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香港觀鳥會 The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society



bulletin
會員通訊

232

Summer 2014 ~ 夏





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The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

Bulletin **232**

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Editorial Note

Once again, a heartfelt “Thanks” to everyone who contributed to this issue; - we couldn’t do it without you! 

John Holmes

Society News and Projects

Members Affairs

2014 Membership Renewal

Membership stood at around 1827 as at early June. 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 new Wader Identification Workshop for 16 members was held in April.



Mai Po outing, Wader Identification Workshop

Hong Kong Bird Watching Day and Bird Race Fundraising Event

This key annual event was held in from 12th to 13th April. In order to encourage different types of birders and outsiders to join the event and experience the fun of bird racing, we have introduced “Green Birder Teams” and “Fun-fun Teams”, in addition to the traditional 24-hour “Challenger Teams” for experienced birders. A total of HK\$19,520- in donations was received from supporters of the event, which will be allocated to support the China Coastal Waterbird Census.

Special thanks are due for support from the following organizations and government departments which helped to make the event a success:

- Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
- WWF – HK
- Mr. Richard Lewthwaite (Adjudicator)
- Mr. Lee Kwok Shing (Online bird record system)

We would also like to express our gratitude to the following prize sponsors (in random order):

- Schmidt Marketing Asia Ltd (Sponsor of Winner’s prize for “Challenger Team”)
- Shriro (HK) Ltd (Sponsor of Winner’s prize for “Green Birder Team”)
- Swarovski Hong Kong Ltd (Sponsor of table prizes for Prize Presentation Dinner)

Society News and Projects ~ (cont.)

Team List

Challenger Team



Sighted Birds

Chung Wing Kin
Leung Chui Shing, Evans
Yip Kam Yiu
Ng Sze On, Aaron

Common Kestrel

Lai Yau Man Philip
Wu Yu Tai
Zheng Xi, Nemo
Jor Chi Keung



Heart For Charity

Mak Chi Fung
Luk In
Li Yan Yi
Lau Sin Pang

三傻一痴

Tang Mei Ling
Angela Wong
Kwok Jai
Chow Kwok Pun



Nightjar I

Lo Kar Man
Chu Wing Yee
Ho Chun Yat, Jones
Lee Wai Chu

Nightjar II

Wong Chun Yu, Simon
Tam Yiu Leung
Ho Lai Ko, Lego
Lee Wai To, Andrew



Rubber Plovers

Cheung Ka Hang
Chung Ching Yan
Kit Tsz Ki
Tsang Hin Fat

Agent Scott

Katherine Leung
Lui Tak Hang, Henry
Cheuk Yu Wun, Eva
Chik Ying Yuk, Polly



Society News and Projects ~ (cont.)

Challenger Team

Team name

Team Members



The Lark

Lam Chiu Ying
Chan Ming Ming
Li Wai Ki
Luk Tsun Pun

The Beetles

Cheung Ka Chun
Wan Chi Ching, Nelson
Xing Shuang
Tse Wai Lun



Siu Sunbird

Chan Ka Ho
Kong Chun Yan
Chiu Ming Ho
Ip Tsz Ying

Chickee Run Rice

Lam Ngo Lun
Fan Hung Sang
Chow Ming Him
Cheung Kwok Leung



Leisure Birding

Chan Dick Sum
Chung Chun Kit
Lee Yun Lam Alvin
Ng Chin Fung, Maurice

Green Birder

Team name

Team Members

豬潤斑鳩

Lee Shing Yiu
Wong Nga Wing
Chan Tsz Him
Cheung Cheuk Yiu



Tappy Birds

To Ka Wan
Kwok Kin Pong, Kenneth
Lee Tak Lun
Ho Kai Ching

Twinkle Twinkle Little Duck

Chan Man Ho
Chan Wing Kwan
Wan Chun Hin
Yip Yuen Ming



Society News and Projects ~ (cont.)

Green Birder



Team name

我愛蓮蓬

Team Members

Hau Chruk Yu
Shum Ting Wing
Yeung Shing Hay, Felix
Leung Sze Yui

Shoebill

Pan Ming Ke
Rao Kuan
Su Meng Qi



Hoopoe

Yung Kwok Wai
Lo Yee Yee
Lau Chun Mei
Lam Yuen Lai



Fun-fun Team

Team name

**Tse Chan's
Observation**

Team Members

Kwong Hoi Yan, Helena
Chan Chu Fung, Thomas
Ng Ka man Ka, Trina
Tse Ka Fai



**Swarovski Feather
Volunteer**

Weng Ren Nan
Zhuang Guo Zheng



LV-A

Hau Kan Sun
Fung Ka La
Lam Choi Long



LV-B

Kam Ngai Sik, Jove
Chan Oi Lee, Linda
Choi Sai Shing



Society News and Projects ~ (cont.)



三傻一痴, Winner of Challenger Team



Common Kestrel,
Heard Record of Challenger Team

Results:

Prize	Challenger Team
Winner	三傻一痴 (152)
1st Runner up	Agent Scott (136)
2nd Runner up	The Beetles (134)
Outstanding Team	Siu Sunbird
Outstanding Team	Leisure Birding
Best Record Award	Brambling (Rubber Plovers)
Best Location Team - Mai Po	The Beetles
Best Location Team - Long Valley	Siu Sunbird
Best Location Team - Tai Po Kau	Common Kestrel
Seen Record Team	Siu Sunbird
Heard Record Team	Common Kestrel
Highest Amount of Donation	Sighted Birds
Highest Number of Donors	Sighted Birds

Prize	Green Birder Team
Winner	Tappy Birds (62)
1st Runner up	豬潤斑鳩 (61)
1st Runner up	我愛蓮蓬 (61)
Outstanding Team	Twinkle Twinkle Little Duck
Outstanding Team	Hoopoe
Best Record Award	Blue-tailed Bee-eater (Tappy Birds)
Best Location Team - Mai Po	Tappy Birds
Best Location Team - Long Valley	豬潤斑鳩
Best Location Team - Tai Po Kau	豬潤斑鳩
Seen Record Team	Tappy Birds
Heard Record Team	豬潤斑鳩
Highest Amount of Donation	Twinkle Twinkle Little Duck
Highest Number of Donors	Twinkle Twinkle Little Duck

