

香港觀鳥會 The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society



bulletin
會員通訊

186

Winter 2002 ~ 冬



白鶴(米埔) – 黃振宇 Siberian Crane (Mai Po) – Simon Wong



蛇鵟(尖鼻咀) – 李鶴飛
Crested Serpent Eagle (Tsim Bei Tsui) – Lee Hok Fei



The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Limited

(Approved Charitable Institution of a Public Character)

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BirdLife International
Together for birds and people
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BirdLife International Affiliate

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From the Chairman

Shortly before the New Year, I travelled to Shahushan Village on the shore of Poyang Lake, together with birder Tam Yiu Leung. We were there to give a course on bird watching to the local people, at the request of the Conservancy Association. The idea was help them gain a better appreciation of the beauty of birds and the value of wetlands through bird watching. Hopefully this would lead to a higher degree of awareness towards conservation.

The classroom had windows but the windows had no glass, so it was very cold and windy. A hundred people were packed into a room meant for about 30 students. More watched through the windows. Even the village dogs came into the classroom to sniff from time to time. I talked about bird watching and the common birds in Poyang, aided by a powerpoint presentation and a state-of-art projector. It was somewhat surreal, but there I was waving my arms and getting the enthusiastic kids laughing their way through the talk. Men seated at the far left-hand corner of the room were more distant and relatively quiet. Women who were mobilized by the leadership to come sat at the far right-hand corner and, I am pleased to report, showed more interest.

The kids were very excited when they realized that they could distinguish different species among what they recognized only as "birds" before. I could see bright lights in their eyes and re-lived those days when I began bird watching myself.

We returned to Shahushan a week later to conduct a local bird watching race. The kids had by then committed all the names and images of the common species to memory. All passed the bird slide test with flying colours. They also did very well in the outdoor component. Now back in Hong Kong, I still remember vividly how they smiled when they wrote down on their test papers what they had identified through the telescope. I couldn't stop smiling myself.

I thank bird watching for giving me the opportunity to befriend kids in distant lands and to share with them the wonders of nature. I dearly hope that bird watching will enable them to see all that the world has to offer to them.

It was probably very cold that day at Poyang, but my heart was filled with warmth and gratitude.

Lam Chiu Ying

2003 membership renewal

Please support the Society by renewing your membership at once!

Each applicant should submit one form. To facilitate data input, please fill in English block letters as far as possible.

Questions about membership renewal....

Q: What happened to the family membership?

A: The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society had gone through the transition to become the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Limited, an approved Charitable Institution of a Public Character. There is no family membership in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the HKBWS Ltd.

Q: What should I do about my family members?

A: Reduced subscription rates are available for immediate family members of a fully subscribed individual member. On the membership renewal form, on the 3rd row of "Individual member", it mentions "Spouse, Children (aged 18 or above) or Parents of an Individual Member residing in Hong Kong" Reduced rate subscribers will not receive bulletins. [Membership fee is HK\$50]

Q: If my spouse, children or parents do not join as individual members, can they still participate in society activities?

A: They are welcome to participate in our activities as usual except that since they are not members, they lose the privileges of individual members.

Q: Can children under age 18 become members?

A: They can become Student Members, but not Individual Members. Individual Members have votes, so they must be 18 years old. [Student Membership fee is HK\$60]

Bird Records for 2002

Every member is expected to submit bird records. Your contribution will provide important data concerning the birds of Hong Kong. It also forms the basis of the Hong Kong Bird Report. Please send your 2002 records ASAP. You may email your work in Microsoft Excel spreadsheets to recorder@hkbws.org.hk, or save it in a floppy disk and send to the Records Committee (Address: Box 12460, GPO, Hong Kong).

The Excel spreadsheets can be prepared as follows:

1. Set up the following columns: 1. Species No. (refer to "The Avifauna of Hong Kong"), 2. Date, 3. Place, 4. Number of birds, 5. Notes, and 6. Observer.
2. Tabulate your data (in English as far as possible) in the format below.

Example:

Species no.	Species	Date	Place	Number	Notes	Observer
139	Red-necked Phalarope	1-Apr-2002	Lamma Island	20		CM
134	Wood Sandpiper	5-Mar-2002	Long Valley	15		CM
119	Greater Sand Plover	6-Apr-2002	Mai Po	3		CM

You may also send in your records on Bird Record Cards available from the Project Office (Opening Hours: Monday to Friday, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.).

If you still haven't submitted your results for 2000 and 2001, please don't delay, do it now!

Archive of Hong Kong Bird Records



The Society has consolidated and classified bird record cards submitted before 1970. The collection has been donated to the Hong Kong Museum of

History for permanent archival. These valuable records show how bird watchers in the past worked and recorded their results. By going through the material, you may find lots of information including letters from the British Museum, hunting and bird watching techniques, and names of birds from the 1970's or earlier.

We would like to thank the Hong Kong Museum of History

for their support in archiving the records. We are grateful to Ho Fai Cheung, Simon Wong, Jimmy Chim, William Tsui, Yiu Leung Tam, Arthur Yiu, Yat Tung Yu, Peter Wong, Michelle Kong and Samson So, for taking photos of over ten thousand pieces of material for computer storage. We also acknowledge C Y Lam for facilitating this one-year process, and Man Fai Ho and Carrie Ma who re-organized the material and devised an effective means for storage and future retrieval.

National Bird Watching Database

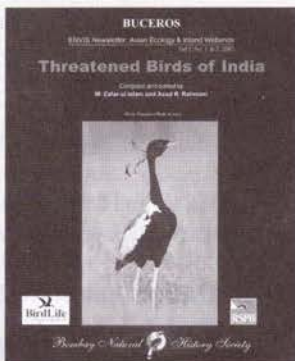
With support from the Chairman Mr. C.Y. Lam and Dr Ho Fai Cheung, the Ornithological Society of China has established the National Bird Watching Database for keeping bird records in mainland China. Members who have had bird watching trips in China are welcome to submit their results. Your records should include location, time, date, name of observer, species names and numbers. Please send your data to Dr. Zhengwang Zhang, email zzw@bnu.edu.cn.

