



bulletin

會員通訊

199

Spring 2006 - 春



白眉鶇 - 陳志雄 (九龍公園)
Eyebrowed Thrush (Kowloon Park)
- Allen Chan

- 2006.4.21
- DSLR camera, 400mm lens

畫雀仔 paint bird .com

- 李玉瑩 Lee Yuk Ying



灰背燕尾

SLATY-BACKED FORKTAIL..



The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Limited

(Approved Charitable Institution of a Public Character)

Contents

Chairman's word – <i>Cheung Ho Fai</i>	2
Society News – <i>Lo Wai Yan, Henry Lui</i>	2
HKBWS Projects – <i>Lo Wai Yan</i>	4
Conservation News – <i>Mike Kilburn</i>	6
Bird photography – <i>The Basics – K K Hui</i>	8
Mai Po Update – <i>Low Young</i>	15
Maliau Basin Conservation Area (mbca), Sabah, Borneo. – <i>Peter Stevens</i>	16
Hong Kong Bird News – <i>Richard Lewthwaite</i>	18
Coming Activities – <i>Forrest Fong</i>	21
Take a Closer Look – Group 3 Leaf Warblers – <i>Cheung Ho Fai</i>	24
Paint Bird.com – Slaty-Backed Fortail – <i>Lee Yuk Ying</i>	Inside Front Cover

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Postal address :

G.P.O. Box 12460, Hong Kong

Project Office :

1612 Beverly Commercial Centre,
87-105 Chatham Road South,
Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon, Hong Kong

Telephone : (852) 2377 4387

Facsimile : (852) 2314 3687

Birdline :

(852) 2465 6690 (Chinese)

(852) 2667 4537 (English)

Website :

www.hkbws.org.hk



Member of BirdLife International

Co-ordinator : Ronley Lee

(bulletin@hkbws.org.hk)

Editor : John Holmes

Contributors to this issue :

Cheung Ho Fai, Lo Wai Yan, Henry Lui,
Mike Kilburn, K K Hui, Lew Young,
Peter Stevens, Richard Lewthwaite,
Forrest Fong

Illustration : Lee Yuk Ying

Photos : Allen Chan, K K Hui, Neil Fifer, 樓區 1 號
Vicky Yeung, Michelle Kong, Peter Wong,
Cheung Ho Fai

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– Anonymous Guy
(Yung Shue Wan, Lamma Island)
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– DSLR camera, 300mm/f4 lens,
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Representative in UK	
Mr. Richard Stott	email:hkbwsuk@aol.com
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Chairman's word



Having an occasional chance to address all bird watching society members is a great invention of HKBWS president Mr. CY Lam. Coming every three months, these opportunities have actually led me to reflect periodically on what has been going on with the society.

The problem of Avian Flu came up again this winter in HK and also in the world. There will be major changes in the world in response to this. HKBWS have been using our knowledge of birds to help monitoring and fighting the spread of the virus. Already I have seen HK people's knowledge of bird matters increased. While acknowledging the fear in many people's minds, I and also most of our members, are quite sure that bird watching itself is a safe activity, and also bird conservation is a correct way to go now and also in the future. Let us be patient, and time will show that we are right.

Next year will be the 50th anniversary of the HKBWS. I would like members, especially the old timers, to help us review the major historical achievements of the society. I hope that by doing this, we can better appreciate our present status, and that will guide us to walk boldly into the future. 

- Cheung Ho Fat, Nov 2005

Membership renewal

Dear members, please remember to renew your subscription. Thank you for your continuous support. You may send the completed subscription form with crossed cheque to the society. Alternatively, you may directly credit 'The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Limited' account (HSBC account no. 534-361423-838) and return the pay-in slip and the completed subscription form to the society. (Remark: cheque payment is highly recommended.)

Office Staffing

Mr Tam Yip Shing, Project Officer of the Society, will left the post at the end of March 2006. We thank Mr Tam for his hard work on the establishment of Long Valley Project and wish him a great success in future. Besides, Office Assistant Mr Jose Alberto Cheung Mok has left the post at the end of February 2006. He is now helping the fieldworks of some projects of the Society.

Membership application to the China Ornithological Society

China Ornithological Society



(COS) is a leading NGO working on ornithology and bird conservation in China. The aims of COS are to develop ornithology in China, set up a nation-wide network and promote international cooperation in research and conservation actions for the threatened species of birds living in the country. You are welcome to join the society as member. Annual membership subscription is RMB20. Application form has now been uploaded in our website (HKBWS BBS / Discussion Area / General / China Ornithological Society).

Note: As all applications require the recommendation from a COS director, HKBWS can provide assistance but cannot guarantee the result. Please send your application form and annual fee (cheque make payable to: The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Limited) (annual fee will charged in HKD at the rate of 1:1) to our office first for further action.

"China Bird Report 2004"

The China Ornithological Society has published the "China Bird Report 2004". There were three main information sources for the 2004 report: "Birdtalker" records centre for amateur birdwatchers, letters or e-mail correspondence from ornithologists or birdwatchers in mainland China, and the same from overseas birdwatchers.

Members who wish to obtain a copy of the China Bird Report 2004 could made a donation of HK\$100 or more to China Ornithological Society (via HKBWS); (Note: plus local postage HK\$20)

For those who wish to made donation in Euro or British Pounds could get in touch with HKBWS UK representative at hkbwsuk@aol.com.

Free Bird Leaflets

To thank you for your generous support to the

Society, you can take the following informative leaflets free:

1. Bird Watching – Nature is our teacher (include 36 common bird species) (Chinese only)
2. Long Valley – A Living Classroom (include 36 bird species found in LV) (bilingual)
3. Come Near the Nature, Get to know Hong Kong (introduce a few common birds in details) (Chinese only)
4. Birds in City (Chinese only)
5. Black-faced Spoonbill (bilingual)
6. Wetlands and Migratory Birds (bilingual)

Please send us a return envelop with stamp, and indicate the number of leaflets you request (i.e. 1 to 6). Postage as follows:

1 piece – \$1.4 2 pieces – \$2.2 3 to 6 pieces – \$3.0

(please contact us to confirm the postage first if you request more than 6 pieces)

Acknowledgments:

- Mr. Chan Chi Keung, thank you for helping the office work regularly.
- Schmidt Marketing (H.K.) Ltd for sponsoring the printing of the "Black-faced Spoonbill International Census Report" and lending Leica binoculars and telescopes for our birdwatching class participants, providing souvenirs to the winners of the "Bird record 206".
- Swarovski Hong Kong Ltd for providing souvenirs to the winners of "Bird Record 206".
- Environment and Conservation Fund for underwriting the Spring 2006 Seabird migration survey in Hong Kong (Southern and Southeastern) Water. 