Crested Bulbul Club

1. Early Morning Bird Watchers

No. of participants in Hong Kong Park from Feb to Apr 2014: 244

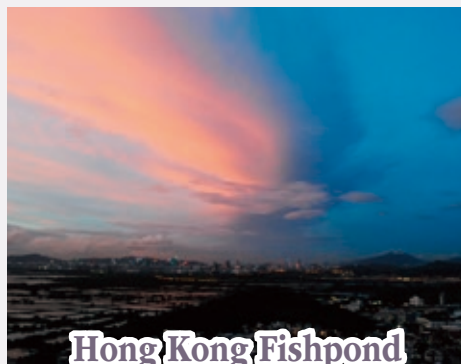
No. of participants in Kowloon Park from Feb to Apr 2014: 407

2. Bird watching interpretation in Hong Kong Wetland Park

A total of 140 participants from Feb to Apr 2014

List of Donors:

Name of Donor	Amount
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3 余健侃	100.00
4 劉淑貞	100.00
5 胡美好	200.00
6 梁美儀	100.00
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8 Kwok Fung Cheung	200.00
9 黃詠衡	500.00
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11 蔡鴻基	1,000.00
12 鄧國偉	1,000.00
13 鄭漢邦	500.00
14 周慧賢	500.00
15 高榮禧	200.00
16 Hung Wai Chung Nora	3,000.00
17 Crested Bulbul Club	1,860.00
18 Lau Wai Man, Apache	9,760.00
Total Amount	19,520.00



Hong Kong Fishpond Conservation Scheme

"Night Safari at Fung Lok Wai" will be organized in the coming July and August. After watching the beautiful sunset over Kai Shan, Yuen Long, participants will be able to appreciate fireflies in Fung Lok Wai and experience the harvesting of "gei wai shrimps". For more details of this project, please visit our BBS or Facebook Fanpage.

香港漁塘生態保育計劃 Hong Kong Fishpond Conservation Scheme



香港漁塘生態保育計劃
Hong Kong Fishpond Conservation Scheme

香港觀鳥會得到環境及自然保育基金資助，自2012年起，與百多位新界西北漁民合作，開展「香港漁塘生態保育計劃」，以提升漁塘的生態價值，並向公眾推廣漁塘保育的訊息。

Since 2012, HKBWS has organized "Hong Kong Fishpond Conservation Scheme" funded by Environment and Conservation Fund. More than 100 fishermen in the NW New Territories joined hands to enhance the ecological value of fishpond and convey the message of fishpond conservation to the general public.



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主辦



香港觀鳥會
The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

2012-2015

Nature Conservation Management for Long Valley



The 4th Long Valley Eco-guide Basic Training Course was completed in late April. After six months of lectures, field trips, assessments and interpretation practice, 30 students were finally accredited as Long Valley Eco-guides. On 6th May, we visited Mai Po for bird watching and learned more about this internationally important wetland with some Fishpond Eco-guides and volunteers. Congratulations to all Eco-guides and thank you for your support to the project. We sincerely hope that we can bring more students and public to understand Long Valley together in the future.



Conservation News

Hoi Ha, Pak Lap, So Lo Pun Outline Zoning Plans

Representations to the Town Planning Board took place in May, where the Save Our Country Park Alliance made a joint presentation to the Town Planning Board members. Not only did the Alliance point out the information gaps and the underlying corruption of landownership,

zonings were proposed with specifications on suitable land uses at these three Country Park enclaves. After days of hearing and deliberation, Town Planning Board members voted to revise the proposed plans, but the details of changes have not been announced.

Our Honorary Chairman, Mr. CY LAM, also voiced out his concerns on this issue. Representations on behalf of Mr. Lam were made to remind the Board members that the large Village zones in the current plan will have negative impacts on the landscape and ecological value of the enclaves as well as the function of the Country Parks as a whole.

Tai Po Kau and Cheung Sheung Development Permission Area Plans

The Society submitted comments to the Town Planning Board on two ecologically sensitive sites, Tai Po Kau and Cheung Sheung. Proposals for conservation zonings to the two small pieces of land within Tai Po Kau and Cheung Sheung were made. Tai Po Kau forms part of the Tai Po Kau, Shing Mun and Tai Mo Shan Important Bird Area and Cheung Sheung is one of the Priority Sites under the New Nature Conservation Policy. Both areas are geographically and ecologically linked with the surrounding natural areas.

Disturbance to Bird Nests














As the breeding and nesting seasons approach, the Society was informed of a case of human-intended disturbances to a nest at Tai Po Kau. The Society would like to take this opportunity to express our concerns for this incident and to condemn these harmful behaviors. The Society calls for all birdwatchers and photographers to put the welfare of the birds first during their bird watching and photographing activities. Please note, disturbing a nest is a violation of the Wild Animals and Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170). Any person who contravenes the regulations of the Ordinance shall be liable on conviction to a maximum fine of HK\$100,000 and to imprisonment for 1 year. If you see these activities, under safe conditions, you can consider intervening but if that is not possible, please contact the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department as soon as possible.

BSAP

A subgroup has been formed for Deep Bay under the Terrestrial Habitat Management Focus Group. This group will gather information from all relevant stakeholders to identify the current conditions and threats of Deep Bay. Recommendations for management measures will be formulated and submitted to the Steering Committee of the BSAP. The Society will contribute its knowledge on historical trends of waterbirds and experiences in the Management Agreement Programme in Northeast New Territories to help advise this sub group.

Society News and Projects ~ (cont.)

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	Name	Code	Price	
	漁翁移山	B01	50	
	Bird soap	S01	10	
	Bird Sticker	ST01	20	
	Handmade photo frame 	NHK001	100	
	Fishpond Postcard	PO2	25	
	Ceramic cup pad (buy one only)	C01	\$55	
	Ceramic cup pad (buy three or above)	C02	\$45	
	Characteristic of Cup pad: 1. It can be used repeatedly to absorb the spillage or condensate dripping from mug to keep tabletop dry and clean. 2. Made in Taiwan 3. Material: Ceramic Reference (cm): Diameter: 11 cm ; Thick: 0.3cm			
	Fishpond T-shirt (buy one only)	T01	\$100	
	Fishpond T-shirt (buy two or above)	T02	\$90	
	Size: S/M/L/XL Reference (cm): Body length: 66 (S), 69 (M), 72 (L), 74(XL) Chest width: 47 (S), 50 (M), 53(L), 56(XL) Material: 100% Cotton Single Jersey			

Society News and Projects ~ (cont.)