Birdlife News

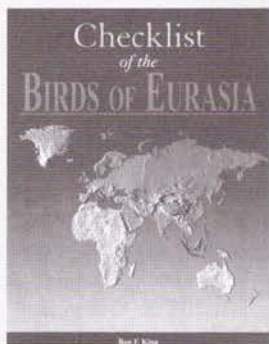
1. The BirdLife World Congress will be held in February 2004 in South Africa. Three officials will all step down, including Dr. Gerard A. Bertrand, the current Chairman; Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan, Honorary President since 1996; and Mr. Tasso Leventis, Treasurer since 1997. However, they will still maintain contact with BirdLife.
2. The Asia Division of BirdLife has moved from Indonesia to Japan this Autumn. Mr. Norita Ichida, ex-chairman of the Wild Bird Society of Japan, has now taken up the administration. The new contacts are:
 BirdLife, Asia Division, Toyo-Shinjuku Bldg., 2F, Shinjuku 1-12-15, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, 160-0022 JAPAN.
 Telephone: 03-3351-9981
 Fax: 03-3351-9980.
3. Wild Bird Federation Taiwan had undergone some major changes. In addition to moving their headquarters, President Mr. Simon Liao has stepped down. The new President is Dr. Chien-chung CHENG (cwbf@ms4.url.com.tw).
 Address: 1F, No. 3, Lane 36, Chinglung Street, 116, Taipei, Taiwan, ROC.,
 Telephone: 886-2-29303649,
 Fax: 886-2-29303595,
 Website: <http://bird.org.tw/about/index.htm>.

Acknowledgements

1. The Society received from the Bombay Natural History Society of India a copy of "Threatened Birds of India" edited by M. Zafar-ul and Asad R. Rahmani.



2. Mr. Ben F. King donated a copy of "Checklist of the Birds of Eurasia (ISBN0-934797-15-3) to the Society.



These books will be kept at the Project Office for reference by members. Thanks to both donors for their gifts.

3. "Dance with the Birds"

The Conservancy Association will organize the "Dance with the birds 2003" tentatively scheduled for the Queen Elizabeth Stadium. Members of our Society have been invited to join as adjudicators. We thank the following for their support: Secondary School Flying Bird Model Competition (Ming Ming Chan), Primary School Bird Intimation Competition



(Forrest Fong), Secondary and Primary School Bird Model Competition (Robin Fung) and Kindergarten Dancing Competition (C.Y. Lam).

4. Wetland Bird Training at Jiangxi

The Society was invited by the Conservancy Association to assist a bird watching course organized for the villagers at Shahu Village of Poyang Lake. A bird race was organized afterwards. We thank C.Y. Lam and Yiu Leung Tam who attended the event for the Society as volunteers.



1. Education and Publicity

1.1 HKBWS Photo Gallery

We are re-organizing the Photo Gallery according to the latest order in the bird list and species names. This will improve the efficiency in preparing publications such as the Bulletin and our education and promotion programmes. Bird watchers are welcome to provide photographs in either hardcopy prints (3R or 4R, with the name of the photographer, date and location marked on the back) or in JPG files. You may mail your work to the HKBWS Project Office (see the address on page 1), or email it to hkbws@hkbws.org.hk. If you are reasonably good at bird identification, you may also help to collate the photos on a regular basis. Please contact Carrie Ma of the Project Office.

1.2 Field Guide

The Education and Promotion Committee is planning a field guide for birds. A working group has been set up, with Robin Fung as coordinator and C.Y. Lam as consultant and contact person. Also working in the group are Kar Man Lo, Stanley Fok, Wai To Lee, Marcus Ho on photo selection; Peter Wong and Michelle Kong on graphic design; as well as Yat Tung Yu and Carrie Ma on the text.

Information and photographs from members are most welcome. To encourage participation, photos will be selected based on the presence and clarity of field identification features. Lighting and aesthetics will come second. All works should be submitted as described in HKBWS Photo Gallery.

1.3 "Wild Birds of Hong Kong" Calendar

A number of members have helped the Leisure & Cultural Services Department in validating the bird checklists in parks and providing photographs of common birds in Hong Kong. The photographers included Henry Lui, H.F. Cheung, John Holmes, Robin Fung. Our thanks to them all.

To promote bird watching, the Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens have produced a miniature calendar from selected photos. Hong Kong Park is preparing an educational leaflet on bird watching in the Park. They will also organize a promotion campaign on bird watching jointly with the Society in April and May.

1.4 North District Flower, Bird, Insect & Fish Show

The North District Flower, Bird, Insect & Fish Show, held between 21 and 26 December this year at Fanling Playground, was not so well received as the previous one. Exhibitions were staged on a wet lawn. Coupled with unstable weather

brought about by the cold front, there were fewer visitors than last year. However, this has not deterred our eager members from doing 'serious business'. We thank the members of the Membership Affairs Committee for taking turns at the stall to promote our activities and to recruit new members.



In addition, volunteer elders from the "Red-whiskered Bulbul Club" also brought a lot of fun to the stall through their glass painting, origami and book mark workshops.

1.5 Bird Watching Email Network for Teachers

The "In Search of Wild Birds" lecture and outing series organized by the Society and the Hong Kong Professional Teacher's Union has been completed with over 85% attendance. We thank the teachers for their support, members for their participation and planning work, as well as Swarovski Hong Kong Limited for their sponsorship.

As a follow up, a Teachers' Network has been set up to help participants in arranging outings, where they may further develop their bird watching skills. Members who would like to volunteer as outing leaders please contact Carrie Ma at hkbws@hkbws.org.hk.

1.6 Indoor Meeting "Should We Reintroduce 'Missing' Birds to Hong Kong?"

Dr. Richard Corlett from the Department of Ecology and Biodiversity, University of Hong Kong gave a talk on "Wildlife reintroduction" on December 19. He pointed out that Hong Kong used to have tropical forests with 35m tall trees five thousand years ago. Human development has created gaps in forest ecology. The spread of fruit trees is limited by the absence of larger birds such as laughing thrushes, which can swallow bigger fruits and hence disperse the seeds. As an example, he proposed to re-populate Tai Po Kau with birds such as the Black-throated Laughing thrush, the highly adaptive Silver Pheasant, and other controversial species such as woodpeckers. The talk was followed by an engaging discussion on the adaptability of birds, site location,

availability of food and the source of bird stocks for re-introduction.

1.7 Bird Watching with RTHK

On November 24, the Society contributed to the RTHK programme "Positive Thinking" with bird watching at the Hong Kong Park. We explained how bird watching can "add value" through better understanding of people and things around us. We thank Chairman C.Y. Lam for sharing his experience with the host of the programme, and Robin Fung for leading the outing.

