



香港觀鳥會

THE HONG KONG BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY
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SOCIETY NEWS

MAI PO CONSERVATION STRATEGY

As this Bulletin was going to press, the Society was being asked to comment on the draft "Ramsar Site Conservation Strategy and Management Plan" written by consultants Aspinwall Clouston for the Government. The Society has already written a "Position Paper" describing the Society's views for the Deep Bay area. We were greatly encouraged by the invitation to comment by the Government on such an important land use issue. Copies of the Position Paper are available to members: telephone Peter Hopkin at the number given below.

CURRY LUNCH. Ok, so we forgot last year. The provisional venue is at the Queen's Hill Camp, Burma Lines, Sheung Shui at 12:30. Please send the enclosed Meetings Slip to C.Y.Lam, and confirm the location with him nearer the date.

THE CATHAY PACIFIC HIDE is now open for business! Final screening is to be completed soon, and details of the final arrangements with WWF are still being finalised. To summarise:

- 1 The annual fee for Boardwalk Permits will continue, with the money to be used for maintenance of the hide. \$29000 has recently been handed over by WWF for this.
- 2 HKBWS members are required to assist the annual mangrove clearance workparties, to ensure that the visibility remains good. Please register with C.Y.Lam for the next one.
- 3 HKBWS members will have exclusive use of the hide on weekends, Public Holidays, and throughout April.
- 4 Overseas visitors will have to be members of WWF and HKBWS before they can use it!
- 5 WWF groups will be able to use the hide during weekdays.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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J.Webster	Treasurer
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M.Chalmers	Recorder
Chan Ming Ming	Bulletin
G.Carey	Bird Report

CHINESE BIRDLINE

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Cheung Ho Fai	Library
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	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 RECYCLED PAPER

AN APPLE MACINTOSH computer has recently been purchased by the Society for the Annual Report production. By saving the printer's data formatting costs, Geoff Carey will cover the purchase cost in two years.

THE SOCIETY LIBRARY has recently been enlarged by Cheung Ho Fai's experimental multi-media C.D.Rom of "Birds Of Hong Kong". 200 species are illustrated. Contact Dr. Cheung for details.

THE INTERMEDIATE BIRDWATCHING CLASSES by Paul Leader have proved very popular and will be extended. Good quality slides are always wanted for this and other purposes, and if anyone has recently been on a trip with a good selection of photographs, please contact C.Y.Lam so that we can all see them!

THE SECOND "NTT WORLD BIRD COUNT" is the name given to a fundraising event by the Wild Bird Society of Japan to raise money for Birdlife International. Bird reports from around the world will be compiled and publicised via the Internet and other electronic mail, and Japanese telecommunications company NTT will donate Y1000 (approx UD\$10) for every reported species. Anyone can send lists of species seen between September 28 to October 13 to the Wild Bird Society of Japan, 101 NEXT 21 Building., 6-16 Shimizudani-cho, Tennoji-ku, Osaka 543, Japan. It will also be possible to download checklists as follows:

"NTT World Bird Count" Office

E-mail: wbc@wnn.or.jp

Fax:

URL: <http://www.wnn.or.jp/wnn-n/w-bird/>

Please make sure that you send:

1 English and Scientific names of birds seen between Set.28 and Oct.13

2 Name and address, plus numbers in the group if any.

3 Date and location.

4 Comments on birdwatching and the birds seen.

US\$10 is a fair amount to donate per species, and The Society will be sending lists from the Target 100 event, The University of Hong Kong and Mai Po meetings. Feel free to send lists either by post or on the Internet!

NEW BULLETIN EDITOR. The current Editor will probably be leaving Hong Kong next year, and so March 1997 will be his last Bulletin. Volunteers are asked to contact the current Editor for more details.

BULLETIN DEADLINE for the December issue will be November 25th. Pieces not on disk on WP 5.1 should be submitted earlier.

YUNNAN TRIP. Society member Jesper Hornskov is running a three week trip to Yunnan in November and December, 1997, visiting many of the locations described by Jon Bryant in a recent Bulletin. Contact Jesper for more details: Building 7, Apartment 1-502, Yin Jia Zhuang Xiao Qu, Xining 810001, Quinghai Province, China.

BOOKS FOR SALE.

Steyn, P. and Arnott, G. 1990.

Hunters of the African Sky. Cape Town: Struik Winchester. (Normal Selling Price HK\$600)

Five copies are still unsold from last month: now an excellent bargain at the reduced price of \$250!

Phone Janet Stott for details. Please make cheques out to the Society.

Also for sale "The Birds of Sichuan" in Chinese-Contact Peter Hopkin for more details.

Birds of North East China written by Professor Chang of the North East Forest University has recently been published. It is in the style of the "Birds of Japan" and has been described as excellent by C.Y.Lam, who can arrange the purchase of copies for anyone interested.

CHINESE WHITE DOLPHIN sightings are requested by Jill Braulik for work on their protection. Please send all your observations, whether from a junk trip or from land, to her on Fax number 2482-5749. Please include the exact location, date, time, numbers of dolphins in the pod, colour, and a simple description of behavior. Recent research has shown that they are not confined to the North Lantau channel and can be found throughout Hong Kong waters.

MAI PO NEWS

Boardwalk Visits for WWF HK Members

There will be boardwalk visits for WWF members to the Old Floating Hide on the following days : 19, 26 October, 3, 9, 10, 16, 24 November and 1 December.

Freshwater marsh

Work on setting up the 'freshwater marsh' at the back of the Education Centre will start in October and should be completed by November. This will involve laying down a long pipe from the Fairview Park Sewage Treatment Plant, to divert the treated waste water to the receiving pond at the back of the Education Centre. In order to see how successful the project is, Dr. Paul Lam (City University of Hong Kong) has arranged for a student to monitor the changes in the invertebrates in the water, as it changes from being brackish to fresh.

New Students at Mai Po

Dr. S.Y. Lee (Hong Kong University) has three new students working at Mai Po, Carrie K.W. Ma will be doing 6-months final year project on the feeding behaviour of Little Egrets; Henry T.H. Lui will be conducting his M. Phil. study on comparing the diversity and abundance of invertebrates in the different gei wai, to find out why there are differences between gei wai; and Captain L.C. Wong, also studying for his M.Phil., will be looking at habitat use by Little Egrets in and around Mai Po.

CONSERVATION NEWS FROM TAIWAN.

Trouble at Chiku
By Martin Williams

Members may be aware that Taiwan's winter site for Black-faced Spoonbill is threatened, but may know few details. Here is some information, based on a short visit in July, and a couple of addresses to write and support conservation efforts.

The wetland is known as Chiku, after a village in the northern part of the area. It lies near the city of Tainan, on the southwest coast of Taiwan. At its heart is a tidal lagoon bounded by sandbars; this is surrounded by a complex of creeks, fishponds and saltponds. It covers a huge area, occupying at least 30 Km of coastline and extending for 6 Km or more inland.

Up to 300 Black-faced Spoonbills, 3/4 of the

world's population, occur each winter. The bird is being used as a flagship species by conservationists battling to save the area-it is evidently far more widely known in Taiwan than it is here. Other species are also shared with Mai Po and some occur in regionally important numbers.

Numbers of breeding Egrets and Night Herons are outstanding. Local birders told me that they estimate 100,000 breeding Little Egrets, with 20,000 in one colony. They estimate about 50,000 Night Herons. Both species are heavily dependent on the fish ponds, with perhaps half the birds feeding within the Chiku wetland.

Shorebirds occur in good numbers on migration, especially in April, when there may be 30,000 in one day. Whiskered Terns abound in April, September and October-there can be 10,000 in one day. Chinese Egret and Nordmann's Greenshank are annual passage migrants, usually less than 10 but probably under-recorded given the size of the area. In winter there may be 40,000 waterbirds on a good day, totals may include over 20,000 Dunlin, 6000 Common Teal, 3000 Wigeon, 2000 Pintail and 2000 Shoveller. Gulls are only in the tens, although there are perhaps 20 Saunderson's Gulls. The area also holds small numbers of breeding Black-winged Stilts, and the municipality holds all the Taiwanese population. Kentish Plover and Little Tern breed commonly.

Reclamation work has already greatly changed the wetland, which early this century was mostly a lagoon with sandbars and offshore islands. The sandbars along the west coast of the remaining lagoon are currently suffering from erosion, at least partly because of a reduction in sand carried to the sea by a nearby river that has been dammed. Concrete blocks are being placed to prevent further erosion. But far worse may be yet to come.

An industrial site with steel and petrochemical works is planned. The site has twice been shifted north, away from the spoonbills' favourite roosting pond, because of environmentalist objections. The developers claim that the new site will not impact the spoonbills, although the birds are mentioned only in passing in the latest environmental impact assessment.

The site will destroy 30% of the lagoon, and a substantial area of fishponds. Conservationists and local fishermen believe it will also ruin much of the remaining area-changes in current resulting from the piers of

a large proposed harbour might mean that the sandbar is eroded more quickly, and pollution will circulate throughout the wetland. Raised land prices will make fish farming uneconomic.

The scheme does have some local support, chiefly I was told from people who would profit from higher land prices, but there is also considerable opposition. Many fishermen oppose the site, believing that it will destroy their livelihoods. Conservationists, including members of the Wild Bird Society of Taiwan and the Formosa Association for Coastal Protection, are also arguing against the plans—they say that there are alternative sites available. The industrial site may also exacerbate the existing water shortage and lead to the resurrection of a plan to flood a forested valley which has breeding Fairy Pittas.

The scheme is evidently a volatile issue, opponents including a local member of Parliament reportedly being threatened, the driver of one protester was beaten up by pro-site demonstrators, and a husband and wife assisting a fishing community's leader in protests were murdered.

^The first stage of the environmental assessment was due to be completed this autumn. The second and final stage should take two years, yet in June Taiwan's Economics Minister announced that construction work would start in September (Now!). The announcement reflects high level government support, reportedly to ease unemployment, and it also helps that the steel industry was a major backer of the Kuomintang in the last election.

Despite the development appearing imminent, opponents battle on. They have an alternative proposal for a national park to encompass the wetland. This would protect wildlife and fisherman's rights, and it could be a place where ordinary Taiwanese could experience the sea coast, which they were prohibited from visiting until martial law was lifted in 1987.

Should you wish to express your views on the Chiku wetland, write to:

President Lee Tung-hui, Presidential Office,
122, Sec. 1, Chongching South Road, Taipei,
Taiwan, R.O.C. Also to Mr Wang Ju-kung,
Ministry of Economics, 15 Fu Jue Street,
Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C. Please also send a
copy of your letter to Dr Min-chin Huang,
Formosa Association for Coastal Protection,
P.O. Box 1177, Tainan, Taiwan, R.O.C.

PRODUCT REPORTS

by Martin Williams.

Denon Mini-disc player.

This spring I was invited to take part in a breeding bird survey in Sichuan, and shortly before I started Richard Lewthwaite told me about his Sony Mini-Disc player that he had recently purchased. It was possible to record onto a disk, edit out unwanted material, and easily skip from track to track. This was obviously far simpler than a cassette machine when it came to playing back specific bird songs and calls.

Richard felt that his machine had several drawbacks, for example it did not have a rechargeable battery nor a remote control lead. Without waiting to hear how his machine performed, I went shopping for a different machine.

After looking at a few models, I settled on a Denon DMP-R30, which had both a rechargeable battery and remote lead, as well as relatively large push buttons and the capability to add names to tracks. I was concerned that it was lightly built, but I used it every day for four weeks and was delighted with its performance.

The machine offers both stereo and mono recording, although the latter uses only half the disc space of the former. Switching to 'record' was rather fiddly, as the button is small and recessed, but this would protect against accidental switching. The display indicated recording level, which was easily adjusted with two buttons.

Once I had recorded a track that I wanted to keep, I named it. This was straightforward as the machine offered three character sets—Japanese, A-Z, and punctuation marks. I used abbreviated names, but had to edit them down further after recording a hundred tracks, as the memory available for names was full.

I could readily erase unwanted tracks. Similarly I erased unwanted material, by first dividing a track where I chose, then erasing whichever of the two halves was useless. Combining two tracks into one was an option, although sometimes the machine's response was "cannot edit".

In playback mode, names of tracks that were about to start appeared in the display. This made it easy to skip forwards or back to a track that I wanted. During playback, I could fast forward or reverse, hearing the main sounds, so it was relatively simple to play

and replay a song or call. I did not bother with an option to repeat one track many times, although I have since heard that this is very useful when the player can be left in a bird's territory while the observer withdraws to a safe distance.

The remote control proved useful, allowing me to play and skip through tracks, but not record, without holding the machine.

I recharged the battery in the evenings. Fully charged, the battery will supposedly work for two hours in playback mode. I found it was just sufficient for what seemed to be a fair amount of recording and playback during the day. I also did most of the editing in the evening and put the birds in book order.

By the end of the survey, I had over 60 species on one disc, all in order, with a total playing time of 50 minutes, condensed from several hours of raw recordings.

I used a separate speaker and microphone, as these were not built in, and the whole kit lived in a small camera pouch which I carried over my shoulder.

At HK\$3200 the DMP-R30 was pricey, but I found it well worth the expense. Discs are also expensive, at around \$60 for one with a recording time of 74 minutes in stereo. However using mono and editing out unwanted material as you go makes it quite economical.

The machine is capable of digital recording, e.g. from CD's, as well as analog. Richard has heard that the Sony model is limited to recording frequencies audible to humans, which might be a drawback if you want to produce sonograms.

AV-JEHE AVL 700 microphone.

Having purchased the mini-disc player, I was set to use my ageing telephoto microphone, originally costing around HK\$700. However other members of the team delegated me the job of finding an additional one. I had said that I would buy a cheap model, and looked for a model similar to my original one. The only telephoto microphone that I found was the AV-JEHE AVL 700, which was short and squat as opposed to the more usual long and thin shape. I tried it in the shop, and bought one.

Back home, I compared it to mine, and found that it was equally sensitive, but far better as a directional microphone. Noises from behind it barely registered, but were clearly audible on my old one. So I purchased a second one for myself.

It proved very good in the field.