China's first International Bird Fair in Fuzhou

China Programme

Update

The HKBWS was invited to participate in the first International Bird Fair of China, which was held on 29th March in Fuzhou, Fujian Province. The event was organized by Fujian Bird Watching Society and supported by BirdLife International. A total of 41 organizations joined this historic event including bird watching societies and NGOs from mainland China, Taiwan, and foreign countries including Australia, the U.K., the U.S.A., Canada, Japan and Indonesia. The bird fair was held at Fuzhou National Forest Park, and attracted over 20,000 local people to visit and participate in the fair. Other than booths and exhibitions, presentations were given by the participating organizations, so that ideas and experiences were shared, thus bonding bird watchers from different places to promote the conservation of birds.



Vivian Fu and Helen Fong represented the HKBWS to attend China's first International Bird Fair in Fuzhou.



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The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

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The University of Hong Kong
Knowledge Exchange

Mai Po Update

Photo/Text: John Allcock

The FCA road around the perimeter of Mai Po Nature Reserve was constructed around 30 years ago. Over time, water has eroded some of the bunds supporting the road and some sections of road have started to crack and subside. WWF has been discussing the problem with the Highways Department and have requested repairs to some of these sections of road. We are hoping that the first section to be repaired will be at Gei wai #22, just before the helipad at the south of the reserve. At the time of writing discussions are still underway, but we hope that some repairs will be carried out as early as this summer.



(Credit: John Allcock / WWF-Hong Kong) – Caption "Section of FCA road requiring repair at Gei wai #22."



(Credit: John Allcock / WWF-Hong Kong) – Caption "Overgrown channel draining Gei wai #21."

Trimming and control of intertidal vegetation

Several of the channels between the gei wai and Deep Bay have overhanging mangrove branches or even mangrove shrubs growing in the middle of the channel. These growths adversely effect gei wai water quality by slowing down the flow of water during our regular water exchange with the sea water in Deep Bay. To investigate whether clearing the mangroves will help with water exchange, some of the mangroves will be trimmed along the channel from Gei wai #21 during summer 2014. Work will be carried out at the seaward end of the channel, and should not affect bird watchers visiting the reserve this summer.

Meanwhile, the usual practice of clearing vegetation from the area of intertidal mudflat in front of the floating hides will continue in 2014. Long-term visitors will know that the problem has increased in recent years, with the colonisation of sedges in front of some hides. As in 2013, we hope to carry out two rounds of management this year to get greater control over these sedges. The two invasive exotic species of *Sonneratia* mangroves also increase the problem, because these grow much faster than the native species and are therefore more difficult to control.



Between Black and White

Photo/Text: Samson So

The beautiful feather-colour of birds is one of the factors that attracts people to become birders. The Scarlet of Minivets, the shiny blue of Common Kingfishers, the Green-ness of Leafbirds, - all draw human attention.

For many birders, black or white birds do not leave a strong impression. However, the species which brought me into the world of birds is a black-and-white wetland bird.

In the autumn of 1993, which was the first time I went to Mai Po for on-the-job training, I used a telescope to observe a bird that had just caught a fish and then froze in the sky. The clever movement of the bird was impressive. Working for WWF, I knew that the black-and-white bird, a Pied Kingfisher, was the signature bird of Mai Po.

The Pied Kingfisher led me to understand the important relationship between living habitat, prey and birds of prey. Gradually, this bird brought me into the world of nature exploration.



That same autumn, on one of the geiwai banks of Mai Po, I saw a pair of birds, sometimes running, sometimes looking for food on the ground. They had a wavy flight, and called "tsz tsz". I learned from the fieldguide that they were White Wagtails, and encountered new Chinese characters for the name.


Looking into the species, it sounds like I had been travelling back to the past, which gave me inspiration.

In the winter of 1993, I followed senior students from HKU's faculty of Environmental Science and Biodiversity to observe tidal birds at Mai Po. In my mind, the other end of the floating boardwalk was a dream place for me to explore another world. Outside the birdwatching hide was a wide area of mudflat. As the tide rose, waterbirds moved towards the hide gradually. Through the telescope, I saw black-and-white waders skimming their curved bills to find food.

"Avocets." My senior colleague told me.

Observing the unique posture and food-finding style of the Avocets, I learnt more about this

species, as well as the relationship between the environment and biodiversity. Before I had overcome my excitement at seeing this new species closely for the first time, I was overwhelmed at the spectacle of a large flying flock of them. Birdwatching at Mai Po was to mould my knowledge of the biodiversity of Hong Kong and help make up my mind to build my career in conservation and education.

In the world of birds, appearance and colour are not used to attract human beings. Black and white are just the extreme ends of nature's colour spectrum, all of which help us to appreciate the smallest characters of wildlife in its various forms. Mother nature exists as a big classroom, where every observation is an opportunity to learn. 





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Lesser Shortwing
Sit Kwok Wa, Leo
Tai Po Kau

04/04/2014
DSLR Camera, 50 - 500mm f/4.5-6.3 lens



普通朱雀 - 雄鳥
蘇志偉
石崗

Common Rosefinch - male
So Chi Wai
Shek Kong

12/02/2014

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

普通朱雀 - 雌鳥
陳志達
石崗

Common Rosefinch - female
Chan Chi Tat
Shek Kong

06/02/2014
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter





黑尾蠟嘴雀
麥江帆
石崗

Chinese Grosbeak
kfmak
Shek Kong

22/02/2014
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SOUTH AFRICA ON A SHOESTRING (Part One)

Photo/Text: Wong Lun cheong, Captain

Prelude

In recent years, African safari travel has been getting increasingly popular amongst Hong Kong people. Having watched television documentaries on the African savanna for so many years, I felt it was time to get out of the armchair and see all that safari wildlife in the flesh. Unfortunately I found that the costs of the limited number of safari tours available on the market were far from affordable, so I began to plan my own budget tour, saving costs in accommodation.

Why South Africa?

For some reason, when travelling to Africa, the destination of choice for Hong Kong tourists is usually Kenya. When I first begin to explore the feasibility of my Africa trip, I also looked at Kenya. However after doing some homework, I found that the accommodation at Masai Mara National Park, the hotspot for watching savanna wildlife, is very expensive; a minimum of over a thousand or two thousand Hong Kong dollars per person per night. Looking at such costs my enthusiasm faltered.

