



香 港 觀 鳥 會

THE HONG KONG BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY

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通 訊 Bulletin 180

Summer 夏季



黃嘴白鷺 (米埔)
Chinese Egret (Mai Po)

伍耀成
Karl Ng



高山兀鷲 (西藏)
Himalayan Griffon Vulture (Tibet)

飛鳥
Feiniu



鬍兀鷲 (西藏)
Lammergerier (Tibet)

飛鳥
Feiniu

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Editorial

Long Valley-KCRC's Appeal Rejected

On July 31 the Environmental Impact Assessment Appeal Board, after a much longer hearing than expected, handed down its judgment on KCRC's appeal. Contrary to most expectations, and much misinformation that had appeared in the press, the Board unanimously and robustly rejected the appeal. Costs were awarded against KCRC.

There are many points arising from the whole EIA submission and appeal process which are worthy of comment but the first one is that, by the time all costs have been taken into account, this appeal will have cost the public nearly \$100 million. A sum of this magnitude could have done much for the conservation of Long Valley rather than having been spent on the unedifying spectacle of what are, after all, two Government departments battling each other in the courts. This is partly a reflection of the fragmentation of the Government's decision making process and of the lack of co-ordination on projects between the various policy Bureaux and their operational Departments. Had the Chief Secretary knocked a few heads together, particularly at Highways Department and KCRC, earlier in the process this expenditure could have been avoided.

On the positive side, however, several things have come out of the process. There has obviously been a welcome change in public interest in the environment. People finally seem to have realised that their environment is important and that there are things, which contribute to the quality of life other than development and economic growth. The level of protest also indicates that people no longer feel powerless in the face of bureaucracy. Both of these are long overdue in Hong Kong.

The Appeal process itself has produced valuable guidelines for future EIAs. Perhaps the most important was the Board's insistence on full public participation in the process. This has to be a warning both to Government and project proponents that they cannot just pay lip service to the EIA process-it has to be taken seriously and public

opinion has to be taken into account and respected. It has also made clear that the Appeal process cannot be used to circumvent proper consultation of the public and, indeed, of the EIA process as a whole, by introducing masses of new evidence which were not included in the original proposal. These and other points made by the Board have strengthened the EIA process.

We cannot, however, be complacent either about Long Valley or future EIAs. Although KCRC has decided against going to Judicial Review of the Appeal Board's decision, it has by no means abandoned its plans for the Spur Line and may yet submit a new proposal along the lines of the new evidence it sought to introduce at the Appeal Board. This will involve another EIA and we must be prepared for this possibility. There have also been mutterings among developers about the need to "review", i.e. water down, the EIA Ordinance in the light of the Long Valley decision. Should Government be seen to heed these calls we must make it clear that this is completely unacceptable.

Finally, what of the future of Long Valley? The whole process has pointed out the fragility and vulnerability of Long Valley unless it is actively managed in one form or another for conservation. This needs to be the next task.

Further commentary on Long Valley is contained in Conservation News which was written before the Appeal Board judgment was delivered.



Society News

New HKBWS Webmaster

In May Karl Ng, who works in IT, became the HKBWS Webmaster (www.hkbws.org.hk). His professional knowledge of website design and operation has enabled the Society to improve our internet presence. Karl is also a good photographer with his digital camera. Members who would like to share photos and articles on the web, please contact our new Webmaster (webmaster@hkbws.org.hk).

New HKBWS Staff

The Society has recruited Mr. Jacky Yam as Assistant Project Officer from July 2000 - March 2001. Jacky is a skilled artist and, if members wish to have a look at his superb bird drawings, please give us a call or keep following this Bulletin.

HKBWS Conservation Committee

Following her very active involvement in the Society's "Save Long Valley" campaign Judith Fruin-Ball, who drafted our objection to the EIA Report, is going on to a completely new venture. After 18 years as a lawyer she has decided to further her environmental interests by studying for a Master's degree in Environmental Management at Mcquarie University in Sydney. Her professional knowledge of the law provided an invaluable contribution to the Society's conservation affairs and will be sadly

missed. She intends to return to Hong Kong for next year's Big Bird Race, however! We should like to thank her for her contribution to the Society and wish her well in her studies.

Record submission

Keeping records of Hong Kong's birds is very important for their protection. Recent development in the New Territories has made it even more necessary to keep good records, especially for important bird sites that face imminent destruction. We need more records of all including very commonest Hong Kong birds e.g. bulbuls, prinias and doves, as well as all migrant species and all summer and winter visitors.

To encourage members to submit their records, the Records Committee has agreed to accept records submit in (1) **EXCEL format** or in (2) **Bird Record Cards** (150x106mm, see below).

Members can refer to sample pages provided as a guide to creating your own Excel file. If members would like to submit records using Bird Record Cards, they can contact the Society Office. Guidelines for record submission can be obtained by referring to the latest Hong Kong Bird Report, or asking for a fax copy from the Office.

Record submission can be made to HKBWS Records Committee by e-mail (recorder@hkbws.org.hk) or by mail to G.P.O. Box 12460, Hong Kong. Records should be submitted not later than January 31 of the next year.

Members wishing to look at past records are asked to contact the Recorder. It is hoped that the ease with which records can be retrieved will result in interested people analysing migration patterns and population trends and undertaking other studies.

Global Launch of BirdLife Red Data Book

On June 5, the World Environment Day, HKBWS participated in the BirdLife International launch of "Threatened Birds of Asia: The BirdLife International Red Data Book". The event was well covered by the press including Ming Pao Daily, The Sun, Tai Kung Pao, BBC News, The Times etc.

During July Ming Pao featured individual reports on threatened birds which



made a valuable contribution to raising public awareness of local threatened species and nature conservation.

The Society joined in the compilation work for the Red Data Book in 1996 on both local and China threatened species. We thank Dr. H.F. Cheung, Mr. Yu Yat Tung, Ms. Carrie Ma and Dr. Fiona Lock and also the Records Committee for the information collection, compilation, comments and proofreading.

BirdLife International has spent six years on the Red Data Book and more than 1,300 people were involved in the work of information collection. Mr. Simba Chan, who is well known among experienced birdwatchers, was among the editors of the RDB. Simba is now working for Wild Bird Society of Japan on Asia bird conservation.

BirdLife Workshop: Building Broader Support for BirdLife Partners in Asia

Robin Fung and Carrie Ma has attended a BirdLife International workshop in Singapore on membership development and building partners support from 16 to 20 August in Singapore, hosted by Singapore Nature Society. The aim of the workshop was through sharing of experience, to learn membership development strategies, and to identify requirements for building membership and public support. After the workshop, Robin and

Carrie drafted an action plan on membership development and passed it to the Society's committee for consideration.

BirdLife Training: Building on Experience



organisational development for effective conservation

Mike Kilburn and Carrie Ma are going to join the BirdLife "Building on Experience" training programme. This forms part of BirdLife International's Training and Development Strategy which aims to facilitate and maximize the sharing of experience between BirdLife partners, and to train

participants in the implementation of society management and conservation programmes. The training sessions will be held in Jordan, Argentina, South Africa and India, and participants have to attend two of the training sessions.

Mike Kilburn recently returned from the first module of the course, which was held at the Dana Nature Reserve in Jordan. The major topic covered was business planning for NGOs and conservation organizations. This will be helpful in professionalising the current activities and planning the future developments of the Society - which is the key reason for sending Mike and Carrie to attend the course.

The fees for the training are rather expensive (about US\$3,000 per person). If members wish to support the Society's future development and reduce their financial burden, please send donation cheques payable to the "Hong Kong Bird Watching Society" and please state clearly that the donation is for "BirdLife: Building on Experience Training".

HKBWS Projects

1. Quality Education Fund Project

The QEF project "Promoting Bird Watching as Extracurricular Activity in Secondary Schools" has nearly finished. The results are encouraging:



a. Bird Watching Clubs

The Society has set up and organised training for five school bird watching clubs. 11-14 activities, which include seminars and outdoor bird watching, have been organised for each school. A total of 320 teachers and students have benefited from this programme.

b. Programme Activity Centre

The Society established an "Activity Centre" in one of the participating schools, Hong Kong Tang King Po College, from September 2000 to April 2001. Our staff were stationed in the centre once or twice a week to answer enquiries from students and other schools on the Project and questions relating to bird watching, habitat conservation and ecology.

c. School Visits and Field Study

The Society has organised 50 school visits and 25 field trips for 25 schools. The response was

satisfactory, and we have reached a total of 9,264 participants.

d. Education Seminar "Take a closer look at the birds around us"

This is a one-year project. In order to encourage schools to organise their bird watching or club



activities we organised a talk series on the afternoons of May 12 and 19 at City University of Hong Kong and Hong Kong Scout Centre, called "Take a Closer Look at Birds around Us". Participation was satisfactory with more than 150 people including teachers and students. We have received responses



from some school teachers who indicated that the educational events and seminar have increased their confidence in organising further school bird watching activities.

The Society has successfully applied for another QEF project which promotes the awareness of bird watching and nature conservation among primary schools, namely "Be a Young Naturalist". We are now at the starting and promotion stage. Members wishing further information should contact us at 2377 4387.

2. Waterfowl Monitoring at the Mai Po Inner Deep Ramsar Site

The Society has finished the 2000-2001 programme of Waterfowl Monitoring at the Mai Po Inner Deep



Bay Ramsar Site, and has produced the following publications:

- Carey, G. J. 2001. *Winter 2000-2001 Report: Waterfowl Monitoring at the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site*. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society. Hong Kong.
- HKBWS. 2001. *Monthly Waterfowl Counts Data April 2000-March 2001: Waterfowl Monitoring at the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site*. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society. Hong Kong.
- Watkins, D. 2001. *Review of the Waterfowl Monitoring Programme at the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site*. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society. Hong Kong.
- Carey, G. J. and Yu, Y. T. 2000. *Shorebird Monitoring Report. 1999-2000*. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society. Hong Kong.
- Kwok, H.K., Wong, L.C. and Carey, G. J. 2001. *Egretty Counts in Hong Kong, with particular reference to the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site. Summer 2000 Report*. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society. Hong Kong.
- Education leaflets: Waterfowl Monitoring at the Mai Po Inner Deep Ramsar Site

Part of the reports have been uploaded to the Society website at www.hkbws.org.hk/waterbird/index.html. Members wishing to read the information or request a copy for reference, please contact the Project Office at 2377 4387.

The Society has submitted the proposal for the 2001-2002 project, and we are still waiting for the approval.

3. Bird Surveys in Six Country Parks

The Society carried out bird surveys in six selected country parks from April to May, under a service contract from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. Counting sites included Shing Mun, Aberdeen, Lung Fu Shan, Shuen Wan, Sha Lo Tung and Sai Kung, and information on bird abundance and species, food and nesting behavior was recorded. Writing of the report is nearly finished and it will then be submitted to AFCD. Members who wish to read the report should contact the Project Office at 2377 4387.

4. Breeding Terns Survey in Hong Kong

From July to September, the Society ran a new breeding terns survey project in the western waters of Hong Kong under a service contract from AFCDC. Information including number of terns, habitat condition and related threats were recorded. A report will be submitted after information collection. Members who would like to know more about this survey should contact Dr. H.F. Cheung at 2788 7882.

5. Hong Kong Book Exhibition 2001

In order to support AFCDC's new publication on Country Park wildlife, the Society has joined a promotion activity of the Commercial Press (HK) Ltd. for three seminars on bird watching in Country Parks. The Society has also made a CD Rom on bird pictures and birdcall for release during the exhibition.

6. Ming "TEEN"

In order to give young people more information on bird watching and information, we have liaised with a weekly magazine of the Ming Pao Daily, namely "Ming TEEN" which targets local teenagers. The aim

is to produce 32-35 regular articles on the subject. Member are Please contact the Project Office at 2377 4387 for further information.

7. Hong Kong Award for Young People training course

In order give young people more experience of nature and bird watching, a representative of the Society will present one lecture for the Hong Kong Award for Young People on July 31, using the theme "Nature Conservation". Participants of the HKAYP course are mainly teachers and interpreters on outdoor activities.

8. Continuation of existing QEF project

The Society's previous QEF project was very successful. We have received a request from a participating school, the Hong Kong Tang King Po College, to continue the project. We are now at the liaison stage, and it is proposed to have seminars, classroom lectures and outdoor activities in order to provide students with more information on Hong Kong's nature and bird conservation.

HK Bird Report 1998

We need a good quality photo for the cover of this long-awaited publication, and would like to invite all active photographers to submit photos in a competition to select the most suitable. Entries will be judged by a panel consisting of the Editors of the Bird Report, Mike Turnbull and Carrie Ma, and two members of the Records Committee, Geoff Carey and Dr Cheung Ho Fai.

Although there can only be one winner this time, it is hoped that the competition will bring to light other photos worthy of publication in this or future reports, maybe even a future cover shot.

The only 'rule' is that birds must have been photographed within Hong Kong: the year in which they were taken does not matter and they don't have to be waders or terns! Don't be shy! Please show us what you have and contribute in a very big way to maintaining the high standard of attractiveness set by previous reports.

Deadline for submission: **31 October 2001** to HKBWS Office.

Acknowledgement

1. Donation of Pentax binoculars

C.Y. Lam donated a pair of Pentax 16x50 PCFIII binoculars at the beginning of June for promotion of Society's bird watching and nature conservation activities. We express thanks for his generous donation.

2. Education Seminar "Take a closer look to the birds around us"

The Society has successfully organised two seminars namely "Take a closer look at the birds around us" at the City University of Hong Kong and Hong Kong Scout Centre. We would like to thank Dr. H.F., Dr. C.N. Ng, M.M. Chan, Henry Lui and Robin Fung for their help as lecturers on the course. We also thank Dickson Wong, Aukie Au, K.C. Chan, Karin Chan, Jacky Yam and H.K. Ying for offering their help on field interpretation.

3. Hong Kong Gold Award Holder's Association

The Society organised a bird watching and nature conservation course for the HKGAHA from November 2000 to April 2001. The programme has encouraged more young people to take up bird watching during their regular outdoor activities. We thank Robin Fung, Henry Lui and Samson So who kindly helped the lecturers using their time after work. We thank Carrie Ma for various arrangements. We also thank HKGAHA for the chance to contact their members and organise courses.

4. City U Final Year Project

Four City U students Rebecca Cheng, Annie Cheung, Gloria Luk and Rossetti Lo have initiated their own project "Loving Birds, Loving Nature, Let's Start Young", and the Society has acted as a supporter and facilitator. It is most impressive that, in spite of the very limited budget, the students managed to encourage the participation of other students through various activities such as road shows and drawing competitions. The activity has also attracted press coverage. This is indeed a remarkable achievement. They have donated their website to the Society for further management; the new website has now "migrated" to www.hkbws.org.hk/edu/kid/. We thank the Higher Diploma in English for Professional Communication, City University of Hong Kong, for the chance to enable us to communicate with their students. We also thank the team members for their great effort to deliver the message of bird conservation among schools.



Conservation News

Mai Po Update

Lew Young

Pond Repair works

Waterfowl Collection

The pond at the back of the Education Centre has been drained down and repairs works are being carried out to the bunds. Part of this involves widening and strengthening the bund around the edge of the pond because it has weakened over the years with the waves washing against it. By widening the bund, it also means that the droppings from the Cormorants roosting on the trees around the pond will now fall on the bund, rather than directly into the water, reducing the impact on water quality on the pond.

Pond 20

Pond 20 has also been drained so that the Cat Fish ("Tong Sut") in the ponds can be removed. Over the past couple of winters, these fish have slowly eaten all the grasses in the ponds which the wintering Teal like to roost amongst and which Wigeon graze on. By removing the fish, we hope that these grasses will slowly grow back and attract more Teal and Wigeon to the pond this coming winter.

Pond 23

The earthmoving works at the sluice gate end of the pond has been completed and the pond has been refilled with rainwater. You can see that three low bunds have been built across the pond for roosting birds. Some of the trees that were growing on a bund in the middle of the pond have been retained and the bund widened to form a small island. This island

will gradually be planted with the intention that it can be used as a roost. The works on the middle and back part of the pond will take place this coming winter.

Construction of a boardwalk close to the Education Centre

Work has begun on building a fixed boardwalk through the landward end of the mangroves in gei wai #13, through the reedbeds in gei wai #14, and then through a freshwater marsh in Pond 16c at the back of the Scrape. This project is being funded by the Pedal Cart Association and is aimed at giving school students, weekend visitors and other visitors to have a chance to walk through a series of different wetland habitat within a short distance of the Education Centre. It is planned that the works will be completed by the end of September.

Conservation News Summer 2001

Forrest Fong

Long Valley: KCRC appeals against DEP's decision

KCRC lodged an appeal against the refusal of the Director of Environmental Protection to grant an environment permit for the project. The hearing began in April and there were more than 20 witnesses from both the KCRC and EPD side, including experts on Fung Shui and wetlands (David Melville, the former Executive Director of WWF). The appeal hearing ended in June.

In addition to the monetary cost, there has been damage to Hong Kong's international reputation. Nearly \$100 million has been spent on the appeal. This is indeed an enormous amount which could have been spent on environmental and community education. The need for the appeal is highly questionable. KCRC is owned 100% by the Government and the Transport Bureau is the government bureau which is responsible for the pushing the Lok Ma Chau spur line project: the government should have been able to solve this problem internally instead of spending large amounts of public money on the process.

If the appeal lodged by KCRC is successful, a viaduct will be built through the heart of Long Valley and the effects on the ecology of the valley will be adverse and huge. Various mitigation proposals which aim to reduce the environmental impact and to compensate for the loss of wetland have been put forward by KCRC. Given KCRC's abysmal record in managing environmentally sensitive projects as evidenced in the West Rail construction, however, it is difficult to have any confidence in its ability to put such mitigation measures successfully into practice.

Rejection of the Appeal, however, does not mean that the habitat of Long Valley will be safe. Long Valley still faces lots of threats besides the Lok Ma Chau spur line. It also faces various changes in environment following the completion of the Beas River channelisation project. There is the ongoing problem of illegal changes of land-use in farmland areas, and, in the near future, the proposed development in Kwu Tung. This shows there is a need to protect this fragile habitat in an active way: The Government has planned to protect part of the area as a Nature Park, and the Society has submitted

an application to the Town Planning Board to rezone Long Valley as a Conservation Area. As happened with Sha Lo Tung, this project is being held-up by an appeal case. Merely striking a balance between in land-use and conservation is not enough. Development of a strategy on sustainable development is the long-term solution.

Community concerns: Joint Forum between Green Groups and Heung Yee Kuk

The Long Valley Campaign is not only about a piece of farmland being threatened by development. The issue has also highlighted the more general problems of land-use, planning and nature conservation. A joint working group was formed between the Heung Yee Kuk and local green groups after the DEP's rejection of the EIA reports on the Spur line project and North-South Lantau highway. The group seeks to achieve a balance between rural development and conservation and aims to work out strategies to be submitted to the Government.

The Long Valley case has been widely reported by newspapers, radio, and on television. This has engendered a welcome debate in the local community on topics related to Hong Kong's environment. Long Valley has attracted the epithet of "Hong Kong's second Mai Po" in the popular press and this has led to an increasing number of visitors to the valley. These are from all walks of life and include ordinary local people, schools, universities and tourists. While this is not a strictly accurate description of Long Valley, the potential to make it into a freshwater wetland, which would compliment Mai Po now exists. It is now up to the government to secure the land and to ensure long-term funding is made available for the ongoing management of Long Valley.

