

HKBWS

香港觀鳥會 The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society



bulletin

214

Winter 2009 ~ 冬





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針尾鴨
張冠南
南生圍

Northern Pintail
Cheung Koon Nam
Nam Sang Wai

15.11.2008

SLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter



綠翅鴨
葉紀江
南生圍

Common Teal
Herman Ip Kee Kong
Nam Sang Wai

02.02.2007

DSLR Camera, 100-400mm lens



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The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Limited

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Bulletin 214

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From the Editor



~ John Holmes

The much-appreciated Cotton Teal at Shan Pui Tsuen, Yuen Long was the inspiration for a "waterfowl" theme to the photos in this winter bulletin. Many thanks to the photographers who so generously contributed their shots.

In this edition Richard Lewthwaite notes how few birds can be seen in Kaiping, on the west part of the Pearl Delta, emphasising how important Hong Kong can be for many wintering species.

By contrast, TP Luk gives a colourful account of a visit to Jianfengling National Forest Park, Hainan Island, where he found birds abundant, and leeches even more abundant.

Last, but not least, Samson SO has contributed a personal memoir of birding at Luk Keng.

To these, and to all our regular contributors, many thanks ! 

Society News & Projects ~ Lo Wai Yan

Members

Affairs

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society is Recruiting Volunteers!

Dealing with over 1,200 members, the HKBWS office is busier than ever. After the start of the birding season, the Society also gets ready to deal with membership renewal and the arrangement of various bird watching activities and services. In order to deal with the workload, the Society Office would like to recruit one or two volunteers who are able to assist regularly at the office.

Duties include:

1. Assisting in handling Society membership affairs such as answering member's enquiries by phone, email or forum, arranging member activities, member liaison, handling membership registration or renewal matters, books or souvenir selling matters, etc;
2. Assisting in general office administration such as written correspondence, filing and information cataloging, database administration and sales records administration;
3. Helping Society office staff to organize special projects and handling project-related work.

Duty arrangement:

1. Volunteers are expected to work 2 or 3 half days (or more), 3 hours per day.
2. Duty arrangement could be adjusted case-by-case according to the volunteer's own needs.
3. Preference will be given to volunteers having knowledge of computer software.

Interested members or keen birders may contact LO Wai-yan at the office by email (hkbws@hkbws.org.hk) or by phone (2185 7687). Thank you very much for your support.

Hong Kong Bird Race 2010 & Target 100

Date of Bird Race :
3rd & 4th April 2010 (Easter Saturday & Sunday)

Minox Binoculars and Telescopes

The item list and order form for the special offer for Minox binoculars and telescopes has been uploaded to our forum (www.hkbws.org.hk/BBS) under the Membership Affairs column.

2010 Membership Renewal

Please remember to renew your subscription, due on January 1st. You may send the completed subscription form with a crossed cheque to the society. Or you may directly credit 'The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Limited' account [Bank of China (Hong Kong) account no. 012-878-1-076439-9] and then return the pay-in slip and the completed subscription form to the society.

Acknowledgments : Membership card designed by Ms Puk Yuk Yin with a photo by Wallace Tse.
















A Photographic Guide to the Birds of Hong Kong

The Society would like to express deepest gratitude to the parties who have participated in the production of this very popular book: AFCD (Hong Kong Wetland Park), Wan Li Book Co Ltd, project advisor Mr C Y Lam and all the other contributors listed on page 3 of the book itself.



Bird Shop in HKBWS (Deadline for Spring Sale : 31 March 2010)

Books and AV material (special offer for member)	Special price for member	Spring Sale for member
 Birdwatching in Forests (B0001) (Bilingual)	HK\$30	HK\$30
 Birdwatching in Farmlands & Open Fields (B0002) (Bilingual)	HK\$30	HK\$30
 Birdwatching in Wetlands (B0003) (Bilingual)	HK\$30	HK\$30
 Butterflies & Moths of Hong Kong (B0009)	HK\$ 160	HK\$150
 Birding South-east China (B0010)	HK\$240	HK\$240
 生機處處 (B0011)	HK\$46	HK\$46
 上海水鳥 (Waterbirds of Shanghai) (B0012) (Chinese only)	HK\$ 90	HK\$80
 Hong Kong Flying Colour I: Birds (B0013) (Bilingual)	HK\$ 40	HK\$30
 Hong Kong Birds for Kids by Tim & Thelma Woodward (B0015) (Bilingual)	HK\$60	HK\$60
 探索鳥類 (呂德恒 陳燕明著) (B0017)	HK\$30	HK\$30
 Ecology of the Birds of Hong Kong (published by KFBG) (B0018)	HK\$200	HK\$200
 Birds of Hong Kong and South China (B00019)	HK\$135	HK\$135
 Hong Kong Bird Report 2003-04 (R0001)	HK\$ 140	HK\$110
China Bird Report 2004/2005/2006/2007 (R0002) (Bilingual)	HK\$ 100	HK\$80
Shenzhen Bird Report 2004-2008 (R0003)	HK\$ 40	HK\$35
A Century of Birds DVD (AV0002)	HK\$ 66	HK\$60
HKBWS "Birds and People in Harmony -Nature Forever" First Day Cover (SOU0001)	HK\$ 250	HK\$200
Hong Kong Migratory Birds First Day Cover (27 April 1997) (SOU0002)	HK\$25	HK\$25
HKBWS Hat (SOU0003)	HK\$ 40	HK\$30
Cotton batch of HKBWS logo (SOU0004)	HK\$20	HK\$20
Scaly-sided Merganser tie (SOU0005)	HK\$200	HK\$200

School Bird Watching Network

The programme is co-organised by the Hong Kong Wetland Park, HKBWS and the Division of Ecology and Biodiversity, HKU. The aim of the programme is to promote bird-watching among schools and to encourage establishment of bird-watching clubs in schools. The organisers hold scheduled bird-watching training sessions on topics including bird identification at different habitats (urban area, wetlands, woodlands, open areas), a bird race, and workshops. In addition, students can also apply knowledge gained from the programme by conducting field surveys or participating in project-based studies.

Participating schools will also earn learning credits by taking part in the activities, and redeem teaching aids and equipment such as guidebooks and binoculars as rewards. The programme runs from Oct 09 to May 2010.



Hong Kong Park Green Orienteering (1st and 8th Nov 2009)

The 5th Hong Kong Park "Green Hunt", jointly organized by LCSD and HKBWS has hit a record high. 160 participants forming 34 teams came from 18 primary schools to join the championship. The event consisted of a half-

day training and another half-day competing. Participants explored Hong Kong Park in order to observe and answer questions on animals and plants found within the park. They were also required to note things like squirrels and butterflies. Participants also made bird-like hats to be worn during the competition. The best designed hat could win a prize. Special thanks are due to the many members of the Crested Bulbul Club who assisted at the event, and also Mr. Alan Lam and Dr. Judy Wan.

Winners of the Bird Hat Design Competition:

"Common Kingfisher" from Tuen Mun Government Primary, "Alexandrine Parakeet" from Five Districts Business Welfare Association School, "Yellow-crested Cockatoo" from S.K.H. St. Matthew's Primary School.

