

香港觀鳥會 The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society



bulletin

會員通訊

183

Spring 2002 ~ 春



雀影集 Photographing Birds

— 飛鳥 Feiniu



圖一 Figure 1



圖二 Figure 2

Take a closer look
Verditer
Flycatcher
銅藍鶲

攝影 photo :
John and Jemi Holmes



香港觀鳥會

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

郵寄地址 Postal address :

香港郵政總局信箱12460號

G.P.O. Box 12460, Hong Kong

項目辦公室 Project Office :

香港九龍尖沙咀漆咸道 87-105 號

百利商業大廈 625 室

Room 625 Beverley Commercial Centre

87-105 Chatham Road, Tsim Sha Tsui,

Kowloon, Hong Kong

查詢及開放時間 Enquiry & Opening Hours :

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(please call for appointment)

電話 Telephone :

(852) 2377 4387

傳真 Facsimile :

(852) 2314 3687

觀鳥熱線 Birdline :

(852) 2465 6690 (中文 / Chinese)

(852) 2667 4537 (英文 / English)

網頁 Website :

www.hkbws.org.hk

電郵 E-mail :

hkbws@hkbws.org.hk

(查詢 / General)

chairman@hkbws.org.hk

(會長 / Chairman)

v_chairman@hkbws.org.hk

(副會長 / Vice-chairman)

secretary@hkbws.org.hk

(秘書 / Secretary)

member@hkbws.org.hk

(會員事務 / Membership)

recorder@hkbws.org.hk

(紀錄委員 / Records Committee)

bird_report@hkbws.org.hk

(年報編輯 / Report Editor)

bulletin_chinese@hkbws.org.hk

(中文通訊 / Chinese Bulletin)

bulletin_english@hkbws.org.hk

(英文通訊 / English Bulletin)

webmaster@hkbws.org.hk

(網頁管理員 / Webmaster)

hkbwsuk@aol.com

(查詢 - 英國 / General - UK)


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Contributors to this issue : Mike Kilburn, Lawrence Johnstone,
Steve Burrows, Lam Chiu Ying,
Cheung Ho Fai, Ada Chow, Henry Lui,
John and Jemi Holmes, Feiniu, Kwan Tze Hoi,
Forest Fong, Richard Lewthwaite, Carrie Ma,
Ronley Lee, Ma Ming, Lew Young

Photo and illustration : Kwok Hon Kai, Feiniu, Jemi and John Holmes
Simon Wong, Yam Wing Yiu

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Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Executive Committee

<i>Chairman</i>	Mr. Lam Chiu Ying
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<i>Bulletin Editor</i> (English) (Chinese)	Mr. Lawrence Johnstone Mr. Henry Lui
<i>WWF Liaison</i>	Dr. Lew Young

Hon. Auditor

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Mr. Lam Chiu Ying	Dr. Ng Cho Nam
Mr. Mike Kilburn	Dr. Beta Yip
Mr. Lawrence Johnstone	Ms. Carrie Ma

Kite Research Group

Ms. Etta Hui	Ms. Shirley Lam
Mr. Samson So	Ms. Karin Chan
Dr. Beta Yip	Mr. Henry Lui

Staff

<i>Project Officer</i>	Ms. Carrie Ma
<i>Asst. Project Officer</i>	Ms. Shirley Lam

Dear Members,

You may wonder why the Spring issue arrives without a Winter issue before it. The reason is that Spring is already here and we want the bulletin to reflect the correct season. Don't worry about the Winter issue - it is not lost. It will come later as a special issue taking a look back on what the Society did in 2001, an extraordinary year with great achievements.

You may also wonder when the Annual General Meeting will be held. Normally it takes place towards the end of March. The Committee however has decided to schedule it for mid-year, for a number of reasons.

The Society is seeking "charitable" status from the Inland Revenue Department and is also going through the formalities to become an incorporated body in the form of a limited company. We expect to complete the tasks by mid year. Furthermore, because the Society is receiving subvention from AFCD, we have perforce to revert to the April-March financial year. We want to have the accounts properly done and audited before convening the AGM. This precludes holding the AGM in March as before.

The Society has been expanding and reaching out to the community. It has not escaped the inevitable growing pains. We believe that incorporation together with the charitable status would allow the Society to function more effectively. We would for example be able to organize proper fund raising to sustain our scientific, education and conservation efforts.

I beg the indulgence of members for the somewhat exceptional arrangements this year. We shall emerge in the end as a stronger and healthier organization doing more good to Hong Kong. In the meantime, you are always welcome to contact me if you have any views on how the Society should be run.

With best regards,

CY Lam, *Chairman*

Changes in Committee Membership

Mr T.P. Luk stepped down after many years of faithful service on the Society Committee, overseeing the membership register and handling membership enquiries. We are most grateful to him for spending numerous days and nights on this back-office operation which is invisible to most but which is essential to the well being of the Society. We hope that he can now enjoy more time in the field and claim back the many ticks which he might have lost in the last few years.

In Mr Luk's place, we welcome Ms Ronley Lee to the Committee. She is currently the chairman of the Membership Services Committee, the responsibility of which embraces membership registration, oversight of the production of the Bulletin and the development of service ideas such as bookmarks and greeting cards. We are also grateful to Mr Simon Wong for helping with the membership register.

Good-bye to Yam Wing Yiu

Yam Wing Yiu, Assistant Project Officer, left the HKBWS office on 31 March at the end of his contract. We are most grateful to him for his work in connection with the Quality Education Fund project on promoting bird watching to primary school students. He is a talented illustrator and the booklet he produced "Bird's Eye View of Nature" (in Chinese) has been extremely well received by students and teachers. His production has also won acclaim from the international conservation community. We are sorry that resources do not allow us to keep him as on staff. We wish him well in his future endeavours.

Launching ceremony of The Avifauna of Hong Kong

To commemorate the launch of the book, the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society donated its historical records collected since the founding of the Society in 1957 up to 1971 to Hong Kong Museum of History on 29th January 2002. The records -were received by the Chief Curator of the Museum, Dr. Joseph Ting.

Birds are a key indicator for the health of our natural environment. This book will be the standard reference work for bird watchers and academics, and for developers, consultants and the HKSAR government in planning ecologically sustainable development in Hong Kong.

The "The Avifauna of Hong Kong" is the first complete record of the status and distribution of the 500+ birds that have occurred in Hong Kong since records began in 1861. The book is edited by G.J. Carey et al and published by HKBWS. Its text is mainly in English. Scientific names and Chinese names of

species are provided. There are 568 pages; the size is 9.25 in by 7.5 in.

Price:

HKBWS Member: HK\$310, 26.5 (in UK) or
US\$41 (elsewhere)

Non-member: HK\$410, 34.5 (in UK) or
US\$53 (elsewhere)

*(Postage and packing included. Please allow 6 weeks for
oversea delivery.)*

PAYMENT for this book may be made in 3 ways:

- Hong Kong dollars cheque or bank draft made out to "Hong Kong Bird Watching Society" should be sent to: HKBWS, GPO Box 12460, Hong Kong.
- Cheque or bank draft in pounds sterling made out to "Hong Kong Bird Watching Society" should be sent to: Richard Stott, Abbey Place, Defford Road, Pershore, Worcestershire, WR10 1JF, UK.
- To place orders from the US, please go to: <http://www.leolam.com/hkbws> Payments will be made through the PayPal system.

45th anniversary of HKBWS

This year is the 45th anniversary of our society. The Membership Services Committee and a group of enthusiastic members are planning a series of activities to commemorate this great event.

The first one is the production of the Society badge for 2002. It comes to members together with this issue of the bulletin. Please wear this badge when joining the society's activities.

At the same time, we have also produced a Accredited Guide Badge for outing leaders. It is a small token of thanks to them for generously sharing their birding experience with members.



2002 Subscription

Dear members, please remember to renew your subscription. Thank you for the continuous support. You may send the completed subscription form with crossed cheque to the society. Alternatively, you may directly credit The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

account (Hong Kong Bank account no. 004-500-208152-838) and return the pay-in slip with the completed subscription form to the society. To ease administrative workload, payment by cheque is preferred.

Subscription rates for the year 2002 are as follows:

Ordinary/Family	HK\$ 255	Corporate	HK\$ 415
Student	HK\$ 60	Oversea	HK\$ 310

Bird Record Submission

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

To encourage members to submit their records, the Records Committee now accept records submitted in (a) EXCEL format or in (b) Bird Record Cards (150x106mm, see below). The EXCEL file can be downloaded from our web site while record cards can be obtained from the Office.

Please submit Records for birds seen in 2002 by e-mail to recorder@hkbws.org.hk or by mail to G.P.O. Box 12460, Hong Kong before 31 January 2003.

Hong Kong Bird Report 1998

The Hong Kong Bird Report 1998 is in the final editing stage and will be released soon.

Waterbird Monitoring Programme

From April onwards, Yu Yat Tung took over from Geoff Carey as the survey coordinator of the Society's Waterbird Monitoring Programme. We would like to thank Geoff for putting the programme on a firm footing. He will continue to contribute as a surveyor.

Looking for translator for Bulletin

We invite volunteers to serve as our bulletin translator. If you are good in English and Chinese, and are willing to contribute your time to promote bird-watching through writing and translation, please contact the HKBWS Office by email at hkbws@hkbws.org.hk.

HKBWS Office

Our office has only one telephone line, and the call volume is high. So from time to time you may not be able to get through. If you have any query, please leave us your name, phone number, and your questions in the voice mail. If you would like to contact our committee members, you can email them. Email addresses are listed on the first page.

Illegal Fishermen at the Mai Po Marshes

Illegal mudskipper collectors at the Mai Po Marshes have been increasing in recent months, and have caused disturbance to the wintering birds there. If you spot any of these illegal fishermen, please report to Mr. C.L. Wong of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department at 2150 6921 or by e-mail: cl_wong@afcd.gov.hk. Please also cc the Mai Po Marshes Nature Reserve at maipo@wwf.org.hk and the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society at hkbws@hkbws.org.hk.

Birdlife International – Building on Experience Training

Since our announcement in the previous issue of the Bulletin, we have received generous supports from members. Now we have raised enough funding for Mike Kilburn and Carrie Ma to attend this one-year program. We would like to express our gratitude to our members for the supports and encouragement. Mike completed the third session of the program in South Africa from mid- to end of February. The session was about human resources management, work allocation and fundraising. The fourth session will be held in India in May.

Strategy Development Working Group

Our society has been a member-based organization since 1950s, and members have been volunteering in the planning and implementation of the society's work. With the benefit of participating in the "Building on Experience" training programme of the Birdlife International, we intend to plan more systematically and to develop our resources appropriately. The Strategy Development Working Group was established at a recent committee meeting. Members of the working group include C.Y. Lam, Mike Kilburn, C.N. Ng, Lawrence Johnstone, Beta Yip and Carrie Ma. The

group will work closely with members and report to the Committee in due course.

Acknowledgment

The society would like to thank George Ho, Wai-Chun Ho, Kuen-Yat Man, Hak-Hau Lung, Michelle Kong, Karl Ng, Henry Lui, John & Jemi Holmes, Peter Wong, Wong Kwong Wah, Wong Tin Wah, Simon Wong, Cheung Ho Fai, Lo Kar Man for donating their bird photos to the society, contributing to the successful production of the bird cards, bookmarks and badges.

"Thank you very much" also to John and Jemi Holmes. They have donated 1500 sets of new "Hong Kong Birds" Stickers to our society.

Thanks also to Agriculture, Fisheries & Conservation Department for complimentary copies of "Hong Kong Flying Colour I : Birds".

Not an advertisement

Small Discovery:

Park'n Shop and Toys R Us have sold a kind of Japanese chocolate eggs recently. There were small animals in the eggs. Some lucky birdwatchers have got Black-faced Spoonbill, Barn Swallow, Golden Eagle, Stella's Sea Eagle, Crested Grebe, Pied Kingfisher, etc. Pay attention if you are interested! (But don't get addicted to the toys!)

Chebaling National Nature Reserve:

Chebaling in northern Guangdong has become a favorite destination for short bird-watching trips. It is easy to get there. Members can organize the trips by themselves. Simply contact the staff members at Chebaling by phone at 00186-751-3462114 or by email at cblbhq@163.net. Tell them the date and arrival time, and ask them to arrange the transportation between Shaoguan train station and the Nature Reserve (HK\$300 each way). You can also ask them to arrange food and accommodation (HK\$220/person/night) and to purchase the return train ticket. You can buy the train ticket to Shaoguan at the China Travel Agency. If you depart from Lo Wo, the departure time is 10:00 a.m. If you take the direct train from Hong Kong, the departure time is 3:00 p.m. The train trip takes about 6 hours.