One-day eco-tours around Hong Kong

Recently a number of operators have been carrying out “green tours” to various locations such as Luk Keng, Tsim Bei Tsui, Kadoorie Farm and Tai Tong Lichi Garden. These activities are organized by political parties or by local communities. However, many of these might actually be counter-productive in increasing public awareness of Hong Kong's natural environment. Some might even give the public a completely wrong perception of nature e.g. “Crane-watching” tours at Luk Keng, when the birds there are, in fact, egrets and herons.

Tsim Bei Tsui is a good sightseeing area for Deep Bay and mangroves but, during weekends, the area is overrun by dozens of coaches containing hundreds visitors led by inexperienced tour guides who make lots of noise with loudspeakers. This is, in the end, counterproductive to environmental education. As an example, some visitors have spent a lot of time walking for long distances between the bridge and Tsim Bei Tsui car park without any field interpretation at all. Worse still, there are local tour operators who take visitors to the Mai Po Panda Shop, and claim that they have visited Mai Po. This can only have a negative effects on the public's image of our Ramsar wetland. Recently, there is also a new spot – the International Wetland Park...

Hong Kong International Wetland Park

Hong Kong International Wetland Park covers an area of 50 hectares close to Tin Shui Wai and Yuen Long New Town. The construction of the Wetland Park is divided into 2 phases; being the first phase, the exhibition pavilion, is now open to public and the second phase of the project is scheduled to be completed by 2004.

The area where the wetland park is now located was freshwater fishponds in the past, but they were filled up by the Government in the 1980s. In the 1990s, however, this area was designated as a natural conservation area as a compensation for the loss of wetlands habitat resulting from of the Tin Shui Wai development.

In 1998, the Hong Kong Tourist Association co-operated with Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department to develop an international conservation zone, the Wetland Park, so as to capitalise on Hong Kong's natural richness and help raise the public awareness of wetland conservation. However, before the Wetland Park can achieve its goal, the construction phase has already destroyed much valuable habitat.

What is perhaps more important is the original intention for the land. That was meant to be an ecological mitigation area for the fishponds lost at Tin Shui Wai seems to have been largely forgotten by the Territory Development Department in their plans to build a park which is intended to attract several hundred thousand visitors each year. It is imperative that the same does not happen at Long Valley.

Illegal dumping and fishponds filling

During the second construction phase of the Wetland Park, huge amounts of mud have to be dredged so as to regenerate the filled fishponds as new freshwater lakes and gei wai. The contract requires all contractors to convey the dredged mud to a legal dumping area. Contractors, however, have been found illegally dumping mud on the side of fishponds close to the Ramsar Site in an area of high

ecological value which forms one of the sites for the HKBWS waterfowl survey.

By the time it happened and was reported by media in March, it was too late since more than 1.5 hectares of fishpond had already been filled up with the dredged mud. The Territory Development Department (TDD), plays a monitoring role over the construction work and should bear responsibility. In late March, an endangered Black-faced Spoonbill was spotted feeding in a narrow freshwater stream in the Wetland Park construction.

In addition to the Wetland Park, illegal dumping goes on elsewhere in the New Territories. In a previous bulletin we have reported the illegal dumping at the buffalo fields in Kam Tin from the KCRC Westrail construction. If anybody witnesses illegal dumping, please note down the place, time and the license number of the vehicle involved and report this to any regional office of Lands Department or Urban Planning Department.



Environmental Impact Assessment Report

As required under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499 S16), any

designated project specified under schedule 2 of the ordinance, unless exempted, must follow the statutory process by submitting an EIA report for the construction and operation of the project in order to obtain a valid Environmental Permit. Proponents are required to carry out relevant observation and monitoring, and to propose means to avoid, minimize and control the adverse impact on environment caused by the designated projects. In addition, the Environmental Permit issued by EPD frequently imposes specific conditions relating to construction waste etc. In spite of this, however, developers and contractors frequently ignore these conditions.

The West Rail construction is an excellent example. The contractors employed by KCRC destroyed more than 2000 trees and illegally dumped both chemical batteries and dredged toxic soil both on and off the site leading to the pollution of the surface soil and underground water supplies. Although EPD has successfully won over 100 prosecutions against the developer - KCRC - and its contractors, the damage continues as the fines imposed by law are small and are simply considered another business cost by the contractors. A serious review of environmental planning, protection and land use legislation is required to give some teeth to the legislation.

To learn more about the Environmental Impact Assessment, interested parties can visit the official website of the International Association For Impact Assessment at www.iaia.org which recommends that the EIA would be better implemented in the early stage of development. The Lok Ma Chau Spurline is an example. The Government approved the proposed construction of the railway, which passes right through the freshwater wetlands in Long Valley

in 1996, at a time when the EIA ordinance was not yet gazetted. The Government was, therefore, only concerned about existing technical problems in buying the land from landowners when they processed the EIA report. When KCRC was asked to explain the “fast-tracking” process for the East Rail and why the proposed line was the only solution, the KCRC submitted much supplementary information to support the evidence quoted in their EIA report. On the one hand, the wetland scientists from KCRC emphasised that the wetland in Long Valley is only agricultural land with low ecological value but, on the other hand, the KCRC proposed a number of mitigation measures to compensate the loss of this useless wetland which seems somewhat self-contradictory.

Designation of Long Valley as an “Important Bird Area”

That the wetland in Long Valley is unique in Hong Kong for its rich biodiversity and its importance to wildlife is undoubtedly true. For this reason it was designated as part of the “Important Bird Area” (IBA) by BirdLife International in mid-June. It became an important extension of the Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site, adding Hong Kong's most significant fresh water floodplain/agricultural habitat to the IBA.

Route 10 Highway — Lantau North to Yuen Long Road

It remains doubtful whether an EIA report can assess the adverse impact resulting from a development effectively. Much depends on the quality and

professional standard of the EIA consultants. The proposed Route 10 highway is a typical example.

The proposed alignment of Route 10 Highway links up North Lantau and the Yuen Long Highway. It runs from Kwai Shek at Lantau North, via Tsing Lung Tau, the Tai Lam Tunnel and So Kwun Wat. This route further passes through Tai Lam Chung Tunnel to Yuen Long and finally ends at Sheung Shui. Cross-border traffic is expected to increase substantially necessitating a new road link. In order to accommodate the increase in cross-border traffic flow, a section of Route 10 will be linked with the proposed Lingdingyang Bridge and Route 7 from Belchers Bay to Aberdeen to form part of the strategic Western Highway between Hong Kong and Shekou in Shenzhen.