Winners of the Hong Kong Park Green Orienteering

Champions: Great Tit from Kowloon Women's Welfare Club Li Ping Memorial School

First Runner-up: Cockatoo from Tai Po Methodist School

Second Runner-up: Little Egret of Bishop Walsh School



Outstanding:

Silver-eared Mesia from S.K.H. Yan Lap Primary School, Yellow-crested Cockatoo from St. Andrew's Catholic Primary School, Spotted Dove from Bishop Walsh School, Yellow-crested Cockatoo from The Hong Kong Institute of Education Jockey Club Primary School, Crested Honey Buzzard from Hong Kong Institute of Education Jockey Club Primary School.



Philippines Bird Watching Festival

~ Samson So & Shum Ting Wing

In October 2009, we represented HKBWS at the 5th Philippines Bird Watching Festival. This was the first time we travelled to the Philippines as well as our first time to enter the Festival, which was held in Balanga, Bataan County. Nineteen international or regional bird watching organizations, including the HKBWS, joined the event. At the hotel we met representatives of other bird watching societies and joined a bird watching trip to Manila Bay. During the 2 hour trip, we observed many wetland species including Collared kingfisher, Ruddy-breasted Crake and other migrating waterbirds.

On arrival at Balanga we set up the HKBWS booth, noting the nearby wildlife as we did so. The opening ceremony was held at the site of a future wetland park. As we stepped off our boat, thousands of students were already there. The festival aimed to promote environmental education through birds. As well as the students, many birders visited the event. The festival drew lots of attention and had an excellent effect in promoting bird conservation work. The HKBWS booth displayed information about conservation and bird watching in Hong Kong. At the same time, we sold souvenirs such as the new "Photographic Guide to the Birds of Hong Kong" which sold out within 5 minutes. The other souvenirs were very popular, too. On the festival's final night, the hosts used songs and dance to

celebrate. One of the most creative sessions involved participants using body paint to express the beauty of birds. At the end of the event, an amazing five models were imitating the Black-winged Stilt, the theme bird of the Festival.

On the last morning we joined the hosts to release a Brahminy Kite back into the wild. Back at the Festival, we visited booths of other bird watching societies, chatted with other birders and took photos together. The Philippines Bird Watching Festival organizers did a great job and we wish every success to the organizers of next years' festival.



Crested Bulbul Club

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

No. of participants in Hong Kong Park
from August - October 09: 162

No. of participants in Kowloon Park
from August - October 09: 351

2. Bird watching interpretation in Hong Kong Wetland Park

A total of 69 participants in this service in October 09.

3. Bird watching services and activities

1&8/11/2009 Hong Kong Park "Green Hunt" (see item above)

Meeting Point for Morning Bird-Watchers at the Hong Kong Park

Jointly organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society and guided by the Crested Bulbul Club of the Society. Free of charge and no registration required.

Hong Kong Park – every Wednesday 8:00 to 10:00 am
Gathering Point: Artificial Lake

Kowloon Park – every Friday 7:30 to 09:30 am
Gathering Point: Arcade

Conservation Management of Long Valley

(Mar 08 – Feb 2010)

~ Vicky Yeung



*Yellow-breasted Bunting foraging in the Paddy Rice field.
photo by Winnie Wong and Sammy Sam*



*Japanese Quail in Long Valley.
photo by Kinni Ho*

In this final stage, the managed area has become stable and management measures are attractive to birds. Paddy rice produced rice grains in late September and attracted a record (since 2005) number of Yellow-breasted Buntings. Other rare migrants in Long Valley were Japanese Quail, Dunlin, Pechora Pipit, Marsh Sandpiper, Pheasant-tailed Jacana. We encourage bird watchers and photographers to share their photos and bird reports on the HKBWS forum, so that we can have a more complete record.



"The Common Breeding Birds in Long Valley"

and

"The Common Invasive Species of Long Valley"

A poster of "Common Breeding Birds in Long Valley" and a leaflet of "Common Invasive Species of Long Valley" are available for members to pick up in our office.

Checklist of Hong Kong Bird Record

The checklist and the bird record submission form has been uploaded in our forum (www.hkbws.org.hk/BBS/) under the column "Hong Kong List". Special thanks to Geoff Carey and Peter Chan.

Report of the International Black-faced Spoonbill Census 2008 & 2009

The annual International Black-faced Spoonbill Census took place on 11-13 January 2008 and 9 -11 January 2009. A total of 2,065 and 2,041 Black-faced Spoonbills were counted in 2008 and 2009 respectively. A full report has been uploaded in our forum (www.hkbws.org.hk/BBS/) under the column "BFS".

Survey Report of House Swift and Barn Swallow Nests in Hong Kong

The Swallow Research Group has been conducting survey on House Swift and Barn Swallow Nests since 2003. The annual report from 2003 to 2008 has been uploaded in our forum (www.hkbws.org.hk/BBS/) under the column "Swifts and Swallows".

China Project

Directory of Important Bird Areas in China (Mainland):

Key Sites for Conservation

This book is published by BirdLife International and has now been uploaded to the China Bird Watching Network (www.chinabirdnet.org).



China Coastal Waterbird Census Report Sept 05 – Dec 07



This survey is organised by HKBWS, sponsored by the Ocean Park Conservation Foundation Hong Kong and supported by BirdLife International. The report has been uploaded in the China Bird Watching Network (www.chinabirdnet.org) for your reference.



Mai Po Update

~ Bena Smith

Barrier upgrade at new floating hide

Since opening to the public in October 2007, the new floating bird watching hide has been an overwhelming success and continues to be highly popular with visitors. Its unrivalled views across the Deep Bay mudflat and west facing aspect make it a favourite with birdwatchers particularly in early morning.

A requirement of the Environmental Permit obtained for the project was to assess the impact of hide users upon waterbirds. Field survey work in 2008 concluded that visitors entering the hide during a tide height of ~1.8m or above caused nearby waterbirds to move away and so additional mitigation measures were recommended.

Consequently earlier this winter the approach barrier to the new floating hide was significantly upgraded (Photo 1). Works included installing green sheets on both sides of the walkway to create a full visual barrier between birds and visitors as well as to reduce noise generated from human foot steps. Furthermore, we planted a row of mangroves alongside, the idea being to slowly establish a natural barrier, which if successful, may eventually replace the green sheeting.



*Upgraded barrier and planted mangrove
(Credit - Janet Lee)*

Completion of gei wai #21 conversion



*Islands in gei wai #21
(Credit - Janet Lee)*

With much anticipation (and relief, I add), gei wai #21 is finally operating as a high-tide roost. Its conversion was by far the largest and most expensive single gei wai project at Mai Po with contractor costs alone amounting to some ~HK\$1.5 million and on-site works spanning two years.

At the start of 2008 the area was virtually dry land, overgrown with climbers and poor quality vegetation. However by the end, all internal vegetation had been removed creating a 9.2 ha

open expanse of water. Then in 2009, diggers and backhoes moved in to landscape the gei wai's interior. This involved de-silting the perimeter channels to ~1m depth, a measure proven to prevent unwanted vegetation invading from the surrounding bunds, and creating 12 islands using spoil from the old internal bunds.

