler	326 White-cheeked Laughing Thrush
265.1 White-throated Rock Thrush	296 Long-tailed Tailor Bird	327 Black-faced Laughing Thrush
267 Blue Rock Thrush	297 Sulphur-breasted Warbler	328 Pekin Robin
268 Violet Whistling Thrush	298 Blyth's Leaf Warbler	330 White-bellied Yuhina
269 Orange-headed Ground Thrush	299 Eastern Crowned Warbler	331 Red-headed Tit
270 White's Thrush	300 Pale-legged Leaf Warbler	332 Yellow-bellied Tit
272 Grey Thrush	300.2 Two-banded Greenish Warbler	333 Great Tit
273 Blackbird	301 Arctic Warbler	333.1 Yellow-cheeked Tit
274 Brown Thrush	302 Pallas's Warbler	334 Penduline Tit
275 Grey-backed Thrush	303 Yellow-browed Warbler	335 Fork-tailed Sunbird
276 Pale Thrush	304 Raddle's Warbler	336 Fire-breasted Flowerpecker
277 Eye-browed Thrush	305 Dusky Warbler	337 Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker
278 Dusky Thrush	306 Fukiien Niltava	339 Whiteeye
280 Short-tailed Bush Warbler	309 Verditer Flycatcher	342 Brown Shrike
281 Chinese Bush Warbler	313 Brown Flycatcher	343 Rufous-backed Shrike
282 Mountain Bush Warbler	314 Red-breasted Flycatcher	345 Black Drongo
282.5 Russet Bush Warbler	315 Mugimaki Flycatcher	346 Ashy Drongo
283 Paraul Warbler	318 Grey-headed Flycatcher	347 Hair-crested Drongo
283.1 Bright-capped Cisticola	319 Asian Paradise Flycatcher	348 Jay
284 Plain Prinia	321 Black-naped Monarch Flycatcher	349 Blue Magpie
285 Yellow-bellied Prinia	321.2 Rufous-necked Scimitar Babbler	350 Treepie
290 Great Reed Warbler	321.5 Vinous-throated Parrotbill	351 Magpie
292 Yellow-eyed Flycatcher Warbler	323 Greater Necklaced Laughing Thrush	352 Jungle Crow
293 Chestnut Crowned Warbler	324 Black-throated Laughing Thrush	353 Collared Crow

354 Silky Starling	812 Golden Fronted Leafbird
357 Chinese Starling	816 Silver-eared Mesia
358 European Starling	822 Indian Grackle
360 Grey Starling	831 Yellow-fronted Canary
361 Black-necked Starling	
362 Crested Mynah	
363 Tree Sparrow	
364 White-backed Munia	
365 Spotted Munia	
367 Chinese Greenfinch	
369 Common Rosefinch	
370 Black-tailed Hawfinch	
371 Black-faced Bunting	
373 Grey-headed Bunting	
374 Tristram's Bunting	
376 Little Bunting	
601 Peral Pigeon	
602 Rainbow Lorikeet	
603 Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	
604 Rose-ringed Parakeet	
605 Common Mynah	
607 Azure-winged Magpie	
712 Grey-cheeked Fulvetra	
712.1 Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	
715 Hawfinch	