This proposed Route 10 Highway has been proposed and postponed several times in ten years but has recently been approved by the Government. Construction is expected to commence in 2002 and to be completed by 2007. When completed, it will be comparable to the Tsing Ma Bridge and the Ting Kau Bridge both in scale and in grandeur.

Though the developers have conducted an Environmental Impact Assessment and submitted their EIA report, we do not believe that the data quoted in their EIA report is reliable. They stated in the EIA report that only 40 common bird species were recorded in the assessment area and that the vegetation found in the examined area is only common and local shrubland which is not important habitat for birds. In fact, according to records compiled by HKBWS members, more than 83 species, including White-bellied Sea Eagle, Crested

Kingfisher, Crested Serpent Eagle, Crested Goshawk as well as Bonelli's Eagle have been. Some of them such as the Pied Kingfisher and White-breasted Waterhen were even found breeding in the impacted area.

Differences in the number of bird species recorded by HKBWS members and EIA report were found. This is because the consultant conducted their EIA survey from July to December, a period which, according to the Agriculture, Conservation and Fisheries Department, covered both wet and dry seasons.

However, the accuracy of their survey is doubtful. As is common knowledge, the period from April to June is the peak breeding season for birds. July to December most definitely is not! The report stated clearly that they found no breeding birds - hardly a surprise - and did so in such a way as to suggest that this showed the low value of the site for birds! The

data the Highway Department collected from 3 one-day surveys in the above quoted period is too small for serious analysis. It is ridiculous to draw a conclusion based on the data collected from three surveys only and thence to declare that the ecosystem in the area is of no value. We would hope that EIAs prepared by consultants in the near future will be conducted on a more accurate basis and over a more representative time frame. When questioned about the reason for the low number of counts the consultant noted that cost was an issue in such a low number of counts. Some blame must therefore lie with the contractor for allocating insufficient funds to conduct adequate fieldwork.

We hope that when the professional consultants conduct EIA in the future, they will not give priority to convenient and earning of profit. Indeed, the consultants should prepare an EIA report which is reliable, plausible and highly transparent.

Hong Kong Bird News

January-May 2001

Richard Lewthwaite

Please note that these are unchecked records. Please submit records regularly either on cards or electronically [*Ed-See page 3*].

January

The winter, despite being much harder than usual across northern China and eastern Siberia, was noticeably mild in Hong Kong. Under such conditions, smaller numbers of winter visitors, earlier departures and also unusual instances of over-wintering were all to be expected. Especially evident in this month was a general scarcity of thrushes and bluetails.

On 2nd, a Eurasian Sparrowhawk and Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler, both scarce winter in winter, were noted at Ma Tso Lung together with Barn and Red-rumped Swallows and an Asian House Martin. There was a further report of Eurasian Sparrowhawk on 14th, this time at Mai Po.

In Deep Bay, the wintering flock of Dalmatian Pelicans numbered up to 17, but counts of gulls and ducks were lower than usual, high counts of gulls received in the month being Great Black-headed (2), Slaty-backed (2), Heuglin's (270), Kamchatka (1), Black-tailed (11), Brown-headed (1) and Saunders's (37). Duck numbers included 967 Tufted on 23rd, the second highest count ever following 1140 the previous winter. A Common Ringed Plover and a Long-billed Dowitcher, both of which were sighted intermittently throughout the month, were the only

rare shorebirds. On the reserve at Mai Po, a drake Baikal Teal and a Ruddy Shelduck were present from 12th, and up to six Greater Scaup from 13th joined two Baer's Pochards which had first been noted in December. Birds of the latter three species continued to be reported until early March, while the Baikal Teal was regularly sighted on Pond 20 until April.

Elsewhere, there were reports of two Eurasian Hoopoes at Tsim Bei Tsui and two Black-winged Cuckoo-shrikes at Mount Austin (rare on Hong Kong Island) on 1st, a Grey Treepie at Tai Long Wan on 9th, a Eurasian Eagle Owl at Mong Tseng on 14th, a Black-headed Bunting at Long Valley on 18th, an unidentified diver *Gavia* sp from the Dong Ping Chau ferry on 20th, eight Chinese Grosbeaks at Lam Tsuen from 24th, a Russet Bush Warbler at Long Valley (new for the site) on 26th, a Brown Shrike at Kam Tin and Speckled Piculet at Tai Po Kau (potential 3rd record) on 28th, and a Black-shouldered Kite at Wo Shang Wai on 30th.

February

The mild winter led to an unspectacular gull passage in Deep Bay and the departure of the entire Dalmatian Pelican flock before the end of the month, three to four weeks in advance of usual. A new early date by more than four weeks was noted for Grey

Nightjar, with singles singing at Wu Kau Tang and Pat Sin Leng CP on 18th and 20th.

In Deep Bay, peak gull counts received this month were Slaty-backed (3), Great Black-headed (3), Yellow-legged (2), Kamchatka (1), Black-tailed (24) and Saunders's (35). Up to 123 Black-faced Spoonbills remained in the Deep Bay area. Also reported in coastal waters were up to 22 Black-tailed Gulls near Lamma Island during 4th-15th and a Lesser Frigatebird near Discovery Bay on 8th.

Passerines reported in the Deep Bay area included a flock of 40 Chinese Grosbeaks at Nam Sang Wai from 1st, a Blunt-winged Warbler trapped at Mai Po on 4th and again on 17th, a Common Reed Bunting there on 7th, an Oriental Greenfinch at Long Valley on 5th and a Paddyfield Warbler at Nam Sang Wai on 10th. The grosbeaks which roosted overnight in the tall eucalypts at Nam Sang Wai possibly included those seen during the day at Tsim Bei Tsui and Kam Tin.

Elsewhere, highlights included a male and female Chestnut-breasted Rock Thrush at Kadoorie FBG during 7th-21st, a Eurasian Eagle Owl at Fei Ngo Shan on 8th, up to eight Black Bulbuls and 25 Striated Yuhinas at Tai Po Kau from the same date, 50 Striated Yuhinas at Kadoorie FBG on 10th, and a Yellow-bellied Tit (the first for several years) at Plover Cove on 24th.

Birds of unknown origins which attracted attention were a Blue-throated Barbet at Tai Po Kau from 15th and a Mrs Gould's Sunbird at Mount Austin on 18th.

March

This month saw two potential first records for Hong Kong in a Whooper Swan and an as yet unidentified *Pterodroma* petrel. Including December's Eurasian Oystercatcher and Water Pipit, the winter therefore saw four potential additions to the Hong Kong list, a surprising tally given its mildness.

