

THE HONG KONG BIRD REPORT 1972



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THE HONG KONG BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY

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HONG KONG BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY

c/o The Chartered Bank, P.O. Box 21, Hong Kong.

(A registered society under the Hong Kong Societies Ordinance)

Records compiled by M. A. Webster, MBOU, MAOU,
and C. A. Viney

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

Chairman	F. O. P. Hechtel
Hon. Secretary	C. Briffett
Hon. Treasurer	M. A. Webster
Hon. Recorder	M. A. Webster

SOCIETY NEWS

Society membership at the end of 1972 stood at the record figure of 98 of which 28 were overseas members. This is the second year running that we have had an increase in membership and we hope this encouraging trend will continue, but at the same time we would like to see more Chinese joining the Society and the Committee have made several attempts in recent years to interest young local people in bird watching.

Good attendance at nearly all the fifteen outings was very encouraging. Quite a number of ornithologists and bird watchers visited the Colony during the year, many of whom were taken out at weekends by members.

By resolution passed at the Annual General Meeting, the Society raised the subscription rates for ordinary members to meet the increasing costs of stationery, postage and printing, but at the same time provision was made for young people to pay less by creating two new forms of membership. Details of the new subscription rates appear on the Membership Application Form included in this Report.

Whilst on the subject of meeting rising costs, we have also raised our charges for advertising in the Annual Reports. The old rates had become increasingly uneconomic and our income from this source had shrunk due to the high cost of producing the advertisements themselves.

In January the Rev. and Mrs. J. S. Davidson left Hong Kong for good and the Society lost two of its best supporters whilst the Colony lost a keen Honorary Game Warden in Sonya.

We suffered a very great loss in May when Mr. D. G. Robertson was transferred to Singapore. Apart from serving on the Committee since 1966 and putting in a tremendous amount of work as Conservation Representative over several years, Dave Robertson was responsible for producing the Series I Bird Chart, kindly sponsored by Mobil Oil Hong Kong Ltd. and handed over by them to the Director of Education at a ceremony at the Hong Kong Hilton Hotel in October. It was most unfortunate that Dave Robertson could not be present. We hope that these posters, most of them in Chinese and some in English, will help to awaken the interest of our young people in the richness and beauty of their countryside and rouse the desire to look after it.

It was good to welcome back two of our oldest members, Mr. R. E. Hale and Mr. J. C. Payne, both past Hon. Secretaries.

Mr. Alfredo Almeida of Macau, who had been a member for many years until his death in November 1971, was recently honoured for his work as Superintendent of Parks when Sra. Julieta Nobre de Carvalho, wife of the Governor of Macau, unveiled a bust of him in

the Flora. Mr. Almeida had been responsible for creating the Macau botanical gardens.

For the first time we took part in the Agricultural Show, an event organised by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, who had kindly offered us a site at no cost for an educational exhibit. Though the Society had to pay for the erection of the stand, thanks to the devoted efforts of Mr. C. Briffett, our Hon. Secretary, and several willing helpers, we were able to put up a great show for a very modest outlay. Clive Briffett also organised a simple written test for children in which they had to answer a number of questions on birds and 'winners' were presented with Bird Charts as prizes.

Dr. T. M. Myres, Associate Professor of Zoology at Calgary University, arrived in April and, with the kind assistance of the Royal Observatory, carried out a pilot project to explore the potential for a comprehensive study of bird migration on the South China coast by using radar. Initial results were encouraging and the Royal Observatory agreed to extend their cooperation by taking films of bird movements on radar during the autumn migration and I believe studies will continue in 1973.

CONSERVATION

Over recent years a regular feature of the Annual Reports has been a short article on conservation summarising the year's events, but as 1972 has seen so little progress it has been left to me in my introduction to make some comment on the sad state of affairs. Hong Kong continues to develop rapidly, but unfortunately not always wisely and it is often painfully apparent that expediency is the overriding factor influencing Government's decisions. Over the past twelve years the countryside has deteriorated at an alarming rate as warnings have gone unheeded and efforts to get positive action from Government have failed.

Four years ago Government was presented with the report of the Provisional Council for the Use and Conservation of the Countryside; it then took two years to consider and reject the report, only to set up further bodies to start all over again. Another two years have elapsed since the Advisory Committee on Coordination of Recreational Development and Nature Conservation in the New Territories was set up and still virtually nothing has happened. While the destruction of Hong Kong's countryside gathers momentum, official silence from the committee on the New Territories seems to indicate a sad lack of progress.

Time and again Government's attention has been drawn to the importance of the Deep Bay marshes as wild bird habitat deserving of full protection. The only area in Hong Kong really worth preserving for its wildlife, it is potentially a recreational, educational and scientific asset of immense value. Of course money would have to be

spent and most of us know how Government loathes to spend on all but the barest necessities, and it is exasperating to think that Government parsimony will probably allow the destruction of the only place we have where large numbers of birds, many of them spectacular, can be seen in their wild state, and where a bird park along Slimbridge lines could be established to give pleasure to thousands of visitors. Government's deliberations on the Deep Bay marshes are 'secret', with the odd dark hint thrown out that the area is 'politically sensitive', — an intimation to which rather more credence could be given if, after all these years, nature parks had been established and properly organised in other areas, or even if Government had shown a greater willingness to act promptly and effectively on simpler, straightforward matters affecting the protection of wildlife; for example, having reached the decision to remove the Grey and Golden Plovers from the game schedule, it was not until three years later that this decision was implemented, — something which could have been done quickly with little trouble as it did not entail legislation.