1.8 Bird Watching with Commercial Radio

The Society has also helped Commercial Radio to organize a bird watching trip at Tsim Bei Tsui on December 29. A total of 40 members from the staff and audience of Commercial Radio took part in the event. The group strolled through the wetland at Deep Bay, spotting birds and inspecting the varied ecology, which include tidal pools, mudflats, mangroves, fish ponds, oyster farms, abandoned farmland, "Fung Shui" woods and open fields. They also appreciated land use in the area now and before. Many wintering birds were seen on that day, including Black-faced Spoonbill, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Imperial Eagle and Black-capped Kingfisher. We thank Chairman C. Y. Lam and Fai Law of Commercial Radio for organizing the activity, and Man Fai Ho and Carrie Ma for leading the outing.

2. International and China Projects

2.1 Black-faced Spoonbill

The Black-faced Spoonbill Research Group has created a webpage at <http://www.hkbws.org.hk/waterbird/bfs.html>, which is linked to a special discussion topic in the BBS. A BFS Global Census was held between January 24 and 26. Participating countries included Japan, South Korea, and areas along the coast of Guangdong, Macau, Taiwan and Vietnam. The census was sponsored by the AFCD as a project under Waterbird Monitoring at Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site, which provides information regarding conservation of the species.



2.2 China Project : Yunnan



In July, BirdLife Asia and representatives in Asia had a meeting in Hong Kong concerning programmes in China. The China Programme Steering Committee was set up after the meeting, with the Society as coordinator. The initial plan is to organize pilot education and popularization activities at the city of Kunming in Yunnan and Mount Gaoligongshan at Hengduanshan. David Gandy, an ex-staff member from BirdLife International, came to Hong Kong between end of November and early December to help prepare a work plan. He also briefed the Society on international fund raising. The initial plan is now ready. Further developments will be reported here.

2.3 Hong Kong's participation in AWC 2003*19 January 03

The number of waterbirds in and around the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site is being monitored in a series of monthly waterbird counts. This is carried out by a team of accredited voluntary surveyors of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (HKBWS) at assigned sites in a synchronized manner.

The January count on 19 January 2003 will be timed to coincide with the large-scale annual Asian Waterbird Census organized by Wetland International - Asia Pacific. The data submitted feeds into an international programme to maintain an overview of the population size, status and trends of waterbirds. This combines the ornithological interest and conservation zeal to provide an effective tool for decision-makers on protection of wetlands and waterbirds throughout the region.

Each year, volunteers from all over the Asia network, which covers from Pakistan eastwards to Japan, SE Asia and Australia, join the event. For further information about the Census, please visit the AWC website at <http://www.wetlands.org/IWC/awc/awcmain.html>, or contact the AWC Hong Kong coordinator Yu Yat Tung at ytyu@hkstar.com.

3. Projects Sponsored by AFCD

3.1 Waterbird Monitoring at Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site

- Waterbird counts are being conducted by members on a monthly basis. Results for this summer have been published (Y.T. Yu 2002. *Summer 2002 Report on Waterbird Monitoring at Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society. Hong Kong*) The report has been uploaded to the webpage.
- The survey this summer covered a larger area than that of last year. The number of migrating birds in April and August were smaller than those found in 2001, while larger numbers were recorded in May:

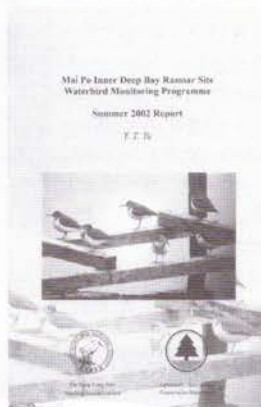


Table 1: Summary of Migrating Bird Counts at Ramsar Site in Summer Survey

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
April	n/c	10474	7350	10386	7152
May	1482	2363	1000	1232	5869
June	72	78	n/c	243	54
July	226	165	439	n/c	429
August	1153	1363	1331	1835	1317
September	3366	1889	2121	2379	n/c

- * The population of Egrets at Deep Bay has been increasing since July 2000. One of the reasons could be the increased number of breeding birds at the Futian National Nature Reserve.

Table 2: Summary of Egret Counts at Inner Deep Bay and Ramsar Site in Summer Survey

		April	May	June	July	August	Sept
1998	DB	n/c	2019	1056	2106	1772	1587
	RS	n/c	1521	789	1698	1588	1132
1999	DB	869	1353	1060	1684	1298	1458
	RS	506	912	769	1061	861	993
2000	DB	550	1006	n/c	2459	1697	2156
	RS	387	696	n/c	692	826	1054
2001	DB	1519	1620	2975	n/c	2118	1621
	RS	884	874	1184	n/c	950	504
2002	DB	1745	1657	1719	1603	2575	n/c
	RS	965	1082	864	759	1117	n/c

DB: Deep Bay, RS: Ramsar Site, n/c: survey not complete



- Statistics for migrating shorebirds in 2001-2002 were also published and uploaded to the webpage (Carey, G.J., Yu, Y.T. and Ying H.K. 2002. Shorebird Monitoring at the Mai Po Marshes and Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site: 2001-2002 Report. The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Limited, Hong Kong.)



- Waterbird Count Training was given on November 24 by Y.T. Yu. With emphasis on techniques for counting birds at fish ponds coupled with this exercise, the session allowed trainees to appreciate how to conduct bird counts. Some of the 18 participants have indicated interest in taking part in future surveys. The survey coordinator will make arrangements to have them work together with certified surveyors in future.

3.2 AFCD "World Wetlands Day"

In support of the annual "World Wetlands Day" on February 2, the Society will help the AFCD in organizing bird watching training courses and a Bird Watching Race for secondary school students between this November and the coming January. The objective is to help students better understand the importance of wetland conservation through bird watching. The training will be conducted in workshops and outings, which are designed to instill bird identification skills, record keeping and team spirit. The 3rd Junior Bird Watching Race was held on January 12. It was well received - 55 teams have enrolled so far. Each team consists of a teacher and three students, they planned their 3-hour route though Mai Po to record most of the birds species.



We thank the following members for taking part in the training and adjudication: Ho Fai Cheung, Anise Chan, Karin Chan, Robin Fung, Man Fai Ho, Shirley Lam, Wai Ki Li, Henry Lui, Carrie Ma, Stanley Ng, Simon Wong, Luke Woo, Hak King Ying and Yat Tung Yu.

4. Healthy Ageing

The Healthy Project has been executed for more than one year. The project received very well, we have now got 40 active senior nature interpreters of the "Crested Bulbul Club" lead promotional activities including games, talks and sharing of experience. From December 2001 to January 2003, we have served 74 organizations and reached 7,100 elderly, about 30% of them need intensive care. We have submitted the report to the Healthy Ageing Commission this January, and the March training course for nature interpreter is on going. We hope to take this chance to train up more elderly nature interpreters.