Winter Atlas Survey

The three-year Winter Atlas Survey, which lasts three months every winter, has started in November 2001. This survey receives funding support from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD). An area of some 300 square kilometres was surveyed last winter, thanks to the enthusiastic contributions of Society members. The data for the 2001-2001 winter have been delivered to the AFCD.

Kite Research Group

The Kite Research Group of the Society conducts monthly kite surveys at Magazine Gap and Stonecutters Island. Members who are interested in joining the survey please contact Ms. Etta Hui at <http://netta.cyberec.com/kite/>.

The Avifauna of Hong Kong



The Avifauna of Hong Kong was published at the end of 2001 for the purpose of promoting awareness and understanding of the birds of Hong Kong. Copies have been donated to local secondary schools, universities, public libraries, government departments, Chinese ornithologists and our counterpart organizations overseas. The book was also an exhibit at a map exhibition organized by the Maps and Survey Office of the Lands Department.

The Water Bird Survey in Mai Po Inner Deep Bay

The 2001-2002 water bird survey in Mai Po Inner Deep Bay was successfully completed. On top of the regular monthly waterfowl counts, egret counts and shorebird counts, a one-year survey on the flyway of egrets was added to this year's programme. The results of the counts have been posted on our website. If you are interested in the details of the survey, please contact the Society office at hkbws@hkbws.org.hk.

As part of the programme, a waterbird count workshop was held on Nov. 18, 2001. The workshop reviewed the waterbird count results over the past few years, and looked at ways to improve the survey.

On March 29, the Society organized a public seminar "Waterbird Count at Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site: Importance, Trends and Monitoring," at the City University of Hong Kong. The seminar attracted more than a hundred participants, including teachers, students, birdwatchers, government officials, representative from NGOs and environmental consultants.

The Society has been conducting waterbird counts for more than twenty years since 1979. At the beginning, the mid-winter bird counts constituted part of the Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) organized by the Wetland International - Asia Pacific. The current year-round waterbird monitoring programme subvented by the Agriculture Fisheries and Conservation Department represented a much more structured effort to keep track of the waterbird population in Mai Po and Deep Bay. We would like to express our thanks to members' participation and support. Members who are interested in participating in the Waterbird Count please contact the coordinator Mr. Yu Yat Tung at ytyu@hkstar.com.

Quality Education Fund - Be a Young Naturalist



It has been nine months since our Society launched this Quality Education Fund project. It is scheduled to finish at the end of June. Numerous Society members have contributed valuable time and experience to the implementation of this project.

A painting competition "Painting the Color of Life" was organized in January 2002. The response was overwhelming and more than 600 entries were received. The prize presentation ceremony was held at the Hong Kong Space Museum on January 26. Because of the unexpectedly high turnout of students, teachers and parents, it was more than a full house and



we had to split the ceremony into two sessions!

We held an educational workshop, "Bird and the Nature," on March 29 at the Scout Association of Hong Kong for primary school teachers. Seventy teachers from forty schools participated in the work-shop. Among them, fifty joined the bird-watching outing on the same day. The topics of the work-shop included talks on how to promote bird-watching and nature study in elementary schools and time for experience-sharing among teachers.

The Society has also designed a special educational kit, and has distributed it to more than 30 schools participating in the programme of talks and outings.

At the latest count, the programme has reached out to more than 6,000 people through talks at schools, bird-watching outings, topical exhibitions, painting competition and teachers' training.

"Bird-watching - Learning from Nature" Programme



The "Bird-watching - Learning from Nature" programme, funded by the Eldery Commission and Hong Kong Jockey Club Charitable Fund, has been running for four months. The number of organizations requesting to participate in the program is doubled the quota. It is obvious that the elderly is as enthusiastic as young people towards bird-watching. Some have even applied for the training for volunteers under the programme with a view to becoming a nature guide in the second stage of the programme. There will be more seminars and bird-watching outings in the coming months. Members interested in helping out in guiding outings please contact the Society Office.

Bird-watching Class: Gold Award Holders' Association, Hong Kong



We ran the second bird-watching course for the Gold Award Holders' Association, Hong Kong (a branch of the Hong Kong Award for Young People Scheme) from October 2001 to February 2002. There were thirty participants. The objectives of the program was to develop participants' interest in bird-watching, and to make bird-watching an outdoor skill. The participants has master the basic skills and should be able to apply what they have learned in their organizations or schools.

Training for volunteers: AFCD

We provided a training course on bird watching for the volunteers of the International Wetland Park of the Agriculture Fisheries and Conservation Department on February 8-9 and March 15-16. There were 20 participants in total. The objective of the training was to provide the participants with basic knowledge of birds and the wetland environment in the Deep Bay. In addition, the training course also covered the essential skills for field interpretation.

Training Camps: Student Environmental Protection Ambassadors (SEPA)



We organized two day-camps for the SEPAs of the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) on March 2 and 23. The theme of the day-camps was in line with the current Waste Reduction theme of ECC. Through workshops, group discussion, and bird-watching outings, we hope students could promote bird-watching and bring the message of non-polluting tourism back to their schools.

World Wetland Day: Bird watching training and race

We participated in the activities of the World Wetland Day celebration coordinated by the Agriculture Fisheries and Conservation Department from December 2001 to February 2002. Two bird-watching



training courses and a bird identification race for secondary schools students were organized.. Bird-watching societies from different schools participated in these activities. The competition was held at Mai Po on January 26. Most participants had some bird-watching experience and the standards of the teams were rather high. On average, the teams could recorded more than 30 species of birds within three hours. The winning teams recorded more than 40 species.

The presentation ceremony was held at the Hong Kong International Wetland Park on the World Wetland Day on February 2. The Society also set up a booth and painted bird "tattoos" on visitors' faces or arms. Because of the large number of visitors, our members were busy throughout the day.

Outreach Activities: Seminars and Bird-watching Outings



We have seen a constant queue of enquiries regarding bird-watching classes and outings. We did our best to satisfy such requests. From January to April, we held 39 lectures and bird-watching activities for schools and 10 for other organizations. Because of limited staff members, we encourage members to help. If you have some experience in bird-watching and are interested in becoming seminar instructors or outing leaders, please contact us at hkbws@hkbws.org.hk.

Acknowledgement

1. Birdlife International – “Building on Experience Training.” We have collected a total of HK\$57,685 from individual donors. We would like to express our sincere thanks to the following members for their generous support.

Ruy Barretto
D.R. Bradshaw
Chan Lok Sang and
Chan Lui Tak Ching
Chan Sik Nga
Chan Wai Man
Cheung Ho Fai
Ada Chow
John Edge
Fok Tung Ho
Forrest Fong
Robin Fung
John and Jemi Holmes
Etta Hui
Kwan Tze Hoi
Lawrence Johnstone and
Judith Fruin-ball

Richard Lewthwaite
Li Wai Ki
Lo Wai Yan
Carrie Ma
Man Chup Ming
Roger Muscroft
Malcolm Reeve Nunns
Puk Yuk Yin
So Siu Hei
Tai Sheung Lai
Anthony Tse
Mike Turnbull
Clive Viney
Wong Chah Cheong
Arthus Yiu

We also thank Robin Fung, C.Y. Lam, and Carrie Ma for conducting bird watching classes and training courses and contributing the lecture fees to the training programme

2. Lego Ho donated a file cabinet, envelopes, letter paper, and other stationery to the Society office in March. We would like to express our sincere thanks to Lego.
3. We would like to thank the following individuals for their help in the “Painting the Color of Life” of the QEF “Be a Young Naturalist” Programme: Chan Ming Ming, Robin Fung, Etta Hui, Shirley Lam, Ronley Lee, Henry Lui, Carrie Ma, Simon Wong and Yam Wing Yiu.
4. “The Water Bird Survey in Mai Po Inner Deep Bay: Importance, Long-term Trends and Monitoring 2001-2002” has been completed. We would like to thank Edmond Lam of AFCD, C.Y.

Lam and Y.T. Yu the speakers at the public lecture; Aukie Au, Cheung Ho Fai, Jimmy Chim, Forrest Fong, Shirley Lam, Ronley Lee, and Yam Wing Yiu for their kind assistance for the smooth running of the public lecture; S.T. Tsim of AFCD, Geoff Carey and Carrie Ma for coordinating the programme.

5. We would like to thank the following members for their presentations, interpretation, and arrangement for the “Bird and Nature” Education Workshop: Chan Ming Ming, Chan Yung, Robin Fung, Shirley Lam, Ronley Lee, Henry Lui, Carrie Ma, Simon Wong and Yam Wing Yiu.
6. We would like to thank all members for their help in the bird-watching training courses, the bird race and running the booth at the World Wetland Day coordinated by the Agriculture Fisheries and Conservation Department. We are grateful to Dr. Cheung Ho Fai for generally overseeing the directing these activities.
7. We would like to thank the following members for their participation in planning, arrangement, giving seminars and guiding outings for the “Bird watching, Watching Nature” activities for the Gold Award Holders’ Association, Hong Kong: Karin Chan, Robin Fung, Ng Cho Nam, Henry Lui, Carrie Ma and Dickson Wong.
8. We would like to thank the following individuals for their participation in planning, giving seminars and providing habitat interpretation in the training for the volunteers of the International Wetland Park of the Agriculture Fisheries and Conservation Department: Robin Fung, C Y Lam and Carrie Ma.
9. We would like to thank the following individuals for their participation in planning, arrangement, giving seminars and providing habitat interpretation for the ECC Student Environmental Protection Ambassadors day camps: Dr. Cheung Ho-Fai, Robin Fung, C.Y. Lam, Carrie Ma, Kar Ng, Shirley Lam and Yam Wing Yiu.



Sheung Shui – Lok Ma Chau Spur Line Making the best of a bad situation

– By Mike Kilburn & Forrest Fong

The 30-day public consultation period for the revised proposal for the Spur Line ended on 5th February. Rather than launch a high profile public campaign as we did against the original Spur Line EIA, the HKBWS Conservation Committee, along with a number of other green groups decided to adopt a low-key approach in raising its objection, mainly arising from the net loss of wetland at Lok Ma Chau. Our intention was not to stop the railway being built, but to ensure that it was built in accordance with the standards laid out in Hong Kong's environmental and planning legislation.

On the day the Spur Line Appeal was decided in favour of the Government against KCRC, Rob Law, the Director of Environmental Protection announced publicly that his department would do whatever it could to expedite the EIA process for any future proposals put forward by KCRC. The green groups were concerned that this would mean ignoring the issues involved with the Lok Ma Chau end of the Spur Line. It seems these concerns have been realised.

The proposed station at Lok Ma Chau will occupy 9.5 hectares of fishponds inside the Deep Bay Wetland Conservation Area, the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar site Buffer Zone and inside the Deep Bay / Shenzhen River Basin Important Bird Area designated by BirdLife International. In addition, the EIA conducted by KCRC discovered two more species of conservation importance on the site - Chinese Soft-shelled Tortoise and Chinese Otter. Bad situation.

What was worse was the discovery that up to 70 Black-faced Spoonbills were recorded on the site of the new station and the area of fishponds that KCRC proposes to enhance to mitigate for the lost hectares of ponds. The globally threatened Black-faced Spoonbill is without doubt the best-known species in Hong Kong, and the flagship species for Mai Po and the Inner Deep Bay Ramsar site. Around 170 birds, which represent 20-25% of the global population, are wintering in Hong Kong this year.

However, in both the previous and the new EIA reports, instead of re-creating wetland to compensate for the loss of wetland at Lok Ma Chau in a like-for-like manner KCRC have proposed to mitigate by "increasing the carrying capacity" of 28 hectares of existing fishponds surrounding the proposed station. It violates the "no net loss of wetlands", principle (no net loss of BOTH the total area of wetland, AND no net loss of the ecological function of the area) enshrined in the Ramsar Convention, which Hong Kong must comply with, since China is a signatory. This constitutes the key reason for the HKBWS objection (for further details, see next item below).

It is well known that Black-faced Spoonbills and other fish-eating birds (particularly Great Cormorant, Grey and Chinese Pond Herons and Great, Intermediate and Little Egrets) take advantage of ponds that have been drained down to feed on the fish which get concentrated in the shallow water at the bottom of the ponds. Most visitors to Mai Po will have witnessed the sight of hundreds of spoonbills, herons and egrets massed in knee- to ankle-high water of a drained-down gei wai or fishpond for exactly this reason.