Coverage was intense prior to and during the annual Big Bird Race, which this year was held on 2nd-3rd and won by the Eagles team with 157 species. Best bird of the race was adjudged to be a Forest Wagtail. In addition to the over-wintering Ruddy Shelduck, Baikal Teal and Baer's Pochard, other notable birds reported during the race were a Nordmann's Greenshank (possibly over-wintering), two Terek Sandpipers, three Long-billed Dowitchers and three Ruffs, all at Mai Po, and single Eurasian Eagle Owls at Hok Tau and Mong Tseng. There were no further reports of Nordmann's Greenshank until 27th, a slightly earlier arrival date than usual.

As passage of gulls continued, up to five Slaty-backs and a second-winter Glaucous were noted in Deep Bay on 4th and 5th.

A small stand of phragmites reeds in a drainage channel at San Tin held three secretive warbler species, all singing, during 6th-17th, namely a Pallas's Grasshopper, two Black-browed Reeds and the second Blunt-winged of the winter (following the Mai Po bird).

In an extraordinary week, a Whooper Swan (a long-awaited 1st for Hong Kong) was seen as it briefly settled with Black-faced Spoonbills on Pond 6 at Mai

Po on 13th and a *Pterodroma* petrel being harried over the mudflats by a Lesser Frigatebird on 17th (surely one of the most improbable Deep Bay records ever!) was then photographed as it flew past the boardwalk hide. The frigatebird was also seen there on 16th and 24th.

Outside of Deep Bay, the most exciting report concerned a Grass Owl spotlighted near Wu Kau Tang on 21st (potentially a 5th record for Hong Kong). Other birds of interest included four White-vented Needletails and the first Grey-faced Buzzard of the spring at Ho Chung on 18th, up to five Oriental Plovers at Chek Lap Kok from 19th, a Eurasian Skylark at Long Valley on 21st.

April

A series of weather events especially in the first half of the month (including northeasterly and easterly surges, thunderstorms, rain squalls and once even a hail storm) brought record numbers of Great Knot and Gull-billed Tern and also highest ever April numbers of Grey-faced Buzzard and Blue-tailed Be-eater. Waterbirds were generally present in good numbers, with up to 10,000 shorebirds on the scrape and Pond 12 at Mai Po during high tides. However, given the weather conditions, it was mystifying that no great falls of passerine migrants were reported - flycatchers were seen on rather few days and then mainly on islands, buntings were generally scarce and, despite efforts, no large gatherings of hirundines (or swifts) were found.

Up to five Grey-faced Buzzards were noted almost daily during 1st-15th from widespread sites. Several larger flocks were reported, including 45 at Cheung Chau on 2nd, 100 at Mai Po on 13th and 55 at Ngong Ping on 14th, making this potentially the best ever

April for the species. In contrast, Chinese Goshawks were not seen in particularly good numbers apart from 30 at Mai Po on 14th, though one there on 6th was the earliest ever in spring, and the only Japanese Sparrowhawk was a late one at Long Valley on 26th.

In Deep Bay, an influx of Great Knots was noted from 3rd when 350 were present. Numbers rose to 462 on 6th and 548 on 7th, the previous highest count being 463 on 27 March 1994. Among the rarer shorebirds, Nordmann's Greenshank numbers peaked at 17 on 7th (the highest total for some years), up to two Spoon-billed Sandpipers were reported on the Mai Po scrape and from the boardwalk from 11th, and over 40 Asian Dowichers were present on 14th. Up to two Swinhoe's Egrets were noted from 6th. The drake Baikal Teal was sighted on Pond 20 until at least 8th, and up to 5 Black-tailed Gulls remained throughout the month. Black-faced Spoonbill numbers remained high during the month, with 101 on 6th and still 64 on 23rd.

Exceptionally good numbers of Blue-tailed Bee-eaters were reported during 21st-24th, with eight near Mai Po and five at Dong Ping Chau on 21st, up to 40 at Mai Po the next day, and 12 at Long Valley on 24th.

Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo, however, was noted this April only at Ho Pui and Tai Po Kau from 8th, a disappointing showing compared to the previous spring when it was reported from multiple sites.

Among reports during 1st-13th from the island of Po Toi, which proved to be the best site for passerine migrants this spring, were a Yellow-browed Bunting on 1st and a Brambling on 8th, the sole reports of the spring, six species of flycatcher (Blue-and-white,

Ferruginous, Narcissus, Asian Brown, Japanese Paradise and Asian Paradise), two Black-naped Orioles and single Chestnut and Japanese Yellow Buntings. The latter three species (and also the flycatchers) were much scarcer than usual in Hong Kong this spring. Another island, Cheung Chau, also attracted a number of migrant passerines during this period, including an Ashy Minivet on 6th and a Mugimaki Flycatcher on 12th.

Perhaps through lack of coverage, Kowloon Park was the source of few interesting reports, except on 6th when a Blue-and-white Flycatcher and the only Eastern Crowned Warbler of the spring were noted.

Elsewhere, notable passerine reports included three Ashy Minivets at Mong Tseng on 1st, Narcissus, Ferruginous, Blue-and-white and Asian Paradise Flycatchers at Tai Po Kau during 3rd-14th, a Pale Thrush there on 5th, a White's Thrush and a Mountain Bush Warbler at Kadoorie FBG on 7th, and a Black Bulbul and Asian Paradise Flycatcher at Ho Chung on 13th. Among reports at Mai Po were two Manchurian Reed Warblers (possibly the first ever April records) and a Red-throated Flycatcher on 6th, a Mugimaki Flycatcher on 7th, a Black-naped Oriole on 8th, and the over-wintering Blunt-winged Warbler which was re-trapped on 14th, while at Long Valley highlights were a Chestnut-eared Bunting on 11th and a Japanese Yellow Bunting on 12th.

As passerine migration slowed in the second half the month, the only notable reports concerned a rather late Narcissus Flycatcher at Tai Po Kau on 21st, six Eyebrowed Thrushes there on the same day, a smattering of Grey-streaked Flycatchers from 22nd, an unidentified Pitta at High West on 23rd, and an arrival of Brown Shrikes from 26th, including 25 at Chek Lap Kok.

May

In a month which also featured a wide variety of migrants the highlight was a first breeding report of Barred Buttonquail.

Among waterbirds noted at Mai Po were a Swinhoe's Egret, Little Stint and Pectoral Sandpiper on 1st, an unidentified Frigatebird on 13th, seven Nordmann's Greenshanks on 13th and 23rd, up to three Black-faced Spoonbills and up to five Black-tailed Gulls to 23rd, a Watercock on 13th, a drake Mallard from 19th, and a Black Bittern and Pheasant-tailed Jacana on 27th.