Africa is a vast continent, Kenya can't be the only place for safari travel, I thought. I knew that a popular airfare site "Fan Fare", occasionally offered cheap airfares to Johannesburg, South Africa. In mid 2013, I began to contemplate the possibility of seeing the big four via Johannesburg. After some research, I discovered that Kruger National Park is just 4 hours by car on the highway (300 km) from Johannesburg. Driving inside the national park is permitted, and there is a big price range for accommodation: a basic air-conditioned room is about HK\$300 per person per night, perfect for my economical budget, so I decided to enter South Africa through Johannesburg.

Awaiting the wind

Everything was ready, all I needed was for the wind to rise. Luckily in November 2013, I got three cut-price air tickets to depart in January 2014, thus beginning my trip to South Africa.

General information

Safety

South Africa is notorious for a high crime rate. Comments in guidebooks and the internet caution travellers on Johannesburg's safety issues. So we decided to visit just the national park and some small towns (without going into Johannesburg). It turned out we made a wise choice. We felt relaxed and safe in small towns, and the local people we met were also very friendly. The only thing was the attention every time we showed up, probably because the locals aren't used to Asian visitors, but that was just curiosity.

Currency

Exchange rate of South African Rand to HK dollar on the net was 1:0.75, but exchangers in Hong Kong only offered up to 1:0.8. Taking into consideration the risk of fraud in South Africa's ATM machines, we decided to change in Hong Kong before departing.

Infectious diseases

There are cases of contracting malaria at Kruger National Park, but the risk is not high, so we didn't get vaccinated. We went during the rainy season, but luckily we didn't get any mosquito bites there. We did get some mosquito bites at Johannesburg's airport hotel, but had no symptoms whatsoever in the month after our return.

Weather

We went in the South African summer, their rainy season. The average temperature at noon on sunny day high around 32-34 degrees, cooler in the morning and after dark at about 25 degrees, not as hot as in Hong Kong. Rainy day temperatures were around 20-25 degrees, so a jacket could be useful even during the day.

Kruger National Park

There are many entry and exit gates at the park, and 20 to 30 accommodation areas (- referred to as 'rest camps' from here on). Some campsites have private extravagant tents in African imperial style, others have government-managed economical basic camps (somewhat like the Po Leung Kuk Camp in Sai Kung, only in African style). All sites have similar facilities: accommodation (some with kitchen), restaurant, common kitchen (tableware not supplied), provision store (like a mini mart, sells food items such as meat, raw and cooked, vegetables, water, fruit; medicine, personal hygiene items and reference books), souvenir shop, a gas station (R13.7 per litre). Toilets in the park are very clean (I was very impressed), some sites even have a swimming pool. The park also charges a conservation fee, about HK\$180 per person per day.

Government-run camps and conservation fees can be reviewed and paid for on the internet

<http://www.sanparks.org/parks/kruger/default.php>

Park Map

Please google: "Kruger National Park map"

Traffic restrictions inside the park

There are 2 types of road inside the park: paved road (H road) and dirt road (S road). Visitors can drive on these roads looking for safari wildlife. The speed limit on paved roads is 50km/hr and 40km/hr on dirt roads. The condition of paved roads at Kruger is not much different from those in Hong Kong, they are suitable even for sedans (in fact we saw many elderly drivers around). However, sedans are not encouraged on dirt roads especially after the rain when it becomes too slippery. Apart from that, visitors are not allowed to get out of the car except inside the campsite areas and some other specified areas, such as viewpoints.

Birding Trip Reports

Many reports of bird watching in Kruger National Park are available on the internet (eg surfbirds.com), mainly in English.

Reference/Travel Guide

I used *Birds of Southern Africa* (4th edition) as an identification guide, this book is available in almost all the shops inside Kruger park. For a travel guide I used *Lonely Planet South Africa* (2012).

The trip and bird watching record

The trip totalled 10 days (Jan 22-31, 2014), with 8 days actually in South Africa. I went with my father and younger brother (both not birders). Birds in the park were mostly seen while I was in the car, others were seen while walking around within the campsites. The 8-day trip and bird records are as follows:



Day 1

Arrived Johannesburg International Airport at 7 a.m. After some rest, we took a rental car at the airport and drove to the town of Lydenburg (about 4 hours drive including mid-way break). It's a scenic drive from Belfast onwards, halfway to our destination. We stayed at Laske Nakke Lodge (a room for 4 at R950 per room per night).

My first species in Africa was one also found in Hong Kong: Little Swifts nesting outside the airport building. Other birding on my first day was mainly done in the evening inside the Lodge, around the bush and nearby grass area. My first encounter was with a group of Helmeted Guineafowl (this bird has many small white spots on its black body, I nicknamed it "pearly chicken", a popular Cantonese dim sum). There was the Common Fiscal, it's behavior somewhat similar to a Long-tailed Shrike; plus a Cape Wagtail on the roof and some common species including Dark-capped Bulbul, Red-eyed Dove and

Laughing Dove. Speckled Mousebirds were also seen on the grass and in the woods, they looked like funny cartoon characters.



Day 2

A routine round of birding in the morning before breakfast recorded many parkland species inside the Lodge: Kurrichane Thrush and Groundscraper Thrush commonly seen on grassy areas; Cape Robin-chat and Cape White-eye in the poolside bush; African Paradise Flycatcher appearing here and there around the facilities. And then there was the Hadedu Ibis by the fountain making crow-like calls, and on the roadside some common grassland birds of Africa: Southern Red Bishop, Pin-tailed Whydah, Yellow-fronted Canary, Southern Masked-Weaver, White-browed Sparrow-Weaver and Cape Sparrow. Nearly 30 species were recorded easily in Laske Nakke Lodge.

Later in the morning we drove to Kruger National Park, with more time and the jet lag behind us, we chose a more winding route that led to the middle gate: Orpen Gate, enjoying our ride on the way. Some birds were seen on the way, but with my limited ability in identifying birds of Africa, I just watched and admired.

We arrived at Orpen Gate in the early afternoon, and, after some simple entry procedures, we started our savanna exploration. Not far from the gate, we saw



Red-crested Korhaan



White-backed Vulture

groups of zebras, impalas, wildebeests; and an ostrich, which was much bigger and taller than I had imagined. Our destination was Olifants Camp, but we mistakenly turned into a dirt road, and, having to stop many times on the way, it took us almost 4 hours to travel 60km. It wasn't a complete waste of time though, there were many findings on the way. For an appetizer, there were quite a number of European Rollers, bright-plumaged Southern Carmine Bee-eaters, a Magpie Shrike with a long tail, a no-blood-stain cleanly groomed White-backed Vulture, and a Tawny Eagle. As a final highlight, we saw a huge Kori Bustard. The bird must have been frightened by the approach of our car, it took off in a hurry. Frankly, because of its huge size (about 120cm tall), both me and my brother who was driving, were taken aback by its sudden flight. Soon after we turned into the paved road near Olifants Camp, I saw a Red-crested Korhaan resting in the shade near the road. Strangely, after a heavy rain shower, I never saw this bird again.