Sheung Shui – Lok Ma Chau Spur Line Making the best of a bad situation (*con't*)

The viability of KCRC's proposal relies on the fact that it is the frequency with which these feeding conditions occur that determine the value of the fishponds for the spoonbills, herons and egrets. Commercially operated fishponds are drained once every three to five years. KCRC is proposing to manage the 28 hectares of ponds so that drain-down feeding conditions occur several times each winter.

KCRC's ecologists are aware of the potential disturbance the station may cause to the spoonbills in particular, and have allocated the ponds located furthest from the station as those intended for the drain-down scheme. A possible concern is that the disturbance created by the station will still act as a deterrent to the spoonbills. HKBWS has recommended that KCRC explore the possibility of renting ponds elsewhere in Deep Bay on which to conduct managed drain-down as a contingency plan. So far, nothing has been done in this area.

In addition, KCRC is proposing the creation of a marsh nearby the station for the dual functions of cleaning waste water generated by the station (a tried and tested technique that has been successful in many other parts of the world, and one which will be used at Tin Shui Wai Wetland Park); and providing habitat for a number of smaller wetland-dependant birds, including Bluethroat and Red-billed Starling.

To be fair, HKBWS recognizes that the revised EIA is probably the most comprehensive EIA ever carried out in Hong Kong. We are pleased with the positive attitude represented by the revised EIA. Our principal concern is that the Government has yet to take essential steps to ensure the ongoing protection of Deep Bay as a wetland of huge local and international importance.

The precautionary principle of wetland development

The issues involved are subtle and require some explaining. Under both the Ramsar Convention and the Town Planning Board guidelines for Deep Bay, as well as in the assessment of EIAs by the Advisory Council on the Environment the "precautionary principle" is applied to wetland development. This is expressed in two parts.

The first part states that in considering all developments, impacts to ecologically sensitive sites should be minimised by avoidance (locating the development somewhere else), compensation (making up for harm done to a site by creating equally or more valuable habitat elsewhere), and mitigation (taking measures at the site to reduce harm caused by a development). This is also the order in which options should be considered.

The second part refers to "no net loss of wetlands". Wetland usage in Hong Kong is governed by the Ramsar Convention. Ramsar states that where development occurs in wetlands it should only go ahead where there is no net loss of BOTH the physical area AND the ecological and hydrological function of the wetland.

As clearly stated in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (Chapter 10: Conservation) we should create, where possible, new conservation zones in compensation for areas of conservation value which are lost to development.

The problem in Hong Kong is that the Town Planning Board Guidelines Application for Developments within Deep Bay Area (TPB PG-No. 12B) are consistent with Ramsar, but the EIA Ordinance, which allows for "no net loss of area OR function" is not. In the case of the Spur Line the weaker wording of the EIA Ordinance has been adopted.

There is no doubt that AFCD and EPD are in a difficult position in the face of immense pressure to let the project proceed. Sadly, the Wetland Conservation Area is impacted, setting a dangerous precedent for future capital projects and infrastructure developments within the border area.

The Government should not permit any development within the Wetland Conservation Area (and in any ecologically-sensitive areas) unless the development within the WCA can be fully justified. The impact on all aspects must be considered, but in a conservation area the conservation aspect should take priority. We believe it is the duty of the Environmental Protection Department, Planning Department and AFCD to make sure it is so. Developers should be made to comply with the highest international standards and practices. In no way would any compromise between ecological considerations and others be accepted. It is only when the Government works in unison to achieve this is the Chief Executive's vision of Hong Kong as "Asia's World City" remotely realistic. The election of the EIA rejection in 2000 by TIME as the top five good news for the environment in the world shows how much the international community cares about this aspect of the governance of Hong Kong.

Stop Press: Government shows double standards in approving Spur Line EIA

In early March the Spur Line EIA Report was approved by EPD. There were certain conditions attached to the approval, including the establishment of a special committee, which will include green groups, to oversee the wetland that will be created by KCRC.

In a recent meeting with KCRC, the Transport Bureau and the Planning Department, the Planning Department confirmed that this is the first project to be approved in the Wetland Conservation Area which does not comply with the Town Planning Board and Ramsar Convention guidelines of "no net loss of area and function". In the past, private developers seeking approval for developments in the Deep Bay area have only won approval once they have demonstrated their projects comply with these conditions.

While there may be a genuine need for the Spur Line, the government only brings itself into disrepute by adopting double standards to ensure the project proceeds.

However, members should note that the Gazettal of the Spur Line has not yet been completed, and both the Society and many individual members who wrote to object have their objections outstanding. While the EIA, with its weaker wording of the mitigation requirements has been approved, the Gazettal, which relies more closely on the Town Planning Board Guidelines, gives us another opportunity to persuade the Government to comply with international norms and its own guidelines. The battle goes on.

Planning and environmental legislation - Time for a reassessment

The current practice on Land Use Zoning is unlikely to cope with the environmental concerns and conservation issues upon which the Hong Kong community as a whole places much importance. We have pointed out that it is not enough for the Government to rely on a passive protection of ecologically sensitive sites, (i.e. by land use zoning to restrict the activities within an area and its surroundings). The Government needs to be proactive in protecting and even improving the ecological value of valuable sites (such as resuming private land or recovering damaged habitat at the Government's expense. Otherwise, land zoned as "Conservation Area" has no difference from land zoned as "Agriculture Use". We all know that Mai Po Nature Reserve was formed by the fishponds designated by the Government. Such active protection was initiated by keen bird watchers as early as the 1970's by purchasing the fishponds one by one with money raised from the annual Big Bird Race.

Sheung Shui – Lok Ma Chau Spur Line Making the best of a bad situation (*con't*)

In the past few decades, Hong Kong was being developed as an international trading hub and financial centre. Therefore the planning strategy has been formulated with the emphasis on urban design and economical development principles. As conservation and ecological are comparatively new and unfamiliar, to get them incorporated into the planning consideration is difficult. The debate about “no net loss of wetlands” adds further weight to the argument for AFCD, PlanD and EPD to make a complete re-assessment of the planning approaches and land use zoning that deal with ecologically sensitive sites.

A solution to counter dumping on private land

Although there is legislation (e.g. Waste Disposal Ordinance) providing control on disposal of waste, it has no weight if the construction waste is dumped on private land with the permission from the landowner. Landowners even say that the waste is requested by them for useful purpose. Unless the area is zoned as ‘Conservation Area’, nothing can be done to stop the dumping, regardless of the ecological importance of the site. This has happened at the Kam Tin Buffalo Fields. Any developer in Hong Kong can dump excavated soil from their construction site in fishponds and agricultural areas purchased by them. By destroying the existing habitat, they can claim that the site has very little or even no ecological value, and apply to rezone the land from “agriculture use” to “residential area” for housing development without providing any mitigation measure or compensation to the environment.

The Government threw out the first Spur Line EIA and then successfully fought against KCRC’s appeal – all because of the ecological importance of Long Valley. It seems amazing that the Government would go to such lengths to prevent a large developer from impacting Long Valley, but would do nothing to stop private landowners trashing Kam Tin!

One possible solution to the problem is to allow no dumping in any scale within the territory of Hong Kong except in public dump areas approved by the Government. At areas zoned as “agriculture use”, “green belt”, “conservation area” or area with recognised ecological value, any excavation, land-filling or any works changing the existing habitat should be controlled by permit, which are only issued after site inspections by conservation officers from a government department such as AFCD. At the same time, the Government should review their “passive” conservation policy and work out the Sustainable Development Strategy which was promised by the Chief Executive 2 years ago. We look forward to a constructive response from the Government to resolve this issue.

Frontier Closed Area development concerns

In order to terminate the Spur Line at a place as near as possible to the Shenzhen metro system at Huanggang, KCRC proposed to locate the terminal station within the Wetland Conservation Area at Lok Ma Chau where Huanggang is just at the opposite side of the Shenzhen River. At the same time, increasing pressure is being placed on the Government to open up the Frontier Closed Area (FCA) for development.

One of the key sites for birds inside the FCA is Ma Tso Lung, an area of fishponds and marshland which lies north of the hills between Lok Ma Chau and Lo Wu in a bend of the Shenzhen River. Ma Tso Lung also lies in the Deep Bay / Shenzhen River Basin Important Bird Area designated by BirdLife International. This winter the area is playing host to two Imperial Eagles and a Spotted Eagle in addition to a wide range of other wetland dependent species. These include Chinese, White-cheeked and Red-billed Starlings, several hundred Grey Herons and Eurasian Teal, while interesting birds

recorded in January and February include Citrine Wagtail (along with large numbers of Yellow and White Wagtails), Black Shouldered Kite, Barred Button-quail, at least two Wrynecks, Oriental Skylark, Blue-throat, Common Rose-finch and Bonelli's Eagle.

Should the Government begin to relax development restrictions, it is likely that this will be the site for the Society's next major campaign. In the meantime, and under the axiom that prevention is better than cure, HKBWS believes that the Government should engage green groups as early as possible in considering the development planning of the FCA.

Cumulative impact by different developments at Kam Tin

In a recent issue of the society bulletin, HKBWS looked at the step-by-step destruction and ludicrous piecemeal mitigation proposed for damage to the Kam Tin School Marsh, the confirmed breeding site for Painted Snipes, and the Kam Tin/Shapou area.

The Government has been approached more than once on the possibility of holding a seminar to co-ordinate all the different mitigation from West Rail, the Kam Tin bypass, and the Kam Tin drainage channel. We believe that enough wetland could be retained at Kam Tin to create some worthwhile habitat, provided the developers are prepared to co-operate in planning their mitigation. We have yet to receive any response from the Government.



Earthmoving work in gei wai 16/17 (The Scrape)

The earthmoving works in gei wai 16/17 has temporarily stopped and the pond re-flooded, so that it can be used as a roosting site for shorebirds this spring. Part of the work to remove the three large islands in the pond and to replace them with smaller islands has already been completed, and it is hoped that the remainder of the works can be completed this summer. This means that the gei wai will be drained over the course of the summer but will be refilled again by the time of the autumn passage of shorebirds.

Habitat management in gei wai #20

Compared with many of the other gei wai within Mai Po which receive brackish water from Deep Bay, gei wai #20 was set up as a rain-fed 'freshwater' pond without any fish, to attract wildlife which prefer more fresh water habitats. Visitors to gei wai 20 in the late 1990s when the pond was set up, will remember the large congregations of wintering ducks that would roost each night in the six ponds that make up that gei wai. However, since then, the number of birds has gradually declined. This could have been due to a variety of reasons but an important one, is the presence of fish, especially Catfish, which has managed to get into the ponds. These fish have eaten up nearly all of the 'freshwater' plants in the gei wai which the wintering ducks used to roost in, as well as having muddied the water. As a result, gei wai 20 will be drained over the course of this summer so that the fish inside can be removed and if necessary, more freshwater plants planted inside. The pond will be refilled with rainwater in time for the arrival of the ducks this winter.

Maintenance to the Waterfowl Collection

Whilst the presence of hundreds of wild ducks in the Waterfowl Collection is an attractive sight each winter, their droppings cause a serious problem to the water quality in the ponds of the Collection. In recent years, we have been trying to overcome this problem by flushing cleaner water into the Collection from an adjacent gei wai, and by draining the ponds after the ducks have departed in May, in order to let it refill with rainwater. This coming summer, we hope to improve the situation even more, by adding a larger outlet pipe at the back of the Collection which can discharge dirty water more quickly. In order to put this pipe in through the bunds of the pond, we will have to first drain the pond to carry out the works, and then to refill the pond before the arrival of the wintering ducks again.





Recently there has been some confusion on the identification of Pale Blue Flycatcher in Hong Kong. In this article we hope to clarify some of the confusion which has arisen due to conflicting descriptions in some field guides. The following is a paragraph written by our Honorary Recorder, Mr. Richard Lewthwaite.

“My understanding of the differences between female Verditer and male Pale Blue Flycatcher, the source of the present confusion, is based on the paper on the first and only record of Pale Blue Flycatcher in Hong Kong. This was a male in Tai Po Kau on 6 April 1991. It was found & identified by Phil Round, an acknowledged world expert on Asian forest birds. In his paper (Hong Kong Bird Report 1991: 141-142), he described how male Pale Blue differed from a female Verditer: “I am very familiar with Pale Blue Flycatcher and most possible confusion species. While the overall colouration most resembled a female Verditer Flycatcher, this could easily be ruled out by the actions

and behaviour (= tail-cocking); by the long & strong bill (Verditer has a shorter bill); and by the lack of scalloping on the undertail coverts.”