"Birds and Humans in Harmony – A Sustainable Management Scheme in Long Valley" (Dec 2005 – Nov 2007)

Sponsor:	Environment and Conservation Fund
Progress:	Cooperation with three local farmers has been launched for four months. A large piece of farmland has been turned to a shallow water pond and the weeds will be cleared. Water chestnut and Chinese Arrow-head will be planted in a wet farmland in April. Flowering Chinese Cabbage will be left overgrown in a piece of dry farmland. All these trials are aimed to attract different kinds of birds to use.
Volunteer recruitment:	Volunteer Group will be set up soon. Please refer to the notification in our website.



Black-faced Spoonbill (BFS) International Census (6-8 Jan 2006)

The BFS International Census has been completed during 6 to 8 Jan 2006. Experts from different places have taken part the census, including Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Macau, South Korea, Japan, Vietnam, Thailand and the Philippines. A total of 1,475 BFS were counted in last census. But in this year's census, the preliminary result is up to 1,681. We would like to express our gratitude to all surveyors from different places. A detailed report will be released in near future.

Crested Bulbul Club

1. Early Morning Bird Watchers at Kln Park & HK Park

No. of participants in Hong Kong Park from Jan to 1st Feb 2006: 74

No. of participants in Kowloon Park Jan 2006: 90

(LCSD has temporarily suspended the activity due to the Avian Flu. However, members of the club will still carry on the gathering as an internal activity.)

2. Community services or activities

- 3, 10/12/2005 and 21,22/1/2006
Junior Bird Race 2006 (assist in the training activities for the secondary school students)

- 23-28/12/2005 Flower, Birds, Insects and Fish Exhibition (manage an exhibition and a booth game)

3. Overseas Birdwatching Organising Group

Besides organise local birdwatching activities, the Club will set up a specific group to organise overseas birding tour for the members.

Birdwatching Race for Youngsters in Futian, Shenzhen, PRC

To support the Shenzhen government departments and the Shenzhen Birdwatching Society to organise the birding race in 19 Feb in Futian Nature Reserve, the Club has sent a team to participate in the competition, and became the only invited team from outside. They were KW Leung, YN Ng, CP Chen and YW Chik. The number of species is about 50.



Colours on Wings – Hong Kong Wild Bird Photo Contest

The programme has been rescheduled to Sept 2006 due to the Avian Flu.

Junior Bird Race 2006 – celebrate the World Wetland Day 2006 activity

Although 50 teams of secondary schools students have come through two training activities, the competition was finally cancelled due to the Avian Flu. We thank the members who were involved in the training activity.



Elementary Bird Watching Course for Beginners

There were 38 people attended the course. As the response was very encouraging, we wish to open another elementary course and an intermediate course in this year. We would like to thank the following members for helping the course: Gary Chow (coordinator), Apache Lau, George Ho, Dickson Wong, WM Hung, WY Yam, Henry Lui, Alan Chan, Robin Fung and Joanne Au.



Keeping Asia's Spoonbills Airborne – International Symposium on Research and Conservation of the Black-faced Spoonbill

Organiser: Hong Kong Bird Watching Society


Sponsors: The Croucher Foundation, Environment & Conservation Fund, Environmental Campaign Committee

Co-organizers: AFCD, WWF (Hong Kong)

Supporting Organizers: BirdLife International Asia Division, Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden, Shenzhen Birdwatching Society

Date: 16-18 Jan 2006

Summary: About 70 experts and people from different places or countries attending the symposium, they were Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Vietnam, the Netherlands, North Korea, North Korea and Japan. Some of the representatives had also visited Futian Nature Reserve in Shenzhen the day before the symposium. Representatives had also visited the Hong Kong Wetland Park, Maipo and Tsimbeitsui.

Proceeding: A record of the proceedings will be published in the near future. Please refer to the announcement in the website. 



Marine Police remain indifferent to mudskipper collectors

On the morning of 4th February 2006, 9 mudskipper collectors from Shenzhen were observed on the Deep Bay mudflats immediately below the Tsim Bei Tsui observation point – inside Hong Kong territory, which is illegal – and has been going on for a number of years. There can be no doubt that their activities were noted by the Marine Police, who not only have a clear view of the bay from the Police Station, but also sent a boat filled with officers on a circuit of Deep Bay during the time the mudskipper collectors were active in the mud.

According to the law, by entering Hong Kong territory away from a border control point and without documentation the mudskipper collectors were breaking the law as “illegal border crossers” – even Hong Kong citizens require a Frontier Closed Area permit issued by the Police to enter such areas! However, the Marine Police did nothing until the incident was reported by phone to the 999 call centre. During this time the rising tide covered the mud and the mudskipper collectors returned to their boat (which had been moored in plain view along the channel used by the police boat) and began motoring back towards Shenzhen.

Following the call a Marine Police boat was sent to intercept the mudskipper collectors, and the police reported that they checked the identities of the illegal border crossers (this was observed to occur through a telescope). In the discussion of the incident with the police the following disturbing exchange took place. It was also explained that the fishermen were warned they should not return within 24 hours.

Question: “Does this imply it is acceptable to cross the border illegally once every 24 hours?”

Answer: No.

Question: Is it illegal if they cross the border after 24 hours has elapsed

Answer: Yes.

Question: What will the police do?

Answer: If they repeatedly cross the border illegally they will be arrested

Question: If it is established that they are illegal border crossers why were they not arrested immediately?

Answer: They did not know they had entered Hong Kong.

Incredibly, the Marine Police accepted this as a reason to take no further action except to issue the warning not to return within 24 hours.

Why should HKBWS care about this? The answers fall into a couple of categories:

• Disturbance to birds and negative impact on a Ramsar site:

When the mudskipper collectors are on the mud the birds are disturbed from feeding there. This is in breach of the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap 170). This point is critical because elsewhere in China many wetlands carry far fewer birds than they should because of the high level of human disturbance. Deep Bay is unusual in that the level of disturbance is relatively low and as a result we play host to tens of thousands of birds every winter, while other sites, which are often much larger, support many fewer birds because of the much greater levels of disturbance.

In past years when the activities of mudskipper collectors has been tolerated in this way the numbers increase, they set nets to catch birds (sometimes hundreds of metres long) on the mud and even build shacks inside the mangroves where they store their fishing gear.