The background noise was too great for "Hi-fi" recordings, but bird songs and calls were clear on playback. The microphone is designed for use with a video camera, and has options that I did not use-such as merging music. It has volume controls for mixing ambient sounds and for focusing the recording area. These were best set on maximum for single bird sounds, and as they were easily moved accidentally I eventually taped them in place. A more pervasive problem was that sounds from my hand registered easily. I had to keep fingers very still when using it, and still have not found a solution.

I did not find the microphone in many shops: these came from Hollie Limited, 6E Carnarvon Road, TST. They were \$550 each, a good price as I was also quoted \$700.

CHINESE BIRDING HOLIDAYS

Sichuan

June 2nd to 22nd 1996

By Peter Hopkin

There was a cheer in our jeep when we finally turned off the heavily polluted Min River Valley and past a sign that said "Woolong National Park". Three hours drive from Chengdu airport and at last we were in some decent habitat. Dense woodland tumbled down the steep valley sides, and immediately the sounds of **Mountain Bush Warblers** and **Large-billed Leaf Warblers** could be heard over the noise of the river. **Blue Whistling Thrushes**, **River Chats** and **Plumbeous Water Redstarts** were common on the river boulders, while overhead **swiftlets** and **needletails** could be seen. We arrived at the Park Headquarters at Sauwan with one hour's light left, just long enough for a mad dash into the forest that produced **Orange-bellied Niltava**, the first of many **Chinese Leaf Warblers**, and **Common Rosefinch**. As the eleven Society members opened the first of many beers that night, there was intense excitement that the long planned Sichuan trip had started.

The next day, an early start was made to trap some of the birds that had been heard the night before. Responding brilliantly to a taped replay of its own song, a male **Indian Blue Robin** plunged into the net. It may not have been the hoped for Firethroat, but it was a

stunning bird nevertheless. Soon afterwards a **Chinese Leaf Warbler** was trapped, and we were able to appreciate the subtleties of this only recently discovered warbler. The steep hillside of plantation larch and scrub was crawling with birds, and it was easy to see large numbers of leaf warblers and compare the differences in structure, plumage and song of **Blyth's, Chinese, Two-barred Greenish, Large-billed Leaf, Lemon-rumped and Yellow-streaked**. Other birds included the spectacular **White-collared Yuhina, Vinaceous Rosefinch, and Chinese Babax**. Most people managed to see **Golden Pheasant**, aided by the fact that they were calling loudly for most of the morning, although luck was needed to see one properly in the dense undergrowth. I headed for the nearest hill and climbed up to some alpine meadows at 3500m, returning with good views of **Chestnut Thrush, Buff-throated Warbler, Nutcracker, Common Pheasant, and Blue-fronted Redstart**. A good start to the holiday, with plenty of birds for everyone.

The following three and a half days were spent at the Panda Researcher's Hut at Wuyipeng, in a side valley about 10km upriver from Sauwan. The climb was steep but easy. The fastest people to the accommodation took one look at the crude hut and decided that it was best viewed at dusk after a good days' birding, and climbed straight up to a steep ridge at over 3000m. The habitat was primary forest with dense stands of bamboo, with open rhododendron forest, on the ridges. We were lucky to stumble into a family party of **Blood Pheasants**, and we all enjoyed good views as the two adults collected their scattered chicks together and led them to safety. Higher up we flushed two **Koklass Pheasants**, and we enjoyed good but brief views as they **glided downhill into the trees**. The high forest was superb for birds, and as the mist drifted through the moss encrusted conifers, we found bird flocks that included **Pere David's Tit, the stunning Fire-capped Tit, Sooty Tit, Gould's Sunbird, Slaty-blue and Rufous-gorgetted Flycatchers. Grey-sided and Spotted Bush Warblers and Golden Bush Robin** were also seen well. Returning to the camp in late afternoon we found Jim Hackett, glowing after ticking **Temminck's Tragopan and Firethroat**, which the rest of us had rushed past earlier in the day. Wuyipeng was an easy site, with excellent birds literally on the doorstep, and a variety of trails and

habitats that we could take our time to explore properly. We all wanted to see **Temminck's Tragopan**, and this was supposed to be the guaranteed site to see them, even in June. Unfortunately a supposed Research Expedition from Beijing had killed many birds the previous autumn, and although three people saw them, the rest of us had to make do with distant calls and the consolation that...well, there is no consolation for not seeing a pheasant like that.

The forest had a good stands of bamboo, and **Three-toed, Spectacled** and the brutish **Great Parrotbill** were seen. **Laughing Thrushes** included the stunning **Spotted and Barred. Nutcrackers** were common, and other easy birds included the superb **Grey-headed Bullfinch and Chestnut-headed Tesia**. One special Chinese endemic was **Fukien Slaty Bunting** and Paul Leader was lucky to find one while searching for tragopans on a trail above a small landslide.

One afternoon, a moment of group indecision was interrupted by a **Firethroat** singing next to the camp. It was beside a tiny field that had been cut out of the forest, and quickly a net was set up and a tape recorder found. The bird was soon seen in the undergrowth, and what a stunning chat it was, with a song to match. The name **Firethroat** really does it justice. Within seconds of the tape being played, the bird headed towards the net and....through a hole in the bottom shelf. A second attempt, with the net upside down....and it flew inches over the top. Third attempt.....and the bird flew high into a tree over our heads, sang loudly while in full view, dropped down, and....flew inches behind the net. The bird was never caught, but was easily seen by everyone and was bird of the trip for many.

We could easily have stayed several more days at Wuyipeng, but high altitude birding was next on the agenda. The **Balangshan High Pass** is a three hour drive up the valley from Sauwan, and in order to be at 4300m by first light we started travelling at 3am. Dawn over a cold, alpine landscape of craggy, snow capped mountains, meadows and swirling cloud was spectacular to say the least, and coffee and noodles were welcome at the top, with temperatures close to freezing. There were plenty of birds to see-already two jeep loads has been lucky to find

Tibetan Snowcock and Snow Partridge feeding on the road, and close to the pass Red-breasted and Beautiful Rosefinch, Brandt's and Plain Mountain Finches, Rosy Pipit, Alpine and Rufous-breasted Accentor and the stunning Grandala were easy to see. Himalayan Griffon Vulture, Lammergeier, Red-billed and Alpine Chough were also present. We enjoyed several hours of bright, clear sunshine before the mist rolled in, and the rest of the day was spent at lower altitudes, enjoying spectacular views down the valley towards Sauwan. We spent three nights in the bare but adequate Roadmender's Hut at Km 89, and were able to combine repeat visits to the High Pass with exploration of the high altitude scrub at the treeline. The specialities here included Wood Snipe, which were found displaying beside the road close to the Hut, and White-eared Pheasants, which we easily saw feeding in open meadows above the road. The scrub oak woodland was excellent for rosefinches, especially White-browed, whose goat-like bleating call became a familiar sound on the trip, and Crimson-browed Finch. A small flock of the intensely yellow Collared Grosbeak was a dramatic sight as they fed in some bushes just below the road. An evening's snowfall brought many of the higher altitude birds down to lower levels and four of us spent a morning in light snow, watching spectacular Kessler's Thrushes feeding on the roadside slush, hundreds of Plain Mountain Finches and Grandalas, while searching for the elusive Snowcocks. We were finally lucky as we drove over the pass on the way north: a short stop where they had been heard previously was rewarded with a pair flying in to a nest site on a steep cliff. Cheung Ho Fai was luckily able to video them on a crag with snow swirling all around. Ten kilometres over the pass a short breakfast stop became a long one as we found Eastern Great and Pink-rumped Rosefinches, Himalayan Rubythroat, Snow Pigeon, Hill Blue Pigeon, more Snowcocks, and Lammergeier. Further down the valley, a stake out for Chinese Monal seemed the ultimate in optimism, as we scanned distant rocky crags and meadows with telescopes. It was not until a Himalayan Griffon Vulture flew across that I realised just how far away the meadows really were. The valley was however excellent for Giant Laughing Thrushes and Black-bellied Dipper, although Jim Hackett somehow failed to see one and promised a bottle of whisky to anyone who showed him one. The afternoon

was spent driving through some fantastic valley scenery, stopping for occasional Wallcreepers, and a Dipper that Jim found on his own. We arrived in the town of Barkham late and very tired.

