

# THE HONG KONG BIRD REPORT 1958



PUBLISHED BY

THE HONG KONG BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY

Price: Two Dollars



# THE HONG KONG BIRD REPORT 1958

---

## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Introduction ... ..	2
Colony records 1958 ... ..	4
Field Studies 1958 ... ..	6
Hints on choosing binoculars ... ..	7
Systematic list of birds reported in Hong Kong during 1958 ... ..	8
The nest-building methods of the Chinese Tailor-bird ...	35
A survey of the breeding birds of Hong Kong ... ..	38
Sight-records of rare birds ... ..	41
List of officers and members of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society ... ..	42
Recording ... ..	Inside back cover

---

*Cover design by*

**M. P. Roser, J. E. Tooley-Moore and Lau Po Shing**

*Map inside front cover produced by*

**Hon. Recorder and A. McArthur**

*Aerial photographs by courtesy of*

**20 Independent Recce Flight, The Army Air Corps**

---

**Published in June, 1959**

*by the*

**Hong Kong Bird Watching Society**

(A registered society under the Hong Kong Societies' Ordinance)



# THE HONG KONG BIRD REPORT 1958

COMPILED BY  
A. M. MACFARLANE AND J. N. HUMPHREYS.

## INTRODUCTION

The idea of forming a society for the study of the birds of Hong Kong originated in May, 1957. In June, Sergeant F. J. Walker, R. A. F., sent out a circular letter telling of the "growing need for the formation of a competent ornithological society in the Colony" and calling on all those interested to contact him, Mr. A. St. G. Walton or Lieutenant J. H. Sergeant, Royal Signals.

An inaugural meeting was held in the British Council Reading Room on 7th August, 1957, and 15 persons attended. Mr. Walton was elected Chairman and Lieutenant Sergeant became the first Honorary Secretary. There was some debate regarding the title of the society and the matter was put to the vote. "Hong Kong Bird Watching Society" was adopted with two dissenting votes in favour of "Hong Kong Ornithological Society".

The following were agreed as the objects of the society:-

- (a) To facilitate and encourage the study of birds in Hong Kong.
- (b) To provide information and assistance to all persons, either visitors to the Colony or residents, who are interested in birds.
- (c) To correlate and publish from time to time the field records of all bird watchers in the Colony.
- (d) To publish an up-to-date check list of the birds of Hong Kong.
- (e) To assist in the enforcement of the law relating to the protection of birds (The Wild Birds and Wild Mammals Protection Ordinance, No. 8 of 1954).
- (f) To form a small lending library of books on birds.
- (g) To exchange information among members and with ornithological societies in other countries.

Since then considerable progress has been made. Several members of the Society have been appointed Honorary Game Wardens under the provisions of the Wild Birds and Wild Mammals Protection Ordinance, and it is hoped that more will be in future.

Sergeant Walker compiled a check-list of the birds of Hong Kong before he left the Colony in October, 1957. This was based on all information available to him up to that time and was issued by the Society in typewritten form early in 1958. It is now in need of some amendment and it is hoped to print a fresh edition before the end of 1959.

Also issued by the Society during 1958 were Sergeant Walker's "Field Observations on birds in the colony of Hong Kong" and "The Bird Notes of Lieutenant J. H. Sergeant during his service in Hong Kong (October 1955 to February 1958)".

A lending library has been formed and is kept by the Hon: Secretary for the use of members. The main books available are:-

Birds of Hong Kong	Herklots
Birds of Hong Kong-Field Identification and Notebook	Herklots
Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China	La Touche
South China Birds	Caldwell & Caldwell
Birds of Japan	Kobayashi
Field Observations from the Colony of Hong Kong	Dove & Goodhart
Birds of Burma	Smythies
Distributional List of the Birds of China	Cheng Tso-hsin
Hong Kong Naturalist Vols: I to V.	Crook & Herklots

Most of these books are out of print or hard to obtain. The Society acknowledges the generosity of the following who have presented books on leaving the Colony:-

Mrs J. Cocker	Mr W. W. Thomas
Mr J. T. Prior	Rev. E. G. Jansen

Should anyone who may read this report have bird books which they might feel able to pass on, the Society would be most grateful for them and would put them to good use. The volumes of the Hong Kong Naturalist from 1935 to 1941 are particularly required.

Membership of the Society is open to all who are interested in birds, however small their knowledge or experience may be. Expeditions to places where birds are plentiful are arranged whenever possible and nine such events took place in 1958. The Society owns a telescope which is available for loan to members. Further particulars may be obtained from the Hon: Secretary. The annual subscription is \$10.

A special word of thanks is due to the late Field Society of Hong Kong which transferred its residual funds to the Bird Watching Society.

Copies of this report have been sent to the appropriate authorities for review and reference.



## COLONY RECORDS 1958

### Facts and Figures

During this first complete year of the Society's existence, 223 species and races, including seven additions to the Colony's list, have been reported by 19 observers. This compares with an 'estimated' 219 species and races reported in 1957.

41 species were proved to breed in the Colony and, in addition, 19 species were strongly suspected of doing so.

### Weather

The year's weather was rather unusual, being particularly bitter around Chinese New Year (mid-February) and then remaining fairly dry until the rains came later than expected in May. In fact the total rainfall was below average by the end of the year. There were no typhoons, although very strong winds were felt in August. The last two months were exceptionally dry, and very cold weather was experienced in November.

### Summary

The opening months of the year were not particularly eventful. During the hardest weather there were several reports of Black-tailed Gulls off the Castle Peak Road; a Tristram's Bunting was seen in the University Compound; a Marsh Sandpiper at Mai Po and Spotted Eagles on several occasions near Ping Shan.

In March a Black-naped Flycatcher was seen twice at Repulse Bay and a Garganey was reported from Mai Po. A male Plumbeous Water-Redstart at Tai Po Kau at the end of the month was unusual.

During April two species were added to the Colony list; a Long-toed Stint shot at Mai Po, and a Siskin seen, also at Mai Po. A nest of the South-East China Wren-Warbler with eggs was found at Mai Po. A Green Woodpecker was seen in the Lam Tsun Valley and six Wigeon at Luen Tak.

A Hoopoe reported in May from Sha Tau Kok is only the third Colony record. The breeding of Reef-Herons on Bluff Island was almost certainly proved by some energetic members on a Society outing. Swinhoe's Nightjar was reported from several areas suitable for nesting. A Little Tern and a Black-faced Spoonbill were reported from Mai Po.

In June the hot sticky weather discouraged observers but a great effort was made to complete a census of the breeding herons and egrets in the Colony. The large egrettries at Yuen Long in particular are a splendid sight at this time of the year, and are one

of the best features of the Colony's bird life. The results of the census are shown on page 6. On Tai Mo Shan, a David's Hill Warbler was heard singing in a likely breeding area.

The end of July, and August, saw the beginning of the autumn wader passage, but the numbers of species and individuals were well below those of the 1957 autumn movement. Another Green Woodpecker was seen in the Lam Tsun Valley, and a White Ibis at Mai Po after a strong gale.

In September a Hainan Blue Flycatcher was reported from Sek Kong; an addition to the Colony list. Unusual waders at Mai Po included Great Knot, Australian Knot, Bar-tailed Godwit and Sanderling. Many terns were seen in the Deep Bay marshes, mostly Whiskered, but with some White-winged and Gull-billed amongst them.

During October a Siberian Thrush was added to the Colony list at Repulse Bay and a Rose-ringed Paroquet was seen in the Lam Tsun Valley; a most unexpected record for that area. At the end of the month and in November, White-headed Munias (not previously recorded in the Colony) were reported from Ping Shan and Pokfulam. A Hair-crested Drongo was seen on a remarkably late date.

A particularly cold spell in November produced several interesting reports from Mai Po; including White Ibis, Black-tailed Godwit, a pair of Grey-lag Geese and a pair of Shelduck. A Mandarin Duck was shot at Tolo Harbour and quite large numbers of Woodcock began to come in.

In December, an Oystercatcher was seen at Mai Po (a new Colony record) and a Chestnut Bunting in the Lam Tsun Valley. The skin of a Button Quail shot on Junk Island was sent to the British Museum for identification. It proved to be the South China Button Quail, a different species to that previously recorded in Hong Kong. Reports of Red-breasted Mergansers in Deep Bay and a wintering group of Little Grebe at Tai Lam Chung reservoir bring this summary to the end of the year when, on Christmas Day at Stonecutters Island, an enormous roost of Black-eared Kites was estimated at c.900 birds.

A.M.M.



## FIELD STUDIES 1958

During the year two lines of enquiry were pursued:-

### (a) Nest Record Cards (B.T.O. type)

Cards have been filled-in for the following species so far:-

	Up to 1957	1958	Total
Chinese Bulbul	--	1	1
Chinese Red-whiskered Bulbul	2	--	2
Chinese Fantail Warbler	1	--	1
Chinese Yellow-bellied Wren-warbler	2	1	3
Eastern House Swallow	--	3	3
	5	5	10

Further cards are now available and will be supplied to members by the Hon. Secretary on request.

### (b) Breeding Census of Ardeidae

An attempt was made to count or estimate the nests in the various Ardeidae colonies in Hong Kong. It was found to be a very tricky proposition because of thick foliage. However, the table below shows all the known colonies visited in 1958 and the species breeding in them. Estimated numbers of occupied nests are given where possible. The grid references are of the approximate centre of each colony and are taken from the new maps on UTM Grid, Series L8811, 1/25,000, Hong Kong and the New Territories, GSGS-Edn 1.

Colony	Lesser Egret	Little Egret	Swinhoe's Egret	Cattle Egret	Chinese Pond Heron	Indian Little Green Heron	Chinese Little Bittern
Wong Uk-Yuen Long JV 950 856	?	75	2-3	60	100	—	—
Shan Pui-Yuen Long JV 949 861	?	100-150	?	25	50	—	—
Mai Po Village JV 974 906	—	2	—	—	3	—	—
Luen Tak Marshes JV 920 882	—	—	—	—	2	2	20
Mai Po Marshes JV 949 912	—	—	—	—	—	—	15+
Sha Tau Kok KV 125 946	—	—	—	—	80	—	—
Hang Ha Po KV 058 866	—	—	—	—	3-5	—	—
Sheung Shui KV 047 919	—	—	—	—	?	—	—
Nai Wai-Castle Peak HQ 074 828	—	—	—	—	6	—	—
TOTALS	?	177-227	2-3?+	85	244?+	2	35+

## Selected Species

Beginning in January, 1959 and annually thereafter, several species will be chosen for special study during the following year. The aim is to clarify the status of each species selected, with especial reference to breeding. The species selected for the current year will be marked "x" in the Systematic List of the previous year's Report.

A. M. A.

## Hints on Choosing Binoculars

For bird watching, binoculars should have a magnification of not less than 6 nor more than 10. They should have a light value of not less than 16. The latter may be calculated by dividing the diameter of the object glass in millimetres by the magnification, and squaring the result. For example, an 8 × 40 pair of binoculars will have a light value of 25. Binoculars for bird watching should also have a fairly wide field of vision. Central focusing is more convenient, but is perhaps less airtight and therefore more liable to be affected by Hong Kong's damp climate.

Most makes of Japanese binoculars are satisfactory and a good pair can be bought in Hong Kong for about \$100. It is advisable to check the framework, focusing mechanism and lenses by comparison with first class binoculars such as those made by Ross or Zeiss. An easy way to ensure that lenses are evenly ground is to focus on an isolated object, such as the top of a flagpole, and slowly move the binoculars so that all parts of the lenses are used. If there is no trace of a double image or of rainbow colouring the lenses should be suitable.



# Systematic List of Birds Reported in Hong Kong During 1958

## Abbreviations

- B = Breeding proved in 1958. Nest and eggs or young seen.  
B? = Breeding strongly suspected in 1958.  
LTV = Lam Tsun Valley.  
NT = New Territories.  
Res = Reservoir.  
UA = Hong Kong University Area.  
x = Selected Species.

## Some Bird Watching areas defined

Mai Po Marshes: the area west of the road between Mai Po Village and Chuck Yuen Village, down to Deep Bay.

Luen Tak Marshes: the area of reclamation 1½ miles north of Ping Shan Village, on the edge of Deep Bay.

Lam Tsun Valley: the valley through which passes Route One.

Hong Kong University Area: the compound of the University itself and the hillside above it between the two sets of filter beds at the west end of Robinson Road.

Pokfulam: the coastal strip between Mount Davis and Waterfall Bay plus the lower half of the Pokfulam Reservoir valley.

## Arrangement of species

The species in this list are numbered according to La Touche's "Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China" (London 1925-34). Several of the English and scientific names have been brought into line with modern nomenclature. It will be noted that a few species have no number; these were not in fact recorded by La Touche in his Handbook.

## Observers

After each report, the initials of the observer concerned are given. The names of all who have contributed may be found at the end.

x 3 South-East China Jungle Crow *Corvus macrorhynchus* (B?)

Believed to be resident on Hong Kong Island although breeding not proved. Parties of 12 or more seen on the Peak in winter (AStGW). Elsewhere and in the NT all reports are from 1-3 birds in winter.

5 Collared Crow *Corvus torquatus* (B)

Pairs or single birds, very local. Stronghold appears to be the Deep Bay marshes area. Breeding proved at Ping Shan.

Mai Po marshes: an extraordinary gathering of at least 50 birds increasing all the time, on the mud at the mouth of Shum Chun River at low tide on December 10th at dusk. Whether this is a roost or a feeding ground is not known (AMM).

8 Chinese Magpie *Pica pica* (B)

Fairly common resident, widespread. Most village woods have a pair nesting.

11 Chinese Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythrorhyncha* (B)

Widespread and common locally on H.K. Island. Very local in the NT and reported from Sek Kong Village, Tai Po Kau Forestry Reserve and San Wai. Breeding proved at UA, the Peak and LTV.

21 South China Grey Tit *Parus major* (B)

Common resident, widespread. Breeding proved at UA, Castle Peak, Ping Shan and LTV.

57 Black-faced Laughing Thrush *Dryonastes perspicillatus* (B)

Common resident, widespread. Breeding proved at Ping Shan.

59 Black-throated Laughing Thrush *Dryonastes chinensis* (B?)

The Peak, on north side: heard singing frequently at dawn and dusk in spring near Severn Road. Rarely seen (AStGW).

65 Hwamei *Trochalopteron canorum* (B)

Common resident in many parts of H.K. Island. There are only two reports from the NT. Sek Kong Village: several birds singing during May, June and July (BCW). Tai Lam Chung Res: one singing on December 12th (AMM).

90 Chinese Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus haemorrhous* (B)

Common resident, widespread except in built-up areas. Outnumbers other bulbuls in foothill country.

91 Chinese Bulbul *Pycnonotus sinensis* (B)

Common resident, widespread. Commonest bulbul in built-up or cultivated areas.

94 Chinese Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocusus* (B)

Common resident, widespread. Stonecutters: a pair raised two broods in the same nest, April to July (JNH).



- 98 Chinese Blackbird** *Turdus merula*  
 Winter visitor recorded from LTV, Ping Shan, San Tin, Tai Lam, Castle Peak, Mai Po, Sek Kong and H.K. Island. Last recorded from Castle Peak: a pair on March 26th (AMM). First recorded from Mai Po: one on December 14th (AMM).
- 100 Grey-headed Thrush** *Turdus obscurus*  
 The Peak, on north side: one on February 8th, near Severn Road (AStGW).
- 102 Grey-backed Thrush** *Turdus hortulorum*  
 Common winter visitor recorded from LTV, Ping Shan, UA, South Bay, Repulse Bay and the Peak. Last recorded from UA: a male on April 10th (JLCB). First recorded from Ping Shan: a male on November 12th (AMM).
- 103 Grey Thrush** *Turdus cardis*  
 Winter visitor recorded from UA, the Peak, Repulse Bay, Ping Shan, Castle Peak and LTV. Last recorded from UA: two on April 6th (JLCB). First recorded from LTV: a male on December 10th (AMM, BCW).
- 113 Siberian Thrush** *Turdus sibiricus*  
 Repulse Bay: a male on October 31st (WWT). Not previously recorded in the Colony.
- 116 Eastern Blue Rock Thrush** *Monticola solitarius*  
 Winter visitor recorded from Lamma Island, South Bay, Big Wave Bay, Lantao, Castle Peak Hotel and Tai Lam Chung Res. Not very common on the coast of the NT. Last recorded, from South Bay: one on April 27th. First recorded, from Big Wave Bay: two on October 5th (JLCB).
- 117 Red-bellied Rock Thrush** *Monticola philippensis*  
 Winter visitor recorded from UA, West Bay, Big Wave Bay, Stanley Bay, Cape Collinson, Port Shelter, Lamma Island, Sai Kung and many places along the coastal road to Castle Peak. Last recorded, from South Bay: a pair on April 27th (JLCB). First recorded, from Kai Tak: a male on October 1st (AMM).
- 121 Violet Whistling Thrush** *Myopohonus coeruleus (B)*  
 Resident, reported from many places including the Peak (at least three pairs), UA, Route Twisk, Sek Kong Village, Castle Peak and LTV. Breeding proved at UA.
- 126 Swinhoe's Red-tailed Robin** *Larvivora sibilans*  
 Ping Shan: one on October 20th (JNH), an immature on November 10th (AMM).

- 133 Daurian Redstart** *Phoenicurus auroreus*  
 Fairly common winter visitor but rather local, and more frequent in the western half of the NT than elsewhere. Last recorded, from Ping Shan: a female on April 7th (JLCB). First recorded, from Sek Kong village: a male on October 31st (BCW).
- 137 Plumbeous Water-Redstart** *Phoenicurus fuliginosa*  
 Tai Po Kau Forestry Reserve: a male on March 23rd (AStGW).
- 139 Eastern Red-spotted Bluethroat** *Cyanosylvia suecica*  
 Mai Po marshes: one on February 18th (JHS), a female on March 30th (AMM).  
 Ping Shan marshes: a female on October 12th (AMM).
- 140 Rubythroat** *Luscinia calliope*  
 Tai Tseng: one on January 19th (AMM), four separate birds on February 18th (Society outing). So Kum Wat: one on January 25th (MPR). LTV: one on November 10th (BCW).
- 141 Red-flanked Bluetail** *Tarsiger cyanurus*  
 Fairly common winter visitor locally, recorded from LTV, Sek Kong village, Twisk and UA. Last recorded, from Jellum River: a male on February 22nd. First recorded, from Twisk: a male on November 30th (JLCB).
- 142 Magpie-Robin** *Copsychus saularis (B)*  
 Common resident, widespread.
- 144 Chinese Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata*  
 Common winter visitor, especially so in the western part of the NT. Last recorded, from Lamma Island: one on April 20th (JNH). First recorded, from Mai Po marshes: a female on September 28th (AMM). Although many birds were seen singly, pairs were seen and a good deal of song heard in October.
- 145 Chinese Grey Bushchat** *Saxicola ferrea*  
 LTV: a pair on January 22nd (AMM), a male on 26th (MPR) and a male on March 12th (EDW).
- 146 Chinese Broad-billed Flycatcher** *Muscicapa latirostris*  
 Common winter visitor locally, especially in the western half of the NT, with peak numbers in October. Last recorded, from Aberdeen: one on April 5th (WWT). First recorded, from Ping Shan: one on September 15th (EGJ).
- 147 Chinese Grey-spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa griseisticta*  
 UA: one on May 13th (JLCB). Ping Shan: one on May 15th (AMM).



**151 Eastern Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa parva*

Common winter visitor locally, recorded from the Peak, UA, Lamma Island, LTV, Mai Po and Castle Peak. Last recorded, from Lamma Island: one on March 9th (JLCB). First recorded, from Mai Po: one on October 26th (AMM).

**152 Japanese Robin-Flycatcher** *Muscicapa mujimaki*

Peak School, H.K.: a pair on January 19th. Ping Shan: a female on April 7th (JLCB). UA: a female on April 5th (JNH).

South Bay, H.K.: a male on November 23rd. Conduit Road, H.K.: a female on December 1st. UA: a female on December 5th (JLCB).

**156 Hainan Blue Flycatcher** *Muscicapa pullipes*

Sek Kong village: a male on September 24th (BCW). Not previously recorded in the Colony.

**157 Japanese Blue-and-White Flycatcher** *Muscicapa cyanomelana*

Ping Shan: a male on March 23rd. Mai Po village: a young male on October 26th. Castle Peak: a male on November 5th (AMM).

**165 Chinese Black-naped Flycatcher** *Hypothymis azurea*

Repulse Bay: a male on March 15th. The same bird (or possibly another) a week or ten days later (WWT). These are the third and fourth records for the Colony.

**166 Ince's Paradise Flycatcher** *Perpsiphone paradisi*

Mai Po village: a female on September 14th (AMM). Castle Peak: one on September 25th. LTV: two on September 27th (EGJ).

**171 Chinese Rufous-backed Shrike** *Lanius schach* (B)

Common resident, widespread except in built-up areas. Some evidence of spring and autumn passage on the Deep Bay marshes.

**172 Dusky Shrike** *Lanius fuscatus* (B?)

Reported from several widespread areas, usually singly, but the stronghold appears to be LTV. Resident, but no proof of breeding.

**176 Japanese Red-tailed Shrike** *Lanius oristatus supacilius*

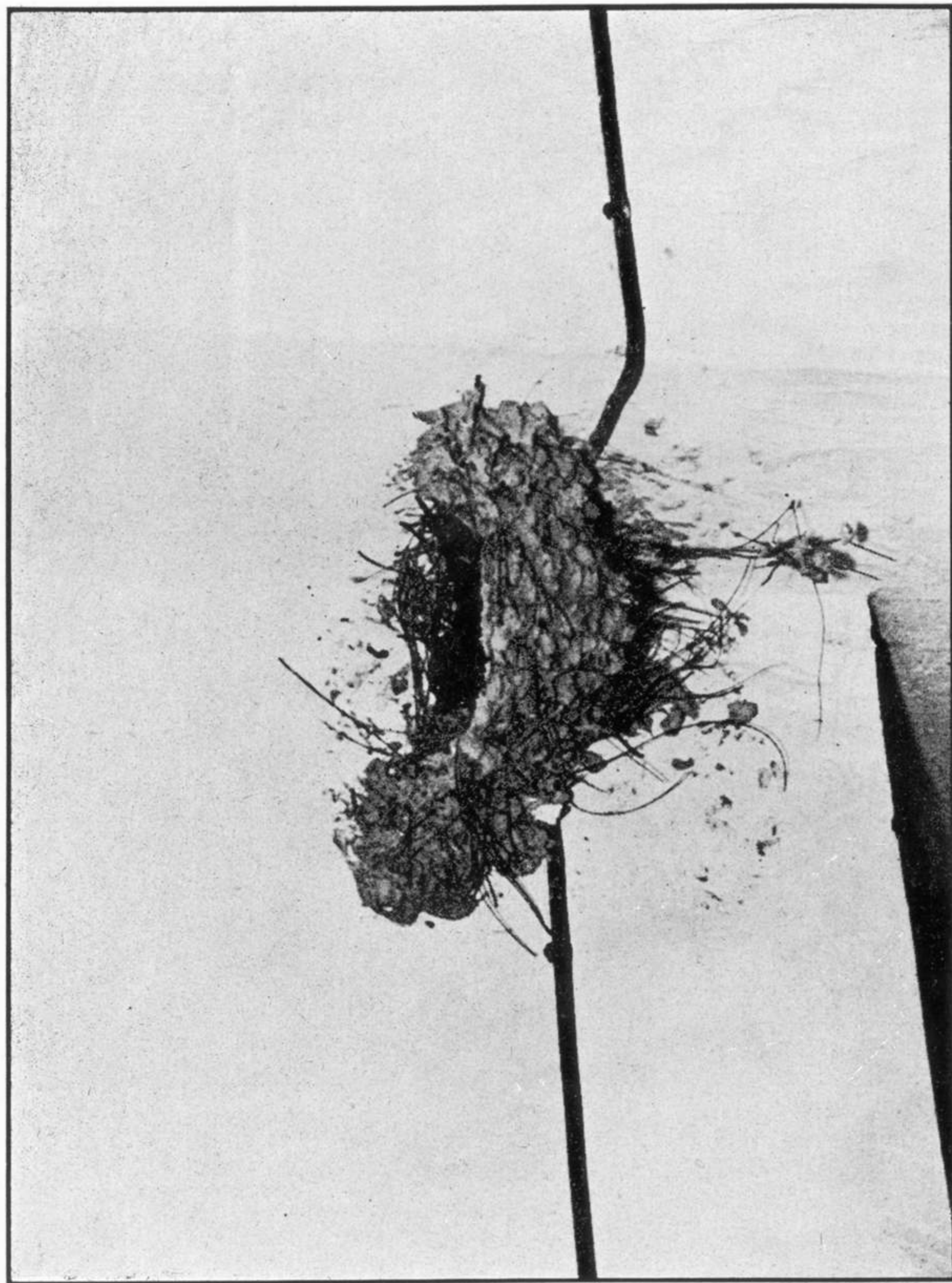
Ping Shan: single birds on April 20th, 27th, August 27th, September 7th and October 20th (AMM, WWT). Sek Kong: one on September 1st to 3rd, and a second bird on the 2nd (MPR). San Hui: one on September 14th (EGJ). Mai Po village: one on September 21st (AMM).



On Luen Tak Embankment looking towards Deep Bay.

(E. D. Webb)





Eastern House Swallow roosting in old nest at Castle Peak. (A. M. Macfarlane)

**177 Philippine Red-tailed Shrike** *Lanius cristatus lucionensis*  
 Sek Kong: single birds on January 2nd, 14th, February 3rd.  
 Ping Shan: single birds on February 18th, March 12th, April 20th  
 and 21st. Castle Peak: one on May 13th. Lamma Island: one  
 on May 18th (JLCB, AMM, AStGW, IWY).

**187 Grey Minivet** *Pericrocotus cinereus*  
 Castle Peak: a female on March 26th. Ping Shan: nine, in-  
 cluding several males, on March 30th (AMM). UA: one on April  
 11th (JLCB).

**188 Black-winged Cuckoo-Shrike** *Coracina melaschista*  
 Mai Po village: a male on October 26th (AMM). UA: a  
 male on December 13th and 16th (JLCB).

**191 Chinese Black Drongo** *Dicrurus macrocerus (B)*  
 Ping Shan: one on January 19th (AMM). Otherwise all  
 records fall between April 20th and October 20th. Breeding proved  
 at Lamma Island, and birds reported also from Stonecutters  
 (common resident), Cape D'Aguilar, Happy Valley, Ting Kau,  
 UA, Kam Tin and Sek Kong.

**194 Chinese Hair-crested Drongo** *Dicrurus hottentotta (B)*  
 Summer resident, common locally. Breeding proved at Shou-  
 son Hill, Silvermine Bay and LTV. First recorded, from Ping  
 Shan: one on March 30th (AMM). Last recorded, near Sek  
 Kong: one on November 15th (MPR).

**195 Eastern Great Reed-Warbler** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*  
 Mai Po marshes: up to five birds seen between August 31st and  
 October 19th (JNH, AMM, MPR, BCW).

**196 Von Schrenck's Reed-Warbler** *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*  
 Mai Po marshes: two on February 9th, one on March 30th  
 and September 28th (AMM). Suspected on several other occasions.

**208 Styan's Grasshopper-Warbler** *Locustella pleskei*  
 Mai Po marshes: one on September 28th (AMM). Suspect-  
 ed on two previous occasions, but only positively identified on this  
 date.

**214 Chinese Tailor-Bird** *Orthotomus sutorius (B)*  
 Common resident, widespread in suitable habitat.

x **215 Chinese Fantail Warbler** *Cisticola juncidis (B?)*  
 Mai Po marshes: birds in song recorded from March 30th on-  
 ward through the summer. Very common from November 16th  
 till end of year (AMM, BCW).



- 221 Dusky Warbler** *Phylloscopus fuscatus*  
Common winter visitor to woods and mangroves. Last recorded, from LTV.: one on January 26th. First recorded, from Ping Shan: two on October 20th (AMM).
- 224 Pallas' Warbler** *Phylloscopus proregulus*  
Very common winter visitor. Last recorded, from Ping Shan: one in song on March 30th (AMM). First recorded, from Sek Kong: one on October 6th (BCW).
- 225 Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*  
Common winter visitor. Last recorded, from Pokfulam: one on February 16th (JHS). First recorded, from Ping Shan: one on October 20th (AMM).
- 227 Arctic Warbler** *Phylloscopus borealis*  
Mai Po village: several seen between September 14th and November 16th (AMM, BCW).
- 230 Pale-legged Warbler** *Phylloscopus tenellipes*  
Mai Po village: one or two in April (MGW).
- 241 Chinese Bush-Warbler** *Cettia canturians*  
Pokfulam: one on February 16th (JHS). Lan Tao: one singing on March 9th (AStGW). LTV: two singing on March 16th. Castle Peak: one on November 2nd (AMM).
- 246 Short-tailed Bush Warbler** *Cettia squameiceps*  
Castle Peak: one on November 2nd and 5th (AMM).
- 248 David's Hill-Warbler** *Prinia criniger (B?)*  
Tai Mo Shan: one, seen once and heard singing often near the jeep-track at 2,800 ft., on June 15th (AMM).
- 249 South-East China Wren-Warbler** *Prinia inornata (B)*  
Mai Po marshes: a nest with 4 eggs was seen on April 30th and had 5 eggs on May 4th (JNH). Several on the marshes during autumn, up to August 31st (several observers).
- 250 Chinese Yellow-bellied Wren-Warbler** *Prinia flaviventris (B)*  
Common locally, resident. Breeding proved at Ping Shan, Mai Po and Castle Peak. Song heard from January to October, except for a brief period in August.
- 253 Black-naped Oriole** *Oriolus chinensis (B)*  
Summer visitor, very local. Breeding proved at Fanling Golf Course, where a young bird was picked up by a Chinese and sold to a European for a pet. Recorded from UA (common), the Peak, Kennedy Road, Shek-O, Lamma Island, Fanling Golf Course and

- Yuen Long. First recorded, from Lamma Island: one on March 9th (JLCB). Last recorded, from Kennedy Road: calling to the end of August (MEMB).
- 257 Grey Starling** *Sturnus cineraceus*  
Mong Tseng peninsular: a flock of 25 on December 26th (Society outing).
- 258 Silky Starling** *Sturnus cericeus*  
Fairly common winter visitor in the NT. No reports from H.K. Island. Last recorded, from Ping Shan: several on March 12th. First recorded, from Castle Peak: one on November 12th (AMM).
- 261 Chinese Starling** *Sturnus sinensis (B)*  
Fairly common summer visitor from March 23rd to September 27th. Very few records from H.K. Island.
- 263 Black-necked Mynah** *Gracupica nigricollis (B)*  
Common resident, widespread in the NT. Still no reports from H.K. Island.
- Indian Mynah** *Acridotheres tristis (B?)*  
Very local resident. All reports are from the Mong Tseng-Ping Shan - Tai Tseng area, never more than six together.
- 264 Chinese Crested Mynah** *Acridotheres cristatellus (B)*  
Common resident, widespread. Parties in winter, especially on Stonecutters.
- 266 Chestnut-bellied Munia** *Lonchura atricapilla*  
Mai Po marshes: one on July 27th, pairs on August 3rd and 24th, and on September 28th (AMM).
- 267 Chinese Spotted Munia** *Lonchura punctulata (B)*  
Fairly common resident, but local, and very few summer records. Breeding proved at Ping Shan.
- White-headed Munia** *Lonchura Maja*  
UA: one on October 31st (JLCB).  
Ping Shan: six or more (including five males) on November 10th (AMM). Not previously recorded in the Colony, nor by La Touche for Eastern China, but the very strong possibility that these are "escapes" cannot be disregarded.
- Red Avadavat** *Estrilda amandava*  
Aberdeen: two on November 16th, on a dumping ground (JMR). A popular cagebird, and it is possible that these were "escapes".



**271 Lesser Black-tailed Hawfinch** *Euphonia migratoria*

LTV: several flocks on January 19th (JHS), four on January 26th (Society outing). UA: one on February 16th (JHS). Ping Shan: one on February 18th (JLCB, AStGW).

LTV: c.12 on November 16th. UA: two on December 13th (JLCB). Mai Po village: three on December 21st. Sha Kong: a male on December 26th (AMM).

**286 Chinese Greenfinch** *Chloris sinica* (B)

Widespread and not uncommon in winter. The only definite breeding record is from Castle Peak, but it was suspected at UA. Latest spring/summer report was June 3rd. Report again from November 8th onwards.

**288 Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*

Mai Po village: one on April 18th (MGW). UA: two on June 19th and September 28th (JLCB). Not previously recorded in the Colony, but this is a popular cage-bird, and these reports may well be of "escapes".

**290 Chinese Tree-Sparrow** *Passer montanus* (B)

Common resident, widespread.

**302 Grey-headed Bunting** *Emberiza fucata*

Fairly common winter visitor, widespread. Last recorded, from Ping Shan: one on April 13th. First recorded, from Luen Tak marshes: several on November 10th (AMM).

**305 Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla*

Uncommon winter visitor. Mai Po marshes: one in February/March (JNH). Repulse Bay: some in winter (WWT). Sek Kong village: one on November 10th (BCW).

**308 Tristram's Bunting** *Emberiza tristrami*

UA: a male on February 27th (JLCB). This is the fourth record for the Colony.

**315 Masked Bunting** *Emberiza spodocephala*

Common winter visitor, widespread. Last recorded, from UA: several till the end of April (JLCB). First recorded, from Ping Shan: one on November 12th (AMM).

**322 Chestnut Bunting** *Emberiza rutila*

LTV: a female on December 21st (AMM). This is the third record for the Colony.

**323 Yellow-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza aureola*

Ping Shan marshes: small parties widespread in the area from October 8th to November 12th (several observers). Long Valley: one on October 15th (JNH).

**324 Crested Bunting** *Melophus melanicterus* (B)

Reported from widespread areas in the NT (not from H.K. Island) except from July to October inclusive. Breeding proved at Tai Lam Chung Res. but pairs in spring reported from Castle Peak, Sek Kong village, Route Twisk and Tai Mo Shan. Small flocks in winter.

**333 Eastern House-Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* (B)

Very common summer resident. First reported, from Mai Po: two on February 18th (JHS). Last reported, from Ping Shan: one on October 26th (WWT).

**335 Red-rumped Swallow** *Hirundo daurica*

Mai Po marshes: one on April 20th (AMM, MGW, IWY).

**339 Streak-eyed Wagtail** *Motacilla alba ocularis*

Common winter visitor, widespread. Last recorded, from Ping Shan: several on April 13th (AMM). First recorded, from Sek Kong village and Mai Po marshes: on September 28th.

**342 White-faced Wagtail** *Motacilla alba leucopsis*

Common winter visitor, widespread. Last recorded from Ping Shan: several on March 23rd (AMM). First recorded, from Castle Peak: one on August 16th (EGJ).

**343 Eastern Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

Common winter visitor, widespread. Last recorded, from UA: one on May 19th. First recorded, from UA, one on August 24th (JLCB).

**344 Eastern Blue-headed Wagtail** *Motacilla flava similima*

Mai Po marshes: one on April 6th (AMM). LTV: one or two on October 19th (EDW).

**345 Grey-headed Wagtail** *Motacilla flava macronyx*

LTV: one on October 19th (EDW).

**346 Eastern Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava taiwana*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor, but very local. All reports are from Deep Bay marshes and LTV. Last recorded, from Mai Po marshes: several on May 4th (AMM). First recorded, from LTV: several on October 19th (EDW). Many hundreds of 'flava' wagtails were seen in the Deep Bay marshes in autumn, especially in October, but few allowed approach close enough for recognition. Those that eventually became less wild in November were all of this race.



- 348 Forest Wagtail** *Dendronanthus indicus*  
 Castle Peak: one on September 13th (EGJ). Lady Clementi's Ride: one on September 26th (JNH). San Hui, Castle Peak: one on September 27th and 28th (EGJ). UA: one on October 6th (DCB).
- 350 Eastern Tree-Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni*  
 Common winter visitor, widespread. Last recorded, from Castle Peak: one in song on April 13th. First recorded, from Ping Shan: one on October 20th (AMM).
- 354 Red-throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus*  
 Fairly common winter visitor. Local reports are all from the Deep Bay Marshes. Last recorded, from Ping Shan two on April 13th. First recorded, from Ping Shan: three on November 10th (AMM).
- 356 Richard's Pipit** *Anthus richardi richardi*  
 Common and widespread in winter. Last and first dates of this race may over-lap the next but it is believed that the following dates refer definitely to this race:- Last reported, from Yuen Long: several on April 16th. First reported, from Ping Shan marshes: one on September 7th (AMM).
- x **357 Chinese Pipit** *Anthus richardi sinensis (B?)*  
 Between May 19th and July 28th, birds almost certainly of this race were seen, either carrying food or behaving anxiously on approach, in the following places: Yuen Long, top of Route Twisk, top of Tai Mo Shan, Luen Tak and Tai Lam Chung Res. (AMM).
- 365 South China Skylark** *Alauda gulgula*  
 Ping Shan marshes: four on December 14th (AMM, BCW).
- 370 South China White-Eye** *Zosterops simplex (B)*  
 Resident, common locally, especially on H.K. Island and in Deep Bay mangrove swamps on migration. Breeding proved at Repulse Bay.
- 374 Chinese Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum cruentatum*  
 LTV: reported on at least six occasions throughout the year (JLCB, AMM, JHS). Immature birds were seen on September 8th and October 4th (AMM).  
 UA: one or two birds on six occasions from October 15th to December 22nd (JLCB).
- 382 Green Woodpecker** *Picus canus*  
 LTV: single birds, both in the same wood, on April 7th and August 4th (AMM).

- 399 Japanese Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*  
 Sek Kong: one on January 8th. LTV.: one on January 26th (AMM). Ping Shan marshes: one on February 18th (Society outing). UA: one on February 18th (JHS). Luen Tak: one on March 23rd (AMM).  
 Sek Kong: one on September 27th (EGJ), one on November 15th (MPR).
- 400 Chinese Great Barbet** *Megalaima virens (B?)*  
 LTV: reported throughout the year by several observers. Double Haven: one on April 26th (JNH). H.K. Island: recorded from above Victoria and from the area between Aberdeen and Repulse Bay up to the Peak, during spring. Au Ha, Shataukok: one calling on July 25th (AMM).
- 402 Asiatic Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*  
 Ping Shan: one on April 16th (AMM). UA: one on April 16th and 20th (JLCB). Long Valley: one on October 15th (JNH).
- 407 Indian Cuckoo** *Cuculus micropterus (B?)*  
 Local summer resident. First reported from Lamma Island and Ping Shan: calling on April 20th (several observers). Last reported, from Castle Peak: one on September 25th (EGJ).
- 410 Burmese Plaintive Cuckoo** *Cacomantis merulinus (B?)*  
 Summer resident, widespread but local. First recorded, from Ping Shan: one calling on March 23rd (AMM). Last recorded from Ping Shan marshes: two on October 26th (WWT). Single reports from UA and Shouson Hill, remainder from the western half of the NT,
- 413 Chinese Koel** *Eudynamis scolopaceus (B?)*  
 Summer resident, common locally. First recorded, from Ping Shan: a male calling on March 12th. Last recorded, from Castle Peak: a male on November 14th (AMM).
- 414 Chinese Crow-Pheasant** *Centropus sinensis (B?)*  
 Common resident, widespread. Reported from H.K. Island, Lamma Island, and throughout the NT.
- 415 Lesser Crow-Pheasant** *Centropus bengalensis (B?)*  
 Less common resident than the previous species, but also widespread.
- 418 Eastern Rose-ringed Paroquet** *Psittacula krameri*  
 Small parties reported from Murray Barracks, Cathedral, Government House, Kennedy Road and UA throughout the year.  
 LTV: one on October 19th (EDW). This appears to be the first report from the NT.



- 419 Chinese Broad-billed Roller** *Eurystomus orientalis*  
 Repulse Bay: one on September 22nd (WWT). LTV: one on October 4th (AMM). Upper Aberdeen Res: one on October 30th (EDW). Castle Peak: one almost daily at dusk from November 2nd to 10th (AMM), and last reported there November 20th (RWH).
- x **423 Chinese Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis (B)*  
 All records are from the Deep Bay area, either from Luen Tak or the mouth of the Shum Chun River. A family party was seen at Luen Tak on May 15th, a pair and two immatures (AMM).
- 424 Himalayan Spotted Kingfisher** *Ceryle lugubris*  
 Tai Lam Chung Res: a 'probable' bird on February 8th, December 12th and 20th (AMM). No good views were obtained, but the combined notes of the three sightings are nearly conclusive.
- 425 Common Indian Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis (B?)*  
 Quite common locally on rocky seashore and marshy areas. Resident, but breeding not proved.
- 426 White-breasted Kingfisher** *Halcyon smyrnensis (B)*  
 Resident, common locally especially in the Deep Bay marshes. Breeding proved at UA (1-2 pairs), LTV, Sek Kong village and possibly at Shouson Hill.
- x **427 Black-capped Kingfisher** *Halcyon pileata*  
 Fairly common, but local, winter visitor, mainly to the Deep Bay marshes. Two summer records, Shouson Hill: one on June 28th, and a pair on June 29th (JLCB). Otherwise reported from Repulse Bay, Castle Peak, Kai Tak, Ping Shan marshes and Mai Po marshes.
- 430 Eastern Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*  
 Shataukok: one in early May (per IWY). This bird was seen by Capt. T. Bellers of 1/6th Gurkha Rifles, who is acquainted with the species in India and Nepal. This is the third record for the Colony.
- 433 Large White-rumped Swift** *Apus pacificus*  
 Widespread, and very common at the height of spring passage. First reported, from Violet Hill: two on January 19th (AStGW). An unusual record was at Sek Kong: one on July 12th (AMM).

Waglan: birds believed to be this species appear to roost or possibly nest in crevices in the cliffs; seen flying in and out at dawn and dusk, but seldom by day (CBT). Last seen, Hebe Haven: two on September 9th (AMM), in fact the only autumn record.

- x **434 Malay House-Swift** *Apus affinis (B)*  
 Route Twisk: c.20 on January 8th (AMM). UA: eight on February 16th (JHS). Breeding was proved at Tsun Wan (at least four pairs) and Yuen Long (four pairs). Birds were also seen during the breeding season at Mongkok, Shamshuipo and Castle Peak.  
 A pair used an old House Swallow's nest at Castle Peak as a roost from early July until the end of the year, building up the sides with straw and feathers almost to the ceiling (AMM).
- 437 Japanese Nightjar** *Caprimulgus indicus*  
 The Peak: one calling on May 3rd (JNH). Lok Ma Chau: one or two seen between November 2nd and 15th. Bird's Hill: one flushed in daylight called briefly in flight on December 13th (JNH).
- 438 Swinhoe's Nightjar** *Caprimulgus affinis (B?)*  
 Positive records (identified by call-note) are as follows: - Tam Mei a pair in early May (MGW, IWY). Castle Peak Hotel: one on May 15th and 21st, and on June 12th (AMM). Fanling Golf Course: a pair in late May (IWY). In addition, some if not all of several nightjars feeding on Sek Kong Airstrip during July may have been of this species (AMM).
- 451 Bare-footed Collared Scops-Owl** *Otus bakkamoena*  
 One calling in Conduit Road on May 16th (JNH) and another at Repulse Bay on November 1st, 3rd and 4th (WWT) are our only reports of an alleged "common resident".
- 458 Whitely's Barred Owlet** *Glaucidium cuculoides*  
 LTV, one in April (MGW, IWY).
- 461 Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*  
 Widespread winter visitor, but local, and uncommon except in Deep Bay. Last reported, from Deep Bay: one on April 7th (AStGW). First reported from Mong Tseng: one reported shot about September 28th (per JNH). Also reported from Tsing Lung Tau, Castle Peak Road, Tung Chung Island, Green Island and Tolo Harbour.



**464 Eastern Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*

The Peak: one on February 23rd (AStGW). Mai Po marshes: one on August 9th and 24th (AMM). Sek Kong village: one male on December 7th (BCW).

**467 Chinese Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

LTV: one on January 19th (JHS). Sek Kong: a pair on January 22nd and one on February 4th. Ping Shan: two males on April 13th (AMM). Repulse Bay: in winter once (undated) (WWT).

Mai Po marshes: a male on August 9th. Sek Kong: a female on December 29th (AMM).

**470 North Asian Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

Ping Shan marshes: a "probable" bird on December 14th (BCW, AMM).

**475 Japanese Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

Widespread in winter but not really common. Reported from the Peak, Kowloon and many areas in the N.T. Last reported, from Castle Peak: one on February 22nd. First autumn record, from Mai Po marshes: two on September 28th (AMM).

**478 Himalayan Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos*

Tai Lam Chung Res: a pair on January 1st. Ping Shan: a pair on January 19th. Jubilee Res: a pair on March 15th.

LTV: one on October 4th (AMM). Kam Tin: a pair on November 22nd (BCW). Au Tau Crossroads: one on December 14th (AMM, BCW).

**481 Spotted Eagle** *Aquila clanga*

Sek Kong: one on February 3rd (AMM). Tai Tseng: one on February 18th, March 6th and 23rd, April 7th (JLCB, AMM, AStGW, MGW).

Mai Po marshes: one on November 30th (AMM).

**482 Bonelli's Eagle** *Hieraetus fasciatus*

Tai Lam Chung Res: an adult with two Golden Eagles on January 1st, LTV: an adult with one Golden Eagle on October 4th (AMM).

x **488 White-bellied Sea-Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucogaster (B?)*

Resident, but breeding not proved. All searches and contact with the locals at Cape D'Aguiar have been fruitless, although the birds themselves were seen in the area (JNH). A pair, with a possible immature, were seen on November 2nd (EDW).

Reported to have bred at Un Kok, Lamma Island, in the last two years (per WWT). Otherwise one or two birds have been reported throughout the year from Port Shelter, H.K. Harbour, Lan Tao, Lamma Island, Tai Tam Res: and the south coast of H.K. Island.

x **492 Black-eared Kite** *Milvus migrans (B)*

Resident. Uncommon and local in summer. Common and widespread in winter. Breeding proved at Repulse Bay (JLCB), but suspected also at Stonecutters and Bluff Island (JNH).

During the summer, this species is rarely seen away from H. K. Island and the Harbour. In winter, however, parties of 30-40 have been seen over Sek Kong, Yuen Long and Lan Tao.

The most important winter roost is now Stonecutters Island, where c.100 were seen on August 26th, c.120 on October 26th, and an estimated maximum of c.900 on December 25th (JNH).

Magazine Gap: few seen until December 23rd, when there were c.100 an hour before sunset (JNH).

Ma Wan Island: 100+ seen on several occasions in February and March just before sunset (AMM).

**497 Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

Mai Po marshes: single female harriers with broad white rump patches were seen on several occasions from November 16th to the end of the year (AMM, BCW). They were considered more likely to be this species than any other, based on La Touche's opinion of their relative commonness.

**498 Pied Harrier** *Circus melanoleucus*

Mai Po marshes: one on February 18th (JHS). A young male and an adult male on several occasions from November 16th to the end of the year (AMM, BCW). Ping Shan marshes: a male on October 20th (Society outing).

**500 Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

Winter visitor, all records are from Mai Po marshes or Ping Shan marshes. Last recorded, from Mai Po marshes: one on April 20th. First recorded, from Mai Po marshes: a female on October 12th (AMM). Never more than one bird recorded at a time, but both male and female have been seen.

**501 Japanese Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

One summer record, from Sek Kong village: two on June 15th (BCW). Otherwise single birds, widespread, in winter.



**506 Asiatic Sparrow-hawk** *Accipiter nisus*

Occasional winter visitor, with some numbers on migration in autumn. Reported from H.K. Island, Jubilee Res., Castle Peak, Mong Tseng, Ping Shan, Mai Po, Sek Kong and LTV. Last recorded, from UA: one on May 16th (JLCB). First recorded, from Mong Tseng: two on October 14th (AMM).

**518 Chinese Spotted Dove** *Streptopelia chinensis* (B)

Common resident, widespread, including built-up areas.

**520 Rufous Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia orientalis*

LTV: one in April (MGW, IWY). UA: two on passage in autumn (JLCB).

**523 Burmese Red Turtle-Dove** *Oenopopelia tranquebarica*

Ping Shan: one shot out of a flock of seven on October 7th (per JNH). Waglan: flocks believed to be of this species seen occasionally (undated) (CBT).

**540 Japanese Grey Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*

Ping Shan: two shot and three others seen on January 19th (per AMM). Cape D'Aigular: one flushed on October 8th (JNH).

**543 Chinese Francolin** *Francolinus pintadeanus* (B)

Common resident, widespread in suitable habitat. Breeding proved at Castle Peak (EGJ) and near the top of Route Twisk (JNH).

**548 South China Button Quail** *Turnix suscitator blakistoni*

Junk Island: one shot on December 6th. Tai Lam Chung Res: one shot and five others seen on December 10th (JNH). A skin of this species was sent to the British Museum (Natural History) for identification. This is an addition to the Colony's list as previously only the Burmese Button Quail (*Turnix maculatus*) was known here. The latter has yellow legs whereas the South China Button Quail's are bluish-grey. Both species are called Mandarin Quail by local sportsmen.

**552 Indian Water-Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

Mai Po marshes: a pair on November 22nd (BCW).

**553 Indian Banded Rail** *Rallus striatus*

All reports are from either Mai Po marshes or Luen Tak marshes, on the edge of Deep Bay. One or two birds were seen or heard on ten occasions from June 29th to the end of the year (AMM).

**559 Chinese White-breasted Waterhen** *Amaurornis phoenicurus* (B?)

Although this species probably breeds commonly, all reports are sight records, mainly in the winter months. The breeding voice-call does not seem to be known here. Reports come from Castle Peak, Ping Shan, Sek Kong, Mai Po, Luen Tak, Shataukok, Queen Mary's Hospital and Silvermine Bay.

**560 Indian Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

Shun Wan, Plover Cove: one on November 8th (JNH). Castle Peak: an immature on November 12th (AMM).

**565 Painted Snipe** *Rostratula benghalensis*

Ping Shan: one shot on September 27th. Lok Ma Chau: two shot out of several seen on November 18th (per JNH).

**573 Large Indian Pratincole** *Glareola maldivarum*

Lamma Island: a pair on April 20th (Society outing). Mai Po marshes: a pair on July 27th, one on August 9th, one on September 28th (AMM). Ping Shan marshes: four on October 26th (WWT).

**574 Yellow-legged Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus cachinnans*

The only positive reports are from Hong Kong Harbour: one on January 18th, several on February 2nd (AMM) but many of the herring gulls seen in the harbour (see next race) must also be of this race, if only they could be seen more closely.

**575 Pink-legged Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus vegae*

Winter visitor, mainly to H.K. Harbour, but also reported from Lantao, Castle Peak and Lamma Island. Last recorded, from West Lamma Channel: large numbers on March 29th (AStGW). First recorded, from Lamma Channel: some about October 5th (per JNH). Numbers vary greatly, and birds are not always seen even in H.K. Harbour. The majority of birds recognized have been of this race.

**577 Black-tailed Gull** *Larus crassirostris*

Tsing Lung Tau, 14 milestone, Castle Peak Road: up to five seen on six occasions between January 3rd and March 2nd, always just before or during very hard weather (AMM). Nearly all birds seen were adults in full plumage.

**581 Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*

Deep Bay: common winter visitor. Last recorded, one on March 30th. Maximum numbers in early months were c.20 on January 5th. First recorded, 12 on November 23rd. Maximum numbers at the end of the year were c.100 on December 26th (many observers).



- 586 Swinhoe's Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida*  
Ping Shan marshes: five (four adults) on September 7th, three adults on October 8th. Mai Po village: 16, mostly adults, on September 14th (AMM).  
Yuen Long fishponds: of some 50 terns seen during the week October 12th to 19th, some if not most were probably of this species (AMM, BCW).
- 587 White-winged Black Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus*  
Mai Po marshes: c.100 from May 5th to 8th, one on 12th (AMM, IWY). Off Green Island: c.15 on May 18th (Society outing).  
Yuen Long fishponds: of some 50 terns seen during the week October 12th to 19th, a few were probably of this species (AMM, BCW).
- 588 Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia*  
Mai Po marshes: three on April 6th, five on May 12th, one on May 24th (AMM). At sea off Long Harbour: two on April 26th (JNH).
- 589 Chinese Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*  
Mai Po marshes: four on May 4th, one on 12th, two on June 12th and two on July 27th (JNH, AMM).  
Yuen Long fishponds: three adults from October 12th to 15th (BCW).
- 595 Chinese Little Tern** *Sterna albifrons*  
Mai Po marshes: one on May 13th (MGW, IWY).
- 601 Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*  
Mai Po marshes: one on April 20th (AMM, MGW, IWY), one on May 4th (JNH) and one on May 18th (AMM).
- 602 Grey Plover** *Charadrius squatarola*  
Mai Po marshes: one on February 18th (JHS), one on May 4th, 12th, 18th and 24th, one in nearly full plumage on August 16th, two on December 7th and one on 14th (AMM, BCW).
- 605 Chinese Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*  
Mai Po marshes: three on June 12th. Otherwise a common winter visitor and passage migrant to the Deep Bay marshes. Largest numbers were c.100 on February 9th and c.300 on October 26th (several observers).
- 606 Chinese Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*  
Mai Po marshes: one on December 10th, at the mouth of Shum Chun River (AMM). Not previously recorded in the Colony.

- 608 Chinese Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*  
Yuen Long: three or four on March 14th and 16th. Mai Po marshes: three on September 28th. Ping Shan marshes: one on October 20th, c.12 on December 14th (AMM, BCW). Lamma Island: one on October 21st (WWT).
- 611 Mongolian Sandplover** *Charadrius mongolus*  
Mai Po marshes: a few in late May (several observers), one on June 29th, up to 12 seen between August 16th and November 30th (several observers).
- 612 Large Sandplover** *Charadrius leschenaultii*  
Tide Island, Port Shelter: two on April 15th (AStGW). Mai Po marshes: up to 30 between April 20th and June 29th, and up to 100 between July 27th and November 16th (several observers).
- 613 Eastern Golden Plover** *Charadrius dominicus*  
Mai Po marshes: one on January 5th (JHS), c.50 on March 30th, c.20 on April 6th, and two, including one in breeding plumage, on May 4th (JNH, AMM). Luen Tak marshes: three on March 23rd (AMM).
- 614 Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*  
Mai Po marshes: 23 together on February 9th, and a party of 35 on November 30th (AMM). Ping Shan marshes: a party of 27 on December 14th (AMM, BCW).
- 619 Eastern Curlew** *Numenius arquata*  
Mai Po marshes: one on April 6th and 20th (AMM). Rocky Harbour: c.30 flying north over the sea on April 14th (AStGW).  
Mai Po marshes: small numbers from August 16th to the end of the year; maximum 20 on September 21st (several observers).
- 621 Eastern Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*  
Mai Po marshes: up to 16 between April 6th and May 12th. Lamma Island: a pair on April 20th (several observers).  
Mai Po marshes: small parties frequently from August 3rd to October 26th. Largest party was 33 on August 16th (several observers).
- 623 Eastern Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*  
Mai Po marshes: one on November 16th (AMM).
- 624 Eastern Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*  
Mai Po marshes: one on March 30th, three on April 20th, two on May 12th, one on September 28th, one on November 16th and two on 22nd (AMM, BCW, MGW, IWY).



**626 Eastern Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinerea*

Mai Po marshes: up to 20 birds on many occasions between April 15th and May 24th (maximum on May 24th) (AMM, MGW, IWY). Luen Tak marshes: one on May 15th (AMM).

Mai Po marshes: up to 12 birds on many occasions between August 3rd and November 16th (many observers).

**627 Common Sandpiper** *Tringa hypoleucos*

Winter visitor and passage migrant in small numbers, local but widespread. Reported from Deep Bay marshes, Castle Peak, along the Castle Peak Road, Stonecutters, H.K. Island, Lamma Island, Tide Cove, Tolo Harbour and LTV. Last reported, from Mai Po marshes: one on May 15th. First reported, from Mai Po marshes: one on July 27th (several observers).

**628 Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

Mai Po marshes: one on February 9th (AMM). Up to three were seen from September 14th to the end of the year. Also reported from Sek Kong (several observers), and Stonecutters: one on August 10th (MPR).

**629 Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

All reports are from the Deep Bay marshes. Spring passage was from March 14th to April 20th. Many large flocks seen, the largest gathering being c.250 on April 20th (AMM, MGW, IWY).

Autumn passage was from July 27th to November 15th, usually single birds or very small parties, the largest party being c.40 on October 20th (many observers).

**630 Grey-rumped Sandpiper** *Tringa incana*

Mai Po marshes: up to eight birds between May 4th and 24th (several observers). Luen Tak marshes: c.30 on May 15th (AMM).

Mai Po marshes: up to six between August 9th and September 14th (several observers).

**631 Eastern Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

Mai Po marshes: up to 15 between April 6th and May 24th (several observers). Conduit Road, H.K.: one reported from a rain puddle on a roof in mid-summer (per JNH).

Mai Po marshes: up to 40 on many dates between July 27th and November 16th (several observers). Maximum numbers in early August.

**632 Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

Mai Po marshes: seen on several occasions up to March 30th. Largest party was c.50 on February 9th. Seen again from November 16th to the end of the year, the largest party being c.30 on December 21st (several observers).

**633 Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*

Mai Po marshes: one on February 9th (AMM).

**634 Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

Mai Po marshes: seen frequently up to May 24th. Largest numbers were c.50 on April 20th. Again seen frequently from July 27th to the end of the year. Largest numbers were c.40 on October 26th (several observers).

**637 Sanderling** *Crocethia alba*

Mai Po marshes: one on August 9th, September 14th and 28th, and ten on November 16th (AMM).

**639 Eastern Little Stint** *Calidris ruficollis*

Yuen Long: two on March 14th, four on March 16th. Mai Po marshes: two on May 18th, two on August 9th (AMM).

**640 Long-toed Stint** *Calidris subminuta*

Mai Po marshes: one shot on April 12th (per JNH). This bird was flushed from muddy ground, and flew very like a Snipe. Three other birds believed to be the same got up together shortly after, and climbed quickly to about 100 ft before making off. The skin was sent to the British Museum (Natural History) where it was positively identified. Not previously recorded in the Colony.

**641 Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*

Ping Shan marshes: one shot out of a party of seven on October 26th (per WWT).

**642 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** *Calidris acuminata*

Mai Po marshes: one shot on April 30th (per JNH).

**643 Curlew-Sandpiper** *Calidris testacea*

Mai Po marshes: two on May 18th, one on August 9th (AMM).

**644 Eastern Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

Mai Po marshes: one on January 5th, c.20 on February 9th, a few on 18th. Luen Tak marshes: several on January 19th (AMM, JHS).

Mai Po marshes: seen occasionally from August 9th to the end of the year, largest numbers being 30-40 on November 16th (BCW).

**645 Australian Knot** *Calidris canutus*

Mai Po marshes: three in breeding plumage, May 24th, and two on September 14th (AMM).



- 646 Great Knot** *Calidris tenuirostris*  
Mai Po marshes: five on September 14th (AMM).
- 647 Eastern Broad-billed sandpiper** *Limicola falcinellus*  
Mai Po marshes: 12 on May 12th, four on August 9th, two on the 16th (AMM).
- 649 Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus*  
East Lamma Channel: about five on the sea on March 29th (AStGW). Waglan: seen occasionally around the rocky shore "pecking at the froth" (CBT).
- 650 Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*  
Sek Kong: one picked up dead under telegraph wires on October 30th (TA). At least four shot in the valley from November 22nd to the end of the year (per JNH). Lok Ma Chau: one seen on November 15th (JNH). Sek Kong village: one on December 8th. LTV: one seen on December 14th (BCW). Considered by local sportsmen to be a good year for this species, but not up to pre-war standards.
- 653 Pintail Snipe** *Capella gallinago*  
Mai Po marshes: one shot on October 25th (JNH).
- 654 Eastern Fantail Snip** *Capella gallinago*  
Yuen Long: one on March 26th. Mai Po marshes: one on March 30th. From August 23rd to the end of the year, birds were seen, and shot, from widespread areas in the northern part of the NT, including Deep Bay marshes, Sek Kong, Lok Ma Chau, Long Valley, Laffans Plain, and Tolo Harbour. Largest numbers in one area were c.30 on October 25th at Mai Po.
- 658 Spotted-billed Pelican** *Pelecanus philippensis*  
Deep Bay, off Mai Po marshes: 11 (four adults) on January 5th, 36 (mostly adults) on February 9th (AMM), c.10 on February 18th (JHS).
- 659 Southern Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*  
Deep Bay: three on January 5th and 19th (AMM).  
Near East Brother Island: c.30 on March 9th. Tai-O: c.8 on March 9th (AStGW). Tsing Lung Tau: two on March 15th, six on March 16th. Last reported, from Deep Bay one on March 30th (AMM).  
Deep Bay: up to 12 between October 26th and the end of the year. Tai Lam Chung Res: four on December 17th, five on December 20th (AMM, BCW). Also reported from Ping Chau, Stonecutters Island and Silvermine Bay.

- 663 Lesser Frigate-bird** *Fregata ariel*  
Waglan: single birds, probably of this species, seen occasionally (undated) (CBT). There is only one previous record for the Colony.
- 672 Swinhoe's Black-faced Spoonbill** *Platalea minor*  
Mai Po marshes: one present from May 6th to 18th (AMM, MGW, IWY), and one on November 30th (AMM, BCW).
- 673 White Ibis** *Threskiornis melanocephalus*  
Mai Po marshes: an immature on August 9th, just after very strong winds, two (one adult and one immature) on November 16th, five (two adults) on November 23rd, and three immatures on December 21st (AMM, EDW, BCW).  
Lok Ma Chau: four flew past on November 19th (JNH).
- 680 Eastern Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*  
Mai Po marshes: one on April 6th, one on May 4th, and one on October 12th (JNH, AMM). Ping Shan marshes: an immature on October 20th (WWT).
- 681 Eastern Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*  
Common winter visitor to the Deep Bay marshes. Last seen: one on May 24th. First seen: one on August 24th (several observers). Otherwise only reported from near Rocky Harbour: c.8 flying north on April 14th (AStGW).
- 683 Great Egret** *Egretta alba*  
Common winter visitor to the Deep Bay marshes. Last seen: one on May 18th. First seen: three on August 24th (several observers).
- x **685 Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta (B)*  
Resident, breeding at the Yuen Long egretty and at Mai Po†. Common all the year round in the Deep Bay marshes. Otherwise only reported from Stonecutters: three on May 10th (JNH).
- x **686 Swinhoe's Egret** *Egretta eulophates (B)*  
Summer resident, breeding at the Yuen Long egretty†. First recorded, at the egretty: c.4 on April 16th. Last recorded, from Mai Po marshes: a pair on June 12th (AMM).
- x **687 Eastern Reef-Heron** *Egretta sacra (B)*  
Waglan: a pair nests each year in the same place (CBT).  
Bluff Island: a pair were seen flying from a crevice on the cliff-face about 60 ft. up on May 26th. The crevice was reached, and an empty but well-trodden and much-limed nest was found. It appeared that a brood had been hatched in the nest, but there was no trace of eggshells or young birds (Society outing).

†See table on page 6.



Otherwise reported singly and occasionally throughout the year except from June to September inclusive from the following places: Port Shelter, H.K. Island, Lamma Island, Stonecutters, Silvermine Bay, Junk Island and along the Castle Peak Road (several observers).

x 688 Cattle Egret *Ardeola ibis* (B)

Summer resident, breeding at the Yuen Long egrettry†. First recorded, from Mai Po marshes: four on April 1st (MGW). Last recorded, from Sek Kong: one on November 28th (AMM).

x 689 Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus* (B)

Resident, common locally in summer but less so in winter. Breeding at several heronries in the NT†. Main areas are the Deep Bay marshes and Shataukok, but widespread in the northern part of the NT. Otherwise only reported from Lamma: one on April 20th, and Shek-O: one on May 23rd (several observers).

x 691 Indian Little Green Heron *Butorides striatus* (B)

Mai Po marshes: one or two birds frequently between May 12th and August 31st (several observers). Luen Tak marshes: up to four adults seen between May 15th and September 7th. Two pairs, and one juvenile attended by one of the adults, seen on July 6th (AMM). LTV: one on October 4th (AMM).

692 Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Mai Po marshes: two (an adult and an immature) on October 26th (AMM).

x 695 Chinese Little Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis* (B)

Mai Po marshes: seen frequently between April 30th and September 28th. Luen Tak marshes: seen frequently between May 15th and September 7th.†

696 Chestnut Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*

Luen Tak marshes: one on May 17th and 24th (AMM, IWY). Shataukok: two birds on June 8th (JNH, JMR).

699 Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Mai Po marshes: two flushed regularly from February to April, one on October 25th (JNH).

705 Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Tolo Harbour: one shot out of a pair at the end of November (per JNH). This is the third record for the Colony.

708 Grey Lag Goose *Anser anser*

Mai Po marshes: two on November 23rd (AMM). Although considered to be an occasional winter visitor, this appears to be the first positive record for the Colony.

†See table on page 6.

716 Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Mai Po marshes, at the mouth of the Shum Chun River: one on November 22nd and 23rd, a pair on the 30th and on December 28th (AMM, EDW, BCW).

718 Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Mai Po marshes: four reported shot in November but skins were not seen (per BCW).

719 Yellow-Nib Duck *Anas poecilorhynchos*

Mai Po marshes: c.100 on February 9th (AMM). From the last week in November, large numbers began to flight in to the marshes. Up to 100 birds have been seen on the evening flight (BCW).

720 Flacated Teal *Anas falcata*

Mai Po marshes: c.40 on February 9th. Luen Tak marshes: 14 (seven males) on April 13th (AMM).

722 Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Luen Tak marshes: six, including three males, on April 13th (AMM).

723 Teal *Anas crecca*

Mai Po marshes: small parties seen from October 26th to the end of the year. Parties flight in with yellow-nibs in the evenings (AMM, BCW).

725 Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Mai Po marshes: a male during March (JNH).

726 Pintail *Anas acuta*

Mai Po marshes: c.20 (eight males) on February 9th (AMM), 'many' on February 18th (JHS) and seven (one male) on December 10th (AMM).

741 Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Deep Bay: a "brown-headed" bird on December 7th (BCW). At least five "brown-headed" birds on December 26th (Society outing). These appear to be the first reports of this species since the days of Vaughan and Jones just prior to 1913, when it was said to be a common winter visitor.

743 Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Deep Bay: up to ten birds on several occasions until March 23rd. Up to ten birds from November 15th to the end of the year (several observers).

747 Chinese Little Grebe *Podiceps rufficollis*

Tai Lam Chung Res: up to ten birds seen from December 10th to the end of the year (JNH, AMM, BCW). Shum Chun River: two on December 28th (BCW).



# The Nest-Building Methods of The Chinese Tailor-Bird.

(*Orthotomus sutorius longicauda*)

by  
E. G. Jansen

This List was compiled by the Honorary Recorder from the records of the following observers:—

Captain T. Armstrong, RAMC  
Miss M. E. M. Benham  
Mr. J. L. Cranmer-Byng  
Major R. W. Hebbs, RAEC  
Commander J.N. Humphreys, RN  
Reverend E. G. Jansen  
Captain A. M. Macfarlane, RA  
Mrs. D. H. Nelson  
Mr. H. J. Pearce  
Mr. M. P. Roser  
Mr. J. M. Rowlands  
Captain J. H. Sergeant, R. Sigs.  
Mr. C. B. Thirlwell  
Mr. W. W. Thomas  
Mr. A. StG. Walton  
Commander E. D. Webb, RN  
Captain B. C. Webster, RF  
Sgt. M. G. Woodhams, RAPC  
Captain I. W. Young, RAMC.

It was the writer's good fortune, to observe a pair of tailor-birds building a nest. The site chosen was in the upper branches of a mango tree, which grew beside a house, the nest being immediately opposite a shuttered window. By making a small aperture in the shutter it was possible to observe the birds at work without their having any suspicions that a human being was near. Those observations, together with inferences drawn from a careful examination of a dozen or more other nests, have prompted the writing of this article, the purpose of which is to advance the theory that the tailor-bird, in joining leaves together to form the walls of its nest, does not employ any method that may be described as sewing, stitching or knot-tying. The word that indicates the process most accurately is the term "studding."

In building its nest, the tailor-bird sometimes uses a single leaf, sometimes two leaves, and sometimes even three. The aim is to form a leaf-walled pocket which can be lined with down and soft fibres. To achieve this aim, the edges of the lower half of a leaf are drawn, not together, but towards each other and are held in a trumpeted position by threads which pass from one edge of the leaf to the other. The nest is always on the under-side of the leaf, the upper surface thus becoming a natural roof. The filling in of the soft lining is done as any other bird would do it and need not occupy the attention of this article. What this article is concerned with is the question: How are the threads fastened to the leaf?

The process may be described briefly as follows:— First the bird pierces the leaf with its bill, a process which involves no pecking of the leaf, but rather the use of the closed bill as a probe. The resultant hole is merely a puncture, the rough edges of the aperture remaining intact. This probing is always done from the inside outwards, so that the rough edges appear on the outer surface of the leaf. They play an important part in the third stage of the process.

The second step is to take a piece of thread in the bill, holding it about half an inch from one end. While this thread is still in the bill a tiny wad of soft down or spider's web is added to it. The down is moistened with saliva and, on being rolled, a little adheres to the thread.



The bird now takes this wad, with the thread passing through it, in the very tip of its bill and pushes it into the hole previously prepared. The broken edges of the aperture yield as the wad is inserted, but stick into its sides like spikes and prevent its return. Considerable strain may be applied to the thread thus inserted without the stud pulling out. The first end of the thread is now anchored and the process involves nothing more than is here described. There is no question of a thread being inserted from one side and then drawn through from the other. In a dozen nests carefully examined there is no evidence that any single thread has been "tied" or "stitched" in the commonly accepted sense of those two terms. (See Fig. 1.)

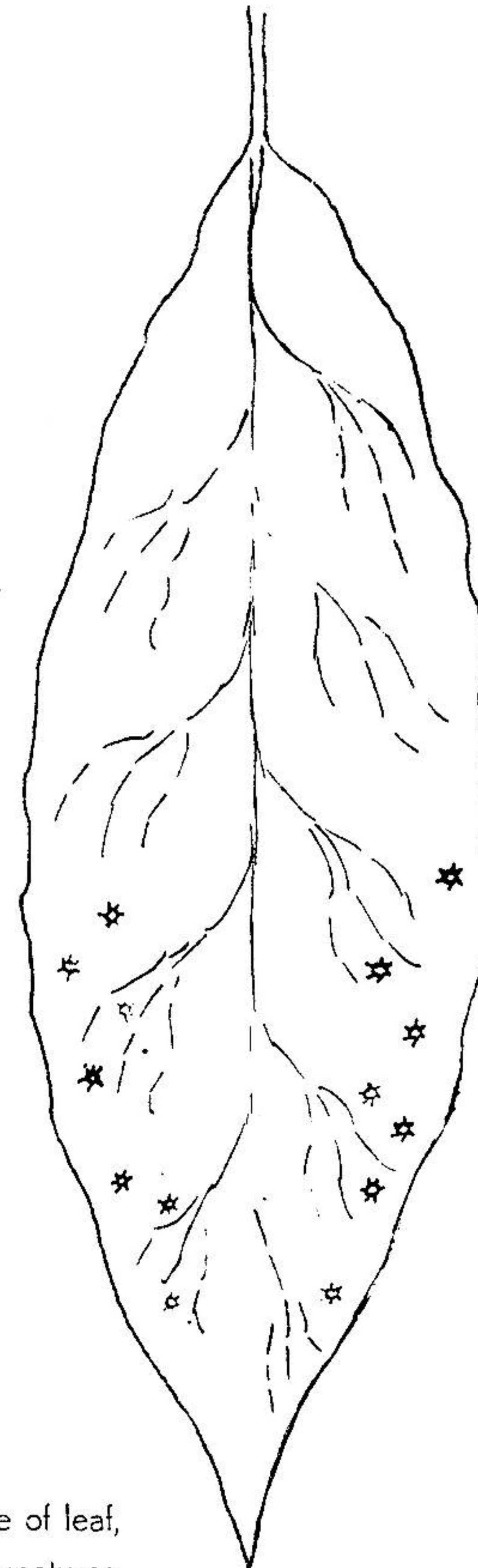
Having secured one end of the thread the bird now proceeds to deal with the other end. This it does by the same studding process, but, since the bird must have a certain length of thread to work with, and since it does not in any sense "lace" the edges together, there is necessarily a gap of an inch and a half to two inches between the two edges of the leaf, after both ends of the thread are affixed. It will be observed that a gap of this size between the leaf edges occurs in all tailor-birds' nests. It is an inevitable result of the method used. (See Fig. 2.)

The bird uses from ten to fifteen of these spanning threads, but does not necessarily complete them all before beginning the work of filling in the soft lining. The fibres of the lining interlock with the cross threads forming a firm wall between the two edges of the leaf.

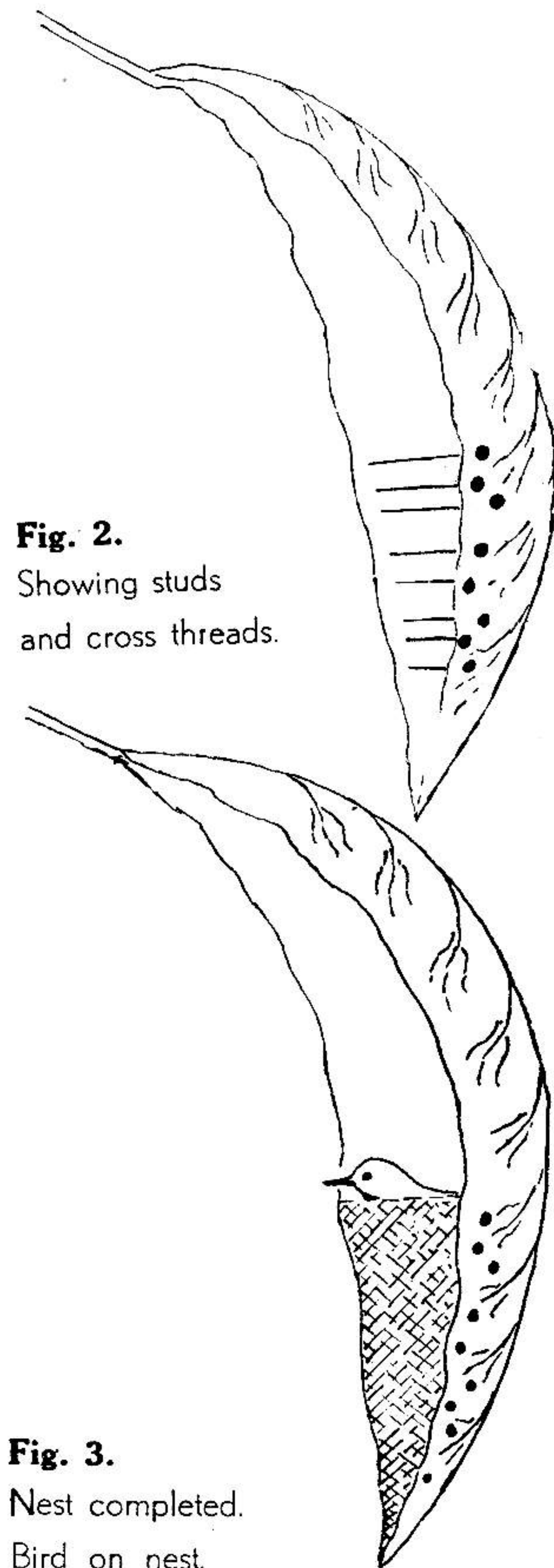
When two leaves are used in building the nest, two fibrous walls must be constructed instead of one, but the same studding process is employed.

The leaves which the tailor-bird favours for its nest are those of the wild fig tree (*Ficus chlorocarpa*). The leaves of this tree are from six to twelve inches in length and are of a tough texture, strong enough to hold the weight of the bird as it clings to them with its claws and thick enough to make a firm bed for the studs described above. Of many nests examined, most have used the leaves of *Ficus chlorocarpa*; some have used those of the mango tree (*Mangifera indica*), and some those of *Litsea monopetala*.

For spanning threads the brown silk-like strands of certain spiders' nests are usually chosen, but fine rootlets are also used, and sometimes the thin fibres found on the trunk of the fan palm (*Livistona chinensis*).



**Fig. 1.**  
Upper side of leaf,  
showing punctures.



**Fig. 2.**  
Showing studs  
and cross threads.

**Fig. 3.**  
Nest completed.  
Bird on nest.



The material usually selected for the studs is the white cloth-like web in which small spiders deposit their eggs.

*Note*

This article was originally written in the autumn of 1941. It was accepted for publication in the Hong Kong Naturalist, but never saw printer's ink, for the entry of the Japanese into Hong Kong brought to an end the publication of the "Naturalist". The article is offered here in its original form, but it is worth adding this: that subsequent observations of the nest-building methods of the tailor-bird have all confirmed the conclusions reached in those early days of my bird watching in South China.

E. G. J.



# A Survey of The Breeding Birds of Hong Kong

by

J. N. Humphreys

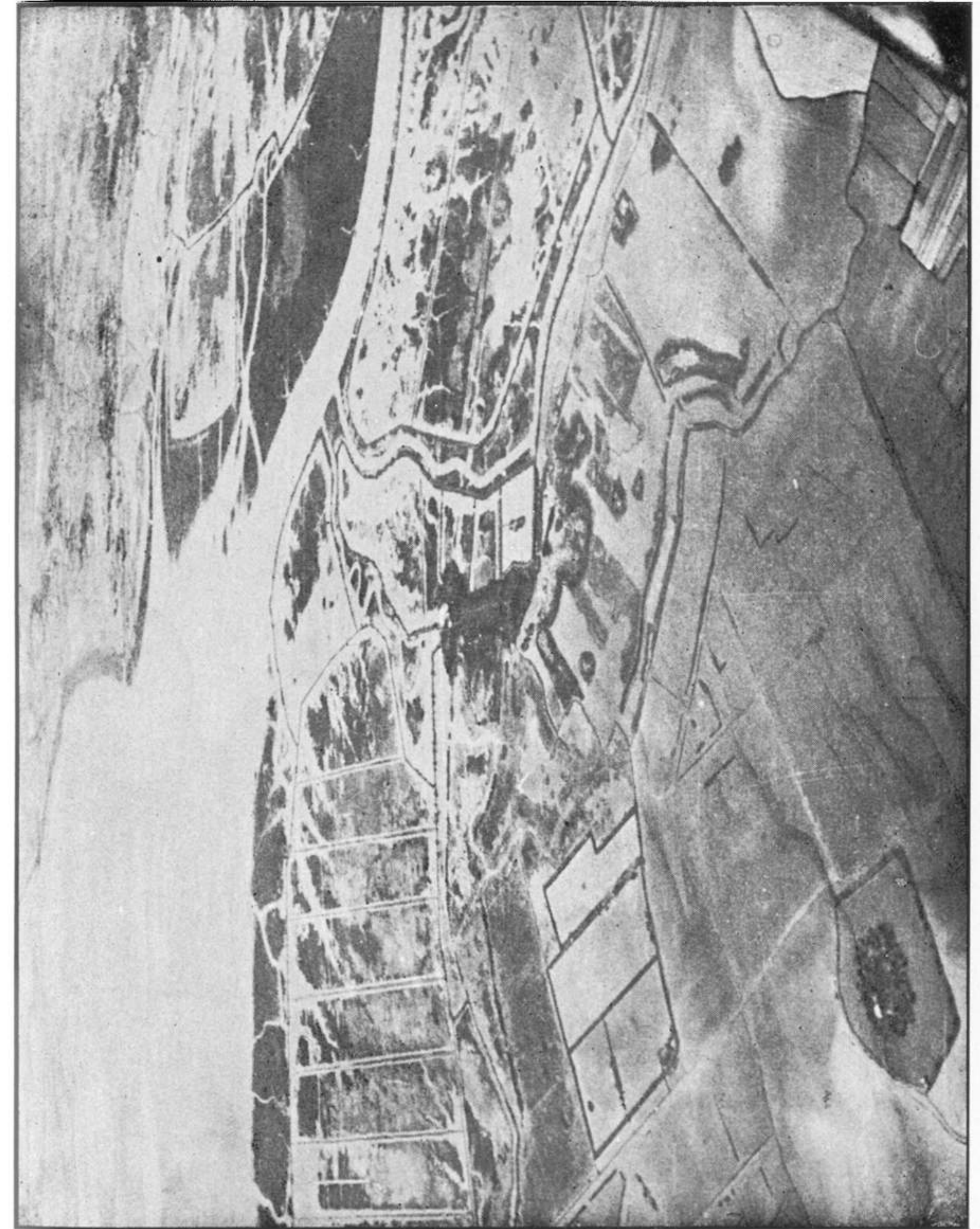
In 1933-38, La Touche wrote—"When Hong Kong was ceded to Great Britain it was a bare, rocky island, such as line the coast of south-east China, and the resident land birds of the Colony must nearly all be immigrants which have gradually found their way to the magnificent woods and luxuriant vegetation due to the efforts of the Hong Kong Forestry Department." Due to the ravages of the war years and the increased population, the woods and vegetation may not be so magnificent or luxuriant now as they were 25 years ago, but they are undoubtedly an improvement on their original state in the 1840s.

This article is an attempt to establish which birds breed here now and which have bred here in the past.

The attached table comprises a list of 61 birds which are believed to have bred in Hong Kong on at least one occasion during the period 1954-58. It is based mainly on F. J. Walker's Checklist, supplemented by his published Field Observations and the records of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society.

Positive breeding records for the last four years are lacking for several residents or summer visitors, and a list omitting these would be somewhat unrealistic. The unproven but almost certain breeding species have therefore been included with an asterisk against them.

Against each species an estimated breeding season, i.e. the period when eggs or young may be found, has been indicated where possible. This information is based on an article by M. Taylor in Volume IV, No. 1, of the Hong Kong Naturalist, also G. A. C. Herklots' Hong Kong Birds (1953) and the records of the Society. Taylor's article is of considerable interest. It was compiled from all available records in the Colony up to the end of 1932, and gives the nesting habits and descriptions of the eggs of 44 species, with illustrations of the eggs of 25 species. His list was stated to be incomplete and readers were requested to send in additional observations, particularly of egrets, herons, bitterns, rails, owls, bulbuls, kingfishers and cuckoos.



Maipo Marshes: Looking north-west with white Police Post  
in centre and mouth of Shum Chun beyond.





Lam Tsun Valley: Looking north-east with Route 1 running up centre of picture.

To the species included in the current list may be added the following definite breeding records for earlier years (the numbers in brackets refer to La Touche):—

- (166) *Ince's Paradise Flycatcher* Nest containing four young near Chung Kok — May 1935 (Herklots).
- (188) *Black-winged Cuckoo Shrike* Nest containing three young near Tsun Wan — July 1934 (H.K.N. Vol. V, No. 3).
- (359) *Upland Pipit* Nest with eggs on Tai Mo Shan — June 1950 (Britt per Herklots).
- (375) *Plain-coloured Flowerpecker* "Has bred" (Walker's check-list).
- (427) *Black-capped Kingfisher* Evidently several pairs nesting about 1908 (K.H. Jones per Herklots).
- (464) *Eastern Peregrine Falcon* Nest on Lion Rock — April 1936 (Herklots).
- (482) *Bonelli's Eagle* "Has bred" (Walker's Check-list — presumably based on the report of successful breeding by a pair of eagles at Castle Peak in 1937, which Herklots considered were probably of this species).
- (669) *Steller's Albatross* "Formerly bred 1866" (Walker's check-list). Due to volcanic eruptions which destroyed its main breeding grounds at Torishima, and the depredations of plume hunters, this magnificent albatross is probably now extinct.

Apart from verifying and elaborating this summary, there is plenty of scope for proving the breeding of additional species. The following is a list of birds which are likely to breed in the Colony:—

- (172) *Dusky Shrike*
- (248) *David's Hill Warbler*
- (266) *Chestnut-bellied Munia*
- (268) *Chinese White-backed Munia*
- (342) *White-faced Wagtail* Walker has records for every month and saw birds entering possible nest sites at Kai Tak between April and July.
- (357) *Chinese Pipit*
- (438) *Swinhoe's Nightjar*
- (445) *Ceylon Brown Fish Owl*
- (449) *Swinhoe's Eagle Owl*
- (553) *Indian Banded Rail*
- (696) *Chestnut Bittern*
- (747) *Chinese Little Grebe.*



**LIST OF BIRDS BELIEVED TO HAVE BRED IN HONG KONG AT LEAST ONCE 1954/58  
WITH AN INDICATION OF BREEDING SEASONS**

(THE NUMBERS IN BRACKETS REFER TO LA TOUCHE)

(Asterisks indicate unproven but almost certain breeders)	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mch.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.
(2) South East China Jungle Crow		_____	_____	_____						
(5) Collared Crow			_____	_____						
(8) Chinese Magpie		_____	_____	_____						
(11) Chinese Blue Magpie			_____	_____						
(21) South China Grey Tit			_____	_____						
(57) Black-Faced Laughing Thrush			_____	_____						
(59) * Black-Throated Laughing Thrush			_____	_____						
(65) Hwamei				_____	_____					
(90) Chinese Red-Vented Bulbul				_____	_____					
(91) Chinese Bulbul				_____	_____					
(94) Chinese Red-Whiskered Bulbul				_____	_____					
(121) Violet Whistling Thrush				_____	_____					
(142) Magpie Robin				_____	_____					
(171) Chinese Rufous-Backed Shrike				_____	_____					
(191) Chinese Black Drongo				_____	_____					
(194) Chinese Hair-Crested Drongo				_____	_____					
(214) Chinese Tailor Bird				_____	_____					
(215) Chinese Fantail Warbler				_____	_____					
(249) South-East China Wren Warbler				_____	_____					
(250) Chinese Yellow-Bellied Wren Warbler				_____	_____					
(253) Black-Naped Oriole				_____	_____					
(261) Chinese Starling				_____	_____					
(—) Indian Mynah				_____	_____					
(263) Black-Necked Mynah				_____	_____					
(264) Chinese Crested Mynah				_____	_____					
(267) Chinese Spotted Munia				_____	_____					
(286) Chinese Greenfinch		_____	_____	_____						
(290) Chinese Tree Sparrow		_____	_____	_____						
(324) Crested Bunting				_____	_____					
(333) Eastern House Swallow				_____	_____					
(370) South China White-Eye				_____	_____					
(374) Chinese Scarlet-Backed Flower Pecker				_____	_____					
(400) * Chinese Great Barbet				_____	_____					
(407) * Indian Cuckoo				_____	_____					
(410) * Burmese Plaintive Cuckoo				_____	_____					
(413) * Chinese Koel				_____	_____					
(414) * Chinese Crow Pheasant				_____	_____					
(415) * Lesser Crow Pheasant				_____	_____					
(418) * Eastern Rose-Ringed Paroquet			_____	_____	_____					
(423) Chinese Pied Kingfisher			_____	_____	_____					
(425) * Common Indian Kingfisher			_____	_____	_____					
(426) White-Breasted Kingfisher			_____	_____	_____					
(434) Malay House Swift				_____	_____					
(437) * Japanese Nightjar				_____	_____					
(451) Bare-Footed Collared Scops Owl				_____	_____					
(458) * Whitely's Barred Owlet				_____	_____					
(488) * White-Bellied Sea Eagle	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____					
(492) Black-Eared Kite		_____	_____	_____	_____					
(518) Chinese Spotted Dove			_____	_____	_____					
(543) Chinese Francolin				_____	_____					
(559) * Chinese White-Breasted Waterhen				_____	_____					
(560) Indian Moorhen				_____	_____					
(684) Lesser Egret				_____	_____					
(685) Little Egret				_____	_____					
(686) Swinhoe's Egret				_____	_____					
(687) Eastern Reef Heron				_____	_____					
(688) Cattle Egret				_____	_____					
(689) Chinese Pond Heron				_____	_____					
(691) Indian Little Green Heron				_____	_____					
(692) * Night Heron				_____	_____					
(695) Chinese Little Bittern				_____	_____					



To summarise, it would seem that the only birds which Hong Kong has lost as regular breeders are Steller's Albatross and Black-capped Kingfisher; and the latter may yet be proved still to breed, though clearly not in the same numbers as before.

Definite gains during the last 25 years are harder to assess as it seems likely that many new breeding records result from increased observation rather than an extension of the bird's range. However, the following may be claimed:-

(3) *South-east China Jungle Crow* Not in Taylor's list Herklots (1953) had no record of breeding nor of it being sighted on Hong Kong island, where it is now relatively common throughout the year. The first breeding record appears to be three nests in the Lam Tsun/Tai Po area in 1955 (Downey).

(—) *Indian Mynah* Apparently first seen by Herklots and R.S. Dove in 1952 on the Mong Tsen Peninsular, which is still its main locality in the Colony. The first breeding record is 1956 (Walker). Whether this bird was introduced, intentionally or accidentally, or spread naturally, will probably never be known.

(434) *Malay House Swift* Seen at Hong Kong in 1860 by Swinhoe, but not regarded as a regular summer visitor by him or by Vaughan and Jones. First recorded by Herklots in 1941, but not proved to breed in the Colony up to 1953. Now regularly breeds in small numbers in several places in the New Territories; first positive breeding records being 1955/57 (Walker).

(684) *Lesser Egret* First recorded by J.C.E. Britt in 1951 near Sha Tau Kok. First breeding recorded in 1956 (Walker) near Yuen Long.

(686) *Swinhoe's Egret* First recorded by Walker in 1956, when breeding was recorded near Yuen Long, and again in 1957/58.

(691) *Indian Little Green Heron* Although recorded fairly commonly in summer and autumn previously, the first breeding record is 1957 (Walker) at Mai Po, and again in 1958.

## 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. Its size, provided it could be compared with that of another bird of a known species seen close to it. (Otherwise estimates of size are very unreliable).
7. 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.
8. 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.)
9. 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.
10. 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.

(See also instructions on recording inside back cover)



# List of Officers and Members of The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

<i>Chairman</i>	A. StG. Walton, Esq., 403B Severn Road, The Peak.
<i>Hon. Recorder</i>	Captain A. M. Macfarlane, R.A., 49 Field Regiment, R.A., B.F.P.O.1.
<i>Hon. Treasurer</i>	Commander E. D. Webb, R.N., Government House Flat.
<i>Hon. Secretary</i>	Commander J. N. Humphreys, R.N., H. M. S. TAMAR.

## Committee

Miss M. Benham, Harcourt Health Centre, Morrison Hill Road.  
Mr. J. Cranmer-Byng, 4a, No. 3 University Drive, H.K.  
University.  
Captain B. C. Webster, R.F., H.Q. 48 Infantry Brigade,  
B.F.P.O.1.

## List of Members

(1958 members who have left the Colony or resigned are  
indicated by an asterisk)

Mr. R. B. Adams, c/o Mackinnon Mackenzie, P & O Building,  
Connaught Road.  
\*Lieutenant M. O. N. Bird, Royal Signals.  
\*Group Captain H. A. S. Disney, R.A.F., R.A.F. Kai Tak.  
\*Trooper P. R. Donkin, 1st Royal Tank Regiment.  
\*Surgeon Lieut-Commander J. A. B. Harrison, R.N.  
Major R. W. Hebbs, R.A.E.C., 28 Army Education Centre,  
B.F.P.O.1.  
\*Miss M. K. Hewson, 53 The Peak.  
Miss M. R. Hodgson, Helena May Institute, Garden Road.  
Mr. R. H. Hughes, c/o Public Works Department.  
Mr. David H. Liu, 1 Mercury Street, Causeway Bay.

\*Rev. E. G. Jansen, Tangoa Training Institute, South Santo,  
New Hebrides.

Flight Sergeant A. D. Macdonald, R.A.F. Tai Mo Shan,  
B.F.P.O.1.

Miss M. C. McCorkindale, Miramar Hotel, Kowloon.

Mr. H. J. Pearce, c/o Hong Kong Club.

\*Mr. J. T. Prior, c/o Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank, London.

\*Miss M. D. Ramplin-Jones, c/o Government House, Hong Kong.  
Commander F. J. H. Rathborne, R.N., H.M.S. TAMAR.

Mr. M. P. Roser, 29 Sydney Road, Leigh-on-sea, Essex.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Rowlands, Flat 3, Chater Hall, Conduit Rd.

Major, Mrs. and \*Miss T. W. F. Sarjeant, 5B Shouson Hill.

\*Captain J. H. Sergeant, Royal Signals, 16 Welbeck Court,  
Addison Bridge Place, London W. 14.

\*Surgeon, Lieutenant and Mrs. D. A. E. Shephard, R.N. Hospital,  
Mount Kellett.

Mr. Noble Smith, c/o American Express, Union Building.

\*Mr. William W. Thomas, American Embassy, Phnom Penh,  
Cambodia.

Mrs. A. StG. Walton, 403B Severn Road, The Peak.

\*Mr. H. M. Wilsdon, c/o D. N. A. (Branch 2), Tolcarne  
Drive, Pinner, Middlesex.

\*Sergeant M. G. Woodhams, R.A.P.C., R.P.O. (Royal Signals),  
Tilehurst, Reading, Berks.

\*Captain I. W. Young, R.A.M.C., c/o 80 Eastlands Road, Rugby.

## Honorary Life Member

Sergeant F. J. Walker, c/o R.A.F. Wartling, Bexhill, Sussex.