We arrived at Olifants Camp at 5:30pm and checked into a room for 3. As soon as our car was parked, some Cape Glossy Starlings were waiting to provide a cleaning service by picking the dead bugs off the front of the car. They paid absolutely no notice to the commotion when we removed our luggage from the car.

The room was a bit small, but clean and tidy; there was hot water for a shower, but the tap water was slightly salty. We went for a walk around the camp after settling in. From the restaurant, we could see a beautiful view of the Olifants River valley, with hippos playing in the water before sunset.



Day 3

An early morning round of birding inside the camp revealed common species such as a Red-billed Hornbill that was feeding frantically on termites, Natal Francolin, a Blue Waxbill with a blue front that reminded me of traditional Chinese paper-offerings, Jameson's Firefinch, Namaqua Dove, Long-billed Crombec and many Red-headed Weavers that built their nests at the gas station. Apart from birds, I also saw a herd of elephants crossing the Olifants River.


That day we drove north 50km via S93 & S94 to Letaba Campsite. We were disappointed we didn't encounter many big animals on the way because we still hadn't seen any big cats at that time. Birds seen included an African Pied Wagtail near a small stream, and a Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill sunbathing on top of a small bush. Approaching Letaba camp, we saw some Red-billed Queleas and a Crested Barbet. As it was already quite hot, there wasn't much activity outside the camp.

It was around 10am when we arrived and we took a rest in the Riverview Restaurant. A number of Yellow-billed Storks and Marabou Storks were seen feeding by the riverbank. Farther away were some Blacksmith Lapwings and other plovers (too far for species identification). I also found a White-bellied Sunbird in the bush outside the restaurant, but when I was

preparing to take some photos, it was frightened away by passers-by. This restaurant was frequented by a group of performers that earned their living through singing: male Red-winged Starlings would actually stop close to visitors, asking for food with sweet songs.

As we went to get our car after the break, I found some birds moving around in a big tree at the car park, including Violet-backed Starling, Southern Black Flycatcher, Woodland Kingfisher and Chinspot Batis. We headed towards Olifants Camp where we'd be staying for the night via paved road H1-5. Apart from a Kori Bustard (already seen on Day 2), we didn't see that many birds on our way.

Had lunch at Olifants restaurant, while waiting for our food, I discovered a pair of Crested Barbets nesting in a hole in a dead tree. Also saw a Bateleur flying in the far sky.

We took a nap after lunch, and woke up to find a cloudy dark sky coupled with a gusty wind. Since there's not much time, we just drove along H1-4 near the camp. We encountered a leopard on a low plain near the side of the car, but only my brother was lucky enough to see it, both my father sitting beside him and me in the back seat missed the chance. On our return trip, we saw 3 hyena puppies that liked to rest under the car, and baboons by the river. No noteworthy birds.  (to be continued)



Southern
Carmine
Bee-eater

Searching for the delicacies of a Heavenly Bird – the Common Rosefinch and the Chinese Sweetplum (*Sageretia thea*) in Shek Kong

Photo/Text: Wood Wood

The Chinese name for rosefinch is ‘zhuque’(朱雀), which literally means ‘red bird’. In ancient Chinese astronomy, Red Bird on the south (南方朱雀), together with Blue Dragon on the east (東方蒼龍), Tortoise-Snake on the north (北方玄武), and White Tiger on the west (西方白虎), represent the 28 Lunar Mansions (二十八宿) that correspond to the movement of the moon across the sky. Whereabouts is this Red Bird in the heavens? In the starry region where the constellations Gemini, Cancer, Hydra and Corvus are located. Imagine that the Greek mythological setting gradually dissolving into the ancient Chinese celestial setting, and our heavenly Red Bird flies in.

Sharing the same Chinese name with the heavenly bird, the Common Rosefinch (*Carpodacus erythrurus*) is in fact an uncommon winter visitor in Hong Kong. According to recent annual Hong Kong Bird Reports, Shek Kong has been a favourite spot that this bird visits yearly. In the photos of Common Rosefinches posted on the HKBWS website, it is easy to find slender branches with small oval leaves spreading in the background, and the birds feasting on round, berry-like fruit which was black, red or green in colour. What delicacy was our heavenly bird enjoying? Let us take a walk beside the Kam Tin River to look for the feeding place of Common Rosefinches.

The Flood Prevention Project of the Kam Tin River was completed around the year 2000, with most of the “River” turned into a concrete channel. Along both sides of the channel banks there is a line of mixed vegetation where you can find a shrub with brown thorny branches. This is Chinese Sweetplum, - also known as “Mock Buckthorn” - the plant that Common Rosefinches find so attractive. Chinese Sweetplum is a common native plant in Hong Kong. However, why is it that Shek Kong has become a favourite wintering spot for the Rosefinches? As there is more vegetation on the north bank of the channel alongside Airfield Road, let us walk along this side and

count the number of plants. However, let us not confuse Chinese Sweetplum with the similar-looking Chinese Privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) which also grows abundantly here.

Starting eastward from the intersection of Shek Kong Airfield Road and Kam Shui North Road (near the bridge marked NF397), you can find many examples of Cotton Tree, Paper-bark Tree, Double-fruited Cassia, and Chinese Hibiscus. Also growing there are White Popinac, Chinese Hackberry, Pop-gun Seed, and Chinese Privet. Chinese Sweetplum mingles within these. For a distance of about one kilometer from our starting point to another bridge marked N1027, there are 80 Chinese Sweetplums on the north bank. If we continue to walk along the wire netting until overgrown vegetation blocks the way (with Shui Lau Tin Village on the south bank), we will find that there are a total of 110 Sweetplum bushes within a distance of only about 400 meters!