In addition to lead bird watching outings, promotional and contacts, the elderly nature interpreters organized small group bird watching activities during weekdays and weekends, to practice and to prepare themselves for understanding more the environment. If you meet them in the wild, say "Hello" and/or join watching birds together!



Black-faced Spoonbill decimated in Taiwan. Is Hong Kong next?

In December last year we received the shocking news that Black-faced Spoonbills at the Chiku Lagoon in Tainan County, Taiwan were dying mysteriously and in large numbers.

Before the birds started dying around 700 spoonbills were present at Chiku, the most important wintering site for this critically endangered species, which has a total global population of about 1,000 individuals (around 258 wintered in Hong Kong). By the end of the disaster 71 birds had died of avian botulism (the specific technical term is clostridium botulism type C). Thankfully swift work and strong co-operation between the Taiwan Government, and Taiwanese, Korean and Japanese experts and NGOs saw 18 birds treated, ringed and released.

Diary of the Tragedy

Dr Fang Woei-hong, Vice President of the Wild Bird Federation Taiwan provided BirdLife members with a run-down of the final days of the crisis . . .

2002/12/30

The Council of Agriculture (COA) announced that both Tainan Hsien Livestock Disease Control Center of Tainan and National Veterinary Research Institute in Tamsui obtained antiserum of type C botulin from Center for Disease Control in the United States. Tests on affected Black-faced Spoonbills confirmed Type C botulism to be the cause of mass death of Black-faced Spoonbills in the Tseng-wen Estuary. The tests were double-checked by two institutions.

COA also reported that eighty doses of Anti-type C botulin antiserum for treatment were ordered from United States to reserved for future use.

2002/12/31

Two avian botulism experts from Japan, Dr. Shunji Kozake and Dr. Masato Takeda were invited by Council of Agriculture on to investigate the cause of Black-faced Spoonbill crisis.

2003/1/3

After they visited the site and did some sampling and analysis, Dr. Shunji Kozake and Dr. Masato Takeda concluded the botulism type C was the cause and made some suggestions of environment improvement to the Government.

2003/1/4

Another cold front came, bringing temperatures down to near 10°C. The third wave of botulism broke out, however this time the casualties were lower: 8 birds were affected of which 3 were found dead. The death toll reached 71. Five sick birds were immediately injected with anti-type C botulin antiserum just received from United States.

2003/1/5

Prof Kim Sooil, the top Black-faced Spoonbill breeding biology researcher from South Korea, led 4 members of the Korean Federation for Environmental Movement (KFEM) on a 5-day visit to Taiwan to understand the cause of Black-faced Spoonbill botulism epidemic in Tseng-wen Estuary and the actions taken by the Taiwanese Government and NGOs to prevent further spread of the disease. This visit led to a proposal to strengthen collaboration and information exchange on Black-faced Spoonbill conservation between breeding grounds and wintering sites.

2003/1/6

The sick birds from Jan 4 recovered extremely well upon the treatment of anti botulism antiserum, thus proving the effectiveness of antiserum treatment for birds in the early stages of illness.

Lessons for Hong Kong

This incident provides an important example of the co-operation possible between government and NGOs in a crisis situation. We invite the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department to set out its plans for dealing with such an epidemic, and how HKBWS could help, should Hong Kong's wintering spoonbills be struck by such a disaster.

This is important because dead and dying waterbirds have been found suffering from bird flu and botulism in Hong Kong over the last few winters, with 4 Spoonbills dying 2 years ago. Increasing numbers of fishponds in Deep Bay are being wired to prevent predation of commercial fish by cormorants. This also reduces their availability to herons and egrets (particularly Great Egret, Grey Heron and Little Egret). As a result more and more birds are congregating at fewer and fewer sites (especially Mai Po Reserve and the KCRC Spur Line managed wetland. This increases the opportunity for disease to spread quickly.

Monitoring the Spur Line

The Sheung Shui - Lok Ma Chau Spur Line is finally under construction. Long Valley will be avoided by the construction of a tunnel, with mitigation for the impact of the fishponds at Lok Ma Chau being compensated by a constructed wetland of not less than 27.1 hectares at the southern edge of the site.

The whole project is under the scrutiny of the Environmental Committee for the Spur Line. As reported in Issue 184, Mike Kilburn (HKBWS), Dr. Lew Young (WWF(HK)) and Dr. Ng Cho Nam, all members of the HKBWS General Committee, sit on the Environmental Committee in addition to Karen Barretto of Friends of the Earth and Dr Lee Kin Man, a civil engineering expert. Several KCRC staff and representatives of their environmental (Binnie) and ecological (AEC) consultants, and their environmental checker (Hyder) comprise the other members and experts of the committee.

After two meetings and site visits to the constructed wetland and the start point for construction of the tunnel, the role and powers of the committee, and the level of commitment from KCRC, are becoming clearer.

Issues such as the level of detail in the minutes of the meeting and the frequency with which meetings are held (approximately every quarter, but possibly increased if necessary) have been addressed and resolved. Of more interest, perhaps is what everyone is learning about creating and managing wetlands for wildlife.

KCRC and their team have committed to create and manage a 15 hectare Initial Enhancement Area (IEA) before construction in the Lok Ma Chau area commences. This is well under way. In order to fulfil the terms of their Environmental Protection Department (EPD) permit, they are required to meet a set of benchmarks particularly for attracting large waterbirds (especially Black-faced Spoonbill, Great Egret and Grey Heron). These targets and the management regime proposed to reach them are laid out in a habitat creation and management plan (HCMP), a copy of which is held by the Society. This includes details of the method of draining down ponds to provide ideal feeding conditions for large waterbirds, stocking with fish to provide food and managing the water quality of the site.

In the first months the site was an immediate success, attracting large numbers of loafing herons and egrets (as well as Hong Kong's fourth ever Black-necked Grebe). Certain ponds were found to exceed acceptable acidity levels, and measures were taken to correct this. This

included the addition of peanut residue to one pond in particular. This had the immediate benefit of attracting more than 100 dabbling ducks to the site. Although they ate the peanut residue, the ducks' droppings assisted in reducing the acidity (a fine example of on-site mitigation).