Away from Deep Bay, there were reports of a very late Common Buzzard at Clearwater Bay on 7th, a Swinhoe's Egret at Shuen Wan during 8th-12th, single Ancient Auks near Hoi Ha Wan on 8th and near Po Toi on 13th, and a Baillon's Crake at Luk Keng on 19th. Also noted near Po Toi on 13th were 57 Black-naped, seven Roseate, 11 Whiskered and 84 White-winged Terns.

A report of an adult Barred Buttonquail with a downy chick, seen after rain on the road leading up to Robin's Nest on 16th, was a great surprise since there were no definite records of this species over-summering previously. Another interesting breeding observation was of an adult Greater Painted Snipe with two chicks at Luk Keng on 19th.

During the month, up to six Dollarbirds were noted from widespread sites up to 20th, but Oriental Cuckoo and Black Baza both appeared to be scarce, the only reports concerning singles of the former species at Ho Sheung Heung on 7th and the latter species near Tai Mei Tuk on 30th.

Features

Matsu Islands (20 - 23 July 2001)

Mike Turnbull

The rediscovery last year of Chinese Crested Tern was one of the most exciting pieces of news in Chinese ornithology in many years. The birds were found in a colony of Crested Terns (*Sterna bergii*) on a small islet in the ROC-controlled Matsu Islands, just off the coast of Fujian, near Fuzhou. Since the species had previously been considered possibly extinct, twelve of us from Hong Kong (including former WWF Executive Director, David Melville, now resident in New Zealand, and Tim Woodward, currently resident in Japan) jumped at the chance to join a party from the Wild Bird Society of Taipei on a visit to the islands this year.

In fact, however, we travelled in the hope, rather than the certainty of seeing Chinese Crested Tern: we had news that only one bird had been seen briefly in late May, and that the tern colony which the birds had been part of in 2000 had unfortunately been disturbed at a crucial time. Indeed, despite very extensive searching we did not find any Chinese Crested Terns, though it was pleasing to see its image adorning tourism posters: hopefully attempts to gain protection for the tern colonies in Matsu now have much more hope of success. In further support of those attempts, our visit was the subject of press coverage by the local press and was filmed by a team from Taiwan Public Television.

We were certainly very favourably impressed with the islands themselves. Their attractiveness as migration watchpoints was clear, and in a slideshow laid on by Chang Shou-hua we saw a selection of migrants which have reached the islands, including

vagrants such as Desert Wheatear. Also the tern colonies we did encounter were an impressive spectacle, though we were told that across the board tern numbers were down on the 15,000 total for the islands as a whole which has apparently been noted previously. The colonies were mostly of Bridled Terns, though there were also good numbers of Roseate and Black-naped Terns. We saw a few hundred Crested Terns, but were told that last year 2000 pairs had bred on the islet that held the Chinese Crested Terns. It appeared that this year a total of around 500 were present, there and at another islet, and that they were not breeding.

We also encountered Bulwer's Petrels and Streaked Shearwaters in the outermost waters, and in fact the highlight of the trip for many of us was the opportunity to really get to know Swinhoe's Petrel: we had around 100 encounters, with up to 37 around the boat at one time. They clearly favoured particular areas and we even tried "chumming" - putting down in this case an oil, shrimp and tuna mixture - in the hope of attracting them closer. The attempt appeared to be at least partly successful. Also, travelling 200 m. or so down into a network of military tunnels to see a cliff-nesting colony of Black-tailed Gulls was a unique experience for all of us.

The thanks of those who took part go in particular to Yu Yat Tung for liaising with our colleagues in Taiwan, and to Chiang Ming Liang and Paul Lai Chien from WBS Taipei for organising the whole rather complicated trip and for getting us around Taipei and onto our ferry. Thanks also to all of our colleagues from Wild Bird Society of Taipei who joined us on the trip and were so very friendly, helpful and understanding towards us throughout.

Society Events

Notes

Priority is given to members of the Society. Please contact the leader several days before the meeting to confirm attendance, otherwise you may miss out on changes in timing. The X rating conveys the degree of difficulty in each outing in terms of seeing the birds; Members are of course more than welcome to attend any event.

- * Members who use the Society coach to Mai Po must confirm their attendance by returning the booking slip with payment. Those using own transport please also notify Ms. Ada Chow, the Mai Po tour coordinator - this is important because the maximum number of members who can attend the outing is 50, as set by the AFCD permit. Failure to do so may result in being refused access to the reserve

**From 2000 onwards, non-members joining Mai Po trips
will have to pay the coach fare irrespective of whether they make use of the coach.**

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by phone or by e-mail at least one week before the outing. If you wish to check your booking, please contact the HKBWS Office at 2377 4387 or Ms. Ada Chow at 2580 6472.

Payment to the Society may be made in two ways:

- (1) Please return the attendance slip with a cheque in English made out to the "Hong Kong Bird Watching Society"
- (2) Payment can also be made by depositing the fee into the A/C no. 500-208152-838 of Hongkong Bank in favour of "Hong Kong Bird Watching Society", but please send the booking slip in as well to confirm your payment and attendance.

** Location for indoor meeting:

Conference Hall, Hong Kong Observatory, 134A Nathan Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon, HK

On all outdoor meetings please bring drink and food, appropriate clothing for the location, and sun cream and mosquito lotion if needed!

Tidal information

<http://www.info.gov.hk/hko/astron/pretide/epremap.htm>

October 2001 - January 2002

Date	Leader	Activity / Gathering location	Time	Difficulty
14 Oct (Sun)	Fung Po Kei 2362 1620(H)	Shing Mun 08:00 Tsuen Wan MTR Station Hang Seng Bank	08:00 13:00	XXX
	Geoff Carey 2608 1281(H)	Waterbird Monitoring at Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site (for certified surveyors only)	Please contact leader	
21 Oct (Sun)	Cheung Ho Fai 2788 7882 (O)	Tai Ho Wan, Lantau 08:15 Tung Chung MTR Station Hang Seng Bank Finish at Mui Wo	08:15 14:00	XX
28 Oct (Sun)	Li Wai Ki 2658 1929(H) Chan Yung 9844 3239 (M)	Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve 08:00 Tai Po Kau carpark (Tsung Tsai Yuen)	08:00 13:00	XXX