It was time for some open habitats as a change from forest, and for this we had to drive to the far north of Sichuan. From Barkham the wooded valleys steadily opened out as we climbed higher, and permanent habitation was replaced by the nomadic tents of Tibetan yak herders. The Zoige Grasslands are about 100 miles across, and at an altitude of 3500 meters. The winters must be terrible at that height, but in June the open steppe was beautiful, with a landscape of small lakes, marshes, and gently rolling hills set against a background of distant snow capped mountains. The clarity of the air was superb; we felt we could see every one of those hundred miles. As we drove north, the soil became steadily drier and sandier, and species such as Humes' Ground Jay, Horned Lark and Upland Buzzard became common as the habitat for ground mammals improved. We were lucky to find many Chinese Grey Shrikes: the same area had small lakes with nesting Ruddy Shelduck, Common Terns, Redshank, Citrine Wagtail and Twite, and some low scrub contained Azure-winged Magpies and Common Cuckoo. An area of low rocky hills was particularly productive: Mike Leven flushed an Eagle Owl, a Saker flew over, and rocks beside the road had nesting Rock Sparrow, Black Redstart, Adam's Snowfinch, White-browed Tit, Godlewski's Bunting and Robin Accentor. Tibetan Larks, more aptly nicknamed "Mega Larks" were abundant, and Oriental Skylarks were constantly singing overhead. The best species we found where a bend in the road overlooked a marsh where, surrounded by a carpet of yellow flowers, were two Black-necked Cranes on their breeding site. The late afternoon light was warm and soft and particularly beautiful, and scanning with a telescope revealed more pairs of cranes as far as we could see. Further along the road were more, and the final total reached over 30 by dusk.

We stayed the night in the town of Rouergai, and spent the next day north of the town at Daba Lake, an area reserved for breeding cranes. The day was dominated by raptors however, with Upland Buzzards common (the day's total was 131), Lammergeiers,

Himalayan Griffons, Black Vultures, Steppe and Golden Eagles, Black Kites and Sakers. While the rest of us were looking at **Rufous-necked Snowfinches**, Richard Lewthwaites's jeep was lucky to find **Pallas's Fish Eagle** eating prey in the middle of the road, and Ho Fai was able to video it.

We spent one more morning on the plateau, as we drove south and east from Rouergai and followed a river valley that contained many Tibetan winter camps. The hillsides were scrubby and inviting, and two stops produced **Tibetan Partridge, Severtzov's Tit-warbler, Przevalski's** and **Pink-rumped Rosefinch**, and more **Himalayan Rubythroats**. The descent from the upland plateau was dramatic and sudden, and we were back into steep wooded valleys and narrow rivers. We stopped for a few hours on the Sichuan-Gansu border, on a pass above Juizhaigou. An area of logged forest was rich in birds, with specialties such as **Crested Tit-warbler** and **Sichuan Grey Jay**. Alan Brown stole the show however, by locating **Pere David's Owl** in its tree roost, and finding a feather to keep as a souvenir.

Juizhaigou is a Nature Reserve made popular by its blue lakes set in some spectacularly rocky valleys, but we found the tourism still relatively low key. We were able to stay in a Government Guest House inside the park-the standard of food and accommodation had improved since Mike and Alan's visit five years earlier, and apart from the occasional rat, was perfectly adequate. There was a good variety of habitat within a short distance, and we spent five whole days inside the park. The ringing team were able to trap **Rufous-headed Robin**, perhaps only the third or fourth bird ever to be photographed, and what a stunning bird it was. We found **Severtzov's Grouse** relatively easy to see, although it took me four days of frustration to catch up with one. Previous trips had little difficulty in finding **Blue-eared Pheasants** here, but only Jim was lucky to see some. **Verreaux's Monal Partridge** was abundant but very hard to see; other specialties included **Chinese Nuthatch**, possibly the first breeding record of Besra for the Palearctic Region, **Sukatshev's Laughing Thrush, Three-banded Rosefinch, Bar-tailed Treecreeper, Tibetan Siskin**, and **White-winged Grosbeak**. The highlight for me was a 1000 metre climb above the aptly named Long Lake to a steep rocky ridge at 4250 metres. It was so good

that I went twice! The first time I rather foolishly went alone, and what looked like easy scrambles from below turned into exciting climbs on my hands and knees. I was rather clumsy in crossing a scree slope, and the resulting cascade of rocks flushed a female **Chinese Monal** from the bottom of a scrubby gully. However I was able to approach several herds of **Blue Sheep**, including a group of 11 adult bucks. By hiding behind a ridge I was able to sneak to 50m or so, and was able to smell them rather than the other way round. Birds were rather scarce, but it was good to see **Grandalae** and **Red-breasted Rosefinches** again, and I shall never forget looking down on a **Lammergeier**. The descent was also exciting as a thunderstorm threatened a wash out, and in my haste to get down I flushed a **Monal Partridge** into a tree, and then in my excitement overshot the only exit from a rocky gorge. Climbing back up the gully and across a moss covered boulder field was a nightmare, and I returned to the vehicle too exhausted to be satisfied with the female Monal. The second attempt was with Paul, Mike and Alan-we actually climbed even higher, but failed to see any pheasants other than a few snowcocks. The views were stupendous, a panorama of crags, scree slopes, snow and mountains that no photograph could ever capture. Mountains are addictive, and I am hooked!

After leaving the Park, we spent more time at the Pass, but rain dampened our chances of finding Alan's owl again, although Mike and Alan found a **Przevalski's Rosefinch** that everyone was able to twitch the following day from Songpan. From this rather shabby town the rest of us spent one day at the Huanglong Pass and Monastery; although we failed to find the desired **Snow Partridge**, stunning birds such as **White-throated Redstart, Blue-fronted Redstart, Severtzov's Tit-warbler**, and **Common Rosefinch** of the violently crimson race "roseus" made for an excellent day.

The trip was nearly over. From Songpan we drove south down the Min River, through an unstable gorge that threatened to fall at any time, to the lowlands near Chengdu. The last full day was spent at Quinchenshan, a small limestone crag that had a good variety of lowland species such as **Collared Finchbill, Brown Fulvetta, Brown Dipper, Blunt-winged Warbler, Yellow-bellied Tit, Golden and Spot-**

breasted Parrotbills. Our last morning was spent either recovering from hangovers or exploring Dafu's Cottage, a park in Chengdu that had breeding **Blackbird**, **Tiger Shrike**, and **Black-tailed Hawfinch**.