In spite of Government assurances that all development in one important part of the Deep Bay marshes had been stopped pending the outcome of the deliberations of the New Territories committee, intensive dredging operations increased and it was abundantly clear that the whole character of the area would soon be changed, destroying any hopes for a nature reserve. Members of the Society made representations to Government, as a result of which in October, Mr. M. A. Webster and I accompanied the District Officer Yuen Long, members of his staff and a representative of the Agriculture and Fisheries Department, to the marshes near Mai Po and we were able to point out what was happening. As a result of this visit action was taken and dredging operations were reduced considerably, though some still continued, especially in the frontier closed area where it is difficult for us to see what is going on.

Ending on a more cheerful note, this is the first year that the egret at Sha Tau Kok has enjoyed full Government protection as a nature reserve during the breeding season. Many different factors influence the life of an egret or heronry, some still not fully understood, some still unknown, but let us hope that the protection now afforded the birds from human disturbance and depredation will encourage them to make use of this site for a long time to come.

F. O. P. Hechtel
Chairman

REPORT ON THE BIRDS, 1972

Hon. Recorder:— M. A. Webster

Records compiled by:— C. A. Viney

In 1972, a total of 247 species were recorded, of which it is considered that four were probably escapes. This is an increase of four species on the previous year.

Five new species were added to the list during the year, the Japanese Night Heron, Baer's Pochard, Black Baza, Short-eared Owl, and the Chestnut-crowned Warbler. This makes ten new species for the Colony in two years, and 23 in total since the publication of the Annotated Check-List, which covered records up to the end of April 1966.

However, all the new records were of single birds, and this is not the most important part of an annual list such as this. Far more significant was the return of the Night Heron and the Great Egret as breeding birds at Sha Tau Kok, after a lapse of over twenty years.

This is balanced by the fact that the Watercock and Pheasant-tailed Jacanas may no longer breed, or have declined considerably. The Chinese Starling is another species which may no longer breed.

The decrease in wintering duck is another noticeable feature of this year's list, but it was pleasant to be able to identify Grey-lag Geese; these are usually only seen in the far distance!

The two winters of 1971-72 and 1972-73 differed in many ways. The first winter was an exceptional winter for thrushes, especially Red-flanked Bluetails, whereas there were hardly any thrushes at all in 1972-73. The Yellow-bellied Tits came again in 1971-72, but not in the following year. The same applies to Black Bulbuls. In contrast, Greater Necklaced Laughing-Thrushes were seen only at the end of the year under review.

As the systematic list is longer than usual, the need for comments in this introduction is less. I would like to draw attention to those species of which our knowledge is most inadequate, the Chinese Greenfinch, the Rose-ringed Parakeet, the Lesser Coucal, and the Sulphur-crested Cockatoo. Records of these are badly needed to enable us to get a better picture of their distribution. Breeding records of all species are also needed, particularly as we are starting this year a survey of the breeding birds of the whole Colony.

Observers — My thanks to the following, who submitted records for this Report:— Dr. R. J. Barnes, P. F. and C. P. Barnes, J. Beck, D. Bradford, A. J. Brandt, C. Briffett, J. M. G. Chapman, Supt. D. J. Galloway, T. P. Garland, R. E. Hale, I. W. Harris, F. O. P. Hechtel, D. B. Rashley, D. G. Robertson, T. Shiota, H. D. Stead, I. M. Stewart, C. A. Viney, M. A. Webster, R. P. Weeks, F. A. W. Whitford, B. D. Wilson.

Michael Webster

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1972

2. **Great Crested Grebe** (*Podiceps cristatus*)

Apart from three at Three Fathoms Cove on 10 December, all records are from Deep Bay where up to 11 were seen until 15 February and up to five from 20 December.

4. **Little Grebe** (*Podiceps ruficollis*)

Recorded throughout the year from the Deep Bay marshes where breeding occurred (minimum five pairs). Breeding probably occurred at Jubilee Reservoir and Tsing Lung Tau. Apart from these areas birds seen at Tai Lam Chung Reservoir, Plover Cove and the feeder reservoir at Sek Kong.

7. **Spotted-billed Pelican** (*Pelecanus philippensis*)

Four records, all from the Deep Bay area, two on 2 January, three on 23 January, eight on 15 February and 11 on 27 February.

7x. **Dalmatian Pelican** (*Pelecanus crispus*)

A flock of c.70 at Mai Po South on 5 March and eight in Deep Bay on 3 December.

7/7x. **Pelican sp.**

A flock of c.20 unidentified pelicans at Mai Po on 23 January and two others off Mong Tseng on 10 December.

8. **Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

Recorded in the winter months from the western coastlines of the Colony, usually in small groups but 70 at Mai Po on 10 December. Also recorded from Plover Cove and Tai Lam Chung Reservoirs. Extreme dates were until 23 March and from 29 October.

10. **Great Frigate-bird** (*Fregata minor*)

One immature at Sha Tau Kok on 20 May. (D.J.G.)

12. **Yellow Bittern** (*Ixobrychus sinensis*)

Two at Mai Po on 1 April and by 21 April many had arrived; in August the marshes were full of this species including young. Numbers steadily declined in September, but single birds were seen at Lok Ma Chau on 16 November and Mong Tseng on 26 December. All records are from the area of the Deep Bay marshes.