Designing islands for waterbirds is always challenging. Different species are known to prefer different shapes, and it's clear certain species are comfortable utilizing islands closer to paths / hides than others. Luckily, our experiences from enhancement works in gei wai #16/17 (the other large high-tide roost) came in handy. Also this time we created runnels on each island (Photo 2). These increase the total length of feeding edge and bring water into the centralised areas of islands helping to make them wetter and therefore more attractive to foraging waterbirds.

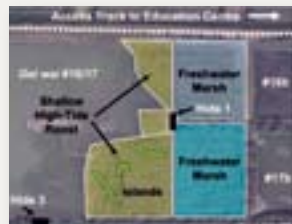
At present, birdwatching is possible from the converted hut beside the road. In the coming years we may create a second floor in the hut to give elevated views, subject to finding a donor. Also a grass screen along the roadside will be encouraged to lessen disturbance from road users and persons approaching the hut.

BBR 2010

This February there will be a new format Big Bird Race purposely timed to coincide with World Wetlands Day. This race is the major fundraising event for Mai Po which over the last 25 years has enabled WWF to acquire gei wai and manage them for wildlife. Typically it contributes ~20% towards the HK\$5 million annual management costs.

Funds raised from the 2010 race will pay for an exciting new project to restore a 2.7 ha area of open water close to Hide 1 (Figure 3). Presently, the area is dry land and of low value to wetland wildlife. Provided we raise enough funds, work will begin in spring 2010 to create a new 1.5ha freshwater marsh and extend the gei wai #16.17 high-tide roost by some 1.2 ha.

Aside from creating new habitat for wetland wildlife, the works help address the worrying long-term trend of open water loss inside the Reserve; 67% over the last 30 years. Also because the new areas are in close proximity to Hide 1, birdwatchers and public tour groups will benefit enormously and with a bit of luck, could become a great place to watch Pheasant-tailed Jacana and Watercock.



Proposed de-silted works near Hide 1

For comments about the Mai Po works being carried out, please contact us by telephone (2471-6212) or by e-mail (bsmith@wwf.org.hk).



Kaiping, Guangdong, 9-11 October 2009

~ Richard Lewthwaite, Karen Barretto & Ruy Barretto



Recently recognised as a World Cultural Heritage site by UNESCO for its unique and intact architectural heritage, Kaiping (“Hoiping” in Cantonese) is the site of thousands of successfully preserved splendidly ornate mansions and watchtowers, dating back to the 1920s and earlier, which are set in an attractive rural landscape of paddyfields and waterways in the western part of the Pearl River Delta about 100 km from Hong Kong. Karen and Ruy Barretto, Merlyn Chesterman, Mo-yung Yuk Lin and I spent a weekend in the area, with the aim of experiencing the heritage sites and seeing what birds we could find.

We visited three fine village clusters (Sanmenli, Zili and Majianglong), a traditional Chinese garden (Li Yuan) and a superb old town (Chikan), in the process covering a wide range of traditional farmland habitats, including paddyfields, vegetable gardens, fishponds, lotus ponds, bamboo woodlands and old orchards, as well as an extensive area of parkland. The cluster of villages at Majianglong, which is comparable in size to Long Valley and flanked on one side by the Baizhu Shan ridge, had the

most diverse habitats and was where we found nearly all our best birds.

With the northeast monsoon prevailing, conditions were perfect for autumn migrants to be moving through, and we recorded a good variety of migrant landbirds and aerial feeders. In addition to daily sightings of White Wagtails, Stonechats, Dusky and Yellow-browed Warblers, Asian Brown Flycatchers and Black Drongos, we saw four Amur Falcons, a Wryneck and three Common Rosefinches (early in the season compared to Hong Kong) and came across one large mixed flock of Barn and Red-rumped Swallows and a single Pale Martin over an area of fishponds. Two vocal Bright-capped Cisticolas, previously unrecorded in the Pearl River Delta except in Hong Kong, were a surprise. These were in an area of ripe paddy bordering





drier farmland edge at Majianglong and were either on passage or possibly local breeders.

Whilst migrant landbirds were well represented, we did not encounter a single Chinese Pond Heron, White-breasted Waterhen, Common Sandpiper or indeed any waterbirds at all, despite constantly being beside large rivers or wet farmland. The absence of waterbirds in an area with so much suitable habitat suggests that hunting is out of control.

Farmland birds, too, were in a very poor state. Although we saw one high-quality resident raptor (an adult Bonelli's Eagle coming off the ridge beside Majianglong), we recorded no kites, coucals, laughingthrushes, mynas, starlings, Common Magpies or crows of any kind. We saw just three Spotted Doves and only one White-throated Kingfisher during our visit and recorded day-counts of 10 individuals or more for only four species: House Swift (56), Chinese Bulbul (14, the only bulbul species), Japanese White-eye (37) and White-backed Munia (11). Whilst we were trying to dismantle a mistnet at Li Yuan, a young staff member came by and told us that he caught wild birds and liked to eat them. We found other mistnets at Majianglong and Zili.

Farmland birds in other parts of Guangdong have also been severely depleted, as recent visits to Daya Bay and Shantou have shown (see HKBWS Bulletins 181 and 184). Shantou is an especially interesting example because it was known to have a rich assemblage of farmland birds in the past. Major declines can be traced to the 1950s when farmland birds were hunted as food items and persecuted as agricultural pests in Maoist-style state-sanctioned mass campaigns. The wooded habitats upon which many species depend for food, cover or nest-sites were cut down in the Great Leap Forward. Since the 1980s, the spraying of agro-chemicals (pesticides, herbicides and rodenticides), mist-netting of commercially valuable "rice-birds"






and recreational shooting have successively taken a toll. Grim though this list is, the situation is not irreversible. Farmland birds are very resilient and can recover if given sufficient protection.

The situation across the border highlights the regional importance of Hong Kong's populations of farmland birds. Although declines can be traced for a number of species, such as Watercock, Pheasant-tailed Jacana, Crested Bunting and Grey-capped Greenfinch, farmland birds as a whole remain numerous and diverse in Hong Kong, at least locally in the New Territories at Long Valley, Lam Tsuen and other places. A number of species have also found urban niches. In Hong Kong, wild birds are protected under the Wild Animals Ordinance, shooting and trapping are illegal without special permits, there are clear guidelines on the use of chemical sprays, and ancient village woodlands such as fung shui woods have survived.



At Kaiping, the authorities have done a superb job in identifying and preserving the architectural sites and in retaining an intact traditional agricultural environment around the best old villages. Is it too much to hope that they can also restore the area's biodiversity?