Date	Leader	Activity / Gathering location	Time	Difficulty
4 Nov (Sun)	Ada Chow 9453 5655 (M) Dickson Wong 9213 0585 (M) Authur Yiu 9099 6386 (M)	Mai Po (see notes *) 08:00 Kowloon Tong KCR Station (B1/B3 exit) or 09:00 Mai Po carpark, coach leaves at 15:00 and back to Kowloon Tong at 16:00	09:00 15:00	XX
	Geoff Carey 2608 1281(H)	Water Bird Survey Training (Intermediate and advanced bird watchers only)	Please contact leader	
8 Nov (Thur)	Mike Kilburn Ng Cho Nam	Indoor Meeting "Review of Long Valley Campaign" HK Observatory Conference Hall (see notes **)	18:45 20:00	
11 Nov (Sun)	Ying Hak King 9874 3752 (M)	Po Lin Monastery to Tung Chung 08:15 Tung Chung MTR Station Hang Seng Bank	08:15 13:00	XXX
18 Nov (Sun)	Robin Fung 9013 8209 (M) Henry Lui 9600 8670 (M)	Mai Po (see notes *) 08:00 Kowloon Tong KCR Station (B1/B3 exit) or 09:00 Mai Po carpark, coach leaves at 15:00 and back to Kowloon Tong at 16:00	09:00 16:00	XX
	Geoff Carey 2608 1281(H)	Waterbird Monitoring at Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site (for certified surveyors only)	Please contact leader	
25 Nov (Sun)	Wong Ming 9464 7552 (M) Chan Kam Wai Chan Yung 9844 3239 (M)	Ho Chung 09:00 Ho Chung Road junction to Hiram's Highway (Sai Kung Road)	09:00 13:00	X
	Yu Yat Tung 9170 5153 (M) Cheung Ho Fai 2788 7882 (O)	Mai Po Ringing Open Day 07:30 Mai Po Carpark (participants to bring their own Mai Po permits)	07:30 10:00	X
2 Dec (Sun)	Luk Tsun Pun 2571 1890(H) Shirley Lam 6100 8529 (M)	Mai Po (see notes *) 07:00 Kowloon Tong KCR Station (B1/B3 exit) or 08:00 Mai Po carpark, coach leaves at 15:00 and back to Kowloon Tong at 16:00	08:00 15:00	XX
9 Dec (Sun)	Mike Leven 2863 1435 (H) Tam Yiu Leung 9365 8834 (M)	Kap Lung Trail 07:30 Tsuen Wan MTR Station Hang Seng Bank	07:30 13:00	XXX
15 Dec (Sat)	Cheung Ho Fai 2788 7882 (O)	Ping Kong 15:00 Sheung Shui KCR Station Taxi stand, exit from the platform to Lo Wu	15:00 18:00	X
16 Dec (Sun)	Geoff Carey 2608 1281(H)	Waterbird Monitoring at Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site (for certified surveyors only)	Please contact leader	
20 Dec (Thur)	Dr Yeung Ka Ming Guest speakers from AFCD	Indoor meeting "Sharing Nature Conservation Education Experience" HK Observatory Conference Hall (see notes **)	18:45 20:00	
30 Dec (Sun)	Simon Wong 9189 8468 (M)	Shum Chung 08:20 Ma Liu Shiu Pier	08:20 13:00	X
6 Jan (Sun)	Man Chup Ming 9216 5643 (M) Ying Hak King 9874 3752 (M)	Tsim Bei Tsui 08:00 Kowloon Tong KCR Station or 09:00 Tsim Bei Tsui Carpark, coach leaves at 15:00 and back to Kowloon Tong at 16:00	09:00 16:00	XX
10 Jan (Thur)	Geoff Carey 2608 1281(H)	Indoor meeting "Introduction to Gulls of HK" HK Observatory Conference Hall (see notes **)	18:45 20:00	
20 Jan (Sun)	Ian Tyzzer 2834 0873 (O) Yam Wing Yiu 9753 3647 (M)	Nim Wan 08:00 Yuen Long LRT Tai Tong Rd Station	08:00 16:00	XXX
24 Jan (Thur)	Lo Kar Man May Lam Karl Ng	Indoor meeting "Bird photography" HK Observatory Conference Hall (see notes **)	18:45 20:00	XXX

Activity Booking Slip

I wish to reserve places for _____ members and _____ non-members for the tour on:

- * 4 Nov 2001 (Sun) Mai Po
- 18 Nov 2001 (Sun) Mai Po
- 2 Dec 2001 (Sun) Mai Po
- ~~2 Dec 2001~~ (Sun) Tsim Bei Tsui
6 Jan 2002

The number of person(s) using the coach is _____. Coach fare:

- * _____ x HK\$40/Member _____ x HK\$60/Guest# _____ x HK\$20 Student member

Non-members joining Mai Po trips will have to pay the coach fare irrespective of whether they make use of the coach.

Cheque for HK\$ _____ (In English. Payable to **Hong Kong Bird Watching Society**)

Name : _____ Contact No.: _____

Address: _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Note :

*Send this application together with crossed cheque by mail to **Ms. Ada Chow, P.O. Box 28554, Gloucester Road Post Office, Wanchai, Hong Kong***

Application should be made at least two weeks before the date of the outing. Late applicants will also be accepted subject to places available.

* Please as appropriate



HKBWS China Conservation Fund

In order to encourage the study of birds in China, HKBWS will arrange an amount of HK\$10,000 per year as "HKBWS China Conservation Fund". Members wishing to donate to the Fund should fill in and return the the form below with a cheque payable to the "Hong Kong Bird Watching Society", and mark "HKBWS China Conservation Fund" on the back of the cheque (Send to: G.P.O. Box 12460, Hong Kong)

Please complete in BLOCK LETTERS

Mr/Ms/Miss/Mrs/ Surnam/ _____ First Name: _____

Contact No.: _____ Fax: _____ Mobile Phone: _____

Page: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____

I wish to make a donation of HK\$ _____ (cheque no. _____) to HKBWS China Conservation Fund.

Date: _____ Signature: _____



聚雀店

新發現!

精美木製雀鳥襟章

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 成家棲息嘅香港觀鳥會嘅 **聚雀店**,快㗎!睇一睇我哋嘅風采喇!
 如果大家想帶我哋返屋企,可以出席香港觀鳥會主辦嘅講座,
 或者親自到觀鳥會會址*搵我哋㗎。

我哋每隻只售港幣 \$50.00,數量有限,售完即止;千祈咪錯過呀!
 睇緊將會更多驚喜陸續推出,敬請密切留意會訊!

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 電話:2377 4387

Hi everybody, we're a bird family from Taiwan and this is our first
 time to Hong Kong. We are now staying in the ^{bird} _{hop} of the
 HKBWS. If you want to visit us or bring us home, you can either
 attend the indoor meetings organised by HKBWS or simply
 come to the HKBWS office*.

We only cost HKD50.00 each and just have limited stock available.
 So, don't miss the chance to pick-up your favour one!
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 eye on the coming bulletin.

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白腹海鷗 (深涌)
White-bellied Sea Eagle (Sham Chung)

盧嘉孟
Lo Kar Man