A trip to remember: excellent company, scenery and birds. I would happily go again. Some trip statistics:

Species seen: 273.

Ticks for Jim Hackett: 93.

Beer consumed: 533 bottles.

Arguments: One.

And what of the rumours circulating in Hong Kong of wild nights with toyboys and P.R. girls? They will have to remain as rumours. Remember the Kai Tak rules!

OVERSEAS BIRDING HOLIDAYS

Surely someone has been overseas this summer! Please make the Christmas Issue a bumper one.

BIRD NEWS.....BIRD NEWS.....BIRD NEWS.....BIRD NEWS.....BIRD NEWS

By Richard Lewthwaite

MAY-AUGUST 1996

These are unchecked reports. Members are reminded that all records phoned in to Birdline are treated as unauthenticated and still need to be submitted on record cards at the end of each year.

LATE NEWS FROM APRIL - whistling calls heard at Kadoorie Fram and KARC around 19th were thought to have been made by **Mountain Scops Owls** (ML,GR), which would be a new species for Hong Kong.

MAY

Following an excellent April, this was probably the best May for many years, helped no doubt by an unusually late and sustained NE monsoon which brought in a steady stream of migrants presumably from the Philippines. There were at least six **Schrenck's Bitterns**, up to four **Baillon's Crakes**, a **Band-bellied Crake** and good numbers of **Pechora Pipits**. A **Blue-breasted Quail** and a **Bulwer's Petrel** were both potential firsts.

A **Bulwer's Petrel** seen near Po Toi on 3rd (ML, GR) will be a first for Hong Kong if

accepted. Also seen in the same area was an unidentified shearwater. On the same date, a **Barred Buttonquail** at Tai Mo Shan on 3rd (EMSK) was almost two months later than any previous record. Remarkably, another small gallinaceous bird, a male **Blue-breasted Quail**, was found at the same site on 8th (ML, GR). If accepted, this will be first for Hong Kong.

A visit to Mai Po on 4th produced a **Spoon-billed Sandpiper** and three **Asian Dowitchers**. There were further records of **Spoon-billed Sandpiper** at Mai Po on 21st-22nd when up to three were seen.

In a good month for small bitterns, there were two **Black Bitterns** at Dong Ping Chau on 4th (PE) and a single at Mai Po on 13th (RJC). The first **Schrenck's Bittern** of the month, a female near Sai Kung, was reported on 8th. Subsequently there were three at Long Valley and one at Mui Wo on 12th, two at Long Valley on 16th, one at Nam Sang Wai on 19th and one at Long Valley on 22nd. **Chestnut** and **Yellow Bitterns** were also widespread particularly in mid-month. Surprisingly, though, **Chinese Egrets** remained scarce with singles at Mai Po on 18th and 27th.

In probably the biggest ever May for reports of crakes, single **Baillon's Crakes** were at Long Valley on 12th, 16th and 24th, at Mai Po on 22nd and Kam Tin on 25th (DAD, EMSK, YYT, CHF), and a **Band-bellied Crake**, the first in spring and only the second record for Hong Kong, was found dead outside the Tsuen Wan entrance of the Shing Mun Tunnel on 14th (MLC). A Porzana crake seen in flight at Long Valley two days later remained unidentified.

The passage of **Pechora Pipits** noted in late April continued with nineteen bird-days in May: one at Long Valley, three at Tsim Bei Tsui and one at Tai O on 12th, nine at Long Valley on 16th, two at Shuen Wan on 17th, singles at Long Valley on 21st and 24th, and one at Luk Keng also on 24th. A **Red-throated Pipit** at Long Valley on 12th and 16th was the latest ever spring record (DAD, RWL). Other interesting reports of migrant passerines were a **Lanceolated Warbler** on North Lantau on 18th (PJH), a **Daurian Starling** at Ho Chung on 10th (MH) and a **Chestnut-cheeked Starling** at Nam Sang Wai on 19th (RWL).

Visits to Mai Po in mid-month turned up a white-phase **Reef Egret** on 16th (WY), a summer-plumaged **Ruff** during 16th-18th (PJL), 14 immature **Black-faced Spoonbills**, 11 **Asian Dowitchers** and 11 **Nordmann's Greenshanks**, all on 16th. Subsequently, seven **Asian Dowitchers** were seen at Mai Po on 24th.

Noteworthy reports towards the end of the month concerned four **Black Bazas** heading South-West (!) over Sha Cha Island on 21st, three **White-vented Noddy**s flying over KARC on 24th and three **Watercocks**, single males at Shuen Wan on 24th and Mai Po on 25th and a female there on 26th.

In the final year of the Breeding Bird Survey, notable reports were of an **Eagle Owl** at Ho Pui, a new site for the species, on 10th (GHJC), single **Besras** at Kadoorie Farm on 10th (trapped) and Shuen Wan on 15th, 20th and 24th, a **Great Barbet** at a nest hole near Tai Po Kau on 17th and 27th, two adult **Blackbirds** with a recently-fledged juvenile, the first breeding record for Hong Kong, at Fung Yuen on 19th (JAH), and a pair of **Hobbies** unsuccessfully attempting to breed on a pylon at Ho Sheung Heung also on 19th (NJC). Also of interest was a recently-fledged **Koel** closely attended by two **Magpies** at Shuen Wan on 3rd.

JUNE 1996

In contrast to May, June was a quiet month. Late migrants included a **Schrenck's Bittern** at Shuen Wan on 3rd and a **Yellow Wagtail** at Mai Po on 8th, while a high tide visit to the Mai Po scrape on 8th turned up a total of 87 waders of 13 species, including two **Asian Dowitchers** and a **Nordmann's Greenshank**. A **Black-faced Spoonbill** was also present. On the same day a pair of **Painted Snipe** were seen at Long Valley and a **Hobby** flew over Shuen Wan.

A **Barred Owlet** chick found at Ho Sheung Heung on 3rd (NS) was thought to have flown from the nest prematurely and was taken Kadoorie Farm for rehabilitation. This species was also noted at Shuen Wan on 30th. **Red-winged Crested Cuckoos** were generally scarce, the only reports being a single at Ng Tung Chai on 6th and two at Tai Tam on 22nd. Perhaps the most interesting discovery of the month was a **Crested Goshawk's** nest in Tai Po Kau. The nest was

a large and obvious structure placed in a tree beside the Red Walk just before the **Rhodoleia** grove. A female (which dive-bombed one of the observers and a nestling were seen on 17th (ML, GR). On 20th, two chicks were present. One, which appeared to be about seven days older than its sibling, had moved some distance from the nest and was thought to be ready to fledge within a week (GWJA, RG).

JULY 1996

Widely considered the least interesting month of the birding year, July only occasionally defies expectation. July 1996 did just that, with a **Speckled Piculet** at Wong Cheuk Yeung and record numbers of breeding terns.

After starting with a small flurry of **Hainan Blue Flycatchers** (a juvenile trapped at Kadoorie Farm on 4th (MRL), an adult in Tai Po on 5th, two along Kap Lung Forest Trail on 6th and another adult in Tai Po Kau on 7th), the birding scene sank into the expected trough, highlights being a **Black-naped Oriole** on Cheung Chau on 9th, three **Crested Buntings** and an **Upland Pipit** at Fei Ngo Shan on 14th, and a **Hobby** at Nam Chung on 21st.

The discovery of a first for Hong Kong, a juvenile **Speckled Piculet** trapped at a study site at Wong Cheuk Yeung near Sai Kung on 25th (MRL), came as the surprise of the year. Subsequent coverage of the area turned up the same individual, or another, on brief views in nearby woods on 27th (JAH), a **Rufous-necked Scimitar Babbler** on 29th and a young cuckoo, seen well and thought to be a **Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo**, on 30th (MH). Identification of young hawk cuckoos, though, is at present problematic.

Other noteworthy reports concerned a crane, possibly a **Brown Crake** at Chek Keng on 27th (EMSK), a **Hoopoe** at Mai Po on 28th and a flock of 13 **Striated Yuhinas**, the largest number seen in the summer months and further evidence of this species' recent colonisation of Hong Kong, at Kadoorie Farm on 30th (MRL).

Two junk trips to southern and eastern waters found that terns are breeding in increasing numbers in Hong Kong waters. On 10th, the colony at Gau Tau was found to contain 75 pairs of **Bridled**, 50 pairs of **Black-**

naped and 50 pairs of **Roseate Terns**, with pulli of all three species recorded (VBP et al). The Ninepins, however, where terns had bred in previous years, were almost deserted. By the time a the return trip to Gau Tau on 29th, numbers of adult **Roseates** (down to 31 plus eight juveniles) and **Black-naped** (85 plus 15 juveniles) had fallen, but there were record numbers of potentially breeding **Bridled Terns** (180 adults plus two juveniles), while pulli of all three species were again present with 20 **Bridled** and two each of **Roseate** and **Black-naped Terns**. (VBP et al).

AUGUST

Early reports were of raptors with a **Hobby** at Ngau Tam Mei and seven **Black Bazas** at Robin's Nest on 3rd, with two more at Wong Cheuk Yeung the next day.

Bird of the month was a **Christmas Frigatebird** seen near Sha Cha Island on 6th (PJL,RP). An **Asian Dowitcher** was at Mai Po on 10th.

First signs of autumn migration came on 11th with an **Asian Paradise Flycatcher** at Mount Austin. Subsequently up to three were seen through the month at Kap Lung Forest Trail, Leadmine Pass, Tai Po Kau, Tai Mo Shan, Ng Tung Chai, Mt. Davis and Mai Po. On 18th a **Crested Kingfisher** flew past the bridge at Tai Lam Chung (PA) and at Mt. Davis the first **Forest Wagtail** of the autumn was found. There were singles also at Tai Long Wan on 24th and Leadmine Pass on 31st. The first **Eastern Crowned Warbler** of the season was found at Tai Lam Chung on 20th, to be followed by others at Tai Po Kau and Tai Mo Shan on 28th and Kap Lung Forest Trail on 30th, while the first **Arctic Warbler** turned up on Lamma on 24th. There were no others until 31st when one was seen in Tai Po Kau.

Interesting ardeids were a white-phase **Reef Egret** feeding in a channel on Shek O golf course on 21st (EMSK) and a female **Shrenck's Bittern** at Long Valley on 28th (YYT).

Among passerines reported late in the month were **Japanese Paradise Flycatchers** at Kap Lung Forest Trail on 25th and TAI Po Kau on 31st, a **Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler** at Long Valley and three **Orange-headed Ground Thrushes** in Tai Po Kau on 28th (YYT), a juvenile **Sooty Flycatcher** trapped at Tai Mo

Shan on 28th (MRL), a **Grey-streaked Flycatcher** at Leadmine Pass and two **Yellow-rumped Flycatchers** trapped at Mai Po on 31st.



香港觀鳥會
THE HONG KONG BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY
GPO BOX 12460, HONG KONG. 香港郵政總局信箱12460號

Hong Kong Birdwatching Society

**Minutes of 1995 Annual General Meeting held at
Royal Observatory, 134A Nathan Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong
at March 27, 1996 18:30**

Present: John Edge, Ian Tyzzer, Sue Metheney, Chip Metheney, Yung Kwok Kwong, Li Chor Yee, Carrie Ma, Tai Sheung Lai, M R Nunns, Monica Ng, Lo Kar Man, Fung Po Kei, Chan Ting Man, Chu Chui Ping, Lawrence Johnstone, Chan Ming Ming, Li Wai Ki, Lo Wai Yan, Ng Wing Kong, Pages, Tim Woodward, Chan Wai Man, Wong Tin Wah, Ng Cho Nam, ML Chalmers, Boniface Chan, Shiu Tin Kit, Paul Leader, Yu Yat Tung, Lock Nga Yi, Fiona, Chu Wing Hing, Ken, Geoff Carey, Jennifer Lee, Mike Leven, Liz Leven, Wong Ah Ping, Wong Lun Cheong, So Ngai Hung, Samson, Yeung Sau Lai, Chow Fu Wah, Greg Powell, Pat Stockwell, Tam Yiu Leung, Tang Kam Wai, Lee Kit Har, Ip Yum Fat, Chan Kwok Ming, Chan Kwok Kai, Peter Stuckey, Mr & Mrs Cheung Cheuk-hung, David Melville, Richard Stott, CY Lam, M Turnbull, Richard Lewthwaite, Verity Picken, Frances Batson.

Apologies: Janet Stott, John Holmes, Nigel Croft, HF Cheung, YY Lee, Mr & Mrs TP Luk, J Webster, Gavin Cooper, Clive Viney, John Day, Bob Ferguson

1) The minutes of the 1994 Annual General Meeting had been previously circulated, Ian Tyzzer proposed that they be approved and this was seconded by Liz Leven.

2) Matters Arising

There were no matters arising the previous minutes.

3) Chairman's Report

Richard Stott delivered the chairman's report:

As you will now all be aware this is first for the Society as, thanks to C Y Lam, we are tonight guests of the Royal Observatory and I would like to thank CY and the Royal Observatory for their kindness in allowing us to hold our meeting here tonight. As I indicated in my report last year, the membership of the Society is growing steadily so that now our local membership stands at 286 people, thanks to the hard work of the Committee in creating opportunities for new members to join.

Once again, the Annual Report is an excellent publication and maintains the very high standards of previous years. I would like to thank all the contributors and in particular our editor, Geoff Carey for his efforts over the year.



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Last year business took me away from Hong Kong for considerable periods and I am extremely grateful to the Committee for their support and hard work throughout the year. As the Society becomes bigger it would seem that we are becoming more like government in that we now have a secretariat! I would like to thank the members of that secretariat, Mr and Mrs Luk for looking after the membership records with great efficiency, Wong Ah Ping and Jennifer Lee for jointly taking on the post of Secretary with cheerful efficiency. For the more ardent watchers Richard Lewthwaite continued to run the Birdline during the year, and many thanks to him. Chan Ming Ming is the hero of the Chinese Bulletin preparation, translating it each quarter for an every increasing circulation for which we all thank him. Peter Hopkin continues to bully late contributors to the Bulletin into submitting their drafts on time and the standard of the Bulletin is a tribute to his undoubted editorial skills. Thanks too to Liz Leven and her helpers who continue to arrange the printing and distribution of the Bulletin. Finally, Cheung Ho Fai deserves a special mention as he has managed to motivate a number of members to assist him in preparing a complete catalogue of the books and periodicals held in our library for the first time in recent years, congratulations Ho Fai!