Our question is answered! Although Chinese Sweetplum is a common plant in Hong Kong, it is uncommon to find almost 200 of them in a line within a distance of 1,400 meters. This number has not included the young plants growing by the wire netting or the mature plants growing along the south bank. The Sweetplums growing in Shek Kong are big, strong and healthy. Sometimes there are a few stems growing from a head. Such branchlets can weave themselves among the surrounding trees, and the wire netting to secure their position. They scaffold upwards and some almost reach the height of the neighbouring trees. As a result, the densely growing Sweetplums provide lots of fruit at different heights for birds to enjoy. Although most of the fruit is unripe in winter time, Common Rosefinches are still attracted to spend their winter here. For the last 400 meters, the plants are so densely distributed that there can be two or three within a meter. More plants produce more fruit and attract more winter visitors, which include both Common Rosefinches and photographers with their telephoto lenses. The birds love the black ripe fruit, try the red ones, and do not mind even if they are still green. Yellow-billed Grosbeaks, another winter visitor, also come and have their share. As a result, the channel banks at Shek Kong have become a wonderful restaurant providing abundant fruit freshly picked and enjoyed!

It is early springtime. Swallows have returned and they skim over Kam Tin River. An old poem by Liu Yushi (劉禹錫) of the Tang Dynasty is quite a good reflection of our present scenery:

“Wild grass flowers by the Red Bird Bridge while the sun sets by the Wuyi Lane. Swallows, residing with powerful families before, return to the houses of common folk....”



The branchlets, leaves, and fruit of Chinese Sweetplum

My Bird Watching Diary

Text/Illustrations: Wendy Yu

Crested Serpent Eagle

April 22, 2014

Crested
Serpent
Eagles live
in mountains
and forests, and
they are also active on
the fringes of woodland. Alone
or in pairs, they circle high in the sky, their
calls a clear whistle. Birders usually pick up the
signature sound first, well before seeing them.

When viewed from below, the broad white wing bands and the
fine spotting are distinctive. At first the dots look random,
but close observation reveals an underlying pattern. Order
from apparent randomness can be deciphered - for those who
are willing to do the time-consuming decoding work. 🦅



Text: Richard Lewthwaite

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

January

- ▶ In an unusually sunny and dry month for the time of year, no fewer than 11 rare species (i.e. those with fewer than 10 Hong Kong records) were found, possibly a record for a single month in recent years. Of these, the rarest was a **Whooper Swan** photographed in flight off Sai Kung pier on 26th (TL), potentially only the second Hong Kong record. The following, arranged by date, were potential 2nd-5th records: a **Barred Cuckoo Dove** (5th) at Kadoorie FBG from 1st to at least 18th (AB, JGH, et al), a **Long-billed Plover** (4th) in a drainage channel outside Kam Sheung railway station, Kam Tin from 9th to at least 18th (JAA, EMSK), a **Blyth's Pipit** (2nd or 3rd) in the same drainage channel as the plover from 9th to at least 25th (RWL, JGH, et al), a **Martens's Warbler** at Pak Sha O on 14th (AB), presumably the individual found there the previous month, and another bird of this species (4th or 5th) beside the Sha Lo Tung-Hok Tau trail on 18th and 22nd (JM). A **Chinese Thrush** (4th) was at Mount Austin from 17th to at least 26th (tomato family, WD).
- ▶ Reports of potential 6th-10th records were as follows: a **Common Chiffchaff** beside a lily pond at Long Valley from 1st to 7th (TML, PWMK, et al) and then presumably the same individual at a nearby lotus pond at Ho Sheung Heung from 23rd to the month's end (RB, RWL et al). A **Blyth's Reed Warbler** was at Sha Tin Central Park from 17th to at least 25th (LCF, passerby-b), a **Bianchi's Warbler** at Brides Pool on 23rd (KJ), a **White-spectacled Warbler** at Aberdeen Reservoir from 25th to the month's end (web) and a **Hawfinch** at KFBG on 29th (per GT). An as yet unidentified **Bianchi's/Martens's Warbler** was at Lamma on 23rd (GW). Photographs of many of these birds, some of which were very confiding and gave extremely good views, can be viewed on the HKBWS website.
- ▶ A count of 675 **Black-collared Starlings** going to a roost at Mai Po on 20th (JAA) is the highest on record.
- ▶ It is a matter of some concern that waterbird counts in Deep Bay this month were much lower than usual (YYT). Waterbirds of interest found at Mai Po included up to three **Ruddy Shelducks** on 2nd and 4th (WWF), a **Ferruginous Duck** on 25th (JAA) and a female **Mandarin Duck** on 27th (KL). Among other reports from the Mai Po area were a **Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler** and a **Manchurian Bush Warbler** on 8th (JM), a **Himalayan Swiftlet** on 23rd (WWF), 15 **Red-rumped Swallows** on 24th, and a **Ruddy-breasted Crake** on 25th (JAA). In nearby fishpond areas at San Tin, there were reports of a **Baer's Pochard** on 20th (per YYT) and a fine male **Rosy Starling** on 25th-26th (GT).
- ▶ Long Valley again attracted a good variety of birds throughout the month, including up to four **Citrine Wagtails** (on 12th, JAA), three **Buff-bellied Pipits**, two **Chestnut-eared Buntings**, several very tame **Bluethroats**, and a **Black-winged Kite** on 19th, whilst Ho Sheung Heung hosted a **Red-breasted Flycatcher** for much of the month. Another **Red-breasted Flycatcher**, at least the fifth individual since November, was at Ho Man Tin on 20th (web). The winter was also unusually good for **Forest Wagtails**, with single birds present at Cheung Sheung on 4th (DT), Shing Mun on 14th (SLT) and Mui Shue Hang, Tai Wo on 23rd (TML).



- ▶ Elsewhere in the New Territories, there were reports of 23 **Japanese Thrushes** at Pak Sha O on 1st (AB), a male **White-throated Rock Thrush** (PWMK) and up to three **Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrushes** at KFBG (per MH) from 4th, a male **Fujian Niltava** at KFBG on 10th (per MH), three **Brown Bush Warblers** (possibly a record count) at Sha Lo Tung on 20th (DJS), 22 **Black Bulbuls** at Wu Kau Tang on 21st (RWL), two **Plumbeous Redstarts** at Chung Mei the same day (RWL), and a **Bay Woodpecker** at Brides Pool on 23rd (KJ). **Grey-backed Thrushes**, **Red-flanked Bluetails** and **Daurian Redstarts** were all very widespread, but only a few **Pale Thrushes** were reported.
- ▶ Three **Green Pigeons** *Treron sp* were seen in flight at Hok Tau on 25th (GT, CC, et al) but they could not be positively identified.
- ▶ From the islands came reports of 24 **Japanese Thrushes** at Po Toi on 7th (GW), four **Buff-bellied Pipits** at Pui O on 26th (EMSK), only the second record for Lantau, and a **Collared Crow** at Po Toi on 28th, a new species there bringing the Po Toi list to 322 species (GW).