• Poor administration and wastage of public money:

In addition to the Marine Police, who monitor the border below the high tide mark, AFCD is also



responsible for preventing the mudskipper collectors from illegally entering the Ramsar site (which includes the mudflats on the Hong Kong side of the Shenzhen river between Mai Po and Sha Kiu). While doing this work, AFCD staff have been threatened and assaulted by the mudskipper collectors. AFCD staff are not armed, and are not rigorously trained to deal with violent conflict.

The Police are, but routinely choose to ignore the problem, which has led to increasing boldness by the mudskipper collectors and the abovementioned difficulties to AFCD staff. Furthermore catching mudskipper collectors on the mud is a difficult and rather dangerous business, (even when AFCD's expensive hovercraft are in working order!), but it is very easy for a powerful Marine Police boat to intercept an overloaded dinghy when the fishermen are entering or leaving Hong Kong on the high tide (as was witnessed on this occasion.)

This is a clear case of poorly co-ordinated administration where the work of one department is compromised by the unwillingness of another department to support their efforts, despite having the training and resources to do so. On this occasion two other Police boats were also present and could easily have been sent to intercept the mudskipper collector's sampan.

• Conclusion:

In the past the Marine police have claimed they have more important things to do that arrest people who fully intend to return to Shenzhen anyway. However, past experience has shown that tolerating low-level illegal activity leads to more serious activities.

It would appear that this issue could be resolved relatively easily by firm enforcement. The mudskipper collectors are making money from an illegal activity. Since this is the case the police are perfectly able to arrest and prosecute the mudskipper collectors and to confiscate the equipment they use for this activity. While individual mudskipper traps

may not be worth much, the boat that brings the mudskipper collectors across the bay at high tide surely cost a few thousand dollars each!

How many fishermen would run the risk of losing their boat for the sake of a few hundred dollars worth of fish? The answer is probably none! So why doesn't the Marine Police do the job they are paid to do and control the ecologically harmful and illegal activity swiftly and efficiently? We wish we knew!

What to do if you see mudskipper collectors:

1. WWF have asked that members using the floating boardwalks continue to note the date, time and number of mudskipper collectors they see in the logbook provided in the HKBWS hide. This is helpful to AFCD in timing their patrols to prevent and catch illegal mudskipper collectors.
2. Call 999 and ask for Marine Police to report "illegal border crossers" This is an important technical term – apparently they are not illegal immigrants. You should be connected to the Marine Police station at Tsim Bei Tsui. If the police claim it is hard to arrest the mudskipper collectors on the mud, ask why they cannot arrest them in their boat, or simply seize the boat, which they are entitled to do as it is being used for illegal activity. Please ask your questions politely!
3. Email your report to AFCD: cl_wong@afcd.gov.hk and copy it to Lew Young the Manager of Mai Po at lyoung@wwf.org.hk.
4. Post your report to the HKBWS bulletin board in the Conservation section. Include photos if you are able to take any.

Collecting data to assess the problem is the best way of helping AFCD and WWF to fight this problem. Without such evidence it is hard to get the Marine Police to co-operate in preventing this illegal activity. ♪

Bird Photography – The Basics

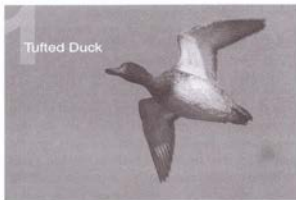
– KK Hui FRPS

Introduction

Birds are often difficult to approach and fearful of humans. Photographing birds is a great challenge as it requires skill and endurance as well as patience on the part of the photographer to capture the decisive moment. They rarely stay still for long. Photographing birds can become an all-consuming passion and the rewards, to my mind, far outweigh the effort. I see photography as an art. Combining the two is even more challenging and rewarding.

Climate plays a fundamental part in determining the movements of shorebirds. Almost all the shorebirds we see in Hong Kong are migratory birds. They pass through many Asian countries, including the Mai Po Nature Reserve with its surrounding Inner Deep Bay, between August and November each year to spend the cold northern winter in milder climates on the tropical and warm temperate wetlands of south eastern Asia. This can be as far south as Australia and New Zealand. Spring migration starts between the months of March and May. This is when the birds are heading north returning to their breeding grounds. It's an exciting time to see them in their gorgeous breeding plumage.

In this article I won't be covering woodland birds and it would be another separate topic on its own.



Why Photographing Birds?

There are as many reasons for photographing birds as there are photographers. These include the record of rarities, research studies, educational purposes and creation of artistic images for display and publications.

For me, it is meant to show how I as a photographer see birds and capture their fascination and graceful expression. It is my intent to use these photos as persuasion to bring people's awareness of what beautiful birds we have here in the door step of a busy city like Hong Kong and hence the importance of conservation and the need to preserve our natural heritage.

What Makes A Great Photo?

A good bird photo is one that meets the needs of the photographer. But basically there are a number of things that lead up to a great photograph. Shooting technique and composition consideration are high on the list however. Composition is a way to allow a photographer to convey his or her thoughts on the subject making it aesthetic for viewers.

Composition

When we talk about composition the *Rule of Thirds* springs to mind and I'm sure most of you are familiar with it

already. It's like dividing the rectangular frame of your scene into nine smaller rectangles. By placing your subject at any of the four points where the lines cross would give a great deal of dramatic interest to the viewers. It also gives additional visual interest because the subject is now placed off-center (*Photo 1*)

Strive to lead the eye along an interesting path through the photo (*Photo 2*), with the use of strong lines, patterns and perspective. Taking care to ensure horizon is level and keep the extra elements there are of no interest to viewers out of the frame leaving just the main subject(s).

Lighting Choice

Actually we have little choice when shooting outdoor. We're governed by the sunlight direction. So by scouting beforehand the locations where you want to shoot would help a lot in producing the desired result you envisage. For shooting birds it's generally best to have the sun and wind right behind you unless you want to create a silhouette effect. Side lighting and backlighting on the other hand can add drama but you need to deal with the extra contrasts as a result (*Photo 3*). Furthermore, indirect lighting such as under an overcast sky can be put to use to make your subject soft and more pleasing. This is particularly true with a high contrast subject like a bird with black and white plumage. Keep the sky out of the shot if it's overcast to avoid both muted tones in your subject and washed-out skies.



Exposure

Satisfactory exposure is an essential part of making a good photograph. There are many in-camera metering patterns to choose from. Center-weighted Average, Spot and Program/Evaluative (Canon) or Matrix (Nikon) are commonly used. In Automatic Exposure program modes the aperture priority (Av) and the shutter priority (Tv) are most popular choices for obvious reasons. In bird photography however Av is preferred. You control the aperture value while the camera sets the shutter speed accordingly. You then have the control over the Depth-of-Field for the shooting subject.