Since the last AGM the Society has embarked on its largest single project ever, the second floating hide for Mai Po. Funds have come in steadily from members following my wife's idea of asking members to add a little to their Annual Subscriptions which together with contributions from the sale of Annual Reports and the donation made for board walk passes allowed the total so raised to reach HK\$200,000. I would like to thank my wife, Janet, for her idea and all the members who contributed so generously for this considerable achievement. However this amount was still not enough for us to buy the hide we wanted and it was Ng Cho Nam who managed to persuade Cathay Pacific to put up another HK\$200,000 which would make it all possible. At present David Melville tells me that the hide is safely moored beside the Tsim Bei Tsui jetty awaiting a favourable tide for it to be towed across the bay to its final location. At this point I would like to thank, Mike Chalmers for the engineering and inspection of the hide, Alan Loynd for arranging for it to be towed from Aberdeen to Tsim Bei Tsui, to David Melville and his friends in the Royal Hong Kong Police for agreeing to tow it across the shallow waters of Deep Bay and finally those members of the Society who got up early on New Year's Day to hack mangroves in order to open up the way for the boardwalk to be constructed. Perhaps will a little more luck than judgement we expect to use almost exactly the amount raised for the hide and boardwalk and both should be complete by mid-year.

I will let Mike Chalmers to tell you of the progress with the new edition of the New Annotated Checklist which is planned for publication in 1997, the Society's 40th Anniversary. This will be the Society's next big project.

During the year C Y Lam organised the Hong Kong section of the World Bird Watch Day which took place in Kowloon Park in early October. This event was very successful and excellent photographs were presented by Wong Tin Wah and John Holmes and bird watching trips were made in the park. We shall all be able to appreciate some of Wong



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Tin Wah's photographs later this evening. The whole event here was sponsored entirely by Swarovski Hong Kong and I would like to thank them as well as all those involved in making this such a successful event.

Finally, my usual plea with regard to the Big Bird Race. I do not need to tell such a well informed gathering as this how important the upkeep of Mai Po is. What I would ask you to do this year, particularly in the light of the large number of new members, is to ask all other members you meet to remember to give something in support of the Big Bird Race, WWF and Mai Po.

May I wish you all a successful year's bird watching!!

4) Treasurer's Report

In the absence of the Treasurer, the Chairman outlined the annual figures. The Society had total funds available at the year end of approximately HK\$160,000.00 in the Bank. He explained that the Society's funds were up HK\$40,000.00 for the year, Mr Stott congratulated the Annual Report Editor, Geoff Carey, for actually reducing the latest Reports production costs. Total income from society outings was down, due to a slightly reduced number of outings this year, however the Chairman thanked all those involved in the organisation of the outings. The cost to the Society in organising the World Birdwatch Day was HK\$9,500.00 which was met by the generous sponsorship of SWAROVSKI. Finally, the Chairman reported that the subscription rates should be frozen at current levels for a further year.

Mr Ian Tyzzer proposed acceptance of the Accounts, and was seconded by Mrs Liz Leven.

A copy of the accounts for 1995 is attached to these minutes.

5) Recorder's Report

Mike Chalmers gave the recorder's report

- a) the size of the Records Committee has been increased from four to six, Cheung Ho Fai and Richard Lewthwaite are the new members.
- b) The following five species were added to Category A:
 - Black-headed Bunting
 - Manchurian Reed Warbler
 - Black Redstart
 - Brown Booby



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- Brown-chested Flycatcher
Vivid Niltava was still under review.

- c) An number of old records were being re-examined and contact was being made, whose possible, with those who submitted them.
- d) The forthcoming checklist is in progress and may be out in March 1997. The species list has been divided and revised eight parts.
- e) In midwinter over 60,000 birds were counted in Deep Bay. The recorder stressed the conservation importance of these statistics which contributed to the decision to make Mai Po a Ramsar site. Government departments are using this data.
- f) The Breeding Bird survey has run into 1996 with a few areas left for surveying. Data entry is being done with the assistance of HKU Ecology and Biodiversity Department. Mike Chalmers appealed to members to contribute any other wildlife observations to Michael Lau of HKU. The position of various bird identification enquires was outlined. Paul Leader then commented on a number of slides of problematic species.

6) The New Hide

David Melville reported on the situation of the New Hide.

The new hide would be tied to the present floating hide on April 6, 1996. The new hide would be moved 200M south in June. Slides of the new hide were shown. David Melville thanked Hong Kong Towing & Salvage Company and the Marine Police for their assistance, as well as those who helped raising money.

7) Mai Po Update

Mai Po has been declared a wetland of international importance (RAMSAR Site) by Hong Kong Government in September 1995 after 16 years lobbying by WWF, HK and HKBWS. Wildfowl counts had been a vital part of the efforts.

Mai Po now part of the East Asian / Australasian is Flyway Reserves network and the PRC has also designated two sites

- 1) Yellow River, Shandong Province
- 2) Shuangtaizi Hekou, Liaoning Province



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8) Election of New Committee

Nominations for the new Committee were as follows:

Chairman:	Richard Stott
Vice Chairman:	C Y Lam
Secretary:	Wong Ah Ping, Jennifer Lee
Membership Secretary:	Mr & Mrs T P Luk
Treasurer:	Julian Webster
Recorder:	Mike Chalmers
Annual Report Editor:	Geoff Carey
English Bulletin Editor:	Peter Hopkin
Chinese Bulletin Editor:	Chan Ming Ming
Conservation Officer:	Ng Cho Nam
Librarian:	Cheung Ho Fai
WWF Liaison:	David Melville

There being no other nominations, the new committee was elected en bloc unanimously.

9) AOB

a) Oriental Bird Club (OBC)

Hong Kong Bird news is being forwarded to OBC by Geoff Carey and CY Lam, David Melville & Mike Chalmer, having stood down.

The Chairman introduced Mr Brian Sikes, the OBC area co-ordinator.

b) Clive Viney

David Melville proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Clive Viney who has contributed to HK Ornithology for over 25 years, as bird book author, committee member, outing leader, pioneer of Guangdong Province birding and other activities. The AGM recorded its thanks to Mr Viney who would leave Hong Kong this year on retirement.

c) Curry Lunches

Mr Ian Tyzzer mentioned the Society Curry Lunch should be re-instated this autumn.

d) Vote of thanks

Mr Ian Tyzzer proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee for a year's hard work, which was endorsed with applause.

Wong Tin Wah gave a slide presentation on Hong Kong birds and Geoff Carey compered a "mystery bird" competition after the AGM.