February

- ▶ In a month when temperatures soared to 31 C at Repulse Bay during the Chinese New Year holiday and then plummeted to 5 C only a few days later as an intense winter surge arrived, the birding highlights were a **Barred Cuckoo Dove**, the second of the winter, at Tai Po Kau from 3rd to 9th (KPK), a **Blyth's Reed Warbler** at Lok Ma Chau on 12th (PJL), also the second of the winter, a **Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher** at Ng Tung Chai on 14th (JAA), single **White-tailed Robins** at Cheung Chau from 14th (MDW) and Tai Po Kau Headland on 16th (RB), a **Martens's Warbler** at Cheung Chau from 15th to at least 24th (MDW), the third of the winter, single **Mrs Gould's Sunbirds** at Shing Mun on 16th (PWMK) and KFBG from 25th (per TML). A **Blyth's Pipit** was at Long Valley on 22nd (SC), the second of the winter, and a **Baikal Bush Warbler** at Mai Po on 26th (WWF).
- ▶ Most of the key birds from January were again found in February – the **Chinese Thrush** at Mount Austin on 1st (PWMK), the **Blyth's Reed Warbler** at Sha Tin Central Park on 2nd (WD), the **Common Chiffchaff** at Ho Sheung Heung on 3rd (MK), the **White-spectacled Warbler** at Aberdeen on 4th (GT), the **Forest Wagtail** at Mui Shue Hang on 12th (RWL), the **Red-breasted Flycatcher** at Mai Po up to 13th (JAA), the **Black-naped Oriole** at Long Valley on 15th (RWL, LYM), the **Long-billed Plover** at Kam Tin up to at least 23rd (GW, DAD, AB), the **Rosy Starling** at San Tin on 23rd (GT) and one of the female **Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrushes** at KFBG on 26th (WW).
- ▶ Notable waterbirds reported from the Mai Po boardwalk during the month included 67 **Greater Sand Plovers**, a record winter count, on 3rd (WWF). A **Nordmann's Greenshank**, **Terek Sandpiper** and **Kamchatka Gull** were noted on 4th (JAA), a **Long-billed Dowitcher** on 16th (LCF), single **Pallas's Gulls** - a second-winter on 16th (YYT, LCF) and an adult on 23rd (CWC) - a **Brown-headed Gull** on 24th (DAD) and an early **Oriental Pratincole** and 15 **Terek Sandpipers** on 25th (WWF), the latter an unusually large number for the time of year. A **Whiskered Tern** at fishponds beside the Mai Po access road on 25th (WWF) was also unusual for the month.




- ▶ In the Starling Inlet area, two **Red-breasted Mergansers** and 10 **Great Crested Grebes** were found off Luk Keng on 23rd (LCF, AB). A small cormorant, possibly a **Pelagic Cormorant**, was seen near the Marine Police barrier on 25th (RWL, RB), and at least 30 **Chinese Penduline Tits** were present in a large reedbed at Kuk Po (RWL, RB) the same day.
- ▶ Elsewhere, there were reports of a **Chestnut-crowned Warbler** and **Sulphur-breasted Warbler** at Tai Po Kau on 1st, a **Speckled Piculet** and **Bay Woodpecker** there on 3rd (KPK), a **Brown Fish Owl** at Yung Shue O on 5th (DT), and up to 24 **Common Rosefinches** in the Airfield Road-Sek Kong area on 10th (GW) and 16th (PWMK). There were two **Yellow-bellied Tits** at Ng Tung Chai on 15th (JAA), a male **Fujian Niltava** at Tai Po Kau on 23rd (KPK) and a **Grey Bushchat** at Yung Shue O on 24th (DT).

March

- ▶ A month with few rarities was brightened by **Mrs Gould's Sunbirds** coming to flowering *Erythrina* trees at Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden (KFBG). Following reports of one from 1st (AB, DJS), up to three were photographed from 14th, four were present on 21st, the highest count of the species in Hong Kong, and finally one was photographed on 23rd, the latest date on record.
- ▶ **Heuglin's Gulls** were present in very high numbers in Deep Bay, with 787 counted on 7th (RWL), and **Black-tailed Gulls** were seen in good numbers in coastal waters, with 200 south of Lantau from the Hong Kong-Macao ferry on 8th (PJL), 10 off Cheung Chau on 9th (MDW), thought to be the first for the island, and up to 50 off Discovery Bay between 9th and 16th (EMSK). In addition, 80 flew over the Lok Ma Chau fishponds on 19th (PJL). In Deep Bay, the peak count was 35 on 9th (GT).
- ▶ Other waterbirds found in the Mai Po area included one or two **Pallas's Gulls** (WWF, DAD, MH) and one **Nordmann's Greenshank** throughout the month (JAA, RWL), up to two **Kamchatka Gulls** from 2nd to 17th (PMW, WWF), an adult **Brown-headed Gull** from 4th to 18th (WWF), single **Slaty-backed Gulls** from 4th to 22nd (WWF, KH), an **Eastern Water Rail** on 13th (WWF), and an **Oriental Plover** on 15th (PMW). **Caspian Tern** numbers in Deep Bay peaked at 43 on 20th (RWL) and the first Gull-billed Terns of the spring were seen there two days later (RWL). In mid-month, late afternoon coverage of the reserve produced counts of 12 **Eurasian Bitterns** on 12th (JAA), followed by 14 on 15th (DAD) and 15 on 17th (JAA).
- ▶ Two of the rarer landbirds wintering in the Deep Bay area were re-sighted - the male **Rosy Starling** at San Tin on 1st and the **Red-breasted Flycatcher** at Mai Po until 9th (WWF). A **Blue-tailed Bee-eater** at Mai Po on 2nd (WWF), if confirmed, would be on the earliest spring date by a whole month. Another surprise was a **Brown-flanked Bush Warbler** singing in mangroves beside the Mai Po boardwalk on 31st (WWF).
- ▶ Outside of the Deep Bay area, the female **Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush** and male **White-throated Rock Thrush** which over-wintered at KFBG were last seen on 1st (GT, AB) and 4th respectively, the two **Red-breasted Mergansers** found in late February remained in Starling Inlet until at least 14th (JL, RWL) and the female **Grey Bush Chat** at Yung Shue O was regularly reported until 16th (DT).