However, during the Christmas 2002/New Year 2003 cold snap two Grey Herons were found dead and discovered to have died of botulism. In consultation with AFCD, KCRC immediately took action to prevent more birds dying, and wired the ponds to effectively "close" the site to large waterbirds. This presents problems. If the site is closed to prevent the spread of disease it becomes impossible for KCRC to hit their required targets for the number of birds using the site. While this is not critical now - before construction commences - it certainly will be should there be more botulism or bird flu outbreaks next winter.

Sadly this is a distinct possibility. With more fishponds in Deep Bay being wired to deter Cormorants and large fish-eaters (Spoonbills, herons and egrets) more and more birds will be concentrated on the unwired ponds. KCRC's IEA is one such area. It is imperative that KCRC draws up a contingency plan to cope with such a situation to ensure that there is sufficient mitigation for the fish ponds lost as a result of the Spur Line.

It is important to remember that birds are not only dying at the KCRC site. Kadoorie Farm has received and treated sick birds from all over Deep Bay, including Mai Po. The intensive monitoring of the IEA (up to five counts per day) increases the likelihood of sick and dead birds being discovered and such discoveries need to be treated in the context of the incidence of disease across Deep Bay and other parts of the world. A baseline study conducted by AFCD would surely be welcomed by all parties, particularly after the discovery of bird flu (closely related to the chicken flu that proved fatal to people in 1999) in Little Egrets at Penfold Park in Sha Tin (a world first).

However on the positive side the monitoring team has captured the first ever video footage of otters in Hong Kong and they have been photographed with infra-red-triggered cameras on several occasions.

Occasional reports on the progress of the Spur Line will appear in future issues.

The Ethics of Development in Deep Bay

In Bulletin 185 we discussed the proposed development at Fung Lok Wai and committed to discuss whether it was acceptable for such private developments to go ahead

inside and around Mai Po, the Deep Bay Ramsar Site and the Wetland Conservation Area. However, time has run out for Bulletin 186, and we would prefer to print arguments from a range of sources rather than those of a single author or committee. We therefore invite articles on this highly controversial issue from any member or non-member for the next issue of the Bulletin. Please contact Mike Kilburn (Conservation News: mkilburn@hkstar.com) or Steve Burrows (editor (English): hkbirds@yahoo.com), Henry Liu - editor (Chinese) a9321371@graduate.hku.hk.

Stop Press:

Black-faced Spoonbill Stop press: Look out for colour-ringed survivors

You might have heard the unfortunate news that 73 Black-faced Spoonbill died of botulism in Tainan, Taiwan last December. At that time some sick Black-faced Spoonbills were caught and kept at a rehabilitation center. The birds had recovered and were released on 18 February 2003. They were banded with coloured and metal bands.

The followings are the numbers and color combinations of the birds (number of the metal band - number on the large brown band on the right leg - color combination on the left leg):

metal ring right leg left leg

H01571 T 20 AbRd	L00022 T 21 AbYe	H01572 T 22 YeAb
H01573 T 23 RdAb	H01574 T 24 GnRd	H01575 T 25 GnAb
H01576 T 26 BrYe	H01577 T 27 AbBr	H01578 T 28 AbGn
H01589 T 29 YeAb not yet released	H01591 T 30 YeRd	H01592 T 31 YeGn
H01593 T 32 YeBr	H01594 T 33 GnBr not yet released	H01595 T 34 RdBr
H01596 T 35 BrAb	H01597 T 36 BrRd	

On the left leg: Ab denotes Air Blue, Br denotes Brown, Gn denotes Green, Rd denotes Red and Ye denotes Yellow.

Please note that the birds were banded with a large BROWN band numbered

from T20 to T36 on the right leg, and two color bands of different

combinations on the left. Apparently the Taiwanese did not obtain

suitable color bands (blue) when the birds were banded.

Please note that BLUE should still be the color used for color banding

Black-faced Spoonbill in Taiwan.

The information above is kindly provided by Mr. Yao Cheng-te of the Taiwan Endemic Species Research Center.

Please also record information such as date, place and time of your sighting and forward it to Mr. Yu Yat Tung, the team leader of HKBWS Black-faced Spoonbill Research Group at bfspoonbill@hkbws.org.hk. Any sighting is welcome.



Mai Po Update

— Lew Young

Mai Po Management Plan


A big thank you to those of you who provided comments on the management of Mai Po for the 2003 - 2008 Mai Po Management Plan. By the time you read this, the draft of the Plan should have been prepared and further discussions will be held with members of the HKBWS before we finalise the Plan. Even after the Plan has been finished, we would be happy to receive comments from Society members about any aspects of the management of Mai Po.

Please contact us by phone (2471-6306), fax (2482-0369) or e-mail maipo@wwf.org.hk.

Reedbed management in gei wai #8

As part of the long-term project to look into developing a strategy for managing the reedbeds at Mai Po, a 1 ha block of reeds has been cleared in gei wai #8, which can be seen from the Tower Hide. Each year since January 2002, a different block of reeds has been cut and the reeds then allowed to regrow. Mist netting is then used to see how the number and diversity of birds differs in each of these differently aged blocks. It is hoped that the study can be completed in another 4-years time.

New boardwalk and floating hide


We are committed to raising funds to build an extension to the present floating boardwalk through the mangroves, which will lead to a new floating hide further out in Deep Bay. This will allow better views of the birds in Deep Bay even when the tide is not so high, say when it is about 1.8 m or lower. However, the process of obtaining permission from Government may take up to a year, and funding is another problem. However, we will keep members updated on the progress of this project. 




Siberian Crane in Hong Kong

*Information by Simba Chan
Wild Bird Society of Japan*

As many local birders are aware, on 11th and 12th of December 2002, a juvenile Siberian Crane was seen at Mai Po. This is the first record of this species in Hong Kong, and in fact, the first record of any real wild cranes in Hong Kong for more than 35 years. The only other substantial record was of Eurasian Cranes seen in 1966. This is also the only record of a Siberian Crane south of the Yangtze Valley.

For more information on this critically endangered species, visit the Threatened Birds of Asia website: <http://www.rdb.or.id/home.html> 

Reporting of Sick Birds

In light of the disturbing news about the Black-faced Spoonbills dying in Taiwan, Mr. S. T. Tsim, a Wetland and Fauna Conservation Officer with AFCD has asked the Society to remind members that if they find any sick or dead Black-faced Spoonbills, they should report the find to AFCD immediately. Members may call nature wardens (Tel.: 2471 4411 during office hours), Mr. Choi (9466 2859) or Mr. Tsim (9464 9257 - 24 hours). 

The National Birdwatching Race of China

— Zhang Zhengwang

The National Birdwatching Race of China was held on 5th December at Dongting Lake, an internationally important wetland located in Yueyang City, Hunan Province. Twelve birding groups from all over the country attended this race, indicating that in the recent years, especially after the 23rd IOC Beijing Congress, more and more people in China are involved in birdwatching in the field.

Supported by the Hong Kong Birdwatching Society Mr. Lin Chaoying (Lam Chu Ying) and Zhang Haohui, (Cheung Ho Fai) the National Birdwatching Database has been established by the Chinese Ornithological Society. The Database gathers data from the bird watching activities all across China. Both Chinese birders and foreign friends are welcome to submit

their records (including the sites, date and time, the name of birders, species of birds seen, and if possible the number of birds for each species) to:

Zhang Zhengwang at zzw@bnu.edu.cn. Zhang Zhengwang, PhD College of Life Sciences Beijing Normal University Beijing 100875 China

This group is run in association with the Oriental Bird Club. To find out more about the Club and its conservation work, or to become a member, please visit www.orientalbirdclub.org

The Last Wetland of Guangzhou Under Threat

— Guangdong Reporter

According to surveys by Professor Gao Yuren of the South China Institute of Endangered Animals, Guangzhou has an important piece of wetland in Xinken County of Panyu. It was established in 2001 as the Panyu Seashore Mangrove Park, which effectively made it a wetland reserve area. The 3000-hectare area comprises mudflats, mangrove, gei wais and fish ponds, making it very much like the Guangzhou version of Mai Po.

The local government and the Guangdong Forestry Bureau have taken active steps to manage and improve the natural habitat. In recent years, dozens of species of wintering birds, including waders, gulls, ducks, geese, egrets, rails and crakes, have been recorded there. The wintering population is about 10,000-20,000. Endangered species like Black-faced Spoonbill, Saunder's Gull, Baikal Teal and Peregrine Falcon have also been recorded. Thus, the wetland at Xinken has

been proposed as an "Important Bird Area" under the international scheme. It is understood that the authorities are also considering designating it as the first nature reserve at the provincial level in the city of Guangzhou.

Unfortunately, at the end of 2002, it was reported that under the municipal plan to develop the Da Nansha area, development projects would eat into the Xinken wetland in a significant way. This is troubling news.

In the 1970's, Hong Kong's Mai Po Nature Reserve faced a similar threat, in that case from large-scale residential development. Luckily, the parties concerned reconciled their conflicting needs and settled for a course which allowed the Fairview Park residential area and the Mai Po Nature Reserve to co-exist. The Mai Po Nature Reserve has gone on to earn Hong Kong a great deal of praise from the international community and is an indispensable part of Hong Kong's World City image.

We sincerely hope that the relevant authorities will take Mai Po as an example and evolve a win-win solution that would let both economic development and nature conservation dovetail with each other. Keeping the Xinken wetland, and developing it into a world class reserve, would earn Guangzhou recognition as a city of international standing.

Icelandic Wilderness Area Under Threat

(From Birdwatch Magazine February 2003)

The Icelandic government appears determined to wreck the Dimmugljufur Canyon, one of Europe's greatest wilderness areas. Plans for a huge hydro-electric power station and aluminium smelter looked to have been scuppered when Norwegian multinational Norsk Hydro withdrew from the scheme following heavy criticism from environmental groups and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) that concluded it would have massive detrimental consequences on the area. However, the government has now teamed up with Alcoa, the world's largest aluminium producer, to resurrect the project, which is sited to the north of Europe's largest glacier, Vatnajökull.

Under the proposals, Alcoa would build the smelter and the government would develop the hydro-electric plant to power it. Three giant dams and miles of new roads and tunnels would be built, and two of the area's three main rivers would be diverted in a development directly affecting some 1,000 sq km of Iceland's central highlands.

Much of the canyon would be submerged by a 57 sq km reservoir, severely impacting on, among others, 220 pairs of Red-throated Divers, 3,800 pairs of Pink-footed Geese, and 700 pairs of Red-necked Phalaropes. The government's persistence is all the more alarming since it involves overturning an Icelandic Planning Agency ruling that the project should be abandoned. The issue will now be resolved in court, where environment minister Siv Fridleifsdottir is being sued by the Iceland Nature Conservation Association (INCA) and other groups. Ironically, Alcoa has made much of its environmental record, which has led to it being listed on the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI). Samantha Smith, director of WWF's arctic programme, said: "Although Alcoa publicly emphasises its environmental principles, a decision to build this smelter would help destroy one of the last great wilderness areas of Western Europe. WWF is calling on Alcoa to live up to its environmental principles and back out of this devastating project."

If you would like to register a protest, email Alcoa (contactehs@alcoa.com), the Icelandic environment minister (siv.fridleifsdottir@umh.stjr.is), or the Icelandic daily newspaper Morgunbladid (frett@mbl.is).

Sparrows Recognised as Provincial Key Protected Species in Hunan

On 9 December, Ming Pao (Xinhua News Agency) reported that the sparrow, once perceived as a threat to crops and exterminated throughout China, is currently being listed under Hunan's provincial level protection scheme for wildlife.

Based on a wildlife protection list promulgated in 1988, the 'Catalogue of Wildlife under Hunan Province Key Protection' was revised and publicized by the provincial government this year. It is the first time the Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) has been included on the list and recognised as a key protected species. In August 2000, the State Forestry Administration bureau listed the sparrow for the first time as beneficial terrestrial wildlife offering economic and scientific value, although they were not under state key protection by that time.

In the 1950s, the sparrow was considered as one of the country's "four pests," along with mice, flies and mosquitoes. Sparrows were vilified because they were thought to damage crops. However, owing to the excessive use of pesticides, as well as constant hunting driven by unscrupulous restaurants, the number of sparrows has declined dramatically in recent years. But with the numbers of pests increasing to the point that they were competing with humans for scarce food resources, the experts called for a halt to the persecution of sparrows. While acknowledging that sparrows can be harmful to crops, the experts pointed out their overall beneficial role in the ecosystem.

Environmental workers believe that listing sparrows as wildlife under provincial key protection will play a positive role in curbing the drastic decrease in bird numbers.





World Bird News
World Bird News
World Bird News
World Bird News

— Steve Burrows, Carrie Ma

Species Saviour Finally Dies

Daisy, a Campbell Island Teal who saved her species from extinction, has died in captivity in New Zealand. The Campbell Island Teal is recognized as the world's rarest duck, with only about 30 individuals still existing in the wild.