APWong
May 1996

HONG KONG BIRDWATCHING SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

for the year ending 31 March 1996

EXPENDITURE	1994/5 HK\$	1995/6 HK\$	INCOME	1994/5 HK\$	1995/6 HK\$
Room hire and refreshments	1,485	1,000	Subscriptions	66,520	93,064
Photocopying and printing	9,775	12,363	Sale of Annotated Checklists (including postage)	0	0
Postage	8,276	8,052	Bank interest received	3,253	7,691
Stationary	1,753	1,781	Miscellaneous income	1,210	9,667
Miscellaneous expenses	0	1,592	Sale of Annual Reports in HK	7,705	6,190
Advertising	0	0	Advertising in Annual Report	25,350	20,600
Bus Costs / Junk costs	15,240	6,150	Talks, etc.	0	0
GPO Box hire	450	500	Bus Outings / Junk trips	20,529	16,050
World Birdwatch Day	0	9,507	Donations to hide fund	60,265	100,199
Printing costs - 1993 Annual Report	74,320	70,100	Curry lunch (hide fund)	3,924	0
Library insurance	400	400			
Donations to hide fund	64,189	100,199			
Bird Lines - installation & costs	3,066	314			
Bank charges / interest paid	0	106			
Bad cheques / suspense	200	200			
Database input costs	4,842	1,500			
Total expenditure	183,996	213,764			
			Total income	188,756	253,461
			less: total expenditure	(183,996)	(213,764)
			Net income / (expenditure)	4,760	39,697

Balance carried forward as at 1.4.95 121,144
 add: excess of income over expenditure 39,697
 plus: hide fund 199,965
 less: hide fund expenditure (188,300)
 TOTAL 172,506

Current Account Balance	24,210
Savings Account Balance	100,387
Float	(0)
TOTAL (in HK\$)	124,597
Multicurrency account	47,909
TOTAL (all currencies)	172,506



Honorary Treasurer
 HKBWS

FUTURE MEETINGS

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

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LEADER</u>		<u>VENUE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
11 Sept Wednesday	Paul Leader	#	Intermediate Birdwatching Course Lecture 2, Royal Observatory, Nathan Road	18:30
15 Sept Sunday	Ng Cho Nam Mike Leven	*	Mai Po Bi-Lingual. Coach from Kowloon Tong MTR or meet at Peter Scott Centre	08:00 09:00
22 Sept Sunday	C.Y.Lam		Kowloon Park Meet at T-S-T MTR next to Mosque Meeting ends 10:00 approximatly.	08:00
29 Sept Sunday	Tai Sheung Lai Yu Yat Tung	##	"Target 100" See June Bulletin. Coach leaves Haiphong Road, T-S-T	08:30
6 Oct Sunday	Carrie Ma		University of Hong Kong Meet at Bonham Road Entrance	09:00 -12:00
13 Oct Sunday	John Holmes Fung Po Kei	*	Mai Po Bi-lingual Coach from Kowloon Tong MTR or meet Peter Scott Centre	08:00 09:00
16 Oct. Wednesday	Paul Leader	#	Intermediate Birdwatching Course Lecture 3. Royal Observatory, Nathan Road	18:30
27 Oct. Sunday	Jemi Wong Shui Tin Kit	##	New Territories Woods and Plains Day Coach leaves Kowloon Tong MTR	08:00
15-16 Nov. Fri-Sat	Wong Tin Wa		Overnight Camp on Lamma Island Assemble at Lamma Ferry Pier, near Macao Terminal at 18:15 Friday	
24 Nov. Sunday	C.Y.Lam		Curry Lunch. Provisional venue is at Queen's Hill Camp, Burma Lines, Sheung Shui. Confirm location and price with C.Y.Lam. Register interest with return slip	12:30
8 Dec. Sunday	Verity Picken C.Y.Lam		Mount Austin & The Peak Meet at "Gatehouse" on the Peak or Meet C.Y.Lam at Lower Peak Tram Station. (Call Verity for location of Gatehouse)	08:00
13 Dec. Friday	Lo Kai Man		Slideshow: Kenya-birds and Scenery. Royal Observatory, Nathan Road.	18:00
22 Dec. Sunday	Ng Cho Nam	*	Mai-Po Bilingual Coach leaves Kowloon Tong KCR at	09:00 08:00
5 Jan Sunday	Ian Tyzzer Li Wai Ki	*	Tsim Bei Tsui Bi-lingual Coach from Kowloon Tong KCR at	09:00 08:00

Talks for members only, illustrated with slides. Please send return slips to the address shown on the slip, to register your intent to come.

Outdoor meetings with coach provided. \$100 deposit required in advance, additional money may be required to share the cost of the coach, tips for the driver etc, on the day. Enquiries to C.Y.Lam.

* A coach will collect from Kowloon Tong KCR at 08:00 and return in the evening. 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, and to resolve any problems. A coach will collect members from Kowloon Tong KCR (except for Target 100) one hour before assembly time and return there after the meeting. Contact the leader or C.Y.Lam 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
Li Wai Ki (H); Yu Yat Tung ; Fiona Lock ; Mike Leven
; Tai Sheung Lai ; Carrie Ma ; John Holmes
Fung Po Kei , Verity Picken , Shui Tin Kit
Ian Tyzzer , Wong Tin Wa

Remainder of numbers on the front cover, or telephone a Committee Member.

MAI PO BI-LINGUAL SUNDAY 15 SEPT.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 September.

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

Meetform1

INTERMEDIATE IDENTIFICATION COURSE

I wish to reserveplaces for the talks on
.....14th August...11th September...16 October.

Please tick which you wish to attend.

Send to C.Y.LAM , Royal Observatory, 134a Nathan Road, Kowloon, to arrive before 5th August.

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

TARGET 100 29th September

I wish to reserve _____ places on the coach.
We are all Society members and undertake to share the cost of the coach on the day if it exceeds the deposit of \$100.
I enclose a cheque for \$100_ (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 20th September.

NEW TERRITORIES WOODS AND PLAINS 27 October

I wish to reserve _____ places on the coach.
We are all Society members and undertake to share the cost of the coach on the day if it exceeds the deposit of \$100.
I enclose a cheque for \$100_ (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 10th October.

Meetform4

MAI PO BI-LINGUAL 22 December 1996

I wish to reserve _____ places on the coach.
() \$40 Members, () \$60 Guests, () \$20 Students.
I enclose a cheque(In English, payable to Hong Kong Birdwatching Society)/have paid by Bank Transfer.
Return to C.Y.Lam, Royal Observatory, 134a Nathan Road, Kowloon to arrive by 18 December.

Lamma Island Camp, 15-16 November 1996

I wish to reserve__ places at \$35 each.
We are all Society Members and understand that costs for meals etc. will be shared by participants.
I enclose a cheque(In English, payable to Hong Kong Birdwatching Sositety) / I have paid by Bank Transfer.
Name.....Phone.....Fax.....
To arrive by 30 October.

meetform5

TSIM BEI TSUI 5 January 1996

I wish to reserve _____ places on the coach,
() \$40 Members, () \$60 Guests, () \$20 Students.
I enclose a cheque (IN ENGLISH, PAYABLE TO HONG KONG BIRDWATCHING SOCIETY)/have paid by Bank Transfer
Name.....Phone.....Fax.....
Send to C.Y.Lam, Royal Observatory, 134a Nathan Road, Kowloon to arrive by 18 Decemeber.

meetform7

CURRY LUNCH 24 November 1996 ?.

I wish to reserve _____ places.
I will confirm date, place and price with C.Y.Lam in advance!
Name:.....Phone.....Fax.....

meetform6