There is a simple rule of thumb for taking photo without a light meter. It's the Sunny Sixteen Rule that I'm sure all of you know. The rule simply states that if you're taking a photo in bright daylight then set the aperture to $f/16$ and set the shutter speed to be as near as possible to the same number as one over the film speed. For example, using ISO 100 film you set the aperture to $f/16$ and the shutter speed to $1/90$ s since 90 is the closest shutter speed value to 100 on a typical camera. A note of caution is that the rule would only works when the subject is mid-tone and front lit.

For me I've come to use shooting in Manual mode almost always. This gives me the most consistent exposure I ever want exposing the subject for its tonality and lighting conditions. The beauty of choosing this mode is that the varying background is taken out of the equation and you can concentrate on the composition of the image you're making. This of course assumes the light condition is constant. Find that correct exposure, lock it in manually, and shoot away without worry. With AV mode your camera meter is constantly re-adjusting itself based on the background, the position, the tonality and the size of subject in the frame, as well as other factors.



Having said that I switch to AV and dial in the appropriate exposure compensation when the light is constantly changing eg. sun is going in and out of a cloud, making M mode shooting frustrating. Spot metering your subject is also an option in this situation.



Bird Photography – The Basics (con't)

Equipment Choice

Unlike other branches of photography, shooting birds in the wild demands the use of heavy and expensive telephoto lenses to obtain high quality images. Sturdy tripod with proper tripod head are amongst the essential tools that helps toward obtaining pin sharp photos. It is not hard to see why today nature photographers rely on the latest in metering and autofocus (AF) technologies. A state-of-the-art camera body from any of the leading manufacturers such as Canon, Nikon, Minolta etc will incorporate all these whiz-kid features.

What makes a good photo system to buy depends on the wide range of lenses and accessories available. Equipment quality, reliability and durability are the other key factors in making the final choice. If one takes a look at the market, Canon's superb line of autofocus telephoto lenses appears to be the most comprehensive one. With their introduction of IS (Image Stabilization) into their super telephoto lenses, the advantages are even more evident. In terms of AF, Canon EOS-1D series bodies take the photographer to a even higher level of accurate focusing and fast shooting capability. Other obvious rivals today include Nikon's D2x and their fast AF-S telephoto lenses.

Lens Choice

The choice of lens for bird photography usually begins with a 400mm f/5.6. This will be portable enough for shooting hand-held of bird in flight. There is no single lens for all situations in bird photography. Down my list will be either a 500mm f/4 or a 600mm f/4 depending on personal choice. Factors to consider here include your budget, physical strength and lens weight, hence mobility. For completeness, I would include lens accessories such as the 1.4x and 2x teleconverters. This allows an increase in the effective focal length by 40% and 100% respectively. In addition, for shooting smaller woodland birds, an extension tube may come in handy to reduce the minimum focusing distance of a lens. Extension tubes are easily obtainable in the range of 12mm and 25mm; stacking them to enable an even closer approach is possible.

Your package should include a standard lens (50mm) or a wide- zoom for bird photography will be an added

bonus. This is extremely useful for taking scenic shots with birds and to serve as a close-up tool as well.

Technique in Photographing Birds

Apart from selecting the right equipment, other areas of importance in achieving pleasing bird photos are composition, lighting and sharp image. Nevertheless, deliberate creation of a blurred image (for example of flying birds), if used properly, can bring about a sense of artistic feel of action captured too.

Tripod

Armed with the knowledge of the type of birds' behavior you will be able to anticipate the action. Birds in flight are more difficult to capture and you require a rigid platform to work on. This brings about tripod and tripod head choice. I used Gitzo carbon fibre tripod the G1325. This coupled with a gimbal-type Wimberley Head provides a setup that is strong enough for supporting the 6 kg plus 500mm or 600mm super telephoto lenses with a pro camera body. The heavy lens is rendered almost weightless allowing free movements of the setup effortlessly. This is especially useful when taking those flight shots. I use a monopod from time to time where space is a premium or restricted too.

Long Lens Techniques

- Use a sturdy tripod whenever possible. Tighten all control knobs
- Ensure tripod can handle the weight of your camera, lens, tripod head and other accessories with plenty of margin
- Wimberley Head is preferred to Ball Head
- Use your arms, hands and face as vibration dampening
- Use Image Stabilization (IS) or Vibration Reduction (VR) if available
- Use higher ISO setting if necessary and activate Mirror Lock-up (MLU) + self timer + cable release

Copyright – KK Hui, a NatureScapes.Net moderator in the BIRDS Forum, is a highly accomplished local bird photographer here in Hong Kong. He is a Fellow of The Royal Photographic Society and earned the highest Distinction in the Nature Category specializing in Avian Photography. For more information please visit his website at www.geocities.com/kkhui_001

寶興歌鶇

Chinese Song Thrush



- Allen Chan
- 2006.2.23
- 蒲台 Po Toi
- DSLR camera, 400mm/f5.6 lens,
ISO400, f8, 1/640s



烏鶇

Common Blackbird


- Neil Fifer
- 2006.1.9
- 南丫島榕樹灣 Yung Shue Wan, Lamma Island
- DSLR camera, 300mm lens/f2.8 lens, ISO100, f4, 1/320s

藍磯鶇

Blue Rock Thrush


- 壞蛋 1 號
- 2006.9.11
- 長洲 Cheung Chau
- DSLR camera, 400mm/f5.6 lens,
ISO400, f5.6, 1/320s



- 
- A Japanese Thrush is perched on a light-colored, textured branch. The bird has a dark blue-black head and back, with a white breast and belly speckled with dark spots. It has a yellowish-brown beak and legs. The background is a soft-focus green.
- 小丸 Vicky Yeung
 - 2005.12.15
 - 九龍公園 Kowloon Park
 - DSLR camera, 100-400mm lens, ISO1600, f5.6, 1/60s

烏灰鶇

Japanese Thrush

- 
- A Grey-backed Thrush is perched on a dark, rounded stone ledge. The bird has a grey head and back, a bright orange-red breast, and a yellowish-brown beak and legs. The background is a soft-focus green.
- 增蓮 1 號
 - 2005.12.4
 - 米埔 Mai Po
 - DSLR camera, 600mm/f5.6 lens, ISO400, f5.6, 1/100s

灰背鶇

Grey-backed Thrush

Mai Po update

– Lew Young

1. Avian influenza

At the time of writing, Mai Po is once again closed to visitors because of the cases of the H5N1 avian influenza virus being found in a number of dead birds in the wild and a chicken that was smuggled into Hong Kong from China. Like many people, WWF sees no scientific reason why the Reserve needs to be closed because amongst many other reasons:

There have been no cases of people being infected with the H5N1 virus from wild bird. All the known cases have been due to contact with infected poultry or contaminated surfaces;

The surveillance monitoring of wild birds wintering at Mai Po that the Microbiology Department at Hong Kong University has been carrying out since 2003, have shown that none of the samples collected have had the H5N1 virus; and

It is internationally recognised that the most effective way of containing the H5N1 virus is at the level of the commercial poultry industry through improved management.