The Campbell Island Teal was thought to be extinct until a tiny population of was rediscovered on Dent Island in the sub-Antarctic. These birds were transferred into a captive-breeding programme, with the long-term aim of reintroducing them to Campbell Island once rat eradication had occurred.

Daisy's first successful brood of two ducklings was raised after 10 years of unsuccessful attempts. "This remarkable event marked a significant occasion in the captive-breeding programme and essentially secured the future of the species," programme manager Karen Barlow said. During her 12 years in captivity, Daisy reared 24 ducklings who in turn produced another 39 offspring. Thanks almost entirely to Daisy's contribution, the captive population of Campbell Island Teal currently stands at around 80. It is hoped that the birds can return to a predator-free Campbell Island in 2004.

Spanish Oil Spill Threatens Endangered Birds

BirdLife International estimates as many as 15,000 birds have been killed by the Prestige oil spill off the north west coast of Spain. Among the affected species are the Spanish population of Guillemot, and the critically endangered Balearic Shearwater

The total Iberian population of Guillemot is estimated at 25-30 pairs, living in two tiny colonies which are both in the immediate area affected by the oil spill. The total number of dead Guillemots found in Spain since the oil spill is 12, with approximately 40 live oiled Guillemots also recovered.

Alejandro Sanchez, Director of the Spanish Ornithological Society (SEO/BirdLife) believes it is unlikely the breeding population can recover. "We predict the Guillemot is now very likely to become extinct as a breeding bird in Spain," said Mr. Sanchez.

To date, only two Balearic Shearwaters, whose current estimated world population is around 2,000, have been found dead. However, the damage done to the birds' inshore habitat has been severe, affecting the ecosystem on which they depend. "The main long-term harm to Balearic Shearwaters may be the loss of inshore food in this area, such as sardines and anchovies," said Carles Carboneras, SEO/BirdLife's Seabird Campaigner. "It will be important to monitor closely the breeding and wintering numbers next year to see what effect this disaster has had on the population of this Critically Endangered endemic Spanish species."

Pet cockatoo convicts owner's murderer

The white-crested cockatoo who attacked the man who killed his owner was able to provide police with enough evidence to get a murder conviction. The cockatoo, called Bird, attacked his owner's assailant by pecking him on the head and drawing blood. DNA evidence found on the cockatoo's beak and claws, and on two bloodstained knives found at the scene was enough to convict the man of murder and sentence him to life in prison.

The prosecuting lawyer in the Texas case said Bird's bravery had been key to the trial. Bird paid the ultimate price for his bravery, however, as he was also found stabbed to death at the crime scene. The murderer said in a confession he had stabbed the bird after it had pecked him.



Shenzhen Futian Birding



— Dickson Wong

Tung, Fai and I were invited to visit Shenzhen mangrove park to go bird watching in the early morning of January 5th. After crossing the border at Lok Ma Chau, we took a taxi to the park, which cost around 20 yuen. This is a newly constructed seaside park with long promenade. It is easy to get access to the border and soon you are looking at the distant mangroves of Hong Kong across the vast mudflats.

We set up three spotting scopes as bird lovers from Shenzhen began flocking in. Apart from our input, the Guangdong birdwatchers also brought a number of binoculars and scopes for the freshmen. More than 20 birders gathered, attracting some passers-by to also have a look at the lovely birds. Thousands of Black-headed Gull and Avocet were flying and feeding in the distance. Before the tide came up, there was thirteen Black-faced Spoonbills feeding nearby. Also, Long-

billed Dowitcher was spotted by Tung among the mixed flocks of Greenshank and Spotted Redshank. At the mangrove edge, there were four Grey-headed Lapwings. The total record of bird species was 41 and it was recorded by Maicha, who is a new local birding enthusiast.

This mangrove park is open to the public and therefore quite a number of locals pay a visit to this place during weekends. Some people ask for a look at the scope and they are amazed by what they see, offering responses like, "Many, many birds!", and "The ducks are very beautiful!" Therefore I think this park has good potential as a place to promote birding activities and education. If any Hong Kong birdwatchers are interested in visiting the park, they may contact the society for details.



Hong Kong Bird News,

November 2002-January 2003

— Richard Lewthwaite

[Please note, these are unchecked records.
Members are reminded of the importance of
submitting all records on cards or electronically]

November 2002

Highlights of the first week of the month included up to five Crested Honey Buzzards at Mount Austin and Lok Ma Chau on 2nd and 3rd, a Chinese Leaf Warbler at Kadoorie FBG on 3rd, potentially only the second for Hong Kong, and two Silver-backed Needletails at Robins Nest on 7th, only the second autumn record.

Among larger counts of passerines in the second and third weeks were 50 Eyebrowed Thrushes and 80 Chestnut Buntings at Kadoorie FBG on 9th, 150 Chinese Blackbirds at Sha Lo Tung on 11th, a further 68 Chinese Blackbirds at Lookout Link (a headland near Tai Po Kau) on 16th and 150 Chinese Penduline Tits at Mai Po on the same date. Visits to Sha Lo Tung during 10th-11th also turned up a Greater Painted Snipe, 11 Black Bulbuls, 10 Daurian Redstarts, 10 Russet Bush Warblers and a Rustic Bunting, the latter only the third record in autumn or winter.

On 17th, single Black-winged Kites and Eurasian Sparrowhawks were sighted at Long Valley and 25 Striated Yuhinas were at Ma On Shan, the first of several widespread flocks reported during the winter.

A Black-necked Grebe, only the fourth for Hong Kong and the first since 1992, was found at a fishpond in the Shenzhen River/Lok Ma Chau area on 20th. The same day brought reports of a Brown-breasted Flycatcher, perhaps last year's wintering bird returning, and an unidentified Spectacled Warbler at Tai Po Kau. The series of rarities continued on 23rd with a Lesser Shortwing at Shek Kong Catchment and single Middendorff's and Styan's Grasshopper Warblers at Mai Po.

December 2002

On 11th, a juvenile Siberian Crane was found at Mai Po, an astonishing record of a critically endangered species for which there are no previous records south of the Yangtse valley and associated lakes. Although it looked settled and was feeding, it flew off west the following morning.

The month also saw a male Siberian Blue Robin at Tai Po Kau on 2nd, potentially only the fourth ever in winter, a Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher and Fujian Niltava at Ng Tung Chai on 15th, at least seven Blue Rock-thrushes including a male pandoo at Plover Cove dam on 18th, six Ruddy Shelducks at Mai Po on the same date, a Japanese Grosbeak at Shek Kong Catchment on 22nd and an Orange-headed Thrush at Kap Lung on 28th.