Similar features are mentioned and illustrated in “Birds of Thailand”, which Phil Round co-wrote. Female Verditer is separated from male Pale Blue by its shorter bill, scalloped undertail coverts, and the lack of contrast between breast & belly (Pale Blue shows pale bluish breast contrasting with pale greyish belly).

The scalloped undertail coverts have been known as a feature of Verditer since La Touche’s time or earlier, and are still considered so today, eg in Craig Robson’s recent “Field Guide to the Birds of South-East Asia”. The latest (1994) edition of Birds of Hong Kong also clearly shows the undertail coverts to be scalloped on Verditer and plain on Pale Blue.

Mackinnon’s China field guide shows scalloped undertail coverts on Pale Blue Flycatcher. I think Mackinnon is in error.”

We thank Richard for the information!



Photographing Birds

Composition 2 – Feiniu

Any photography textbook will have a chapter about composition. If you think composition is a way to express particular ideas, then you will have to have your own viewpoints and your own thoughts. However, it is not always practical to use the word “thoughts”, as we often relying on our intuition when fixing a composition.

I am not talking about shooting your subject nateshootings is to get good pictures; but the result of indiscriminately, and then, hoping to find a few good pictures among the many taken. That is too casual, not playing one’s hunch. The side effects on taking photos arbitrarily will weaken our sensibility, discernment and knowledge of our surroundings.

Generally, the motivation behind such indiscriminateshootings is to get good pictures; but the result of

this eagerness for quick success does not benefit or nurture the understanding and devotion to the subject.

Instead, taking a moment to think before you shoot should arouse and deepen our interest towards the subject and help us to understand more about it. This is a processing of an accumulation of thoughts and impressions, which becomes a vital discipline that bears fruit at critical moments.

When composition is used to express certain ideas of a photographer, his style, personality and distinctiveness are also revealed.

Personalized photos with style might not meet general tastes, but this is not always the case. However, expressing what you want to express truly and honestly, is closer to the ideal of expressing

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- Mike Kilburn


your personal interpretation of Truth and Beauty.

*Photos 1 & 2**

I got these two shots without undue effort. Generally speaking, the size and shape of the main subject, its location and the light of the background influence their attractiveness. Whereas, the combination of factors in every case is different, there are no firm rules.

Photo 1, the photographer used a simple sky background, attempting to extend the sense of dimension of the main subject by the bare background, in contrast to the small main subject to one side. There was a bit of doubt and anxious expression in the main subject's eyes, and the eyesight towards the bottom right had formed an invisible indicating line to guide the viewers to be aware of the spacious three dimensional sensation between the front and the back. In fact, the existence of the second, hidden, subject in the photo - the photographer himself - was also revealed.

Photo 2, the main subject occupies a big portion of the space in the photo, with distant trunks as the background. They are outside the focus range, which make the main subject stand out. However, a frame-filing photo creates oppression and an uncomfortable feeling. Fortunately, there is room for the extension of main subject's eyesight inside the rectangle shape 135-film frame.

Basically, these two shots are not very good, but they demonstrate a stylistic composition. Therefore, monotony can be avoided in bird photography. If you pick up a bird photo guidebook, and the photos are all in the same style, there is only a parade of identification features, but no feelings and artistic style. 

* *Photos 1&2 shown at the inside front page.*

This report covers the second two weeks of a seven-week trip I took with Judith Fruin-Ball to Sichuan, Qinghai and Xinjiang provinces in western and northwestern China. We were joined in Qinghai by Lizzie Bowes.

After arriving in Xining, collecting Masked Bunting, Brown Shrike and Daurian Redstart at the airport, and checking into the Qinghai Hotel we headed for the dry hills bordering the northern edge of the city at Beishan. It turned out to be rather disappointing as we saw none of the specialities, which include Sinai Rosefinch, Daurian and Przewalski's Partridge and Rock Thrush. The area is a public park and Sunday afternoon is definitely not the best time for a visit. Despite this we did have great close up views of Red-billed Chough, rack up a round dozen Common Pheasants and see several each of Black Redstart, Blue Hill Pigeon and Grey-backed Shrike. We also saw half a dozen Horned Larks - immediately drawing the comment from Lizzie that they looked like Batman, a name now stuck immovably in my mind.

Next morning we headed north out of town to the forest park at Dongxia. It turned out to be hard work which delivered a few choice rewards - these included five Himalayan Rubythroats in full song, numerous Elliot's Laughing thrush and a calling David's Laughing thrush, 3 White-throated Redstarts, 5 Kessler's Thrushes, and a couple of groups of White-browed Rosefinch. The place was seething with phyllosces - Gansu, Hume's Leaf, Greenish, and Yellow-streaked Warblers seemed to be everywhere. While we were winking out the first Yellow-streaked Lizzie drew our attention to a Przewalski's Nuthatch which was perched on the top of

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a pine tree, pointing its bill at the sky and blaring out its song.

In the afternoon we braved heavy cloud, rain and cold winds to check out Laoye Shan. Our best additions here were a couple of Daurian Partridge in the fields close to the access road, 6 Oriental Skylarks, a family party of 5 Chestnut Thrushes, a male White-bellied Redstart, two Rufous-browed Accentors and another Rubythroat. As we drove home we stopped alongside the stream below the mountain and added Crag and Asian House Martins, Common and Pacific Swifts and our only Grey Wagtail of the trip.

Next morning we headed west out of Xining in the direction of Qinghai Lake. Our first stop at the Riyue Pass was timed perfectly to coincide with a flight of 8 Himalayan Griffons making use of the mid morning thermals. As we turned south away from the lake towards Gonghe we immediately came across an area holding several Isabelline Wheatears, Rufous-necked Snowinch, a Robin Accentor, a Rock Sparrow and the charismatic Hume's Ground Jay. As we dropped towards Gonghe we screeched to a halt for a Little Owl perched on a telegraph pole, bristling with the outraged defiance these birds always seem to project.

Just the other side of Gonghe we stopped at a small reservoir on the edge of the valley at km 148. Two tibetana Common Terns were hunting over the steam, which fed the reservoir, while the parched tussocks and sandy gullies revealed a couple of Hoopoe, and a pair of Desert Wheatears. A family party of three Desert Finches and a male Citrine Wagtail picked their way along the muddy fringes of the water. However it was the raptors which stole the show - a couple of Upland Buzzards set the scene, a Saker carrying a recently caught rodent added some serious quality, but was knocked firmly into second place by the Short-toed Eagle. We watched this bird arriving from a considerable distance, on its broad and slightly boxy wings. It had good manners to fly right over our heads and then stop and hover like a Kestrel on steroids, giving us superb views of its faintly spotted pale underwings, darker head and fanned tail.

With time pressing on we headed south onto an area of dry and degrading grassland, where we stopped at a livestock drinking pool. As we got to the edge of the

pool we found three males and a female Pallas' Sandgrouse. After crossing a windswept and birdless Heka Pass we stayed overnight at Xinghai, where a group of 15 Azure-winged Magpies was going to roost in trees near the hotel as we arrived.

Next day we headed south towards the 4,600m Erla Pass, in search of some of the high altitude specialities of this NE corner of the Tibetan Plateau. Beside the road we found a single Blandford's Snowfinch, over 150 Rufous-necked Snowfinch and White-winged Snowfinches (with almost owl-like faces). As we neared the snowy summit we found several gigantic Tibetan Larks, a superb Guldenstadt's Redstart, sporting the same claret and black plumage and shining white cap of Riverchat, with the addition of a large and prominent wing patch. At the top of the pass we found a couple of White-winged Snowfinches, and as we climbed up to a saddle added Robin Accentor and both Plain and Brandt's Mountain Finches. Heavily hampered by altitude an hour's walk ended up taking more like six! We heard and found droppings of what we think were Tibetan Snowcock. However it was not until we were back on our way down the hill that we found first a female and then a pair of our key target bird - Roborovski's Rosefinch.

The pair were just superb - the female buffy brown with a small yellow bill and the male a dark pink which became increasingly dark midnight maroon on the forehead. We watched them feed for a while before the male suddenly realised it was spring and he was alone on a beautiful secluded mountain with a great-looking bird. He suddenly grabbed a piece of moss and offered it to the female as a love offering before taking off for a "look at me, I'm so gorgeous" show-off display flight. One of the defining moments of the trip. We also added several Himalayan Griffons and the first two of many Lammergeyers.

As we dropped down and headed towards Maduo we passed a couple of rivers and marshy areas where we added our first Black-necked Crane, another Saker, ten Lesser Sandplover, a couple of White-winged Terns and three blue-headed Yellow Wagtails. As we approached Maduo at the end of several hours of roadworks we counted 74 of the day's total of 104 Upland Buzzards roosting on roadside lamp-posts.

Wild Ass, more than 70 Tibetan Antelopes and an amazing total of 5 Tibetan Foxes were the mammal highlights of the day, corresponding with lower numbers of goats and yaks.

Overnight in a Maduo truckstop was far from comfortable and getting on the road early this morning was a positive pleasure. This was another monster driving day but it started well with a colony of 63 Great Crested Grebe nests on the first lake out of town. This area is called Xing Xing Hai, which literally translated as "lakes as numerous as the stars". We also found over 200 each of Ruddy Shelduck and Bar-headed Goose. Once again raptors were good, and we added a couple each of Saker and juvenile Steppe Eagles, but top predator of the day was the lone wolf loping along close to the road with much longer legs than the Tibetan Foxes. This plain also gave us good views of 4 Black-necked Cranes, a Little Owl, 70 Brown-headed Gulls, 3 Whiskered Terns and over 100 Common Terns.

The climb over the 4,850m Bayankala Pass was disappointing - we added more Tibetan Larks, but once again dipped on Grandala and snowcock and decided to head straight on towards Yushu. Dropping off the highest part of the plateau we entered a steep and impressive river gorge before following the river upstream to Yushu. This drive produced one of the highlights of the trip - a group of five Ibisbills including a pair of chicks on a gravel island in the river. The birds performed wonderfully less than 30 metres away from us for almost half an hour. The setting was magnificent - a steep valley with the fast-flowing river cutting through it below the gaze of a Tibetan monastery perched halfway up the steep slope a little higher up the valley. The same area also had a couple of Black-bellied Dippers breeding nearby. The Ibisbills were so good we came back for another look the next morning, although the poor light confounded our hopes of obtaining good pictures.

Once again we headed south, passing the newly created Yushu Reservoir, which held a couple of Pintails and a female Goosander in addition to a Golden Eagle, several Pale Martin, Crag Martin and Asian House Martins. We emerged into a vast plain bounded on each side by mountains. Stopping along the cliffs

we found Ruddy Shelducks perching on the cliff face, a superb male Streaked Rosefinch several Godlewski's Buntings and a couple of Brown Accentors. There must have been bad weather higher up as the grassland were covered in a loose but huge flock of Plain and Brandt's Mountain Finches. However the highlight here was watching a group of Himalayan Griffon Vultures picking clean a couple of Yak carcasses - a view more normally associated with African game parks. What you definitely don't see in Africa are overstuffed birds walking uphill through a Tibetan village, too heavy to fly! Amazingly we also saw vultures at two more carcasses during the day, including one at which a couple of Lammergeyers utterly failed to muscle in on a Himalayan Griffon.

We found a marsh on the far side which was covered in snow. Despite this we found two more Black-necked Cranes and a pair of Guldenstadt's Redstarts, but the most extraordinary were the four Red-rumped Swallows hunting over the stream. We dropped again through a gorge to hit the Mekong River, which ran through a wide red sandstone valley. We added five more Ibisbills and a couple of Kessler's Thrush.

Next morning we back-tracked from Nanqian to the Kanda Shan Gorge. On the way in we saw the biggest congregation of Common Cuckoos I've ever seen. We entered the gorge which was faced with sheer cliffs which in some places stood not more that about 20 feet apart at the base - just wide enough for a dirt road and the stream which presumably cut the gorge in the first place.

The gorge was not heaving with Kozlov's Babax and Przewalski's Rosefinch, so after a couple of unproductive stops we headed up towards the high pass where Kozlov's Bunting is supposed to be. As we left the valley the road became progressively more snowy, narrower and more dangerous, but we did start seeing Brandt's Mountain Finches and Godlewski's Buntings pecking for food in the gritty snow at the side of the road. We had heard that most groups coming here head out across the hillsides and spend hours in search of the Bunting. The unseasonal snow did us a major favour by bringing a perfect pair right down to the roadside.

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On the way back down we stopped for breakfast below the snowline and finally turned a "snowrock" into a Tibetan Snowcock - we had very distant views of a single bird high on a slab of rock. We also added Snow Pigeon and a pair of young Dippers feeding in the stream gave tremendous views. Leaving the gorge we nailed four different pairs of Tibetan Partridges.