Finally, a brief note on practicalities: we stayed at the Helenbergh Hotel, Kaiping which was rather splendid and very reasonably priced (RMB 268 per room per night including breakfast; pre-booked online). We recommend the hotel, but not the white wine it served. Architectural conservationist Selia Tan kindly provided us with lots of useful information and advice, and put us into contact with a local driver (Mr Tang; mobile: 133 5561 2327) who took us to all the sites mentioned above and looked after us very well. Special thanks to Selia and also to Patrick Hase for introducing us to Selia. If anybody would like to have a copy of our daily bird log, just send an e-mail to <rwlewthwaite@cuhk.edu.hk>. 



白額雁
夏放天
落馬洲

Greater White-fronted Goose
Martin Hale
Lok Ma Chau

08.11.2004
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens + 2x teleconverter



小白額雁
夏放天
落馬洲

Lesser White-fronted Geese
Martin Hale
Lok Ma Chau

08.11.2006
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens + 2x teleconverter

鳳頭潛鴨
黃卓研
米埔

Tufted Duck
Cherry Wong
Mai Po

07.01.2007
DSLR Camera, 500mm f/4 lens + 2x teleconverter



紅頭潛鴨
黃理沛 江敏兒
南生圍

Common Pochards
Michelle & Peter Wong
Nam Sang Wai

24.12.2007
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens





斑背潛鴨
吳璉宥
貝澳

Greater Scaup
Ng Lin Yau
Pui O

06.12.2008
DSLR Camera, 500mm f/4 lens



白眉鴨
孔思義、黃亞萍
南生圍

Garganey
John and Jemi Holmes
Nam Sang Wai

20.02.2009
DSLR Camera, 800mm f/5.6 lens



Bird watching in Jianfengling , Hainan Island (21 – 26 Oct. 2009)

– including bloody battles with
the ambushing leeches

~ Writer: T.P. Luk Photos: Y.L. Tam

The purpose of this report aims to give interested members information which may be useful if they select Hainan for bird watching in future.

TAM Yiu-leung and I joined together to go bird watching recently at Jianfengling, on Hainan Island. The start of our journey did not go well. Our plane took off from Shenzhen Airport at noon bound for Sanya, but the pilot finally decided at the last minute to land in Haikou temporarily due to a passing tropical storm. We finally got to Sanya Airport at 16:30, already behind schedule by 3.5 hours.

We met the appointed driver Mr. Chan at the airport, but were very disappointed because he did not want to drive to Jianfengling immediately. He explained that it was very dangerous (e.g. landslide, tire-skid, etc) to drive under the heavy rain; he suggested to stay in Sanya City for one night. We agreed reluctantly in view of the bad weather, safety was our first priority. We stayed in Sanya City for a second night and could only start our journey to Jianfengling on the third day morning when the rain eased. During our time in Sanya we took the chance to explore some famous tourist hot-spots by bus. Due to heavy rain, many parts of the city were flooded and people were wading about. Sanya is a very beautiful tourist city, we were particularly impressed by its long beach and the hotels and the delicious restaurants erected along the beach. It was not a loss to us to stay in this beautiful city for 2 non-scheduled nights.

Jianfengling is 140km northwest of Sanya, the route is quite simple. From Sanya Airport turn right onto to the West Line Coastal Highway. Exit from the highway after driving about 110km when you see the sign for Jianfeng. On a further 7-8km, you pass through Jianfeng Town and reach the entrance of the Jianfengling National Forest Park, entrance fee RMB20 per head. This is the half price rate for visitors staying inside, but you have to call your hotel manager to verify this for the park entrance officials. After another 16km uphill from the Forest Park entrance, you will reach a lake called Tian Chi (elevation about 800m) with a surface area more or less the same as Lower Aberdeen Reservoir in Hong Kong. There are a few resorts scattered around the lake. We stayed at Tian Chi Resort, reached by turning left before the lake and going another 3km uphill.





Major birding sites in Jianfengling include Ming Feng (Phoenix) Valley, the “Core Area of the Tropical Forest Conservation Reserve” and the Arboretum.

Ming Feng Gou (Phoenix Valley) is next to the place we stayed. A boardwalk of 1.9km (elevation 900m to 1050m) provides easy access to this fine secondary woodland. The Core Area (elevation 800m to 950m) and Arboretum (elevation 800m) are located in the vicinity of Tian Chi (the lake). To get to these birding sites, go back 3km downhill from the resort. At the road junction by the lake, turn left for the Core Area and take a road off to the right after about 100m. To reach the Arboretum, go the opposite way, back towards the park entrance. However, birding around Tian Chi Resort is also a good idea, the site is very large, comprising 7 - 8 blocks of villas distributed across a hillside. The native forest in this area is less dense than elsewhere and vision is better.

During our three nights and four days stay in Jianfengling, we were sometimes unhappy because weather was still unstable, usually raining (sometimes heavy) in the afternoon starting from 15:30. Leeches were very active in the forest due to the extremely muggy and windless weather. We felt scared because we had been seriously attacked. On average there were 10-15 leeches per hour trying to climb up our shoes or trousers,

especially in the Arboretum.

Native people advised us not to go in unless well equipped. We ignored their advice and became a suicide squad to march in. It was really a horrible place and finally we beat an early retreat. We could not concentrate on bird watching because most of the time we had to examine our shoes, trousers and clothes to see if there were any leeches attached, then pick them off immediately and throw them away as far as possible. No matter how diligently we tried, we still overlooked at least one leech and were finally captured (YL Tam was captured once and I was captured twice within two days) by this small annelid. Even worse was that the wound would not stop bleeding automatically until around three to four hours after the bite, and our trousers were blood-stained.

If you were lucky to have specific remedy provided by the native barefoot doctor, bleeding could be stopped much more quickly. I met the doctor (she runs a restaurant beside the lake) when I was bitten a second time at noon by a leech, She was kind enough to stop cooking immediately and gave me her urgent attention. My wound stopped bleeding within 2-3 minutes after her treatment, and she charged me only RMB5. I went back to our accommodation and did not continue bird watching afterwards that day, as I believe misfortunes never came singly. It was also embarrassing to wear blood-stained trousers. Native people said that the leech hyperactivity may be




due to the unusually high humidity. There should normally be fewer leeches in the winter or dry season. The locals usually wear a stocking “Leech Sock” to prevent the leech going through the trousers to bite them. Also, protection is more effective if mosquito repellent, toilet water or soap is applied on the shoes, stockings and clothes. They also advised that if you discover a leech still sucking your blood, do not pick it out by force otherwise the wound will be torn. It is better to remove the leech by spreading some salt on its body or to burn it with a cigarette lighter. If no specific medicine is available to stop bleeding after the bite, rubbing in cigarette ash was recommended !

Due to unstable weather and threats from the leech, the bird total seen was 66. Common birds included Grey-cheeked Fulvetta, Grey-throated Minivet, Puff-throated Bulbul, Black-browed Barbet, Bronzed Drongo, Sultan Tit and White-throated Fantail. Also worthy of mention were White-throated Rock Thrush, Lesser Yellownap, Large Woodshrike, Silver-breasted Broadbill, Red-headed Trogon, Greater Racket-tailed Drongo and Ratchet-tailed Treepie. The Chinese Bulbul (all-dark head) and Black-throated Laughingthrush (no white cheeks) are different from what we can see in Hong Kong. Although our intention

was to see all bird species endemic to Hainan, we felt excited just to see a few of them in a short period. We hope we might see more birds next time.