A White Pelican, which at the time of writing seems very likely an aviary escape, was first seen at Mai Po on Pond 20 on 15th and later joined the Dalmatian Pelican flock in Deep Bay.

January 2003

Cold weather over northern and central China brought snow to parts of Guangdong and made it a very good month for thrushes and chats in Hong Kong, with 16 Red-flanked Bluetails found on the Brides Pool-Wang Shan Keuk circuit on 10th. Plumbeous Redstarts were wintering at several localities including Wun Yiu (near Tai Po), and Red-throated Flycatchers were also more common than usual. A Red-necked Grebe photographed at Lamma on 19th-20th is potentially a first or second record.

The month opened with a Common Rosefinch at Mount Davis on 1st, a Ruddy Shelduck and Buff-bellied Pipit at Mai Po the next day, a Siberian Thrush and two Pygmy Wren Babblers at Ng Tung Chai on 4th, and a Bay Woodpecker at Plover Cove the same day, this being the first since 1994.

On 5th, a Ruddy-breasted Crake and a Brambling were at Mai Po, and flocks of Striated Yuhinas were at Brides Pool and Tate's Cairn, with subsequent reports of this species from Sha Lo Tung, Hok Tau, Tai Po Kau, Sham? Chung, Kam Shang and Mount Nicolson. Visits to Ng Tung Chai during 9th-11th brought reports of two Mountain Bulbuls, a Japanese Robin and two Fujian Niltavas.

On 16th, a Japanese Waxwing was reported at Mai Po, and on 19th two Eurasian Collared Doves at Fung Lok Wai, 17 Greater Scaups in Deep Bay, and the Red-necked Grebe at Sok Kwu Wan, Lamma.

The final week of the month brought reports of 80 Yellow-billed Grosbeaks at Kam Tin on 24th, a Long-billed Dowitcher from the Mai Po boardwalk on the same day, a Fujian Niltava and Pygmy Wren Babbler at Tai Po Kau on 25th, a Yellow-bellied Tit and two Grey-capped Greenfinches at Lookout Link on 29th, and a Grey Bushchat at Lam Tsuen on 31st.

Coming Activities 活動預告

Date	Leader/Speaker	Activity / Gathering location	Time	Difficulty
6 Apr (Sun)	Tam Yiu Leung Hung Wai Ming	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
13 Apr (Sun)	Cheung Ho Fai Forrest Fong	Tsim Bei Tsui 09:00 Tsim Bei Tsui Carpark.	09:00-15:00	XX
20 Apr (Sun)	Luk Tsun Pun Karl Ng 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
27 Apr (Sun)	Ho Man Fai Wong Man Kit William	Shing Mun 08:00 Tsuen Wan MTR Station Hang Seng Bank	08:00-13:00	XX
1 May (Thu)	Cheung Ho Fai	Tap Mun 08:15 Ma Liu Shiu Pier 15:00 back to Ma Liu Shiu	08:15-15:00	X
4 May (Sun)	Wong Ming Chan Kam Wai, Stanley	Ho Chung and Mau Ping 09:00 Ho Chung Road junction to Hiram's Highway (Sai Kung Road)	09:00-15:00	X
11 May (Sun)	Yu Yat Tung	Po Toi 07:45 Aberdeen Ferry Pier 15:45 finish at Stanley	07:45-15:45	X
18 May (Sun)	Hung Wai Ming Chu Cho Yan Chu Chui Ping	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
1 June (Sun)	Shirley Lam Ying Hak King	Tap Mun 08:15 Ma Liu Shiu Pier 14:00 back to Ma Liu Shiu	08:15-15:00	X
15 June (Sun)	Tam Yiu Leung Luk Tsun Pun	Kowloon Hill Catchwater 08:00 Sham Shui Po MTR Station Hang Seng Bank	08:00-12:00	X
29 June (Sun)	Dickson Wong Louis Cheung	Boat Trip: Soko Islands 07:45 Aberdeen Public Pier (near Ocean Court) 17:00 back to Aberdeen Public Pier (Member \$150, Non-member \$200)	08:00-17:00	XXX

Coming Activities 活動預告

Date	Leader/Speaker	Activity / Gathering location	Time	Difficulty
13 July (Sun)	Robin Fung Au Chun Yan	Hong Kong Park 09:00 Aviary entrance	09:00-12:00	XX
24 July (Thur)	Cheung Ho Fai	Indoor meeting [ID of Leaf Warblers] and Outing Leader Workshop Room 1113 Hong Kong Scout Centre, 8 Austin Road, Kowloon (Member \$10, Non-member \$30)	19:00-20:30	X
17 Aug (Sun)	Ho Man Fai Robin Fung	Kap Lung Trail 07:30 Tsuen Wan MTR Station Hang Seng Bank	08:00-13:00	XX
31 Aug (Sun)	Forrest Fong Ada Chow	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

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. **Please wear the member badge when joining the activities.**

- * 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.

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 Ltd" OR
- (2) Payment can also be made by depositing the fee into the A/C no. 534-361423-838 of Hongkong Bank in favour of "**Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Ltd**", 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

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

Coming Activities 活動預告

Activity Booking Slip

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

6 Apr (Sun) Mai Po 20 Apr (Sun) Mai Po 31 Aug (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. Members not using the coach do not need to pay coach fare

29 June (Sun) Boat Trip: Soko Islands (HK\$150/member, HK\$200/non-members)

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

Name: _____ Contact No. : _____

Address: _____

Date: _____ Signature : _____

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

Activity Booking Slip for 18 May (Sun) Mai Po (Please send this form to HKBWS Ltd, GPO Box 12460, Hong Kong)

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

18 May (Sun) Mai Po (Please send this form to HKBWS)

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. Members not using the coach do not need to pay coach fare

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

Name: _____ Contact No. : _____

Address: _____

Date: _____ Signature : _____

Note: Please send this application together with crossed cheque by mail to HKBWS Ltd. GPO Box 12460, 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

黑鵝 (米埔) – 黃志俊 Black Stock (Mai Po) – Dickson Wong



黑尾蠟咀雀 (碗窰) – 江敏儀、黃理沛
Black-tailed Hawfinch (Wun Yiu) – Michelle Kong, Peter Wong



銅藍鶉 (碗窠) Verditer Flycatcher (Wun Yiu) - 壞蛋 1 號