From there we headed south to the Beizha Forest Station, seeing few birds but making good time - just three hours for what used to be a 6 hour journey. A quick stroll in the evening rendered brief views of Giant Laughingthrush and Blue-fronted Redstart.

Next morning we got up early and climbed the hill across the road from the very basic accommodation. Halfway up the slope Lizzie found a three Szechenyi's Monal Partridges feeding a little way above us. We worked our way further up and enjoyed good views of this highly restricted range species. We also found a White-winged Grosbeak, three spectacular White-throated Redstarts. After breakfast we headed for our southernmost point - the Ga'er Si buddhist monastery. We passed through some wonderful primeval forest, seeing Golden Eagle, Himalayan Griffon Northern Sparrowhawk and Northern Goshawk. In an amazing day we saw the first of ten Lammergeyers!

Moving out of the forest, we passed through a number of shrub-edged clearings and stopping for a flash of white disappearing into a bush we found our first Himalayan Rubythroat - one of our key targets. We eventually had good views as the bird hopped along the ground between the bushes.

A few kilometres further we arrived at the lakeside meadow below the monastery, which was perched high on a near vertical cliff-face. The valley was beautiful - a coronet of snow-spiked peaks sloped down into a blend of open meadowlands and conifer forest scattered around the shores of the lake. A Tibetan visiting the monastery pointed out some birds among the trees on the other side of the lake - A flock of seven White-eared Pheasants, in full view, in mid-afternoon - something pheasants just don't do! We watched them slowly working their way down to the edge of the lake, feeding as they came. We sent Lizzie round the lake to get some photos. The close views Lizzie got were too good to miss so we all headed round and sneaked up on

a pair of birds calling a little further over. We got views down to 30 yards for about 20 minutes as these wonderful power-puff white birds fed unconcerned.

The trip back to the forest station was highly eventful - we found a juvenile Lammergeyer on the nest, stretching its wings and clearly within a day or so of making its first flight. We added a couple more Himalayan Rubythroats and close to a site where we heard chain saws and found a truck loaded with freshly cut timber, we found both Grey-headed and Three-toed Woodpeckers. We also got lost and ended up walking for several hours along the road in the dark before being found by a very worried Mr Fang and Mr Kuang. We managed not to get eaten by bears or Snow Leopards, but did hear an Eagle Owl. An eventful end to a superb day's birding.

After hearing but not seeing Severtzov's Grouse, we did obtain good views of a Red-billed Chough nest in a low pine, three Crested Tit-warblers, and White-browed Rosefinch across from the forest station. We returned to Yushu, making good enough time to try the Kanda Shan Gorge again. We had to admit defeat over Kozlov's Babax, but added a very co-operative Wallcreeper, more Tibetan Partridges, lots of Beautiful and Common Rosefinches, and later on enjoyed views of 4 Black-necked Cranes on the high marsh.

The journey back north was considerably quieter as we had already found most of our target birds and we were keen to push on to Qinghai Lake. Highlights included a Whiskered Tern fishing in a pool on a snow-covered meadow and five Black-necked Cranes before the Bayankala Pass. We overnighted at Wenchuan, enjoying close views of a Saker on a telegraph pole before heading north again over the Erla Pass where we found a surprise Black Stork, which gave excellent views. We tried climbing high at Heka Pass, but for little reward - the groups of people out digging for caterpillar fungus almost certainly pushing birds further away from the road.

In the meadowlands just south of Gonghe we found a less heavily grazed area at km 199. This held 8 Mongolian Larks, and at km 148 we looked hard enough at small Larks to add Asian Short-toed Lark to our list, found a Desert Lesser Whitethroat in low spiky

bushes, and a pair of Mongolian Trumpeter Finches came down to drink from the reservoir. It was already dark as we arrived at Yaowuyao on the shore of Qinghai Lake for the night.

Next morning we rose early and birded the valley above the hotel. In a couple of hours we found a pair of Tibetan Partridge, Robin and Rufous-breasted Accentor, a pair of Himalayan Rubythroat, White-browed Tit, Severtsov's Tit-warbler and both Streaked and Przewalski's Rosefinches in the spiky juniper scrub.

The Rosefinches stood head and shoulders above the rest. I had seen Przewalski's Rosefinch here twice before, and was confident we would see them again - something of a last chance after dipping at good sites earlier in the trip. My confidence was more than rewarded when we found a fine male bird, looking, as they always do, like a streaky pink-brown blob with a lurex pink cocktail stick shoved up its bum. It is obviously tremendously proud of this tail - we twice watched it take off and parachute slowly back to earth with its tail fanned wide - a clear declaration of its masculinity to any females in the area.

Half an hour later there was more testosterone posturing from two male Streaked Rosefinches - a deceptively dull name for a large and sturdy red-pink bird with big white spots on the breast. They appeared with four more females (who are worthy of the name) and fed peaceably enough before one hopped onto a small bush and began bobbing its head. The other male took a while to realise what was going on, but then serious retaliatory head-bobbing of his own.

We then headed west along the southern shore of the Lake before going over Rubber Mountain and into the desolate dry desert towards the saltworks at Chaka. Stops on the way added at least ten Pallas' Sandgrouse and a couple of Desert Wheatears. Another tick was Buddhist pilgrims heading for Lhasa. Taking three steps forward and then prostrating oneself on the ground is the best way I know to make what is a tough four or five days in an air conditioned four wheel drive into torture of unimaginable proportions.


We arrived at Chaka saltworks after obtaining distant views of desert specialist Henderson's Ground Jay and

stopped to search the rather putrid sewage runoff for migrants - an area which had been very good in August 1999. We found a single Little Ringed Plover along with a dozen each of Lesser Sandplovers and Kentish Plovers and twice as many Redshank. Whiskered and Common Terns were in attendance overhead and as we were leaving we stopped for a three Isabelline Shrike of the race *tsaidamensis* on roadside wires. Heading back through the desert we got close to another group of Henderson's Ground Jays sightseeing from the top of a sandpile on the edge of a construction site. A Saker above valleys on the western edge of Rubber Mountain showed wonderfully as the last bird of the day before spending the night at Heimah, where a Common Toad had to be removed from Lizzie's room!

On our final day in the field we headed for the western end of Qinghai Lake, where a vast marsh stretched away to the horizon, covered with yaks, horses and other livestock. Our key target here was Pallas's Fish Eagle and we duly connected - finding a single pale-headed adult perched on a distant fence post. We decided to get closer and were able to approach to about 150 metres. We also added a pair of Black-necked Cranes, Curlew, Tufted Duck, and Pochard here.

We then headed straight down to the other end of the lake, seeing three different Little Owls and four Mongolian Larks en route. The biggest surprise here was a single Whooper Swan on the pool behind the sandbank. We also added Red-crested Pochard, Common Shelduck, Gadwall, Shoveler, Pintail, Common Teal, Little Terns, a pair of Common Lapwings.

Our final quality bird of the trip were three gigantic Chinese Grey Shrikes, including one in the sand dunes with a couple of Kessler's Thrushes, and two more close to the railway line on the northern road back to Xining.

In all we were extremely satisfied with our total of 157 species for which we owe a tremendous debt of thanks to our driver and guide Mr Kuang and Mr Fang, who did everything possible to make our trip a success. Thanks are also due to all those who provided the information on which we planned our trip, in particular Jesper Hornskov, Richard Lewthwaite, Mark Beaman and Cheung Ho Fai. 

Birding in Queensland, Australia, 5-12/8/2001

– Tze-Hoi Kwan

Although my son Matthew and I had visited Brisbane about 5 years ago, we hadn't really started serious bird watching by then. This was the first time we visited Brisbane with the deliberate intention to do some birding here with guidance from local Australian birders.

Birding started upon arrival at Cairns International Airport waiting for transit to Brisbane. On the runway, already we could see White-faced Herons in a flock of about a dozen roosting on the ground. In the sky, there were numerous Torresian Crows, almost the only species of crow that can be found in this part of Australia. Common Mynas were seen perching on top of airport buildings while Australian Magpies and the familiar Willie Wagtails were already there to welcome us. While waiting for transit, Matthew already spotted a pair of Yellow-bellied Sunbirds, flying between branches on a tree next to the transit waiting area. The male sunbird was a juvenile one with a little blue bib just started to develop. This sunbird is the only species of sunbird in Australia. It is common in Cairns but not in Brisbane and further south. Interestingly, it is also the logo of the Queensland Ornithological Society. This was really a bonus for us to have spotted this little bird during our brief transit. Far away in the forest rim, a Brahminy Kite appeared with a beautiful contrast of a chestnut body and a white head. Another flock of White-breasted Wood-swallows came out, perching on the tree. It had a black throat and white underparts. While flying, a prominent white rump could also be recognized. One could readily envisage how rich the fauna was given the fact that we had already discovered nearly a

dozen of species just by casual observation for about half an hour in the airport.

Upon arrival at Brisbane, just by walking around the parkland in an ordinary residential area, already we could recognize large numbers of colorful Rainbow Lorikeets flying around trees while making loud calls. The Noisy Miners seemed to be fighting with the Rainbow Lorikeets at times and sometimes actually flying very near us as if it were to launch an attack on human. Crested Pigeons, Straw-necked Ibis, Spotted Doves, Australian Wood-ducks and Pied Butcherbirds were everywhere. The Galah, with its beautiful pink and grey color, was also common and very photogenic when perched on electric wires against a background of blue sky. Birdingwise, pearls and jewels seemed to be everywhere. We soon discovered a Blue-faced Honeyeater on a tree. Honeyeaters are such a big family of birds in Australia. This was the first one we saw and it was followed by many more in the following days. We had seen illustrations of Masked Lapwing, with its beautiful yellow facial skin hanging over its face in books, but the first sight of this interesting species in the wild was still a great excitement for us. We studied it for almost half an hour. Its call was readily heard from time to time in the following days. It was told that this species could occasionally be quite fierce, sometimes attacking animals and people. We took several digital photos of this bird. Only by



looking at the bird more closely again in the computer screen, did we recognize that it had sharp spurs on the wing.

We had a brief visit to Mount Coot-tha the next day. Sheryl Keates, an Australian lady was with us. I met her while she was birding from the Deep Bay boardwalk in April 1999 with her husband Arthur Keates and another couple Linda Cross and Phil Cross. Being very experienced birders from the Queensland Wader Study Group, they taught me many techniques to recognize waders and we became friends. They were very concerned about Hong Kong's environmental protection movements and the Long Valley issue. It was a wonderful experience to have them guiding us in Australia.

We went to J C Slaughter Falls because there had been sightings of Powerful Owl a couple of weeks ago. Although we saw only its droppings, we did find many passerines including the gorgeous Rose Robin, the musical

White-throated Treecreeper and the Pied Currawong. The Grey Fantail, fanning out its tail and the Spangled Drongo with a bluish lustre were perching on branches here and there. A male Australian Brush Turkey was scratching leaves to build a mound for females to lay eggs. Near the canopy, Sulphur-crested Cockatoos were

shrieking as they chased each other joyfully in the forest. This species is different from the Lesser Sulphur-crested Cockatoo or Yellow-crested Cockatoo we have in Hong Kong (Previously from Indonesia). While the Australian species is bigger and heavier, there are also subtle morphological differences between these two species. Suddenly, a Collared Sparrowhawk frightened the passerines into flight while we had a brief glimpse of its forceful silhouette in the forest. The temperature was a lovely 20 degrees Celsius in a winter morning and it was dry and cool. Not to mention that there were hardly any mosquitoes around. One can readily imagine that it was actually an ideal climate for birding or an outing.



On our way back to Sheryl's home for lunch, we stopped by the Bulimba Creek Park. It is a lovely park next to a serene creek, Sheryl calls it "My Creek" as it is five to ten minutes-walk away from her home and she has been doing bird species surveys around this region for quite some time. Tawny Frogmouth was the species we came for. It was sitting there just over a nest at the bifurcation of a branch. You could hardly recognize it just by casual inspection. It was such a lovely creature, especially when it finally opened its eyes and looked around, biting leaves around its nest, yawning and turning. It was such a fun that I kept on watching it for nearly five minutes and took numerous photos and videos before I left it. Mallards, Dusky Moorhens and Purple Swampheens were abundant in the creek. Just a brief walk along the path of the creek gave us splendid sighting of the Mistletoebird with a scarlet throat and a black tie. It was called Mistletoebird because this bird feeds on fruits from a parasitic plant called Mistletoe.

This little bird is reminiscent of our Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker in Hong Kong [flowerpeckers in Hong Kong are also heavily dependent on mistletoe - ed.]. Further down, a wonderful Azure Kingfisher was eating a fish. Then the witch-like Noisy Friarbird appeared with bare skin over its head looking like a mini-

vulture. Perching on another tree was the famous Laughing Kookaburra laughing like a human. We soon returned to Sheryl's home and had a simple lunch. Outside her home, Brown Honeyeaters were calling and we soon had a quick look at this very common species in Brisbane.

We met Bill Jolly at three o'clock in the afternoon. I did not know Bill before, I just searched the Internet via the Australia Yahoo and found a website concerning birding in Queensland. It was called Abberton Birders' Lodge. I was fascinated by the content of the website and it was very enticing for birders. They offered a

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package of accommodation, meals and birding guide together with transport to and from Brisbane. I finally decided to have a go and it turned out to be very fruitful.

We headed west towards the Lockyer Valley. On the way, a Brown Falcon, a Nankeen Kestrel and a Black-shouldered Kite were the first three raptors to welcome us. We also saw a Pheasant Coucal near the bush as we pulled off the road to see the raptors. At a lake near Gatton, Australian Pelicans were seen roosting in the water with many other interesting duck species including Plumed Whistling Ducks, Hardheads, Grey Teal, Pink-eared Ducks, Magpie Geese, Australian Wood-ducks and Pacific Black Ducks. Numerous Red-rumped Parrots were seen feeding on the meadow in a park. Galahs were flying around everywhere. Magpies, Pied Butcherbirds and Grey Butcherbirds were readily seen on the way home. Australians used to call Magpie Lark the "Peewee". As the name Peewee had suggested, their calls "peewee" were heard echoing as we saw them in the dusk. We soon arrived at Abberton Birders' Lodge at Helidon. It was a lovely and cozy house overlooking a valley with a creek running in front of it. There was a verandah where one could just sit and have a beautiful view of the whole valley. Bill came from England. He previously ran a business of importing fine arts from China and his home was just like a mini-museum and library. Nice dinner was served and it was really an enjoyable experience to spend the night chatting with birders in the house. A powerful spotlight was available for night spotting though frogmouths and owls are quite uncommon at this time of the year. Nevertheless, we still saw a Northern Brown Bandicoot on the path while we shone the spotlight from the verandah. What a nice little nocturnal marsupial!

It was a cool and lovely morning, Double-barred Finches and House Sparrows were feeding on the bird feeder next to the verandah while Peaceful Doves and

Barred-shouldered Doves were feeding on the ground. Another Rose Robin appeared on a bird bath displaying his wonderful rosy plumage. Fairy Martins were flying over the sky, occasionally resting on a dead tree on the opposite bank of the little creek. Their heads were distinctly ginger-colored while their rumps were white. Almost expectedly, the Azure Kingfisher was fishing in the creek. It dived into the water from a dead tree previously fallen into the creek. It was such a beautiful blend of blue and orange plumage. Brown Honeyeaters were everywhere while the Olive-backed Oriole joined in to show his nice streaks over the chest and belly.



Breakfast was served on the verandah so that we could eat and watch birds at the same time. Many other species turned up during breakfast time in the following few days around the verandah. We even had Zebra Finches, Red-browed Finches, White-browed Scrub-wren, Speckled Warblers, Yellow

Thornbills and Yellow-rumped Thornbills turning up at different times.

A walk along the path near the creek yielded lots of Silveryeyes, a species quite similar to the Japanese White-eyes in Hong Kong. They had bigger eye rings and a greyish back. Even more interesting species turned up along the path. The Golden-headed Cisticola appeared on a reed. It was reminiscent of the Zitting Cisticola in Hong Kong. Then, we had the warbler like little bird called White-throated Gerygone. Then we had Striated Pardalote flitting between the branches. It was a very small bird with short bill and short tail. Bill described it as a little piece of jewel, beautifully yellowish orange. Further down, the Superb Fairy-wren and the Red-backed Fairy-wren turned up. First it was the female that was not very conspicuous. Nevertheless, the male eventually came out and proved himself to be extremely eye-catching. The Superb Fairy-wren had a bluish

metallic luster over his head while the Red-backed Fairy-wren was darkish with a scarlet back. These little creatures were very active and it was quite difficult to see them resting on the ground for you to take a good photo of them. Suddenly, we heard some machine-gun like calls bursting out from the tree behind us. It was the Lewin's Honeyeater with an iridescent new-moon shaped yellowish facial patch. The forest was really active and alive with very good birds here and there for us to discover.

We then went out for a ride in the car. We went to different habitats including grasslands, lagoons, lakes and parks. Noisy Friarbirds and Little Friarbirds were seen in a big tree. The Friarbirds are relatively bald over their heads. The Noisy Friarbird had no feathers at all over its black head, making lots of ugly noise. Matthew even described it as a wicked-witch because of its nasty appearance. Then we had the little plump bird called Golden Whistler. The female was rather plain but the male had a wonderful necklace and a bright yellowish under-parts quite easily recognizable. In the swampy area, there were Black Swans, Little Black Cormorants, Little Pied Cormorants and Great Cormorants. Darters were quite common here as well. The male Darter was almost totally black while the female Darter was more whitish over her belly. In the water, Royal Spoonbills roosted with Yellow-billed Spoonbills, behaving more or less like the Black-faced Spoonbills in Hong Kong. We then had a glimpse of a Comb-crested Jacana on the lake through the telescope. Little Egrets, Great Egrets and Cattle Egrets were not so common here as in Hong Kong though they were still occasionally seen. We eventually came to Lake Apex where we sat down at a picnic table watching Australian Pelicans gliding while having our lunch.

In the afternoon, a visit to Seven Mile Lagoon yielded a very scarce species in eastern Queensland, the Australian Pratincole. Unlike the Oriental Pratincoles, the Australian ones had two deep reddish patches over their chests rather than a black ring around their throats. Bill was very excited about his discovery and immediately phoned up his friends. One of his friends

turned up in time and saw the bird running along the lagoon shore. We then discovered a flock of up to 40 Red-necked Avocets flying in the sky then landing in the lagoon. Then another flock of up to 30 Glossy Ibis were seen further away. Interesting species continued to turn up including Australian Shovelers, Whiskered Terns, White-faced Herons and Red-kneed Dotterel, a plover like little wader. Raptors like the Swamp Harrier stirred up chaos amongst the waders from time to time. Along the lagoon, White-bellied Sea-eagles and Whistling Kites were seen nesting in trees. On the way back to Abberton, we managed to pull off the road and took very beautiful shots of the Galah, Brown Falcon and the Nankeen Kestrel all perching on the electricity poles under good lighting with a blue sky as the background.

Delicious dishes prepared by Eileen were waiting for us at night. We had traditional English cuisine "Toad in the Hole" for dinner, followed by friendly chats, jokes and video reviews. After a whole day's busy birding, a sound sleep was what we needed to recharge ourselves.

We got up a bit late the next day, not until eight. The morning was spent relaxing on the verandah to be followed by a short expedition around Abberton where we saw the Grey-crowned Babbler, Grey Fantail, White-necked Heron and Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike. Interesting species kept on turning up. A Brown Goshawk swept across the valley, followed by a flock of Red-tailed Black Cockatoos and Cockatiels shrieking as they flew. A Pale-headed Rosella suddenly landed on the bird-bath displaying its gorgeous plumage. Spotted Pardalote, White-throated Honeyeater and White-naped Honeyeater popped up to greet me after I had taken a nap on the verandah. This was reminiscent of the kind of birding outside a store in PoToi Island of Hong Kong where we just sat there waiting for the birds to turn up.

We then went for a walk along the Redwood Forest Walk. 90% of this little forest consisted of Eucalyptus trees. In just less than an hour before dusk we had White-throated Tree-creepers, the White-headed variety of the Varied Sittella, the Little Lorikeet and

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the gorgeous Scarlet Honeyeater. Grey Shrike-thrush and Grey Fantails were frequently seen. An Olive-backed Oriole and a colorful male Figbird appeared with photogenic red facial skin. We then spotted the only cuckoo we saw in this journey, the Fan-tailed Cuckoo. An Eastern Yellow Robin just turned up before we left the forest. On our way back, a flock of 12 Red-tailed Black Cockatoos gave a wonderful display for us in the dusk. They shrieked and squealed loudly just like whales or dolphins do to communicate with each other. Depending on sexes, their tails could be yellow, orange or red in color that fanned out while flying. It was such an unforgettable scene in this journey. It was almost pitch dark on our way home, just on time to greet a Pretty-face Wallaby on the road. In fact, kangaroos and wallabies could be quite a problem at night to drivers. We did see some corpses of these animals lying on the road from time to time.

We had another lovely night enjoying Eileen's marvelous cuisine. Bill & Eileen's daughter Isobel just returned from Brisbane to visit her parents. Again, we had a wonderful time to know each other more and have more sharing. The next morning, we said goodbye to each other and returned to Brisbane.

We met Sheryl again in her home and went out for a brief walk in the Botanical Gardens in the City of Brisbane. Our target was an interesting nocturnally active species, the Bush Stone-curlew, also previously known as the Bush Thick-knee that spent most of their time roosting under a palm tree in the garden throughout the day. Arthur, Sheryl's husband, then joined us after office hours for another expedition to Mt Coot-tha hoping to find the Powerful Owl. It was almost totally dark when we arrived at Mt Coot-tha. It was quite cold there, but the excitement and brisk walk up the path soon warmed up all of us. This sort of night spotting was quite fun. Although we did not find the Powerful Owl, the silhouette of a White-throated Nightjar was seen flying across the canopy. We heard the spooky call from the nightjar while the Southern Boobook made its "mopoke" call in the distance. Furthermore, we had bonuses of discovering a few nocturnal mammals including the flying foxes and the

Brush-tailed Possums under the spotlight.

When I met these Australian couples one and a half years ago, I could hardly imagine that we could become friends and meet again in Australia. It was really a very rich birding and cultural experience for Matthew and me. After the dinner, Sheryl showed us some of the posters she uses for educating young children on birding and environmental protection. Arthur then shared with us some of his pictures taken previously in Hong Kong and Australia. It eventually turned out to be a very enjoyable quiz game for Matthew. It was such a nice time for us.

Arthur had to go to work the next day, so Sheryl took us out to the Green Mountains inside the Lamington National Park. It was listed in 1994 as part of the Eastern Rainforest Reserves (Australia) World Heritage Area, which includes the most extensive areas of subtropical rainforest in the world, most of the world's warm temperate rainforest and nearly all of the Antarctic beech cool temperate rainforest. It lies 100 km to the south of Brisbane with flora and fauna awaiting your exploration and enjoyment.

Right at the car park of the Lamington National Park, we met the Crimson Rosella, the call of which was a lovely tinkling sound. The Australian King Parrots were very abundant here, as were the Australian Brush Turkeys. We heard the Eastern Whipbird calling once we entered the rainforest. It was such a lovely experience to hear several whipbirds calling to each other. The call was a dull mumbling to start with but ended up with a swift whiplash-like sound. Eventually, we saw one Eastern Whipbird hopping on the forest floor. Further down in the rainforest floor, we came across the Yellow-throated Scrubwren, the White-throated Scrubwren and the rather shy Logrunner. Logrunners were interesting birds. They kept on digging holes in the ground and ran rather swiftly across the forest floor, hence the name Logrunner. Many other birds were also discovered on the floor such as the Wonga Pigeon, and the Russet-tailed Thrush. Brown Thornbill, Large-billed Scrubwren and

Brown Gerygone were jumping between the branches. A colorful Eastern Spinebill soon appeared to show its gorgeous plumage to be followed by a Minivet-like Varied Triller and a lovely male Golden Whistler with a necklace-like pattern on his chest. White-throated Treecreepers and the Spotted Pardalotes came out to greet us again just like they did in Mt Coot-tha several days ago. To our surprise, a pair of Albert's Lyrebirds appeared, again scratching in search of food behind thick bushes. This was a species frequently sought after by birders, we were so lucky to see it during our first visit to the rainforest. Occasionally, the Eastern Yellow Robin perched on branches and the side of tree trunks luring us to take a good photo of it. The forest was absolutely alive and full of birds. Near the canopy, we saw another beautiful Green Catbird that appeared on the introductory pamphlet to the National Park.

Coming out of the rainforest, we saw Regent Bowerbirds and Satin Bowerbirds perching on the tree next to the cafeteria. These are birds being indulged by tourists. They liked to come down to the hands of tourists, grasping whatever food to eat.

