



bulletin

會員通訊



195

Spring 2005 ~ 春

白喉磯鶇 – 關寶權 (大埔滘)
White-throated Rock Thrush –
Kwan Po Kuen (Tai Po Kau)

20/01/2005, Nikon D70



戴勝 – 朱展強
(香港大學沙灣徑)

Eurasian Hoopoe – Henry Chu
(The University of Hong Kong,
Sha Wan Drive)

23/01/2005, Canon 10D, EF100-400IS



The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Limited

(Approved Charitable Institution of a Public Character)

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From the Chairman ...

Dear members,

“Our society can only be as strong as our members”. I believe we should continue to work to improve our team. I would see membership training as the most important item in the coming year. Our society requires volunteers of every skill. From bird surveyors and outing leaders to computer experts, from professional managers and accountants to unskilled labourers, all sorts of volunteers are required. Our society shall provide and has been providing opportunities for training. For that to work, first of all, we need scouts to identify volunteers having good potential for development. Then we need to invite them to come in and give them suitable challenges. For that I need the help of Executive Committee members and group leaders to work on this together. Of course, members shall play an important part in this. If you care about the Society, you can step in as a volunteer. I have been a volunteer for many years, and I have got the most rewarding experiences out of this.

– HF Cheung 

2005 Membership Card

You will receive a membership card for 2005, which replaces the badge of previous years, if you have already renewed your membership.



Amur Falcon, an attractive raptor, has been selected for the card photo. Thanks Mr Forrest Fong for sharing us his photo and Ms Puk Yuk Yin for helping to do the design work.

Membership Renewal

Annual subscriptions are now due. You may send the completed subscription form with crossed cheque to the society. Alternatively, you may directly credit 'The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Limited' account (HSBC account no. 534-361423-838) and return the pay-in slip

HKBWS PROJECTS

The most updated information on HKBWS Projects is always on the (www.hkbws.org.hk) bulletin board in addition to this quarterly newsletter.

A. Research Projects

1. Waterbird Monitoring at Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site

1.1 Public Seminar

The public seminar “Waterbirds in Hong Kong: Trends and Development” has been organized. It included an overview of results of the waterbird monitoring programme and the Black-faced Spoonbill international census in 2004-05. Information on egret surveys and waterbird surveys in Hong Kong Wetland Park was also presented.

1.2 Leaflet on “Egrets and Herons”

With the help of the Egret Research Group, a leaflet on “Egrets and Herons” has been produced.

and the completed subscription form to the Society. (Remark: payment by cheque is highly preferred.)

Colour Centre Page


Due to many requests for more colour photos in this bulletin, we have added a centre colour page starting from the previous issue. However, this will increase production costs, so donations to this cause will be most welcome. Please contact Bulletin Co-ordinator for details.

IT of HKBWS

Several students from the Faculty of Computer Science and Information System of HKU are helping the society to develop an online record submission system and photo bank system. Special thanks to them. The preliminary programmes were shown during the dinner gathering at the “Records 2005” function. Members will be notified when the programmes are launched.

Office Staff

Miss Carrie Ma, Manager (Projects and Communication) of the Society, left the post at the end of March 2005. Miss Ma was employed in May 2000 as is the first full-time staff of the Society. She established the HKBWS Office and has worked very hard for the development of the Society and various projects. The results are praised by all. Miss Ma has contributed a great deal to the successful development of the Society in this period. We thank Miss Ma for her dedication and wish her great success in future. After her resignation, Miss Ma was invited to join the Education and Publicity Committee.

The Executive Committee has employed Mr Lo Wai Yan as Manager (Projects and Communication) of the Society. Mr Lo has 10 years of experience in working in a green group and is well versed in the operations. We welcome Mr Lo to be the staff of the Society. Mr Lo will start his job in mid April 2005. 

– Carrie Ma

It provides useful information on ecology and habitats. A copy is enclosed with this bulletin. Members who wish to obtain more copies can get in touch with HKBWS Office at 2377 4387 (while stocks are available).



- couldn't be found from the Mai Po boardwalk. Only 100 birds were recorded in January.
- Only 7,895 gulls were recorded, including 7,500 Black-headed Gulls from Mai Po boardwalk. The number seems to have dropped significantly compared to the previous "normal" number of 12,000 birds.

1.3 Monthly Count

The Waterbird Count Coordinator, Yu Yat Tung reported that the result of the January 2005 count was 54,454 birds. This seems to “bounce back” to the “normal” level of 50,000 to 55,000 birds of a few years ago. A few points to note are:

- The total no. of ducks recorded was 22,521, this includes 13,000 (8,770 Shoveler) counted at Futian.
- Cormorant numbers reached a new high of 9,552, up from 8,964 in 2004.
- Small waders, including Kentish Plover and Dunlin, still

2. Research Groups

2.1 Kite Research Group

- The Monthly kite survey was held as usual on 11 Dec 2004, 9 Jan and 27 Feb 2005. Members who wish to participate in future monthly counts can get in touch with the Group Convenor Karin Chan at yankarin@graduate.hku.hk.
- A “Black Kite” special topic has been established on the HKBWS bulletin board. Members are welcome to post their sighting records, photos, news and relevant information.

2.2 Egret Research Group

- The Research Group has helped the production of

the leaflet “Egrets and Herons”. The Group has also assist in the seminar on 23 March (see Item 1.2).



- b) An abstract about conservation of Starling Inlet and recent studies/egretry counts in the area was submitted to the June 2005 IUCN Conference.
- c) An active roosting site of Night Herons was found at Ocean Park.

2.3 Tern Research Group

The Tern Research Group is producing a plan this summer. In addition to regular surveys at Mirs Bay, activities will also be organized towards the end of the breeding season to improve public understanding of terns. These may include public seminars, guided tours, a tern booklet and an exhibition. A web page on terns will be launched soon. Members who wish to take part could get in touch with Alan Chan, the research group convenor at twatch2004@yahoo.com.hk.

2.4 Black-faced Spoonbill Research Group



- a) Black-faced Spoonbill (BFS) International Census: A total of 1,372 BFS was recorded up to the end of January with more results from other places still awaited. Participants included volunteers from mainland China, Taiwan, Macau, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Japan, South Korea, the Philippines and Thailand. The event was reported in People’s Daily on 2 and 17 February. The full report is now available for members’ download at the Black-faced Spoonbill website.

- b) BFS Age Structure: The field surveys were con-

ducted as usual following the normal schedule. We expected the field work will be completed in April.

- c) BFS International Symposium: The Research Group is preparing to organize an international symposium on the conservation of Black-faced Spoonbill. It is tentatively scheduled for winter 2005/6. Support from BirdLife International, World Wide Fund For Nature Hong Kong, Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden, and Agriculture, Culture and Conservation Department have been sought.

We aim to raise enough money to stage the event, estimated at around HK\$180,000. Members are welcome to make donations or introduce us to potential donors! Donations can be made by cheque payable to “The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Limited”, please specify “donation for Black-faced Spoonbill International Symposium” and please send us an e-mail to hkbws@hkbws.org.hk and bfspoonbill@hkbws.org.hk to inform us when donation has been made.

2.5 Swallow and Swift Research Group

In 2005, the “Swift and Swallow Research Group” (S&S Group) has had a significant expansion in number of volunteers to some 20 people. The new volunteers are mainly recruited



from the “Crested Bulbul Club”. Some 25 members and volunteers of S&S Group met and practiced the nest counting method at The Chinese University of Hong Kong on 23 January 2005. With the support of Crested Bulbul Club, the Group will further extend the survey area in both urban and rural areas in 2005. Members who wish to offer support to the S&S Group could get in touch with S T Tsim (sttsim@netvigator.com) and Apache Lau (apachewm@netvigator.com).

B. Education, Publicity and Publication

1. Healthy Ageing Project

- a) Most of the commitments (125 talks and outings) of

the project have been met, except some weekly bird watching activities in parks and the quarterly "Crested Bulbul Club Bulletin". The project has reached 11,066 elderly through talks and outings, and 2,600 people through other media including outreach activities in urban parks.



b) The 4th training for elderly nature interpreters was held from 2nd March to 25th March. It comprised 7 sessions including 3 talks, 4 outings and 1 assessment. Members of the Crested Bulbul Club has assisted the co-ordination and previous arrangement.

c) A press article titled "Birds and Flowers" appeared in Ming Pao Daily on 6th February. Thanks for Ms Wei Suk-ye for sharing her experience with us.

d) New members have been co-opted to assist the Elderly Bird Watching Committee: Mr Yip Tai-wai, Mr Cheng Kam-yuen and Mr Wong Hau-chung. They will share the workload of the Committee chairman on technical issues including production of education and publicity materials.



2. Urban Park - morning bird watching

a) Hong Kong Park:

We received support from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department have decided to conduct morning bird watching activities at Hong Kong Park on Wednesdays from March to August. The event will be a trial session, interpretation will



be provided by elderly nature interpreters from the Crested Bulbul Club, and LCSD will cover travelling expenses as a recognition of their effort. Hong Kong Park will provide equipment such as binoculars and telescopes. Members are welcome to join:

- Duration: March to August 2005 (every Wednesday)
- Time: 8:00am to 10:00am
- Gathering Point: Hong Kong Park Conservatory
- Fee: Free of charge

b) Kowloon Park:

- Friday morning bird watching activities will continue:
- Date: Every Friday
- Time: 7:30 to 9:30am
- Gathering Point: Kowloon Park Arcade (adjacent to McDonald's Restaurant)
- Fee: Free of charge

3. Training for HKU Environmental Life Science Students

5 lectures and 8 field trips have been successfully completed, from November 2004 to March 2005. The activities were well received. Some participants have also joined the Society's waterbird count and bird race. Thanks are due to: Samson So, Henry Lui, Yu Yat Tung, Captain Wong, Mike Leven, Gary Chow, Karin Chan, Aukie Au and Carrie Ma for their facilitation as volunteers. Thanks, too, for the encouragement of the HKBWS Education and Publicity Committee to make the event happen.

