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The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

Bulletin 231

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Publisher: The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

Office Address :

7C, V Ga Building,
532 Castle Peak Road,
Lai Chi Kok, Kowloon,
Hong Kong

Telephone: (852) 2377 4387

Facsimile: (852) 2314 3687

email: hkbws@hkbws.org.hk

Birdline :

(852) 2465 6690 (Chinese)

(852) 2667 4537 (English)

Website :

www.hkbws.org.hk

Forum :

www.hkbws.org.hk/BBS

Co-ordinator: Ronley Lee (bulletin@hkbws.org.hk)

English Editor: John Holmes

Chinese Editor: Henry Lui

Photo Editor: Cherry Wong

Contributors to this issue:

John Holmes, Chinese Bird Name Committee,
John Allcock, Samson So, Captain Wong, Wendy Yu,
Richard Lewthwaite, HKBWS Staff

Translator: Anita Lee, Amy Li, May Chan

Photo:

Ho Kin Yip Kinni, Andy Cheung, Godwin Chan, Lo
Chun Fai, Simon Wong, Sam Chan, Wong Shui Chi Mon,
Li Kam Fai, Kfmak, So Chi Wai

Front cover : Mountain Tailorbird -

Herman Ip Kee Kong (Lung Fu Shan), 7/11/2013,
DSLR Camera, 300mm f/2.8 lens + 1.4x teleconverter

Design & Printing:

Contemporary Development Company

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This bulletin printed on 100% recycled paper with soy ink

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Assistant Manager	Ms. Fu Wing Kan, Vivian (China Programme)
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Editorial Note

April is the best month for birding in Hong Kong, and the society's own bird race (details elsewhere in this bulletin) takes place in mid-April.

If it's not too late, I urge everyone to take part or to sponsor a team. A lot of the populations of migrant birds we see in April are in decline; they need all the help they can get.

We can be sure that funds received by the society will be put to good use, for education, and in project areas like Long Valley and elsewhere. 🐦

John Holmes

Society News and Projects

Members

Affairs

2014 Membership Renewal

Membership stood at around 1920 as at early March. Membership renewal under the new membership criteria is in progress. Renewal letters will be posted about two months before membership expiry dates.

Bird Watching Course

The 16th Elementary Bird Watching Course for Beginners completed in the end of March and the 25 participants were taught basic birding skills. The 3rd Forest Birds Identification Workshop and the 2nd Farmland and Open Country Birds Identification Workshop were held in January and March respectively and gave an advanced birding skills training to a total of 35 members. This April, a new wader workshop will be organized, and refer to our Discussion Forum for details.



Outing of the 3rd Forest Birds Identification Workshop

Society News and Projects ~ (cont.)

Hong Kong Bird Watching Day and Bird Race Fundraising Event

An annual Bird watching competition has become one of the key events of the Society and this year will be held on April 12th to 13th. This year, in order to encourage different types of birders and outsiders to join the event, in addition to the 24-hour "Challenger Team" for experienced birders, we have added three different categories which will race for 7 hours only, "Family Team", "Green Birder Team" and "Organization Team" so that new birdwatchers and birdwatchers who have never joined the Bird Race before can also enjoy the wonders of birdwatching.

The Society is looking forward to your participation to the Hong Kong Bird Watching Day. If you are not able to join it, you may also opt to support any team and the conservation and education work of the Society by making direct donations. Registration and pledge forms can be downloaded from the society website.

Crested Bulbul Club

Early Morning Bird Watchers

No. of participants in Hong Kong Park
from Nov 2013 to Jan 2014: 263

No. of participants in Kowloon Park
from Nov 2013 to Jan 2014: 394

Bird watching interpretation in Hong Kong Wetland Park

A total of 111 participants from Nov 2013 to Jan 2014.

Bird watching services and activities

7 & 14 Dec 2013

Over 70 Club's members assisted the
Hong Kong Park Green Hunt

21-27 Dec 2013

Flower, Bird, Insects and Fish Exhibition
in North District

The 14th Inter-school Bird Race (2 & 16 Nov, 21 Dec 2013)

The 14th Inter-school Bird Race is co-organized with the Hong Kong Wetland Park. 40 teams joined the competition this year. Many thanks to all involved volunteers for helping the training and the competition day.



Hong Kong Park Green Hunt (7 & 14 Dec 2013)

This is the 8th year of the "Hong Kong Park Green Hunt" co-organized with LCSD. About 150 students from 15 schools attended the competition. We would like to thank more than 70 members of the Crested Bulbul Club who offered help during the training and competition days.



Champion of the Green Hunt competition



Bird Cap Design Competition



2012-2015 Nature Conservation Management for Long Valley

The 8th Harvest Fest was held on 1 & 5 Jan 2014. There were about 1,000 participants joining the two-day activity. This year, the Harvest Fest was full in 3 hours after the online application system was available. We would like to thank all your support.

We would like to remind bird watchers and photographers not to bait wild birds, not to walk into farmland and be aware of crops planted on paths and bunds. For more important notes for birding in Long Valley, please visit: <http://www.hkbws.org.hk/BBS/viewthread.php?tid=17229&extra=page%3D1>

Hong Kong Fishpond Conservation Scheme

In January, 57 enthusiastic volunteers joined the Fishpond Volunteer Scheme. They have attended the basic training and field trip about fishpond and wetland ecology. They will assist various educational activities of the project in future.

Also, we have promoted a new series of ecotours – “Fun in fishponds”. It includes three routes which are Tai Sang Wai, Nam Sang Wai and San Tin. The ecotours are suitable for schools, community centres and corporations. You can download the activity pamphlet from our forum for more details.



Nam Sang Wai and Lut Chau Residential Development

On February 14, the Nam Sang Wai and Lut Chau Residential Development was rejected by the Town Planning Board. Town Planning Board believed the revised plan did not fulfill the no-net-loss of wetland principle, did not achieve minimum pond filling and failed to fulfill the development requirements of Deep Bay. If the application was approved, it would set an undesirable precedent. During the commenting period, 600 comments were received by the Town Planning Board, of which 598 objected and 2 supported the plan. Thank you all for your effort in sending in your representation to object the project.

Kwu Tung North

HKBWS voiced out our concerns on the future of Long Valley. Comments were made to the Town Planning Board on the Kwu Tung North draft Outline Zoning Plan. The Society suggested building heights to be reduced in the zones around the Long Valley Nature Park and to zone the agricultural land around Ho Sheung Heung as Conservation Area.

Conservation News

Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan (BSAP)

The BSAP focus groups (Status and Trend Red List focus group, Marine Habitat Management focus group, Terrestrial Impact Assessment focus group and Terrestrial Habitat Management focus group) have had their first meeting and the inception reports are being completed. The Society continues to participate in these groups by providing our expert knowledge on birds.

Injured birds

Unusual injuries on waterbirds were observed where blood was seen on the underside of their necks, however the birds still appear to be active. We have informed the Agricultural, Fisheries and Conservation Department on this matter. We still do not know the cause of this. If you see injured birds, please report it to the government by calling 1823.

China Programme Update

Children from 8 countries produce “Journey of Spoon-billed Sandpiper” animation

The animation was organized by the China Programme, with sponsorship from the Eric Hosking Charitable Trust. This project involved 500 children and helpers from 12 areas and 8 countries along the Spoon-billed Sandpiper's migratory route (Russia, Republic of Korea, Japan, Jiangsu and Fujian in mainland China, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar and Bangladesh). The children helped to colour over 1200 pieces of animation sequence one by one, the pictures were then compiled into one animation. Before the start of the colouring, we gave introductory talks and showed documentary clips of Spoon-billed Sandpiper to the children taking part, so that they could learn about the life of a Spoon-billed Sandpiper and the importance of protecting their habitat. At the end of the animation, the children shouted “Save the Spoon-billed Sandpiper!” in their own languages to help spread the message of protecting this species. The production took about 8 months. The “world premiere” was shown during BirdLife International World Congress held in Ottawa, Canada in June, 2013, and it has been broadcast in the 9th Children's India International Children's Film Festival (Environmental and Wildlife section) between 20th and 24th January. This animation was uploaded to Youtube (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INu1Z5xHeWQ>) and Youku (http://v.youku.com/v_show/id_XNTc5MTY5NDk2.html), which can be freely-accessed to be used in environmental education and promotion of conservation of Spoon-billed Sandpiper. The animation was directed and animated by Vivian Fu, special thanks to Lilian Fu for editing, Salome Siu and Alex Harwood for composing the original music of the animation, as well as the support from BirdLife partners and other organizations participating in the project.



The animation showed during the World Congress of BirdLife International in Ottawa, Canada on 20th and 22nd June, 2013. (Photo credit: Simba Chan)



Students from Japan holding their drawings. (Photo credit: Wild Bird Society of Japan)

Society News and Projects ~ (cont.)

Birdy Shop

Items		Price per each	
Sales items under the HK Fishpond Conservation Scheme (all income will be allocated to this programme)			
	Fishpond T-shirt (buy one)	\$100	
	Fishpond T-shirt (buy two or above)	\$90	
	漁翁移山 (作者：張展鴻教授)	\$50	
	Bird soap	\$10	
	Owl soap	\$10	
	Owl Key chain with sound and light	\$10	
	Beetle Key chain with sound and light	\$10	
	Handmade Ceramics flower	\$15	
	Bird Sticker	\$20	
	Handmade Bird phone strap	\$60	
	Handmade photo frame	\$100	
	Drawstring bags	\$120	
	Ceramic cup pad (buy one)	\$55	
	Ceramic cup pad (buy three or above)	\$45	
	Highlights of the Cup pad:		
	1. It can absorb spillage or condensate dripping from mug repeatedly to keep the tabletop dry and clean. 2. Made in Taiwan 3. Ceramics		
Sales items under HKBWS		Member Price HK\$	Non-member HK\$
	A Photographic Guide to the Birds of Hong Kong – Revised edition	\$260	\$290
	Birds of Hong Kong & South China	\$150	\$176
	Warbler ID Water-resistant Pamphlet (Chinese only)	\$20	\$30
	Swinhoe's Egret Embroidered Towel (Brown)	\$16	\$20
	Red-whiskered Bulbul Umbrella (Green / Yellow)	\$40	\$48
	Cross Binocular Straps	\$80	\$95
	Scaly-sided Merganser Tie	\$200 (per each) / \$300 (buy 2)	

2014 Black-faced Spoonbill Results of Synchronized Global Census

March 3rd has been proclaimed as the **World Wildlife Day** by the United Nations to commemorate the adoption of **CITES** (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) and to promote conservation of animals and plants worldwide. The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society has taken the opportunity of this special occasion to announce the 2014 census results of our wetland celebrity, the endangered Black-faced Spoonbill (*Platalea minor*).



In the last ten years, the number of Black-faced Spoonbill has been increasing and this year we even recorded a record high of 2,726 individuals. Even though this is only one more than last year, it is still considered as a record high. However, Research Manager of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Yat-tung Yu, is not excited about this figure, "in the last three years, the increase of Black-faced Spoonbill has been slow and for a species whose total population is only about 2,000 and still trying to recover the situation is still very serious so we must remain alert."

The situation at South China coast, which includes Mainland China, Hong Kong and Shenzhen in Deep Bay and Macao, is worrying, especially when compared to this year's increase at Taiwan and Japan. The number at South China coast has dropped 14.6% compared to last year (from 762 individuals to 651 individuals). Even though Macao and Haifeng has experienced a slight increase this year, it doesn't make up for the overall decline of the South China coastal area. As Black-faced Spoonbills take two different migration paths to the wintering sites in Japan and the South China coastline, the decrease in records along the South China coastline is an indicator there are issues with these roosting habitats. This has impacted the entire group's rate of growth and we must investigate the situation as soon as possible.

In Deep Bay 252 individuals were recorded during this survey, a decrease of 99 individuals (28%) when compared to last year and a decrease of 141 individuals (36%) compared to the year before. The real reason behind this is unclear. At

Fuqing, located in Fujian Province, the number of Black-faced Spoonbill dropped from 184 to 71 (61% decrease), this is suspected to be caused by the development of industrial areas nearby.

Cotai Ecological Zone of Macao is a small protected area of 55 hectares where we recorded 60 Black-faced Spoonbills. This is a historic high for Macao and recognition should be given to the relevant departments for their habitat management work of this small yet important area. But since the protection zone is surrounded by development projects the outlook is uncertain. As for Japan, the numbers are ideal, this year an increase of 26% was noted.

Every winter a number of juvenile Black-faced Spoonbills visit Hong Kong. Just last summer, Dr. Lee Ki-sup and his team from South Korea installed GPS tracking devices on a few new borne. From GPS signals, we were able to track S21's arrival in Hong Kong in November. The satellite tracking also revealed S21's habitat use in Hong Kong. It spent most of its night at the Gei Wai of Mai Po Nature Reserve and during the day it frequented the mudflats of Deep Bay and Wetland Park. The Nam Sang Wai and Fung Lok Wai wetlands, which have been coveted by developers, also fall within its foraging range.

Back in the 1980s, the Black-faced Spoonbill population was close to 300 and in order to conserve this precious species, many conservation groups and governments of East Asia began to take action. Starting in the 1990s, these concerned groups launched different types of research and project to

Society News and Projects ~ (cont.)

protect the habitats of Black-faced Spoonbills. Since 2003, the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society began to coordinate the annual International Black-faced Spoonbill Census. This year's international census took place from January 17th to 19th of 2014. More than 250 volunteers participated worldwide covering locations including South Korea, Japan, Jiangsu, Shanghai, Zhejiang, Fujian, Taiwan, Guangdong, Shenzhen and Hong Kong, Macao, Hainan, Vietnam, the Philippines, Thailand and Cambodia.

During this year's survey, Southern Taiwan, where 1,621 individuals were recorded, was still where the majority of Black-faced Spoonbills wintered. Detailed survey results are as follows:

- A total of 2,726 individuals were recorded in the 2014 census, this is one more than the 2,725 recorded in 2013, an increase of 0.04%. When compared to 2012, there is an increase of 1.2% during which 2,693 individuals were recorded.
- The largest groups of wintering Black-faced Spoonbills, 1,659 individuals, are still in Taiwan, this is about 60.9% of the entire population. When compared to last year's record of 1,624 individuals, there is an increase of 4%. Referring back to 2012 when 1,562 individuals were recorded, there is an increase of 6.2% this year.
- Hong Kong and Shenzhen recorded 252 Black-faced Spoonbills, compared to last year's 351, there is a decrease of 28.2%. Compared to 2012 when 393 were recorded, there is a decrease of 141 individuals, a 35.9% drop.
- At the coastal areas of Mainland China, 339 individuals were recorded, this is a decrease of 6.6%, compared to last year's 363 individuals. However, when compared to 2012, it is still an increase of 3.4%. 🐦

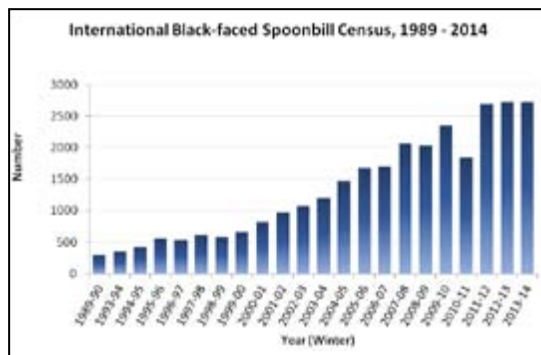
The Society would like to thank all the participating groups and volunteers, for all their hard work so that this year's survey could be carried out so smoothly and so that Black-faced Spoonbills at different places can be conserved.

Results of different locations in 2014 Census

Place	No. in 2012 (% to total)	No. in 2013 (% to total)	No. in 2014 (% to total)	Trend (against 2013)
Taiwan	1,562 (58.0%)	1,624 (59.6%)	1,659 (60.9%)	35 more (+2.2%)
Hong Kong & Shenzhen (Deep Bay)	393 (14.6%)	351 (12.9%)	252 (9.2%)	99 less (-28.2%)
Mainland China (Zhejiang · Fujian · Guangdong · Hainan · Shanghai · Jiangsu)	328 (12.2%)	363 (13.3%)	339 (12.4%)	24 less (-6.6%)
Japan	284 (10.5%)	277 (10.2%)	350 (12.8%)	73 more (+26.4%)
Vietnam	35 (1.3%)	39 (1.4%)	40 (1.5%)	1 more (+2.6%)
Macao	51 (1.9%)	48 (1.8%)	60 (2.2%)	12 more (+25.0%)
South Korea	40 (1.5%)	23 (0.8%)	26 (1.0%)	3 more (+13.0%)
The Philippines	0 (0.0%)	1* (0.0%)	3* (0.0%)	No change
Thailand	2* (0.0%)	1* (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	No change
Cambodia	2* (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	No change
Total	2,693	2,725	2,726	1 more (+0.04%)

Note: * Not included in the total as the toll was not taken on the survey date.

Numbers of wintering Black-faced Spoonbill in the world from 1989-90 to 2013-14



Chinese Bird Names Committee

At this Chinese New Year, Chinese Bird Name Committee of the HKBWS co-operated and communicated with Zhong Shan University Dr. Liu Yang, editor of the China Bird Report. The Chinese Bird Name Committee introduced the principles of how they set out to establish the Chinese names of Hong Kong birds, and Dr. Liu outlined how his book was established and revised. Discussion included aspects of species categorization, naming and other considerations, as well as future methods of co-operation. Finally, agreement was reached to keep in touch and set up a "Chinese Bird Catalog" which would be handy to use and up-to-date. 🐦



Mai Po Update

~ John Allcock

Desilting of perimeter channel at Gei wai #13

As many long-time visitors may be aware, we regularly have problems with siltation in the channels of our gei wai at Mai Po. Sediment is brought in during water exchange and gradually builds up in the channels until these become too shallow. In response to this, we need to periodically de-silt the channels to allow water flow. We have been aware for some time that Gei wai #13 is facing this problem. One of the channels is now very shallow and in urgent need of de-silting. The current condition is not only affecting water quality in the gei wai but also affects the number of waterbirds (including Black-faced Spoonbills) feeding in the gei wai during draining.

De-silting of this channel is one of the major works planned on the reserve for 2014. The schedule for this work is being finalised but is likely to take place during July-August, when there are fewer waterbirds and fewer visitors to the reserve. During the works period it is possible that there may be some disruption along the #12/13 path through the centre of the reserve (the path leading from the Education Centre to the FCA gate). We will aim to keep disruption to visitors to a minimum, but apologise in advance for any disruption that may be caused during this essential work.

Enhancement of Gei wai #19

Work is also scheduled this summer to enhance the landward end of Gei wai #19. This area is currently of relatively low value for waterbirds when compared to surrounding gei wai. The project for this summer will involve separating the landward and seaward end of the gei wai and converting the landward end to freshwater habitat. This landward end currently supports a large area of reedbed which has become degraded and dry. This reedbed will be enhanced by desilting to create wetter reedbed conditions favoured by reedbed-dependent bird species such as Purple Heron, Yellow Bittern and Black-browed Reed Warbler. Work on this project is funded by the Big Bird Race 2014.

Enhancement of some areas of the southern reserve

Another large-scale project for 2014 is the enhancement of Gei wai #21 and Pond #23, in the southern end of the reserve. Gei wai #21 is designed as a high-tide roost site, particularly for shorebirds and ducks. At the back of the gei wai, an area of shallow open water has been invaded by sedges which limit the value of this area for roosting birds. This area will be desilted to remove the sedges, and the mud removed will be moved to form an extra island at the back of the gei wai, which could be used by roosting birds at high tide.

At around the same time we will also carry out works at Pond #23. This entire gei wai has previously been converted to fresh water, but the management of water levels is problematic because the northern end (not visible from the path) supports a large area of reedbed, whereas the southern end is designed as a shorebird roost site. To facilitate water level management, the two ends of Pond #23 will be separated. The northern end will retain its reedbed function and will be allowed to flood higher during the wet season, to provide wet reedbed. The southern end will be returned to brackish conditions and will be operated as another roost site, similar to the operation of Gei wai #16/17 and #21.



(Credit: John Allcock / WWF-Hong Kong) – Caption “Channels of Gei wai #13 during draining. The channel on the right is scheduled for desilting in 2014.”



(Credit: WWF-Hong Kong) – Caption “Landward end of Gei wai #19, proposed for enhancement works this summer.”

Elf inside the



Remembering when I first picked up birdwatching, tutors taught me that whenever you observe with your heart, you would discover the most beautiful side of the world of birds.

In 1993's autumn, I participated in the training course of WWFHK's nature interpreters. It was my first visit to the Mai Po Nature Reserve, my first time using binoculars to observe the Pied Kingfisher catching fish, as well as the first time using a telescope to appreciate the beautiful feather of kingfishers. The rich diversity of birds and the relationship between birds and their living environment were a shock to me. Through the telescope the birds became more vivid and lively than as if observed by the naked eye. In that moment I found my way of life: to devote my time to observing and studying birds, and sharing this enjoyment through nature appreciation activities.

That 1993 winter I also participated in the advanced training course for "nature interpreters". Although I visited the Mai Po Reserve frequently, I still found new insight and observed interesting bird behaviour in every field trip. Even if I only came across common species their activity was fun to see. At the birdwatching hide, I used a telescope to observe the 24 sizable Dalmatian Pelicans (*Pelecanus crispus*) moving along the mudflat, dwarfing all other birds in the vicinity. While I continued to observe different species of water birds, my tutor took out his camera, and mounted it onto the telescope, taking photos of the pelicans. At that time, I made decided to be a bird photographer.


Time flies. By winter 2004, I had been a fulltime WWFHK staff for several years after graduation from University. With better economic status, I was able to upgrade my optics and photography gear, which gave me better image quality. What didn't change was the happiness I found during each observation.

Telescope

~ Photos / Text: Samson So

Before digital cameras became so popular, I mainly used 800mm or 400mm lenses to take photos on slide film. The popularity of digital gear allows me to increase my stake in better photography. I can still remember my first attempt on digiscoping: using the telescope to observe Black-faced Spoonbills (*Platalea minor*) foraging in shallow water, where sunbeams added some shiny colours to their eyes.

Optical development and the popularization of camera gear have enabled nature admirers to keep contact with the beautiful world, as well as leading more birders to become photographers. Bird photographers should be credited for their contribution to photographic field guides. With the development of gear and photography trends in Hong Kong and other regions, more and more people can enjoy wonderful pictures of birds. However, if we only appreciate the world through the viewfinder of cameras, or put too much emphasis on taking pictures, we might miss out many other beautiful scenes in the world.

As an ornithologist, nature lover and nature photographer, I believe that binoculars and telescopes, and photography equipment have their own unique niches. In the field, we usually use cameras to shoot and record bird species. For people who love birds or would like to learn more about nature, using binoculars to observe would add in new experience: fill with enjoyment after appreciating the beauty of birds, enjoy the time discovering the beauty of nature, as well as to be inspired during thinking the relationship between human and nature. These issues may shock our soul and this may not provide less satisfaction than getting beautiful photos through photo shooting. 

Remarks:

Attached Photos were taken with digiscoping. More Articles and Photos could be browsed at our facebook page of Eco Institute (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Eco-Institute-%E7%94%9F%E6%85%8B%E5%8D%94%E6%9C%83/119213051089?fref=ts>) and Samson So Photography. (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Samson-So-Photography/132675240247135?fref=ts>)





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Blyth's Reed Warbler
Lo Chun Fai
Sha Tin Park

17/01/2014
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黃腹山雀
黃振宇
沙田公園

Yellow-bellied Tit
Simon Wong
Sha Tin Park

20/12/2013

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嘰喳柳鶯
Godwin Chan
塋原

Common Chiffchaff
Godwin Chan
Long Valley

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何建業
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Barred Cuckoo Dove
Ho Kin Yip, Kinni
Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden

12/01/2013
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1.4x teleconverter



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Vietnam's Cat Tien National Park

~ Photos / Text: Captain Wong

I went to Vietnam's Cat Tien National Park in November last year from 27th to 29th, a three day-2 nights stay, or roughly 48 hours. Cat Tien has some special species including Green Peafowl, Siamese Fireback, Germain's Peacock Pheasant, Bar-bellied Pitta, Blue-rumped Pitta, but I didn't have the luck to see any one of them. Hugely disappointed? Not at all! I enjoyed this trip thoroughly, thanks to the feeling of letting the birds look for me (no more "Lonesome Jinx" for me).

I don't like writing overseas birding reports. For one thing, there are already tons of these on the internet, and secondly there's the gap between expectation and outcome. I went to Thailand's Khao Yai NP with "Lonesome Jinx" - Despicable Me No. 1. Our 3-day trip was short of excitement. But this time was different, I was surrounded by birds for a change! That's why I'm keen to share this experience (only reporting the good things, never the bad!).

Transport

Cat Tien NP is close to Ho Chi Minh City, using public transport, getting there takes about 5 hours:

1. By bus from Ho Chi Minh City District 1 to Dalat. Tell the driver you're going to Cat Tien, get off at midway stop, takes about 4 hours and fare is around HK\$150. The bus is air-conditioned and most passengers are westerners, it's safe and comfortable. You can get ticket and board at Singh Cafe, a travel agent in District 1(exact location can be Googled or found in Lonely Planet). First bus at 7:30am, thereafter at intervals of one to 2 hours.
2. From midway stop take a motorbike taxi to the NP (about 40 minutes). The midway stop is actually a store, where the taxi biker will come up to negotiate the fare with you. I didn't do very well at price haggling and paid 200 thousand dong, about HK\$100+.

On return, I had to rush to the HCMC Airport, so I shared a car ride with a Dutch couple and split the fare of US\$85.

Accommodation

When we arrived, it was already 1:00pm. I was dropped off at the Bamboo Lodge outside the NP where I made a reservation. Two days before I had asked a local to call and check the accommodation inside the park, the reply was "fully booked", so I made the reservation outside. But on arrival, the staff told me there were still plenty of rooms available inside the park! Anyway, birders should better tell the taxi biker whether they wish to stay inside or outside of the NP. Accommodation inside the park varies from the common lodge at US\$25 per night to the independently run high end Forest Floor Lodge at roughly over a thousand HKD per night.

Bamboo Lodge is 3 minutes walk from the NP ferry pier, basic but clean. US\$15 per night with breakfast.



National Park Ferry

One can only go into the park area by ferry (a 3-minute ride), return fare at about HK\$10. Ferry starts at 6am but tickets only sold at 7, so if you wish to take the early boat, better get a ticket the day before.

Leeches

This I must mention, although November is already the start of the dry season, leeches were still VERY common. Protection is through physical means, i.e. put on leech stockings, make sure there isn't any opening on your pants, and check your entire body every 5 to 10 minutes. I had already worn the leech stockings (provided by Bamboo Lodge owner "Foc"), but still 5 leeches managed to find their way onto my body and drew blood! Just because there was a small tear in my pants and I forgot to tuck my top into them.

Day 1

After having lunch at the lodge, it was already 2:30pm; I took the ferry to the Park. There are two trails at the Park entrance, the one on the right leads to the forest, the one on the left leads to a less wooded area. Since it was already mid-afternoon, and the forest birds are usually less active during this time of the day, I decided to take the one on the left. At a rubbish dump inside a bamboo grove, I saw a Black-naped Monarch and a Greater Yellownape, but it was too dark for pictures. Then I turned onto the main track and saw many Greater Racket-tailed Drongos. A few minutes later, that's when I found a not-so-shy and photo-friendly Banded Kingfisher at a more open bamboo grove, certainly the highlight of that day. Birding along the lightly wooded trail produced some good results too; there was the Common Iora, Black-naped Oriole, Little Spiderhunter, Racket-tailed Treepie, Ashy Minivet, Ashy Woodswallow, Asian Fairy Bluebird and a flock of more than ten Chestnut-headed Bee-eaters. Bigger birds were mostly seen on trees further away, such as the Lineated Barbet, Rufous Woodpecker, Thick-billed Green Pigeon and the Oriental Pied Hornbill. I started to turn back along the same track at around 4:30 and saw some different birds on the way: including three Woolly-necked Storks standing on a dead tree, a Green Imperial Pigeon and a Vernal Hanging Parrot. Over 30 species were seen within 3 hours. Although not many were new species for my personal record, it was delightful to be able to see the Banded Kingfisher at close range; plus the bird density is quite high and I was kept busy, it was better than I had expected. When I returned to Bamboo Lodge, the owner told me about a big bird resting on a tree near the restaurant; it turned out to be a Green-billed Malkoha.



Day 2

Got up at 5:30am the next day, I found the Green-billed Malkoha still sleeping. This might be the habit of this bird to wake up because it was still sleeping when the other birds were already very active. While breakfast was being prepared, I tried my luck around the lodge and found outside the entrance a Blue-bearded Bee-eater, the one and only on this trip, and a Common Flameback. I also spotted a Chestnut-headed Bee-eater which had seen the day before. Not too bad.

After the ferry to the NP at around 7a.m., the plan was to go to Crocodile Lake, by bike (9km flat road) plus walking for 5km, round trip totally 28km, estimated to take 6-7 hours. The Park Office offers bikes for rent, and also off-road car rides as an alternative. It's new for me to bike and bird, but it's not too difficult if you ride slowly. At first the bird condition wasn't particularly interesting, only the common forest birds such as Great Ioras and Common Ioras showed up. It was almost half an hour later when a White-rumped Shama appeared, a common lowland forest bird in South East Asia. Later I heard a call which I suspected to be a White-rumped Shama; after playing hide-and-seek for a while, I discovered instead that it was a Black-and-red Broadbill, the black and red contrast was unmistakable. Halfway through my bike ride, a fruiting fig tree attracted many Thick-billed Green Pigeons, Oriental-Pied Hornbills, Asian Fairy-bluebird and Hill Myna, the first wild Hill Myna for me.

The rest of the trip lacked excitement. Except for a female White-throated Rock Thrush, because of its dark coloured brown bars and peculiar standing pose, I jumped to the possibility of a huge Siberian Flycatcher; but as the excitement subsided, I became more convinced that it's a female White-throated Rock Thrush. Other encounters on the bike track worth mentioning included a Golden-fronted Leafbird and a Blue-eared Barbet that was seen standing on a photo-friendly spot.

I arrived at the entry of the walking trail at around 10a.m.; it is a really small path in the woods. Late in the morning there wasn't much activity, only the Buff-breasted Tit Babblers were seen more often moving around on the lower level close to the ground. After walking for an hour, I reached the bird hide at Crocodile Lake; you can stay overnight here, but conditions are poor and there's no meal supply (some birding reports said otherwise). Back to the bird scene, for raptors there were the Osprey and Grey-headed Fish Eagle, and not too many water birds. At the lakeside close to the hide were Purple Swampphen, Chinese Pond Heron, and Purple Heron; on the other side of the lake there were Lesser Whistling Duck, Red-wattled Lapwing, and Bronze-winged Jacana. Not to be missed of course is the Siamese Crocodile, the true owner of Crocodile Lake, and a small kitten that spent a lot of time eating stolen dried fish.

I spent about an hour in the hide, and started my return trip at 1:00p.m. After walking for about fifteen minutes, I saw a White-bellied Woodpecker moving around in the lower part of the woods close to the path. Basically I didn't actively seek out this bird, I should say the bird showed itself to me. Unfortunately it was quite shy and my big lens was tucked in the backpack, so no photos. The rest of the walk and bike trip went without any special find, only a Puff-throated Bulbul towards the end.


After 3:00p.m. I got back to the Park Office. After returning the bike, I went to the restaurant (they have got wifi!). Just when I was ready for lunch, rain started to pour, and lasted for almost an hour. After the rain had stopped, I went to yesterday's 'left-side track' again to try my luck, but there's nothing of particular interest. In the evening when I was back at the lodge chatting with another visitor, I saw a Great-eared Nightjar fly by; it was quite a big bird, almost the size of a Common Kestrel.



Day 3

In the morning, I went to Heaven Rapids (6km from the Park Office). The first 2km was concrete road, and the remaining 4km was dirt road. The birds were more or less the ones seen in the past 2 days, with only a White-bellied Yuhina towards the end and a pair of Black-and-red Broadbills giving good views. I was back at the lodge at about 11:00a.m and drew an end to this birding trip. In the afternoon I took a car to Ho Chi Minh City Airport and boarded the night flight home.

Summary

A total of 78 species were seen (including about 10 water bird species). For a professional bird watcher, not being able to get even one target species in Cat Tien NP, I can't say this was a perfect trip. But it was nonetheless a happy trip because I was able to rediscover the fun of bird watching. 




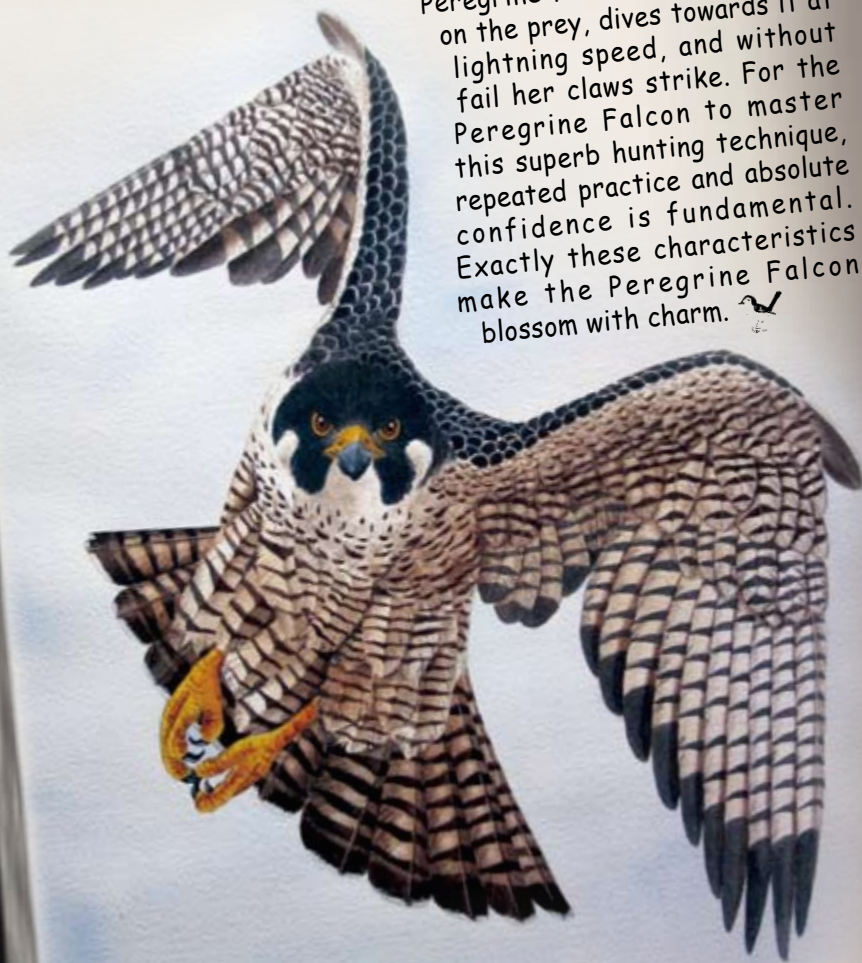
My Bird Watching Diary

~ Text and Illustrations: Wendy Yu

Peregrine Falcon

January 18, 2014

The hunting moment of a Peregrine Falcon always impresses birdwatchers. A chance comes, the Peregrine Falcon locks her eyes on the prey, dives towards it at lightning speed, and without fail her claws strike. For the Peregrine Falcon to master this superb hunting technique, repeated practice and absolute confidence is fundamental. Exactly these characteristics make the Peregrine Falcon blossom with charm. 



~ Richard Lewthwaite

(These are not formal records and observers are still invited to submit records in the usual ways – Ed.)

October

- ▶ A varied and interesting month brought two potential first records - a **Gray's Grasshopper Warbler** at Chek Lap Kok on 2nd (EMSK) and a "**Swinhoe's Plover**" (ssp *dealbatus* of Kentish Plover according to the IOC) at Tai Long Wan on 26th (JAA) – as well as a **Blyth's Pipit** at Mai Po on 4th (PJL), a potential 2nd record, four juvenile **Tundra Bean Geese** initially at Long Valley and then at the KCR Lok Ma Chau ponds on 28th (IT, GT), a potential third record, and a **Red-backed Shrike** at Long Valley on 1st (JGH) and a **White-bellied Green Pigeon** at Shing Mun (SLT), potential 5th and 6th records, respectively. The sightings of the bean geese came the day after four grey geese were photographed flying over Tuen Mun railway station (CYT).
- ▶ New high counts were reported for **Amur Falcon** (97 at Lok Ma Chau on 14th; KJ), a number scarcely imaginable 10 years ago, **Red-whiskered Bulbul** (641 at Lam Tsuen on 13th, DT) and **Black-collared Starling** (356 at Tai Po Waterfront Park on 15th, RWL). A **Eurasian Skylark** found at Mai Po on 6th (web) was on the earliest autumn date by 3 days.
- ▶ Among other notable reports in the first half of the month were one or two **Manchurian Reed Warblers** at Mai Po from 1st (PJL), a **Baikal Bush Warbler** and the first **Eurasian Sparrowhawk** of the autumn at Mai Po on 4th (PJL), a **Black-headed Bunting** at Lam Tsuen the same day (DAD), the first **Citrine Wagtail** of the autumn at Long Valley on 5th (WY), a **Pechora Pipit** at Sai Kung on 6th (PJL), a **Chestnut-eared Bunting** at Tsim Bei Tsui on 8th (JGH), the first of the autumn, three **Orange-headed Thrushes** at Lung Fu Shan the same day (HL), a **Ruddy-breasted Crake** at Long Valley from 9th (BT), an **Oriental Honey Buzzard** at Mai Po (KJ), one of only two reports in the autumn, a **Long-billed Dowitcher** at Nam Sang Wai (DAD) and a **Yellow-legged Buttonquail** at Long Valley (Inca), all on 12th, 10 **Black Bazas** at Hang Tau on 14th (JGH), 30 **Dusky Warblers** and 11 **Pale-legged/Sakhalin Leaf Warblers** on the Tai Po-Tung Chung trail the same day (JAA), and a **White-throated Rock Thrush** at Tai Po Kau on 15th (Bond).
- ▶ The second half of the month brought reports of two **Swinhoe's Minivets** at Mai Po on 16th (JAA), a **Grey-faced Buzzard** (very rare this autumn) and 20 **Yellow-breasted Buntings** (peak count of the autumn) at Long Valley on 17th (KJ), an **Eastern Water Rail** at Long Valley on 18th (AB), a **Watercock** at Mai Po (CC), a **Pheasant-tailed Jacana** at Long Valley (Vivian), a **Slaty-breasted Rail** at Discovery Bay (EMSK), 12 **Blue-tailed Bee-eaters** (peak count of a poor autumn for the species) at Mai Po (MH) and a **Siberian Thrush** at Tai Po Kau (MK), all on 19th, a **Baillon's Crake** at Long Valley (JL) and four **Two-barred Greenish Warblers** at Lam Tsuen (JAA) on 20th, a **Brambling** at Mai Po on 23rd (WWF), a **Bull-headed Shrike** at Nam Sang Wai on 25th (QA), and two **Radde's Warbler**, the first of the autumn, at Mai Po (WWF), three **Japanese Sparrowhawks** at Sai Kung at Fan Lau, five **Japanese Quail** at Fan Lau (CC) and a **Sulphur-breasted Warbler** at Tai Po Kau (Inca), all on 26th.
- ▶ In addition to these, a **Brown Wood Owl** was calling at Tai Po Kau on 13th (K+RB), and a **mystery harrier** was present at Mai Po from 16th (CT) to at least 22nd (MH). Initially suspected of being a Western Marsh Harrier, this was finally considered to be a hybrid with mixed features (PJL).
- ▶ News also came through of a **Pied Imperial Pigeon** at Po Toi at the month's end (per GW). Since there are no Chinese records and the Philippines and southernmost Vietnam are the closest points to Hong Kong where the species is known to occur, it seems unlikely at present that an individual could reach Hong Kong naturally.



November

- ▶ This was a very good month for migrants culminating in the discovery of a **Pied Wheatear**, only the second for Hong Kong, at the West Kowloon Reclamation on 30th (PJL). The four juvenile **Tundra Bean Geese** found at the end of October remained at the KCR Lok Ma Chau ponds until at least 14th (MRL, PJL).
- ▶ The clearest picture of the relative abundance of migrant passerines coming through Hong Kong on a single day in the month came from Lantau Island, where the following counts were made in shrubland and coastal habitats during a circuit from Tai O to Fan Lau and back on 17th: 74 **Chestnut Bulbuls**, eight **Mountain Tailorbirds**, eight **Asian Stubtails**, 17 **Japanese Bush Warblers**, one **Brown-flanked Bush Warbler**, two **Radde's Warblers**, 33 **Yellow-browed Warblers**, two **Two-barred Greenish Warblers**, one **Pale-legged/Sakhalin Leaf Warbler**, two **Black-browed Reed Warblers**, 33 **Red-tailed Robins**, 38 **Siberian Rubythroats**, 48 **Daurian Redstarts**, one **Red-flanked Bluetail**, one **Stejneger's Stonechat**, two **Lesser Shortwings**, 12 **Chinese Blackbirds**, nine **Japanese Thrushes**, one **Grey-backed Thrush**, one **White's Thrush**, two **Mugimaki Flycatchers**, 22 **Olive-backed Pipits**, six **Black-faced Buntings**, four **Little Buntings**, and three **Chestnut Buntings** (JAA).
- ▶ Tai O also hosted an **Eastern Water Rail** on 17th (JAA) as well as a **Purple Heron**, a **Lesser Shortwing** and a **Brambling** on 16th (EMSK) and a **Yellow-throated Bunting** on 23rd (EMSK), whilst a roundabout at Chek Lap Kok attracted a variety of migrants throughout the month, amongst which were a **Blue-and-white Flycatcher** on 1st, a **Mountain Tailorbird** on 21st and a **Bull-headed Shrike** on 25th (EMSK).
- ▶ In the New Territories, **Crested**, **Chestnut-eared**, **Yellow-browed**, **Rustic**, **Black-headed** and **Yellow-breasted Buntings** were all found during the month at Long Valley, which thanks in great part to a proactive management strategy by HKBWS staff has become a delightful place to visit, with both resident farmland birds and over-wintering migrants remarkably confiding.
- ▶ Significant waterbird reports from Mai Po included a **Ferruginous Duck** on 9th (WWF), a late **Oriental Pratincole** on 13th (WWF), a **Greater Scaup** (P+MW) and a **Kamchatka Gull** (DAD), the first ever autumn record, both on 15th, and a **Baikal Teal** on 23rd (P+MW). Also reported at Mai Po were a **Red-breasted Flycatcher** on 18th (WWF), a **Manchurian Bush Warbler** (recently split), a **Japanese Bush Warbler**, a **Brown Bush Warbler** and over 90 **Chinese Penduline Tits**, all on 19th (PJL), and a **Manchurian Reed Warbler** and a **Yellow-streaked Warbler** on 21st (PJL). Nearby, at Lut Chau, 11 **Common Starlings** were noted on 24th (MH), one of the highest counts on record.
- ▶ Elsewhere in the New Territories, there were sightings of a **Rustic Bunting** at Deep Water Bay Golf Course (EMSK) and a **Yellow-bellied Tit** at Sha Tin Central Park (per P+MW), both on 20th, a **Speckled Piculet** at Pak Sha O on 21st (GJC), one or two **Swinhoe's Minivets** at Lam Tsuen up to 24th (DT), the latest autumn date by 33 days, a male **Bull-headed Shrike** at Ngau Tau Kok on 25th (LL), a late **Forest Wagtail** at Tai Po Kau the same day (Bond), and a **Brown Bush Warbler** at Lam Tsuen on 26th (KJ).
- ▶ Po Toi was fairly well covered during the first half of the month, highlights being six **Mountain Tailorbirds** on 3rd (AB), two **Red-breasted Flycatchers** and a **Brambling** on 7th (GW), two **Lesser Shortwings** and a **Chestnut-crowned Warbler** on 9th (BC) and a **Narcissus Flycatcher** on 14th (GW).



- ▶ On Hong Kong Island, coverage of Mount Davis turned up a **Chestnut-eared Bunting** on 1st, an **Oriental Honey Buzzard** and a **Japanese Sparrowhawk** on 6th, a **Brambling** on 13th (GW) and 20 **Eyebrowed Thrushes** on 16th (CC). A **Baillon's Crake** at Hong Kong Park on 13th (Mon) was a big surprise.
- ▶ The month brought three reports of migratory nightbirds - a **Brown Hawk Owl** at Po Toi on 7th (GW), an **Oriental Scops Owl** at Robin's Nest on 18th, (MH) and a **Grey Nightjar** at the latter site the next evening (MH).
- ▶ A male **Rufous-bellied Niltava** present at Lung Fu Shan, Hong Kong Island from 26th into early December (HL, ML, et al) attracted appreciative crowds, but close scrutiny of the photographs revealed damage to the tail of a kind which strongly suggested that the bird had spent time in captivity (MH, JAA).

December

- ▶ Highlights of the month were a **Little Curlew** at Hong International Airport Golf Course from 18th to 24th (GJC, EMSK, et al), the first-ever December record and the latest by nine weeks, and a **Martens's Warbler** at Pak Sha O on 28th (GJC), only the third or fourth record and possibly the same individual as the one that wintered there a year ago. In addition, a very late and unusual-looking **Dark-sided Flycatcher** at Pui O on 29th (JAA) was suspected of belonging to the West China subspecies *rothschildi*, which has not previously been recorded in Hong Kong, and a **Grey-faced Buzzard** at Chek Lap Kok on 27th (EMSK) was by nearly seven weeks the latest ever autumn report.
- ▶ In the Mai Po area, the most interesting findings were a mystery buzzard on 2nd (PJL), 19 **Common Pochards**, a record count, on 5th (MH), a **Himalayan Swiftlet** (at Lut Chau) on 14th (MH), a **Spoon-billed Sandpiper** on 16th (PJL), a **Baer's Pochard** on 19th (WWF) and a **Ruddy Shelduck** on 21st (WWF).
- ▶ Long Valley hosted an array of rarer wintering birds throughout the month (JL, KJ, MH et al), including **Eastern Water Rail**, **Ruddy-breasted Crake**, **Grey Bushchat** (on 22nd, WD), **Brown-headed Thrush** (on 31st, AB), **Red-breasted Flycatcher** (on 26th, per P+MW), **Citrine Wagtail**, **Buff-bellied Pipit**, **Ruddy Sparrow** (on 28th, JGH), **Chestnut-eared**, **Yellow-browed** and **Black-headed Buntings**.
- ▶ Elsewhere in the New Territories, there were reports of to four **Chinese Penduline Tits** at Long Valley on 3rd (KJ) and Shuen Wan on 6th (RWL), rare sightings away from the Mai Po reedbeds, a **Forest Wagtail** at Shing Mun on 5th (SLT), one or two **Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrushes** at Kadoorie FBG from 8th (per JL), a **Naumann's Thrush** at Tai Po Kau Headland on 12th (RB), 12 **Oriental Greenfinches** at Lai Chi Wo on 13th (RWL), a **Fujian Niltava** at Cheung Sheung (AL) and a late **Radde's Warbler** at Tai Mei Tuk (RWL), both on 19th, a **Bay Woodpecker** at Shing Mun (SLT), a **Yellow-bellied Tit** at Sha Tin Central Park (SW) and a **Chestnut-crowned Warbler** and another **Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush** at Tai Po Kau (BK), all on 20th, a **Eurasian Jay** in the Kuk Po-Yung Shue Au area on 22nd (JAA), yet another **Forest Wagtail**, this time at Yung Shue O, on 26th (DT), a **Sulphur-breasted Warbler** at Beacon Hill on 28th (AB) and a **Brown-headed Thrush** at Yung Shue O on 31st (DT).
- ▶ On the islands, a Black Stork over Mount Davis on 1st (per JL) was possibly only the second record for Hong Kong Island following one in the early 1990s, a **Plumbeous Redstart** at Shek Pik on 29th (Morten) may have been the first for Lantau, and a **Brown Fish Owl** at Cheung Chau on 31st (MDW) was the final noteworthy report of the month and year. 

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Bird Watching Tours Apr - Sep 2014

Outings

Date	Duration	Time and site	Difficulties (1...3)	Target species
5/4/2014 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Tsim Bei Tsui (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Tin Chak Estate Shopping Centre, Exit near Tin Yat Light Rail Station, Tin Shui Wai)	☆☆	Waterbirds
12-13/4/2014 (Sat-Sun)	24 hrs	Hong Kong Bird Watching Day 2013 (Details announced on Discussion Forum)		
21/4/2014 (Mon)	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
27/4/2014 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Tai Mo Shan (08:00 Exit B near Hang Seng Bank, Tsuen Wan MTR Station)	☆☆☆	Grassland birds
3/5/2014 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Aberdeen Reservoir (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Hang Seng Bank near Exit B, Central MTR Station)	☆☆	Forest birds
4/5/2014 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	Po Toi and HK South Waters (08:00 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
11/5/2014 (Sun)	TBC	Wild Card Day (Details will be announced on May 9 on Discussion Forum)		
17/5/2014 (Sat)	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
25/5/2014 (Sun)	TBC	Wild Card Day (Details will be announced on May 23 on Discussion Forum)		
7/6/2014 (六)	0830 - 1300	Shing Mun (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:30 Kiosk at Pineapple Dam, Shing Mun Reservoir)	☆☆	Forest birds
8/6/2014 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Nam Chung and Luk Keng (08:00 Pavilion at junction of Nam Chung Rd & Luk Keng Rd)	☆☆	林鳥及水鳥
19/7/2014 (Sat)	0830 - 1630	Mirs Bay and Eastern Waters (08:30 Ma Liu Shui New Pier, end 16:30 Sai Kung Old Pier) Note: This will be a long trip on open waters. The ride could be quite rough and some people may be seasick. Those who want to leave at lunchtime may take the ferry (departing hourly) at Tap Mun for Wong Shek Pier. The fare is non-refundable irrespective of early departure at Tap Mun.	☆☆☆	Forest birds & Waterbirds
6/9/2014 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Nam Sang Wai (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 V Cuisine Restaurant, Exit G2, Yuen Long West Rail Station)	☆☆	Waterbirds
14/9/2014 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Shing Mun (08:00 Kiosk at Pineapple Dam, Shing Mun Reservoir)	☆☆	Forest birds
20/9/2014 (Sat)	TBC	Wild Card Day (Details will be announced on Sept 18 on Discussion Forum)		
28/9/2014 (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
Member: Free of Charge
Member: HK\$60 (Student Member: HK\$30)
Member: HK\$160

Non-member: Free of Charge
 Non-member: HK\$30 (HK\$10 for age under 19 student)
 Non-member: HK\$120
 Non-member: HK\$200

(registration not required)
 (registration not required)
 (registration required)
 (registration required)

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Indoor Meetings Apr 2014

Indoor Meetings

Date	Time	Topic	Speakers	Venue
16/4/2014 (Wed)	1915-2115	Ethiopia: How to see 416 species of birds in 14 days (Cantonese with English powerpoint)	Ms. Eling Lee	HKBWS LCK office 7C, V Ga Building, 532 Castle Peak Road, Lai Chi Kok, Kowloon

Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Outing Booking Slip

I would like to register the following HKBWS outings:

** We will confirm participants whether their application is accepted or not about 5 days 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.

Information of Participant(s)

Date	Outing	Name (First one will be considered contact person)	Membership No.	Mobile Phone	Outing Fee*	Mai Po Outing Meeting Place Kln Tong or MP

* Activity payment are processed individually, please use separate cheques for different outings.

Enclosed please find a Cheque of HK\$_____ Contact person's email : _____

(Payable to The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society)

Applicant : _____ Date : _____ Signature : _____

Please send this slip together with a crossed cheque to: 7C, V Ga Building, 532 Castle Peak Road, Lai Chi Kok, Kowloon.

Notes for Mai Po Outing:

- Participants below age of 12 yrs will not be accepted for Mai Po Outing visiting floating boardwalks.
- 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.

Mai Po Outing Fee	Meeting Point at Mai Po	Meeting Point at Kowloon Tong
Member	HK\$30-	HK\$60-
Student Member	HK\$15-	HK\$30-
Non-Member	HK\$120-	

Other Notes:

- HKBWS members have a high priority to join four weeks before the activity. Thereafter, registration will be made on first come first serve basis.
- Any changes of the activities will be announced on our Discussion Forum: <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 7:00am on the event day, the activity will be cancelled. If Thunderstorm Warning is announced during the activity, Team Leader will decide whether the activity should be continued or cancelled. You can contact the outing leader at 9457 3196 during the event day if you have any query about the weather.

Disclaimer

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society ("the HKBWS") assumes no responsibility, liability or obligations, whether financial or otherwise, for losses, injuries, death, damages, whether to the person or property, arising or occurring in the course or as a result from the activities, outings or training courses ("the Activities") organized by the HKBWS. Persons who participate in the Activities must ensure that they are medically fit to do so. If in doubt, they should consult qualified medical practitioners before participating. Participants are recommended to purchase relevant insurance for their own protection. By participating in the Activities, the participants impliedly agree that they will not hold the HKBWS, its Executive Committee members, other committee members, its officers, employees, volunteers, agents or subcontractors responsible or liable for any losses, injuries, death damages arising or occurring in the course or as a result from the Activities.

流蘇鹬
黃瑞芝
東涌

Ruff
Wong Shui Chi, Mon
Tung Chung

25/08/2013
DSLR Camera, 28 -300mm f/3.5 lens



小杓鹬
李錦輝
赤鱗角

Little Curlew
Li Kam Fai
Chek Lap Kok

25/12/2013

DSLR Camera, 500mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter





白喉磯鶇
麥江帆
嘉道理農場

White-throated Rock Thrush
Kfmak
Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden

04/01/2014
DSLR Camera, 500mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter

寶興歌鵲
蘇志偉
山頂公園

Chinese Thrush
So Chi Wai
Victoria Peak Garden

18/01/2014
DSLR Camera, 500mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter

