

THE HONG KONG BIRD REPORT 1964



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Records compiled by

Maura Benham

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Edited by E.D. Webb

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HONG KONG BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY

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INTRODUCTION

Membership remains steady at between fifty and sixty. Inevitably several members have left the Colony, including Mr J. L. Cranmer-Byng, who has contributed a great deal to the Society since its earliest days. We have gained about a dozen active members, fortunately including some who live or are stationed in the New Territories, where most of our bird watching is done and where lately we have been very short of resident eyes and ears. There has been a notable increase in Overseas Membership, which is a convenient way of keeping in touch after you have left the Colony.

Outings during the year were as follows:-

1st January	Pak Tam valley, beyond Tai Mong Tsai
26th January	Mai Po marsh and Lok Ma Chau
14th February	Upper reaches of the Pat Heung valley, between Kam Tin and Tai Lam Chung. This broke some new ground
8th March	Ho Chung valley
30th March	Mai Po marsh
19th April	Ping Shan/Luen Tak

(Off season for birds and watchers)

6th September	Mai Po marsh
4th October	Mai Po marsh
19th October	3-fathom cove
9th November	Ping Shan/Luen Tak
6th December	Ho Chung valley
26th December	Ping Shan/Mong Tseng/Luen Tak

The year 1964 was chiefly remarkable for the record number of typhoons and the consequent end of the great drought. Except for one Bulwer's Petrel, a new Colony record, the typhoons did not produce any spate of rare birds, or of common birds in unusual places.

An important event was the Asian Regional Conference of the International Council for Bird Preservation, held in Hong Kong from 15th to 17th September. For the Hong Kong National Section, namely this society, Mr. Hechtel and Major Caunter put in a great deal of work. Fortunately the local birds, even the

migrant waders, recognised this and turned out in force to welcome the delegates at Mai Po on the last day of the conference, when it was our job to show them round.

The Resolutions of the Conference have been transmitted to Government by the Society; they include a recommendation for the setting up of one or more Nature Reserves in the Colony. We have reason to believe that this recommendation is receiving serious attention.

During the year, the Hon. Recorder undertook a complete review of the 1960 Check List of the Birds of Hong Kong, adding the new species that have been seen since publication and examining every bird on the list to see whether the records of the last four years indicated a change in its status, "first and last dates", etc. This formidable task was completed before the end of the year and the Committee is exploring the best means of getting the new edition into print.

The Hon. Recorder also kept the Society to the fore with lectures before the Royal Asiatic Society and to an Army audience in the Hong Kong University's extra-mural series, as well as giving a talk to the Asian Regional Conference.

We have bought a copy of Alexander's "Birds of the Ocean", a standard authority on seabirds. Before he left the Colony, Jack Cranmer-Byng presented us with his own copy of Herklots' "Hong Kong Birds", which is very welcome as it is out of print and difficult to obtain. Our Member in Penang, James Cairns has given us reprints of his papers originally published in the Malayan Nature Journal and the Bombay Natural History Journal; we have had these bound. Mr Lao Wai-ching has presented a copy of "A Field Guide to the Birds of East and Central Africa". Mr Clive Robinson has produced a catalogue of our library, which has been distributed to members.

E. D. W.

COLONY RECORDS 1964

Speaking at the Annual General Meeting shortly before he left Hong Kong in April, 1965, Major J.R.L. Caunter, the Hon. Recorder, gave the following review:—

1964 has seen the addition of a new bird to the Colony list. This was a Bulwer's Petrel seen for about three quarters of an hour in Repulse Bay during Typhoon Viola on May 28th. This bird breeds on islands off the China coast and it is perhaps surprising that it has not been recorded before. Perhaps I may draw attention to another sea bird which has not been recorded here yet—the White-faced Shearwater. A bird of this species was seen in late April about 50 miles away from Hong Kong and must occur in the Colony's waters.

Two Black Storks were seen in March and a single bird on two occasions in early November. White Ibis were reported twice in the early part of this year. Two Grey-lag Geese were seen at Ping Shan in March. Geese are very seldom recorded in the Colony.

A Goshawk was seen in the Lam Tsun valley in December. Seven out of our nine eagles were recorded during the year and the White-bellied Sea Eagles successfully reared two eaglets at their eyrie at Cape Collinson. Up to three Black Vultures were seen in the north of the New Territories in the early months of the year.

Two or possibly three Spoon-billed Sandpipers were seen at Maipo in October. These are exceptionally rare birds of which very little is known. On the same day, two Ruffs and a Reeve were also seen at Maipo. These are very rare birds in China. Also of interest in the Wader section is a Black-winged Stilt seen in Deep Bay in November.

In the 1963 Report I was able to record that the Rose-ringed Paroquet had colonised the Mong Tseng Peninsula. This winter there have been none in evidence and one can only surmise the reason for their absence, possibly blown away in one of the many typhoons.

A party of seven to ten Blue-tailed Bee-Eaters was present at Stanley from 6th to 8th May. These birds are very seldom recorded in Hong Kong. A Chinese Great Grey Shrike was seen

on the Mong Tseng peninsula on 1st November. This is the second Colony record and it is of interest to note that the only previous record was from the same area on very nearly the same date—4th November, 1952.

An Indian Brown Shrike was also seen at Mong Tseng in January. It now appears that we may have four sub-species of the Brown Shrike occurring in Hong Kong and I personally feel that we should not be too keen on trying to ascribe a race to any species, particularly on the basis of sight records alone.

Ashy Drongos were recorded from Hong Kong Island in February and December. All Hong Kong records are for the winter (all or nearly all from Hong Kong Island). This is difficult to understand because the bird is a summer visitor to Kwangtung.

There seem to be fewer records than usual for the Black-necked Starling and I feel that it may have decreased considerably in recent years. The Treepie invasion of last winter continued and the last report was March 28th. No birds have been recorded this winter.

Three separable Grey-headed Flycatchers were recorded in the early months of the year (one at May Road) and there has been one at May Road throughout this winter. Hainan Blue Flycatchers were present in the Tai Po Kau Forestry Reserve again last summer, but unlike the previous year breeding was not proved.

A Fulvous-faced Flycatcher-Warbler was seen at Ho Chung in February. There is I believe only one previous record for the Colony. A Chestnut-breasted Rock Thrush was found dead (as a scarecrow) at Chung Am Kok on Hong Kong Island. This is the fifth Colony record. A male Siberian Thrush was seen at May Road in November. This is the fourth Colony record. A White's Thrush was found dead in the Tai Po Kau Reserve in March. This is another very rare bird in Hong Kong.

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF BIRDS REPORTED IN HONG KONG IN 1964

2. Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

In Deep Bay: two on January 19 (EDW), one on January 22 (C & ED), two on Feb. 18 (FOPH). At Shataukok: three on Feb. 21 (C & ED).

4. Little Grebe *Podiceps ruficollis*

On Tai Lam Chung reservoir: about 30 on Jan. 12 (EDW), eight on Nov. 15 (JRLC). In Fanling/Sheung Shui area: one on Jan. 26 (Society Outing).

12x. Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii*

One seen for $\frac{3}{4}$ hour during Typhoon Viola on May 28, beating against the gale to avoid being driven on to the shore at Repulse Bay (JRLC). This is the first Colony record.

5. Spotted-billed Pelican *Pelecanus roseus*

Deep Bay: one on Feb. 3 and eight in flight on March 16 (C & ED), one on March 22 (EDW, FOPH) circling high with Kite. Also one on Dec. 20 at Maipo (C & ED), in a group with 24 Grey Herons, 13 Cormorants and about 6 Great Egrets.

6. Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Three reports in January of groups of eight to fifteen birds, at Tai Lam Chung reservoir (EDW), Tung Kwu Island (WAD), and Maipo (Society Outing). Two reported flying and perching by fishpond near mouth of Yuen Long river on Feb. 23 (EDW). One bird at Tai O (FOPH, RWA), and 10 at Stonecutters Island (JRLC), both on March 15. Two were seen at Tai Lam Chung reservoir on Nov. 13 (per JRLC) and eight on November 15 (JRLC). Three December records are: about 13 at Maipo on December 20 many being young birds, (C & ED), two at Stonecutters Island on December 25 (JRLC), and one juvenile near the mouth of the Shum Chun river on December 27 (EDW).

10. Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*

Seen regularly in the Maipo/Ping Shan area from April 19 (Society Outing) to Oct 1 (WGM), with one unusual record of a juvenile at Maipo on December 27 (EDW). Only one or two were seen at a time until May 24 when nine were reported (CD, FOPH).

12. Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis*

One bird seen on Maipo marshes on August 30 and Sept. 21 (FOPH). This is the third sighting since 1939.

15. Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus*

Recorded in every month of the year in small numbers in NTs. Also two records on HK Island, one over the racecourse on May 13, and one over Victoria Park on August 11. And one record from Kowloon of one over Chatham Road on November 2. Breeding noted at Shataukok on May 21 (C & ED), with many birds still in various stages of development on July 12 (FOPH). Estimated 70 breeding pairs (JRLC).

16. Cattle Egret *Ardeola ibis*

Recorded on March 16 at Maipo (C & ED), and throughout the following months, particularly in the Maipo area, up to Dec. 20 (C & ED). About 30 pairs were breeding at Shataukok egretty on July 5 (JRLC), and most birds appeared to have left this egretty by July 19 (FOPH).

17. Little Green Heron *Butorides striatus*

One record for June 6, of one bird at Maipo (WGM).

18. Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Many reports from the Maipo area. About 30 pairs breeding at Shataukok egretty on July 5 (JRLC) and most birds appeared to have left by July 19 (FOPH). One bird seen near Tai O on March 15 (FOPH, RWA).

20. Swinhoe's Egret *Egretta eulophotes*

Only one report was made this year, of one bird at Shataukok in June/July, identified by blue facial skin, (feet not seen) (WGM).

21. Reef Egret *Egretta sacra*

All records are from the shores of HK Island, and of single birds, except for two at Shek O on June 5, and three at Cape Collinson on June 25 (C & ED).

22. Great Egret *Egretta alba*

Reported in small numbers throughout the year, with several large flocks seen in autumn and winter, the greatest number being 53 on the banks of the Shum Chun river on November 1 (FOPH).

23. Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

The earliest date was September 6, the day after Typhoon Ruby, when four birds were seen (Society Outing). Reported throughout winter from the Deep Bay area, with about 40 birds seen by the fishponds near the mouth of the Yuen Long river on February 23 (EDW). Last date May 24 (FOPH, CD).

24. **Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*
Only reports are of up to three birds on the Maipo marshes in September and October.
25. **Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra*
One bird reported in Ping Shan area on November 1 (JRLC) and November 9 (Society Outing) Two at Maipo on March 16 (C & ED).
26. **White Ibis** *Threskiornis melanocephala*
Two sightings, both on Society Outings and on Maipo marshes: one bird seen twice on January 26, and 12 birds in a flock on March 30.
29. **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*
Four in Deep Bay on February 23 (EDW).
30. **Yellow-nib Duck** *Anas poecilorhyncha*
Both records are from Maipo, two birds on October 4 (JRLC), and one on October 18 (WGM).
32. **Teal** *Anas crecca*
Recorded in February, and from September to December in Sheung Shui, Ping Shan and San Tin (JAO per EDW). Also a flock of 30 at Maipo on October 1 (WGM), and an unusual record of one bird at Bride's Pool on November 28 (JRLC).
34. **Garganey** *Anas querquedula*
All records are for October and November from Sheung Shui, San Tin and Lowu (JAO per EDW, FOPH, JRLC).
37. **Shoveller** *Spatula clypeata*
One male at San Tin on October 25 (JAO per EDW).
45. **Grey-lag Goose** *Anser anser*
Two birds seen in Ping Shan area on March 22 (EDW, FOPH).
48. **Black-eared Kite** *Milvus migrans*
Common and widespread. Young hatched at Pokfulam early April (FOPH). About 300 seen at Stonecutters Island on December 25 (JRLC).
50. **Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*
Recorded from various parts of HK Island and NTs. Extreme dates March 22 (FOPH, EDW), and November 1 (FOPH, EDW).
52. **Sparrow-hawk** *Accipiter nisus*
Recorded from HK Island and NTs throughout winter up to April 12 (FOPH) and from October 14 (FOPH). Unusual record for June 6 of one bird in egretty at Shataukok (WGM).

54. **Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*
Immature female seen in Lam Tsun Valley on December 14 (JRLC).
56. **Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos*
Two at Lowu on January 29 (JRLC). One immature at Ping Shan on February 18 (FOPH). One at Ping Shan on February 23 (EDW). Five immature at Lok Ma Chau on March 30 (Society Outing). One at Mong Tseng on Nov. 29 (C & ED).
57. **Imperial Eagle** *Aquila heliaca*
Two at Maipo on January 5 (EDW). One at Lowu on December 18 (per JRLC).
58. **Steppe Eagle** *Aquila nipalensis*
One bird seen at Lowu on January 17 and 29 (JRLC). One juvenile at Ping Shan on December 26 (Society Outing).
59. **Spotted Eagle** *Aquila clanga*
One bird seen on three days in March and a pair on March 16, all in Maipo area (C & ED, EDW, JRLC). Two records for November in Ping Shan area (Society Outing, FOPH).
60. **Bonelli's Eagle** *Hieraetus fasciatus*
Three records over Happy Valley area: two birds on April 16, one on April 25, and two on September 11 (C & ED).
62. **White-bellied Sea Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucogaster*
There are numerous reports of sightings during the year and it is difficult to know how many birds may have been resident in the Colony. Two chicks were reared successfully at Cape Collinson, finally leaving the nest in early April, and may well be the immatures of the following records: one at Tytam on June 13, one over Repulse Bay on July 29, one at Tytam on October 6, and two on the Peak on November 2. Two adult birds frequented the area around the nest in August, September and October, but it seemed deserted from mid-November to the end of the year, and the nest site was certainly not being used again in December. Three birds were seen on Lantau Island on January 12, and one on March 15. Two birds were frequently over Shek Wu Chau. One bird was flying over the Saikung peninsula on February 9. Two birds were at Tytam on May 31 and again on July 2, and on many evenings in late summer one or two were seen flying in from the sea to the Tytam gap. Three adults were at Shataukok on Oct. 9 and one at Maipo on Oct. 24. On Nov. 29 there were two over Repulse Bay and Chung Am Kok, and on Dec. 2 one was seen over Chung Am Kok. (C & ED, JRLC, FOPH, MEMB, WGM, EDW, per MEMB).

64. **Serpent Eagle** *Spilornis cheela*
One on February 23 on Route TWSK (EDW).
- 65(a) **Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus aeruginosus*
Three records from Maipo area: one female on January 26 (Society Outing), one female on February 23 (EDW), one bird on March 4 (C & ED).
- 66-68. **Pied Harrier** *Circus melanoleucos*
Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*
Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*
There are five records of the females of these species which it is believed cannot be distinguished apart in the field: one at Maipo on February 3 (C & ED) and on February 23 (EDW), one at Ping Shan on February 18 (FOPH), one at Maipo on October 4 (Society Outing), and one in Tolo Channel on December 13 (FOPH). One male Hen Harrier was recorded at Luen Tak on February 16 (EDW).
69. **Black Vulture** *Aegypius monachus*
Two at Lowu on January 23 (MWB per JRLC). One at Lowu on February 6 (WAD). One among 37 Kites at Ping Shan on February 18 (FOPH).
70. **Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*
All records are from Deep Bay area, and cover the period from late September to early May, with one bird seen on July 5 (FOPH).
73. **Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*
Reports of bird seen singly over various parts of HK Island throughout year. One perched on a light pylon in Sookunpoo Stadium and stayed through a game of football despite the switching on of the lighting on October 28, and was there again on November 13 and 14, together with a Buzzard (C & ED). A pair were seen at Cape Collinson several times in early April and their behaviour was suggestive of nesting on the cliff face, but this could not be checked and no young were seen.
75. **Merlin** *Falco columbarius*
One report from Maipo marshes on November 1 (EDW, FOPH).
77. **Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*
Widespread records up to April 3 (C & ED), and from October 4 (Society Outing) to the end of the year.
78. **Chinese Francolin** *Francolinus pintadeanus*
Heard from late March to July in many areas. A few reports of sightings.

79. **Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*
Reported at Sheung Shui in January, February and December (JAO per EDW). One at Tai Lam Chung reservoir on Jan. 12 (EDW), and two at head of Pak Tam valley on February 2 (JLCB, FOPH).
- 81-82 **Button-Quail** *Turnix suscitator or Turnix tanki*
One at Sheung Shui on November 18 (JAO per EDW).
85. **Banded Rail** *Rallus striatus*
Both reports are from Maipo: one on May 24 (CD, FOPH), and two on September 19 (WGM).
87. **Ruddy Crake** *Porzana fusca*
One found exhausted during Typhoon Viola on May 28 was fed and released (MKLP). One was seen at Maipo on June 6 (WGM).
88. **Crimson-legged Crake** *Amaurornis akool*
One seen in paddy-fields on Lantau Island on May 16 and 17 (WGM).
89. **White-breasted Waterhen** *Amaurornis phoenicurus*
Reported in February, March, April, July, September, and November from various parts of NTs, usually single birds.
91. **Watercock** *Gallicrex cinerea*
One reported at Sheung Shui on October 21 (JAO per EDW).
92. **Coot** *Fulica atra*
One report only, of six seen at Lok Ma Chau on December 22 (JRLC).
94. **Painted Snipe** *Rostratula benghalensis*
Up to three birds seen at Sheung Shui in February, October, November and December, and six birds at Pak Ngai, Mong Tseng peninsula, in November (JAO per EDW). Two or three at Maipo on October 18 (WGM).
96. **Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*
One seen at Maipo on January 17 (JRLC).
97. **Grey-headed Lapwing** *Microsarcops cinereus*
Three flying north over Maipo on October 1 (WGM).
99. **Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*
Records cover two periods, mid-February to mid-March, and late October to early December, with the largest flocks seen in November. About 50 birds reported at Ping Shan on November 9 (JRLC) was the greatest number.

- 100. Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*
Most reports are from the Deep Bay area, and cover the periods up to March 30, and from September 6 to the end of the year. Large flocks of several hundred birds were seen in October, November and December (JRLC, C & ED, Society Outing).
- 101. Greater Sand-Plover** *Charadrius leschenaultii*
Recorded throughout the year from the Deep Bay area with flocks of up to 70 birds in spring, and a report of 60 on July 5 (FOPH).
- 102. Mongolian Sand-Plover** *Charadrius mongolus*
All records are for the Deep Bay area, and cover the periods mid-April to late May, and early September to early November. Groups of up to 20 birds were seen during these periods.
- 104. Grey Plover** *Charadrius squatarola*
One to three birds seen on Maipo marshes during April, May, September, October, November and December (JRLC, FOPH, C & ED, WGM).
- 105. Asiatic Golden Plover** *Charadrius dominicus*
Two of the three records are from Society Outings: one bird alone at Luen Tak on December 26, and one bird among Greater Sand-Plover and Mongolian Sand-Plover at Ping Shan on April 19. The third record is of three birds at Maipo on May 10 (JRLC).
- 106. Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*
There are three spring records, of four birds on April 26 (JRLC, FOPH), one bird on May 3 (FOPH, CD) and one bird on May 17 (FOPH). Also one on Sept. 17 (ICBP Outing per FOPH). All are from Maipo.
- 107-110. Snipe** *Capella*
Recorded from various areas up to March 30 and from Sept. 6 to the end of the year. (JAO per EDW, JRLC, FOPH, C & ED, EDW).
- 112. Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*
Considered a very good year for shooting (JAO per EDW).
- 113. Curlew** *Numenius arquata*
Reports are all from the Maipo marshes, mostly of only one bird seen, with seven on September 17 (ICBP Outing per FOPH) and seven or more on September 24 (C & ED). One on May 3 (FOPH, CD) is the only spring record.
- 115. Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*
Apart from one bird seen after rough weather on May 9 at Little Sai Wan (C & ED), all records are from the Maipo marshes where up to 12 birds were seen at a time during September and October (FOPH, Society Outing, ICBP Outing per FOPH, JRLC), and four on May 17 (FOPH).

- 117. Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*
Two at Maipo on Oct. 18 (C & ED).
- 119. Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*
One spring record of two at Kam Tin on March 16 (C & ED). One at Maipo on September 24 and one at Kam Tin on Nov. 17 (C & ED). One at Lowu on November 22 (FOPH), and seven at Mong Tseng on December 26 (Society Outing).
- 120. Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*
All reports are for autumn, the first being on September 6 after Typhoon Ruby from Deep Water Bay, HK Island, where it is seldom seen (JRLC). Other records are of up to 10 birds seen in the Maipo/Ping Shan area.
- 121. Common Sandpiper** *Tringa hypoleucos*
Numerous records throughout the year from various parts of NTs and HK Island.
- 122. Redshank** *Tringa totanus*
Recorded in spring from March 30 to June 5, with 50 birds on April 26 (FOPH JRLC), and in autumn from August 19 to October 18 in smaller numbers up to 12. There are two winter records, of five on December 20 (C & ED) and seven in company with one Greenshank on December 27 (EDW). All reports are from the Deep Bay area.
- 123. Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*
Two to three birds seen at Maipo on December 11 (JRLC).
- 124. Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*
Only spring record is one flying near the shore on February 23 (EDW). Reported in small numbers in August, September, October, November (JRLC, Society Outing, EDW). All records are from the Deep Bay area.
- 126. Grey-rumped Sandpiper** *Tringa brevipes*
Reports of up to seven birds from April 26 to May 24 (JRLC, FOPH, C & ED), three on September 6 (Society Outing), and one on October 18 (C & ED). All seen on Maipo marshes.
- 127. Terek Sandpiper** *Tringa terek*
Reported from Maipo from April 26 when 21 birds were seen (JRLC, FOPH) to May 24 (FOPH, CD); and from September 6 (Society Outing) to October 18 (C & ED).
- 128. Knot** *Calidris canutus*
Two reports from Maipo marshes: one bird on May 10 (JRLC), and five on May 17 (FOPH).

129. **Great Knot** *Calidris tenuirostris*
Three seen on Maipo marshes on September 17 (Society Outing).
130. **Eastern Little Stint** *Calidris ruficollis*
All records are from Maipo, in spring from March 21 to May 24, with up to 30 birds in May, and in autumn from September 17 to November 9 in smaller numbers, six being the maximum.
132. **Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*
Three to five birds at Maipo on November 1, (FOPH, EDW) and five in Ping Shan/Luen Tak area on November 9 (Society Outing), are the only records.
133. **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** *Calidris acuminata*
One reported at Maipo on May 10 (JRLC).
134. **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*
The only spring record is of 30 feeding close to the shore of Deep Bay on February 23 (EDW). Other reports cover the period October 4 to December 26, and are of up to 10 birds in the Deep Bay area (EDW, C & ED, FOPH, JRLC).
135. **Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*
One bird reported at Maipo on April 26 (JRLC, FOPH).
136. **Sanderling** *Crocethia alba*
All reports are for the first four months of the year, of up to two birds seen, all at Maipo (JRLC, FOPH, Society Outing).
137. **Spoon-billed Sandpiper** *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*
Two to three birds seen at Maipo on October 4 (Society Outing).
138. **Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Limicola falcinellus*
Reported from May 3 to 17 with up to 16 birds seen (FOPH, CD), and September 17 to Nov. 8 in smaller numbers (FOPH, C & ED, JRLC, Society Outing, ICBP Outing). All from Maipo.
139. **Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*
Two males and one female seen on October 4 (Society Outing). Also three probable sightings of one male and one female on Sept. 30, and one male on October 18 and November 18 (C & ED). All these reports are from Maipo.
140. **Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus*
One spring record of 15 five miles east of Waglan Light-house on April 23 (JRLC), and two autumn records of one in Big Wave Bay on October 19 (per JRLC) and about 60 in the harbour on November 4 (MEMB).

141. **Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*
One seen in Deep Bay on November 17 (C & ED).
143. **Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola*
One on April 26 (FOPH, JRLC), and two on October 18 (C & ED), at Maipo.
144. **Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*
Recorded in large numbers in the harbour during January, and in small numbers in March with one record of over 40 at the west end of the harbour on March 29 (JRLC, FOPH, EDW). One autumn record only, of 11 on October 25 between HK Island, Cheung Chau and Lantau (JRLC).
148. **Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*
Two at Shataukok on January 17 (JRLC), and at least 100 flying and swimming in the fishponds near the mouth of the Yuen Long river on February 23 (EDW). One at Luen Tak on Nov. 9 (Society Outing), and 25 at Deep Bay on November 22 (JRLC).
151. **Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida*
Flocks of 15 to 20 birds seen at Lok Ma Chau from Sept. 13 to Oct. 4 (JRLC, FOPH, Society Outing, ICBP Outing), and 15 at Maipo on Oct. 25 (FOPH).
152. **Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*
One or two birds on April 26, and May 10 and 24 (JRLC, FOPH, CD). One on July 5 (FOPH), three on Sept. 6 (after Typhoon Ruby) (Society Outing), and one on Sept. 30 (C & ED). All records are from Maipo.
153. **Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia*
The only record is of two on Maipo marshes on May 24 (FOPH, CD).
155. **Little Tern** *Sterna albifrons*
One at Maipo on May 17 (FOPH). Four at Maipo and two at Lok Ma Chau on Oct. 4 (Society Outing). One or two at Maipo on Oct. 18 (C & ED).
159. **Spotted Dove** *Streptopelia chinensis*
Common and widespread on HK Island and in NTs.
160. **Red Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia tranquebarica*
One in Maipo wood September 17 (ICBP Outing). One at Mong Tseng on November 17 (C & ED).
161. **Rose-ringed Paroquet** *Psittacula krameri*
Seen regularly on HK Island. Also three records in NTs: one bird near the brickfield at Sha Kong on Jan. 19 (EDW), three at Mong Tseng on Jan. 22 (C & ED), and four at Ping Shan on Feb. 18 (FOPH).

- 166. Plaintive Cuckoo** *Cacomantis merulinus*
All records are of birds heard in the NTs, with one sighting on a Society Outing on April 19. There is also a record of one heard in Macau on March 18 (EDW). First date March 17, last date July 12.
- 169. Koel** *Eudynamis scolopacea*
Recorded in every month except August, November, December and January, from widespread areas in HK Island and NTs. Calling heard first on Feb. 27 (FOPH), and last on July 12 (JRLC). One probable immature male seen in Maipo wood on October 4 (MEMB).
- 170. Crow Pheasant** *Centropus sinensis*
Reported from widespread areas including mangrove swamps and sea-shore, with an immature bird seen in Tai Po Kau Forestry Reserve on July 26 (FOPH). Thought to be less common in winter (JRLC).
- 171. Lesser Crow Pheasant** *Centropus bengalensis*
Reported from various parts of NTs and from Cape Collinson.
- 172. Barred Owlet** *Glaucidium cuculoides*
One in Lam Tsun valley on Feb. 14 (JLCB).
- 174. Collared Scops Owl** *Otus bakkamoena*
One heard about midnight in Government House garden in January, February and March (EDW).
- 179. Japanese Nightjar** *Caprimulgus indicus*
A pair reported as "strafing" the watcher at dusk at 1500 feet behind Ting Kau on June 13 (DGR).
- 180. Savanna Nightjar** *Caprimulgus affinis*
Reports were received of Nightjars swooping around street lighting and sitting on roofs and roadways at Castle Peak Hospital from October to January (per MEMB). This was confirmed on Dec. 29 when about six of this species were seen behaving as described, between 9 and 10 p.m. (EDW, FOPH, EH, C & ED, MEMB).
- 181. Large White-rumped Swift** *Apus pacificus*
Reports of one to five birds seen during March, April and May in various parts of NTs and HK Island, with a larger flock at Ping Shan on March 22 (EDW), and about 20 at Deep Water Bay on May 10 (JRLC). There are three autumn records from the Tai Mo Shan area: 20 birds with 20 House Swifts on August 28 (JRLC), and 10 on August 29 and 20-30 on August 30 (FOPH). Also six near Tai Po Kau on September 13 and four at Tai Lam Chung reservoir on Nov. 15 (JRLC). There is one mid-winter report of 50 near Wong Nei Chong Gap on Jan. 5 (JRLC).

- 182. House Swift** *Apus affinis*
Widespread reports throughout year with record of breeding in Mong Kok July 12 (JRLC, FOPH). Largest numbers were flocks of 30 on Dec. 25 (MEMB), and 80 on Dec. 27 (FOPH), both in the Tytam/Wong Nei Chong Gap area.
- 183. Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*
One bird reported in the Maipo/Ping Shan/Mong Tseng area in January, February, March and September, with a report of two birds together on January 19 over the river at Ping Shan (EDW, JLCB, FOPH, DGR, C & ED).
- 185. Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*
Common and widespread. Most reports are from the NTs, but there is also one from the Typhoon Shelter by Kellett Island on December 31 (MEMB).
- 186. White-breasted Kingfisher** *Halcyon smyrnensis*
Common and widespread. Nest reported on Buffalo Hill at 1300-1400 feet above sea level on June 28 (FOPH).
- 187. Black-capped Kingfisher** *Halcyon pileata*
Reported regularly throughout the year. All records are from NTs.
- 188. Blue-tailed Bee-eater** *Merops superciliosus*
One report of 7-10 birds seen at Stanley on May 6-8 (RHH).
- 189. Broad-billed Roller** *Eurystomas orientalis*
All reports are in autumn. One or two birds were seen in Pokfulam from September 20 to November 8 (JRLC, MEMB, C & ED, FOPH), one bird in May Road area on October 5 and 6 (FOPH), and one bird near Saikung on Oct. 19 (Society Outing).
- 191. Great Barbet** *Megalaima virens*
Heard near Saikung on January 5 (JLCB). One bird seen in Lam Tsun valley on March 7 (EDW). Heard in Tai Po Kau Forestry Reserve on March 28 (FOPH). Three birds seen in same Reserve on July 20 (C & ED) and September 13 (FOPH), and two birds reported there on September 27 (FOPH).
- 194. Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*
One bird seen near Mong Tseng on January 19 (EDW). One in Ping Shan/Mong Tseng district on December 26 (Society Outing), and one reported feeding off an ants' nest in same area on December 30 (FOPH).
- 195. Oriental Skylark** *Alauda galgula*
About 12 birds reported from Lowu on Nov. 22 (JRLC, FOPH). Two at Plover Cove on Nov. 28 (JRLC).

196. **Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*
Reported throughout the year with the largest number from mid-March to late May, and mid-August to late October.
200. **Chinese Great Grey Shrike** *Lanius sphenocercus*
One seen near Sha Kong on November 1 (JRLC), is the second Colony record, the first having been seen in the same place on November 4, 1952.
201. **Rufous-backed Shrike** *Lanius schach*
Common and widespread. Dusky variant reported rather less frequently.
202. **Bull-headed Shrike** *Lanius bucephalus*
One at Tai Mong Tsai on January 1 (Society Outing). One at Mong Tseng on January 18 (JLCB). One in Pat Heung valley on February 14 (Society Outing). One near Sekkong village on March 25 (C & ED). One at Saikung on October 19 (Society Outing). One at Ping Shan on Nov. 17 (C & ED). There are only five previous records for the Colony.
- 203 (a). **Brown Shrike** *Lanius cristatus cristatus*
One record for January 18 at Mong Tseng (JLCB).
- 203 (b). **Japanese Brown Shrike** *Lanius cristatus superciliosus*
One seen regularly in Government House garden from Nov. 2, 1963, to March 16 (EDW). Also one bird recorded at Sekkong on January 25 (JRLC), at Castle Peak on Sept. 13 (DGR), at Happy Valley racecourse on September 14, 15 and 16, and on Oct. 5 (C & ED). and at Shek O on Oct. 19 (JRLC).
- 203 (c). **Philippine Brown Shrike** *Lanius cristatus lucionensis*
One seen at Tai Mong Tsai on Jan. 1 (Society Outing). One at Happy Valley racecourse on May 12 and 13 (C & ED). Several on Lantau Island on May 17 (WGM). One at Plover Cove on October 10 (JRLC). One at Chung Am Kok on November 29 (MEMB), and on December 23 (JRLC).
204. **Black-naped Oriole** *Oriolus chinensis*
Several reports from Victoria Barracks, May Road and Happy Valley, and one from Tai Po Kau Forestry Reserve. First date April 7, (heard only), (C & ED), last date September 17 (C & ED). One unusual winter record of a male at South Bay on January 5 (JLCB).
205. **Black Drongo** *Dicrurus macrocercus*
Recorded from various parts of NTs and HK Island throughout the year, with the exception of the period early February to early May. Immature birds reported in November.

- 206(a) **Ashy Drongo** *Dicrurus leucophaeus salangensis*
One at Mount Davis on February 22 (JLCB), and one at Chung Am Kok on December 2 (JRLC).
207. **Hair-crested Drongo** *Dicrurus hottentottus*
Numerous reports of up to five birds seen in widespread areas between April 12 and November 11. Also an unexpected sighting of two in Wanchai on September 17 (JRLC).
208. **Chinese Starling** *Sturnus sinensis*
There are no records for the early part of 1964. Reports cover the period April 9 to December 30 and are confined to the areas of Sekkong, Lowu, Deep Bay and Castle Peak (C & ED, FOPH, JRLC, DGR). The largest flocks seen were on Aug. 19, 11 birds; on Nov. 9, 20 birds; and on Nov. 15, 15 birds.
209. **Silky Starling** *Sturnus sericeus*
All reports are from the NTs, of varying numbers up to 30 birds. Last spring date March 25 (C & ED), first autumn date Nov. 1 (JRLC).
210. **Grey Starling** *Sturnus cineraceus*
Reported on Feb. 2 at Tai Mong Tsai (FOPH, JLCB), and Feb. 18 at Ping Shan (FOPH). In the latter part of the year the reports are all from the Mong Tseng area, on Nov. 17 and Dec. 11 (C & ED), and on Dec. 26 a flock of 25 (Society Outing).
211. **Black-necked Starling** *Sturnus nigricollis*
Reports cover the periods January to May and October to December, with two records in mid-July. One to two birds were seen at Shataukok in April and July, and other records are from Three Fathom Cove, Lowu, Lok Ma Chau and the Ping Shan/Maipo area (FOPH, JRLC, C & ED, DGR).
212. **Common Mynah** *Acridotheres tristis*
Seen mostly in small numbers of up to eight birds throughout winter months (EDW, FOPH, C & ED, WAD). No records between April 19 and Oct. 24.
213. **Crested Mynah** *Acridotheres cristatellus*
Common and widespread.
215. **Blue Magpie** *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*
Common on HK Island and in Tai Po Kau Forestry Reserve. Also recorded at Lowu, Ping Shan, Lantau Island, Tai Lam Chung.
216. **Magpie** *Pica pica*
Common and widespread.

217. **Treepie** *Crypsirina formosae*
Up to 10 birds seen in Tai Po Kau Forestry Reserve between Jan. 15 and Mar. 28 (JRLC, JLCB, C & ED, FOPH). The only other record is of one by the waterfall above Route Twisk on Mar. 17 (EDW).
219. **Jungle Crow** *Corvus macrorhynchus*
One or two birds recorded throughout the year in various parts of NTs and HK Island. Four at Violet Hill on Feb. 22 (FOPH), and four at Plover Cove on Sept. 13 (JRLC) are the largest numbers.
220. **Collared Crow** *Corvus torquatus*
One or two birds recorded throughout the year, all in the NTs.
221. **Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina melaschistos*
One in the Lam Tsun valley on Feb. 14 (Society Outing). One in Maipo wood on Oct. 24 (C & ED).
228. **Crested Bulbul** *Pycnonotus jocosus*
Common and widespread.
229. **Chinese Bulbul** *Pycnonotus sinensis*
Abundant and widespread.
230. **Red-vented Bulbul** *Pycnonotus aurigaster*
Common and widespread. Seen more in NTs than on HK Island.
234. **Black-faced Laughing-Thrush** *Garrulax perspicillatus*
Common and widespread.
235. **Black-throated Laughing-Thrush** *Garrulax chinensis*
Between one and four birds reported on the Peak from Sept. 20 to Dec. 10 (FOPH). The only other report is of two singing at Tai Lam Chung reservoir on Jan. 11 (JLCB).
236. **Hwamei** *Garrulax canorus*
Seen and heard throughout the year, most records being from HK Island.
238. **Pekin Robin** *Leiothrix lutea*
One record of a male in May Road on Dec. 19 (JRLC).
240. **Ince's Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone paradisi*
One was seen in Broadwood Road on Jan. 5 and 18 (C & ED). All other reports cover the period Sept. 6 to Nov. 1, and are of one bird only, with the exception of Sept. 21 at Mai Po wood when two birds were seen. Records are as follow: Maipo wood, Sept. 6, Sept. 21, Sept. 24, Oct. 4, Nov. 1. Ting Kau, Sept. 11. Bethanie, Sept. 20. Tai Po Kau, Oct. 10. May Road, Oct. 31. (C & ED, FOPH, DGR, EDW, Society Outing, JRLC, MEMB).

242. **Grey-headed Flycatcher** *Culicicapa ceylonensis*
One in May Road on March 1 (FOPH), and one watched regularly from Oct. 31 to the end of the year in the same area (MEMB, FOPH, JRLC, EDW). One was seen in Broadwood Road on six occasions between Jan. 5 and 21 (C & ED, FOPH, EDW). The only NTs record is of one at Three Fathom Cove on Feb. 2 (JRLC, FOPH).
243. **Black-naped Monarch Flycatcher** *Hypothymis azurea*
The only record is of one in the Ho Chung valley on Nov. 15 (EDW).
244. **Brown Flycatcher** *Muscicapa latirostris*
Reported from various parts throughout winter. Last spring date May 1, in Broadwood Road (C & ED); first autumn date Sept. 6 in Maipo wood (Society Outing).
245. **Grey-spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa griseisticta*
Reported between May 3 and 11, and between Sept. 13 and Oct. 25, from both NTs and HK Island. The first autumn date, Sept. 13 (FOPH), is a record early sighting.
247. **Verditer Flycatcher** *Muscicapa thalassina*
All spring records are from the NTs, except one female in May Road on Feb. 15 and 29 (FOPH). Last date March 8, when one female was seen in Ho Chung valley (Society Outing). First autumn date Nov. 30, when one female was seen in May Road (FOPH). The only report of more than one bird is of two males at Tai Po Kau on Jan. 3 (JLCB).
248. **Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa parva*
There are four records in February (JLCB, FOPH), and one on Oct. 19 (Society outing), all in NTs.
249. **Robin Flycatcher** *Muscicapa mugimaki*
One female was reported in Tai Po Kau Forestry Reserve on Jan. 15 (JRLC), and a party of at least four birds in the same area on Feb. 13 (JLCB).
251. **Tricolour Flycatcher** *Muscicapa zanthopygia*
The only record is of one in Maipo wood after Typhoon Ruby on Sept. 6 (Society Outing).
252. **Hainan Blue Flycatcher** *Niltava hainana*
Both male and female seen in Tai Po Kau Forestry Reserve between June 14 and Aug. 31 (FOPH, JRLC, C & ED).
254. **Chinese Bush Warbler** *Cettia diphone*
There are five records of single birds seen in the NTs: at Maipo wood on Feb. 3 (C & ED), at San Hui on Sept. 12 and Mong Tseng on Sept. 13 (JRLC), and at Mong Tseng on Nov. 17 and Dec. 11 (C & ED).

259. **Von Schrenck's Reed-Warbler** *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*
Two or three reported at Big Wave Bay on Oct. 15 (JRLC).
260. **Great Reed-Warbler** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*
Reported at Maipo on Sept 24, Sept 30 (ten birds), Oct. 4 and Oct. 18 (C & ED, Society Outing). Also one at Lok Ma Chau on Oct. 4 (Society Outing).
262. **Dusky Warbler** *Phylloscopus fuscatus*
Widespread reports, all from NTs. Last spring date April 26, at Maipo (JRLC, FOPH), first autumn date Sept. 6, at Maipo, after Typhoon Ruby (Society Outing). This was a record early autumn date.
263. **Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*
Widespread reports from NTs and HK Island. Last spring date May 14, at Shouson Hill (MKLP), and first autumn date Sept. 6, after Typhoon Ruby, at Maipo (Society Outing).
264. **Pallas's Warbler** *Phylloscopus proregulus*
The only two records are for January, one at Sekkong (WAD), and one at Lowu (JRLC).
265. **Arctic Warbler** *Phylloscopus borealis*
Two birds reported at Maipo wood on Sept. 17, and one at Tai Po Kau Forestry Reserve on Sept. 27 and Oct. 25 (FOPH).
266. **Pale-legged Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus tenellipes*
One seen in Maipo wood on Sept. 21 (FOPH, JRLC).
267. **Crowned Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus occipitalis*
Two seen at Tai Po Kau Forestry Reserve on Sept. 13 (FOPH).
269. **Fulvous-faced Flycatcher-Warbler** *Seicercus albogularis*
One seen at Ho Chung on Feb. 1 (JLCB). This is the second Colony record.
270. **Long-tailed Tailor-bird** *Orthotomus sutorius*
Common and widespread.
272. **Brown Wren-warbler** *Prinia subflava*
Several watched at Maipo in June (WGM).
273. **Yellow-bellied Wren-warbler** *Prinia flaviventris*
Common in NW of NTs. Also recorded at Lung Tseng, Lantau Island, on March 16 (FOPH, RWA), Big Wave Bay on Sept. 2 (JRLC), and Brick Hill on Dec. 31 (C & ED).
274. **Fantail Warbler** *Cisticola juncidis*
All reports are for the winter, January to March (JRLC, FOPH, C & ED), and October to December (JRLC, C & ED).

275. **Red-tailed Robin** *Luscinia sibilans*
One at Pak Tam on Jan. 1 (Society Outing), at Tai Po Forestry Reserve on Feb. 13 and at "The Look-out", Tai Po Kau on March 1 (JLCB). One on Dec. 15 and 16 in May Road (MEMB).
276. **Bluethroat** *Luscinia svecica*
One reported at Maipo on Dec. 11 (JRLC).
277. **Rubythroat** *Luscinia calliope*
Reported at Tai Mong Tsai on Jan. 1 (Society Outing), at Castle Peak on Feb. 5 (DGR), at Maipo on March 29 (four birds) (WAD), and also at Maipo on March 30 (two birds) (Society Outing). Heard calling at Tai Po Kau on Jan. 3, and near Saikung on Jan. 5 (JLCB). One seen at Cap D'Aguilar on Nov. 8 and 25 (JRLC) and a juvenile male released from bamboos where its head was caught on Nov. 23 on the Peak (FOPH).
278. **Red-flanked Bluetail** *Tarsiger cyanurus*
There are fewer reports of this species and of 277 than usual. One juvenile,? female, was seen near Mong Tseng on Jan. 19 (EDW), and one female was seen in the Pak Tam valley on Feb. 2 and 9 (JLCB, FOPH). A male and a female were seen in Three Fathom Cove on Feb. 2 (JLCB). One female was reported in Pat Heung valley on Feb. 14 (Society Outing), and one male at Tai Po Kau on Feb. 13 (JLCB). The only two records in the latter part of the year are of one female at Chung Am Kok on Nov. 29 (MEMB), and one female on the Peak on Dec. 19 (FOPH).
279. **Magpie Robin** *Copsychus saularis*
Reported from many areas of HK Island and NTs throughout year.
280. **Daurian Redstart** *Phoenicurus aureoreus*
Widespread reports from Jan. 1 to March 22, and Nov. 15 to the end of the year.
281. **Plumbeous Water-Redstart** *Rhyacornis fuliginosus*
All records are of females or immature males. One or two birds were seen in the stream of the Ho Chung valley on four occasions between Jan. 4 and March 8 (JRLC, EDW, JLCB, Society Outing). One was reported from Tai Lam Chung river on Jan. 12 (EDW), and one in Pat Heung valley on Feb. 14 (Society Outing). The only two records for the latter part of the year are from the Ho Chung valley, one bird being seen on Dec. 6 (Society Outing), and one on Dec. 29 (FOPH).
282. **Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata*
Widespread records up to April 19, and from October 4 onwards. As in 1963, the first autumn sighting is late.

283. **Grey Bushchat** *Saxicola ferrea*
Three records only: one male and one? female/?juvenile at Tai Mong Tsai on Jan. 1 (Society Outing), one male and one female at Pak Tam on Feb. 2 (JLCB, FOPH), and one male at Pak Tam on Feb. 23 (FOPH).
- 284 (a). **Blue Rock-Thrush** *Monticola solitaria pandoo*
Widespread reports up to April 11 in spring, and from Sept. 14 in autumn. One unusual report is of one seen several times on Tai Mo Shan in July (WGM).
- 284 (b). **Red-bellied Rock-Thrush** *Monticola solitaris philippensis*
Widespread reports up to April 12 in spring, and from Oct. 14 in autumn.
285. **Chestnut-breasted Rock-Thrush** *Monticola rufiventris*
Only record is of two dead birds, a male and a? female, hung up as scarecrows at Chung Am Kok (MEMB).
286. **Violet Whistling Thrush** *Myiophonus caeruleus*
Widespread reports throughout year, probably more common on HK Island than in NTs.
290. **Grey-backed Thrush** *Turdus hortulorum*
Recorded from early February to March 22 (FOPH, EDW), and Sept. 11 to the end of the year (JRLC, DGR). The reports of one at Ting Kau on Sept. 11 and up to four birds at Castle Peak on Sept. 12, 15, and 17 (DGR) are unusual, and make a new early record for autumn.
292. **Blackbird** *Turdus merula*
All records are for the early part of the year. One male was seen at Sekkong on Feb. 14 (Society Outing), and one at Tai Po Kau on Feb. 15 (EDW). All remaining records are from Government House garden where up to six birds were seen many times between Jan. 15 and March 5 (EDW).
293. **Grey Thrush** *Turdus cardis*
Seen regularly in Broadwood Road from Jan. 17 to March 29 (C & ED). Two males on Feb. 2, and one male and two females on Feb. 22 reported at Bethanie (JRLC). Three to four birds at Tai Po Kau on Feb. 15 (EDW). The only records for the latter part of the year are in December: one male in May Road on Dec. 4, 5, and 15 (MEMB, EDW), one male on the Peak on Dec. 7 (FOPH), and one male at Brick Hill on Dec. 31 (C & ED).
294. **Siberian Thrush** *Turdus sibiricus*
One male in May Road on Nov. 28 (JRLC, MEMB).

296. **White's Thrush** *Turdus dauma*
One dead bird at Tai Po Kau on March 28 (FOPH) is the only record.
299. **Great Tit** *Parus major*
Common and widespread.
- 301 (a) **Richard's Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae richardi*
Numerous birds recorded in NTs and islands, and occasionally on HK Island. Last spring date April 19 at Ping Shan (Society Outing), first autumn date Sept. 18 at Cheung Chau (C & ED).
- 301 (b) **Chinese Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae sinensis*
Two reports in July, at Maipo on July 5 (FOPH), and at Yuen Long on July 12 (JRLC, FOPH).
- 302 **Indian Tree Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni*
Common and widespread. Last spring date April 9 at Mong Tseng (C & ED), first autumn date Oct. 19 at Saikung (Society Outing).
303. **Red-throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus*
Three records only: one male on Maipo marshes on March 29 (WAD), one bird on Shek O golf-course on Oct. 15 (JRLC), and two birds on Dec. 26 at Ping Shan (Society Outing). The record from Shek O seems to be the first from HK Island.
305. **Upland Pipit** *Anthus sylvanus*
All reports are from Tai Mo Shan except for one on the Pat Sin range summit where several birds were seen on Jan. 5 (FOPH). Two were reported on Tai Mo Shan on Jan. 25 (JRLC), ten on March 17 (EDW), and four on Aug. 23 (FOPH).
- 307 (a) and (b). **Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*
Widespread reports. Last spring date April 21, at Pokfulam reservoir, (FOPH), first autumn date Sept. 30 at Maipo (C & ED).
308. **Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*
Widespread reports, the latest in spring being May 15 at Brick Hill (C & ED), and the earliest in autumn a new record, July 30 in May Road area (FOPH).
309. (a) **Blue-headed Wagtail** *Motacilla flava simillima*
All reports are for the autumn passage. More than 200 were seen between Big Wave Bay and Deep Water Bay on Sept. 6 after a typhoon, and six at Deep Water Bay on Sept. 11 (JRLC). Some were seen at Shek O on Oct. 15 and 19 (JRLC).
- 309 (b). **Grey-headed Wagtail** *Motacilla flava macronyx*
Two records at Happy Valley on Oct. 28 (C & ED).

- 309 (c) **Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava taiwana*
Widespread reports for the first part of the year up to April 19 (Society Outing), and for the latter part from Sept. 6 (Society Outing).
310. **Fork-tailed Sunbird** *Aethopyga christinae*
Reported from two areas of the NTs, at Tai Po Kau in February, March, June, July, August and September, and in the Ho Chung valley in June and December (FOPH, JLCB, C & ED, Society Outing).
311. **White-eye** *Zosterops japonica*
Common and widespread.
312. **Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum cruentatum*
Reported at various times of the year from Victoria Barracks, Saikung, Tai Po Kau, Ho Chung valley and the area between the Colonial Secretariat and Government House (JRLC, EDW, JLCB, MEMB, FOPH, Society Outing).
314. **Lesser Black-tailed Hawfinch** *Eophona migratoria*
A flock of 30 was seen at Tai Po in early January (per JLCB), two to four birds at Castle Peak on Feb 3 (DGR), four birds at Ping Shan on Feb. 18 and one at Tai Mong Tsai on Feb 23, and one, the last spring record, at Tai Po Kau on March 1 (JLCB). The first autumn report was of two at Mong Tseng on Nov. 22 (JRLC), and there were three other reports from that area in December (FOPH, C & ED). Four birds were seen in Government House garden on Dec. 15 and 23 (EDW), and a scattered flock of 20 were at Sha Kong on Dec. 26 (Society Outing).
315. **Chinese Greenfinch** *Chloris sinica*
Reported throughout the year from various parts of the NTs and HK Island. Young were reared successfully in Broadwood Road.
317. **Hodgson's Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus*
One record only, of two females at Pak Tam on Jan. 1 (JLCB).
318. **Masked Bunting** *Emberiza spodocephala*
Widespread winter reports, the last spring date being April 19 at Ping Shan (Society Outing), and the first autumn date Nov. 9 at Ping Shan (JRLC).
323. **Yellow-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza aureola*
All records are for November: two at Mong Tseng on Nov. 1 (JRLC), one at Ping Shan on Nov. 9 (Society Outing), and four at Chung Am Kok on Nov. 29 (MEMB).

324. **Grey-headed Bunting** *Emberiza fucata*
One at Sheung Shui on Jan. 26 (Society Outing). Two males and three females at Sekkong on Feb. 14, and one female at Ho Chung on Feb. 23 (JLCB). Several of both sexes in the Pat Heung valley on Feb. 14 (Society Outing). One male at Silvermine Bay on Mar. 14 (EDW). The only two records for the latter part of the year are eight on Nov 15 (FOPH) and seven on Dec. 26 (Society Outing), both at Ping Shan.
325. **Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla*
Reported from several areas in the NTs up to Feb. 23, and again only in the NTs from Nov. 17 onwards.
326. **Crested Bunting** *Melophus lathamii*
Recorded from January to June, when a nest with three eggs was found at about 1450 feet above sea level on Buffalo Hill (FOPH). There is one report for mid-July on Tai Mo Shan, but thereafter reports are for November and December only.
327. **Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*
Common and widespread.
329. **Java Sparrow** *Padda oryzivora*
One in Broadwood Road on May 25, and one by the race-course on Oct. 28 (C & ED).
331. **Spotted Munia** *Lonchura punctulata*
Several reports of small flocks of up to 15 birds, mostly in NTs. A flock of 50 was seen in the Ho Chung valley on Jan. 4 (JRLC), and 30 in the same area on Mar. 8 (Society Outing). Nest building was observed on June 29 at Castle Peak (DGR), and a bird was seen near to a nest at Tai Po Kau on Aug. 31 (FOPH).

ESCAPES

- Sulphur-crested Cockatoo** *Cacotua galerita*
This bird features in the 1961, 1962 and 1963 Reports as an escape. Records for 1964 indicate that two to three birds frequented Victoria Barracks from April to July, that two were in the neighbourhood of Sookunpoo in July, August and September, increasing to four seen regularly in that district to the end of the year. One was in the University area in early July. One appeared in May Road in October. (C & ED, MKLP, FOPH). One was seen at Ping Shan, (the first NTs record), on April 19 (Society Outing).

Chinese Grackle

Eulabes javanus hainanus

One was seen with two Crested Mynahs at Bethanie, Pokfulam, on May 9 (FOPH). This bird was also recorded as an escape in 1962.

LIST OF OBSERVERS

Mr. R.W. Adams	Mr. F.O.P. Hechtel
Miss M.E.M. Benham	Mrs. E. Hechtel
Captain M.W. Betts	Mr. R.H. Hughes
Major J.R.L. Caunter	Mr. W.G. Metson Jr.
Mr. J.L. Cranmer-Byng	Mr. J.A. Ozorio
Mr. C. Dale	Mr. M.K.L. Page
Mrs. E. Dale	Mr. D.G. Robertson
Captain W.A. Dickens	Commander E.D. Webb

Mai Po
outing



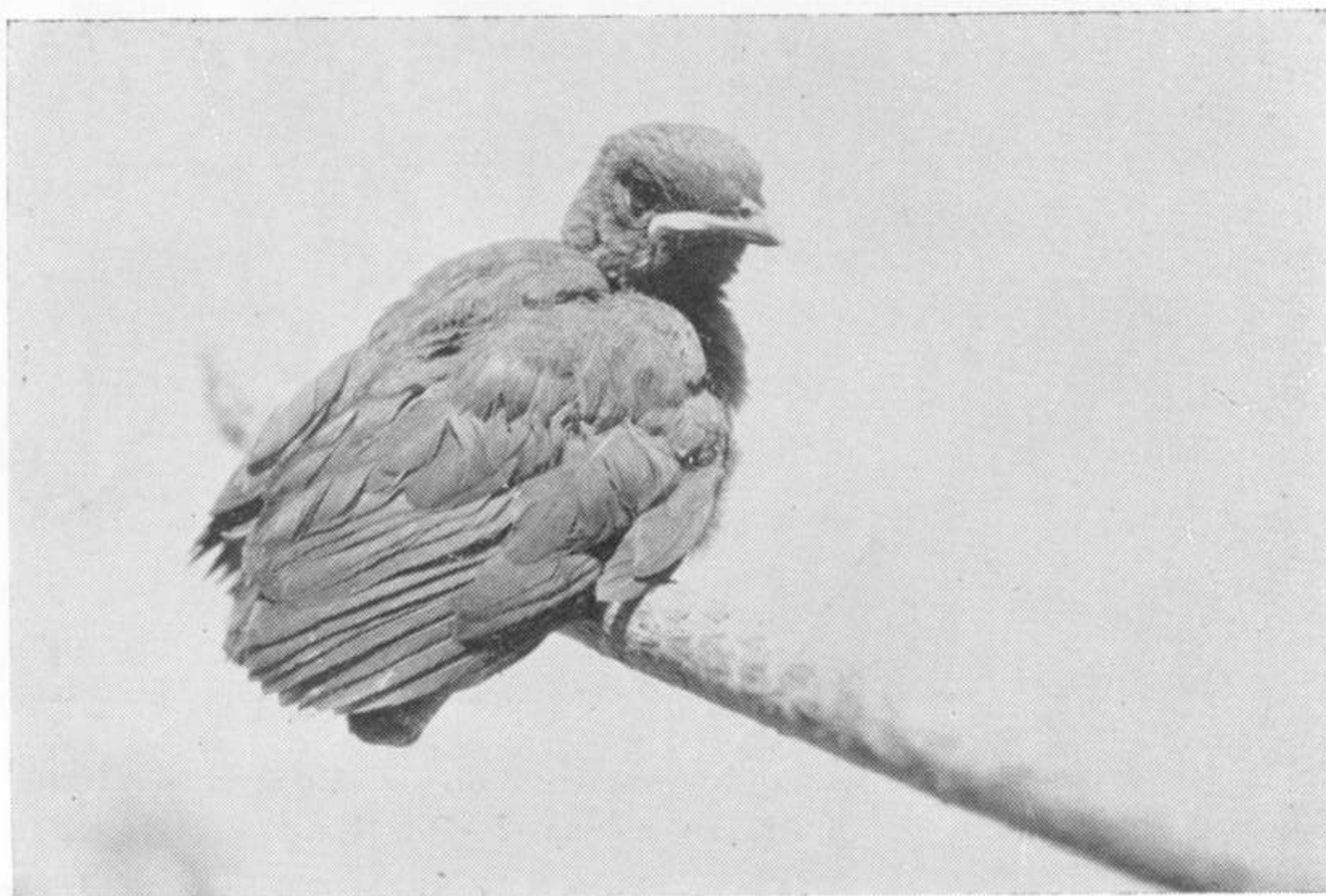
Mr. Yoshi - Mr. Hechtel - Prof. Inuka - Dr. Kuroda - Lord Medway -
Prof. Rabor - Dr. McClure - Mr. King

outside
St. John's
Hall



Rear Dr. Kuroda - Lord Medway - Prof. Rabor - Mrs. McClure -
Dr. Yamashina - ? - Dr. Kim
Front Mr. Tam - Mr. Chiu - Mrs. Rabor - Mr. King - Prof. Inuka -
Dr. Won - Dr. Salim Ali

VIOLET WHISTLING THRUSH - NESTLING
(F. O. P. Hechtel)



WHIMBREL
at
MAI PO
(W.G. Metson)





"One of our smaller Waders"
(E. D. Webb)



Cattle Egrets with host
(F. O. P. Hechtel)

THOUGHTS ON COMPLETING THE SYSTEMATIC LIST OF BIRDS REPORTED DURING 1964

Much more must have been seen than is written up in this bundle of pieces of paper, only four and a quarter inches of it when tied up tightly. A few members send in excellent records, others send in occasional notes of rareties, and some send in nothing at all.

Being myself apt to fall into the middle category, let me describe my good intentions for the coming year and hope this may be of some use as an idea for those not in the first group.

On returning from an expedition write up not only the notebook which forms one's permanent record but also make an entry on a separate slip of paper for each species. (The size and form of these slips can harass the Recorder by their rich diversity. Study page 56) Keep these slips in numerical order in a box or envelope, and before long there will be one for all but the rareties, and on each slip a picture will build up of what has been seen of that species. The Recorder likes to have the slips half-yearly, so both the summer and the winter visitors, as well as the residents, will unfortunately have to have two slips each year, but sightings of spring and autumn passage migrants will build up on one for each passage.

If all records were in this form the task of compiling the annual list would certainly be much easier, and if entries could be increased in this way a much more accurate picture of the birds that occur in the area should be obtained.

M. E. M. B.

THE WHITE BELLIED SEA EAGLES

Of Hong Kong's many fascinating birds, one of the most majestic must surely be the 30 ins. long White Bellied Sea Eagle.

Several pairs of these great birds are resident in the colony, though mainly keeping to the Eastern coastline. Each year they attempt to breed, though sadly, not always with success. This is a story of one of the happier years.

"Mother" and "Father" in this story spend the greater part of the year on the Island's East coast and they can regularly be observed feeding, resting, or gliding over the area. It is very seldom that they find it necessary to make a few wing beats and their majestic soaring carries them high and far. From time to time over the sea they will descend in wide circles until at a height of some 50 ft. or more above the water they will plunge on half closed wings, and with talons lowered snatch up a fish, sea snake or other item of food. Then the action of the powerful wings can be observed as they regain height with slow full beats.

During November 1963, this pair of Eagles seemed to be continuously in the area, and very active, and it was assumed that this was the prelude to nesting. After several visits and much searching, the nest was discovered on Dec 5th and one of the birds was already sitting.

It has been recorded that these Eagles use successful nesting sites for many years, adding fresh material to the old structure until in due time, they will be nesting on top of a pile some 12 ft. or more deep. This however was a new nest about three feet across and about one foot deep and made so far as could be judged of branches, twigs and roots of the hillside shrubs, with only a scanty lining of finer twigs and leaves on the saucer shaped top.

This nest had been built on top of the only level piece of rock in an otherwise vertical cliff face, a fact that no doubt played a major part in the eventual success of the operation, but which also made it difficult to get near enough to really see what was going on even with the aid of a telescope. A few days after finding the nest however, it was established that it contained two eggs, these being about the size of a large duck egg, and pale green in colour. The eggs could be seen for a brief instant as the parents changed over sitting duties at the nest. It may be that the female does most

of the sitting, but she is certainly relieved regularly at the nest, no doubt for exercise and feeding purposes. Earlier observers have noted occasions when the eggs have been left for some period and partly covered with leaves and twigs. However during watches on this nest, some of them fairly lengthy, it was never left, and the time taken for one bird to leave the eggs and the partner to carefully step over and settle on to them, was only about half a minute.

At all times there was a small supply of fresh green leaves on or near the nest; possibly a source of moisture, as occasionally the birds would nibble at them. During a long watch on January 10th ('64), the female (?) never left the nest, and took no food, only occasionally nibbling at the green leaves. The partner flew out over the sea twice, and returned once with a crab, and the second time with a 12" long fish. Twice he (?) visited the nest, but the brevity of his stay indicated that the sitting bird was not interested in food. She quite often adjusted her position on the eggs and appeared generally very restless. She succeeded in fact, in creating a considerable atmosphere of expectancy, and sure enough, two days later, the nest was occupied by two very fluffy pale yellow eaglets with two proud and watchful parents, one on the nest and the other nearby. They were being fed on pieces of a fish which were torn off the carcass and presented by the parent. After a while the meal over, the parent bird settled down over the young birds so that they became invisible.

Over the next three weeks the eaglets grew rapidly, and the parents, although kept busy feeding the young, spent more time flying around. There was no time, however, during this period when one or other of the adults was not within quite a short distance of the nest, and quite obviously a wary eye was being kept on Kites and a pair of Peregrine Falcon who frequent the area.

By February 10th, the eaglets were about 14 or 16 inches long and the yellow down was beginning to darken on the wings. There was also much more activity on the part of the young, and this included one or two squabbles, when the wings would be spread and the beak thrust forward in a menacing manner.

One bird in particular was always more active and aggressive, grew slightly larger, and took on the dark brown colouring earlier. This may have been a case of the strong bird and the weakling, or

possibly the larger bird was a female, because in the world of eagles and hawks, the female grows noticeably larger than the male. Growing and colouring of the feathers continued steadily until, by the middle of March the eaglets were almost fully grown, and could often be seen indulging, one at a time in what can only be called flying practice on the nest. The bird, with extended wings, would jump up and give a wing beat at the same time. The combined effort would lift it some two feet into the air, and no doubt served as a reassurance that, when the time came, its wings would in fact keep it aloft.

As was expected, the larger of the youngsters was the first to leave the nest, and on March 27th was seen to be some little way from it. In the succeeding days this bird was seen to fly, and to travel gradually further away from the nest.

It was not, however, until some date between April 5th and 10th that the second youngster left the nest, and, until this occurred it was obvious that one or both the parents stayed close by. In fact, on one late evening watch, when the larger eaglet was perched on a rock some way from the nest, one parent bird flew to it, settled briefly then flew to the nest, and was shortly followed by the youngster, and both eaglets were seen to settle down in the nest with the parent bird watching. Thus, presumably, both young birds were assured of a warm night.

On April 11th and 12th, one eaglet was located perched on a rock in the area, but after this date, although the two adults can be seen almost any time no immature birds have been seen at all in this area. This gives rise to the thought that these eagles, having reared their young to a certain stage, then deliberately drive them away from what the parents no doubt regard as their territory. Many other species of birds are known to do this. It will take many hours of careful observation to establish this latter point, but there is no doubt that it will be done one day.

In the pursuit of such knowledge lies the absorbing interest of watching birds.

C. D.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR BIRD PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

One of the most important events of the year was the Conference of the Asian Continental Section of The International Council for Bird Preservation, which took place at the University of Hong Kong from the 15th to the 17th September. Members of the Asian Continental Section are, Ceylon, Hong Kong, India, Israel, Japan, Korea, Malaysia and Thailand. It was, unfortunately, not possible for all these countries to send representatives but there were delegates from six Asian countries,— Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia and the Philippines. Though this Society is the Hong Kong National Section of the I. C. B. P. and I had the honour of representing the Society at the Conference, it would not have been possible for us to have organised it and to have played host to it. Our thanks go to the University and especially to Professor Phillips and the staff of the Zoology Department for all the work and time which they so generously contributed towards making the Conference the success it was.

I was fortunate in being able to attend all the sessions and I spent a very enjoyable three days among people some of whose names will be familiar to regular users of the Society library,— Dr. Y. Yamashina (Japan), Conference Chairman and Dr. Salim Ali (India), Vice Chairman. One of our old members, Mr. Ben F. King, came up from Thailand's jungles to take part in the Conference.

The work of the I. C. B. P. becomes increasingly important and desperately urgent as populations expand, changing and destroying habitats; as science produces new and 'better' insecticides; as increasing industry pollutes more rivers and more of the sea and as increasing marine traffic jettisons oil and sludge into the oceans. In Asia, one of the biggest dangers, not only to birds but to all wildlife and eventually even to man himself, is the haphazard destruction of irreplaceable natural resources, such as the cutting down of vast areas of primary tropical rain forest. It is necessary to focus public attention far more on these various problems and the need for public education cannot be overstressed.

The Conference was launched most pleasantly by Sir Lindsay Ride at a cocktail party for the delegates on the eve of the first session.

On Wednesday the 16th, delegates reported on preservation activities in their respective countries, mentioning the various problems they are up against. The Conference went on to discuss the various man created hazards which affect bird life in Asia, such as oil pollution of the sea, commercial trapping and export and the indiscriminate use of pesticides. Also discussed were measures to protect rare and vanishing species in Asia. In the evening Dr. Yamashina invited all delegates to an excellent Chinese dinner which was followed by a most interesting talk given by our Hon. Recorder, Major J. R. L. Caunter, on the various aspects of migration as observed in Hong Kong.

The following day we were all up well before sunrise for the outing to Mai Po. Just beyond the Police Post in the first fish pond after the huts, a group of waders had gathered for the occasion and 13 species were seen.

During the afternoon a number of resolutions were formulated and passed; resolutions to be forwarded to the various Governments for, we hope, action. At the close Dr. Yamashina showed two very fine films, one taken by himself of the rare Japanese Crane which, at one stage, was on the verge of extinction. All thanks are due to Dr. Yamashina and his father for the fact that this bird has been saved and is now gradually increasing in number.

Much needs doing in Hong Kong to ensure the survival of our wild birds and the few remaining mammals. The subject of nature reserves has been aired in the local press and it is to be hoped that the pressure will be kept up by all the various interested parties until they actually come into existence.

Another aspect of preservation which is sadly deficient concerns the implementation of Hong Kong's Wild Birds and Wild Mammals Protection Ordinance. There are insufficient game wardens at present. To ensure proper protection we require a force of well trained men who are really interested in their work and who are of a sufficiently high calibre. A great deal of illegal hunting, trapping and netting goes on and the ridiculously small number of convictions recorded in the recent past is evidence of the inadequacy of law enforcement in this sphere.

Much as I should like to reproduce here many of the Conference's Resolutions which have some bearing on our problems, or which are of general interest and deal with conservation on an

international basis, space forces me to quote only those which are of considerable urgency and which are not beyond the realms of practicability for Hong Kong.

1. The Asian Section, I.C.B.P., recognises the importance of education as a medium of developing public appreciation of birds and their intrinsic values, and urges that Education Departments of Asian Governments integrate into the curricula of primary schools the concepts of conservation and bird protection.

7. Because of the widespread concern about the proper use and function of pesticides, the Asian Section, I.C.B.P., recommends that pure food agencies, health, conservation and agriculture departments of Asian Governments give support to research concerning pesticides, and that they closely regulate their use.

14. The Asian Section, I.C.B.P., recognises the excellent laws of Hong Kong which are designed to protect the wildlife of the area, but feels that more could be done to see that they are effectively enforced to reduce illegal trapping and shooting, especially irresponsible and indiscriminate shooting by valid licence holders. The Section feels furthermore that to ensure the survival of the Colony's wildlife from the tremendous pressure of urbanisation, immediate consideration should be given to setting aside suitable areas of sufficient size as Nature Reserves.

F. O. P. H.

THE PURSUIT OF WADERS

(for the absolute beginner)

The number and variety of Waders to be seen on a visit to Mai Po at migration time depends on a number and variety of factors. As a rule the tide comes into it much more than the time of day. If the tide is out, some species — Curlew and Whimbrel among them — prefer salt with their food and conceal themselves on the water's edge, which at Mai Po is beyond the reach of the normal binocular. Others, notably the Plovers and Stints, like to feed inland, on mud that looks very nearly dry. At high water, of course, all hungry Waders will be feeding inland as there is nowhere else to go, and the others may be sleeping on one leg.

The depth of water to which the mudflats and fishponds are flooded is controlled by a combination of the amount the various sluice gates are opened and the state of the tide in Deep Bay. Too often one feels that the sluicekeepers are guided by dragons and geomancy and not by love of birdwatchers. The depth of water, in its turn, controls the whereabouts of the Waders, with their various length of leg. Waders don't care for swimming so the deep fishponds nearer the main road are untenanted except perhaps by skimming Terns. Nor do most Waders like getting mixed up in the mangroves, though Redshank, Spotted Redshank and Greenshank are exceptions, as are Egrets and Herons.

Wind and weather and the time of day seem to have no predictable effect on the Waders movements, and their idea of where the best food is to be had is beyond my ken. Sometimes you will come on them all packed together in the place of the moment (like humans in a fashionable restaurant); at others they are widely scattered in little groups and you have to comb the marshes and search diligently to obtain a respectable list.

At close range, colouring is a great help to identification especially in the late Spring, when the birds are in full or nearly full breeding plumage. At other seasons, and always when at long range, you may have to rely on size, silhouette, behaviour and above all voice, and for this much practice is essential. When a group of waders that you have identified at close quarters flies off, study the wing pattern, try and memorise their call if they are obliging enough to say anything, and when they alight observe how they appear at a distance.

Now for some notes on the various likely species:—

Redshank and **Spotted Redshank** should be easy to separate from other Waders, by their shape and behaviour even if you can't see the colour of their legs. To tell them apart in breeding plumage is also easy, for the Spotted Redshank are then black with white spots on the back. At other seasons, the long needle-like bill of the Spotted Redshank helps to identify it. But at all seasons, the wing pattern in flight is a safe guide — if it has a white trailing edge it is a Redshank, if not it is a Spotted Redshank. For those with musical ears, their call notes are different; the Redshank says "Tuleu", the Spotted Redshank "Chewit". **Greenshank** are noticeably larger and paler, and have a long white patch down the centre of the back, particularly noticeable in flight. Their call is a rapid "Chew-chew-chew".

Curlew and **Whimbrel** again should be easy to separate, except from each other. It is not often that you get close enough to detect the striped crown of the Whimbrel, and unless you see the two together, the size is deceptive, as is the relatively longer bill of the Curlew. By far the best guide is the call, the Whimbrel giving a succession of plaintive titters, quite different from the familiar call of the Curlew.

When a variety of Waders are feeding together, the relative sizes can be a good help in identification. For instance, in breeding plumage **Sanderlings** can be confused with **Little Stints** as regards shape and colour, though the Stint has a very small bill, but if either is seen close to, say, Sand Plovers, the relative size should tell you at once whether you are looking at a Stint or a Sanderling. The colour of the legs may help in separating **Little Stints** from **Temminck's Stints**, but the legs may be submerged or splashed with mud, and the colouring of the tail in flight is a safer guide. If flushed, the Temminck's Stint sometimes towers like a Snipe.

The bright chestnut crown and chest band of the **Mongolian Sand Plover** should distinguish it from the **Greater Sand Plover** in the breeding season, but at other times the shorter, stouter bill of the Mongolian may be the best guide. They are both a different shape from the rather drab **Kentish Plover** and the smart **Little Ringed Plover**. The bright orange legs of the latter are generally conspicuous.

If there are any **Turnstones** in a group of Plovers, they should stick out like a sore thumb, even if not in their full tortoise-

shell plumage. They have funny-shaped heads and no necks and walk in a funny way. All Plovers of course have shorter bills and shorter necks than nearly all Sandpipers.

Grey Plover and **Golden Plover** are noticeably larger than Sand Plover and stand more upright on longer legs. They are often on the rear outskirts of a group. They are also often difficult to separate until they fly. Then the black axillaries ("armpits") of the Grey Plover are very noticeable. The sad liquid pipe of the two species as they circle overhead is also quite distinct. Like other Plovers, and Stints, they tend to walk away from the approaching birdwatcher, and are slower than Sandpipers in taking to flight.

Curlew Sandpiper and **Dunlin** may be confused when in winter plumage, though the sandpiper has a whiter rump. In summer there is no mistaking the Curlew Sandpiper's bright chestnut for the Dunlin's black waistcoat.

Terek Sandpipers are easy if you can get near enough to see their yellow legs and turned-up noses. They strut along like elderly businessmen with a train to catch. When you have identified them on the ground, watch them fly and try to learn the call and the wing pattern which are neither very distinctive.

Wood Sandpipers look small and rather dark and nondescript, and at a distance might be confused with the **Green Sandpiper**, which however has much more contrast between its very dark upper parts and white underparts and rump, also quite distinctive black underwing. The Wood Sandpiper says "Chiff-chiff-chiff", the Green gives a clear whistle.

Marsh Sandpipers are rather like miniature Greenshank but they stand more upright on spindly legs and have a long thin bill and a very rounded head—like a needle set in a ping-pong ball.

Grey-rumped Sandpipers have a most distinctive plaintive call and are supposed to thwart the birdwatcher by alerting all the other birds; the American name is "Wandering Tattler". They have strong thick bills and yellow legs and carry the body and bill more horizontal than do, say, Redshank. They are almost unique among the Mai Po Waders in **not** having a white rump.

When there is a group of assorted Waders in view, it is always worth while to study each bird separately, long though this may take. Some of the rarer small waders, such as **Broad-billed** and

Spoon-billed Sandpipers may be hiding in a party of Stints. The Broad-billed has a distinctive striped crown and shoulders, patterned like a Snipe, and rather a large bill for its size, like dinner at a Hong Kong restaurant. The Spoon-billed in summer looks remarkably like a Little Stint, and it requires close attention, preferably with a telescope to spot its extraordinary bill.

Knots are decidedly plump and stocky, and are a fine pinkish-brown in the summer. **Godwits** have long legs and are extremely shy; if you see a bird flying that looks like a Whimbrel except that its bill is straight, even tip-tilted, not down-curving, then it is probably a Godwit. If you are close enough to see the tail well, you can pin it down as Bar-tailed or Black-tailed.

If you are lucky enough to see an **Avocet** or a **Black-winged Stilt**—and it is sheer luck—they are just like the book and unmistakable. But here again, when they fly off, try and get an impression of what they look like at a distance.

A bunch of mixed Waders will sometimes help you to identify them by the different species taking off in succession as you approach. Egrets take flight first, Stints and some Plovers allow you to get very close if you keep your head down.

If you see one or more birds like very large swifts with very white rumps flying lazily round they are probably **Pratincoles**. The book says the forked tail is very noticeable but I have always found the white rump much more so. In the air or on the ground, they look immediately different from other birds, especially if you are near enough to see the peculiar markings on the face or the red axillaries.

Most of the Waders to be seen at Mai Po are well portrayed in the European Field Guide, though often a different race is involved. They are nearly all in "Birds of Japan", but the pictures are so brightly coloured, especially the ones in summer dress, that you need not be dismayed if the bird itself looks rather drab in comparison.

E. D. W.

BIRDS OF THE MID-LEVELS

No doubt it has always been obvious that the great wooded slopes of Hong Kong Island and the New Territories must contain vastly more birds than anyone was aware of. Nevertheless the results of a watch kept by several members of the Society on a very small area beside a road some 570 feet above the harbour caused some surprises. In many such parts the undergrowth is fairly thick and seldom disturbed, and small shallow stream beds, their rocky bottoms smoothed with concrete, stretch steeply through them down the hills.

There were the expected residents: Tree Sparrows, small flocks of White-Eyes, Great Tits with young, Magpie Robins with certainly one successful brood, Tailorbirds, and Hwameis regularly seen and heard. The stream beds contained the inevitable Violet Whistling Thrush. Black-faced Laughing Thrushes moved through in parties of up to eight birds, and both Chinese and Crested Bulbuls were about. Occasionally a Jungle Crow flew down from the heights above. Magpies raised a family of four, and Chinese Blue Magpies passed through frequently in small parties. Crested Mynahs were often seen and a broken egg indicated a nest in a retaining wall. Spotted Doves were seen daily. One or two Black-eared Kites patrolled the area, and a Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (a bird now reported from various parts of the island) was here in October, as was a Crow-Pheasant.

Of the migrants, a Grey Wagtail established a record early date by arriving on 30th July. Two summer visitors were a Black-naped Oriole seen on 11th May, and Hair-crested Drongos seen for the first time on 18th May and the last time on 5th October. An immature Broad-billed Roller called in on 5th and 6th October. Indian Tree-Pipits were seen in small groups throughout the winter and Masked Bunting in December. A male Grey Thrush was in a stream bed on 4th December and a female Red-tailed Robin in the same place on 15th and 16th December. A Siberian Thrush was watched in this stream bed on 28th November, and a Pekin Robin was in the undergrowth on 19th December.

Five Flycatchers were noted; one Verditer Flycatcher on 15th and 29th February and again on 30th November and 3rd and 19th December, a Brown Flycatcher on 18th September and 24th October, a Grey-spotted Flycatcher on five days in mid-October, (two birds being seen together on one occasion), a female Ince's Paradise Flycatcher on 31st October, and a Grey-headed Flycatcher on 1st March and regularly from 31st October to the end of the year.

Two Peregrine Falcons flew about for some time on 11th July and one was also seen on 13th September. A female Kestrel was watched on 11th November. Two Buzzards were here on 16th February, and one on 23rd February, 7th November, and 13th and 16th December.

M. E. M. B.

HAWK TYPES AND THEIR PERSONALITIES

As any bird-watcher knows, the different kinds of raptors have distinctive types of flight. Harriers fly slow and hover, eagles and buzzards (Buteos) generally soar, falcons fly with rapid wing-beats and glide, while the shortwinged goshawks and sparrowhawks (Accipiters) generally are seen flying from off a perch. Mankind has evaluated these traits and made use of those birds which are sufficiently strong and heavy, have the proper foot structure, and are fast enough for falconry, one of man's oldest sports. Thus kites and harriers have been discarded for being weak, light and slow. Buzzards, too, though strong and heavy, have not been used traditionally because they have been considered too slow and also not aggressive enough. The kinds which have been found satisfactory are falcons, shortwings, hawk-eagles, and eagles.

Different techniques are used depending on the flight of the birds to be used. Falcons, which habitually fly fairly high, are trained to circle over the falconer and stoop on game that is put up. Sometimes falcons are flown in pairs, especially when the quarry is a type of game larger than the falcon would normally attack, such as swans or cranes. The falcon is specially trained to attack such large game or anything else in particular that the falconer wants to hunt, so that some falcons are trained specially for duck, grouse, etc. However, not all falcons are suitable for falconry. The kestrels, largely insect eaters, have small, weak toes and are therefore useless for falconry, while the slightly smaller merlin has larger and stronger feet, lives muchly on birds, and makes a fine hunting hawk. The other birds useful for hunting, shortwings, hawk-eagles, and eagles, are generally flown from the fist directly at the game after it has been spotted. Shortwings and hawk-eagles fly directly after the animal hunted — even running into burrows or brush in hot pursuit. As with the falcons, these birds are sometimes specialists in one type of game, either through training or inclination, or both. Here, too, the foot of the shortwing is related to the normal diet of its species, and hence determines the type of game it is used to chase. Small species of shortwings have long, slender toes which cover a big area when spread, especially suitable for small birds on the wing. Large species, the natural diet of which includes a good proportion of furred animals, have a stronger foot with proportionally shorter and thicker toes, better able to catch and hold their stronger but less agile prey. Eagles, which normally fly

higher than the game and swoop down upon it, are used for animals as small as hare. Because of their weight they can be flown against wolves and deer, given training. The reason buzzards have been thought too slow is that they usually fly for altitude above their prey and then stoop — which makes them too slow for fast birds such as pheasants. However, one of the commonest American buteos, the Red-Tailed Hawk, has recently been found successful flown from the fist at tree squirrels and rabbits. The foot of the Red-Tailed Hawk is powerful, and so the bird is useful, while the foot of the large Rough-Legged Buzzard is small and weak and therefore this bird cannot be used for falconry. Buteos have been thought unaggressive because they eat mostly rodents and snakes and the like, but they will drive other hawks from their prey, and, if kept on the same perch with other hawks or too close to them, will sometimes grab and eat them.

Falconers, naturally, are quite close to their birds, and find that each bird has its own personality and character. Some birds are eager hunters, others quite lazy. Some are good flyers, others inept. One bird will accept training readily, another won't or can't learn. This bird trusts its trainer and is easy to handle, that one is suspicious and spooky. Robust health, sickness, optimism and petulance, and a host of other traits are to be found in one bird or another. But even allowing for individual traits, the major divisions of raptors have their own "national" characteristics, and these are particularly distinct in falcons and shortwings. (I don't know anything about eagles and buzzards, which is, perhaps, why they appear to me rather stolid burghers). The falcon is a sweet and gentle bird, and often appears very affectionate. Ladies have been known to feed them by placing the food on their lips — if this were done with a shortwing one would eventually end up with a lip full of talons. A kestrel I once had returned twice after escaping, and the third time went to a farmhouse and allowed itself to be recaptured after a week in the wilds. A shortwing would have been gone for good. Shortwings are excitable, paranoic birds, reacting swiftly and unexpectedly to loud noises, sudden motions, or sometimes nothing at all. When handling them one can tell when the bird is upset by how deeply it sinks its claws into the glove; the more tense the bird the harder it grips. Even quite a small accipiter can numb a finger by cutting off circulation if the glove is thin. However, accipiters for all their wildness and unpredictability, or perhaps partly because of it, are interesting birds to handle and some return their handlers' affection after their own fashion.

Lest I be accused of excessive anthropomorphism in my description of falcons and accipiters let me point out that the distinction I have proposed is inherent in their diverse modes of life. The falcon hunts at its pleasure, needing only to increase its speed and stoop upon the prey it happens upon. The shortwing waits on a perch and needs immediate reflexes, instant power and great speed over short distances to take its prey. Thus the quick responses the accipiter depends upon for its livelihood also make it a much less calm and reflective bird than the falcon, paranoic or no.

WGM, Jr.

BROWNSEA ISLAND

During September, I went to visit Brownsea Island as the guest of Arthur Walton, co-founder and first Chairman of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society.

Brownsea is the largest of several islands in Poole harbour, Dorset, and until 1927 it was splendidly looked after by a succession of enterprising and wealthy owners. It was then "given back to Nature", until a few years ago when it was taken over by the National Trust. The island is about a mile and a half East and West, and nearly a mile North and South, and the northern half is managed as a nature reserve by the Dorset Naturalists' Trust. They appointed Arthur as the first Warden and he clearly had a tremendous task, albeit interesting and rewarding, to get it into action.

His domain is largely woodland, with two lakes, a heronry and a spacious lagoon or marsh enclosed by a seawall. He has a flat in the old vicarage, half way between the lagoon and the lakes, and the red squirrels play about in the pine trees outside the kitchen window. One of their babies fell out of the nest a few weeks before my visit and was being raised on the latest infant milk powders with the aid of a fountain pen filler. A fascinating little creature, it spends most of its time, when not feeding, asleep in Arthur's pocket.

A lofty hide has been built to command the lagoon and the approach path is screened by bamboos, which fortunately grow wild on the island for they are an expensive item to import from the mainland. Seated in comfort in the observation room, one is able to study the birds through an enormous telescope mounted on a tripod. This is as well because most of the Waders use the lagoon as a resting place while the tide covers their feeding grounds elsewhere, and sleep on one leg with their head tucked underneath a wing. To the naked eye they look much alike as they stand in orderly rows according to their length of leg. Nearest the hide, in the shallowest water may be Redshank, Spotted Redshank and a few Wood Sandpipers. Then over a hundred Black-tailed Godwit, with sometimes a row of Knot in between. In the rear rank is a fine company of Curlew. It is uncanny how they know exactly when their favoured feeding

grounds will be uncovered and lose no time in taking off by species for the seashore. For this fleeting moment one can get an idea of what they really look like.

Then there are Teal swimming about with one or two Wigeon, Dunlin very busy feeding, a clump of Sandwich Terns and many Oyster Catchers, Ringed Plovers and an assortment of Gulls. Also a big flock of Canada Geese. This was in September; naturally the pattern varies with the seasons. I was too late to see the Little Terns nesting on a small island that had been specially made for their use.

There are many small birds in the woods and thickets, but these had got so dense in the "back to Nature" era that they are difficult to see. A network of fire paths has been and is still being cut and bird spotting should become easier. I saw Teal, Mallard, Dab chicks, Moorhens and Herons on the lakes, which are also well screened with bamboo curtains. Pheasants abound in the evening on the heathland outside the nature reserve, escaped peacocks flaunt on the grass and red squirrels may be seen in the taller clumps of trees.

Mr. Walton has now left the island, so Hong Kong visitors can no longer expect quite such favourable treatment. But Brownsea is well served by motorboat from Poole Quay and Sandbanks. With its variety of country, delightful setting with views over Poole harbour, the Purbeck hills and Corfe castle, and its quiet seclusion, it makes a unique spot for an all-day picnic. Parties are conducted round the Nature Reserve from May to September and can be arranged at other times if you let the Warden know beforehand.

E. D. W.

HERRING GULLS

What better start to a weekend's birdwatching on Lantau than the sight of well over three hundred Herring Gulls in the harbour. In many parts of the world the Herring Gull is only too common and often a nuisance as well, but in Hong Kong this is very far from being the case.

I had just caught the ten-fifteen ferry and was on my way to Silver Mine Bay. It was the 11th January, a glorious day, cold, sunny and clear, with a fairly strong northerly wind blowing and the sea bright blue. At first there were just a few gulls in the central part of the harbour, concentrated around the ships at anchor, but already I could see what appeared to be vast numbers of birds covering the whole expanse of the western harbour between the Island and Stonecutter's. By the time we reached Kennedy Town we were right among them, gulls everywhere. I saw only a few fully mature birds, most of them being in their second year plumage. I was given no clue to guide me on which race they might have been.

There was one particularly fascinating spectacle. A group of dolphins, perhaps ten, were moving very swiftly through the water, their fins and backs appearing briefly as they rose above the surface. Not much more than two feet above them, hardly leaving enough room for their fins on each rise, was a closely packed flock of twenty or thirty Herring Gulls, which followed the dolphin school for some distance. Suddenly, as if the dolphins obeyed one command, they made a right angle turn. Then they broke their formation, and keeping within a small circle, moved in all directions rising and diving all the time, while the gulls milled about above. By this time the ferry had moved some distance away and it was no longer possible to see what was taking place amid the confusion of spray, wings and fins. I can only presume that the gulls had joined in the feast to which their dolphin guides had led them.

Beyond Green Island everything returned to normal; not a gull was to be seen and for the next three quarters of an hour, as far as Silver Mine Bay, I had to be content with watching three Kites circling in the distance.

F. O. P. H.

BIRDS ON BROADWOOD ROAD

In our constant search for birds, we sometimes tend to overlook the comparatively small "local" area, but in fact these can be very rewarding. Such a one is the mostly very narrow road linking Wong Nei Chong Road with Tai Hang Road. This runs on the west side of the spur which starts at Leighton Hill and runs up to Jardines Lookout, and follows a course just below the ridge of this spur. This makes a convenient morning or evening stroll, and it has produced a total of 39 birds for my observation during the last two years.

There is a permanent population of some 8 or 10 Black Faced Laughing Thrushes who continually and noisily make their way up and down the thickly wooded but steep area below the road. Almost equally but more melodiously noisy are the Bulbuls, of which there are many Chinese and Crested, and a few Red Vented. The area also supports two or maybe three pairs of Magpie Robins who are always busy in defence of their territory and whose very varied song has some very beautiful passages.

It is unusual not to see a small flock of White Eyes making an almost continuous high pitched squeak as they move through the bushes, always apparently going somewhere. The ubiquitous Magpie advertises his presence by frequent shakes of a bag of copper coins he seems to carry! (this is what it sounds like!) and once in mid January, this species was represented by some 20 members chasing around the crest of the spur like so many naughty school children.

The beautiful Blue Magpie also shows up in small parties fairly frequently. Tree Sparrows and a few Great Tits can always be seen, and the Long Tailed Tailor Bird, though not easily seen, is almost always heard with his never ending "chip-chip-chip...", a sound one would swear must have come from a much larger bird.

Spotted Doves are regular feeders among the dead leaves under the bushes, and this also is the habit of a pair of winter visiting Grey Thrushes. Once, a Grey Backed Thrush appeared to give us a brief view.

Crow Pheasants are sometimes seen, but more often heard with their gentle, almost apologetic "pomp pomp pomp...", and by way of contrast, 3 or 4 Sulphur Crested Cockatoos occasionally pass through with their raucous aggressive screeching.

The first Violet Whistling Thrush I ever saw was along this road, and it betrayed itself with its "rusty door hinge" squeak. Strangely enough, one of the Colony's most common birds, the Rufous Backed Shrike has only been seen here once by myself, and then only for a brief minute.

The winter months bring many extra birds, and Broadwood Road produced my first Yellow Browed Warbler; this only after five minutes of dangerous contortions trying to follow the rapid never ending movements of this small bird.

In January, a merry "twitting" led us to a Grey Headed Flycatcher, and he stayed for the first half of the month, busily hawking insects from the same branch of a tree in a shaded clearing. Apparently in company with him (or her) was a bird, never well seen, of a dark Royal Blue colour, which was never positively identified but which adds a spice of mystery to the area.

If we may include birds seen flying directly overhead, then House Swifts are regulars, and Large White Rumped Swifts quite often seen. Peregrine Falcon and Kestrel occasionally hunt for food along the area, and once a Peregrine was watched making a terrific though unsuccessful stoop at a House Swift. Black Eared Kites are of course often seen, a Sparrow Hawk has been recorded and, during winter, a Buzzard is a regular daily visitor, spending many hours sitting on top of one of the flood light pylons of the Government Stadium. He was once observed to stay on a pylon even after the lights were switched on, and a game of football commenced.

An immature White Bellied Sea Eagle has been seen flying over, and one evening a pair of Bonelli's Eagles passed over high, then glided down to the steep North face of Mt. Nicholson where they presumably roosted for the night.

Unusual visitors include the Brown Flycatcher, Grey Spotted Flycatcher, White Breasted Kingfisher, Java Sparrow (probably escaped from a cage), a Tree Pipit, a Philippine Brown Shrike and a Bunting which did not stay long enough to be further identified.

The most interesting event I think, concerned a pair of Greenfinches who, having shown themselves not more than about twice, were suddenly discovered to have built a nest in a coniferous tree in full view of my balcony. Furthermore, at the time of discovery of this nest, it needed a lot of careful observation to establish that they were already feeding young ones! Eight days after this discovery, the tree and its nest were subjected to a violent and pro-

longed assault by the wind and rain of Typhoon Viola. Judging by the manner in which the tree had been whipped and bent by the wind, we feared the worst, but on the following day, there was one adult Greenfinch at the nest, and the day after that, young ones were seen being fed on the edge of the nest. This was also seen on the next day, but thereafter nothing further observed at the nest, though for several more days, four or more Greenfinches could be seen in the surrounding trees, and we believe these to have been parents and young. Their survival was a wonderful testimony to the remarkably efficient nest building of these birds, and to the equally remarkable toughness of their young ones.

C. D.

NIGHTJARS AT CASTLE PEAK

For several years we have had reports of Nightjars frequenting the roads about the Castle Peak hospital, and of their being most active between October and the end of the year.

Accordingly a small but select party met on the evening of 29th December to consider the matter. The rendez-vous was a well-known Indian restaurant in Kowloon. Curry and poppadums, chicken and chupatties were washed down with plenty of Hong Kong beer, to insulate the body against the cool night airs.

It was half past nine by the time the two cars were nosing along the brightly-lit roads of the hospital's staff quarters, in what seemed the most unlikely country for such exotic birds. In fact we were just getting to a dead end, in more ways than one, when a brown rag or piece of screwed up paper appeared in the headlights. When a few yards away it took off silently and turned into a Nightjar (and *Caprimulgus affinis* at that!).

In a little over the hour we had seen a performance in which perhaps four to six birds made several appearances each. Sometimes they were crouched on the warm asphalt road, sometimes on the low garage roofs, like dropsical pigeons. Then they looked very dark and it was hard to pick out much colour, or even any tones. When they flitted silently round the lamp-posts or made long glides, it was possible to get some idea of what they looked like and to place them as *affinis* (Savannah) as opposed to *indicus* (Japanese). Efforts to make them churr, or lash their whips, were in vain.

In spite of many lighted windows, a good deal of noise from radios and a staff party, and occasional traffic, (including our six watchers), the Nightjars were not in the least shy. All they cared about was food, and food was flying about under the street lamps. Which leads to the thought "Surely Castle Peak cannot be unique in its attraction for these birds?" So have a look under your own street lamp!

E. D. W.

"THE HON. SECRETARY WAS DETAINED"

When Waders throng the Mai Po marsh
And Terns fly overhead,
The Fates' decrees are sometimes harsh
And Firemen fall on Fred.

His every waking hour is spent
In showing buyers round,
And fading fast is his intent
To tread the marshy ground.

(The birds are often miles away;
Our glasses give no hint.
"What is that speck across the Bay?
A Curlew, or a Stint?")

The ferry leaves the Hong Kong shore,
There is no longer hope.
We miss him so, but even more
WE MISS HIS TELESCOPE!

E. D. W.

RECORDING

1. Records should be sent to the Hon. Recorder half-yearly, in early July and early January. Anyone leaving the Colony is asked to send in his records before departure if possible; notes have a nasty habit of getting mislaid "en voyage".

2. Use a separate sheet of paper (6" by 4" used horizontally) for each species.

3. Head each sheet and complete it as follows:—

YEAR	SPECIES	CHECK LIST NO.
		Observer's Initials
Date	Place	Numbers, age, sex, etc.
e.g. 1965 (1st half)	CROW PHEASANT	170 A.B.C.
3rd Jan.	Tai Mo Shan	1 seen calling from small bush near summit
10th May	Lam Tsuen valley	Several heard, 1 juvenile seen

4. Please do NOT use diary form.

5. Whenever possible, obtain confirmation of a rarity by getting someone else to see it. At least take full notes on the spot and send them in with your records. Do NOT guess or imagine details afterwards. Please read the extract from the British Birds editorial on the following page. It is important that our standards in Hong Kong should be as high as possible. Nevertheless, it is hoped that members will send in reports of rarities even when they are doubtful whether they have enough supporting evidence to make identity certain. Subsequent events sometimes support a report of this kind, or it may tie in with those of other observers.

6. Remember that your records will be kept for future reference. Please type or write them neatly and legibly.

7. The following information about the Colony's birds is particularly needed:—

- (a) Positive breeding records for all species in all areas.
- (b) Nesting data, such as breeding period, clutch, size, incubation and fledging periods.
- (c) Arrival and departure dates of summer and winter visitors.
- (d) Reports from the New Territories *East* of the Kowloon-Canton railway.

(a) and (b) are best recorded on nesting cards which may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary. Full instructions are printed on them. When completed they should be sent to the Hon. Recorder.

SIGHT-RECORDS OF RARE BIRDS

(Extracted from the editorial in "British Birds",
Vol. XLV, No. 1, January 1952)

Accurate sight-records of rare birds are important because they add to knowledge without causing the destruction involved in the alternative method of collecting specimens. However, sight-records are of very little use if not above suspicion.

Do not record a rare bird as seen for certain unless you have taken down on the spot its characteristics before consulting a work on ornithology. It is entirely unsatisfactory to view a bird in the field, taking insufficient notes, and then, finding its supposed portrait or description in a book, even a short time afterwards, to proceed to work out an account or sketch of what was seen.

Ideally field-notes of a rarity should cover the following points:—

1. Distance of bird from you, whether you were using glasses or not, and nature and direction of light.

2. Nature of ground it was on and what other birds (if any) it was associating with.

3. Whether you saw it from different angles; whether at rest or in flight; whether from above or below. (The more varied the conditions of observation the better).

4. What were its actions and what was the character of its flight compared with other birds.

5. Its general form as compared with other birds, and how it differed from other birds at all like it which are known to you.

6. Particular points in structure as compared with other birds, such as size and shape of bill, length of legs, shape of wing, length of tail.

7. Colour of bill, legs and feet; any distinctive white or coloured patches or markings and their exact position. A rough sketch or diagram is a great help. (Some general anatomy should be learnt so that you can give the colour of wing coverts, under tail-coverts, nape, throat, chin or other parts of the plumage accurately).

8. So far as possible, an exact description of the whole plumage of the bird, not only the parts which you think may help in identifying it.

9. Any calls or notes, indicating especially the quality of the sound (harsh, rattling, shrill, hoarse, liquid, etc.), and comparison with notes of other species if this assists the description.

A "PUZZLE" OF SANDPIPERS.

That isn't a new collective noun, but a genuine problem, which we are hoping will be solved very soon. We are, in fact, appealing to everyone to keep a very careful record of any bird they see which may at first look like a Wood Sandpiper, and then, may look like a Sharp-tailed (or Siberian Pectoral) Sandpiper, or nearly so. Evidence is building up that the Pectoral Sandpiper, *Calidris melanotos*, though not yet on our check list, may in fact visit Hong Kong on its migratory flights.

The following is a description of a bird which was observed for some five to ten minutes, in good light and at short range in a flooded paddy field just off the Deep Bay Road in the New Territories on March 23rd 1965:—

Length 8" to 8½". Rich brown crown and cheeks lightly streaked with buff and separated by an indistinct pale eyebrow stripe. Back and wings marked in scaly manner, the rich dark brown feathers having buff edges. The richness of the colours was reminiscent of the Snipe, but it was not noticed that there was any formation of stripes as on a Snipe. Bill about 1.1" long-blackish with an ochre base. Legs-tibia blackish: tarsus ochre. Throat and upper breast closely but finely streaked dark and light grey, *ending in a clean line against the white of lower breast* and under tail coverts. When alerted the neck was stretched quite noticeably (probably ½"). When put up, the flight was erratic, and the bird returned twice to within 20 yds of the observer. In flight, no wing markings were apparent, but very black centre tail feathers showed against the white of the sides of tail.

The build of this bird was exactly similar to the illustration of the Pectoral Sandpiper shown in the European Field Guide, and the above description tallies very closely with that given in the same Field Guide.

The Pectoral S. can be distinguished from the Wood S. by the fact that the latter does not have its throat and upper breast markings ending in a clean line against abdomen; but more noticeably at a distance, by the fact that the tail pattern of the Wood S., as seen in flight, consists of a number of dark lateral bars on a white background, and a white rump.

The Sharp-tailed S. is very similar in build and markings to the Pectoral S. but here again, the chief difference is the fact that in the Sharp-tailed S., the breast markings do not end in a clean line. In addition, the legs of the Sharp-tailed S. are greenish grey.

On two previous occasions, reputable observers in the persons of F. J. Walker, and Maj. J. R. L. Caunter thought they had seen a bird which answered to the description of the Pectoral S., but were unable to lay real claim for one reason or another.

The chief objection to the possibility of a Pectoral S. occurring in Hong Kong has been that the bird might have been out of range. This objection seems now to be disappearing, as is revealed by the following facts, all supplied by most reliable authorities:—

Both the Pectoral and the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper breed in N.E. Siberia and in Alaska. The Pectoral winters in S. America mainly, and is regularly recorded in Japan and in Australia. It is also fairly regularly recorded in Great Britain. These facts indicate a strong possibility of the bird passing through Hong Kong. In his "The Birds of Japan", Dr. O.L. Austin (U.S.A.) states that the Pectoral S. passes down the Asiatic coast regularly in small numbers.

The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper has been recorded in America, Great Britain (on seven occasions), Japan, Hong Kong, and twice in Burma. On this evidence, it is surely a good question to ask that, if the Sharp-tailed S. comes here, then why not the Pectoral S.

We are hoping for some careful records of these birds (in the migratory months of course) which will finally establish the facts. Good hunting!

C. D.

This is a detailed map of Hong Kong and the surrounding region. The map shows the Kowloon-Canton Railway running through the Kowloon Peninsula. Major geographical features include Deep Bay to the west, Mils Bay to the east, and Victoria Harbour in the center. The map also shows the New Territories, including Lantau Island and the New Territories. Key locations marked include Kowloon, Hong Kong, and various islands and reserves. A scale of miles and a reference for heights in feet are provided in the bottom right corner.

Scale of Miles: 0 1 2 3 4 5

Heights in Feet: 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000 1100 1200 1300 1400 1500 1600 1700 1800 1900 2000 2100 2200 2300 2400 2500 2600 2700 2800 2900 3000 3100 3200 3300 3400 3500 3600 3700 3800 3900 4000 4100 4200 4300 4400 4500 4600 4700 4800 4900 5000 5100 5200 5300 5400 5500 5600 5700 5800 5900 6000 6100 6200 6300 6400 6500 6600 6700 6800 6900 7000 7100 7200 7300 7400 7500 7600 7700 7800 7900 8000 8100 8200 8300 8400 8500 8600 8700 8800 8900 9000 9100 9200 9300 9400 9500 9600 9700 9800 9900 10000

REFERENCE:

- Railways: ————
- Roads, Footpaths: ————
- Villages: ————
- Built up Areas: ————
- Rivers & Streams, Reservoirs: ————

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