Mr. Xu Xue-jiang is the new manager of Tian Chi Resort, age around 55-60. He agreed to arrange a one-stop service for us in future, including room booking (RMB120 per night) + Sanya Airport round trip shuttle service (RMB350 for a small car/ per one trip) + National Forest Park half price entrance fee (RMB20) + Arrange permission to enter into Core Area + Purchase leech socks, etc. Mr. Xu could be reached at 138-0752-8785. At the last day of the trip, Mr. Xu arranged a car for us in the afternoon at a cost of RMB350 back to Sanya Airport. We finally returned to Shenzhen in the evening.

To conclude, Hainan is the right choice for bird watching if your vacation is a week or less. You will have chance to see many bird species endemic to Hainan. Most of the locals we met were friendly people, they were willing to talk with me even though my Mandarin is not so good. Hyperactive leeches are unusual, they should not usually be a problem in winter or the dry season. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Jemi Wong Ah Ping for all her assistance and information. Without it, the preparatory works (e.g. book resort, buy air tickets, looking for bird sites, etc) would have been more difficult. 

A story of Terns

~ Gary Chow



Spring in Hong Kong is the season for migration of some tern species, and is when Hong Kong's breeding terns start to settle on outlying islands. I cannot remember in which year HKBWS members started a heated discussion about the conduct of fishermen and tourists landing on tern islands in parallel with concern about the tern's breeding success. People were very concerned that intrusion into tern breeding sites would cause severe impact on the birds. In fact, as I observed, aside from human disturbance, natural disasters such as typhoons could greatly affect the local tern population. In the past few years, I have witnessed a story about terns. As I have not recorded it before, I am afraid that I would forget the details. So, I to take the opportunity here to write down and share the story.

The story started in 2003. Despite that they were intermittently disturbed by human activities, the breeding status on "Tern Island" in Mirs Bay was rather steady. However in summer 2003, bird watchers realized that a Peregrine Falcon had appeared on the island and was hunting the terns. At the start, bird watchers were excited about the scene as it provided a good opportunity for photographers to shoot good photos. If you recall, the first photo of Peregrine Falcon in A Photographic Guide to the Birds of Hong Kong was taken on the island, when it was hunting a Bridled Tern. At that time, bird watchers still did not sense what impact the Peregrine Falcon would have.

The following summer, Bridled Terns returned to the island and prepared for breeding as usual. However, unusually, they were followed by an aggressive Peregrine Falcon. I remember that year, every time I visited the island I could only see the terns circling over the island but not landing. But when we approached the island, a Peregrine Falcon would flush out from the island and usually head southwards. Apparently, it was hunting the terns! But when the falcon was gone, the terns would realize the island was safe and started landing. Although the terns finally came back to the island, the situation looked very unusual. Bird carcasses on the island were more common than usual, and often many feathers were strewn around. Apparently, the falcon caught the terns and finished them on the island without taking them away. This was a very bad sign for breeding prospects. Even if the falcon did not catch the juveniles, its long-staying presence on the island would frighten the parent and make them unwilling to land. Eventually the juveniles would die because lack of care.

Attacks from the falcon persisted and the atmosphere on the island turned bitter. In July, we planned to ring some juveniles, but we could only find five on that trip, reflecting the plight of the tern colony.

The following year, the falcon still appeared occasionally, and the breeding situation on the island was still very tough. I cannot remember if I have witnessed any juveniles at all that year, and I thought most of the terns had already abandoned trying to breed there. Meanwhile birdwatchers had been alerted by the situation and linked it to the disturbance from fishermen and even the AFCD staff patrolling on the island. I had explained to some birdwatchers the cause of the decline in tern numbers, but they didn't agree with me. Some said even if the falcon took one per day, it would only have consumed totally 90 young in 3 months, which should not cause such a dramatic fall. I still thought this simplistic viewpoint did not reflect the underlying problem. While the falcon stationed itself at the island, the terns would not dare to land, but instead just hover above. The ones without patience would approach the island but become the victims very soon. While the Peregrine lingered, the terns could not return to the island and the eggs and chicks died because of lack of care. Finally, most terns would leave the island after failing to breed at all.

In that year, the situation was very severe, to the point that "Tern Island" sometimes looked no different to any other bare rock. I worried that the island will be finished as a breeding site. In the summer of 2006, after the previous two miserable years, I reckoned that, even if they were not totally driven away by the

falcon, the number of terns returning to the island would be very low.

However, to my surprise, the falcon did not show up as usual, such that the tern can be able to return on the island. Although the number is still very low and unstable, at least they can start to breed safely.

I have no idea where the falcon went. But, coincidentally, my friend found an abandoned nest on a sea cliff in Sai Kung. The nest size is around that of Common Magpie and was built in the break among rocks, which is not likely White-bellied Sea Eagle's but probably Peregrine Falcon's nest. If this is true, it explains why the falcon appeared on the island regularly and flew southwards when it left.

In 2007, it seemed that the terns had forgotten the Peregrine Falcon and started over again on the island. The population was still lower than its heyday, but I was more than happy to see them returning the breeding ground and breeding healthily and naturally. During 2008 and 2009, I have seldom visited the island to see them, but I've heard that they have recovered to a quite steady population level.

The recovery of the Tern Island within a few years demonstrated the vitality of the terns. No matter how fearsome is the falcon, the inherited will of terns for nurturing their next generation can never be overcome. Nature can be cruel, the stronger and more adaptable species will win. The terns have to withstand the adverse weather and escape attacking predators before finally producing a healthy juvenile. Unlucky would-be parents will be killed in the attempt. These are hard facts, but that's the way nature is.



Note: Some birdwatchers may think my article totally eliminates the effect of human disturbance. Actually, I agree with the view that human intrusions onto tern breeding islands can have severe consequences on tern breeding success. I just think human disturbance is not always the most important factor when non-human disturbances to terns are also considered.

Egrets at Luk Keng

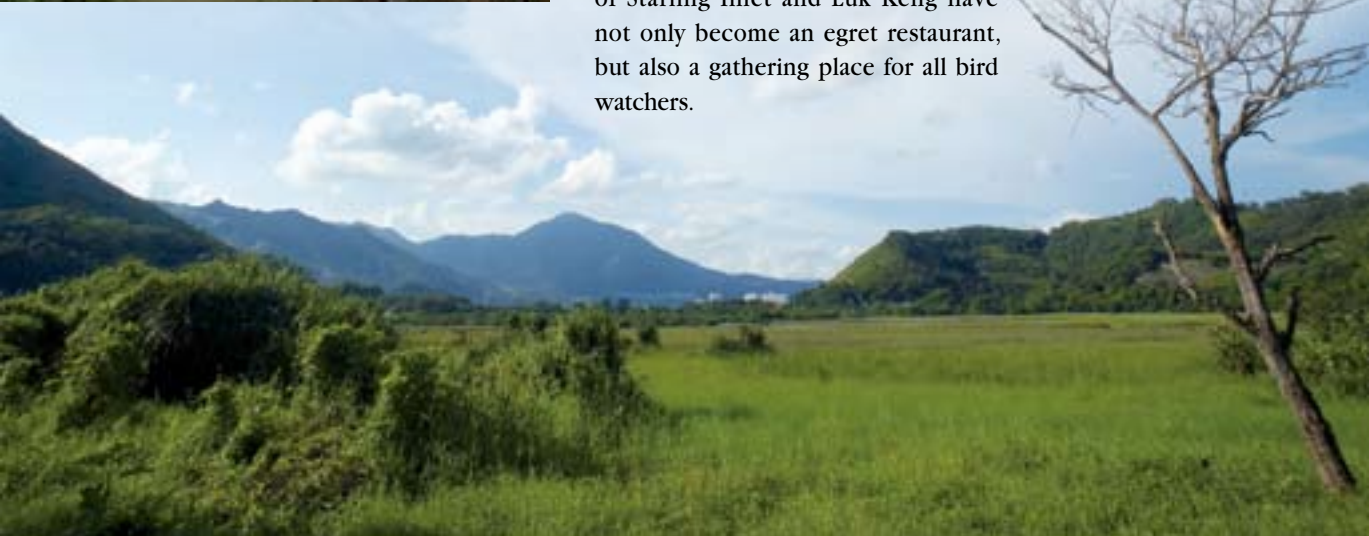
~ Samson So



On an autumn afternoon at low tide, a flock of egrets are fishing in the shallow water. With a telescope, their features can be clearly seen. Long white necks and pointed sharp yellow bills are their excellent fish-hunting tools. The head of an egret showing through my telescope suddenly plunge-dives into the water. A big fish (as long as the egret's bill) is caught and quickly swallowed. I have been admiring the swift hunting action of the egrets while the birds have been paying full attention to feeding on the fish.



This is the Tin Hau Temple at Luk Keng where the Nam Chung River meets the sea. A Chau, an important egret breeding site, is located in the middle of Starling Inlet. Although the egret's breeding season is over, it is still an important roosting site for them. During low tide, birds usually gather together to feed. The intertidal areas of Starling Inlet and Luk Keng have not only become an egret restaurant, but also a gathering place for all bird watchers.





My first visit to Luk Keng was 15 years ago, in my second year of university life. That was on a summer day with my classmates as companions. We were lucky to have our classes finished at 9:30am on most days (but we had to attend our first lesson at 8:30am everyday except Sunday!). We could go on field study outings after our lectures. This was a really nice activity for ecology students in their leisure time (not only me, but also for Henry Lui and Captain Wong - the three of us had a column in the HKBWS bulletins then). From Pokfulam to Central by bus, from Central to Kowloon Tong by MTR, from Kowloon Tong to Fanling by KCR, and from Fanling to Luk Keng by minibus, it took us three solid hours get there. The field guide to was our favourite reading book during travelling. As it was a long journey, I treasured every bird watching moment in the field. With my "Made in Japan" binoculars (which were earned from money from a part-time job),

a copy of "The Birds of Hong Kong and South China" (1994, the latest edition at that time) and my camouflage clothing (bought from a military uniform shop in mainland China, which also made me the most noticed student in HKU campus!) we explored the world of wetland and birds.

It was worth all the hassle travelling such a long way to Luk Keng and Nam Chung. Four types of kingfishers could be found near the Tin Hau Temple in 30 minutes (this is still my best record). I recall nine Black Bazas standing in the bamboo forest of Luk Keng Village, staring at us; and the white belly of a White-bellied Sea Eagle and the black body of Great Cormorant contrasting sharply with one and other in the scope. With my better binoculars, the difference between Asian House Martin and Sand Martin became clear. Watercock could be heard, their low calls in the



freshwater marsh of Luk Keng highly different from the sweetie call of Hair-crested Drongo.

I lived close to Luk Keng many years later. I was able to witness the 2nd HK record of Red-throated Loon, and took decent pictures of it. This showed the benefit of moving into the countryside. Under the beautiful blue sky, Crested Serpent Eagle and White-bellied Sea Eagle flew on their wonderful wings. I was happy to help remove Mikania creeper from the trees of A Chau for benefit of those egrets. I came to appreciate the ecology of the mangrove and freshwater marshes in Luk Keng and Nam Chung, and gained interest in butterflies and dragonflies. These formative experiences must have provided good memories for all ecology and nature conservation-related students.

Sha Tau Kok has been surrounded by high-rise building recently. Birds have been replaced by remote-controlled planes flying over the Luk Keng marshes; fish pond bunds in Luk Keng and Nam Chung are now concreted for sports-fishing sites. Fly-tipping goes on everywhere in Kai Kuk Shue Ha. Despite all the odds, luckily, Luk Keng marsh has been designated as one of the Priority Sites for Enhanced Conservation by the Hong Kong Government in the 21st century. Although none of the conservation work has been started yet, recognition of the area's ecological importance has been shown. However, nature conservation still has a long way to go.

Why do I find egrets so fascinating? Egrets in Luk Keng symbolise my beginning years in the exploration of birds. They help me clarify the memorable moments I have had with both birds and friends. The egrets also bear witness to environmental changes in Luk Keng and Nam Chung. They are the true “stake holders” of nature conservation and environmental education.




My Bird Watching Diary

~ Text and Illustrations: Wendy Yu



03 Mar 2009 (Tue)

The weather is getting warmer. A *Bombax malabaricum* has blossomed and is attracting Great Tits, active song birds with a nice song: - "zip zip zu". According to reference books, the male bird's ventral line is broader, which makes the identifying the sexes challenging. 

~ Richard Lewthwaite

(This item in the bulletin is not an "official" record, - observers should remember to submit all sightings to the Records Committee on paper or digitally on bird record forms – Ed.)

July

- ▶ At Mai Po, a **Black-naped Tern** photographed from the boardwalk on 5th was a first for the reserve, 106 **Collared Crows** were at a pre-roost gathering on 8th, a **Black-winged Kite** was present on 18th and 29th, whilst over-summering birds included a **Garganey**, seven **Black-faced Spoonbills**, a **Pheasant-tailed Jacana**, two **Oriental Pratincoles** and four **Black-headed Gulls**. Trees around the Mai Po car park hosted at least one **Chinese Blackbird** on 1st and three **Chinese Grosbeaks** on 21st. Among early autumn migrants were an **Asian Dowitcher** on 27th and a **Broad-billed Sandpiper** on 31st.
- ▶ Elsewhere, a **Long-toed Stint** at Long Valley on 26th was the earliest in autumn by 2 days (EMSK).
- ▶ The only other significant report also came from Long Valley where increasing numbers of **White-rumped Munias** came to the HKBWS-planted rice fields, with 50 on 1st, 200 on 16th and 350 on 27th (EMSK, DAD), the latter being a record count.

August

- ▶ The first week of the month brought reports of a **Black-winged Kite** at Mai Po, a **Bay Woodpecker** and the first **Asian Paradise Flycatcher** and **Grey Wagtail** of the autumn (on 3rd) at Tai Po Kau.
- ▶ A **Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike** at Tai Po Kau Headland on 14th (RB) was the earliest ever autumn record by 19 days. A **Yellow-rumped Flycatcher** at Lok Ma Chau the same day (PJL) was the second earliest on record, and three **Pale Martins** at Po Toi on 18th (GW) equalled the earliest autumn date for a martin. Other reports in mid month included a dependent juvenile **Mountain Tailorbird** at Tai Po Kau Headland on 14th (RB), the first **Eastern Crowned Warbler** of the autumn at Tai Po Kau on 18th (GH), a **Mountain Bulbul** at Leadmine Pass on 19th and a **Black-naped Oriole** at Cheung Chau the same day (MDW).
- ▶ A **Mountain Bulbul** was seen at Ma On Shan on 20th (RB), probably the first for the Southeast NT.
- ▶ Regular coverage of Po Toi resumed in the third week of the month (GW), birds of note being an **Orange-headed Ground Thrush** on 20th and a **Chinese Goshawk** (the earliest autumn record by 26 days) and a **Dollarbird** (the earliest by 11 days) on 25th.
- ▶ At Mai Po, a **Black Bittern** was photographed on 25th (HKBWS web-site).
- ▶ Visits to Tai Po Kau on 26th and 30th (SYH, KPK) turned up a **Forest Wagtail**, up to three **Eastern Crowned Warblers**, two **Asian Paradise Flycatchers** and one **Japanese Paradise Flycatcher**.
- ▶ The only notable reports received of birds at sea during the month were a **Black-tailed Gull** off Po Toi on 26th (GW) and two **Greater Crested Terns**, one of which was a juvenile, off Sai Kung on 29th (HKBWS web-site).

September

- ▶ In a month when a wide variety of birds were found, rarities were a **Tiger Shrike** at Po Toi on 3rd, a **Collared Kingfisher** at Mai Po on 5th (WWF HK), a **Fairy Pitta** at Po Toi on 13th (PW, MK, WAP) and a **Brown-chested Flycatcher** at Tai Po Kau on 19th (KPK).

▶ Generally, whilst a wide variety of migrant landbirds was reported in the course of the month, shorebird passage appears to have been rather light, the only notable reports being of two **Temminck's Stints**, two **Red Knots**, three **Eastern Curlews** and an **Asian Dowitcher** on 19th-20th and a **Long-billed Dowitcher** on 30th, all at Mai Po (WWF HK, SLT), with occasional sightings of **Ruddy Turnstones**, **Grey-tailed Tattlers** and **Greater** and **Lesser Sand Plovers** elsewhere on the coast.

▶ The first half of the month was generally dry. Notable reports (in addition to those mentioned in the opening paragraph) were a **Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo** (the latest ever) at Shing Mun on 2nd (WT), two juvenile **Orange-headed Ground Thrushes**, possibly locally reared, at Po Toi the same day (GW) and also one or two of these thrushes at Tai Po Kau and Kap Long on 12th-13th (HKBWS web-site, DAD), a **Crested Honey Buzzard** at Tai Po Kau (MLC) on 5th, a **Blue-and-white Flycatcher** and a **Verditer Flycatcher** at Po Toi on 9th (GW), the latter 20 days earlier than the previous earliest autumn date, an **Ashy Minivet** (rare in September) and a **Red-throated Flycatcher** at Po Toi on 13th (PW, MK), this the earliest autumn record by three days.


▶ Typhoons Koppu and Ketsana brought heavy rain and strong winds to Hong Kong in the second half of the month.

▶ Koppu led to a record count of 200 **Whiskered Terns** at the Mai Po boardwalk (WWF HK), with 30 at the Mai Po access road on the same day and 80 at Aberdeen Harbour and 43 at Kam Tin the previous day (GW, JAA). Ten **White-winged Terns** at Kam Tin on 15th (JAA) and a single **Gull-billed Tern** at Mai Po on 17th (BS) were the only other terns reported at this time. There were also sightings of two **Black-headed Gulls** and an early **Heuglin's Gull** at Mai Po two days later (HKBWS web-site, MLC). Among other birds coinciding with Koppu were a **Himalayan Swiftlet** at Po Toi on 15th, at least 25 **Brown Shrikes**, a record autumn count, at Po Toi on 17th and a Dollarbird (rare in Deep Bay) and three **Pechora Pipits** at Mai Po (WWF HK) the same day (GW).

▶ In the interlude between Koppu and Ketsana, a flurry of reports were received during 21st-23rd, notably including a **Chestnut-winged Cuckoo** and **Oriental Cuckoo** at Mai Po (WWF HK, SLT), a remarkably early **Pallas's Leaf Warbler** at Tai Po Kau (MK) on 20th, seven **Dollarbirds** at Wonderland Villas (MK), a **Lesser Tree Duck**, a **Himalayan Swiftlet**, a **Manchurian Reed Warbler** and 35 **Pallas's Grasshopper Warblers** at Mai Po (PJJ, WWF HK), three **Bright-capped Cisticolas** at Ap Lei Chau (DS), possibly the first from Hong Kong Island, and two **Chinese Goshawks**, a **Large Hawk Cuckoo** and 30 **Pacific Swifts** at Po Toi (GW).

▶ A minimum of 16 Blue Rock Thrushes, a record count (JAA, MLC), were present at Po Toi on 27th.

▶ As Typhoon Ketsana tracked between the Phillipines and central Vietnam towards the end of the month, bringing strong winds and very heavy rainfall to Hong Kong, at least 170 terns were noted from the Po Toi ferry on 29th, quite a large number for such a late date. These were **Common**, **Aleutian** and **Whiskered Terns** augmented by one **White-winged** and one **Little Tern**, (GW). The first four of these tern species were also present at Pui O on the same day (PA). On Po Toi itself, an as yet unidentified **needletail** was present on 29th and a **Blue-and-white Flycatcher** and **Chestnut-cheeked Starling** the next day (GW).

▶ The following migrant landbirds were also reported in the course of the month: **Black-winged Kite**, **Eurasian Hobby**, **Eurasian Wryneck**, **Forest Wagtail**, **Black-winged Cuckooshrike**, **Siberian Blue Robin**, **Lanceolated**, **Oriental Reed**, **Black-browed Reed**, **Eastern Crowned**, **Arctic** and **Pale-legged Leaf Warblers**, **Asian Brown**, **Sooty**, **Grey-streaked**, **Yellow-rumped**, **Asian Paradise** and **Japanese Paradise Flycatchers**, **White-shouldered Starling**, **Black Drongo** and **Black-naped Oriole**. 

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Bird Watching Tours (Mar - May 2010)

Outings

Date	Duration	Time and site	Difficulties (1...3)	Target species
6/3/2010 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Nam Sang Wai (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Happiness Restaurant, Yuen Long West Rail Station)	☆☆	Waterbirds
7/3/2010 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Tai Po Kau (08:00 Tai Po Kau carpark)	☆☆	Forest birds
14/3/2010 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	Mai Po Nature Reserve (08:00 Kowloon Tong MTR Station (Kent Road exit), OR 09:00 Mai Po carpark, end 15:00 Mai Po, 16:00 Kowloon Tong)	☆☆	Waterbirds
28/3/2010 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	Po Toi and HK South Waters (08:00 Hang Seng Bank, Sai Wan Ho MTR Station) Note: This will be a long trip on open waters. The ride could be quite rough and some people may be seasick.	☆☆☆	Seabirds and migrants
3-4/4/2010 (Sat)	1530 - 1530	Hong Kong Bird Race 2010		
6/4/2010 (Tue)	0800 - 1200	Mai Po Nature Reserve (08:00 Kowloon Tong MTR Station (Kent Road exit), OR 09:00 Mai Po carpark, end 15:00 Mai Po, 16:00 Kowloon Tong)	☆☆	Waterbirds
11/4/2010 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	Shing Mun (08:00 Exit B near Hang Seng Bank, Tsuen Wan MTR Station)	☆☆	Forest birds
18/4/2010 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	Mai Po Nature Reserve (08:00 Kowloon Tong MTR Station (Kent Road exit), OR 09:00 Mai Po carpark, end 15:00 Mai Po, 16:00 Kowloon Tong)	☆☆	Waterbirds
25/4/2010 (Sun)	0730 - 1600	Po Toi and HK South Waters (07:30 Hang Seng Bank, Sai Wan Ho MTR Station) Note: This will be a long trip on open waters. The ride could be quite rough and some people may be seasick.	☆☆☆	Seabirds and migrants
1/5/2010 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Aberdeen Reservoir (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Hang Seng Bank near Exit B, Central MTR Station)	☆☆	Forest birds
2/5/2010 (Sun)	0730 - 1600	Po Toi and HK South Waters (07:30 Aberdeen public pier, near Ocean Court) Note: This will be a long trip on open waters. The ride could be quite rough and some people may be seasick.	☆☆☆	Seabirds and migrants
16/5/2010 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Tai Po Kau (08:00 Tai Po Kau carpark)	☆☆	Forest birds
30/5/2010 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	Mai Po Nature Reserve (08:00 Kowloon Tong MTR Station (Kent Road exit), OR 09:00 Mai Po carpark, end 15:00 Mai Po, 16:00 Kowloon Tong)	☆☆	Waterbirds

- Member: Free of Charge Non-member: Free of Charge (no registration required)
 Member: Free of Charge Non-member: HK\$30 (HK\$10 for age under 19 student) (registration not required)
 Member: HK\$40 (Student Member: HK\$20) Non-member: HK\$70 (registration required)
 Member: HK\$160 Non-member: HK\$200 (registration required)

Indoor Meetings

Date	Time	Topic	Speakers	Venue
14/1/2010 (Thu)	1900 - 2100	Identification of Gulls (Cantonese)	Dr. Cheung Ho Fai	Rm. 901, HK Scout Centre, Austin Road, Kowloon
3/2/2010 (Wed)	1900 - 2100	Birding in Sydney, Australia Bird Trip to Jianfengling, Hainan	Mr. Cheng Nok Ming JJHolmes/TP Luk	Rm. 1107, HK Scout Centre, Austin Road, Kowloon
31/3/2010 (Wed)	1900 - 2100	Waterbird Monitoring Programme Public Lecture AND HKBWS Research Groups Report	Mr. Yu Yat Tung Research Groups	Rm. 924, HK Scout Centre, Austin Road, Kowloon

Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Activity Booking Slip

I would like to register the following HKBWS activities: (Please ☒ as appropriate)

Mai Po Outings [Coach Fare: Member: HK\$40 Student Member: HK\$20 Non-member: HK\$70]

(Members not using the coach do not need to pay. Non-members will have to pay the coach fare of HK\$70 disregard of whether they make use of the coach.)

- ☐ 14 Mar 2010 (Sun) (____ member(s), ____ non-member(s)) No. of person(s) using the coach is _____)
☐ 6 Apr 2010 (Tue) (____ member(s), ____ non-member(s)) No. of person(s) using the coach is _____)
☐ 18 Apr 2010 (Sun) (____ member(s), ____ non-member(s)) No. of person(s) using the coach is _____)
☐ 30 May 2010 (Sun) (____ member(s), ____ non-member(s)) No. of person(s) using the coach is _____)

Po Toi and Hong Kong South waters [Boat Fare: Member: HK\$160 Non-member: HK\$200]

**Please note that the gathering place and time are different for the 3 activities.*

- ☐ 28 Mar 2010 (Sun) (____ member(s), ____ non-member(s)) No. of person(s) is _____)
☐ 25 Apr 2010 (Sun) (____ member(s), ____ non-member(s)) No. of person(s) is _____)
☐ 2 May 2010 (Sun) (____ member(s), ____ non-member(s)) No. of person(s) is _____)

**** We will confirm the participants whether their application is accepted or not about 1 week before the outing. Once confirmed, no refund will be made no matter they can attend the outing or not. Refund will be made only if the outing is cancelled officially due to inclement weather or special reason.**

According to the requirement of the Hong Kong Police and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, participants entering Mai Po should provide their full name and Hong Kong ID Number (passport number for oversea visitors) that day in order to access to the Frontier Closed Area and Mai Po Marshes.

Information of Participant(s)

Date	Destination	Name	Membership No.	Mobile Phone	Email Address	Fare*

* Please use separate cheque for each activity.

Enclosed please find a Cheque of HK\$_____ (Payable to The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Limited)

Name : _____ Membership no: _____ E-mail: _____

Mobile Phone No. : _____ Date : _____ Signature : _____

Please send this slip together with a crossed cheque to:

Floor 14, Ruby Commercial Building, 480 Nathan Road, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon

Notes :

- Application should be made at least two weeks before the date of the outing and on the first come first served basis. HKBWS Members have a high priority to participate the activities.
- Any changes of the activities will be announced in our website: (<http://www.hkbws.org.hk/BBS>).
- Arrangement during bad weather: When Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No.3 or above or Rainstorm Warnings Red or Black are hoisted by the Hong Kong Observatory at 7:00 am on the event day, the activity will be cancelled. If Thunderstorm Warning is announced during the activity, Team Leader will decide if the activity should be continued or cancelled. You can call the team leader at 9457 3196 during the event day if you have any query about the weather.

Disclaimer

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society shall have no responsibility, financial or otherwise, for expenditure or other liabilities arising from the activities. Participants are recommended to purchase relevant insurance.

白眉鴨
陳士飛
南生園

Garganey
Thomas Chan
Nam Sang Wai

29.12.2007
DSLR Camera, 800mm f/5.6 lens



琵嘴鴨
張冠南
南生園

Northern Shovelers
Cheung Koon Nam
Nam Sang Wai

15.01.2009
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter



赤麻鴨
森美與雲泥
米埔

Ruddy Shelduck
Sammy and Winnie
Mai Po

21.04.2007
Spotting Scope + DSLR Camera with 50mm f/1.8 lens