- ▶ Generally, wintering passerines including thrushes and robins and also **Yellow-browed Warblers** were hard to come by. Among occasional fresh migrants found in the first three weeks of the month were two **Red-flanked Bluetails** at the Mai Po car park on 10th (WWF) and 10 **Japanese Thrushes** at Tai Po Kau Headland on 17th (KB). A few thrushes were reported in the last ten days of the month - a **Brown-headed**, six **Japanese** and six **Grey-backed** at Tai Po Kau Headland on 22nd (RB), single **White's Thrush** at Ng Tung Chai on 22nd (JAA) and one at Tai O on 23rd (EMSK), and an **Orange-headed Thrush** at Ma On Shan on 27th (JAA).
- ▶ Among a very small number of migrant landbirds reported were a total of five **Blue-and-white Flycatchers** at Ng Tung Chai on 22nd, Po Toi and Tai Po Kau on 25th and Chek Lap Kok on 31st (JAA, AB, CYT, EMSK), three singing **Goodson's Leaf Warblers** at Yung Shue O and a **Sakhalin** or **Pale-legged Leaf Warbler** at Tai O on 23rd (DT, EMSK), a **Ferruginous Flycatcher** at Tai Po Kau on 28th and a male **Narcissus Flycatcher** at Chek Lap Kok on 31st (EMSK).
- ▶ Passage of raptors and swifts was very light, reports comprising a **Silver-backed Needletail** at Sai Kung on 19th (PJJ), two **Grey-faced Buzzards** at Hung Fa Leng on 22nd (GHO), a **Crested Serpent Eagle** at Po Toi on 23rd (AB) and two **Grey-faced Buzzards** and a **Japanese Sparrowhawk** also at Po Toi on 25th (KJ).
- ▶ Reports of vocalising birds at Pak Sha O included a **Brown Fish Owl** on 24th, a **Grey Nightjar** on 24th and a **Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo** on 27th (GJC).
- ▶ Finally, a **Chinese Grassbird** was found at Hung Fa Leng on 22nd (GHO) and a **Speckled Piculet** seen at Tai Po Kau on 24th (DAD). 

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Indoor Meetings Jul - Aug 2014

Indoor Meetings





Date	Time	Topic	Speakers	Venue
3/7/2014 (Thu)	1915-2030	"Conservation of Blue-crowned Laughingthrush in Wu Yuen, Jiang Xi" and "Introduction of pheasants in E Mei Feng" (Cantonese with Chinese powerpoint)	Mr. Apache Lau HKBWS Chairman	HKBWS office
12/8/2014 (Tue)	1915-2115	An Eco-tour to South Africa: Butterfly Watching on the East Coast (Cantonese with English powerpoint)	Mr. Arex Li	HKBWS office

HKBWS office : 7C, V Ga Building, 532 Castle Peak Road, Lai Chi Kok, Kowloon

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Bird Watching Tours Jul - Dec 2014

Outings

Date	Duration	Time and site	Difficulties (1...3)	Target species
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.	☆☆☆	Seabirds (Terns)
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
4/10/2014 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Aberdeen Reservoir (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Bus #7 Bus-stop at Connaught Road Central outside Hang Seng Bank Head Office)	☆☆	Forest birds
12/10/2014 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	Po Toi Island (08:00 Aberdeen Pier (Ferry pier to Po Toi Island)) Note: Participants have to pay for their own ferry fee. The returning time is not fixed, so participants may decide their own returning time.	☆☆	Migrants
19/10/2014 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Long Valley (08:00 Pavilion beside public toilet at Yin Kong Village)	☆☆	Farmland and water birds
26/10/2014 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	Mai Po Nature Reserve (08:00 Kowloon Tong MTR Station (Kent Road /F Exit), OR 09:00 Mai Po carpark, end 15:00 Mai Po, 16:00 Kowloon Tong)	☆☆	Waterbirds
1/11/2014 (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
8/11/2014 (Sat)	TBC	Wild Card Day (Details will be announced on Nov 6 on Discussion Forum)		
16/11/2014 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	Po Toi Island (08:00 Aberdeen Pier (Ferry pier to Po Toi Island)) Note: Participants have to pay for their own ferry fee. The returning time is not fixed, participants can decide their own returning time.	☆☆	Migrants
23/11/2014 (Sun)	TBC	Wild Card Day (Details will be announced on Nov 21 on Discussion Forum)		
30/11/2014 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Tai Po Kau (08:00 Tai Po Kau carpark)	☆☆☆	Forest birds
6/12/2014 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Long Valley (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Outside Maxim's MX, Sheng Shui Rail Station)	☆☆	Farmland and water birds
7/12/2014 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	Mai Po Nature Reserve (08:00 Kowloon Tong MTR Station (Kent Road /F Exit), OR 09:00 Mai Po carpark, end 15:00 Mai Po, 16:00 Kowloon Tong)	☆☆	Waterbirds
14/12/2014 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Pui O (08:00 Exit B, Tung Chung MTR Station)	☆☆	Wintering forest & farmland birds
20/12/2014 (Sat)	TBC	Wild Card Day (Details will be announced on Dec 18 on Discussion Forum)		
28/12/2014 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Tai Po Kau (08:00 Tai Po Kau carpark)	☆☆☆	Forest birds

 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)

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 Kin 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.



紅胸秋沙鴨
房遠榮
鹿頸

Red-breasted Merganser
Fong Yuen Wing
Luk Keng

24/02/2014
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter

普通燕鴒
李啟康
塋原

Oriental Pratincole
oLDcaR Lee
Long Valley

05/04/2014

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





東方鵪
駱正華
米埔

Oriental Plover
Lok Ching Wa Kelvin
Mai Po

15/03/2014
DSLR Camera, 400mm f/2.8 lens + 2x teleconverter

A Japanese Paradise-Flycatcher is perched on a light brown tree branch. The bird has a black head with a small crest, a bright blue ring around its eye, and a blue beak. Its back and wings are a deep reddish-brown, while its underparts are white. It has a very long, dark tail with a series of white spots. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting foliage.

紫綬帶
何建業
米埔

Japanese Paradise-Flycatcher
Kinni Ho Kin Yip
Mai Po

13/04/2014
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens