

THE HONG KONG BIRD REPORT 1978



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THE HONG KONG BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY

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Contents

	Page
Chairman's Report	1
Report on the Birds, 1978	3
Systematic List for 1978	7
Probable breeding attempt by the Little Ringed Plover in Hong Kong by David Melville	42
Waterfowl count 14th. January 1979 by David Melville	48
Errata	51
Application for Membership	52
Notes for Applicants Wishing to Visit the Mai Po Marches	53

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HONG KONG BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY

c/o Zoology Department, University of Hong Kong

(A registered society under the Societies Ordinance)

Records compiled by G.C.H. Cooper and M.L. Chalmers

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

Chairman	M.A. Webster
Hon. Secretary	C.R. Payne
Hon. Treasurer	M.A. Webster
Hon. Recorders	G.C.H. Cooper M.L. Chalmers

HKBWS Chairman's Report 1978

It is customary to start this Report with details of membership; again this year our numbers have increased, to 122 local members, and 32 overseas members. In connection with this increase, it is a pleasure to note that the proportion of local-residents, as opposed to expatriates, has again increased.

However, the operations of the Society this year have been overshadowed, on the personal level, by the sad deaths of two longstanding members. Elizabeth Hechtel, the wife of our former Chairman, was a familiar figure on outings, and must have been the best known of all our lady members over the years. Her special brand of cheerful enthusiasm is missed by all of us, and our sympathy for Fred comes from the heart.

The other longstanding member who passed away was Sir Lindsay Ride, who had for some time been bedridden, and whose interest in birds formed part of his wider interest in everything concerned with Hong Kong. To the extent that he had for years been a supporter of, rather than a participant in, our activities, he is probably less well-known to members, but we would nevertheless like to extend our heartfelt sympathy to Lady Ride.

Among other changes, David Bradford returned to England from Bahrain, and Tim Fisher completed the shortest Hong Kong tour of duty in Jardine's history (or so the rumour goes); he stayed five days before being transferred to Manila. Overseas members to visit us here included Lord Medway, now the 5th Earl of Cranbrook, and Ben King, fresh from the delights of discovering a species new to Science in Borneo (a frogmouth, I believe).

The programme of outings was as full as usual. The list is as follows:—

January 2	Mai Po
January 14	Tai Long Wan
February 7	Mong Tseng
February 26	Mai Po
March 12	Mai Po (Chinese speaking)
March 25	Woodlands
April 21	Mai Po
May 14	Mai Po
June 11	Tai Mo Shan/Fanling
August 28	Mai Po
September 17	Mai Po
October 8	Mai Po
October 29	Mai Po
December 10	Mai Po
December 26	Mong Tseng

These outings were as well attended as usual; the booking system is still maintained for woodland outings, and this will continue so long as we have so many interested members. There are certainly many more active bird-

watchers in Hong Kong than when I first came here fourteen years ago, and this is reflected in the continual stream of exciting records.

The Chinese speaking outings continue to be a success, though we are somewhat hampered by lack of transport, as only one or two of the Chinese members have cars. However, these outings have created an opportunity for local people, especially those who are not accustomed to mix with Europeans, or whose command of English is limited, to go out with a few more knowledgeable people, and to meet and get to know others with similar interests. Nature conservation in Hong Kong will continue to be meaningless unless it is the local people who are interested.

I have little to say this year about conservation. The wardening system at Mai Po has been improved by the recruitment of staff of a higher calibre, but is still far from adequate. The Country Park scheme is working better than I anticipated, but is still geared to quantity rather than quality, and still lacks adequate management. The marshes remain, for the time being, though they too have been threatened with development. In this connection, I will remind you that Mr. Hechetel and I received a personal assurance from His Excellency the Governor that no further development of the marshes would be permitted after the Tai Shang Wai scheme; it is pleasant to see that this commitment has been honoured so far.

Meanwhile our task is to record as much as we can, not merely to provide a record of what is being destroyed, but also to provide the information which may help to stop it being destroyed. In this connection, I appeal to members to provide as many records as they can, to cooperate with special projects such as kite and waterfowl counts, and to revive, and turn into a reality, the Ornithological Sites Register which was started a few years ago, but died for lack of support.

REPORT ON THE BIRDS 1978

Hon. Co-recorders: G. C. H. Cooper and M. L. Chalmers

A higher than usual level of activity in the field this year is reflected in the large number of records. After vetting by the Records Committee the total number of species accepted was 271 excluding all those not specifically identified and all the suspected escapes under Category E. This is an increase of 11 over 1977.

Five new species were added to Category A of the Hong Kong List, the same number as last year. These comprised a most unexpected Asian Emerald Cuckoo, well outside its known range, which stayed at Ho Sheung Heung between January and April, large numbers of Asian House-martins on 25 March, a Greater Spotted Woodpecker in September and a Slaty-legged Crane in December. These four were new records for Hong Kong. In April and again in August a Glossy Ibis was seen at Mai Po and this species was upgraded to Category A from Category F.

Three species were added to Category E, namely Red Bishop, Orangecheeked Waxbill and White-vented Mynah although the last named may well be wild birds. A monthly summary is given below:—

January

On New Year's Day three Black Storks were seen battling the cold north wind over the Shum Chun river and a White-winged Black Tern was seen at Mai Po. The flock of up to 16 Black-winged Stilts remained in residence at Lok Ma Chau until April. Treepies continued to be seen in flocks of up to 30 in widespread areas following their irruption the previous autumn. There were several isolated records of Verditer Flycatchers and a Robin Flycatcher was seen at Tai Po Kau. The month's surprise was a male Asian Emerald Cuckoo discovered at Ho Sheung Heung on the 3rd, and subsequently seen by many members over the succeeding months up to 9th April. This was the first record of this species for Hong Kong. On 25th an Eagle Owl was found dead at Kai Tak as a result of a bird-strike. This was the first record since 1957 of this species.

February

Following a sharp drop to the year's lowest temperature and strong northerly winds on 18th 24 Great Crested Grebes were seen in Deep Bay. Throughout the month up to 35 Red-breasted Mergansers and 7 Dalmatian Pelicans were seen there also. A White Ibis wintered at Luk Keng and there were several records of Grey-headed Lapwing. On 26th a possible Blyth's Leaf Warbler was seen and heard at Ho Sheung Heung. This and subsequent records of this species are still being reviewed.

March

Numbers of Dalmatian Pelicans rose to 78 in Deep Bay on 19th. Imperial Eagles were regularly seen in the Mai Po/Lok Ma Chau area with up to three until 25th. Small flocks of Bar-tailed and Black-tailed Godwits were seen on the marshes with several records of Lesser Spoonbills and Lesser Egrets. An Asiatic Dowitcher seen at Mai Po on 25th was a new early date for the species. Following the passage of an intense cold front on 21st, temperatures dropped sharply to the lowest of the month on 24th. The following day a very heavy movement of swifts and swallows was noted throughout the N.T. and flocks of up to 100+ House-martins were seen. These all proved to be Asian House-martins, hitherto not specifically identified in Hong Kong. On 28th, the same day that a further cold front passed through Hong Kong, a male Rustic Bunting was seen at Kwai Chung. A Grey-headed Bunting was seen the day before at Ting Kau.

April

The flycatcher passage was remarkable for the number of Blue and White Flycatchers seen in widespread areas. Ferruginous, Robin and Narcissus Flycatchers were also seen. Rollers, Wrynecks, Brown Shrikes, Ashy Minivets, Garganey and Red-necked Phalaropes were noted off Ting Kau. On the marshes wader numbers increased throughout the month with 17 Asiatic Dowitchers, 50 Black-tailed and 2 Bar-tailed Godwits and ten Great Knot on 16th. Four Swinhoe's Snipe were caught in mist nets and ringed. A Glossy Ibis was seen there, in flight, on 21st, the first sighting since 1953. Swinhoe's Egrets were seen at Yim Tso Ha Egretry. Little Whimbrel were first recorded at Kai Tak on the 7th.

May

Three Black Bazas were seen at Shing Mun on 6th with Large Hawk-cuckoos there and in several other high, wooded areas. Of the waders a record number of 100 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were seen at Lok Ma Chau on 14th, on which date a late Black-headed Gull was seen at Mai Po. Little Whimbrel were recorded throughout the month at Kai Tak with a new maximum of 16 on 12th. White-winged Black Terns were very numerous during heavy rain and strong winds on 18th, with about 1000 in the Deep Bay area.

June

David's Hill-warbler was seen again on Tai Mo Shan. A Crimson-legged Crane was seen at Wu Kau Tang on 24th, with young. Large Hawk-cuckoos continued to be heard in wooded areas.

July

Records included Greater Necklaced Laughing-thrushes, Chestnut Bitterns, and Watercock, all probably breeding. Other summer records were a

Red-winged Crested Cuckoo at Sai Kung with Greater Sand-plover, Little Ringed Plover, Skylarks and Pratincole(5) at Kai Tak. An Ince's Paradise Flycatcher was found at Ho Man Tin. On 31st after Typhoon Agnes had passed for the second time, there were eight Caspian Terns and three Yellow-nib Ducks at Mai Po.

August

On the 5th several Greater Sand-plovers and a Sanderling were at Kai Tak. By the 19th there was a good selection of waders at Mai Po and also a Glossy Ibis — the second record for the year. An early Ince's Paradise Flycatcher was seen at Tai Po Kau on 19th. On 26th and 28th a Hainan Blue Flycatcher was at Tai Po Kau, with one Emerald Dove and 15 Scarlet Minivets there on the latter date.

September

Early in the month woods provided a Red-winged Crested Cuckoo, a Tricolour Flycatcher and two Forest Wagtails. A Great Spotted Woodpecker was seen at the University of Hong Kong on 9th and 10th. This was another new record for Hong Kong. An early Black-headed Gull was seen at Mai Po on 22nd. On the 29th, following the passage of T.S. Lola, Common Cuckoos were seen in a wood at Pak Nai with Brown and Grey-spotted Flycatchers. On the same day 25+ Red Turtle-doves were seen at Nim Wan.

October

Purple-backed Starlings (recorded for the first time in late September, 1977) were seen at Mai Po on the 8th, and at Ting Kau on the 9th and 10th. 98 Herring Gulls were seen off Lamma on the 18th and a Red-winged Crested Cuckoo was seen at Pak Nai on the 21st. Black-headed Gulls were first seen on the 25th. On the 26th a White-cheeked Ashy Drongo and a Verditer Flycatcher were in Kowloon Park. On the 27th an immature Pallas's Blue Robin was seen at Tai Po Kau, the second record for Hong Kong.

November

Mai Po was notable for ducks with up to 800 Teal, 20 Garganey, 17 Mallard and 3 Yellow-nib on the 5th. Blackbirds were recorded from widespread areas although other thrushes were generally scarce. However, there was a Red-tailed Robin and two White's Thrushes at Tai Po Kau on the 12th. On the 14th, a second immature male Pallas's Blue Robin was seen at Eagle's Nest. An immature Great Black-headed Gull was seen in Hong Kong Harbour on the 25th.

December

Early in the month Tai Po Kau produced seven Grey-throated Minivets, a Black Bulbul and a male niltava sp. Large numbers of ducks

were present in the San Tin/Lok Ma Chau area with 750 Teal, 75 Shoveler, two Gadwall, two Wigeon and one Pintail on the 16th., — this was the first winter that shooting was prohibited in this area, however the large numbers of ducks led to an increase in illegal bird netting and during the winter Game Wardens of the Agriculture & Fisheries Department took down about 5 km. of nets: 32 Red-breasted Mergansers and 70+ Shelduck were in Deep Bay on the 26th, when two White-vented Mynahs were seen at Mong Tseng. The year ended on a high note when a Slaty-legged Crane, a new species for Hong Kong, was discovered at Pokfulam.

The Systematic List incorporates records from the following observers:—

H.G. Ackford, Dr. R.J. Barnes, E.A. Barnes, C.P. Barnes, D.P. Carthy, M.L. Chalmers, A. Cheung, K.K. Chiu, G.C.H. Cooper, D. Deftford, R. Ferguson, T.H. Fisher, D.J. Galloway, T.P. Garland, F.O.P. Hechtel, J.G. Heywood, L. Howell, A. Howell, C.R. Huxley, J.A. Irving, G. Johnston, K.C. Lo, D.S. Melville, C.R. Payne, H.C. Ryker, Dr. K.C. Searle, G.R. Vessa, C.A. Viney, Y.P. Wan, M.A. Webster, C.D. Weidemann, B.D. Wilson.

SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 1978

A. SPECIES WHICH HAVE BEEN RECORDED IN AN APPARENTLY WILD STATE IN HONG KONG WITHIN THE LAST FIFTY YEARS.

2. Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*)

All records are from Deep Bay near Tsim Bei Tsui. One on 7 February, 24 including at least two in partial breeding plumage on 18 February, and one on 31 December.

4. Little Grebe (*Podiceps ruficollis*)

Seven at Mai Po on 2 January, one on 30 March, and up to eight in the Mai Po/Lok Ma Chau area from 13 August until the end of the year. Up to eight at Plover Cove until mid-March and up to six there from 24 November. Reports of up to eight from smaller reservoirs at Kowloon in January, Kwu Tung in March, Ho Pui in July and December, and Shing Mun in January and December.

7. Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*)

Recorded in Deep Bay from 7 February to 25 March with maximum of 78 on 19 March. One bird was caught in a water cress field at Yuen Long on 9 March and subsequently released in Deep Bay on 17 March. On 27 March a flock of 63 Pelicans, not specifically identified, were seen in flight over the outer mangroves at Mai Po.

8. Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

Large numbers recorded in Deep Bay and at Mai Po at the beginning of the year with over 450 on 2 January, about 350 on 18 February, and about 400 on 25 March. Up to 175 also reported in the same area from 29 November. At Plover Cove a maximum of 67 up to 2 May and 27 from 27 October. Elsewhere, up to 30 at Hei Ling Chau roost and about 60 on rocks near The Brothers (North Lantau) with smaller numbers in other coastal areas. Two interesting inland records were 19 flying west over Long Valley on 7 February and three over Fanling on 6 April. Extreme dates were up to 10 April and from 12 October.

12. Yellow Bittern (*Ixobrychus sinensis*)

Recorded at Mai Po Marshes from 25 March until 10 December with maximum of over 30 during April and May. A single bird also seen at dusk at small reservoir above Sham Tseng on 16 July.

13. Chestnut Bittern (*Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*)

Single birds at Luk keng on 20 March, 14 May and 9 July, Li Chi Wo on 24 June, and Mai Po on 19 and 25 August.

16. Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*)

Single birds seen regularly at Mai Po Marshes up to 23 April and from 19 October with two there on 17 December.

17. Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

Several pairs again bred at Yim Tso Ha Egrettry from 16 April with over 12 there on 30 April and at least 30 on 13 August. An adult was seen carrying twigs over the outer mangroves at Mai Po on 14 May. Reported at Mai Po from 2 April until 10 December, usually up to 14 birds, but large flocks of 56 (mostly immature), 241, 100 and over 250 (mixed adults and immatures) seen on 8 September and 8, 15 and 30 October respectively in the outer mangroves. At least 50 flew inland from Mai Po at dusk on 4 November and eight flew south from Hebe Haven at dusk on 10 October.

18. Chinese Pond Heron (*Ardeola bacchus*)

Common throughout the year in marshy areas of the New Territories with large numbers breeding at Yim Tso Ha Egrettry and to a lesser extent at Mai Po Village. On spring passage up to three seen in trees in Kowloon Park from 10 April to 3 May, three on Cheung Chau on 13 April, one in Kowloon Tong on 19 April, and four flew east past Ting Kau on 19 May. In the autumn one was reported at Kowloon Park from 1 September to 6 October and a disorientated flock of 22 was seen in the floodlights over Happy Valley Racecourse, during showers, between 2000 and 2300 hours on 27 September.

19. Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)

Recorded throughout the year in the northern New Territories with several hundred again breeding at Yim Tso Ha Egrettry. Highest counts at Lok Ma Chau were 42 on 1 April and 97 on 12 August. Over 200 seen flighting to mangroves at Mai Po at dusk on 31 July. A flock of 18 flew east past Ting Kau on 10 April. On 29 April a bird in breeding plumage was seen near Shuen Wan with a two-tone bill (base bright red, rest yellow), bright red legs and bright orange head and back (HGA). At Kai Tak up to seven reported between 20 April and 21 October.

20. Little Green Heron (*Butorides striatus*)

Reported at Mai Po Marshes from 31 March to 8 October with maximum of at least ten on 11 June. Also seen along the shores of Plover Cove in all months except January, June and December, with maximum of three on 2 October. Single birds recorded from Shing Mun on 11 May, Starling Inlet on 21 September, Sek Kong on 8 October and 5 November, and Ho Chung on 11 November. Two at Kai Tak on 6 October and one there on 3 November.

21. Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)

Common throughout the year in the Deep Bay area. Several hundred bred at Mai Po Village Egrettry and lesser numbers at Yim Tso Ha. A grey-phase bird was again recorded at Mai Po on 2 and 8 April. Also six at Nai Cheng (Sai Kung) in a flock of 30 Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*) on 4 June, three at Kai Tak on 10 October and one there on 6 October. Several flocks of up to ten birds, not specifically identified but either Little or Cattle Egrets, were seen flying over the sea off Castle Peak Road between 12 March and 18 June. On 16 April these included one grey bird with six normal birds. A flock of 100 unidentified egrets was also seen flying east in "V" formation over the harbour towards Kai Tak on 28 September.

22. Lesser Egret (*Egretta intermedia*)

Two at Mai Po on 25 March and 2 April. Up to four at San Tin/Lok Ma Chau in second half of December.

23. Swinhoe's Egret (*Egretta eulophotes*)

Two seen at Yim Tso Ha Egrettry on 29 April (HGA/CDW).

24. Reef Egret (*Egretta sacra*)

Single birds and groups of up to three seen throughout the year along rocky shores of outlying islands, Castle Peak Road, Kai Tak Airport and Hong Kong Island.

25. Great Egret (*Egretta alba*)

Recorded in all months except July from Deep Bay area with counts of 54 on 22 January and 182 on 19 November. Also present in Starling Inlet up to 7 May and from 19 October with over ten on 14 April and 19 on 19 October. Single birds at Kai Tak on 12 May and flying north from the sea near Pearl Island (Castle Peak Bay) on 29 October.

26. Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)

Present in the Deep Bay area in every month with highest numbers in winter between October and March. Counts of 84 on 26 February and 165 on 29 October but not more than six from April to September. 12 seen near Luk Keng on 19 October and two at Pak Sha Wan (Sai Kung) on 31 October.

27. Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*)

At Mai Po Marshes up to six until 31 May, except for over 15 on 15 April, and up to ten from 13 August. Single birds at Shuen Wan on 17 February, Ho Sheung Heung on 8 April (flushed from wood), and Nim Wan on 21 October.

29. Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*)

Three seen from Mai Po Marshes in flight high over Shum Chun River on 2 January.

30. White Ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*)

One at Mai Po on 8 January and two there on 11 and 18 March. The wintering bird reported at the end of 1977 at Luk Keng remained until mid-March. Single immatures seen at Mai Po from 3 September to 26 November and at San Tin on 23 December.

30.1 Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

An adult was seen in flight at Mai Po Marshes on 21 April during a Society Outing (DSM, GCHC, RJB, EAB, CDW) and a single bird was subsequently seen also at Mai Po on 19 August (GCHC). These records are the first since 1953 and restore this species to Category A. Because no field notes exist on which to judge the only previous record this species was formerly 804 of Category F. Notes submitted for the 21 April sighting are as follows:—

"A dark bird was noticed flying out of a flock of Little Egrets (*Egretta garzetta*) and Chinese Pond Herons (*Ardeola bacchus*). This bird was thought to be about the same size as a Little Egret. The ibis' neck and rest of underparts were a rich maroon. Wings were similar in colour but with an iridescent look. Neck slender and not folded. Bill long and decurved" (RJB, EAB).

31. European Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*)
One adult at Mai Po on 15 November.

32. Lesser Spoonbill (*Platalea minor*)
Single birds at Mai Po on 11 and 18 March and 9 and 15 April, and two there on 25 March.

33. Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)
All records are from Mai Po Marshes. One drake and three ducks present on 2 January. Small groups seen between 15 October and 15 November, with maximum counts of about 20, including one drake on 28 October.

34. Yellow-nib Duck (*Anas poecilorhynchos*)
At Mai Po Marshes one on 14 May, three on 31 July after S.T.S. 'Agnes' and regular record from 19 August to 29 November with maximum of 40 on 8 October. Also 20 at San Tin on 3 December.

35. Gadwall (*Anas strepera*)
Five at Mai Po on 15 November. Four at San Tin on 21 November and two there on 16 December.

36. Falcated Teal (*Anas falcata*)
11 at Mai Po on 29 October, and at San Tin seven on 3 December and five on 17 December. All groups included one full-plumaged drake.

37. Teal (*Anas crecca*)
Common in the Deep Bay area up to 21 April and from 8 October. In the first part of the year the maximum count was over 470 at Mai Po on 7 January, but numbers rose much higher from mid-October until the end of the year with up to 1000 in the Mai Po/San Tin/Lok Ma Chau area. Elsewhere, ten were seen on the sea in Starling Inlet on 10 March and 12 nearby on 3 November. One at Kai Tak on 13 October and seven near Shuen Wan on 31 October. About 40 small duck flying south-east past Ma Wan on 18 March were probably this species.

39. Garganey (*Anas querquedula*)
Recorded in the Mai Po/Lok Ma Chau area between 25 March and 14 May, and from 17 September until 20 November. Maximum numbers were over 30 on 15 April and about 50 on 8 October. Flocks of 89 and 110 birds seen over the sea off Ting Kau on 10 and 14 April respectively. On the latter date the birds, forming one compact flock comprising mostly drakes, moved restlessly and indecisively over the sea at dusk often alighting for short

periods between apparent attempts at finding the route to the east. Other records of small duck which were probably Garganey off Ting Kau were about 100 on 16 April, 30 on 17 September, 9 on 23 September and one on 11 November. Also one at Kai Tak on 7 April and 49 there on 17 October.

40. Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)
Recorded in the Mai Po/San Tin/Lok Ma Chau area between 29 October and 23 December with maximum of about 20 on 3 December.

41. Pintail (*Anas acuta*)
17 including one drake off Castle Peak Bay on 19 February. Reported in the Deep Bay area between 14 October and 31 December with maximum of about 15 at San Tin on 3 December, one at Kai Tak on 26 October.

42. Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)
Recorded from 14 October in the Deep Bay area with numbers increasing markedly towards the end of the year with over 75 and 86 at San Tin on 16 and 23 December respectively, and about 100 in Deep Bay on 26 December. Most drakes were still in intermediate eclipse plumage at the end of the year. When feeding at San Tin characteristic body spinning behaviour noted on several occasions.

45. Baer's Pochard (*Aythya baeri*)
A group of four birds was seen on a fish pond at Mai Po Marshes on 19 and 20 November (GCHC, MLC) and subsequently at Lok Ma Chau on 10 December (GCHC, RJB, EAB, CPB). Although the birds appeared to be in eclipse or immature plumage in November slight differences suggested that there may have been two pairs. By December two birds were considered to be in male and female plumages. A series of photographs was taken of the November birds.

46. Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)
Two drakes were seen in flight at close quarters at Mai Po Marshes on 11 November (MAW).

49. Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*)
36 seen swimming and diving in Deep Bay off Nam Sha Po (about 2 km. west of Tsim Bei Tsui) on 7 February and 13 there on 18 February. Two pairs on the sea off Pak Nai on 25 March. Seen again off Nam Sha Po at the end of the year with counts of 33 and over 46 on 26 and 31 December respectively.

50. Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*)
Reported in Deep Bay up to 26 February and from 3 December with 147 on 7 January and about 140 on 21 January and 31 December. An immature at San Tin on 23 December.

55. Black-eared Kite (*Milvus migrans*)
Common and widespread throughout the year with increased numbers during winter months. Several breeding records from Hong Kong Island, Stonecutters' and other small islands.

56. Black Baza (*Aviceda leuphotes*)

At least three at Shing Mun Country Park on 6 May (MLC). At first one bird was seen in undulating display flight in the valley at the head of the reservoir, and later a flock of three was seen from Lead Mine Pass flying in the direction of Tai Po Kau. One was also seen in flight over the Sek Kong catchwater road near Ho Pui Reservoir on 1 July (MLC).

57. Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*)

Between one and four birds reported from widespread areas including Mid-levels, Kai Tak and Kowloon Bay until 2 April and from 5 October. One found dead at Kai Tak on 14 December.

58. Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*)

A female seen attacking a Black-capped Kingfisher (*Halcyon pileata*) and Blackbird (*Turdus merula*) at Yim Tso Ha on 26 December. Other records of single birds which were probably this species were received from widespread parts of the New Territories up to 25 March and from 8 October.

59. Japanese Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter gularis*)

An immature female flew into wire netting at Pokfulam Kennels, Victoria Road, on 12 October and was subsequently examined, photographed and released on 14 October (DSM). Although having a conspicuous dark mesial throat streak the bird was identified on the basis of having three dark tail bands in addition to the sub-terminal band, and a wing formula which suggested *A. gularis* (wing-point = 4p, 6 = 2p, 5 = 3p), cere and iris were yellow. Distinguished as immature by rufous tips to feathers on back and upper wing coverts, and as female by wing length of 195mm. This is the second record for Hong Kong.

Single female or immature sparrowhawks, which were not *A. nisus*, were seen at Tai Po Kau Forestry Reserve on 23 August and 2 December, Tai Tam Reservoir on 26 September and Mong Tseng on 19 November. Those records appear to refer to either *A. gularis* or *A. virgatus* (Besra). However, it is considered that with present knowledge the specific identification of these field records would be unreliable.

A small, dark blue-grey male accipiter, seen at Mai Po on 8 October, may have been *A. gularis*.

63. Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*)

One adult and up to three immatures seen over Mai Po/San Tin/Lok Ma Chau up to 25 March and up to three immatures in the same area from 5 November. Also one immature at Fanling Golf Course on 2 April and one at Plover Cove on 21 October.

64. Steppe Eagle (*Aquila rapax*)

An adult seen soaring over Long Valley on 11 February (MLC).

66. Bonelli's Eagle (*Hieraetus fasciatus*)

Single birds or pairs recorded in most months from widespread areas of the New Territories, Hong Kong Island and outlying islands with breeding confirmed at one locality. Although breeding has been suspected for some time this is the first definite record and follows a much earlier record in 1937 attributed to this species.

67. White-bellied Sea-Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*)

Single birds or pairs reported throughout the year from offshore islands, Sai Kung Peninsula, Victoria Harbour and southern coasts of mainland and Hong Kong Island. Two adults and three immatures seen at dusk at Tai Tam Reservoir on 19 September, and one adult and one immature there at same time on 26 September. Breeding was attempted in at least three separate localities.

68. Grey-faced Buzzard-Eagle (*Butastur indicus*)

An immature was seen in flight at close quarters over Mai Po Marshes on 3 April (HGA).

69. Serpent Eagle (*Spilornis cheela*)

Single birds or pairs reported between May and October from various parts of Sai Kung Peninsula. Also one at Lok Ma Chau on 21 November and three at She Shan on 3 December.

70. Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*)

Up to four wintered in the Mai Po area up to 16 April and from 16 September. As usual, most reports were of females or immatures but single adult males were seen on 22 January and 15 October. One of race *spilonotus* reported at Lok Ma Chau on 17 November.

71. Pied Harrier (*Circus melanoleucos*)

A male was seen at Mai Po Marshes on 22 January (HGA). Single female/immature Pied or Hen harriers (*C. melanoleucos/cyaneus*) were seen at Mai Po on 25, 27 and 31 March and two were reported there on 29 October (RJB, CPB, EAB).

73. Black Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*)

One at Mai Po Marshes on 26 February being mobbed by a Black-eared Kite (*Milvus migrans*).

74. Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

One or two in the Deep Bay area up to 2 April and from 7 October. One seen in every month at Plover Cove usually perched on warning marker or raft in reservoir. Elsewhere, single birds at Luk Keng on 22 May, over Kowloon on 8 October, and in Starling Inlet on 23 December. The latter bird was standing in the sea with water up to its lower belly and thighs and remained in this position for some time.

- 75. Hobby** (*Falco subbuteo*)
One seen taking a House Swift (*Apus affinis*) in flight at Fanling on 6 April. Two at Mai Po on 5 October and about eight other birds, probably this species, flying at great height over Tai Mo Shan on 21 October.
- 76. Peregrine Falcon** (*Falco peregrinus*)
One or two seen up to February and from July in widespread parts of the New Territories and urban areas. Urban records are from KGV School, Kowloon, Tsim Sha Tsui, Happy Valley, Mid-levels and Kai Tak.
- 78. Kestrel** (*Falco tinnunculus*)
Between one and three regularly recorded in widespread areas up to 20 April and from 16 September. Often seen in urban areas, particularly around Kwai Chung and Tsim Sha Tsui. Single dead birds found at Kai Tak in March and October.
- 79. Chinese Francolin** (*Francolinus pintadeanus*)
Widespread records from the New Territories and Hong Kong Island including one flushed on Green Island on 9 May.
- 80. Japanese Quail** (*Coturnix japonica*)
Two at Kai Tak on 27 January and single birds there on 7 March and between 6 and 29 October. One flushed from grassland at Hoi Ha, Sai Kung on 10 October.
- 82. Yellow-legged Button-quail** (*Turnix tanki*)
One flew onto a first floor balcony at Mount Austin Road on 20 October (GJ per DSM). This is the first record of this species since one in 1974 which itself was the first for several years.
- 85. Banded Rail** (*Rallus striatus*)
Single birds at Mai Po in most months. Also seen at Luk Keng with two on 21 May, one on 22 May, and one on 10 September, and at Shuen Wan with two on 13 and 26 April.
- 85.1 Slaty-legged Crane** (*Rallina eurizonoides*)
A single bird was regularly seen feeding in the undergrowth at a particular area of wooded hillside adjacent to Queen Mary Hospital, Pokfulam from 27 December until 4 January 1979 (JRL, MAW, CAV, GCHC et al). The bird had apparently been in the area for about 10 days before 27 December. Usually seen at either dawn or dusk and appeared quite tame permitting close approach. Extracts from field notes are as follows:—

“Large rail, 10-11in, dark chestnut crown and back of neck; yellowish-white chin; chestnut throat and upper breast; bill slaty; wings dark brown with white spot above carpal joint showing from time to time; underparts very dark brown barred with white almost up carpal joint and back to under-tail; legs grey; iris red” (MAW).

This is the first record for Hong Kong. The species appears to be partly migratory and its range includes S.E. China, Taiwan and Philippines.

- 88. Crimson-legged Crane** (*Amaurornis akool*)
A pair again bred near Wu Kau Tang with sightings between February and September. A single adult with at least one half-grown juvenile was seen on 22 June.
- 89. White-breasted Waterhen** (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*)
Common and widely distributed in suitable marshy areas. An adult with one chick was seen at She Shan on 25 March.
- 90. Moorhen** (*Gallinula chloropus*)
Regularly recorded at Mai Po Marshes and Lok Ma Chau with up to 17 on 21 October.
- 91. Watercock** (*Gallicrex cinerea*)
Up to two pairs at Luk Keng from 14 April to 21 May with one male on 22 June and one immature on 3 September. Also recorded at Lok Ma Chau between 4 June and 21 September with two males and two females/immatures on 10 June and four females/immatures on 22 July.
- 92. Coot** (*Fulica atra*)
Up to 60 in the Mai Po/Lok Ma Chau area until 14 May and over 200 there from 13 October. Up to 15 wintered at Plover Cove until 10 March.
- 93. Pheasant-tailed Jacana** (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*)
All records are from Lok Ma Chau or nearby at Ma Tso Lung. One on 15 January, one in breeding plumage on 22 May, four in non-breeding plumage on 23 May, up to three in September and October, and one in November.
- 94. Painted Snipe** (*Rostratula benghalensis*)
Two separate pairs seen feeding and in flight at close range at Luk Keng on 21 May.
- 96. Lapwing** (*Vanellus vanellus*)
At Mai Po Marshes six, one and two recorded on 8, 10 and 11 December respectively. One at Kai Tak from 20 to 25 October was finally struck by an aircraft.
- 97. Grey-headed Lapwing** (*Vanellus cinereus*)
Single birds at Mai Po on 5 and 19 February, 5 and 29 November, and 31 December with up to five there between 8 October and 15 November. Three at Long Valley on 11 February and Sek Kong on 22 October, and one at Lok Ma Chau on 31 December.
- 98. Little Ringed Plover** (*Charadrius dubius*)
Regularly recorded in the Deep Bay area up to 9 April and from 5 September usually in flocks of up to 50 but with about 100 on 19 February.

42 at Long Valley on 15 January. For the first year this species was regularly recorded throughout the summer months at Kai Tak with up to two in May, five in June, twelve in July and four in August.

100. Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*)

Reported regularly from the Deep Bay area in flocks of up to 200 until 7 April and from 17 September. Over 50 at Tai Po on 15 January, two at Yim Tso Ha on 21 September and four there on 26 December. Recorded at Kai Tak up to 20 April and from 15 September with maximum of 174 on 7 March.

101. Greater Sand-plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*)

Single birds seen at Lok Ma Chau or Mai Po in January, February and March, with up to ten in April and over 8 in September. Also up to three at Starling Inlet between 26 August and 1 October, and over 30 at Pak Nai on 8 September. Extreme dates were up to 14 May and from 26 August except for up to seven at Kai Tak during July.

102. Mongolian Sand-plover (*Charadrius mongolus*)

At least two at Mai Po/Lok Ma Chau from 9 April until 14 May and over ten on 23 May. One at Mai Po on 19 August and two there on 8 September. At Kai Tak 12 were seen on 7 April and up to four between 11 August and 11 November.

101/102. Sand-plover Sp. (*Charadrius leschenaultii/mongolus*)

Sand-plover not specifically identified were reported between 25 March and 3 May, and 3 to 21 September. Most records are for up to ten birds, but 119 were counted at Mai Po on 1 April (mostly *C. mongolus*).

103. Oriental Plover (*Charadrius veredus*)

Regularly reported at Kai Tak between 14 March and 2 June, and from 25 September until 27 October. Maximum numbers in spring were nine on 23 March and in autumn, four on 6 October.

104. Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)

Recorded in the Deep Bay area from 24 March to 23 May and from 14 September until 15 December with maximum of 17 on 24 March at Mai Po. Also reported at Starling Inlet with two on 12 February and one on 5 March and 26 December, one at Stonecutters' island on 25 April and one at Kai Tak on 5 September.

105. Asiatic Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominicus*)

Three at Lok Ma Chau on 23 April and up to eight in the Mai Po/Lok Ma Chau area from 21 September until 23 October. Single birds at Pak Nai on 20 September and Luk Keng on 15 October with 11 at Sek Kong the same day. Regularly recorded at Kai Tak between 17 February and 20 May, and 29 August to 18 October with maximum of 19 on 1 October.

106. Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)

Eight at Mai Po on a new early spring date of 25 March. Up to three there until 14 May and then up to four at Lok Ma Chau until 23 May. One

at Mai Po from 8 to 23 September. Up to eight at Kai Tak between 28 April and 2 June and one there on 15 September.

107. Fantail Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)

Regularly recorded in groups of up to 30 in the Deep Bay marshes and other suitable areas including Kai Tak to 21 April and from 14 September.

108. Pintail Snipe (*Gallinago stenura*)

Two at Kai Tak on 7 April and single dead birds picked up there on 12 and 25 October.

109. Swinhoe's Snipe (*Gallinago megala*)

Four caught in mist nests at Mai Po village in April (DSM). The same night a total of 22 Fantail Snipe (*G. gallinago*) were caught at the same pond. One at Kai Tak on 15 September (DSM).

109/110. Snipe Sp. (*Gallinago stenura/megala*)

Records of Snipe which were not Fantail because of call, behaviour or plumage were as follows. Two at Lok Ma Chau on 5 & 11 February, one at Sek Kong on 12 March, two at Mai Po on 17 September, one at Luk Keng on 21 September and four at Ha Tsuen on 30 September.

111. Jack Snipe (*Lymnocyptes minimus*)

A small dark snipe with short bill flushed from grass in the playing fields at Happy Valley Racecourse on 2 September was probably this species (MAW).

112. Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*)

Single birds recorded at Lok Ma Chau, Beas River, Sek Kong and Tsuen Wan up to 26 February and at Ho Sheung Heung and Eagles Nest from 22 October. Two at Tai Po Kau on 16 October and 2 December.

113. Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)

Reported in the Deep Bay area up to 14 May and between 3 September and 26 December, with maximum of over 45 on 26 February and up to 12 in autumn. Also two in Tolo Harbour on 2 February and one there on 4 February and seven at Pak Nai on 11 December.

114. Australian Curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*)

All records are from Mai Po Marshes with one on 5 April, three on 6 April and four on 29 October.

115. Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)

Single birds at Mai Po on 21 March and 21 April. Regularly reported there between 19 August and 15 October with a new autumn high count of over 70 on 14 September (GCHC). One at Starling Inlet on 12 February and four at Tai Po on 13 February. At Kai Tak one on 5 May, two on 12 May, and up to nine between 1 September and 17 October. One winter record of a single bird at Mong Tseng on 26 December.

116. Little Whimbrel (*Numenius minutus*)

The year produced a remarkable number of sightings of this rare species at Kai Tak with regular records between 7 April and 2 June with a new maximum of 16 on 12 May, and from 29 September to 18 October with a maximum of three on 1 October. (DSM/KKC).

117. Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*)

All records are for either Mai Po or Lok Ma Chau. Reported in spring between 24 March and 23 May with highest count of about 50 on 15 April. Much fewer in autumn with one on 24 September and up to three between 7 and 29 November.

118. Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*)

Reported at Mai Po spring between 11 March, a new early date, and 14 May with maximum of 15 on 5 April. Unusually high counts were recorded in autumn with numbers increasing from 14 on 8 September to a new maximum of 78 on 20 and 23 September at Mai Po. Also two at Kai Tak on 7 and 14 April.

119. Asiatic Dowitcher (*Limnodromus semipalmatus*)

All records are from Mai Po Marshes with one on 25 March, seventeen on 15 April, five on 21 April, one on 19 August and two on 5 September.

120. Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*)

Reported in small numbers from widespread areas up to 29 April and from 23 July.

121. Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*)

Regularly recorded up to 5 May and from 8 September in widespread areas including Kai Tak with maximum numbers of 130 at San Tin on 5 February, over 200 at Lok Ma Chau on 19 February, and about 65 at Mai Po on 17 September.

122. Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)

Recorded at Mai Po/Lok Ma Chau between 19 February and 23 May and from 19 August to 30 October. Highest numbers were over 100 in spring at Lok Ma Chau on 23 April and about 25 in autumn at Mai Po on 18 September. Also single birds at Shuen Wan on 1 May and Kai Tak in April, May, September and October.

123. Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*)

Commonly reported in the Deep Bay area up to 14 May and from 28 August with maximum counts of about 200 at Mai Po on 23 April and at San Tin during December. Also four at Shuen Wan on 26 March.

124. Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)

Reported from the Deep Bay area up to 23 May and from 19 August. Mostly in small numbers but with exceptionally high spring counts of 50 on 31 March and 85 to 90 on 2 April. Autumn maximum was 12 on 17 November. Single birds also seen at Pui O on 6 April, Shuen Wan on 14

August, and Kai Tak on 28 April and 28 July, the latter equalling the previous earliest autumn date.

126. Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*)

All records are from either Mai Po Marshes or Lok Ma Chau. Extreme dates were up to 23 May and from 16 September with several sightings of up to ten birds throughout the winter months. Highest numbers were at end of March with a maximum of 51 in one flock on 25 March.

127. Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

Widespread throughout the year in small numbers with flocks of up to 25 in spring and autumn. Up to two were seen in every month at Plover Cove and summer records at Kai Tak comprised two on 30 June and ten on 28 July.

128. Grey-rumped Sandpiper (*Heteroscelus brevipes*)

Extreme dates were from 28 April to 23 May and from 19 August to 27 October. Up to ten recorded in spring from Ma Wan, Mai Po, Kai Tak, Shuen Wan and Starling Inlet, and up to eleven in autumn from Pak Nai, Mai Po, Kai Tak, Ting Kau and Cheung Chau.

129. Terek Sandpiper (*Xenus cinereus*)

At least 15 at Mai Po/Lok Ma Chau in spring between 30 April and 14 May and up to 10 in autumn between 13 August and 29 October. Elsewhere, single birds at Kai Tak on 23 March and 28 April, Pui O on 6 April, and up to eight in September at Starling Inlet and Pak Nai.

130. Knot (*Calidris canutus*)

Single birds at Mai Po on 21 April and Kai Tak on 28 April. A flock of between 60 and 70 waders seen at a distance on the mud in Deep Bay on 14 May were most probably this species. The birds on 21 April on 14 May were in full breeding plumage.

131. Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*)

One at Mai Po on 5 April and ten there on 15 April.

132. Eastern Little Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*)

Single birds at Mai Po/Lok Ma Chau on 29 January and 5 February. Numbers increased to over 150 there from 25 March to 23 May, but only one or two were reported in autumn between 5 September and 5 November. At Kai Tak up to 18 were seen between 20 April and 5 May and up to two from 28 July until 18 October. Elsewhere, ten at Shuen Wan on 26 March, three there on 3 May and six on 14 May, and two at Pui O on 6 April.

133. Long-toed Stint (*Calidris subminuta*)

Small numbers at Mai Po/Lok Ma Chau up to 23 April and from 10 September with maximum of about 29 on 15 April. Up to 20 at Kai Tak from 25 September to 2 October and two at Lo Wu on 6 November.

- 134. Temminck's Stint** (*Calidris temminckii*)
Reported at Mai Po/Lok Ma Chau until 9 April and from 30 October. Records are usually for up to 20 birds but high counts of 44 and about 50 were made on 5 and 19 February respectively. Also about 15 at Lo Wu on 6 November.
- 135. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** (*Calidris acuminata*)
In spring recorded at Mai Po/Lok Ma Chau between 30 March and 14 May with numbers rising from 10 on 21 April to a new high of 62 at Lok Ma Chau on 14 May. Also six at Shuen Wan on 26 March and three there on 1 May. In autumn the only record was two at Mai Po on 8 September.
- 136. Dunlin** (*Calidris alpina*)
The only spring records at Mai Po/Lok Ma Chau occurred between 25 March and 23 May with over 100 on 23 April and 23 May. Also one at Shuen Wan on 30 April. The only autumn records were three at Lok Ma Chau on 10 September and four there on 19 September. One of the birds on 10 September was an adult in body moult from summer to winter plumage.
- 138. Sanderling** (*Crocethia alba*)
Two at Pui O on 7 April and single birds at Kai Tak on 8 April and 8 September.
- 140. Broad-billed Sandpiper** (*Limicola falcinellus*)
In contrast to previous years this was a very poor year with only two records of this normally regular passage migrant. One at Shuen Wan on 30 April and two at Mai Po on 8 September.
- 141. Ruff** (*Philomachus pugnax*)
Single birds at Lok Ma Chau on several occasions from 2 January to 9 April and on 10 September. The latter appeared to be a juvenile male and established a new early autumn date by one day.
- 142. Red-necked Phalarope** (*Phalaropus lobatus*)
In spring one at Castle Peak Bay on 27 March, about 70 in West Lamma Channel on 5 April, one in breeding plumage at Mai Po on 8 April, one at Lok Ma Chau on 8 and 9 April, and 49 on the sea off Ting Kau on 10 April. In autumn first reported in Victoria Harbour with two on 6 September. On 30 September three at Tai Po and 55 circling for 30 minutes in two flocks over Starling Inlet when No 3 signal was hoisted for Typhoon 'Lola'. The next day over 200 at Starling Inlet, over 20 at Shuen Wan, and about 10 at Ting Kau. 15 in West Lamma Channel and four at Luk Keng on 4 October, and at Lok Ma Chau about 30 on 5 October, 17 on 8 October, and two on 29 October.
- 143. Black-winged Stilt** (*Himantopus himantopus*)
The wintering flock of up to 16 birds was seen in the Lok Ma Chau area up to 19 April, with further reports of up to three birds until 23 May. They returned in autumn from 5 September with a maximum of 17 during November and 20 on 31 December. Elsewhere, two juveniles at Ha Tsuen

on 30 September, one at Kai Tak the same day, and five there on 17 October.

- 144. Avocet** (*Recurvirostra avosetta*)
About 20 at Mai Po on 12 March, 10 there on 3 October, a new early autumn date, and 11 in Deep Bay on 26 December.
- 145. Oriental Pratincole** (*Glareola maldivarum*)
Regularly reported at Mai Po Marshes between 7 February and 16 May with numbers rising during March to a maximum of 65 on 27 March. Also two at Yuen Long on 25 March and at least eight in Castle Peak Bay on 2 April. Again recorded at Kai Tak in all months between 7 March and 28 October with highest counts in each month of 46 on 31 March, 47 on 7 April, 20 on 26 May, 20 on 2 June, one on 31 July, three on 21 August, three on 26 September and about 130 on 18 October.
- 146. Herring Gull** (*Larus argentatus*)
Regularly recorded from Victoria Harbour, Deep Bay and offshore areas up to 9 April and from 31 October. On the last spring date 28 were seen flying west at great height over Mai Po (MLC). Maximum counts were 200 near Sunshine Island on 13 January and 138 at Pak Nai on 18 February. At Kai Tak the highest number recorded was 61 on 3 March. On 11 March a leucistic first winter bird was seen at Pak Nai.
- 150. Great Black-headed Gull** (*Larus ichthyaetus*)
An adult in winter plumage was seen flying with a group of Black-headed Gulls (*L. ridibundus*) in Victoria Harbour on 15 November (HGA).
- 151. Brown-headed Gull** (*Larus brunnicephalus*)
Single adults in non-breeding plumage seen between Ma Wan and Tsing Yi on 1 February (DSM), off Ting Kau on 12 March (MLC), and from Cheung Chau ferry on 4 December (CDW).
- 152. Black-tailed Gull** (*Larus crassirostris*)
Reported from Victoria Harbour and approaches, Deep Bay, Tolo Harbour and Starling Inlet in small numbers up to 7 April and from 24 November. As usual most records were first-winter birds except for single adults at Kai Tak on 31 January, Pak Nai on 6 March, and Deep Bay on 30 March. Maximum number was nine at Sha Tau Kok on 24 December.
- 153. Black-headed Gull** (*Larus ridibundus*)
Common and widespread in coastal areas generally up to 9 April and from 17 October with exceptional records of single birds at Mai Po on 14 May and 22 September. The late spring bird was in non-breeding plumage. Flocks of several hundred birds were reported from Tolo Harbour and Deep Bay, Plover Cove, Starling Inlet and Victoria Harbour. On 2 January over 2000 were seen at Mai Po, and the highest count at Kai Tak was 2776 on 16 January. Fortnightly counts throughout Hong Kong waters including Deep Bay, Tolo Harbour etc. indicated that the maximum wintering

population was about 25,000 (DSM). On 6 March a first-winter bird at Lok Ma Chau was seen with a ring of possible Russian origin on its right leg.

154. Saunders' Gull (*Larus saundersi*)

Reported from Mai Po Marshes with ten adults, eight of which were in breeding plumage, on 26 February, one on 25 March, and two adults on 15 and 29 November. An adult in breeding plumage off Stonecutters' Island on 17 March is one of the few records of this species away from Deep Bay.

156. White-winged Black Tern (*Chlidonias leucoptera*)

Seen in good numbers on spring passage at Deep Bay Marshes, Luk Keng and the Victoria Harbour area between 6 and 26 May. Numbers rose to exceptionally high levels on 18 May during heavy rain and strong winds with 530 at Lok Ma Chau, 18 at Mai Po, 190 at Nam San Wai, about 100 at Mong Tseng, and about 200 in Deep Bay and Victoria Harbour. Numbers remained high for several days with over 125 off Tsing Yi on 21 May, over 200 at Lok Ma Chau on 22 May and about 100 at Mai Po on 26 May. Whilst most of those on 18 May were in breeding plumage the majority seen later were still in winter plumage. In the autumn smaller numbers were seen between 1 and 14 October, with 20 at Lok Ma Chau on 2 October, the day after the passage of Typhoon Lola. At Kai Tak 27 unidentified Marsh Terns were seen on 1 October and 12 and 17 October. There were also two winter records at Mai Po with one on 2 January and 6 on 16 December.

157. Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*)

Apart from one at San Tin on 9 April and 40 at Cheung Chau on 20 April all records were in the autumn between 17 September and 3 December, mostly at Mai Po or Lok Ma Chau where the maximum was 32 on 8 October. Other records were two at Ting Kau on 1 October and four at Luk Keng on 2 October.

158. Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)

Up to seven reported in spring between 2 April and 22 May at Mai Po, Victoria Harbour and Luk Keng, and up to six in autumn between 7 August and 17 October from offshore areas, Victoria Harbour and Luk Keng.

159. Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*)

Recorded in all months in the Deep Bay area with highest numbers of 50 on 23 April and between 60 and 70 on 6 May. The maximum during the winter was 44 at Pak Nai on 18 February.

160. Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)

All records of 'commic' terns (i.e. *Sterna hirundo/paradisea dougalli*) are given below for completeness. In the spring two were seen in West Lamma Channel on 5 April and at least three south of Tsing Yi on 21 May. Recorded regularly in the autumn in large numbers from West Lamma Channel with about 30 on 26 August, 150 on 6 September, 90 on 7 September, 60 on 8 September, 317 counted on 9 September, and at least

three on 11 September. Also four off the Ninepins on 17 September, two at Ting Kau on 1 October, and six at Kai Tak on 17 October. Many of the birds seen on 9 September were positively identified as adult and juvenile Common Terns (MLC). On 7 September a group of 20 birds (16 adults and 4 juveniles) seen briefly in flight from the Lamma ferry were probably Roseate Terns (*S. dougalli*) (HGA, EAB). The plumage and light descriptions indicate Roseate Tern. However, in the absence of the characteristic call or other corroborative data it is considered advisable to treat this record as probable only until more is known on possible plumage variations of *Sterna* terns in South-east Asia.

162. Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*)

Regularly seen in Mai Po/Lok Ma Chau area between 30 March and 23 May, usually up to nine but 34 counted at San Tin on 9 April. At Kai Tak one on 23 March, three on 7 April, five on 25 September and up to two between 1 and 17 October. Elsewhere, eight at Ting Kau on 7 April, one in Victoria Harbour on 8 June and 15 there on 11 September.

166. Rufous Turtle-dove (*Streptopelia orientalis*)

Scarce but fairly widespread in small numbers up to 30 April and again from 8 October. Over 40 birds reported at Beas River on 2 April and this area continues to be the stronghold of this species.

167. Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*)

Common and widespread.

168. Red Turtle-dove (*Streptopelia tranquebarica*)

Three in Kowloon Park on 20 April and three at Chek Lap Kok on 21 May. One in Kowloon Park on 29 September. All other autumn records were from the New Territories, noticeably Nim Wan where 25 plus were counted on 29 September. Last sighting of the year made on 26 November when one bird was seen at Sek Kong Woods. Single birds at Fanling Golf Course and Kai Tak on 2 June were unusual summer records.

169. Common Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus/saturatus*)

Two at wood at Pak Nai on 30 September and one hepatic bird at Mong Tseng on 14 October.

171. Indian Cuckoo (*Cuculus micropterus*)

Recorded from widespread areas of the New Territories including the Sai Kung Peninsula and the islands of Cheung Chau, Ma Wan and Lantau between 13 April and 22 June. One bird at Ho Sheung Heung Woods on 3 September, was the only autumn record.

169/170/171. Cuckoo Sp.

Cuckoos not specifically identified were seen throughout April at Beas River, one at Fanling Golf Course on 7 May and one at Tai Po Kau on 15 October.

172. Large Hawk-cuckoo (*Cuculus sparverioides*)

One seen at Shing Mun on 6 May, one seen and three heard at Tai Po Kau on 28 May. Two heard at Tai Mo Shan on 11 June and at Lai Chi Wo on 24 June.

174. Plaintive Cuckoo (*Cacomantis merulinus*)

Quite common and widespread. Recorded in all months of the year. Two hepatic birds at Fanling in late March and early April, and one found dead at Mai Po on 30 October.

174.1 Asian Emerald Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx maculatus*)

One male first identified at Ho Sheung Heung wood on 3 January (GCHC). Last seen there on 9 April and seen several times during this period.

The bird was described as being about 7½", smaller and stockier than a Plaintive Cuckoo (*Cacomantis merulinus*). When first sighted the bird was in immature plumage; head and throat greyish with a greenish wash and finely barred. Underparts barred. Upperparts, wings and tail were an iridescent blue/green. By early April the bird had developed full male plumage at which time the head, neck and upper breast were of the same iridescent blue/green. The underparts were then barred green and whitish. The bill was orange/yellow.

This is the first record for Hong Kong. This species ranges from India to South China (Yunnan, Honan and Hainan).

175. Red-winged Crested Cuckoo (*Clamator coromandus*)

One at Man Kei Toi, Hebe Haven on 2 July. This is the first summer record for this species. One at Ho Sheung Heung on 3 September, a probable at Ma Wan Island on 18 September and one at Pak Nai on 21 October.

177. Koel (*Eudynamis scolopacea*)

Quite common and widespread. Recorded in all months of the year except December but mainly between April and August. Breeding noted at Fan Ling. (host species: — Black-necked Starling *Sturnus nigricollis*)

178. Greater Coucal (*Centropus sinensis*)

Quite common and widespread. First young noted on 30 April at Fan Ling.

179. Lesser Coucal (*Centropus bengalensis*)

Scarce but fairly widespread.

180. Barred Owlet (*Glaucidium cuculoides*)

Single bird at Sek Kong Woods on 15 April. An owl which flew into a flat on Caldecott Road on 30 October was probably this species.

182. Collared Scops Owl (*Otus bakkamoena*)

Two heard at Tai Mei Tuk between January and June and again between September and December. One also heard on Mount Nicholson during November and December.

187. Eagle Owl (*Bubo bubo*)

One dead bird picked up at Kai Tak Airport in the early morning of 25 January, (DSM/KKC). This is the first record for Hong Kong since 1957.

188. Japanese Nightjar (*Caprimulgus indicus*)

One at Fan Ling on 2 April.

188/189. Nightjar Sp.

A single bird not specifically identified, seen at Tin Kok Village on 15 February.

189. Savannah Nightjar (*Caprimulgus affinis*)

One male seen on Chek Lap Kok on 21 May. Dead birds or parts of birds of this species were recovered at Kai Tak on 17 August, 18 November and 14 December.

188/189/190. Large White-rumped Swift (*Apus pacificus*)

Recorded from widespread areas throughout the early part of the year up to 27 May. Very large flocks of up to 300 birds were seen in the Mai Po area during March and early April. Only a few records for the latter half of the year.

191. House Swift (*Apus affinis*)

Recorded from widespread areas in flocks of up to several hundred, throughout the year. Largest numbers reported in March and early April.

192. Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*)

Recorded in every month of the year from April onwards in small numbers of up to three birds, from either the Sha Tau Kok, Plover Cove or Mai Po areas.

194. Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

Quite common and widespread and recorded in every month of the year.

195. White-breasted Kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*)

Quite common and widespread throughout the year, one observer remarking that it appeared more common this summer than usual.

196. Black-capped Kingfisher (*Halcyon pileata*)

Single birds and pairs recorded from widespread areas up to early May and from late August. Also recorded in small numbers during the summer months.

198. Broad-billed Roller (*Eurystomus orientalis*)

Four birds seen at Pak Tam Chung on 29 April and one on the Fan Ling Golf Course on the same day. On 6 May three separate birds were seen in the Shing Mun area. Single birds at Tai Tam Reservoir on 26 September and Kowloon Park on 6 October were the only autumn records.

199. Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*)

One seen near Stanley Prison on 16 September and another at Kai Tak Airport on 6 October.

200. Great Barbet (*Megalaima virens*)

Regularly recorded from widespread areas in the New Territories, notably Tai Po Kau, She Shan, Ma Tseuk Leng, Shing Mun and Tai Long Wan.

202.1. Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus major*)

One male seen in the grounds of the University of Hong Kong on 9 and 10 September (TPG).

Description: — Black upperparts with large white patch on scapulars, breast and belly unmarked whitish and red vent. Black cap and red nape patch. Black streak down side of the head linked with the black at the back of the neck. Within this black line white spots were formed on either side of the head. No white on the back. The observer was familiar with this species in the United Kingdom.

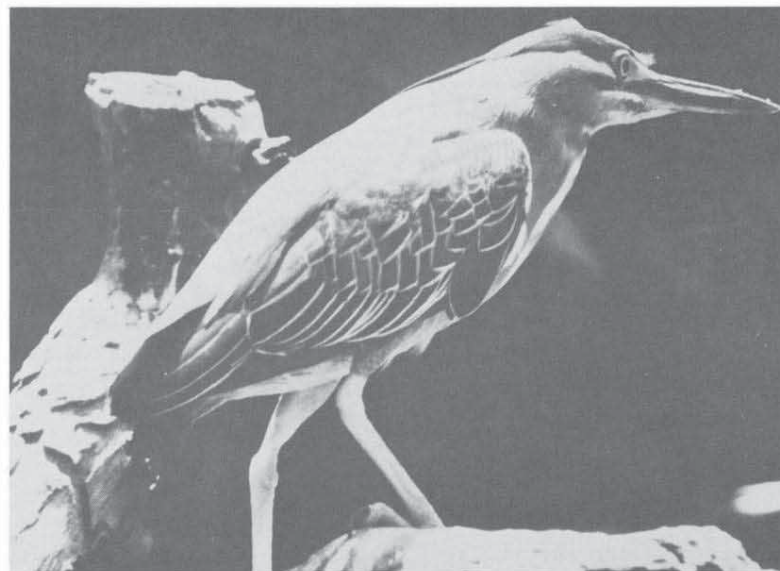
This is the first record of this species for Hong Kong. Range: — Palearctic, Assam to China, Hainan. Breeds throughout Eastern China.

203. Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*)

A full record of the sightings of this species is given, there being rather more than usual: — One at Cheung Chau on 18 January and one at the USRC Kowloon, on the 19th. On the 27th one bird seen at Nim Wan and one at Mong Tseng. One seen there again on 7 February and on the same day one seen at Ho Sheung Heung and one at Ping Shan. On 19 March birds were seen at Pak Nai and Tsim Bei Tsui. Four were seen at Mai Po on 1 and one on 21 April. In the autumn one seen at Mai Po on 17 and 20 September. One was regularly seen at Ma Tau Wei Hill between 3 October and 7 November, on 8 October one bird seen at Mai Po and on the 21st, one seen at Ma Wan. In November there was one bird at Mai Po on the 3rd, one at Long Valley on 6th, and three at Wu Kwai Sha on 25th. Finally one bird seen on 31 December at Lok Ma Chau.

205. Small Skylark (*Alauda gulgula*)

Consistently recorded from Kai Tak in all months of the year with the highest count of 34 birds made on 10 November. Otherwise only two other records of single birds at Mai Po on 30 October and Mission Road, Kowloon on 31 October.



Little Green Heron.
Photo: D. Melville.



Intermediate Egret.
Photo: C.P. Barnes.



Japanese Sparrows Hawk.
Photo: S. Cheng.



Juvenile Imperial Eagle.
Photo: M.L. Chalmers.



Lesser Egret.
Photo: M.L. Chalmers.



First Year White — Bellied Sea-Eagle.
Photo: D. Melville.



Blue and White Flycatcher
Drawn by Dana Eddis.



Fantail Warbler
Photo: C.P. Barnes.

206. Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

Common and widespread and recorded in all months of the year with very high counts of 1000 + birds being made in early April at Mai Po. First young reported out of the nest on 29 April. Single leucistic birds were noted at Mai Po on 26 May and 15 November by two different observers. In both cases the birds were mainly white with some dusky brown markings.

207. Red-rumped Swallow (*Hirundo daurica*)

Fairly well recorded during the spring up to 3 April mainly from the Deep Bay area in flocks of up to 15. In the autumn three at Mai Po on 8 October, and one there on 11 November, up to five birds at Lok Ma Chau between 12 and 29 November and one bird at Mai Po on 10 December.

208.1 Asian House Martin (*Delichon dasypus*)

Up to twenty birds at She Shan and numerous birds in the Deep Bay area on 25 March (GCHC, MLC, BFK).

The birds were described as having steel blue upperparts and white underparts, rump and upper tail coverts, underwing uniform dusky brown. The underparts were sullied greyish with an indistinct breast band. The tail was slightly forked.

This is the first record of this species for Hong Kong, all previous records being of the Common House-martin (*Delichon urbica*). The species ranges from N.E. Asia through India, South and West China to Indonesia.

209. Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*)

One at Mai Po on 2 January and two there on 10 December.

211. Rufous-backed Shrike (*Lanius schach*)

Common and widespread but generally avoids urban areas. However, sightings of single birds were made in Kowloon Tong, Conduit Road and Kai Tak Airport. First young noted out of the nest on 4 June at Beas River. As usual, a number of melanistic Dusky Shrikes were reported and one observer felt these were more common than in previous years. One of those seen had extensive white markings covering much of the primaries. On 23 April one was seen mobbing a snake crossing a road at Mong Tseng.

213. Brown Shrike (*Lanius cristatus*)

Widespread in small numbers. Recorded until 18 May and from 11 September. Much more common in the autumn months than in the spring.

214. Black-naped Oriole (*Oriolus chinensis*)

Recorded in all months of the year from widespread areas of the New Territories including Cheung Chau. Also recorded from Kowloon Park but the birds' stronghold is still the Fanling Golf Course where over 10 birds were seen in May.

- 215. Black Drongo** (*Dicrurus macrocercus*)
Common and widespread between late March and mid-November. The odd bird was also noted in January and February. The main concentration appeared to be on Stonecutter's Island where possibly 50 birds were seen on 27 May.
- 216. Hair-crested Drongo** (*Dicrurus hottentottus*)
Regularly seen in flocks of up to eight birds by one observer in the northern New Territories between 7 April and 2 October with young birds being seen on 21 May at Luk Keng. Two birds remained in a garden at Fan Ling between 2 March and 4 April. Also reported in small numbers from widespread areas on both spring and autumn passages. Extreme dates were 7 April to 21 October.
- 218. Chinese Starling** (*Sturnus sinensis*)
Recorded in small numbers from widespread areas in most months of the year, with highest numbers (flocks of about 25 birds) reported in February. Nest building noted at Fanling in May and a fledgling seen at Mong Tseng on 18 May.
- 218.1 Purple Starling** (*Sturnus sturninus*)
Two with a flock of Chinese Bulbuls (*Pycnonotus sinensis*) at Mai Po on 8 October. A flock of 20 at Ting Kau on 9 and 10 October.
- 219. Silky Starling** (*Sturnus sericeus*)
Common and widespread especially in the Lok Ma Chau and Mong Tseng areas, sometimes being seen in very large flocks in excess of 100 birds, until 27 March and from 5 October. A new early autumn date was established when a flock of 20 birds was seen at the USRC in Kowloon on 12 September.
- 220. Grey Starling** (*Sturnus cineraceus*)
Up to two birds at Lok Ma Chau on 5 and 12 February, one at Sha Tau Kok on 13 February and two in Kowloon Park on 7 April were the only spring records. Up to three birds were noted at Ma Tau Wei Hill between 23 and 27 October, and up to two birds remained at Kai Tak between 23 and 25 November but these were considered to be escapes. Four birds were seen at Mai Po and one at Lok Ma Chau on 5 November and four at Wu Kwai Sha on the 25th. One bird was seen at Mai Po on 10 December.
- 221. Common Starling** (*Sturnus vulgaris*)
Up to five at Lok Ma Chau until 19 February and up to two there from 26 December.
- 222. Black-necked Starling** (*Sturnus nigricollis*)
Locally common throughout the year in the New Territories. Breeding proved at Fanling and on the Fanling Golf Course. Several sightings made in Kowloon Park and Ho Man Tin in May, October and November.

- 223. Crested Mynah** (*Acridotheres cristatellus*)
Common and widespread.
- 224. Jay** (*Garrulus glandarius*)
Four birds at Kap Lung, Sek Kong, on 23 February, and one on southern slopes of Tai Mo Shan on 23 April were the only spring records. On 2 July two birds in catchment area near Sek Kong. On 18 August, four birds at Hoi Ha (Sai Kung peninsula). One at Hok Tau Reservoir on 21 September. Over twelve birds regularly seen between Chung Mei and Tai Mei Tuk from 22 October until the end of the year, often on ground presumably scavenging on the litter left in the many picnic spots in the area. One at Fanling Golf Course on 27 October.
- 225. Blue Magpie** (*Urocissa erythrorhyncha*)
Common on Hong Kong Island but much less so in Kowloon. Only locally common in the New Territories.
- 226. Magpie** (*Pica pica*)
Common and widespread.
- 227. Treepie** (*Crypsirina formosae*)
The irruption of the previous autumn continued into the spring of this year with flocks of up to 30 birds being seen until 22 April a new late date for this species. The only autumn record was of two birds at Mai Po on 26 November.
- 228. Jungle Crow** (*Corvus macrorhynchos*)
Locally common in the New Territories and on Hong Kong Island with occasional sightings in Kowloon. Largest counts were of 51 in Tolo Harbour on 26 November and over 75 feeding at the Shuen Wan rubbish tip on 7 July.
- 229. Collared Crow** (*Corvus torquatus*)
Regularly recorded throughout the year from the Deep Bay area and occasionally, in small numbers, from some of the more remote parts of the northern New Territories.
- 230. Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike** (*Coracina melaschistos*)
Rather more common than usual with some twenty-two sightings being recorded, mostly of single birds, from widespread areas. Extreme dates were until 3 June and from 18 September.
- 233. Ashy Minivet** (*Pericrocotus divaricatus*)
Up to seven birds at Ho Sheung Heung in the first weeks of April. One at Pak Nai on 14 October and four at Beas River on 29 October.
- 234. Grey-throated Minivet** (*Pericrocotus solaris*)
Four females at Tai Po Kau on 1 January, one male and one female at Tai Po Kau on 25 February. One male there on 7 November, one male and four females there on 2 December and nine females there on 24 December.

- 235. Scarlet Minivet** (*Pericrocotus flammeus*)
Quite commonly recorded in the New Territories until 25 February and from 8 October. Also an unusual summer record of a flock of about sixteen birds, including one full male, in the Tai Po Kau Forest on 28 August.
- 236. Chesnut Bulbul** (*Hypsipetes castanotus*)
One bird at Kowloon Reservoir on 12 February.
- 237. Black Bulbul** (*Hypsipetes madagascariensis*)
One at Tai Po Kau on 2 December.
- 238. Crested Bulbul** (*Pycnonotus jocosus*)
Common and widespread. First young out of the nest noted on 13 April.
- 239. Chinese Bulbul** (*Pycnonotus sinensis*)
Common and widespread. No large flocks recorded this year. First young out of the nest seen on 25 April.
- 240. Red-vented Bulbul** (*Pycnonotus aurigaster*)
Common in favoured areas, generally avoiding urban areas, but three seen at Kowloon Tong on 15 January.
- 241. Black-faced Laughing-thrush** (*Garrulax perspicillatus*)
Common and widespread.
- 242. Black-throated Laughing-thrush** (*Garrulax chinensis*)
One at Bowen Road on 8 April and two there on 5 December. Three at Lugard Road on 11 September were singing in the early morning.
- 243. Hwamei** (*Garrulax canorus*)
Locally common and widespread.
- 244. Greater Necklaced Laughing-thrush** (*Garrulax pectoralis*)
Reported only from Tai Po Kau Forestry Reserve until 21 January and from 22 October in flocks of up to 20 birds. Also an unusual summer record of three birds at Tai Po Kau on 22 July.
- 245. Chinese Babax** (*Babax lanceolatus*)
At least nine birds were seen and photographed at Mount Butler Road on 15 January. (These photographs appeared in the 1977 Report) Up to 15 birds stayed in this area between 13 January and 8 February. On 23 April one bird, probably of this species, was heard calling on Tai Mo Shan.
- 248. Asian/Ince's Paradise Flycatcher** (*Tersiphone paradisi*)
One at Sek Kong Woods on 12 March and one on slopes of Grassy Hill/Shing Mun Forest on 6 May, a new late date, were the only spring records. One at Tai Po Kau on 19 August gave a new early autumn date.

One bird at Tai Po Kau on 28 August and 5 September, one at Wu Kau Tang on 21 September, and two at the Fanling Golf Course on 7 October. There was an unusual summer record of one bird in a small wood at Ho Man Tin on 28 July which was seen there until 30 July. One bird was also recorded from this wood on 31 October and 1 November.

- 249. Japanese Paradise Flycatcher** (*Terpsiphone atrocaudata*)
There were no spring records. One bird at Sek Kong Woods on 19 September, one at Tai Po Kau on 26 September, one at Cheung Chau on the 27th, and one at Ha Tsuen on the 30th. Four separate birds were found in Tai Po Kau Forest on 6 October and one seen there on the 8th. On the same day one was seen on Tai Mo Shan.
- 250. Grey-headed Flycatcher** (*Culicicapa ceylonensis*)
Up to three birds remained in Sek Kong Woods until 24 March and one there from 19 November. One at She Shan on 25 November and 3 December.
- 251. Black-naped Monarch Flycatcher** (*Hypothymis azurea*)
One female at Ho Sheung Heung until 5 April and from 3 November. One at Beas River between 5 and 12 November and one male at Tai Po Kau on 17 November.
- 252. Brown Flycatcher** (*Muscicapa latirostris*)
Common and widespread until 14 May, a new late date, and from 4 September.
- 253. Grey-spotted Flycatcher** (*Muscicapa griseisticta*)
One at Sek Kong on 25 March, and again on 29 April. One at Hong Kong University on 25 April and two at Ting Kok Road on the 29th. One at Shing Mun on 6 May. One at Fanling Golf Course on 7 May. One at Cheung Chau on 15 May. One at Tai Po Kau on 24 September. One at Cheung Chau on 27 September. One at Pak Nai on 29 September. About eight at Fanling Golf Course on 7 October, one at Mong Tseng on the 21st and up to ten at Sek Kong Woods on the 22nd. Single birds were seen at Hong Kong University on 1 and 3 November.
- 254. Sooty Flycatcher** (*Muscicapa sibirica*)
One seen on Fanling Golf Course on 7 October (HGA). This is only the second record for this species.
- 255. Ferruginous Flycatcher** (*Muscicapa ferruginea*)
One or two birds at Ho Sheung Heung wood between 2 and 9 April.
- 256. Verditer Flycatcher** (*Muscicapa thalassina*)
A male at Fung Yuen on 7 January and a male at Tai Long Wan on 14 January. On the same day a male was seen at Pak Tam Chung, Sai Kung. One bird at Kowloon Park on 26 October was the only autumn record.

- 257. Red-breasted Flycatcher** (*Ficedula parva*)
Widespread and fairly commonly recorded in both the spring and autumn, usually single birds but sometimes up to three together.
- 258. Robin Flycatcher** (*Ficedula mugimaki*)
A female/immature at Tai Po Kau on 7 January. Two females in Tai Po Kau on 25 February. A male in Kowloon Park on 10 April. A pair at She Shan on 19 November and one female in Tai Po Kau on 24 November.
- 259. Narcissus Flycatcher** (*Ficedula narcissina*)
One male at Cheung Chau on 3 April. A male at Ho Man Tin on 5 and 6 April. A male in Ho Sheung Heung Wood between 5 and 9 April.
- 260. Tricolour Flycatcher** (*Ficedula zanthopygia*)
A female at Sek Kong Woods between 8 and 16 September. an immature at Ma Wan on 23 September. A female/immature at Ting Kau on 26 September.
- 261. Hainan Blue Flycatcher** (*Cyornis hainana*)
A male in Tai Po Kau Forest on 26 and 28 August. One bird in Kowloon Park on 11 December may have been an escape.
- 262. Blue and White Flycatcher** (*Cyanoptila cyanomelana*)
There was an unusually good spring passage of this species with birds, mostly males, being reported from widespread areas from 24 March to 12 April. There were no autumn records. One male was at Ho Man Tin on 29 and 30 March. One male at Fanling and one in Kowloon Park on 24 March. One adult and one immature male on Cheung Chau on 3 April. One male at Ho Sheung Heung between 4 and 9 April and a female there on the 5th, and 8th. A male at Sek Kong on 5 April. One male at both Beas River and Tai Po Kau on 7 April.
- 263. Chinese Bush Warbler** (*Cettia diphone*)
Fairly common and widespread until 29 April and from 5 November.
- 264. Short-tailed Bush Warbler** (*Cettia squameiceps*)
One at Tai Po Kau on 1 January and two there on 4 January. One at Cheung Chau on 13 January. Up to three birds at Tai Po Kau between 7 November and 7 December. One at Cheung Chau on 29 November.
- 267. Von Schrenck's Reed-warbler** (*Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*)
Seen in small numbers on Mai Po Marshes between 16 April and 14 May, and again from 31 August to 8 October. One bird at Kai Tak on 5 September and 6 October and three there on 20 October. One at Mong Tseng on 12 November.
- 268. Great Reed-warbler** (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*)
Common in the Deep Bay area during both passage but much more numerous in the autumn. Also reported from Ma Tau Wei Hill, Kowloon

throughout October and one record from Kai Tak on 6 October. Extreme dates were 16 April until 14 May and from 26 August until 19 November.

- 269. Dusky Warbler** (*Phylloscopus fuscatus*)
Common and widespread during both winters. Extreme dates were until 18 April and from 15 September.
- 270. Yellow-browed Warbler** (*Phylloscopus inornatus*)
Common and widespread during both winters. Extreme dates were until 18 April and from 15 September.
- 271. Pallas's Warbler** (*Phylloscopus proregulus*)
Uncommon but widespread during both winters but even fewer numbers seen during the autumn. Extreme dates were until 9 April and from 15 October.
- 272. Arctic Warbler** (*Phylloscopus borealis*)
Spring birds recorded between 1 and 14 May, during which time they were widespread but relatively rare. Much more abundant during the autumn passage from 11 September to 24 November.
- 273. Pale-legged Willow-warbler** (*Phylloscopus tenellipes*)
One at Pak Nai on 30 September when Typhoon Signal No. 3 was hoisted for T.S. "Lola".
- 274. Crowned Willow-warbler** (*Phylloscopus coronatus*)
One at Hong Kong University on 23 September and one at Tai Po Kau on 2 December.
- 279. Long-tailed Tailor-bird** (*Orthotomus sutorius*)
Common and widespread.
- 280. David's Hill-warbler** (*Prinia polychroa*)
One seen at Tai Mo Shan on 11 June, two birds there on 9 July, and three birds there on 8 October.
- 281. Brown Wren-warbler** (*Prinia subflava*)
Common on the Deep Bay Marshes. First young seen out of the nest on 11 June. One report from Kai Tak on 17 February.
- 282. Yellow-bellied Wren-warbler** (*Prinia flaviventris*)
Common and widespread. First young seen out of the nest on 11 May.
- 283. Fantail Warbler** (*Cisticola juncidis*)
Quite common and widespread but not recorded between 23 April and 28 August.
- 285. Red-tailed Robin** (*Erithacus sibilans*)
Up to three at Bride's Pool on 7 January. One at Cheung Chau on 9

January. One seen at Sek Kong Woods on both 12 and 18 March. One at Ho Sheung Heung on 5 April. One at Tai Po Kau on 7, 12 and 17 November. One at Cheung Chau on 13 December and one at Tai Po Kau on 26 December.

286. Bluethroat (*Erithacus svecica*)

All records from the Mai Po Marsh area. One there on 26 February. One male on 12 March. One female on 25 March. On 1 April a single male was seen by one observer and three birds by a second observer, one of which was a male bird of the "white-spotted" form, *L. s. cyanecula*.

287. Pallas's Blue Robin (*Erithacus cyane*)

An immature male at Tai Po Kau on 27 October and a second one at Eagle's Nest on 14 November (CDW). These are the second and third records for this species.

288. Rubythroat (*Erithacus calliope*)

Quite common and widespread during the spring but less so the following autumn. Extreme dates were until 15 April and from 6 November, a new early date.

289. Red-flanked Bluetail (*Tarsiger cyanurus*)

Only two records for the spring period 9 January and 4 February. Slightly more numerous during the autumn with the first sighting on 19 November.

290. Magpie Robin (*Copsychus saularis*)

Common and widespread. First young seen out of the nest on 4 June.

291. Daurian Redstart (*Phoenicurus aureus*)

Fairly common and widespread during both winters. Extreme dates were until 25 March and from 30 October.

292. Plumbeous Water-redstart (*Rhyacornis fuliginosus*)

One male and up to two female/immatures at Bride's Pool until the end of March and one male and one female/immature at Chung Mei also until the end of March. One female/immature seen at Pak Tam Au, Sai Kung, on 14 January.

293. Slaty-backed Forktail (*Enicurus schistaceus*)

One seen Tai Po Kau on 1 January was presumably the same bird as that seen on 31 December 1977 (EAB, RJB, CPB).

294. Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*)

Common and widespread during both winters. Extreme dates were until 23 April and from 22 September.

295. Grey Bushchat (*Saxicola ferrea*)

One female at Chek Keng on 14 January. One female on Volunteer

Slopes on 25 February. A female at Nim Wan on 27 March. A female seen near Lau Shui Heung off the Sha Tau Kok Road on 23 September was a new early date for the species. A male at Ho Sheung Heung on 15 December.

296. Blue Rock-thrush (*Monticola solitaria*)

Recorded from widespread areas, including urban localities, until 1 May and from 7 September, with one early record of a bird on Lamma Island on 8 August.

297. Violet Whistling-Thrush (*Myiophonus caeruleus*)

Locally common.

299. Pale Thrush (*Turdus pallidus*)

One at Nim Wan on 27 January. One at Ting Kau on 12 March and one at Ha Tsuen on 25 March.

300. Eye-browed Thrush (*Turdus obscurus*)

Up to three birds in Tai Po Kau Forest during January. Four birds on the slopes of Tai Mo Shan on 23 April. A male at Kai Tak on 10 November, and one on Mount Nicholson on the 26th. During December, one at Tai Po Kau on 2nd, one at Ho Man Tin on 7th, two females at Tai Po Kau on 17th and up to three on the Eagle's Nest Trail on 29th.

302. Grey-backed Thrush (*Turdus hortulorum*)

Quite common and widespread, especially during the spring months. Extreme dates were until 8 April and from 3 October.

303. Dusky Thrush (*Turdus naumanni*)

Fairly common and widespread during the spring months but rare during the autumn. Extreme dates were until 10 April and from 31 October, a new early date.

304. Blackbird (*Turdus merula*)

Quite common and widespread during both winters. Extreme dates were until 12 May, a new late date, and from 5 November. Flocks of over 20 were seen at Fanling in November and December.

305. Grey Thrush (*Turdus cardis*)

Fairly well recorded from widespread areas in the spring but scarce during the autumn. Extreme dates were until 5 April and from 17 November.

306. Siberian Thrush (*Zoothera sibiricus*)

A male, seen at Ma Tau Wai Hill on 7 November with a broken leg, was probably an escape.

308. White's Thrush (*Zoothera dauma*)

There were no spring records. Recorded in small numbers, usually single birds, from 7 November. Most records came from Tai Po Kau

Forestry Reserve, but there was an unusual record of a bird at Ho Man Tin, Kowloon on both 18 and 20 November.

310. Great Tit (*Parus major*)

Common and widespread. First young out of the nest noted on 9 April.

313. Richard's Pipit (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*)

Common and widespread until early May and from mid-September, but odd birds seen outside this period, mainly from Kai Tak. Recorded in every month of the year with peak counts at Kai Tak of 67 on 7 April and 91 on 6 October.

314. Indian Tree-pipit (*Anthus hodgsoni*)

Common and widespread during both winters. Extreme dates were until 29 April and from 7 October.

315. Red-throated Pipit (*Anthus cervinus*)

Fairly commonly recorded during the winter and spring months, with most records either from the Deep Bay Marsh area or Kai Tak. Generally much scarcer during the autumn but the year's highest count of 61 on 7 April. Extreme dates were until 5 May and from 2 October, with both these dates coming from records at Kai Tak.

318. Upland Pipit (*Anthus sylvanus*)

Recorded from Tai Mo Shan and Sunset Peak between January and July.

319. Forest Wagtail (*Dendronanthus indicus*)

One bird noted at Ho Sheung Heung between 3 and 9 April. One in the same wood on 6 September. Single birds reported from Sek Kong Woods, Mai Po Marsh and Tai Tam Reservoir between 8 and 26 September.

320. White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*)

Common and widespread during both winters. Extreme dates were until 21 April and from 21 September. There was a summer record of a single bird at Island School, on 15 June. Winter roosting behaviour was noted at dusk in the urban areas with flocks of about 20 at Star Ferry, Kowloon in February, about 100 in Statue Square in October, and flocks flying over the harbour towards Kowloon in September.

321. Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)

Recorded in small numbers from widespread areas, during both winters. Extreme dates were until 28 May, a new late date, and from 13 August.

322. Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*)

Locally common during both winters and on migration. Records mainly from the Deep Bay area and Kai Tak. Highest count was 169 at Kai Tak on 5 May. Extreme dates were until 19 May and from 8 September.

324. Fork-tailed Sunbird (*Aethopyga christinae*)

Recorded throughout the year from widespread areas including Hong Kong Island, Tai Po Kau, Shing Mun, Fanling, Sek Kong, Tai Mei Tuk, Tai Om and Sai Kung. There were also two records from Kowloon Tong.

325. White-eye (*Zosterops japonica*)

Common and widespread.

326. Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum cruentatum*)

Recorded from widespread areas of the New Territories, urban Kowloon and Mid-levels on Hong Kong Island. Also an unusual record of a pair near Murray Building, Garden Road. First young out of the nest recorded on 18 June.

327. Fire-breasted Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum ignipectus*)

Recorded from Tai Po Kau, Fung Yuen, Kowloon Park and Ho Man Tin in ones and twos (mostly males), during both winters. Extreme dates were until 21 February and from 6 October.

328. Black-tailed Hawfinch (*Coccothraustes migratoria*)

Recorded in small flocks (up to 35) from widespread areas of the New Territories, Mid-levels on Hong Kong Island and from two or three favoured areas of Kowloon. Extreme dates were until 24 May and from 30 October.

329. Chinese Greenfinch (*Carduelis sinica*)

Quite common and widespread throughout Hong Kong. Apparently much scarcer during the summer months. Maximum counts were a flock of about 50 on Cheung Chau on 17 April and 42 at Kowloon Hospital on 16 November.

331. Common Rosefinch (*Carpodacus erythrinus*)

Fairly common and widespread during the spring but very scarce during the autumn. Extreme dates were until 18 April and from 3 September. Largest flock was 28 at She Shan on 26 March.

332. Masked Bunting (*Emberiza spodocephala*)

Common and widespread during both winters. Extreme dates were until 14 May and from 2 October.

333. Tristram's Bunting (*Emberiza tristrami*)

Up to fifteen birds at Tai Po Kau until 25 February. A male at Kowloon on 9 June was a possible escape. Up to ten birds at Tai Po Kau from 17 November. A very early bird or another escape was seen at Kowloon Reservoir on 20 September. Up to five birds at Eagle's Nest on 12 December.

334. Chestnut Bunting (*Emberiza rutila*)

There were no spring records. Birds in very small numbers seen from 29 October to 19 November at She Shan, Tsim Bei Tsui, Mai Po and Tai Po

Kau. Up to twelve birds on the Fanling Golf Course between 5 and 17 November.

335. Yellow-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza aureola*)

Only spring records were of a male at Mai Po on 12 March, two females there on 9 April and one there on 21 April. On 29 October a very large movement was noted at Mai Po consisting of several hundred birds, this coinciding with a strong frontal area from the north. About 150 birds at Mai Po on 15 October. Several hundred birds feeding on rice paddy at Ma Tso Lung on 4 November. Records continued from the northern New Territories until 19 November when 90 were seen at Mong Tseng. Between 14 October and 9 November one female was seen regularly at Kowloon Park.

336. Grey-headed Bunting (*Emberiza fucata*)

One bird at Yung Shu Wan, Lamma Island on 21 January. One at Ting Kau on 27 March. One at Mai Po on 16 April and one at Tai Po Kau on 7 December.

337. Little Bunting (*Emberiza pusilla*)

Not common but recorded from widespread areas, mostly in small numbers but a flock of over 50 birds was seen at Mai Po on 12 March. Extreme dates were until 23 April and from 5 November.

339. Crested Bunting (*Melophus lathamii*)

Uncommon but widespread in the New Territories, in small numbers of up to ten birds, in both winters. During the summer months recorded only from Tai Mo Shan and Sunset Peak.

340. Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

Common and widespread but usually associated with human habitation.

341. Chestnut Munia (*Lonchura malacca*)

Up to six at Mai Po on 2 January. Over five at Mai Po on 28 August, six there on 16 September, all of race *malacca*. Two of the same race at Mai Po on 8 October. 10 birds at Mai Po, including at least one of race *malacca*, on 20 November. The only record away from Mai Po was of two immatures at Cheung Chau on 2 October.

342. Spotted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*)

Quite common and widespread, usually in flocks. Over 140 at Shing Mun on 27 May. Recorded throughout the year. Nest building activity noted at Cheung Chau on 16 August and at Ho Sheung Heung on 10 September.

343. White-backed Munia (*Lonchura striata*)

Recorded throughout the year from widespread areas. Generally in small flocks but a flock of 60 recorded on the Peak on 18 October. Nest

building activity noted in Kowloon on 19 April and at Lai Chi Wo on 24 June.

C. SPECIES WHICH, ALTHOUGH ORIGINALLY INTRODUCED BY MAN, HAVE NOW ESTABLISHED A REGULAR FERAL BREEDING STOCK WHICH APPARENTLY MAINTAINS ITSELF WITHOUT NECESSARY RECOURSE TO FURTHER INTRODUCTION.

501. Emerald Dove (*Chalcophaps indica*)

One at Tai Po Kau on 28 August, one there on 7 November and one there on 5 December.

502. Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*)

Recorded throughout the year from widespread areas, including urban Hong Kong and Kowloon. Usually in small numbers but up to 30 at Happy Valley, 30+ at Mong Tseng, 38 at KG V School and up to 20 at Hong Kong University. On 5 October a flock of over 12 was recorded at Cheung Chau. On 25 March flocks of up to 60 birds were noted flying in a south-easterly direction at dusk out of China, with a corresponding dawn movement towards the north. This activity was also noted in 1977.

503. Common Mynah (*Acridotheres tristis*)

One at Fanling on 6 January. One at Plover Cove on 2 February. Two near Dill's Corner on 19 February. Two near Fanling on 3 March. Two at Nam Shan Wai on 17 March. One at Long Valley on 5 April and one on the 16th near Lam Tsuen Valley. One at Lau Fau Shan on 5 June. Two at Fanling on 12 November.

504. White-cheeked Laughing-thrush (*Garrulax sannio*)

Recorded from widespread areas of Hong Kong Island and from several sites in Kowloon but very few records of sightings in the New Territories. Two on the southern slopes of Tai Mo Shan on 23 April and four at Cheung Chau on 15 August.

505. Red Avadavat (*Amandava amandava*)

One spring record from Mai Po of one male and eight females on 2 January. At Kai Tak, five birds on 10 March and 2 on 20 April. More commonly recorded during the autumn, with all records from Mai Po, mainly in small numbers but ten birds seen on 28 August. Extreme autumn dates were from 19 August until 30 October.

D. SPECIES INTRODUCED BY MAN, OF WHICH THE FERAL POPULATIONS MAY OR MAY NOT BE SELF-SUPPORTING.

601. Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua sulphurea*)

Regularly recorded from Victoria Barracks/Central (daily up to 18), Hong Kong University (daily up to 9) and Happy Valley (daily up to 13). One at a suitable nest hole in May on Stonecutter's Island may have been attempting to breed. One at Nim Wan on 23 October.

- 602. Indian Grackle** (*Gracula religiosa*)
One at Marine Police Headquarters, Tsim Sha Tsui on 30 March. One at the USRC Kowloon, on 12 May. Single birds in Kowloon Park on 2 September and 13 October.
- E. SPECIES OF WHICH ALL PUBLISHED RECORDS ARE SUSPECTED OF BEING OF BIRDS ESCAPED OR RELEASED FROM CAPTIVITY.**
- 705. Rufous-necked Scimitar Babbler** (*Pomatorhinus ruficollis*)
One at Hatton Road on 11 and 13 September (TPG). This is only the second record for Hong Kong and the first since 1949. There was nothing in the bird's behaviour to suggest that it was once captive.
- 709. Chestnut-flanked White-eye** (*Zosterops erythroleura*)
Two at Eagle's Nest Trail associating with White-eyes (*Zosterops japonica*) on 28 November (CDW).
- 710. Java Sparrow** (*Padda oryzivora*)
Single birds in the Botanical Gardens, Hong Kong Island on 20 January and 25 October.
- 712. Baya Weaver** (*Ploceus philippinus*)
One at Mai Po on 6 May.
- 715. Budgerigar** (*Melopsittacus undulatus*)
Some ten records of free-flying birds throughout the urban areas and one record from Mai Po Marsh.
- 721. Rustic Bunting** (*Emberiza rustica*)
An adult male at Gin Drinker's Bay rubbish tip on 28 March. One bird at Wanchai Reclamation on 21 November and one at Mount Nicholson on 24 November.
- 723. Rainbow Lorikeet** (*Trichoglossus haematodus*)
One at Marine Police Headquarters, Tsim Sha Tsui, on 16 August.
- 725. Azure-winged Magpie** (*Cyanopica cyanus*)
Regularly seen throughout the year in the Botanical Gardens, Hong Kong Island. One pair definitely bred rearing two broods of three and four. Maximum number of birds seen was eight. With the growth in their numbers it is possible that this species may now extend its range away from the Gardens.
- 726. Pied Bushchat** (*Saxicola caprata*)
Two males regularly seen at Kai Tak between January and August. One male at Ho Man Tin on 11 April.
- 727. Yellow-fronted Canary** (*Serinus mozambicus*)
One at Kai Tak on 19 May, one at Cheung Chau on 25 September and one at Kowloon Park on 2 October.

- 730. Streaked Shearwater** (*Puffinus leucomelas*)
Three birds for sale in Bowring Stret, Kowloon on 28 December were said to have been caught in Tolo Harbour. One unidentified shearwater was seen off south Lantau on 30 October.
- 731. Blossom-headed Parakeet** (*Psittacula roseata*)
One at Kowloon Park on 17 March.
- 732. Grey-headed Parrotbill** (*Paradoxornis gularis*)
Up to ten at Kowloon Reservoir on 9 April.
- 733. Red Bishop** (*Euplectes oris*)
One at Kai Tak on 15 September.
- 734. Orange-cheeked Waxbill** (*Estrilda melpoda*)
One at Kowloon Park on 9 November.
- 735. White-vented Mynah** (*Acridotheres javanicus (grandis)*)
Two at Mong Tseng on 26 December (GCHC/CDW), and again on 31 December.
- Described as being similar to the Crested Mynah (*A. cristatellus*) but with larger and whiter wing patch, broad white terminal tail band and white vent. Bill and legs were bright orange-yellow.
- Breeding range includes Yunnan. Possibility of their being escapes cannot be entirely ruled out although birds were in good plumage.
- F. SPECIES OF WHICH ALL PUBLISHED RECORDS MUST BE REGARDED AS DOUBTFUL BECAUSE OF MISTAKEN IDENTIFICATION.**
- 804. Glossy Ibis** (*Plegadis falcinellus*)
Now upgraded to Category A, see entry 30.1.
- 816. Blue-throated Blue Flycatcher** (*Cyornis rubeculoides*)
One male at KGV School on 3 July, was either this species or *C. tickelliae* and was presumed to be an escape.
- 817. Orange-bellied Niltava** (*Niltava sundara*)
A male at Tai Po Kau on 3 January and on 5 December. These birds were either this species or *N. davidi*.

PROBABLE BREEDING ATTEMPT BY THE LITTLE RINGED PLOVER IN HONG KONG

David Melville

Two races of the Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* are recorded from China. *Charadrius dubius curonicus* is recorded breeding in Sinkiang, Inner Mongolia, Kansu, eastern Tsinghai and Sikang to northwestern Yunnan, and Szechuan to Southern Kiangsu, and *C.d. jerdoni* breeds in southern Szechuan and Yunnan (Cheng 1976, Vaurie, 1965). Jabouille (1935) recorded the species "pendant tout l'année" in Kwang-tcheou-wan and wing lengths of four specimens collected in June, July and August (range 110-116 mm) suggest that they were *curonicus*. The species is not known to breed on Taiwan or Hainan (Cheng 1976, Hachisuka 1939, Hachisuka & Ugadawa 1951, Severinghaus & Blackshaw 1976) contra Hartert (1920) and Cheng (1955).

In winter *curonicus* is found in southern China from Fukien and Taiwan to Hainan and southern Yunnan and there is one record of *jerdoni* from Juangsi in November (Cheng 1976).

In Hong Kong, Webster (1975) records the species as a "non-breeding visitor" and follows Walker (1958, 1959), Macfarlane & Macdonald (1960) and Herklots (1967) in stating that "there are records for all months of the year". In fact 'summer' records are not as frequent as this might imply, and a survey of records of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society for the years 1958-1977 revealed no sightings in the period 23 May — 11 August. Apart from birds summering at Kai Tak Airport in 1978 and 1979 (see below), the only records for June and July appear to be of one, not definitely identified, at Mai Po on 23 June 1957 and two there on 28 July 1957 (Sergeant 1958).

The Little Ringed Plover usually occurs as a passage migrant at Kai Tak (Melville in prep.) but in 1978 and 1979 adult birds were regularly recorded in spring and early summer. In both years the birds showed a strong attachment to an unpaved area of eroded granite fill material with sparse vegetation next to the aircraft parking apron.

In 1978 one or two birds were observed behaving in an agitated manner on 19, 26 and 29 May, piping continually whilst flying around overhead and running on the ground. Although intense distraction displays were not observed, the bird gave the impression that a nesting attempt was made. There was very heavy rain in the morning of 2 June (80.4 mm fell between 0500 and 0700 hrs.) causing much of the area frequented by the birds to be flooded and at least three, and possibly five adult birds were observed. Two birds were seen on 9 June and one on 30 June — the last sighting until passage birds arrived on 28 July. Towards the end of June there was an increase in construction activity and on 30 June lorries and bulldozers were moving earth on the most favoured site, which was subsequently covered by a new Fire Station and Headquarters for the R.H.K.A.A.F.

Adults again summered at Kai Tak in 1979, frequenting the remaining area of unpaved fill. Agitated piping was recorded in late May/early June. On 22 May intense 'broken-wing' displays were observed, however a brief inspection failed to reveal any nest or young and two days later there was heavy rain (33 mm) which flooded the area. On 1 June three (possibly four) adult birds were present and appeared to be agitated, none were seen during heavy rain on 8 June but two were seen piping on 15 June and were present on 22 and 29 June, none being recorded thereafter until 20 July.

It appears that breeding attempts were made in both 1978 and 1979, however in both years heavy rain and flooding (and human disturbance in 1978) probably resulted in desertion/death of eggs/young. The observations fall within the breeding seasons recorded for the species elsewhere in China and Japan (Austin & Kuroda 1953, Kobayashi 1959, La Touche 1931-34).

The species traditionally nests on gravel and shingle banks by freshwater streams and lakes and occasionally in estuaries, however in Western Europe artificial sites are also used e.g. gravel pits, sewage farms, reservoirs (Parrinder & Parrinder 1975, Sharrock 1976). Voous (1960) states "It is not unlikely that the increase in the Little Ringed Plover in England is related to the occupation of these new habitats". Dement'ev & Gladkov (1969) note it nesting on "factory garbage dumps" and areas of pebbles in paddy in Japan.

It is of interest that a man-made habitat was used for the breeding attempts in Hong Kong. There are currently no suitable natural habitats for the species, and it is unlikely that suitable areas have been available in recent history, except possibly in paddy areas, where human predation would probably be severe, and reservoir margins, where widely fluctuating water levels would be likely to wash out nests. While lack of suitable habitats may have restricted breeding attempts locally it is unlikely that this applies to the whole of southern and eastern China where the species is absent as a breeding species (Fig. 151 in Cheng 1976) and other factors (such as heavy summer rainfall) are probably important. (The only other breeding record for southern China is from the Hsisha Islands (Paracel Islands) where Chen & Sung (1977) record the "Little-ring Plover" nesting, however as the "Golden Plover" is also recorded nesting there, it seems more likely that the records refer to birds on migration.)

The breeding attempts at Kai Tak raise the question as to which race was involved.

Baker (1929) notes that *jerdoni* is generally paler than *curonicus* and the black frontal bar is much reduced in *jerdoni*. In *curonicus* the bill is black, "the extreme base of the upper and rather more of the lower mandible yellow" while the yellow is much brighter in *jerdoni*, which also has a better defined and brighter yellow orbital skin around the eye (Baker 1929, Prater *et al.* 1977).

Detailed plumage and soft part descriptions of Hong Kong birds are lacking and field observations are generally unhelpful due to varying light conditions etc. On 3 April 1979 one noticeably pale individual was seen with 17 other Little Ringed Plovers at Kai Tak however no difference in size was recorded.

On 22 June 1979 I obtained good views of one bird at Kai Tak (down to 10 m with 10×50 binoculars). The dark brown/black frontal bar was extensive and graded into the brown of the crown with no white between. The bill appeared all black. Two other birds were also seen on the same day at a greater distance, all three were of similar appearance. It is probable that they were all *curonicus*.

Measurements of museum skins of *curonicus* and *jerdoni* are given in Table 1 and measurements of fresh specimens from Hong Kong are given in Table 2. Allowing for a maximum of one millimetre shrinkage in wing length in museum skins (Fig. 9 in Prater *et al.* 1977) most birds collected in Hong Kong would appear to be *curonicus* with the bird collected on 1 November possibly being *jerdoni*. However the sample of local birds is very small and Ali and Ripley (1969) note that the size difference in the two races is clinal.

Acknowledgements

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* The main plant species were: *Scoparia dulcis*, *Erigeron floribundus*, *Spilanthus acmella*, *Cyperus polystachyos*, *Fimbristylis spathacea*, *Sporobolus fertilis*, *Bothriochloa intermedia*, *Chloris barbata*, *Eragrostis zeylanica*, *Cynodon dactylon*, *Panicum repens*, *Rhynchelytrum repens* and *Neyraudia reynaudiana*.

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TABLE 1 Measurements of *Charadrius dubius*

a. Wing length

<i>curonicus</i>	<i>jerdoni</i>	Reference
111 - 119 ♂	107 - 115 ♂	
112 - 120 ♀	105 - 117 ♀	Ali & Ripley 1969
114 - 121 ♀ ^x	102 - 111 ♀ ^x	Baker 1929
108 - 121 x115.6 ♂	104 - 113 ♂ ^x	
115 ♀	112 - 113 ♀	
	101.5 ♀	Bang & Phillips 1914
109 - 121 ♀ ^x	97 - 107 ♀ ^x	Medway & Wells 1976
112 - 120 ♂ ^x	x110 ♀ ^x	
		Prater et al. 1977
x116 ♀ ^x		
110 - 123 ♀		

b. Bill length

<i>curonicus</i>	<i>jerdoni</i>	Reference
12 - 14 ♂ ^x	[15 - 17♂]*	Ali & Ripley 1969
12 - 14 ♀	[16 - 17♀]*	
12 - 13 ♀ ^x	11.5 - 12.5 ♀ ^x	Baker 1929
12.5 - 13.5 x13.0 ♂		Cheng et al. 1973
13 ♀		
11 - 14 ♀ ^x	11 - 12 ♀ ^x	Prater et al. 1977

* measured from skull

TABLE 2 Measurements of *Charadrius dubius* in Hong Kong

Date	Wing	Bill	Wt.	Sex
24 Feb	—	12.6	—	—
26 Feb*	117	13.5	32	—
26 Feb*	116	13.0	33	—
4 Mch	117	14.0	—	M
18 Mch	118	12.8	—	—
4 Aug	110	12.3	—	—
14 Aug	115	12.5	—	—
29 Aug	120	12.8	—	—
12 Oct	115	13.2	—	—
1 Nov	108	—	—	—
25 Nov	115	—	—	—

* birds caught in mistnet — all others found dead

Waterfowl Count 14th January 1979

David Melville

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society has collected records from members since 1958 and these have included many records of ducks and shorebirds. However no attempt had been made to arrange a co-ordinated count of birds in the main wetland areas of Hong Kong. A waterfowl count was undertaken on 14th January 1979 to coincide with the international counts organised by the International Waterfowl Research Bureau.

The area covered by the count extended from Ma Tso Lung (near Lo Wu), through Lok Ma Chau/San Tin and Mai Po to Mong Tseng and Deep Bay (where observations were made from a sampan). Habitats covered thus included paddy and abandoned paddy, fish and duck ponds, kei wais, dwarf mangrove, intertidal mudflat and swampy areas with *Phragmites communis* and *Eichhornia crassipes*.

The tide at Tsim Bei Tsui was predicted to be 1.9m at 1305 hrs. on 14th January. Fresh to strong easterly winds were experienced overnight on 13th/14th January and the "strong monsoon signal" was hoisted from 0110-0950 hrs. and again from 2015 hrs. on 14th. Temperatures ranged from 15.4° – 18.5° and conditions were overcast. A cold front passed Hong Kong on the evening of 14th.

A summary of the results is given in Table 1.

I would like to thank the following people without whose assistance the count could not have been undertaken:—

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G.C.H. Cooper, A. Howell, L. Howell, C.R. Huxley, P. Kelly,
T.M. Lam, Y.F. Wan, M.A. Webster

TABLE 1. Results of waterfowl count 14 January 1979

Species	Ma Tso Lung	San Tin/ Lok Ma Chau	Mai Po	Tai Sang Wai	Deep Bay	Mong Tseng	Total
Great Crested Grebe					1		1
Bittern			1				1
Night Heron			153+				153+
Chinese Pond Heron		48	41	11	7		116
Cattle Egret	9	74					79
Little Egret	5	267+	20	260	200		777+
Great Egret	30	2	3	4	270		279
Grey Heron		1	31	9	196		237
Purple Heron			2	1			3
White Ibis			1		1		2
European Spoonbill					1		1
Lesser Spoonbill					4		4
Yellow-nib					15		15
Falcated Teal					*		*?
Teal	9	457+20	3		2400		2869
Garganey		3		39	50		3
Pintail		14		39	50		103
Shoveler					200		200
Baer's Pochard	1						1
Shelduck					250		250
White-breasted Waterhen	2	12		3		3	20
Moorhen	8	31	7	12			58
Coot	29	625+10	8	8			670

Species	Ma Tso Lung	San Tin/ Lok Ma Chau	Mai Po	Tai Sang Wai	Deep Bay	Mong Tseng	Total
Pheasant-tailed Jacana		2					2
Little Ringed Plover	1	85 + 10	82	6			174
Kentish Plover			469		4		473
Small plover sp.			180				180
Greater Sandplover			1				1
Grey Plover					47		47
Fantail Snipe			2				2
Snipe sp.	3	34	18	1			56
Curlew			3		19		22
Black-tailed Godwit	28						28
Green Sandpiper	15	15	13	7			50
Wood Sandpiper	8	94		1			103
Redshank	1						1
Spotted Redshank	51	661 + 10	23	40			775
Greenshank	1		12				13
Common Sandpiper	9	6	40	10	1		66
Temminck's Stint		118					118
Stint sp.	50			2			52
Dunlin			3				3
Black-winged Stilt		16					16
Unidentified wader	59						59
Herring Gull					2		2
Common Gull			1				1
Black-headed Gull	349	615 + 20	c.780	c.1000	c.2000		4744
Caspian Tern					1		1

* No Falcated Teal were identified in Deep Bay, however it was difficult to approach the birds closely due to shallow water and some may have been present.

One "probable" seen on the north bank of the Sham Chun River.

ERRATA

Melville, D. and Chalmers, M. 1979.

Gulls with aberrant plumage — some identification problems.
Hong Kong Bird Report 1977 : 51-55

P.52. line 38 should read "Ingolfsson (1971) found a complete range of adult characteristics in Herring X Glaucous hybrids and Hoffman et al. (1978)....."

Webster, M.A. 1975.

An annotated checklist of the birds of Hong Kong.

Page 66.

502. *Psittacula Krameri*

Rose-ringed Parakeet

"The first report is in 1913," when the species was described as already well established.

(This report is in Vanghan and Janes 1913, *Ibis* 10 (1913) 17-76, 163-201, 351-384. Also see Merklots 1967 *Hong Kong Birds* p. 136).

Hong Kong Bird Report — 1977

Page 42/43

725 Azure-winged Magpie 726 Pied Bushchat.

P.43 lines 3-4 "Hong Kong.....found." Should follow, and conclude, the entry for Azure-winged Magpie on p.42. The entry for 726 Pied Bushchat will therefore conclude at ".....all reports are of escaped birds."