WWF is working hard to talk to government about the Reserve being reopened again as soon as possible. Continued closure would only send a wrong message out to the public that the Hong Kong government believes that there is a high likelihood that wild birds can spread the H5N1 virus directly to people.

In 2004, Mai Po was closed for seven weeks from 31 January - 18 March because of an outbreak of avian flu on the Mainland.

2. FCA permit update

The WWF Mai Po office is still going ahead


and renewing the FCA permits for those people who have applied for them. The applications were submitted on late January and we will get them back by 25th February.

We ask that people applying for the FCA permits are members of WWF because we do try hard to build new facilities and to maintain them. In fact, the \$100 fee for the permits goes mainly towards the maintenance of the floating boardwalk and hides. We hope that HKBWS members can understand this and join up as members of WWF to support the conservation of Mai Po.

3. WWF Big Bird Race 2006

WWF's Big Bird Race is one of the major event to raise funds for the management and conservation of Mai Po. Of the approximately HK\$2.5 million that is need to manage Mai Po annually, nearly a half comes from the BBR with a similar amount coming from the government. If there is any shortfall, then WWF has to find the difference through donations etc.

This year's BBR will be held on 3 - 4 March and you can get more information on the WWF website http://www.wwf.org.hk/eng/involved/activities/big_bird_race/index.html.

This year, the funds raised will go towards removing the mud that has built up in the reedbeds in front of the Tower Birdwatching Hide. This is badly needed because over the years, mud is brought into the water in the *gei wai* is changed and since the mid1940s when these *gei wai* were built, the amount of mud has built up and the ponds are slowly turning in to dry land. If this de-silting work is successful, then we will consider using the same method to desilt the other areas of reedbeds in the reserve. 

Maliau Basin Conservation Area (mbca), Sabah, Borneo.

– Peter Stevens, Puerto Galera Yacht Club, Oriental Mindoro, Philippines. (divemonster25@yahoo.co.uk)



Introduction

From November 7th to 15th 2005, I had the opportunity to trek and birdwatch in the Maliau Basin Conservation Area, Sabah, Malaysia. I was accompanied on the trip by Ian Hall, who is currently employed by Yayasan Sabah as an architect to identify and design ecologically-friendly visitor and research facilities within the conservation area. He has spent many weeks in all of the Yayasan Sabah-run forest reserves (Danum, Imbak, Maliau) and is an observant, if new, birder. Over the 8 days spent inside the reserve proper we recorded 125 species, 6 of which I believe, from past records, have not previously been recorded in the MBCA. Prior to my arrival Ian had been working in the reserve since August 27th and had seen an additional 16 species, 1 of which (HOSE'S BROADBILL) was new, making a combined list is 141/7.



Maliau Basin, Background

In the heart of SABAH is the so-called "Lost World" of the MALIAU BASIN. This is a huge bowl, some 390 sq km of pristine rainforest surrounded by cliffs that rise to 1700m at their highest. It is just 40km north of the Indonesian border with Sabah and has Danum Valley to its east and Imbak Canyon to the north. In 1997 it was gazetted as a Class 1 conservation area and extended to include a buffer zone of some 200 sq km of unlogged forest outside the rim of the basin. A feature of the basin is its amazing number of waterfalls, of which the Maliau Falls are the biggest, and the upland heath forest, which is both rare and endangered and just dripping with pitcher plants and orchids.

The first organized expedition was as recent as 1982, followed by a much more extensive scientific survey in 1988. There were further trips in 1999 – 2001 which produced a bird list of 271 species. There seems to have been little in the way of casual birding trips by private individuals, I guess mainly because of its remoteness and that you have to trek for several hours every couple of days with all your food and gear! The cold beer and balcony at Danum are much more inviting!

So what was I doing there? Some of you might remember my trip last year into similar habitat in Imbak Canyon while working as a volunteer with Raleigh International.

Ian was on the same expedition and when he heard that I was heading down that way anyway, arranged an all expenses-paid trip (except flights and food) into Maliau if I would train some of the rangers in the dark art of birdwatching and produce a bird report of the trip 'Rude not to really', thought I.

Getting There

I flew to Kota Kinabalu from Manila, then on to Tawau, where I was met by Ian and started the 5 hour 4 WD trip to the main gate. It was bloody awful. There was major road construction going on for about half the trip so we ran the gauntlet of construction vehicles and logging trucks (lots of them). The good news is that it will make the journey much more bearable sometime next year!

Accommodation And Birding

Our base was AGATHIS CAMP (named after a species of very big tree!) which is on the banks of a small river and on the edge of the primary forest. This is the normal starting point for visitors and has accommodation for about 20 people, with a kitchen, clean toilets and showers. There are a number of trails starting from here so I spent the next couple of days exploring and birding. The habitat was typical primary dipterocarp..... huge trees, some mid-storey growth and mainly open forest.



floor. The birding was also typical primary forest..... long slow periods interrupted by some spectacular birds, the best of which were stunning views of BANDED PITTA. I also heard BLUE HEADED PITTA but didn't get onto one. BLUE BANDED and GIANT PITTA are supposedly in the area.

The access road to the camp was through reasonable secondary forest and was well worth the late afternoon walk. Two WHITE-FRONTED FALCONETS, an endemic, topped off a good first day's birding, in which I saw 32 species.

The next day was spent with some rangers, going over bird tapes that I had brought with me and then going out to find them. In the afternoon I sat with a warm beer scanning the trees around the camp thru the scope. A pair of SCARLET-RUMPED TROGONS were very obliging and complemented the DIARD's of earlier in the day. Together with the various babblers, bulbuls, broadbills, barbets and big hornbills (Helmeted and Rhinoceros) I had ticked off 46 for the day. A few more warm beers and a tot of rum rounded off a good day and set me up for the trek ahead.

Unfortunately Ian, who had been ill with the flu, was not up to the walk, so I birded the same area again the next day, with a little more exploration, and added 9 to the list, out of a day's total of 41. The new ones included GREAT SLATY WOODPECKER and JAMBU FRUIT DOVE, which was a new record for the camp.

The next day Ian was still not up to it so I set off with two guides for the trek to Camel Trophy Camp. This was built in 1993 by the Camel Trophy team and is 8 km away through the forest. It was also half a kilometer higher than Agathis, most of which was climbed in the first couple of k.'s. It was so steep in places that aluminium (and some wooden) ladders have been erected to help the climber. It was a little knee-wobbling,

especially with a heavy pack but I was on an adrenaline rush as we had seen RED-BEARDED BEE-EATER within a few minutes of the start of the ascent. This was pretty close to the top of my 'must see' list so I was a happy camper.

After the climb we continued through primary dipterocarp forest. Slowly the character of this changed. The trees got smaller and the canopy got lower. The open, clear floor changed to dense stands of thin 'treelings' through which visibility was reduced to a few metres. Underfoot the path became boggy and sandy and the side coated in mosses. This was the heath forest. The canopy was by now only a few metres high and some of the trees were entwined with amazing collections of pitcher plants. These ranged in size from a good beer-mug to a small sherry glass. In fact we were skirting the edge of the main heath forest and it soon reverted to the familiar big trees and after about 4 hours we arrived at CT camp. This had a first floor balcony which overlooked a cleared area about 300m by 50m. The effect of this was to provide dense secondary growth and bushes around the clearing which gave a more varied habitat than the primary forest itself.

There were, accordingly, many more birds around the clearing than in the forest, and also a low tree with lots of flowers and small fruits, which fortunately, was at around balcony level and within easy scoping distance. Suddenly the burden of lugging the scope up the hill seemed worthwhile. It was soon set up and in use. This particular tree was always busy with birds, come rain or shine, and provided excellent views of several species of spiderhunter as well as flowerpeckers and a whiteeye. This was the only venue on the whole trip that produced some good mixed flocks, with bulbuls, scimitar babblers, fantails etc. and, just on dark and as predicted..... MALAYSIAN EARED NIGHTJAR. There were also 2-3 GREAT SLATY WOODPECKERS which flew across the clearing in the late afternoon every day, as well as a very quick view of what was probably a BESRA which drifted across right in front of the balcony late one evening. The ASHY DRONGO on the tree right next to us was new for Ian (who joined me the next day), as were the endemic CHESTNUT-CRESTED YUHINAS, which put in an obliging appearance to the side of the balcony.

The next day I plucked up the courage to tackle the 100 rungs on the vertical ladder up a huge Agathis tree to a canopy platform (similar to, but not so rickety, as the one in Danum). It was a trip well worth the effort and yielded several birds new to our list in just a few minutes. These

Maliau Basin Conservation Area (mbca), Sabah, Borneo. (con't)

included SCARLET MINIVET, GREY AND BUFF WOODPECKER, and PURPLE-THROATED SUNBIRD, together with fantastic, right-in-front-of-my-nose views of the common, but beautiful, TEMMINCK'S SUNBIRD.

As the days were passing rapidly, we packed up and headed out another 10ks to LOBAH CAMP, passing through the core heath forest en route. The camp is less sophisticated than CT (hammocks under blue tarps) but has a great view from the heli pad of a huge area of the basin. It also has great views of GREY-RUMPED TREESWIFTS and the aerodynamic kings of the skies BROWN NEEDLETAILS. These guys whooshed past at head-height, living up to their reputation as the fastest bird in straight flight in the world.

We were enjoying the spectacle when I happened to look behind me and nearly fell over..... a small, very dark, falcon was circling the lookout, harassed by the Treeswifts. It passed directly overhead a couple of times, at very close range in the failing light. It was dark rufous underneath, without any white or streaking. The head was also quite dark, with no white contrasts around the 'teardrops'. 'HOBBY' was the first word into my head, but no hobby that I had ever seen. A quick look at the book soon came up with ORIENTAL HOBBY a rare vagrant to Borneo. Double rum ration all round! (Ian has subsequently seen one perched at AGATHIS CAMP).

A late afternoon flurry also added PALE BLUE and BLUE AND WHITE flycatchers to the list, the latter being a new record for the MBCA.

The next day was the long (10k) but relatively downhill walk back to our starting point at AGATHIS. 'Downhill' was purely relative and included a couple of steep ups and downs into and out of river valleys, particularly near the beautiful GINSENG FALLS. After that it was easy walking with a couple of birding highlights, including around 5 BORNEAN BRISTLEHEADS high in the canopy, and a female BLUE-HEADED PITTA on the track. It was good pheasant country too and the guides said that BULWER'S was fairly regularly seen by them along this trail.

The next day saw us back in the 4WD heading out of the reserve. We picked up the delightful SILVER RUMPED SWIFT on the road, and a TIGER SHRIKE at the gate.

I know that over the past few years HK birders have become more China-centric (with good reason) but if you want to experience some of the best (and last) primary rainforest in our part of the world, and mix the birding with some hard, but spectacular walking, then MALIAU BASIN, is the place to go. I'd be happy to supply further details on request. 🐦

Hong Kong Bird News

November 2005 – January 2006

– Richard Lewthwaite

November

A month of sustained interest opened with five Grey-headed Lapwings, a Long-billed Dowitcher and a Ruff (MDW, KL), all at Mai Po on 1st, and a juvenile Greater White-fronted Goose at Lok Ma Chau on 2nd (MRL). Only the second recorded in Hong Kong, the latter bird favoured the KCRC ponds at Lok Mau Chau and was also occasionally seen at Mai Po through to the end of January.

Assuming captive origins can be discounted, an owl found injured in the early part of the month and taken into care at Kadoorie FBG where it was subsequently released appears to be, based on its tail measurements, a potential Hong Kong first record of Brown Boobook *Ninox burmanica*. Following a recent taxonomic treatment, the former "Brown Hawk Owl *Ninox scutulata*" complex has been split into three species, of which Brown Boobook and Northern Boobook *N. japonica* occur in continental China. They are at present only known to be separable on the basis of vocalisations and biometrics. All previous Hong Kong "Brown Hawk Owl" records were thought referable to Northern Boobook.

A lively period during 5th-6th brought reports of a Grey Bushchat and Two-barred Greenish Warbler at Tai Mo Shan (GH), a Pheasant-tailed Jacana and Eurasian Sparrowhawk at Kam Tin (JA), two Black-winged Cuckoo-shrikes, two Mountain Bulbuls, three Lesser Shortwings, a male White-throated Rock Thrush, two Pygmy Wren Babblers and an unidentified Spectacled Warbler at Ng Tung Chai (EMSK) and two Bluethroats, 30 Siberian Rubythroats, a Pere David's Bush Warbler

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

(a potential 2nd record), a Paddyfield Warbler and ten Chinese Penduline Tits at Mai Po (PJJ).

An Oriental Greenfinch, now rare, was found at Long Valley on 10th and two were at Mai Po two days later, and a White-throated Fantail (presently Cat E) was present at Ng Tung Chai from 11th, marking the second successive winter in which this species has been reported there.

An influx of "Blyth's Leaf Warblers" occurred on 11th, involving both bright and dull birds. In all, at least ten, most of which were dull birds, were reported at Tai Po Kau (RWL), Ng Tung Chai (EMSK) and Kadoorie FBG (WLC). Following recent taxonomic revisions and in the light of field work in southeast China, "Blyth's Leaf Warbler" type birds with bright yellow underparts in Hong Kong are thought to be Goodson's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus goodsoni* of the nominate subspecies, whilst the identification of similar birds with dull underparts is as yet unresolved, possibilities being two other members of the former "Blyth's Leaf Warbler" complex – Goodson's Leaf Warbler of the subspecies *fokiensis* and La Touche's Leaf Warbler *P. claudiae*.

Also noted at Tai Po Kau on 11th were a Mountain Tailorbird, at least four Grey-headed Flycatchers, a Black-naped Monarch and a Red-tailed Minla (Cat E). Subsequently in the month, up to ten Grey-headed Flycatchers and three Black-naped Monarchs were reported there.

During intense coverage of reed beds at Mai Po on 12th, ten Purple Herons, four Great Bitterns and a Blunt-winged Warbler were found and an adult male Amur Falcon flew over (PJJ). Subsequently, on 19th, an adult female Amur Falcon was photographed at Lamma (GM), the latest ever.

An influx of Chestnut Bulbuls was noted in mid month, with one at Cheung Chau on 12th, the first for the island (MDW), over 100 at Mong Tseng on 13th (RWL) and large numbers noted at Lantau Island on 19th (PA). Coverage of Lantau Island during the month led to

reports of a Eurasian Collared Dove at Mui Wo on 5th, a Common Rosefinch there on 8th, a Black Bulbul at Pui O on 12th and four Streak-breasted Scimitar Babblers there on 19th, whilst the Grey Bushchat first found at Mui Wo in late October was again noted there on 19th (PA).

An adult Brown-headed Gull was seen from the Mai Po boardwalk on 13th (MT) and an Oriental Scops Owl found at Cloudy Hill on 17th. Passage of Mugimaki Flycatchers was evident on 19th, with three at Tai Po Kau Headland (R&KB) and four at Pak Tam O (GJC). Three Yellow-bellied Tits were found at Sha Lo Tung on 20th (GH) and a Radde's Warbler at Lam Tsuen on 24th (EMSK).

The month ended with a flurry of interesting reports – a Daurian Jackdaw at Mai Po on 26th, a Barred Buttonquail at Ping Shan on 27th (JA), a female Green-backed Flycatcher at Tai Po Kau (Kwan) and a Rustic Bunting at Long Valley (GT), both on 27th-28th, a Bay Woodpecker heard at Tai Po Kau on 28th and 30th (GC, KB) and finally a Red-breasted Merganser at Lok Ma Chau on 30th (MRL).

December

A relatively flat month opened brightly with the Bay Woodpecker heard again at Tai Po Kau and a Brown Fish Owl at Pak Sha O (PJJ) on 1st-2nd.

A flock of at least ten Yellow-bellied Tits was noted at Sha Lo Tung on 6th (GH) and flocks of 25 and 40 Little Buntings were reported at Long Valley and Ho Chung on 10th-11th.

Among rarer waterbirds noted at Mai Po in the first half of the month were a Greater Scaup on 5th (YYT), a Ferruginous Duck and five Common Pochards on 8th and 24 Northern Lapwings on 14th (KL).

In mid-month, a Eurasian Woodcock, Red-throated Flycatcher, White's Thrush and eight Chinese Grosbeaks were all present at Airfield Road, Sek Kong (J&JH).

Another flock of Yellow-bellied Tits, this time involving at least eight individuals, was found in the Lam Tsuen triangle on 18th.

Highlights of the December waterfowl count in Deep Bay on 18th were a flock of 69 Greater Scaup, by two birds the peak Hong Kong count, and a Red-breasted Merganser (MLC, RWL). Unusually high numbers of Gadwall for the month were noted at Mai Po, with ten on 19th and 21 on 30th.

January

Despite the winter turning out to be poor for thrushes and Red-flanked Bluetails (five at Ng Tung Chai on 6th being the best count), reports from the Lam Tsuen and Deep Bay areas ensured this was a memorable month.

Attention at the beginning of the month focussed on Lam Tsuen Valley where a Hume's Leaf Warbler was found at She Shan on 2nd (DAD) and a female Thick-billed Pigeon in the Lam Tsuen triangle the next day (AS), both being regularly reported in subsequent weeks. Sluggish and sometimes frustratingly hard to detect against its leafy background, the Thick-billed Pigeon remained the whole month in the same tree and indeed for days on end in the same cluster of branches, the tree being a strangling fig-tree which was fruiting copiously. Other birds reported at Lam Tsuen at this time included two Black-winged Cuckoo-shrikes, a Brown Shrike, single Red-throated, Grey-headed and Verditer Flycatchers, a White-bellied Yuhina, the eight Yellow-bellied Tits found in December and a Common Rosefinch.

A superb full frame photograph of a Sand Martin in flight at Lut Chau on 9th (HBBWS web-site) shows the mantle feathers to be uniform and lacking the pale edges which are shown by typical *ijimae* individuals in spring, suggesting the enigmatic subspecies *fohkienis*, which would be a first for Hong Kong.

Forest and shrubland birding was rather slow. However, coverage of Shing Mun turned up a Forest wagtail, a White-throated Rock Thrush and 40 Striated Yuhinas, all on 6th (CM, TJW) and three White's Thrushes on 11th, whilst at Tai Po Kau a flock of Striated Yuhinas was noted on 14th and a Mrs Gould's Sunbird on 20th.

In the second half of the month, a Greater White-fronted Goose, presumably the Lok Ma Chau individual, was intermittently seen at Mai Po (BS). The freshwater ponds (Pond 20) at Mai Po attracted up to two female Baikal Teal, 30 Gadwall, the highest count in about 10 years, three Ferruginous Duck, 1700 Tufted Ducks and five Common Pochards on various dates and also a single Baer's Pochard on 31st (KL, YYT, PJJ, EMSK, GT, MRL).





Birding interest intensified from about 20th, coinciding with news of unusually heavy snow over much of China. A Himalayan Swiftlet at Lut Chau and 71 Greater Scaup, the highest count on record, were in Deep Bay on 21st (GT), and on 22nd a Eurasian Hawfinch, a potential Hong Kong 1st record, was found feeding on seeds in a *Celtis sinensis* tree at Mong Tseng (JH). On the same day a suspected Sykes's Warbler, potential 3rd record, was seen at Ma Tso Lung (YYT), whilst on the Shenzhen (China) side of Deep Bay, a first-winter Long-tailed Duck, thought to be a male, was photographed, the most southerly China record and potentially the first for Guangdong. Though remaining until at least the end of the month, it sadly showed no inclination to visit the Hong Kong side of the bay.

Around 23rd, two Dalmatian Pelicans were in Deep Bay, the first and possibly only birds of the winter, and a female Grey Bushchat was present at Mong Tseng. Another female was seen intermittently at Ng Tung Chai at this time (EMSK, GT).

On 24th, a first-winter Relict Gull, the first since winter 1992/93, was seen in Deep Bay from the Mai Po boardwalk. Presumably this individual (PJJ) and another paler individual (EMSK), also a first-winter, were seen from the same point on 27th. These followed a Kamchatka Gull there the previous day.

A record influx of Buff-bellied Pipits was noted at fishponds beside the Mai Po access road, with 28 counted on 27th (PJJ) and still up to 15 to the end of the month. Also present on 27th was a single Water Pipit, potentially only the 2nd for Hong Kong (PJJ).

The month ended with reports of a Fujian Niltava at Sai Kung on 29th and an Oriental Greenfinch at Mong Tseng on 30th (MT). ♪

Date	Leader / Speaker	Activity / Details	Time	Difficulty
21 May (Sun)	WONG Peter KONG Michelle	Small Group Activity: Tai Mo Shan Limited to 8 members only; Please reserve place by email membership@hkbws.org.hk	08:00 – 13:00	XXX
3 Jun (Sat)	CHIK Yau Wing TANG wing Shing	Luk Keng 08:30 Fanling Railway Station ** Crested Bulbul Club Activity	08:30 – 13:00	XX
7 Jun (Wed)	FONG Forrest	China & Overseas Bird Watching Trip Reports Room 1113, Hong Kong Scout Centre, Scout Path, Austin Rd, Kowloon; (HKS10 member, HKS30 non-member)	19:00 – 20:30	
12 Jul (Wed)	CHAN Alan	Experience Sharing: Birding in the Web Room 1113, Hong Kong Scout Centre, Scout Path, Austin Rd, Kowloon; (HKS10 member, HKS30 non-member)	19:00 – 21:00	
23 Jul (Sun)	CHAN Alan Forrest FONG	Boat Trip: Mirs Bay/Tap Mun 08:15 Ma Liu Shiu Pier, one hour at Tap Mun for lunch; 15:00 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 from Tap Mun.</i>	08:15 – 15:00	XX
6 Aug (Sun)	HO Man Fai LAM Ngao Lun	Tai Mo Shan 08:15 Tsuen Wan MTR Station Hang Seng Bank	08:00 – 13:00	XXX
12 Aug (Sat)	FONG Forrest	Outing Leader Training Workshop to be confirmed	14:00 – 18:00	
16 Aug (Wed)	FONG Forrest	Indoor Meeting: China & Overseas Bird Watching Trip Reports Room 1113, Hong Kong Scout Centre, Scout Path, Austin Rd, Kowloon; (HKS10 member, HKS30 non-member)	19:00 – 20:30	
10 Sep (Sun)	FUNG Robin WONG Simon CHAN Yin Fong, Helen OR Wai Hung	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



** 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

Date	Leader / Speaker	Activity / Details	Time	Difficulty
17 Sep (Sun)	CHEUNG Jose Alberto TAM Yip Shing	Boat Trip: Po Toi, Lamma Channel 08:00 Aberdeen Public Pier (near Ocean Court) 16:00 back to Aberdeen Public 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 be seasick.</i>	08:00 – 16:00	XXX
20 Sep (Wed)	FONG Forrest	Indoor Meeting: China & Overseas Bird Watching Trip Reports Room 1113, Hong Kong Scout Centre, Scout Path, Austin Rd, Kowloon; (HK\$10 member, HK\$30 non-member)	19:00 – 20:30	

Further details or change(s) of outings/indoor meetings will be announced in the HKBWS Website (<http://www.hkbws.org.hk>) and BBS (<http://www.hkbws.org.hk/cgi-bin/yabb/YaBB.pl>).



Transportation arrangement



Please fill in the booking slip and return

Booking 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 – 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 Activity Booking Slip with a cheque payable 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

▶ Mai Po Trip

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

- 10 Sep (Sun) Membership no.: _____ 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 Outing.

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 (Fare: HK\$150/member, HK\$200/non-members)

- * 23 Jul (Sun) : Mirs Bay / Tap Mun (_____ member, _____ non-members)
- 17 Sep (Sun) : Po Toi and Lamna Channel (_____ member, _____ non-members)

Enclosed please find a Cheque for HK\$ _____ (Payable to The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Ltd.)

Name: _____ Membership No.: _____

Address: _____ Contact No.: _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Note: Please send this application together with crossed cheque by mail to The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Ltd, 1612 Beverley Commercial Centre, 87-105 Chatham Road South, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon, 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

<For registration, please send the following details by email to membership@hkpbs.org.hk. >

Small Group Activity (For members only)

I/We (total _____ member(s)) would like to participate the Small Group Activities to be held on _____ at _____.

Name(s): _____ Membership No.: _____

Contact No(M): _____ Email: _____

• 黃理沛、江敏兒 Michelle Kong and Peter Wong
• 米埔 Mai Po • 02/10/2004

極北柳鶯

Arctic Warbler



暗綠柳鶯

Greenish Warbler

• 張浩輝 Cheung Ho Fai • 米埔 Mai Po • 01/10/2000

• 張浩輝 Cheung Ho Fai
• 米埔 Mai Po
• 1 - 07/10/2000
• 2 - 22/10/2000

淡腳柳鶯/日本淡腳柳鶯

Pale-Legged Leaf Warbler/Sakhalin Leaf Warbler



鳳頭潛鴨

Tufted Duck



鸕鶿

Great Cormorant



白肩鵟

Imperial Eagle