4. World Wetland Day - The 5th Training Workshop and Bird Race



We have assisted AFCD to organize 2 workshops (11 Dec and 8 Jan) and 2 field trips (18 Dec and 15 Jan) for

183 students and 61 teachers from 38 schools.

A bird race was held on 23 January. It was the first time Tsim Bei Tsui and Hong Kong Wetland Park Phase II were race venues. We received a good response from both teachers and journalists. As well as helping AFCD at the World Wetland Day Ceremony, our representatives Cheung Ho Fai and Apache Lau presented souvenirs to the winners. Thanks also to the dozen-or-so members of the “Crested Bulbul Club” who ran a “bird tattoo” game booth, which was hugely popular.



5. Outreach projects

- On 18 February, we facilitated a public lecture organized by the project S+E+E (<http://project-see.net/>) at Xin Hua Book City. The event also promoted “A Photographic Guide of Birds of Hong Kong” and other HKBWS activities.
- The Education and Publicity Committee assisted in the Conservancy Association’s “Dance with the Birds” event on 20 March 2005. Thanks for the support of Apache Lau, Joanne Au, Robin Fung and Cheung Ho-fai, the adjudicator.

6. Publication and publicity


- Newspaper:** Ming Pao Daily featured “Pheasants / Rails and Coots” on the first day of the Chinese New Year. Thanks for the support of Wong Tin-wa, Lo Kar-man, Henry Lui, Jacky Yam, Michelle and Peter Wong, who provided us pictures for the nearly one-page newspaper report.
- From 1 January 2004 to mid-February 2005, over 140 press reports were generated.

- Photographic Guide** The “Photographic Guide of the Birds of Hong Kong” is available again (1st edition 2nd print). Improvements have been made to this version, including text and color of photographs. The selling price is, as before, HK\$168 (paper back). Please get in touch with HKBWS Membership Affairs Committee at membership@hkbws.org.hk or at 2377 4387 if you wish to get copies at a discount.



- Pictorial Guide:** The Education and Publicity Committee is working with a local publisher on a book entitled “Bird Life and Behaviour”. The book will be a pictorial guide with 40 stories on bird ecology and behaviour. Thanks to the following photographers for providing us with pictures: Dominic Chan, Thomas Chan, Ho-fai Cheung, Owen Chiang, Doris Chu, Forrest Fong, Elisa Hui, Etta Hui, Marcus Ho, Phippen Ho, Jemi and John Holmes, Koel Ko, Carrie Ma, Hok-fei Lee, Henry Lui, Karl Ng, Carmen Or, Hendrix To, Cherry Wong, Dickson Wong, Michelle and Peter Wong, William Wong and Jacky Yam. Thanks also to Robin Fung, CY Lam, Apache Lau, Henry Lui, Carrie Ma and Hung Wai Ming for assisting with the text and co-ordinating other aspects.

C. China and International Collaboration

- Swan Fund:** A total of HK\$5,200 was donated by HKBWS members to Mr Zhang Changlong through Prof Xian Lianlian, Biology Department of Inner Mongolia University to protect the swans of Wuliansuhai Lakes.
- Network Development in China:** HKBWS is offering support to BirdLife International Asia Division for the development of a birdwatching network in China. 

China Bird Report

Copies of the 2003 by the China Ornithological Society are available - while stocks last- for a modest donation of HK\$100. (Please donate more if you can – all money received will be passed on to the China Ornithological Society to fund publication of the 2004 Report.) For ordering details, please contact HKBWS Membership Services Committee at membership@hkbws.org.hk.

A message from the China Bird Report Editor:

Dear All

The China Bird Report 2003 has been well received including positive comments and feedback. The work of 2004 report has started. The development of bird watching in China mainland is rising. The number of birdwatchers, birding sites covered and the amount of records submitted are comparatively higher than those of the previous year. We expect more effort will be involved in the editorial work for the coming report.

For this, we have started collection of records and set a progress schedule. In order to collate your submissions, and to enable us to complete the editorial and publication work according to the production schedule, please submit your record before 1 April (records submitted after 1 April will not be considered for the bird report). Below are the ways for record submission:

1. Bird Record Centre, please register an account at www.cnbirder.com, for submission and storing records on line;
2. By e-mail, send your files in Excel, Word or PDF format to cbr@cnbirder.net or chinesewildbird@hotmail.com;
3. General submission, by mail to Professor Zhang Zengwang clo Department of Life Science, Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China. Postal code 100875.

By the way, please send us, if any, your comments or suggestions on the 2003 Report. Thank you in advance for your concern and support for the publication.

Editor, China Bird Report 2004 



October - December 2004


With the addition of 1,737 birds trapped during October to December 2004, the total number of birds trapped last year soared up to 3,032. October proved to be the most productive month, with a record of 1,076 birds.

Bird

Ringling

— Hong Kong Ringing Group

Other than the birds we catch on a regular basis, of particular interest are the Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* (the first ever ringed in HK!) and a Black-winged Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina melaschistos* (only the third ever caught and ringed here, the last one was ringed in 1996!). Other interesting records include 2 Blunt-winged Warblers *Acrocephalus concinens* and 2 Manchurian Reed Warblers *Acrocephalus tangorum* (including 1 recapture) and a record high of 4 Chestnut-eared Bunting *Emberiza fucata*.

The top three most-ringed species in those three months are Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* (329 trapped), Oriental Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis* (248 trapped) and Black-browed Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps* (168 trapped). By now, you should have a rough idea which three bird species top the ringling list in Hong Kong for 2004! 



Conservation News

Spring 2005

– Mike Kilburn,
Chairman, Conservation Committee

More Drainage Works Planned in Northern New Territories

As mentioned in the last Bulletin, the Drainage Services Department has large-scale plans for more channelisation works. And the same as last time, some aspects of these projects and the consultation process are very good, and others are less so. However DSD's continuing emphasis on early consultation with HKBWS and other environmental groups (EnvNGOs) is warmly welcomed.

San Tin/ Mai Po Sun Tsuen "Floodway" Concept Channel

This drainage channel runs between fishponds close to San Tin village and Mai Po Sun Tsuen lies inside the Deep Bay Wetland Conservation Area and the Ramsar Buffer Zone. The proposed works represent one of the most encouraging initiatives of any government department to incorporate ecological sustainability features into its engineering works.

This area of fishponds and streams has a rich avifauna (21 species were noted during the few minutes of a February site visit!). In particular several hundred Red-billed Starlings (for which Deep Bay is an internationally important wintering ground) were present in the immediate area of the site visit and five Black-faced Spoonbills flew overhead and landed nearby.

The following features included in the design concept are warmly welcomed.

- i. The intention to retain much of the natural hydrological functions through the provision of a tidal mudflat fringed with mangroves in the downstream sections of the channel
- ii. Making use of the current earth bund structure and the corresponding avoidance of concreting the bed and banks of the floodway
- iii. The intention to keep maintenance and vehicular access to a minimum

- iv. The provision for rain-filled freshwater ponds along the sides of the tidal channel
- v. The intention to resume and rehabilitate an area of a container yard abutting the site

However, it will be important to ascertain which department will take responsibility for managing the site once the initial construction phase has been completed, something which has often been problematic on past government projects. It is understood that the design is intended to require a low level of active management as is common in the more usual concrete-lined drainage channels. One aspect requiring particular attention will be the monitoring and control of the invasive mangrove *sonneratia* (unlike native mangrove species, *sonneratia* grows in to a tree several metres high. It has already become established in the mitigation mangrove planting in the Kam Tin Main Drainage Channel and the channel between Mai Po and Lut Chau.

Ping Kong, Nam Wa Po, & Kau Lung Hang Drainage Channels

All of these channels were visited on the same morning as San Tin. While these sites are of lesser significance for Hong Kong's birdlife, HKBWS has joined the site visits in order to improve communication and understanding with the Drainage Services Department.

An interesting aspect of this site visit was the attendance of several representatives from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, the department responsible for nature conservation in Hong Kong. The presence of staff from both DSD and AFCD provided an opportunity for a more informed exchange of views and greatly enhanced the value of the site visit.

In general the visits to these sites were less encouraging, principally because DSD appears to have taken a more traditional approach - planning large-scale works that will have direct and severe

impacts on the wildlife and river courses. Bearing in mind the large number of lowland streams across Hong Kong that have already been lost to channelisation, we believe every effort should be made to retain the natural river courses and sections of natural stream bed where alternative measures can be employed.

Furthermore, HKBWS has urged DSD to identify all of the large trees which may be affected by the projects and to finetune its designs to retain trees of high ecological or landscape value.

Looking Forward

Having attended a number of site visits, it has become increasingly clear that many of today's flooding problems are caused by inappropriate location of new village housing, public infrastructure and rural industry over the last 10-20 years. For example, a major justification for the flood prevention works at Wun Yiu is based on preventing flooding around houses that were built on the bed of the river channel! As a result, many of the works proposed by DSD in the last year have taken a "treat the symptoms" approach.


Perhaps it is time for DSD to take a more proactive "treat the cause" approach, providing expert advice on the location of "small houses" or other developments planned for areas with a known flooding risk - it has the data available to do this. Fact: The accurate geographical term for many of Hong Kong's lowland areas is "flood plain" - making it plain that such areas are likely to flood!

Another complication in drainage design is that villagers

often demand drainage works as the drainage channel maintenance roads opens areas of previously inaccessible farmland for "small house" development. These roads also facilitate fly tipping, large-scale dumping and other forms of rural degradation. One of the worst examples of such side effects is at the southeast corner of the buffalo fields at Kam Tin, where all of the above have happened. While these issues are not directly related to flood control, it is certain that considering the negative side-effects of its projects adds further complication to DSD's consultation and design process.

In closing, DSD has recently redrafted its design manual to formally incorporate a number of more ecologically sensitive design features. The new draft was presented to the envNGOs for review after the deadline for this issue, and so will be covered in the next issue.

While the publication of a new manual for drainage design may seem unspectacular, it is important to acknowledge that it is continuing pressure for change from the envNGOs, along with a desire for positive consultation, training and information exchange between DSD and envNGOs over many years that leads to such initiatives.

Such partnerships, especially when they are built through informal and early co-operation (outside the rather confrontational formal consultation process) provide a model for the Hong Kong SAR Administration and the community as a whole to take a more sustainable approach to the preservation of Hong Kong's natural heritage. 

Mai Po

- Lew Young

update

WWF Big Bird Race 2005

WWF's Big Bird Race to raise money for the management of the Mai Po Nature Reserve will take place from 11- 12 March 2005. When the race first began in 1983, the money raised each year was used to take over the *gei wai* at Mai Po so that they could be managed for conservation and for promoting education and awareness of the importance of wetlands and of the wetlands of Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay in particular.

In 1995, after WWF took over management of all the *gei wai* within Mai Po, the funds raised were then used for the upkeep and improvement to the habitats and facilities (e.g. birdwatching hides) inside the reserve. In recent years, 10% of the funds raised were set aside for the building of an extension to the boardwalk and a new floating hide further out in Deep Bay (see below). The remaining 90% of the funds was used for reserve management.

Each year, the Big Bird Race raises about HK\$ 1 million to help with the management and conservation of Mai Po. This represents about 40% of our annual budget and therefore, is a very important fundraising event for the reserve.

If you want further information about this year's Bird Race then please see our website on <http://www.wwf.org.hk>.

Mai Po update

org.hk/eng/involved/activities/big_bird_race/ or if you want to help with the Big Bird Race, then please contact the WWF staff at Mai Po by e-mail maipo@wwf.org.hk or by telephone (2471-6306). Thank you for all your support!!

Reedbed study in *gei wai 8*

The reedbeds at Mai Po are probably one of the largest remaining in Guangdong Province and since January 2001, WWF has been working with the Hong Kong Bird Ringing Group on a study to develop a management strategy for these reedbeds.


Studies in Europe has shown that reedbeds are often most attractive to wildlife when they are some 4-5 years of age, before they contain too many dead stems. In order to see if this is true for the Mai Po reedbeds, different aged 1 hectare size blocks of reeds have been set up in *gei wai 8* by cutting a new block each year since 2002 so that now, there are three blocks of reeds aged 1 to 3 years old. The Hong Kong Ringing Group then carry out a mist-netting study in these different blocks to see how the number and diversity of birds are different.

A fourth and final block of reeds was cut in January 2005 to set up the fourth and youngest block for study. Whilst the reed in this block was cut by Mai Po staff, many dedicated volunteers then had to remove the dead reed by first raking it up and then carrying it off-site for disposal. Next time you are in the Tower Hide, look out in front of you into the reedbed and you will see the new block that has been cut and is now re-growing.

A report on the study will be drafted in 2006 at the end of the study.

Update on the extension to the floating boardwalk

The first draft of the environmental profile to build an extension to the floating boardwalk and a new floating hide further out into Deep Bay has been circulated amongst a number of government departments and scientists for their comments. As a result, the draft is now being revised and it is hope that the proposal can be finalised this year and approved by government.

As mentioned in the last bulletin, HK\$1 million for the project has already been promised by an anonymous donor and the remaining money will come from donations received through the Big Bird Race. 



Professor Gao Yuren




In Memory of Professor Gao Yuren

– C Y Lam

Our good friend Professor Gao Yuren passed away on 6 January 2005. The birds of China have lost a guardian who cared about their survival.

Professor Gao worked at the South China Institute of Endangered Animals for more than twenty years. He made outstanding contributions towards the field study and breeding of Silver Pheasant, Grey Peacock Pheasant and Hainan Partridge. He also did much work on waterbirds. He participated in the Hong Kong Big Bird Race on many occasions, leading teams from China. He was instrumental in initiating the bird-watching movement in Guangdong and in facilitating the interaction among bird-watchers in Hong Kong and the province.

Professor Gao maintained a long-term interest in the preservation of habitats in support of birds. Examples in recent years included: the “last wetland of Guangzhou” viz. the wetland in Xinken County which was affected by the Nansha development zone and the *Euryale ferox* fields of Jiangxi Village in Zhaoqing which supported a population of more 1,000 Pheasant-tailed Jacanas. Whenever the survival of bird species was threatened, we would find Professor Gao campaigning relentlessly. He had to stand up and advocate for the cause of conservation in an atmosphere where most people cared about nothing but “development” and “making money”. In him we found foresight and courage. To him we salute.

Professor Gao has left but the task of conservation is still with us. Let us pay him respect by carrying on with his spirit and working hard to save birds and their habitats. We take the opportunity to convey our condolence to Professor Gao's family. 

About "Roosters", in a "Rooster Year"



– Carrie Ma

There are twelve animal signs in the Chinese Zodiac. The Rooster is the only bird among them. If you look at a world map, China looks like a rooster, standing upright at the Eastern part of the world. There are 276 species of Galliformes in the world, of which China has 60 and Hong Kong has 2.

Galliformes have a beautiful posture, male Galliformes have different plumage from females, their upper mandible upturns and is slightly longer than the lower mandible. They have rounded wings, strong legs and run fast. Sometimes they dig the ground to search for food.

In Hong Kong, the Chinese word "雞 – Gai" (Chicken), generally refers to Galliformes such as francolins and quails, and Gruiformes such as rails.



Chinese Francolin
– Wong Tin Wa

Chinese Francolins: "Come to the Peak... Ha Ha!"

In spring time, a repeated call "Come to the Peak...Ha Ha!" "Do be quick... Ha! Ha!" can be heard among the hills.

Do you think that a human make this noise? Of course not, it is the typical sound of Chinese Francolins. Due to the territorial behaviour of francolins, they like to stand on hill side and make the sound of "Come to the peak" to protect their territories, and sometimes they will fight the trespassers until they leave.

Still remember the crowing of roosters that wake you up in the morning? What do you think if the sound "ko ko ko ko" changed to "Come to the Peak....Ha Ha!"?

Chinese Francolins belong to the rare bird family Phasianidae. They have a conspicuous dark colour upper eyestripe and

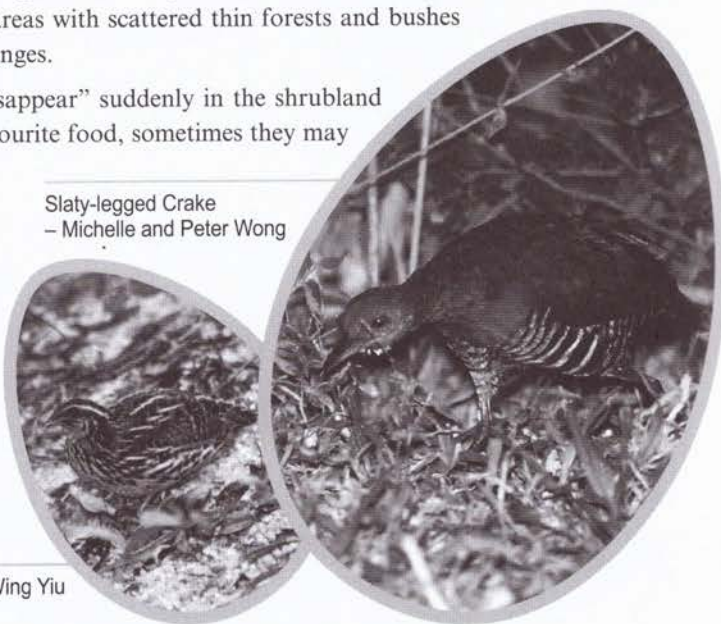
moustachial streak. They have white throat, red legs, and their plumage have numerous dark brown and white markings. They favour thick grass and montane areas with scattered thin forests and bushes such as Tai Mo Shan, Lantau Peak and Pat Sin Ranges.

Francolins are not easy to track; they always "disappear" suddenly in the shrubland after singing. Sprouts, nuts and seeds are their favourite food, sometimes they may also eat insects.

Quails

Talking about quails, you may think of a delicious food - quail eggs, so what are quails?

Quails are the smallest birds in Galliformes. They are not more than 20cm long. They have buffy body with brown markings, yellow and white crown stripe, white supercilium, and a very short inconspicuous tail.



Slaty-legged Crake
– Michelle and Peter Wong

Japanese Quail – Yam Wing Yiu

Water Rail
– Lo Kar Man



Quails are widespread in Eurasia, and different sub-species have developed after a long period of evolution. In Hong Kong, we have the sub-species Japanese Quail.

Japanese Quail is resident in Hong Kong. They love to stay on the ground and never go up to the trees. They are active in dry grassy open farmlands, and undisturbed grasslands and hillsides. They occur in Long Valley, Kam Tin and slopes of suburban areas.

The colour of the plumage of quails is similar to that of dry grass and mud. This advantage allows it to blend in with its environment, a natural camouflage that helps them to hide themselves from predators. Moreover, quails are shy, usually running fast in undergrowth or flying away for short distances.

Quails have skulking behaviour and are not good at flying high. They run and hide themselves in undergrowth when there is in danger. They always flush from underfoot suddenly or fly low for a short distance only when someone approaches them. Sometimes they show up from the bushes, and flee quickly again when they meet people.

Chinese paintings of birds and flowers symbolize “Luck”. In the past, people usually put quails and chrysanthemum together in paintings. The Chinese word for quails, “鷄” (pronounced “an”), sounds like “安” which means stable. The Chinese word for chrysanthemum, “菊” (pronounced “ju”), sounds like “居” which means living. The Chinese term for fallen leaves, “落葉” (pronounced “le ye”), sounds like “樂業”, which means working happily. Taking together, drawings of quails among chrysanthemum and fallen leaves therefore represent the Chinese idiom: “安居樂業”, which means “living a stable life and work happily”.

Unfortunately, the fate of quails is similar to many other birds. In the past ten years, over-hunting has led to a rapid decline. Also, as the areas of farmland decrease rapidly, severe habitat loss threatens their survival. If we keep destroying farmland habitats, can quails still “live a stable and happy life?”

Rubby Crake
– Lo Kar Man



Aquatic chicken?!

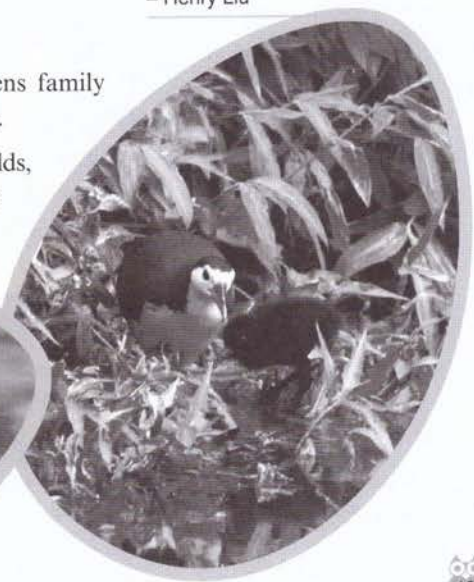
Normally, chickens hate water and are reluctant to swim. But chickens family *Rallidae* love water – they live in the water, some can even swim and dive.

The Chinese name for rails suggests that they are associated with paddy fields, which they do in general. They usually have small body size with long legs and long toes, which enable them to run smoothly on wetland. They are good swimmers that dive under water to search for food. However, rails are weak flyers, they have to patter on the surface to take off. Sometimes their legs are too long to hide when flying, so they have to hang their legs in the air.

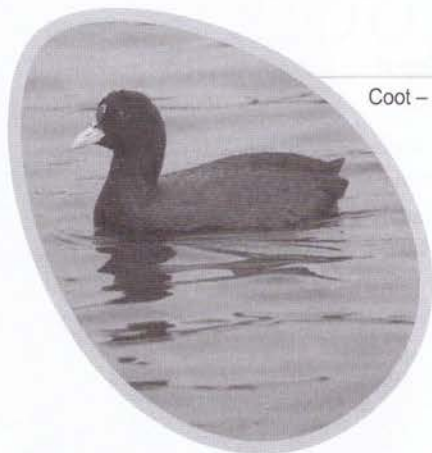


Moorhen – Henry Liu

White-Breasted Waterhen
– Henry Liu



About "Roosters", in a "Rooster Year" (con't)




Coot – Henry Liu

Unlike the "chickens" in the hillside or countryside, rails prefer living near water, reeds, water farm or swamps with waterweeds. Sometimes they appear in the grass near water or cultivated areas. However, rails are difficult to see because they always hide themselves in clumps of grass.

Insects, frogs, snails and worms are their favourite food. Sometimes they also search for seeds or crops. Rails play an important role in the wetland ecosystem. For example, Water Rails (*Rallus aquaticus*) and Ruddy Crake (*Porzana fusca*) love to eat aquatic or benthonic molluscs such as Apple Snail (*Pomacea canaliculata*), and insects etc. They can thus depress the number of pest, keeping a peaceful balance of wetland ecosystem and improving the crop yield.

Some rails like to sing with a loud ringing sound. White breasted Waterhen (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*), also called "Baat Min Gaai" (White-faced Waterhen), keeps singing "kee-wak, kee-wak". It is easy to be heard in farmlands or mangroves. The juveniles of White-breasted Waterhen are black in colour, looking like the cartoon character "Sooty Ghost" which is difficult to observe. Other rail species such as Slaty-legged Crake (*Rallina eurizonoides*) prefer staying in streams and cultivated areas. They sing loudly in spring and autumn with a "bark...bark..." sound.

Next time you visit a wetland, open your eyes and listen carefully, don't miss any "chickens"! 

Take a closer look:

In Hong Kong, the warbler subgroup consists of the following main groups

1 *Bush Warblers:*

Bradypterus, Cettia

2 *Grasshopper Warblers:*

Locustella

3 *Reed Warblers:*


Acrocephalus

4 *Prinias: Prinia*

5 *Leaf Warblers:*

Phylloscopus

Bush Warblers generally have short wings and plain backs, they are great "skulkers". Grasshopper Warblers have streaked backs and rounded tails. Reed Warblers have plain backs and square tails, and are less skulking in comparison. Prinias have short wings and a very long tail, and often have the tail cocked. Leaf Warblers are mostly more greenish and have square tails. They often have markings on the wing. Most of them appear in trees and are therefore relatively easy to see.

When you see a Warbler, the first thing is to identify them into one of the above subgroups. 

鶯 Warblers



2 小蝗鶯 — 譚耀良
Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler – Tam Yiu Leung



4 灰頭鷓鶯 — 呂德恒
Yellow-bellied Prinia – Henry Lui



1 日本樹鶯 — 黃理沛、江敏兒
Japanese Bush Warbler – Michelle and Peter Wong



3 東方大葦鶯 — 夏敖天
Oriental Reed Warbler – Martin Hale



5 灰腳柳鶯/庫頁島柳鶯 — 黃理沛、江敏兒
Pale-legged Leaf Warbler / Sakhalin Leaf Warbler – Michelle and Peter Wong



短耳鴞 — 張浩輝
Short-eared Owl – Cheung Ho Fai

米埔16/17塘 Mai Po pond 16/17, 30/01/2005, Canon 10D,
400mm, F5.6



鷹鴞 — 江敏兒、黃理沛
Brown Hawk Owl – Michelle and
蒲台島 Po Toi Island, 03/04/2004, Canon



領角鴞 — 何萬邦
Collared Scops Owl – Marcus Ho

紅花嶺 Robin Nest, 06/11/2004, Canon 20D, 300mm + 1.4x



Peter Wong
20D, 600mm F4



林夜鷹 — 柯嘉敏
Savanna Nightjar – Or Ka Man Carmen

打鼓嶺 Tai Kwu Leng, 22/10/2004 7.00pm-11.00pm, 10D, 300mm, 1.4x, 550EX



斑頭鴞 — 譚耀良
Asian Barred Owlet – Tam Yiu Leung

塱原 Long Valley, 01/10/2004, Nikon 995, Leica telescope APO77



斑頭鴞 — 國仔
Asian Barred Owlet – Kwok Jai

上水丙岡 Ping Kong, Sheung Shui, 12/01/2005,
Nikon 995, Leica telescope



松樹躲躲貓 / 紅角鴞 — 貓頭夜鷹
Pine Tree Peekaboo / Oriental Scops Owl – Owlet-nightjar

九龍坑山 Cloudy Hill, 02/11/2005, Canon 20, 400mm DO



褐魚鴞 Brown Fish Owl – 壞蛋 1 號

白泥 Pak Nai, 28/10/2004, DSLR Canon EOS 10D
(with 550EX Speedlite), EF 400mm f5.6L USM



褐魚鴞 — 徐智建
Brown Fish Owl – William Tsui

大欖涌 Tai Lam Chung, 24/03/2005, U4R+Leica

Education Sector Bird Race -

“World Wetlands Day Junior Bird Race”

– Text: Carrie Ma / Photos: Henry Lui, Carrie Ma, BWA

Falling on 2 February each year, the “World Wetlands Day” is celebrated worldwide by a rich variety of activities that highlight the importance of wetland conservation.

The beginning of international wetland conservation can be traced back to 2 February 1971, when the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance

Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Convention on Wetlands) was signed at the city of Ramsar in Iran. World Wetlands Day was established by the Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention at the 25th anniversary in 1996. Starting from 1997, a special theme was assigned to the event each year:

- 2005 Cultural and Biological Diversity
- 2004 From the Mountains to the Sea, Wetlands at Work for Us
- 2003 No Wetlands – No Water
- 2002 Wetlands: Water, Life and Culture
- 2001 Wetland World – A World to Discover
- 2000 Celebrating our Wetlands of International Importance
- 1999 People and Wetlands: the Vital Link
- 1998 Only One Drop of Water
- 1997 Wetlands and the Community

Junior Bird Race

This year the Society continued to assist AFCD in organizing the Junior Bird Race for the fifth time to celebrate the World Wetlands Day. Up to 240 secondary school teachers and students participated in the programme, which included lectures,

workshops and field trips, concluding finally with a birdwatching race.

The site for the race was moved from Mai Po Nature Reserve to the Hong Kong Wetland Park and Tsim Bei Tsui, giving us an opportunity to check the birds at the Park before it is open to the public. The change of venue helped to bring in more challenges and variations in terms of habitat, bird species, time allocation and choice of strategies. Participants were required to devise an optimum route that gave the highest species counts among the mangroves, mudflats, fish ponds, tidal ponds, inter-tidal areas, scrubs, woods, open fields and river banks in the area.

After the race, all participants returned to the Wetland Park to review and then submit their records. As souvenirs were presented to the teams, experienced birders were busy checking the log books and querying some of the reports. Black-faced Spoonbill, Eurasian Spoonbill, White-bellied Sea Eagle and Osprey were noted around the Wetland Park. The top five teams came up with 52 to 62 species. They came from (in arbitrary order):

- St. Stephen's Church College (1 team)
- Baptist Wing Lung Secondary School (2 teams)
- Immanuel Lutheran College (2 teams)

Through the series of challenging training sessions and the race itself, students could understand more about wetlands and birds as well as developing team spirit. We hope that they will share with others what they have learnt.

Anything at fish ponds? – BWA

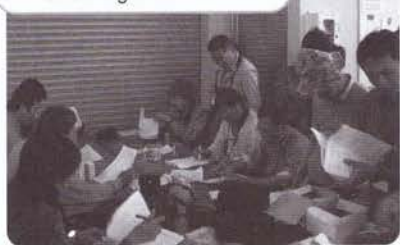


Looking for birds at tidal ponds – BWA

Training Workshop – Carrie Ma



Checking the records



From a hide at the Wetland Park

Prize giving




- Photo: Carrie Ma

Tsim Bei Tsui and Hong Kong Wetland Park

Tsim Bei Tsui is one of Hong Kong's birdwatching hotspots. Readily accessible from Yuen Long by Light Rail or minibuses, you can enjoy birdwatching in a short trip in the afternoon. An additional attraction will come when the Wetland Park opens next year.

Since anyone can go to Tsim Bei Tsui without a permit (except for vehicles), there is a risk that the wetland ecology there may be disturbed. So keep an eye on the situation while in the area. Perhaps we may share the birds with visitors, provide advice against littering and use of loudhailers, etc.

Please report any illegal trapping to AFCD and give details about the time and location. Tel: 2471 4411 (Mai Po AFCD Warden), fax: 2377 4427. 

White-bellied Sea Eagle



Black-faced Spoonbill

- Photo: Henry Lui



Group photo - Henry Lui

Lake Poyang region holds arguably the largest area of freshwater wetland in Southern China. In the rainy months the lake acts as a buffer for the erratic overflow of the Yangtze River. During the drier winter months the area of the lake shrinks, exposing huge tracts of seasonal reedbeds, marshes and grasslands. The wetlands attract many endangered waterfowl species as well as other passerines, and it is after these that six of us set out under the lead of JS Lam, an experienced local birdwatching guide.

19th Dec

We arrived at North Nanchang Airport by noon. The weather was warm at 15°C. A veil of heavy fog haunted the horizon; lumps of construction waste met our eyes along the wide driveways. Modern Chinese buildings, characterised by catchy slogans written everywhere along with public education banners hung over the road, failed to deter Silky Starlings, which scouted the airport in hundreds. The commonest bird, however, was Long-tailed Shrike - hardly a surprise, but the high population density in the region was remarkable.

As we charged through the country Mr. Lam's sharp eyes picked out lots of birds on the way, and he must be praised for his skill in identifying with his naked eyes virtually every bird we encountered, as he drove the van. Distant flocks of Yellow-billed Grosbeaks were a common winter sight along farmland wires that he chose to bypass. Common Buzzards and Kestrels were noted perching close to the highway - these, being the two dominant raptors of the trip, still received plenty of attention. Doves and Starlings abound, and were duly pointed out. Northern Lapwings fed in the harvested fields. A Red-legged Crake was a joy to watch, toddling in the mud like a precocious baby. Four Masked Buntings and a Rustic Bunting accosted us, feeding at the centre of a rugged road, the latter standing out with her characteristic short crest and white hind-crown.

By 15:00 the sky had grown rather intimidating, but we made our way into one of many reserves set up at the edge of Lake Poyang to minimise human disturbance to wild birds. Driving up a dyke, we looked over NanJiShan Reserve. This year the water levels were low due to drought and the Three Gorges Dam construction, and waterfowl congregations were generally distant. Nevertheless as we entered the reserve 3 gorgeous male Ring-necked Pheasants were flushed, showing the green rump of the local

subspecies. A crude vehicle ferry took us across a stream into the reserve, a desolate-looking world of marshland with power lines stretched all over the place, yet retaining the calibre of wilderness.

Poyang is renowned for her wintering water birds. We spotted over 100 Oriental Storks and 4 Common Cranes, dwarfing Grey Herons that easily outnumbered them. Geese have chosen to roost closer to the centre of the lake, or whatever puddle the Great Poyang Lake has shrunk to; all but a mixed flock of 100 remained out of sight, and these were represented by Greylag, Bean and White-fronted Geese. 3 Eastern Marsh Harriers soared with vigour and landed at the waterfront. Over 200 Spot-billed Ducks dominated the visible flocks of smaller waterfowl, despite our low expectations caused by the foggy weather. An echelon of 30 Tundra Swans surprised us as they honked overhead. Secretive Great Bitterns lost their defense as they moved in the reeds and Mr. Lam picked out two of them.

Highlight of the day must go to the well-promised specialty, Japanese Marsh Warbler, which Lam lured out with extraordinary pishing skills. On this calm day over 6 called back in response, and one perched motionless on a reed stem, warranting close scrutiny. (See photo ! - Ed.) This species of grass warbler is an elusive, localised migrant that visits the Poyang area only in winter. Breeding in Manchuria, the Chinese subspecies *sinensis* winters exclusively in the reedbeds and grasslands of the Lower Yangtze Basin. Its truncated supercilium and full, graduated tail is characteristic of *Locustella* Warblers. These birds are by no means easy to see well, and require a great deal of attention. After the encounter we watched the only extrovert passerines in the area - the Pipits. Buff-bellied Pipits, with a sooty horseshoe on the breast, took residence both on the dry lakebed and back in the farmlands. Water Pipit was a paler bird with sparser markings, and preferred freshwater marshes, so it was



Common Cranes like to go in flocks, visiting fields with short harvested crops.



This Pied Kingfisher gave us the insuperable honour of proximity.



Japanese Marsh Warbler is supremely camouflaged and well hidden, but when isolated as shown it is a cute little passerine.



Scaly-sided Mergansers are unique in their strict habitat requirements, but seemed to be fairly easy to find in suitable sites.



Black-winged kite performs its acrobatics close to our vans.

rather curious that we saw one only feeding on the road. It grew dark quickly after 17:00.

20th Dec

The fog had partially lifted when 2 Kwans joined 4 Kos, making up the full 6 members. We made for the highway towards Wuyuan round the southern tip of the lake, watching birds on the way. Oriental Greenfinches came in large flocks, feeding with Buff-bellied Pipits in the fields and on the road, both exceeding 50. 20 Thrush-like Northern Skylarks circled above us and dropped into oblivion in distant fields, showing the white outer tail feathers as they alighted. A beautiful male Dusky Thrush and a Hoopoe that flapped its

wings in an extraordinary frenzy failed to escape the eagle-eyed Mr. Lam. A Pied Kingfisher perched within 15m of our car was shot hastily as it happily posed. Even the smallest of birds caught our guide's attention as the van sped at 60 km/hr. 5 Red-headed Tits, petite and hyperactive, romped as close as could be. The open fields held mixed flocks of Greenfinches, Bramblings and Russet Sparrows - the Sparrows came in hundreds, and the close ones exemplified sexual dimorphism, whereby the male had a brilliant rufous crown and the female sported milky brows. Another flock contained over 100 Grosbeaks, 10 Bramblings and 20 Pipits. The sharp-eyed could see a little pinecone stuck to the wire that actually was nothing of the sort but an Asian

Barred Owl, staring at the observers with a clairvoyant countenance, with brow lowered and tail slowly wagging like a pendulum, trying to hypnotise its admirers. Rustic Buntings showed well with the Russet Sparrows half an hour down the road, and winter males held the gorgeous template for summer. A hovering Black-winged Kite triggered excitement. We had a luscious vegetarian lunch, literally made from the cream of the crop, and then set off along a sect of the country that an unpolluted river traversed. The banks of the river were lightly wooded in parts and bordered by uncontaminated farmlands. The lucid, flowing water constituted an ideal environment for the critically endangered Scaly-sided Merganser, which winter in Southern China after breeding in summer in Manchuria. Along the river we counted over 30 of them, all with long shaggy crests and large flank scales. We recorded almost 1% of the global population of this precious species! Mr. Lam has been watching these ducks for quite a few years, and he told us about the strict habitat requirements of the species, which contributed to its scarcity. On the other hand, we were astounded at the proximity to human habitation that the Mergansers chose to live. Night fell hard and we prepared for an early departure that night.

21st Dec

Morning fog showed us an angelic facade of the most beautiful village in China, Wuyuan. The semi-visible fields across the crystal-clear river upon which 10 wild Mandarin ducks splattered and swam were a divine

painting, unmarred as a fisherman propelled his raft silently along the opposite bank. We found up to 20 of these natural palettes, again in male-female pairs, which probably gave rise to the enchanting thought that these beautiful waterfowl are loyal to their partners. At the renowned site for the locally distributed Pied Falconet, Qiaoqi, which lay 30km away, we took great pains to locate this conspicuous yet distinctively charismatic bird. Before the Falconets appeared, Great Barbets caught our attention from the canopy of a distant deciduous tree. Hard to see well, the Barbet called and hopped about heavily, showing a subdued rainbow plumage. A Blackbird and a Dusky Thrush perched nearby, surveying their wintering grounds. A moment of infinite thrill came when Mr. Lam picked out a Falconet in mid-air - perched 2km away on a power line at least 100m from the ground! Later we were able to find a party of 4 on the same perch behind a small restaurant by a calm emerald river. As they pumped their heads by rote we filled our eyes with their handsomeness for a while in this warm, misty morning.

Crested Kingfishers fished above the dry riverbeds even as the river was reduced to creeks in winter. As we left the site for Lake Sai, over 200km away, we began highway birding again. A Kestrel carrying a bundle of twigs in his feet flew past our van, indicating nesting activity. Lam brought the van to an abrupt halt and pointed out a Woodpecker 300m away climbing on a log at the top of a hill, which we decreed later to be a Grey-capped Woodpecker, one of the smallest local species.



◀ Storks are the commonest huge waders in Poyang.

It would be justifiable to hop ahead in time for between 9:00 and 15:00 we were traveling with expectation. Wetlands near Lake Sai held a Greenshank, some Grosbeaks and Starlings, and a 25-Tundra Swan-echelon flew tantalisingly across the highway. Lake Sai itself would have been the prime site for Cranes and Geese due to the geography of the Lake - observers could watch these wildfowl at an incredibly close 20m when the water level in the lake was low. We had a high day but European Spoonbills and Spot-billed Ducks were present along with 2 Mallards, and a selection of common water birds. We barely had enough time to visit another site, Shahushan, before the sun left us forlorn, but Mr. Lam was determined to make the effort. There we awoke to the sense of birds all around us in this desolate village, beyond which dark green grassland rolled all the way to the water's edge into the mist. Thousands of Geese were feeding and roosting for the evening on the Grass, and we contented ourselves with the sight of them. A Hoopoe gave brief views but the encounter was relished. We examined the flocks of White-fronted Geese with our telescopes and soon found for ourselves Swan Geese in tens. This species is the ancestor of domesticated Geese, but is also now much the rarest species of Goose by numbers, as hunting persisted throughout its breeding range in Northern China. We had a rough count of 100. Oriental Storks and Tundra Swans were distant. Mr. Lam suddenly heard the cry of a Crane, sounding like a dog's plaintive bark. It did not take long, with this directional inkling, to locate a flock of 30 White-naped Crane pecking at great distance. The fog reduced the visibility but the distinctive neck pattern of the Crane was unmistakable once pointed out, and we left content with the overcast sky behind us.

22nd Dec

The last day saw us revisiting Nanjishan. This was a pivotal day for everybody as a cold front arrived at Jiangxi, and the temperature plunged below 5°C. An early surprise came before we entered the reserve in the form of 50 Common Cranes taxiing around the stubble fields just outside the reserve. Their backs white against the sky, they flapped lugubriously across the fields and


settled briefly before shifting around in subdued excitement. Upon entry into the reserve we detected Geese formations everywhere in the sky, and in roosting flocks we found many Greylags and Beans. A lone Swan Goose was present. A Marsh Harrier harassed the flock of Coot without making a catch, and Oriental Storks and Cranes paid raptors no attention at all while a Greylag fought back as the Harrier tried to land on its back. The cold day saw a profusion of Water Pipits in the exposed mud. Active feeders, they scuttled around as we watched with enjoyment. With ghostly whitish wing linings, they were even reminiscent of Wagtails. Other passerines loathed the cold, and the Japanese Marsh Warblers hid at the very bottom of reedbeds without appearing once even lured with pishing - Mr. Lam said the birds must have thought that he was crazy as one of their kind to call in such inclement weather.

The reserve was huge. As we made our way through the burnt patches of golden grass we came to a stretch of the road where narrow ponds flanked the road. A shout of 'Water Rail' alerted the whole van, and the Rail was just obliging enough to show the whole of its body in a confused frenzy, showing the rouged lower mandible and thick white bands on the flanks. 3 Hoopoes flying up from the bumper of our van sent thrills down our spines for we had stopped to watch Pipits. Mr. Lam later drove us past the village in which we were to have lunch later, and we came to a dry basin, a part of the lake bottom where the shortest of grass grew, ideal for Northern Skylarks, 2 of which we saw. Greatest dip went to the Penduline Tit that Mr. Lam pointed out but nobody save him was quick enough to pick up the nuances of flight actions that led him to announce the finding. At the village Mr. Lam found a female Magpie Robin, potential first for the area. The lunch compensated partly for the relentless cold, and we started off for the waterfowl again, this time resting our eyes on a flock of Pintail, but range precluded scrutiny. By 15:00 we had only the 'Bunting lane' to try out, which was a scrubby path extending along the dyke of NanJiShan.

Bunting lane it surely was, for in the drizzle and bitterness the Buntings were not discouraged from

appearing but turned even more restless. With Sparrows several Rustic Buntings appeared, with Masked Buntings and as we later discovered, a Little Bunting in that mixed flock. These winter Buntings came and went and left the slopes of the dyke rather silent until a Black-winged Kite, we suddenly realised, sprang up from a perch as close to the van as 10m. A second one hopped into the air when our van stopped. Untroubled, the Kites hovered in search of frogs and rodents above the rich wetland below the slope. As we returned from the end of the Bunting lane, a flock of 5 Buntings entered a bush just by the van. 3 were gorgeous male Yellow-throated Buntings, dabs of yellow, apricot and brown filling us with rapture. Black-winged Kites continued to give great views as they approached the van, intent on searching for food. We thought the rain would shut off birding for the last day, but we were

wrong. Red-legged Crakes, Daurian Redstarts, Yellow-billed Grosbeaks hopped out in the rain. The most exciting bird of the trip came late - a snowy-rumped male Hen Harrier crossed our path within 10m and swiftly flapped away in imperial determination. Within one minute a second one came exactly the same way and passed near the van, bringing us to another halt, and this time the bird was generous enough to linger for a bit, showing the trailing edge shadow and inked wingtip as we were left with all the precious memories and a pleasant feeling of chill for the next group due to visit this brilliant birdwatching area. The cold front, Mr. Lam maintained, heralded good birding.

I would like to bring the report to an end by thanking Mr. JS Lam for his excellent guidance, as I believe all his 'clients' and friends must agree, and by wishing all dear birders Happy New Year and good birding. 

The Birds of Xavier Retreat House & Cheung Chau – John C. Coghlan, S.J.

In October 2004 I spent eight days in Xavier Retreat House for my annual retreat. On many previous occasions I have done my annual retreat in Xavier Retreat House, have had some holidays there and lived there for two years from 1959 to 1961. In this article I wish to share with Xavier House retreatants some of the glories of the house and Cheung Chau itself. I refer to the bird life of the island. The article is divided into three parts. The first part will detail the birds I saw or heard on my retreat this year. The second part will tell of the birds I have seen or heard on other occasions and the third part will list the additional birds one "should" be able to see based on information in "The Avifauna of Hong Kong" (Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Hong Kong 2001).



Before sharing with you the birds I have so much enjoyed I make four points. (1) From my observation there is some variation in the bird life of Cheung Chau according to the different times of the year. (2) Not all the birds I mention were seen or heard around the retreat house. To the best of my ability I will indicate where I saw or heard them. (3) The English names of the birds have been taken from "Birds of Hong Kong" by Clive Viney and Karen Philips (4th Ed. 1988 Government Printer). This is because I am more familiar with this book. Where there is a difference I will give in brackets the names used in "The Avifauna of Hong Kong".

Part 1 – October 2004

On the first day of my retreat (18/10) I saw a pair of Magpies (Common Magpie) on the roof of the Jesuit community house. On that day too, as on every other day I saw some Black Kites soaring and circling effortlessly above the retreat house. These birds can be seen in many places over Hong Kong. They are especially eye catching over the harbour. On a walk to Sai Wan I saw a party of Black Faced Laughing Thrushes (Masked Laughingthrush), some Magpie Robins (Oriental Magpie Robin) and, of course, some Tree Sparrows (Eurasian Tree Sparrow). All these three

can certainly be seen or heard around the retreat house.

During the retreat I regularly saw Spotted Doves around the house. As they fly off you can see their two white tail feathers and you will hear the sharp crack of their wings.

Next day I saw a member of the Warbler family in the big hibiscus bush beside the community house but I couldn't make out which warbler it was. All around the house and the island one can see the Chinese Bulbul and I didn't fail to see one during my retreat. One afternoon over near Naam Tam I saw the very handsome Violet Whistling Thrush (Blue Whistling Thrush). It fans its tail continuously and is usually seen near steep, rocky stream beds. A few minutes later I saw two sizable flocks of Spotted Munias (Scaly-breasted Munias) near the Salesian Retreat House and then near Kwun Yam Wan a White Wagtail.

Practically every day I heard the Hwameis singing on the slope going down to the sea in front of the house. Hwameis have a striking white line over their eyes. Coming near the end of my retreat I saw a Greater Coucal and two Drongos near the path down to Baak Tso Wan. Later I saw another Greater Coucal in the trees around the retreat house.

One evening when I was on the roof of the retreat house I heard the familiar call of the Jungle Crow (Large-billed Crow) and then saw it flying over towards Lutheran Village.

To my great delight I saw some Blue Magpies in the

trees in front of the main door on the last day of my retreat. Their arrival was heralded by quite a lot of excitement among the other birds. Shortly after I heard and saw a Black-necked Starling (Black-collared Starling) in the same trees.

Finally on a return visit to Cheung Chau on November 6th I saw two Reef Egrets (Pacific Reef Egret) on a mooring post in the harbour. I had previously seen a Reef Egret quite frequently on the rocks in Baak Tso Waan.

Part 2

I was surprised not to see any Crested Mynahs or Crested Bulbuls (Red-whiskered Bulbuls) during my retreat. Normally they are very common around the retreat house. Between March and June you should hear the Koel uttering his ascending call. Koels are rather shy and difficult to see. During the summer you are also likely to hear and sometimes see the Indian Cuckoo. It seems to call out again and again "One More Bottle" One night some years ago an Indian Cuckoo seemed to spend the whole night volleying his call around the echoing walls of the retreat house. Other birds I regularly saw around the retreat house were White Eyes (Japanese White-eye) and Long-tailed Tailorbirds (Common Tailorbirds).

One day several years ago I had a wonderful view from the high path above Kun Yam Wan of a Kestrel beneath me hovering for several minutes looking for some prey on the hill slope. Not surprisingly I have seen some Common Sandpipers in various places around the coast. Below the Salesian Retreat House some years ago I saw a Blue Rock Thrush. Two years ago when Xavier Retreat House was closed for renovation I did my retreat in the Salesian Retreat House. One night to my complete surprise I found what I am pretty sure was a Banded Rail crouched on a concrete path. It seemed to have been mesmerized by a very bright light. It allowed me to pick it up and stroke its beautiful feathers. It walked off quite calmly when I put it back on its feet.

Over near the Garden of Remembrance on the upper road to Sai Wan there used to be a rather swampy patch of ground. One day I saw a White-breasted Waterhen coming out of the reedy grass. It gave me a great thrill to see it. I doubt if there any around now. In that same general area on a small flat piece of land near Lutheran Village I saw a pair of Lesser Coucals. They




seemed to be performing some kind of an elaborate mating dance.

It is amusing to note that Fr Leung's efforts to keep some goldfish in the little pool in the center of the retreat house were thwarted by a Kingfisher which on one occasion before his very eyes dived down from the roof to catch one of the fish. I have seen White-Breasted Kingfishers (White-throated Kingfisher) in various places around the island coast.

Finally at different times and in different places, I have seen the Yellow Bellied Wren-Warbler (Yellow-bellied Prinia) swaying on a tall stem of grass as it poured out its rather chaotic song.

Part III

I will be very brief in this part. These are some more birds you "should" be able to see or hear in Cheung Chau or even around the retreat house. I just don't recall having seen either Swallows (Barn Swallow) or House Swifts (Little Swifts) on the island. They must certainly be there. You may have the luck to see the magnificent White Bellied Sea-Eagle from the ferry between Lantao and Cheung Chau. I have regularly seen one over Cape Collinson. Finally, I may be only dreaming but I think I saw a Pied Kingfisher between the harbour and Sai Wan. Maybe I just wanted to see one!

I am sure there are other birds in Cheung Chau that I haven't seen or heard. I hope as you enjoy God's gifts to you in the retreat house you will thank Him for the wonderful birds he has given us. 

"Guide to Yunnan Birds"

in Chinese 中國雲南野生鳥類

- edited by 中國科學院昆明動物研究所

Yunnan, with more than 850 bird species recorded, is possibly the richest birding province in China. Apart from its distinctive geographic location, this is also due to its varied altitude, landscape and seasonality. Yunnan's attractiveness is not limited to its birds, but also to its local culture and its scenery. In recent years, more and more bird watchers have been attracted by Yunnan and at the same time, various useful reference books like 「中國鳥類野外手冊」(馬敬能 等2000, 湖南教育出版社)、雲南鳥類誌(楊嵐 等1995, 雲南科技出版社), A Field Guide to the Birds of Southeast Asia (Robson 2000, New Holland) have been published. This 2004 book named 「中國雲南野生鳥類」, which contains accounts of nearly 420 species, under 6 categories (water birds, waders, land birds, raptors, climbing birds and singing birds), with colour photos, is not only a common photographic guide to birds but also a book about the ecology of the birds there. With the carefully chosen photos, the writer details the relationship between the birds and the geography and climate there and helps to deepen readers' understanding of this "paradise of birds". Without doubt, this book should be one of the treasures of every bird watcher - one that is read at home but is too heavy for use "in the field". 「雲南野生鳥類」- 8 volumes and 280 pages in total, RMB260, published by 中國林業出版社出版, ISBN: 7-5038-3861-2. 



■ These are unchecked records Members are reminded of the importance of submitting all records on cards or electronically.

October 04 (last 10 days)

October continued to be good for birds to the end of the month. On 22nd-23rd, a Black Stork, a Pied Harrier, two Amur Falcons, a Water Rail, 50 Yellow-breasted and one Common Reed Bunting (the earliest ever, PJJ), and an Oriental Greenfinch (a rare report away from the Sha Tin area) were all found at Mai Po. Also noted on these days were a Baillon's Crake at Long Valley (SLT) and a Citrine Wagtail at Kam Tin.

At Lamma Island, 22 Hair-crested Drongos and two Black-naped Orioles were noted on 23rd and a Crested Honey Buzzard on 29th (GS), whilst in Tai Po Kau up to four Pygmy Wren Babblers and a Slaty-backed Forktail were present.

Most Brown Fish Owl records are from Sai Kung and the Eastern NT, so discovery of a Brown Fish Owl in the western NT on the 28th was a pleasant surprise (J&JH, LHT).

Following the discovery of a Nordmann's Greenshank on 25th, an influx was evident at Mai Po on 31st when two Pied Harriers, a Ruddy Crake, 20 Rubythroats, six Chinese Penduline Tits and a Brambling were all reported (PJJ). A White Wagtail *lugens* was found at Kam Tin on the same date (JA).

November 04

This was a warm and dry month.

Kam Tin hosted a good variety of birds throughout the month, including up to two Radde's Warblers from 1st, two Yellow-browed Buntings (JA), two Citrine Wagtails and up to 30 Chinese Grosbeaks from 2nd, a twitchable Hume's Leaf Warbler during 4th-7th (PJJ) and two rather late Purple-backed Starlings on 6th.

At Cloudy Hill, which was visited regularly at night during October and November, an Oriental Scops Owl was seen on 2nd (J&JH).

A young Greater White-fronted Goose, a potential first record for Hong Kong, was an exciting discovery at the managed KCR ponds at Lok Ma Chau on 8th (MRL). It was seen most days in this area until 15th, when sadly it was found dead, apparently of natural causes.

During 16th-20th, Mountain Tailorbirds suddenly became evident at Tai Po Kau, Ng Tung Chai, Tai Po Kau Headland (R&KB) and near Tai Po. Other noteworthy reports during this period included a Chestnut-flanked White-eye and up to two Chestnut-crowned Warblers at Tai Po Kau (YYT), an adult Imperial Eagle soaring over She Shan (rare report outside Deep Bay, EMSK), 75 Chinese Blackbirds and four Lesser Shortwings at Ng Tung Chai (EMSK), two Black Storks over Palm Springs (PJJ), an unusually late Arctic Warbler at Plover Cove (RWL), two Common Rosefinches at Kadoorie FBG and a Grey Nightjar at Cloudy Hill (J&JH).

A pair of adult White-bellied Sea-eagles became established at Nam Sang Wai at this time, one of the adults was noted carrying a Pied Avocet on 23rd (EMSK), and there were hopes that the pair might nest there.

In the last week of the month, 305 Black-faced Spoonbills, a new high count, were at Mai Po. Reports from Mai Po on 26th-27th included a Black-winged Kite, a Baikal Teal and a Blunt-winged Warbler (PJJ), whilst a Daurian Jackdaw was present nearby at Lut Chau. Elsewhere, there were reports of a Japanese Robin, a Mountain Bulbul and an unidentified Spectacled Warbler at Ng Tung Chai (EMSK), a male White-throated Rock Thrush, a Forest Wagtail and 50 Striated Yuhinas at Tai Po Kau, and a further Forest Wagtail at Kowloon Hills Catchment.

The month ended with the discovery of a female Thick-billed Pigeon, only the fourth record, at Ha Fa Shan, Tsuen Wan. It was ensconced in a large fig tree *Ficus virens* which was fruiting copiously.

December 04

Until the last week of the month when it was cold, December was unusually warm. Thrushes and bluetails were much scarcer than usual.

The Thick-billed Pigeon continued to be reported at Ha Fa Shan on a daily basis up to 5th and then intermittently until 20th.

The only other significant reports of the first week of the month were of two Baer's Pochards at the managed KCR ponds at Lok Ma Chau and two Falcated Ducks and three Greater Scaups at Ma Tso Lung (JA).

On 8th, three unusually late Lanceolated Warblers were at Shuen Wan (RWL).

Tai Po Kau, whilst not holding anything like the usual numbers of Pallas's Warblers, bluetails or thrushes, nevertheless hosted birds of interest throughout the month, including two Mountain Bulbuls, the White-throated Rock Thrush, a Slaty-backed Forktail, a Chestnut-crowned Warbler, at least two Spectacled Warblers (not positively identified) and a large Striated Yuhina flock. The discovery of at least two Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrushes among the usual Greater Necklaces on 9th was a surprise (RWL, EMSK). These birds showed the yellow eyes of the subspecies *melli*, which occurs in Guangdong. Towards the month's end, a Japanese Robin was found (YYT).

Modern-day rarities in the Deep Bay area during the last three weeks of the month were a Black-winged Kite, five Falcated Duck, a Greater Scaup and a Common Pochard at Ma Tso Lung, a Baikal Teal, six Gadwall, a Mandarin Duck (on 24th, EMSK), two Ferruginous Ducks (27th, EMSK), three Greater Scaup and a Buff-bellied Pipit, all at Mai Po, a Red-breasted Merganser at Tsim Bei Tsui, the over-wintering first-winter Daurian Jackdaw at Lut Chau, and ten Grey-headed Lapwings and six Common Starlings at Kam Tin.

A mass release of cage birds at Chung Mei around 28th or 29th, apparently religiously motivated, led to the distressing sight of very many dead or dying birds there (mainly Russett Sparrows and Bearded Tits) in the following days.


The month and year ended with sightings of up to two (wild) Plumbeous Redstarts at Chung Mei and a Japanese Grosbeak with 20 Chinese Grosbeaks and three Common Rosefinches at Hang Tau.








January 05

The Japanese Grosbeak found at Hang Tau on the last day of December remained until at least 5th.

Despite a prolonged cold spell, no bluetails and very few thrushes were reported, with the notable exception of at Chek Keng on 8th where 20 Grey Thrushes were logged.

Birds of interest reported in the Deep Bay area in the first half of the month included a Falcated Duck, a Baikal Teal, a Ruddy Crake, up to eight Northern Lapwings, a Nordmann's Greenshank, a Ruff, a Long-billed Dowitcher, an Eastern Curlew and a Daurian Jackdaw, all at or near Mai Po, two Dalmatian Pelicans, a record 1625 Tufted Duck (RWL), two Greater Scaups, two Common Pochards and a single Saunders's Gull (EMSK, PH), all in Deep Bay, and two Buff-bellied Pipits at Kam Tin.

Elsewhere during this period there were reports of a Forest Wagtail, two Mountain Bulbuls, a Slaty-backed Forktail, the male White-throated Rock Thrush and the Striated Yuhina flock, all at Tai Po Kau, the over-wintering male Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush at Kadoorie FBG, single Grey Bushchats beside Sha Tau Kok Road (EMSK) and at Mui Wo (PA), and an unidentified Spectacled Warbler at Ng Tung Chai. 

Date	Leader / Speaker	Activity / Details	Time	Difficulty
7 & 8 May (Sat & Sun)	WONG Tin Wa LEE Ronley	Lamma Island (overnight camp) 14:45 Central Ferry Pier No.4 (To Sok Kwu Wan). Return at the following day afternoon (Member \$120, Non-member \$150)* *Includes a BBQ Dinner, Camping fee & Breakfast (next day) only. 	14:45 – 13:00 (The next day)	XX
7 May (Sat)	Hung Lai Yung Chek Yau Wing Crested Bulbul Club Leader	Long Valley ** 08:30 Sheung Shui Station Maxim's Fast Food Restaurant	08:00 – 13:30	X
15 May (Sun)	CHEUNG Ho Fai CHEUNG Jose Alberto CHOW Ada MA Carrie	Mai Po   08:00 Kowloon Tong MTR Station (Kent Road exit) or 09:00 Mai Po carpark, coach leaves at 15:00 and back to Kowloon Tong at 16:00	08:00 – 16:00	XX
29 May (Sun)	FONG Forrest LI Wai Ki CHAN Ming Ming CHAN Miranda	Mai Po   08:00 Kowloon Tong MTR Station (Kent Road exit) or 09:00 Mai Po carpark, coach leaves at 15:00 and back to Kowloon Tong at 16:00	08:00 – 16:00	XX
5 June (Sun)	HO Man Fai LEE Nicola	Small Group Activities: Shing Mun Reservoir For members only; Limited to 8 members only; Please reserve the place by sending email to membership@hkbws.org.hk 	08:00 – 13:00	XX
8 June (Wed)	CHAN Alan	Indoor Meeting <Tern Watching in HK> Room 1107, Hong Kong Scout Centre, Scout Path, Austin Rd, Kowloon (Member \$10, Non-member \$30) 	19:00 – 20:30	
18 June (Sat)	Chen Chi Po Hon So Wong Chiu Shu Crested Bulbul Club Leader	Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve ** 08:00 Tai Po Kau carpark (Tsung Tsai Yuen)	08:30 – 14:00	XX
29 June (Wed)	YU Yat Tung	Indoor Meeting <BFS Survey in HK> Room 902, Hong Kong Scout Centre, Scout Path, Austin Rd, Kowloon (Member \$10, Non-member \$30)	19:00 – 20:30	

** Crested Bulbul Club Activity –
These activities are lead by elderly nature interpreters, members are welcome to join with elderly members of the family.





Transportation arrangement



Please fill in the booking slip and return

Coming Activities

Date	Leader / Speaker	Activity / Details	Time	Difficulty
3 July (Sun)	LO Jacob FONG Forrest	Boat Trip: Mirs Bay and Eastern Waters 08:15 start at Ma Liu Shiu Pier One hour at Tap Mun for lunch 17:00 finish at Sai Kung Pier   (Member \$150, Non-member \$200) <i>Note: this will be a long trip on open waters. The ride could be quite rough and some people may get seasick. Those who want to leave at lunchtime may take the ferry (departing hourly) at Tap Mun for Wong Shek Pier. The fare is non-refundable irrespective of early departure at Tap Mun.</i>	08:00 – 17:00	XXX
13 July (Wed)	Speaker to be announced	Indoor Meeting: <Experience Sharing: After pressing the button (Digital image processing with Photoshop)> Room 1113, Hong Kong Scout Centre, Scout Path, Austin Rd, Kowloon (For members only, fee: \$10)	19:00 – 21:00	
16 July (Sat)	Wong Lai Yee 2479 8423 9193 0525 Tsang Wah 2720 9503 Leung Kwok Wa 2469 8423 Crested Bulbul Club Leader	Tap Mun ** 08:15 LRT University Station Maxim's Fast Food Restaurant	08:30 – 14:00	X

Tern Surveys

Assembly: Sai Kung Public Pier

Finish at Aberdeen

Open to members of HKBWS only. The rent for the boat will be shared among the participants, at about \$50 each.

Note: We will not land enroute, so please bring your lunch and enough drinking water. This will be a long trip on open waters.

Date	Activity / Details	Time
12 June (Sun)	Breeding Tern Survey at South-eastern Waters	09:00 – 17:00
22 July (Fri)	Breeding Tern Survey at South-eastern Waters	09:00 – 17:00

DOs & DON'Ts for Bird Watching

1. Walk lightly and talk softly while moving around in the forest so as not to disturb the birds.
2. When encountering birds, note carefully their shape, colour, behaviour and calls first. Check field guides afterwards. This would strengthen the visual image in your mind and improve identification skills.
3. Don't chase birds around simply because you want to see them. Birds do deserve a peaceful life.
4. Don't throw stones or take other improper actions to force birds to move and show themselves.
5. Don't get too close if you find bird nests. Frightened birds will abandon their nests even if there are eggs.
6. Don't hunt birds nor pick up eggs. Both are illegal and you would be liable to prosecution.
7. Don't worry if you don't record many species. Seeing a few common birds is already the joy of life.

Booking Note

Note! Priority is given to members of the Society. 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 show your membership card 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 their own transport please also send in their booking slips to 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.

+ According to the requirement of the Hong Kong Police and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, participants for the Mai Po activities should provide their full names and Hong Kong ID No. to register for access to the Frontier Close Area and Mai Po Marshes.

* If their applications for joining Mai Po/boat trips are not accepted, applicants will be notified by phone or by e-mail at least one week before the outing.

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: by returning the attendance slip with a cheque in English made out to the "Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Ltd"

For all outdoor activities please bring food and drinks, appropriate clothing for the location, and sun cream and mosquito lotion if needed!

Activity Booking Slip

► Lamma Island Overnight Camp

I wish to reserve places for _____ members and _____ non-members for the Lamma Island overnight camp on 7 & 8 May 05.
(HK\$120/member, HK\$150/non-members) Includes a BBQ Dinner, Camping fee & Breakfast (next day) only.

► Mai Po Trip

I wish to reserve places for _____ members and _____ non-members for the following Mai Po tour :

* 15 May (Sun) 29 May (Sun) The number of person(s) using the coach is _____.

* Coach fare: _____ x HK\$40/Member _____ x HK\$20/Student member _____ x HK\$60/Non-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.

Please indicate whether the participant(s) have the following permits and bring them along with you during attending the Mai Po Outin.

Mai Po Marshes Entry Permit: Yes No Frontier Closed Area Permit: Yes No

+ Attendance full name _____ HK I.D. No. _____

(If more than one attendance, please add paper to fill in the information of the other attendances)

► Boat Trip

I wish to reserve places for _____ members and _____ non-members for the following boat trip :

* 3 July (Sun) : Mirs Bay and Eastern Waters (HK\$150/member, HK\$200/non-members)

Cheque for HK\$ _____ (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 The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Ltd, GPO Box 12460, Hong Kong

Application should be made at least 10 days before the date of the outing. Late applications will only be accepted if places are available.

* Please as appropriate

<Please email this reply slip to membership@hkbws.org.hk > _____

Small Group Activities (For members only)

I wish to reserve _____ places for members for the Small Group Activities to be held on 5 June at Shing Mun Reservoir.

Name: _____ Membership Card No.: _____

Mobile phone : _____ Email: _____

<Please email this reply slip to membership@hkbws.org.hk > _____

Tern Survey (For members only)

I wish to join the Tern Survey to be held on: 12 June (Sun) _____ No. of Members 22 July (Fri) _____ No. of Members

Name: _____ Membership Card No.: _____

Mobile phone : _____ Email: _____

^ No need to send payment for reservation. Boat fee to be paid on the day of the activity.



白鶴 - 蘇毅雄 (鄱陽湖國家級自然保護區)
Siberian Crane - Samson So
(Poyang Lake National Nature Reserve)

31/12/2004, Camera: Canon 10D, ISO: 100,
Lens: Canon EF-400mm f/5.6

畫雀仔 paint bird .com

Short-tailed Bush Warbler



鱗頭樹鶯 - 李玉瑩
Short-tailed Bush Warbler - Lee Yuk Ying

黑臉琵鷺 – 夏敦天 (南生圍)
Black-faced Spoonbill –
Martin Hale (Nam Sang Wai)

11/2004, Canon 1D2, 600mm f4 IS lens
with x2 converter, ISO 200, f8, 1/800



花面鴨 – 杜露炯 (米埔)
Baikal Teal – Hendrix To (Mai Po)

07 /01/2004, AFS600/4 + 1.4X on Nikon D1X