Female and male Bowerbirds looked very much different. Sheryl took us to see the bower of a Satin Bowerbird along a slope next to the car park. Bowers are built of straws by the male birds. They were frequently described as "the tunnel of love." This sort of bower always faces north and south in the forest, obviously a piece of useful information for birders or explorers who got lost in the forest without a compass! Around these interesting bowers, the male bird would collect all sort of funny objects of the same color. Just take an example from the Satin Bowerbird, we could identify blue straws, tape holders, wrappings, bottle caps or even broken visa cards being arranged and scattered around the bower. The better a bower is built and decorated, the higher chance the male will get a female to mate with him. That was really fascinating!



Outside the forest, we came across the Red-browed Treecreepers and the Bell Miners with a very musical call mimicking numerous small bells ringing in the wild.

Upon returning home from Lamington, another birding couple, Phil Cross and Linda Cross joined us for an evening gathering. After the dinner, we watched the TV program on Long Valley with them. All were very excited about the video. We were all glad that the appeal from the KCRC was turned down again. Hopefully, the Long Valley can be preserved eventually. Matthew had a few drawings for them, including the Chinese Penduline Tits, the White-bellied Sea-eagle and the Spoonbill Sandpiper. They turned out to be very meaningful souvenirs for them as they have seen these species before either in Hong Kong or in China.

After dinner, we went to Linda's home in preparation for birding around where she lives. They live near Caboolture, a small city to the north of Brisbane. The next day, just around her home, we already encountered four new species. Firstly, it was the Brown Cuckoo-dove with a wedge-

shaped tail and a brownish plumage. Then, we saw a Long-billed Corella flying across the sky soon followed by a beautifully striped Pacific Baza. On a tree, we saw the Little Wattlebird perching. Wattlebirds are funny creatures with a little wattle hanging down from their cheeks, hence the name Wattlebirds. Unlike the Red Wattlebird and the Yellow Wattlebird, the Little Wattlebird however, has no wattle.

In our subsequent trip around the region, many new species were found including the Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Rainbow Bee-eater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, White-throated Honeyeater, White-cheeked Honeyeater, Rufous Whistler and Mangrove Gerygone. A visit to Buckley's Hole on Bribie Island

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led us to see the Black-fronted Dotterel, Chestnut Teal, Buff-banded Rail and the Spotless Crake in the swampy area. Out on the sand beaches, we could see the lovely Crested Terns with pale yellow bills and the Lesser-crested Terns with bright yellowish-orange bills roosting on the sand dunes. Caspian Terns and Gull-billed Terns were also readily seen. Here, we also had very good views of three raptors including the White-bellied Sea-eagle, Osprey and the Black-shouldered Kite.

We had our lunch in Toorbul, a good site to watch the waders. The tide was just right and the weather was excellent. Large numbers of waders were seen not too far away from us. This was a totally different experience to watch the waders in the open without the need to be confined in hot and humid birding hides as in Mai Po. A fresh breeze was blowing while we enjoyed birding and eating our simple lunch simultaneously. It was really a wonderful experience.

Out in the water, we saw quite a few birds that I have seen before but in totally different non-breeding plumages. The Red Knots, Great Knots and the Ruddy Turnstone all looked so different from their usual appearances in Hong Kong. Lesser Sand Plovers, Red-necked Stints, Black-winged Stilts and Bar-tailed Godwits were relatively common here. Further away from the shore, two Pied Oystercatchers were resting on a man-made platform while a flock of Pied Cormorants was roosting in water near to another island. Two interesting species worth noting were the Grey-tailed Tattler and the Double-banded Plover. The latter bird would return to New Zealand very soon and we were very lucky to see the last one before it embarked on its journey home in Spring. As their names had already implied, Mangrove Honeyeaters were seen perching on the trees next to the mangroves.

High up in the sky, a Brahminy Kite was soaring gracefully in the sunset, displaying its beautiful

chestnut body and a snowy white head. We took a lovely group photo just before sunset next to the mangroves. Before we left, a Nankeen Kestrel flew by. Initially, the sunset imparted some reddish tinge to the belly of the Kestrel, giving it some sort of Hobby-like impression. However, the body proportion and the paler underparts soon enabled us to agree unanimously that it was indeed a Kestrel.

Our birding trip also ended with the sunset. It was a journey filled with new discovery, friendship and joy. Had we counted the Little Eagle that flew near us around the Brisbane International Airport on the day

of departure, we would have scored a total of 173 species (I heard) in this birding trip covering a wide variety of habitats within 7 days. That was quite an exciting achievement for Matthew and me. Nevertheless, what matters most is not the count but the broader appreciation of Nature and our deepening affection for it.



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I would like to thank Mr. Bill Jolly, Mr. Arthur Keates and Mrs Sheryl Keates for proofreading the manuscript. Special thanks must be given to Bill for providing superb guidance for birding around Abberton in Queensland. My sincere gratitude would also go to Eileen, the wife and the partner of Bill. Together, they have made Abberton Birders' Lodge a tremendous success and a really wonderful place for birders. Those who are interested can visit Abberton on the net at www.abberton.org. I would also like to express my whole-hearted thanks to Sheryl Keates, Arthur Keates, Linda Cross and Phil Cross for their marvelous hospitality. It has been such an impressive journey for Matthew and I that we will cherish it in our memory for the rest of our lives.

Finished on 15-8-2001 by Tze-Hoi Kwan



New books on birds in Xinjiang, China (for exchange, free of charge) – Ma Ming

1 **Swans in China** (Ma Ming & Cai Dai, 2000. English translation by Edith L. Kao. English translation edited by Carl D. Mitchell)

There are three species of swans in China - Bewicks Swan, Whooper and Mute Swan. China is the main wintering ground for the swans. The book deals with population ecology, distribution, reproduction, feeding habits, migration, overwintering, status, and habitat. The book also includes a summary of each species of swan outside China. The principal focus of the book is to present the results of firsthand observations in Bayinbuluke Swan Lake, Xinjiang, China.

Language: English | 105 pages | 11 colour photos | 23 tables | 50 figs and maps | paperback | 2000 | published in USA, by the Trumpeter Swan Society, Maple Plain, Minnesota, USA | ISBN 1-888377-02-X | US\$ 22.00 (or free of charge in exchange)

2 **A Checklist of Birds in Xinjiang, China** (Ma Ming 2001)

A total of 422 bird species and about 100 subspecies, belonging to 19 orders and 53 families, have been recorded in Xinjiang. For about half of these there is very little information in China. This checklist summarises recent observations of birds by species, giving the dates of occurrence and distribution. Other information includes the Chinese name, scientific name, English name, subspecies name, national distribution data, ecology and food.

The vast expanses of central Asia, spanning from the Caspian Sea, through the former republics of the southern Soviet Union and northern China to Mongolia, have been little explored by ornithologists. The region consists mainly of deserts and high mountain ranges, but there are many lakes and rivers that provide suitable habitat for birds. To what extent these are actually used by birds for breeding or staging is largely unknown.

Xinjiang is the westernmost region of China. It borders Mongolia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kirghizstan, Tadzhikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Kashmir and Tibet. With an area of over 1.6 million square km, it is the largest province in China. Most of this area consists of deserts (Taklimakan and Gurban Tunggut Deserts) and mountains (Altay, Tianshan and Kunlun Mountains). Several large rivers cut through these, namely the Tarim, Ili, Irtysh and Ulungur Rivers. Only one of these, the Irtysh, runs to sea. The others feed lakes, many of which, such as Ebinur and Lop Nur, are now dry or saline due to excessive extraction of water for irrigation. The two largest lakes, Bosten and Ulungur Lakes, are still fresh.

Language: Chinese | 2002 Global Green Grant Fund/Tides Foundation | 90 pages | 422 species | 6 colour photos | 1 table and 1 map | 325 references | paperback | published by Arid Zone Research, Urumqi; and Science Press, Beijing | 2001, 18 (supplement) | ISSN 1001-4675 | US\$ 18.00 | free of charge in exchange |

3 **Wildlife in Xinjiang, China** (Li Du & Ma Ming et al. 2000)

This is the first publication on wildlife in Xinjiang, the center of Asia, including 215 pictures of birds, 92 mammals, 47 reptiles, 18 amphibians, 42 fishes, 64 insects and 70 fossils. With some words for each species, e.g. Chinese name, scientific name, distribution and ecology.

Language: Chinese | 268 pages | 510 colour photos | 39 references | colour paperback | 2000 | published by Xinjiang Juvenile Publishing House | ISBN 7-5371-3750-1 / G. 1777 | US\$ 30.00 | free of charge in exchange |

4 **Wild Swans: (Yesheng Tian-e)** (Ma Ming et al. 1993)

The book was written by Chinese with English contents and abstracts. It deals with the swan population, ecology, distribution, reproduction, feeding habits, migration, overwintering, status, local fauna and habitat. It also includes a summary of each species of swans in many countries of the world. It mainly presents the results of first-hand observations in Bayinbuluke Swan Lake, Tianshan Mountains in Xinjiang, China.

Language: Chinese | 16 K | 115 pages | 23 tables | 46 figures and maps | paperback | 1993 | published by the China Meteorological Press, Beijing, China | ISBN 7-5029-1683-0/P.0677 | US\$ 19.00 | free of charge in exchange |

5 **Birds in Xinjiang: (Xinjiang Niaolei Jianjie)** (Ma Ming, 1995)

Gives colour photos of 100 species from this vast desert region of Chinese Central Asia, together with a brief listing of the region's 431 recorded species. In Chinese with Latin and English scientific names and photo captions (see the NHBS Catalogue Oct 1998-March 1999, part I: p. 23).

Language: Chinese | 113 pages | colour photos, line illus, and map | paperback | 1995 | published by Jerson Consultant Press, Taipei, Taiwan | ISBN 957-99564-0-5 | US\$ 30.00 NHBS: #51827M | free of charge in exchange |

You are welcome to exchange books or articles on birds with the author. The author is now participating in the writing of "The Fauna of China" Aves Chapter 5. He wants to exchange especially checklists and articles on the distribution of birds from University journals and conference collections. He also welcomes writings on avifauna and Fauna (a copy of related parts). The author will state the author's name and year of publication if the articles are quoted and will follow academic standard acknowledge your research results and copyright. "The Fauna of China" represents the most up to date research in China.

Ma Ming

Address: Xinjiang Institute of Ecology
and Geography Chinese
Academy of Sciences, No 40
Beijing Road, Urumqi 830011,
Xinjiang, P. R. China

Fax: +86 991 3835459

E-mail: maming3211@163.net
maming3211@yahoo.com

Please note that these are unchecked records and not accepted records. Members are strongly encouraged to submit records of all species on the Excel spreadsheet, or rarity card, which can be downloaded from the Society website. If you have no access to the website, please submit hard copy reports to the Recorder at the HKBWS postal address.

November

The month opened with reports of a Thick-billed Warbler at Kadoorie Farm, a Grey Nightjar over the lower slopes of Pat Sin Leng, and two Pheasant-tailed Jacanas, a Nordmann's Greenshank, a Long-billed Dowitcher and a Grey-headed Lapwing at Mai Po, all on 2nd and 3rd.

At Kam Tin on 7th, 10 Grey-headed and one Northern Lapwing were reported, the Grey-headed remaining through the month. Reports from elsewhere in the northern New Territories at this time included a Citrine Wagtail and a Black-headed Bunting at San Tin on 8th, a Japanese Quail and four Northern Skylarks at Long Valley on 11th, and a Lesser Treeduck at Mai Po up to 12th.

Two potential first records were reported in mid-month in the form of two Red-necked Grebes at Yan Chau Tong on 16th and a Brown-breasted Flycatcher in Tai Po Kau. Also at the latter site from 15th was a Pygmy Wren Babbler. The two latter birds were regularly reported in Tai Po Kau to the end of the year and into 2002.

Among other noteworthy reports during 15th-17th were a Pied Harrier and Pheasant-tailed Jacana at Lok Ma Chau, a Ruddy Shelduck and Nordmann's Greenshank in front of the boardwalk, single Black Storks at Sham Chung and Mai Po, with two Yellow-browed Buntings at the former site and two Yellow-throated Buntings at the latter site, and 100 Black Bulbuls and a minimum of 17 Red-flanked Bluetails at Kadoorie Farm.

On 18th, a report of a Fukian Niltava at Fo Tan coincided with an influx of Black Bulbuls, which included 150 at Mount Austin and up to 15, mixed with Chestnut Bulbuls, at Tsim Bei Tsui and Mai Po during their next few days.

Single Mountain Tailorbirds were reported at Tai Po Kau and Palm Springs on 22nd and 26th. A rather late Asian Paradise Flycatcher and a Grey-cheeked Fulvetta were noted at Lower Shing Mun on 24th.

An interesting month closed with a female White-throated Rock Thrush and a Forest Wagtail at Tai Po Kau on 29th.

December

With many observers spending time this month covering squares for the winter atlas project, relatively few reports were received from Deep Bay.

A flock of 25 Striated Yuhinas at Cheung Chau on 1st heralded a minor invasion, with other flocks subsequently reported from Ma On Shan, Tai Po Kau and the Brides Pool-Wu Kau Tang area.

In Tai Po Kau, the Brown-breasted Flycatcher and Pygmy Wren Babbler, both of which were found in November, continued to be reported throughout the month.

The first big surprise of the month was a male Lesser Shortwing, initially detected through its song, at Shek Kong Catchwater on 9th-10th. A second bird of this species, also singing, was found in shrubland near A Ma Wat on 15th.

Other reports on 15th included a Great Bittern at Long Valley, the first for the site, a Citrine Wagtail there, and 50 Red-rumped Swallows at Tsim Bei Tsui.

From about mid-month, Red-flanked Bluetails and Daurian Redstarts became **common** at widespread sites. Reports of rarities at this time included a Brown Dipper (potential 1st) **very** briefly seen at Kowloon Hills Catchwater on 16th, a Carrion Crow at Mai Po from 18th and a **Yellow-streaked** Warbler at Fung Lok Wai on 20th.

As the month and year closed, notable reports during 27th-29th included eight **Dalmatian Pelicans** in Deep Bay, a male Fujian Niltava and 15 Grey-cheeked Fulvettas in Tai Po Kau, and a Grey Bushchat up on the Pat Sin Leng main ridge.

January

The year opened with reports a Yellow Bittern and Buff-bellied Pipit at Mai Po, and a Brown Hawk Owl at Shek Kong Catchment, all on 1st. The next day, two Mountain Bulbuls (potential 1st record) were found at Tai Po Kau. These and the over-wintering Brown-breasted Flycatcher and Pygmy Wren Babbler continued to be sighted at Tai Po Kau throughout the month. A Mrs Gould's Sunbird was reported there on 6th.

A flycatcher photographed early in the month at Mau Ping (Sai Kung) created interest and was rumoured to be a male Pale Blue Flycatcher. However, the photographs clearly show it to be a female Verditer. A similar female Verditer frequented the newly-opened Outdoor Study Centre near the AFCD quarters at Tai Po Kau during the month.

The over-wintering flock of Striated Yuhinas in the Wu Kau Tang area, now up to 40 strong, was noted on 4th and again on 23rd.

In Deep Bay on 7th, single Kamchatka and Great Black-headed Gulls were reported together with 16 Dalmatian Pelicans. The next day, there were two Carrion Crows at Mai Po, the first ever report of more than one. These birds continued to be seen throughout the month and into early March.

On 9th, a Crested Kingfisher was seen at Chung Mei and a Fukian Niltava, the third reported during the winter, at Lamma Island. The latter was still present on 17th.

Following a report of an out-of-season Black Baza at Tai Hang on 13th, a Short-eared Owl was found near Mai Po in early morning on 19th.

On 21st, a Mountain Tailorbird was seen in Tai Po Kau in the same area as one had been seen in late November, suggesting it had remained for the winter.

Reports on 27th included a Water Rail at Sha Tau Kok, 10 Striated Yuhinas at Harlech Road and a Common Rosefinch at Aberdeen Catchwater. Two further Common Rosefinches and a Dusky Thrush were seen near Shuen Wan three days later. Also, on this day, an Eagle Owl was found at Robin's Nest.

A Black-shouldered Kite and a Citrine Wagtail reported at Ma Tso Lung on 31st.

Generally, the mid-winter period was very good for Daurian Redstarts and Red-flanked Bluetails which were present in good numbers at widespread localities. Also widespread were Grey-backed Thrushes and Black-faced Buntings, while small numbers of Tristram's Buntings was reported mainly from Tai Po Kau.

These apart, few other thrushes or buntings were reported, and Little Bunting appears to be in sharp decline as a winter visitor.

February

This was a fine month for birds with two potential first records, but illegal cross-border mudskipper collectors continued to create unwelcome disturbance in Deep Bay during the latter half of the month and possibly caused the early departure of the Dalmatian Pelican flock.

On 2nd, four Mountain Bulbuls were still present at Tai Po Kau. The next day, a Black-shouldered Kite was photographed at Starling Inlet. There were further reports of this species at Mai Po on 3rd and near Sek Kong on 12th. On 3rd, a Baer's Pochard was seen at Mai Po. This or another individual was subsequently found at Ma Tso Lung on 7th and 13th. Among other notable reports at Mai Po in the early part of the month were a Kamchatka Gull (from the boardwalk) on 4th, a Nordmann's Greenshank on 7th, and a total of 2,600 Silky Starlings flying past the Rocky Outcrop in late afternoon the same day.

A series of Mountain Tailorbird reports began with one at Mai Po on 6th, followed by two at Chek Keng on 9th, one at Tai Po Kau on 17th, and one singing at Chung Mei on 23rd. Other notable passerine reports at this time included a male Fukien Niltava at Kadoorie FBG on 8th, a flock of 30 Striated Yuhinas at Aberdeen CP on 9th, at least 50 Black Bulbuls at Wong Chuk Yeung on 10th, two Common Rosefinches at Ma Tso Lung on 11th, and separate Citrine Wagtails there and at Long Valley on 11th and 13th.


An exceptionally early Large Hawk Cuckoo was singing at Hok Tau Reservoir on 9th, and a second out-of-season Black Baza was seen on 16th, this time near Hebe Haven.





On 18th, an oiled Red-throated Diver was found at Starling Inlet. This long-awaited addition to the Hong Kong list was taken into care by AFCD staff, cleaned-up, photographed and released again at Starling Inlet.

Also on 18th, a first-winter Daurian Jackdaw was found at Tsim Bei Tsui. Only the fourth for Hong Kong, it was rather elusive but was subsequently seen on at least two further occasions into early March. Meanwhile, the two Carrion Crows were regularly seen throughout the month at Mai Po going to roost with Collared Crows, and there was a rare report of a Eurasian Jay there on 12th.

A visit to Kam Tin on 19th brought reports of two Dusky Thrushes and a Eurasian Sparrowhawk.

On 20th, a third-winter Vega Gull was identified from the Mai Po boardwalk. Following the decision to treat all previously-accepted records as hybrids, this is potentially a first record. Also seen in Deep Bay towards the end of the month were a Glaucous-winged Gull on 21st-23rd, four Falcated Duck (sadly now becoming rare) and 1080 Eurasian Curlews (highest count since 1994) on 24th, and three Red-breasted Mergansers on 27th.

Elsewhere, a Water Rail was at Tin Shui Wai on 23rd and a Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush at Tai Po Kau the next day. For the third consecutive winter a male and female of the latter species were present at Kadoorie FBG for at least part of the month. 

Date	Leader/Speaker	Activity / Gathering location	Time	Difficulty
11 & 12 May (Sat & Sun)	Wong Tin Wa Simon Wong	Lamma Island (Camp) 14:45 Central Ferry Pier No. 5 (To Sok Kwu Wan). Return at 15:00 the following day Member \$120* Non-member \$150* <i>Please reserve the place with Leader</i> <i>* Includes a BBQ Dinner, Camping Fee and Breakfast (Next day) only.</i>	14:45 – 15:00	XX
12 May (Sun)	Yu Yat Tung	Water Bird Monitoring at Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site (for certified surveyors only)		
19 May (Sun)	Mike Leven Dickson Wong TP Luk	Mai Po 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
23 May (Thu)	Henry Lui Samson So	Indoor meeting <White-bellied Sea Eagle> Conference Hall, HK Observatory	18:45 – 20:00	
9 Jun (Sun)	Ying Hak King Au Chun Yan	Tap Mun 08:15 Ma Liu Shiu Pier 15:00 back to Ma Liu Shiu	08:15 – 15:00	XX
16 Jun (Sun)	Yu Yat Tung	Water Bird Monitoring at Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site (for certified surveyors only)		
20 Jun (Thu)	Richard Lewthwaite	Indoor meeting <Result of Night Bird Survey> Conference Hall, HK Observatory	18:45 – 20:00	X
7 July (Sun)	Fiona Lock Shirley Lam	Hong Kong Park Aviary 08:00 Aviary entrance		
14 July (Sun)	Yu Yat Tung	Water Bird Monitoring at Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site (for certified surveyors only)		
25 July (Thu)	Cheung Hoi Fai	Indoor meeting <Bird Photo Show, Outing Leaders Workshop> Conference Hall, HK Observatory	18:45 – 20:00	
11 Aug (Sun)	Yu Yat Tung	Water Bird Monitoring at Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site (for certified surveyors only)		
18 Aug (Sun)	Li Wai Ki Chan Yung Tong Hon Yan	Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve 08:00 Tai Po Kau carpark (Tsung Tsai Yuen)	08:00 – 13:00	XXX
25 Aug (Sun)	Yam Wing Yiu Ada Chow Lo Kar Man	Mai Po 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



Transportation arrangement



Please fill in the booking slip and return

Coming Activities

Date	Leader/Speaker	Activity / Gathering location	Time	Difficulty
1 Sept (Sun)	Lee Kwok Shing Ho Man Fai	Shing Mun 08:00 Tsuen Wan MTR Station Hang Seng Bank	09:00 – 15:00	XXX
8 Sept (Sun)	So Siu Hei Cheung Ho Fai	Po Toi 07:45 Aberdeen Ferry Pier 15:45 finish at Stanley	07:45 – 15:45	X
15 Sept (Sun)	John Holmes Tam Yiu Leung	Long Valley 15:00 Yin Kong carpark	15:00 – 18:00	X
22 Sept (Sun)	Yu Yat Tung	Water Bird Monitoring at Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site (for certified surveyors only)		
	Mike Turnbull Stanley Ng Arthur Yiu	Mai Po 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

Activity Booking Slip **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.

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 Ms. Ada Chow at 2580 6472.

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.

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" OR
- (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.



Transportation arrangement



Please fill in the booking slip and return

Please be punctual to attend all outdoor meetings. You should also bring along with drink and food, appropriate clothing for the location, sun cream and mosquito lotion if needed!

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

** Location for indoor meeting: Conference Hall, Hong Kong Observatory, 134A Nathan Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon, HK

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

- * 25 Aug 2002 (Sun) Mai Po 22 Sept 2002 (Sun) Mai Po
 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.

Note: Please 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 application will only be accepted if places are available.

* Please as appropriate

The Story of "Bad-luck Spoon-bill" (1) 黑仔的故事(一)

任永耀 Yam Wing Yiu

冬天到了，黑仔一家經過長途的旅程來到南方。重臨舊地，發覺面目全非，原本的地方已興建了很多工廠大廈和住宅樓宇。

去年，這裡還是一片美麗的濕地，為什麼現在四周都是工廠和大廈。

As winter comes, 'Bad-luck spoon-bill' goes south on a long trip. When he arrives, he realizes that things have changed. Many new factories and housing estates have been built.

Last year, this was a beautiful marsh, why can only factories and buildings be found here now?



黑仔一家終於找到地方休息，但是……

為什麼所有雀鳥朋友都擠到這裡來？

因為附近的地方都已一塌糊塗，難以棲身，只剩下這個地方給我們生活！

He finally finds a place to take a rest, however...

why do all the birds stay here?

It is because places nearby are all in a mess. This is the only place for them to live now!

..... 未完待續 to be continued

聚雀店 bird hop



Hi! 各位鳥友，「聚雀店」驚喜源源不絕，貨品款式力求新穎，除圖中幾款新鮮抵港的雀鳥襟針之外，還有多款精美禮品以供選擇，篇幅所限未能盡錄，詳情請參閱今期的「訂購表格」。有興趣的鳥友可親臨本會項目辦公室或於出席本會舉辦之講座時選購，無任歡迎！**多謝您的支持！**

Hi all birders! We now have even more surprises for you at the "bird shop". In addition to the newly-arrived bird pins, pictured here, we have many other items. So many, in fact, that we don't have space here to list them all. For details, please see the "Order Form" in this issue. You are also welcome to visit our project office, or attend the indoor meetings organized by the society, where the products are on sale. **Thanks for your support!**





Little Grebe (*Juvenile*)

小鵝鶩（幼鳥）— 壞蛋1號



Forest Wagtail – Jemi Holmes

林鵲鴝 — 黃亞萍