13. **Chestnut Bittern** (*Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*)

One at Ho Chung ponds on 9 and 11 April. A male at Mai Po on 20 August.

15. **Bittern** (*Botaurus stellaris*)

One at Mai Po on 27 February and 8 March.

15x. **Japanese Night Heron** (*Gorsachius goisagi*)

One at Bethanie at dusk on 2 December (J.B.), dawn on 3 December (M.A.W.) and on the following day. A new species to the Colony, described as:—

'About 18", plump. Deep chestnut above; slaty on wings and crown; paler below with black streaking but particularly thick, black streak down chin, throat and breast; long, green legs with long toes; stout fairly long bill, grey with black tip; grey facial skin and yellow iris. In flight, wings rounded with darker primaries. Bittern-like movements, stalking as it fed amongst leaves on the ground. Tame and difficult to flush'.

16. **Night Heron** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

Up to six at Sha Tau Kok egretry from 14 May to 25 June, where breeding probably occurred for the first time in many years. Also recorded from Mai Po on 9 September (an adult and an immature) and 12 there on 15 October.

17. **Chinese Pond Heron** (*Ardeola bacchus*)

Present throughout the year on the Deep Bay marshes and in the northern New Territories. Bred in some numbers at Sha Tau Kok egretry and a pair seen at Au Tau egretry. Elsewhere, recorded from Ho Chung (8-9 April), Chatham Road, Kowloon (14 April) and Silvermine Bay (31 October).

18. **Cattle Egret** (*Ardeola ibis*)

Common between March and September in the western and northern New Territories, with a few birds wintering in this area. Breeding activities commenced early with c.50 at Au Tau egretry on 26 March and four plus at Sha Tau Kok egretry on 3 April. Birds successfully bred at both egretries in some numbers. A single bird at Ho Chung on 8 April is an unusual record.

19. **Little Green Heron** (*Boturides striatus*)

Up to five at Mai Po between 21 April and 18 September. Up to two at Ho Chung ponds between 2 April and 9 May and from 15 August to 30 September up to four were seen there including two immature birds. Elsewhere, recorded from the headwaters of Tai Lam Chung Reservoir on 10 March and 17 December, and single birds at Sek Kong woods on 22 October and Jubilee Reservoir on 28 December.

20. **Little Egret** (*Egretta garzetta*)

Common throughout the year in the western and northern New Territories. Breeding activities commenced early with c.200 birds and c.30 nests at Au Tau egretry on 26 March and 50+ birds and a few nests at Sha Tau Kok egretry on 3 April. An estimated c.50 pairs at Au Tau on 21 May. Elsewhere, recorded from Ho Chung

and Sai Kung in the autumn. One over Tsim Sha Tsui on 18 June is an unusual record.

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

Up to three at Sha Tau Kok egretty between 7 May and 16 June, where at least one pair bred. One south of Lau Fau Shan on 3 September.

23. Reef Egret (*Egretta sacra*)

Many records from the eastern shores of the Colony, particularly Sai Kung, Ho Chung, Little Sai Wan and Shek O with an apparent increase in numbers after September; a maximum of eight at Sai Kung on 31 December. Other records are from Silvermine Bay, Chi Ma Wan, Green Island, Turtle Cove, Aberdeen, Tai Tam and Lamma Island.

24. Great Egret (*Egretta alba*)

A pair which successfully bred at Sha Tau Kok egretty (two young) is the first breeding record since 1959. Otherwise, regularly recorded in small numbers up to 14 April and from 22 September on the Deep Bay marshes.

25. Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)

At least 100 on the Deep Bay marshes until 21 April and again from 9 September, with a maximum of c.200 in Deep Bay on 26 December. Single birds recorded from Ho Chung ponds (6 November) and Starling Inlet (11 November).

26. Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*)

One or two on the Deep Bay marshes until 28 May and again from 20 August where a maximum of five were recorded between 7 and 22 October.

28. Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*)

Three records, all from the Mai Po marshes, of one on 2 January, three on 23 January and four on 6 February.

29. White Ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*)

Up to 15 on the Deep Bay marshes from the beginning of the year until 5 April and up to seven there from 20 August onwards.

31. Lesser Spoonbill (*Platalea minor*)

At least one in the Deep Bay marshes until 5 March and up to five there from 5 November onwards.

33. Yellow-nib Duck (*Anas poecilorhyncha*)

Scarce, with only four records from the Mai Po marshes. For the spring only a single record of four on 1 April and in the autumn up to seven from 28 August until 9 September. Hunters

report a decrease in this species but an interesting record is of one shot at Pat Heung.

34. Gadwall (*Anas strepera*)

Four at Mai Po on 1 April (M.A.W.)

36. Teal (*Anas crecca*)

Large winter concentration at Tai Lam Chung Reservoir up to 10 March and from 25 December. Maximum number 400. Recorded from the Deep Bay marshes in much smaller numbers from 10 September onwards, but with only two spring records of five shot on 23 January and two seen on 9 April. From 22 October until the end of the year up to 13 were to be seen freely associating with domestic ducks on the ponds at Lok Ma Chau. 20 at Lo Wu on 2 January and 14 at Sha Tau Kok on 29 October are the only records from other areas.

38. Garganey (*Anas querquedula*)

All records from the Deep Bay marshes including Lok Ma Chau. Up to 50 from 28 March until 7 May and up to 16 between 3 September and 22 October.

39. Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)

Three records. Four at Mai Po on 2 January and one there on 1 April. Five at Lok Ma Chau on 5 November.

41. Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)

Three at Lok Ma Chau between 5 and 21 November.

43x. Baer's Pochard (*Aythya baeri*)

A young male shot (out of three seen) on 19 February. The first Colony record.

44. Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

A female at Mai Po on 23 January and two there on 27 February. Three males at Plover Cove on 6 February.

46. Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*)

Four at Deep Bay on 30 January.

47. Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*)

Up to 50 in the Deep Bay area between 10 and 26 December.

49. Grey-lag Goose (*Anser anser*)

Four at Mai Po on 5 March (M.A.W.)

52. Black-eared Kite (*Milvus migrans*)

Widespread with maximum concentrations over Stonecutters' Island, where 142 were counted on 14 January. One breeding record of a bird sitting on a large nest of twigs, lined with paper, 20 feet up

in a tree on a steep slope between Middle Gap Road and Blacks Link on 17 March. Noticeable increase in numbers from September onwards when many young birds were seen particularly along the eastern coastline.

52x. Black Baza (*Aviceda leuphotes*)

One, possibly two, seen by J.M.G.C. and C.A.V. at Tai Po Kau Forestry Reserve on 14 May shortly after dawn. A new species to the Colony described as:—

'A generally black and white hawk, 12"-15" long; black head and throat with a prominent black crest; breast and underparts white with close double black band separated with white; wing coverts on back mottled white on black giving a 'window pane effect' otherwise wings and upperparts black or slaty-grey with large white patch on secondaries and half white collar. Blue-grey, hooked bill. Dark legs. High-pitched screaming call.'

54. Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*)

Many winter records from widespread areas, including King's Park, Kowloon and urban Hong Kong. Usually single birds but occasionally two or three together. Extreme dates were up to 30 March and from 1 October.

56. Sparrow-hawk (*Accipiter nisus*)

Scarce. Single birds seen at Tai Po Kau on 16 January and 8 September, Kings Park on 7 April, Sek Kong woods on 9 April and at least one at Chi Ma Wan between 17 and 29 October. A male swooped on feeding Wagtails at Lok Ma Chau on 7 November.

57. Japanese Sparrow-hawk (*Accipiter gularis*)

A female at Mai Po on 7 October (M.A.W.) A small sparrow-hawk at Tung Chung on 31 October could have been of this species.

58. Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)

One at Tai Po Kau on 26 November.

61. Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*)

Up to two adults and an immature in the Long Valley/Mai Po area until 5 March and an adult and immature from 26 November in the same district.

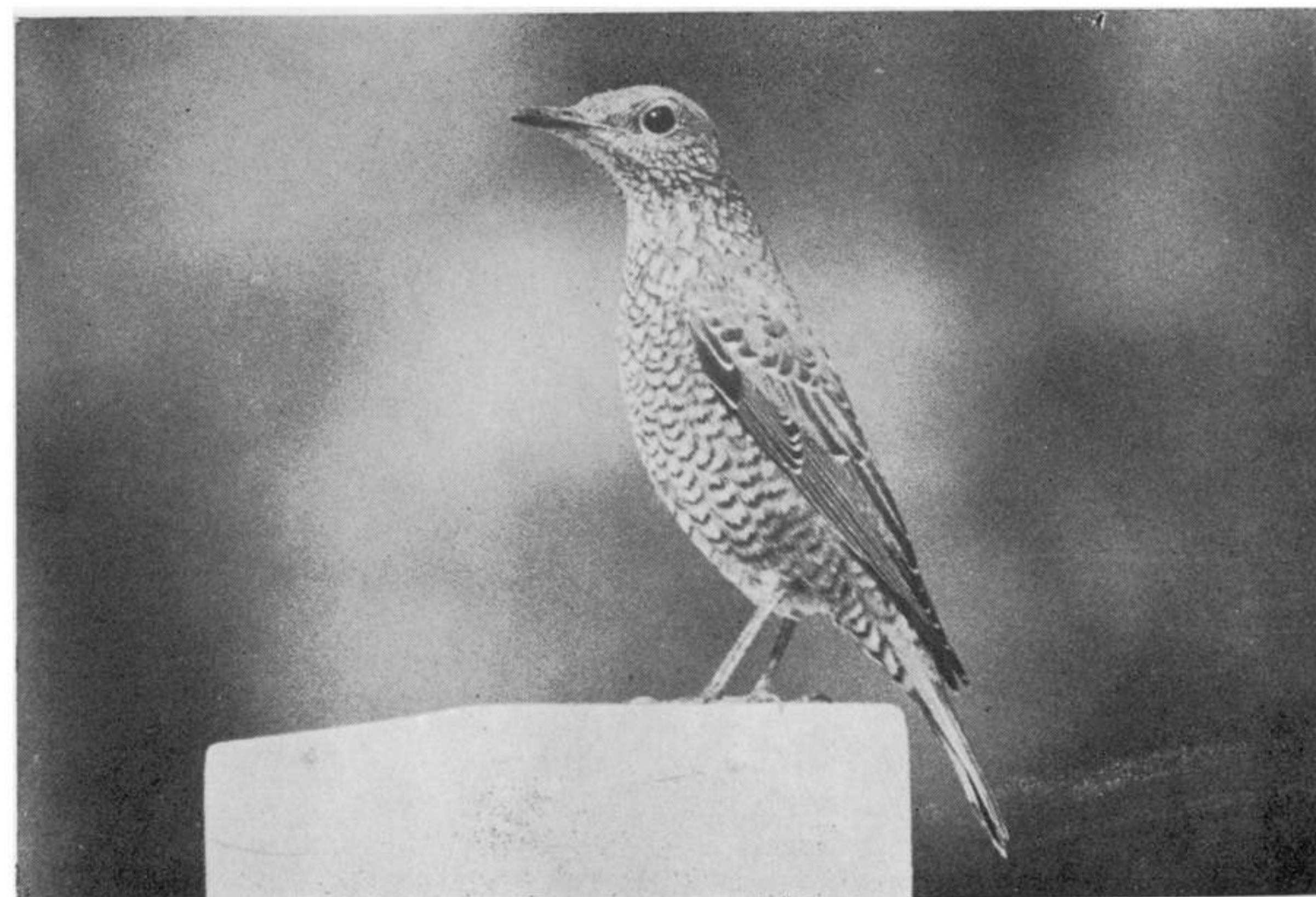
62. Steppe Eagle (*Aquila rapax*)

One immature at Luen Tak on 3 December (M.A.W.)

(It is possible that further birds of this species occurred between January and March, but as at that time they were presumed to be *A. clanga* these records are now considered doubtful).



Red-flanked Bluetail (*Tarsiger cyanurus*)
Photo by D. J. Galloway



Red-bellied Rock thrush (*Monticola solitaria*)
Photo by T. Shiota



Chinese Pond Heron (*Ardeola bacchus*)
Photo by R. R. Mason



Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*)
Photo by D. J. Galloway

64. Bonelli's Eagle (*Hieraaetus fasciatus*)

Recorded from 15 February until the end of the year. A pair were seen frequently over Tseng Lan Shue/Junk Bay from 1 June until 1 October. Two adults at Tai Mo Shan on 26 March, single birds at Mong Tseng on 15 February and Lamma Island on 24 September and a pair at Tai Tam Reservoir on 26 November. The Colony is within this bird's breeding range and it is not inconceivable that one or two pairs may breed here.

66. White-bellied Sea-eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*)

Recorded throughout the year from Port Shelter, Little Sai Wan, southern shores of Hong Kong Island, Lantau and nearby offshore islands with one inland record at Tai Lam Chung Reservoir. This bird appears to have had a successful year as records indicate at least four eyries and immature birds in the latter part of the year.

67. Grey-faced Buzzard-eagle (*Butastur indicus*)

Three at Tai Po Kau on 16 January (M.A.W., R.P.W.)

69. Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*)

Common on the Deep Bay marshes until 16 April and from 7 October where up to five could be seen.

70. Pied Harrier (*Circus melanoleucos*)

At least one adult male over the Deep Bay marshes between 5 April and 3 May and an adult male and female in the same area from 9 September onwards.

71. Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)

Single females over the Deep Bay marshes on 23 January and 8 March.

73. Black Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*)

Two over Long Valley on 26 December.

74. Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Up to three in the Deep Bay area until 9 April and up to five from 28 August until the end of the year. Single birds at Plover Cove on 6 February and 12 March, Port Shelter on 3 and 11 November and Silvermine Bay on 25 November.

77. Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

Widespread but uncommon. Single birds in urban Hong Kong on 23 June and 26 December, urban Kowloon on 11 June, 1 July, 2 and 20 November, Mai Po on 15 October, Tseng Lan Shue on 1 November and Tai Po on 4 November. A pair near Sunset Peak, Lantau on 31 October.

81. Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)

Recorded regularly in widespread areas during the winter, usually single birds but occasionally pairs. Extreme dates were until 12 March and from 1 October onwards.

82. Chinese Francolin (*Francolinus pintadeanus*)

Recorded from 30 January until 7 October from the Clearwater Bay/Kowloon Peak area, Little Sai Wan, Middle Gap, Stanley, Tai Mo Shan, Sha Tin, Tai Po Kau and the Lam Tsuen Valley. Usually only heard but several sight records. Ten plus calling at Middle Gap, Hong Kong Island on 16 March.

89. Banded Rail (*Rallus striatus*)

Only six records, all for the latter part of the year. One at Clearwater Bay on 13 August; one at Mai Po on 13 and 20 August, 9 and 16 September and a pair at Luen Tak on 3 December.

91. Ruddy Crake (*Porzana fusca*)

One at Ho Chung ponds on 9 April (C.B. and D.J.G.) and one at Mai Po on 10 October (R.J.B.)

92. Crimson-legged Crake (*Amaurornis akool*)

A pair again successfully bred at Tsing Lung Tau where two adults with two young were seen on 30 April.

93. White-breasted Waterhen (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*)

Widespread with many records. Most suitable areas appear to hold at least one or two pairs, even on offshore islands such as Ma Wan. Three adults and two immatures together at Tseng Lan Shue on 10 October.

94. Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)

Recorded throughout the year. Birds successfully bred at Lok Ma Chau where up to five adults and six immatures were seen, Mai Po up to fifteen including two immatures and at Tai Yuen where up to four adults and two immatures were recorded. Also at Ho Chung ponds until 9 May and one at She Shan on 27 February.

95. Watercock (*Gallicrex cinerea*)

Recorded from Mai Po between 28 August and 24 October, where breeding probably occurred. Two males, three females and a juvenile there on 10 September.

96. Coot (*Fulica atra*)

Exceptionally large concentrations in the Deep Bay area up to 16 April, with an estimated 2000 at Mai Po North on 6 February. Apart from a single bird on 28 August not recorded again until 12 November and then in much smaller numbers with a maximum of 45 off Tsim Bei Tsui on 16 December. Elsewhere, up to 100 were at

Plover Cove until 12 March and a single bird was at She Shan on 2 January.

97. Pheasant-tailed Jacana (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*)

Numbers have declined with only two spring records of one at Lok Ma Chau on 9 May and two at Mai Po on 28 May, otherwise a few records from 20 August until 16 November mainly from Mai Po and Lok Ma Chau of up to three, including a juvenile in open water on 5 November. One at Sha Tau Kok on 29 October.

101. Grey-headed Lapwing (*Microsarcops cinereus*)

Four records, all for the autumn passage. One at Tai Yuen on 23 September, two at Lok Ma Chau on 22 October, four at Lo Wu on 29 October and two at Mong Tseng on 26 November.

103. Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*)

Quite common in suitable areas until 16 April and from 28 August. Recorded from the Deep Bay marshes, Tai Po, Tai O, Ho Chung and Saikung. Usually in small groups of up to 20 but up to 40 at Lok Ma Chau. A fair number apparently winter in the Colony.

104. Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*)

Quite common and widespread in the New Territories, where suitable areas of mud exposed, until 11 May and from 22 September. Usually in groups up to 30 but larger concentrations in the Deep Bay area with a maximum of c.400 at Mai Po South on 27 February.

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

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

Birds of either species quite common and widespread during the passages. Extreme dates were 5 April to 11 May and 28 August to 10 October but two winter records of two at Mai Po on 23 January and four there on 10 December. Recorded from Mai Po (maximum 100+ on 30 April), Ping Shan, Ho Chung Ponds (maximum seven during the spring passage), Lok Ma Chau, Sha Tin Wai (c.30 on 9 April) and Sai Kung (c. ten on 15 April). Several records of separable birds; *C. leschenaultii* outnumbering *C. mongolus*, with only one definite record of the latter of a pair at Mai Po on 30 April (M.A.W.)

108. Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)

Eight records, all from the Deep Bay marshes, usually only one or two birds but a flock of c.20 on 27 February. Last spring date was 16 April and earliest autumn date was 12 November.

109. Asiatic Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominicus*)

Five records of up to 12 on the Deep Bay marshes until 7 May and three records of up to eight there from 28 August onwards. One at Sai Kung in the spring.

110. Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)

Up to ten on the Mai Po marshes between 16 April and 7 May. One at Ho Chung ponds on 27 April.

111. Fantail Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)

112. Pintail Snipe (*Gallinago stenura*)

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

Recorded from the Deep Bay marshes including Lok Ma Chau (maximum 30), Long Valley (maximum four), Sha Tin Wai, Sai Kung and Silvermine Bay (maximum five). Usually flushed but occasionally seen feeding openly as at Lok Ma Chau. A flock of c.30 *G. stenura* at Mai Po on 27 February (per M.A.W.) and another of this species shot there on 10 September are the only specifically identified records. Extreme dates were until 30 April and from 10 September.

116. Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*)

Three records. One at Sek Kong woods on 5 March, one at Starling Inlet on 28 March and two at Tai Po Kau on 19 November.

117. Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)

Only three records for the first part of the year, all from the Deep Bay marshes, of 100+ on 30 January and up to four between 1 and 16 April. In the latter part of the year, up to 15 in the Deep Bay area between 3 and 16 September and up to 20 there between 5 and 26 December. One at Sai Kung on 26 September.

118. Australian Curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*)

One at Mai Po on 16 April.

119. Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)

Up to 20+ at Mai Po between 16 April and 28 May and up to 30 there between 3 September and 22 October. Elsewhere, one at Ho Chung ponds between 9 and 11 April and two at Starling Inlet on 17 September.

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

One at Mai Po on 21 April and nine there on 28 May are the only spring records. For the autumn, one at Mai Po on 28 August and up to five there between 7 October and 17 December.

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

Four records. Three plus at Mai Po on 16 April, one there on 21 April and another at Lok Ma Chau on 3 May. One autumn record of a single bird at Mai Po on 7 October.

123. Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*)

Quite common and widespread in the New Territories until 30 April and from 28 August, usually in ones or twos or in small groups up to ten, but up to 24 recorded from Lok Ma Chau.

124. Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*)

Up to 100 regularly at Lok Ma Chau and up to 40 on other parts of the Deep Bay marshes. A maximum of eight at Ho Chung ponds during the spring passage. This species now regularly winters in the Colony, particularly in the Lok Ma Chau area. Extreme dates were until 3 May and from 1 September.

125. Common Sandpiper (*Tringa hypoleucos*)

Recorded in every month except June and July. Common throughout the Colony but generally near the coast, irrigated land, watercourses and ponds. Usually singly or in pairs but certain areas hold quite high concentrations, for instance Ho Chung ponds, which is a mixture of stream, pond and coastline habitat over a small area, holds up to 20 in the winter. Last recorded spring date was 21 May and first autumn record was 15 August.

126. Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)

Quite common on the Deep Bay marshes during the spring passage with up to 300 there. Less common there in the autumn with only four records of up to eight. One or two at Ho Chung ponds between 9 April and 4 May. Extreme dates for the spring passage were 5 March to 7 May and in the autumn 28 August to 17 September.

127. Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*)

All records are from the Deep Bay marshes where it was quite common until 7 May and from 28 August. Maximum number is over 250 on 6 January.

128. Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)

Recorded from the Deep Bay marshes and Ho Chung ponds. Quite common on the Deep Bay marshes, where up to 45 could be seen until 21 April and up to ten from 28 August. One or two at Ho Chung ponds on various dates between 9 and 29 April.

129. Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*)

Up to ten on the Deep Bay marshes from 6 January until 21 April and a similar number there from 22 September until 24 October. One at Ho Chung ponds on 9 and 23 April is an unusual record as this species has not been previously recorded outside the Deep Bay marshes.

130. Grey-rumped Sandpiper (*Tringa brevipes*)

One at Ho Chung ponds between 13 and 19 April and again on 15 October. Over 20 at Sha Tau Kok on 21 May. One at Mai Po and another at Lau Fau Shan on 3 September. One at Tai O on 8 September.

131. Terek Sandpiper (*Xenus cinereus*)

All records are for the spring passage. Over 25 at Mai Po on 16 April. One or two at Ho Chung ponds between 11 April and 6 May. One at Sha Tau Kok on 21 May.

132. Knot (*Calidris canutus*)

One at Mai Po on 16 April.

133. Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*)

Four at Mai Po on 16 April.

134. Eastern Little Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*)

Quite common on the Deep Bay marshes until 28 May where up to 200 were seen but apparently scarce in the autumn with only six records of up to five on the Deep Bay marshes. Up to 15 on the Ho Chung ponds between 2 April and 4 May.

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

Common on the Deep Bay marshes, particularly at Lok Ma Chau where up to 20 could be seen until 30 April and a similar number from 1 September. One or two at the Ho Chung ponds between 20 and 26 April.

136. Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*)

All records are from the Deep Bay marshes (mostly at Lok Ma Chau) where up to 34 were seen until 16 April and at least 20 from 1 October.

137. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*)

Recorded from 28 March until 7 May on the Deep Bay marshes where at least 20 were seen. Scarce in the autumn when one or two were seen at Lok Ma Chau between 1 and 18 September. A maximum of two at Ho Chung ponds between 23 April and 4 May.

138. Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)

Up to 400 on the Deep Bay marshes between 6 January and 7 March. Single birds seen on three occasions at Ho Chung ponds between 13 April and 4 May. Six records of up to 10 on the Deep Bay marshes between 22 September and 5 November. One at Sha Tin Wai on 19 November.

139. Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris farruginea*)

Up to 15 at Mai Po between 21 April and 7 May. One at the Ho Chung ponds between 3 and 6 May. One autumn record of a single bird at Mai Po on 20 August.

140. Sanderling (*Crocethia alba*)

Three records, all of single birds. One at Saikung on 15 April. One at Ho Chung ponds between 27 and 29 April. One at Mai Po on 22 October.

142. Broad-billed Sandpiper (*Limicola falcinellus*)

Nine plus at Mai Po on 16 April and a single bird at the Ho Chung ponds on the 23 and 27 April.

144. Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*)

Widespread during the spring migration. Nine were seen at the Ho Chung ponds on 2 April and numbers steadily built up to 53 on 9 April, thereafter declining; the last record is of two there on 28 April. Several birds in this flock developed red neck patches during this period and most were remarkably tame. Five records of up to 13 in Hong Kong Harbour and Western Approaches between 4 April and 7 May. Over 80 off the eastern and southern shores of Hong Kong Island on 1 and 2 April including several in summer plumage. Five at Yim Tso Ha on 11 April and two there on 19 April. Two at Mai Po on 14 April. Only two autumn records of a single bird at Lok Ma Chau on 18 September and three off the Ninepins on 20 September.

145. Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*)

All records from Mai Po. Up to three there from 1 to 21 April and up to four there between 17 September and 22 October.

146. Avocet (*Recurvirostra avocetta*)

One at Mai Po on 16 April. 18 at Mai Po and one at Lok Ma Chau on 17 December.

147. Oriental Pratincole (*Glareola maldivarum*)

Six at Ho Chung ponds on 3 April and one or two there on 15 and 16 April. At least two on a flooded grassy area at Kai Tak on 1 August.

148. Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)

Up to 200 regularly seen in the harbour and Western Anchorage until 27 February. One at Kadoorie Beach on 13 February. Three at Mai Po on 27 February. Over 20 south of Castle Peak on 5 April. In the latter part of the year; 15+ in the harbour on 25 November and over 30 at Lau Fau Shan on 17 December.

151. Black-tailed Gull (*Larus crassirostris*)

Up to 20, including an adult, at Starling Inlet between 16 and 27 February. One at Mai Po on 19 April. (F.A.W.W.)

152. Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*)

There has been a considerable increase in this species in recent years and it is noticeably beginning to adopt the scavenging techniques of its European counterpart. This species is now numerous in the Harbour in winter where up to 2000 have been recorded. Elsewhere, it is particularly common along the western seaboard, including the Deep Bay area, but also recorded in smaller numbers from Tai

Po, Starling Inlet and Sai Kung. Extreme dates were until 7 March and from 10 October.

152x. Saunders' Gull (*Larus saundersi*)

40 at Mai Po on 27 February, five there on 5 March and two there on 17 December.

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

Up to 100, including several in summer plumage, on the Deep Bay marshes between 3 and 21 May.

155. Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*)

One at Mai Po South on 16 January. Over 15 at Mai Po on 21 May. Five, including an adult in summer plumage, at Chuk Yuen on 28 August. Up to 20 on the Mai Po marshes between 15 and 24 October.

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

Six at Mai Po on 31 March and over 32 there on 16 April. One at Ho Chung ponds on 3 May. Two at Mai Po on 9 September.

157. Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*)

One at Mai Po South on 7 October. Up to 14, including a juvenile being fed by adults, at Lau Fau Shan between 5 and 17 December.

158. Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)

About 20 terns seen at Pak Nai near Lau Fau Shan on 28 August and on the following day in the West Lamma Channel could have been of this species. They were certainly in the Common/Arctic/Roseate group.

160. Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*)

Two at Mai Po on 16 April.

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

Seen regularly at Stanley in the winter, where up to ten plus were present until 23 April and up to four in the latter part of the year. Also recorded from Mong Tseng, Tai Po Kau, Ho Chung and Beas River.

165. Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*)

Common and widespread, including urban areas. A breeding record of one sitting on a nest containing one egg at She Shan on 19 March.

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

Up to 18 at Sai Kung between 30 September and 12 November including several adults. One near Tseng Lan Shue on 7 October. One at Lok Ma Chau on 10 October.

166x. Emerald Dove (*Chalcophaps indica*)

Two at Tai Po Kau on 7 January and single birds there on 12 and 20 February, 29 October and 31 December. One at Three Fathoms Cove on 15 October.

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

Many records from widespread areas in all months except June and July. Several flocks appear to have established themselves in the Colony. Hong Kong Island probably has two flocks of up to 15 birds in each, one flock frequenting Happy Valley/Central and the other the southern coastal areas. In urban Kowloon up to 20 were regularly seen. One or two flocks of up to ten birds appear to be established in the Deep Bay area centred at Mong Tseng and Mai Po. A smaller group of up to three was regularly recorded from the Sek Kong area. Apart from these concentrations odd birds have been seen in the Clearwater Bay/Sai Kung area and at Chi Ma Wan on Lantau. Despite the many records the overall population appears to have declined.

168. Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*)

One at Mai Po wood on 7 October (M.A.W.) This is the first record since 1966.

170. Indian Cuckoo (*Cuculus micropterus*)

One heard calling at Headland Road on 27 April, before dawn.

171. Large Hawk-cuckoo (*Cuculus sparveriioides*)

At least one pair at Jubilee Reservoir on 21 May and heard again on 28 May (F.O.P.H. and A.J.B.)

172. Plaintive Cuckoo (*Cacomantis merulinus*)

Recorded throughout the summer from the Peak. Seen regularly at Sek Kong woods from 2 January until 19 April and again on 26 November. Also quite regular at Mai Po woods between 16 January 1 April. Elsewhere, a pair at Pokfulam on 11 March and single birds at Aberdeen on 17 March, Lok Ma Chau and Au Tau on 9 April, Headland Road on 30 April and King's Park on 26 May. Indications are that this species is declining as a summer visitor.

175. Koel (*Eudynamis scolopacea*)

Recorded at Tai Po Kau from 14 May until 19 August and She Shan from 1 April to 14 May, where three males were seen on 21 April. Two seen at Three Fathoms Cove on 15 October and later heard there on 10 and 31 December. Also regularly heard in May and June in the vicinity of Tai Tam Reservoir.

176. Greater Coucal (*Centropus sinensis*)

Recorded from widespread localities, even from such differing areas as King's Park in the centre of Kowloon and the summit area of

Tai Mo Shan. Appears fairly common throughout the New Territories including Lantau and Ma Wan. On Hong Kong Island, regularly seen at Little Sai Wan and Stanley. Most records are of single birds but up to three seen together.

177. Lesser Coucal (*Centropus toulou*)

Recorded from Mong Tseng, Tseng Lan Shue, Clearwater Bay beach, Tai Mo Shan, Shatin, Kowloon Peak, Crest Hill, Lok Ma Chau and Chi Ma Wan. A pair bred at Tseng Lan Shue where they were regularly seen and heard daily between mid-April and the end of August. An immature was seen there on 24 September. Breeding probably occurred on Tai Mo Shan, near the summit, as on 6 August several adults and an immature bird were seen there. Furthermore, it is possible that birds bred at the end of the Clearwater Bay Peninsula as several were present on 15 August. The overall status is still unclear, although the submitted records indicate that the species is only locally common in the New Territories.

180. Collared Scops Owl (*Otus bakkamoena*)

Two juveniles at Lady Clementi's Ride, Hong Kong Island on 4 June (H.D.S.) and heard calling at Magazine Gap on 24 January and Wong Nei Chong Gap on 14 March (D.G.R.)

181x. Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*)

F.O.P.H. received a dead bird of this species in good condition collected from a field on the Clearwater Bay Peninsula in early January. The plumage was in good condition, which indicates a wild bird and this species has accordingly been added to the Colony list.

185/186. Nightjar sp.

An unidentified nightjar at Aberdeen on 12 January.

186. Savannah Nightjar (*Caprimulgus affinis*)

One found dead in Sek Kong village on 7 October.

187. Large White-rumped Swift (*Apus pacificus*)

Recorded from 2 February until 1 September from widespread areas, mainly in groups of up to forty but well over 100 at Mai Po on 5 and 28 March. Probably bred in the Sai Kung/Clearwater Bay area where it was common throughout the summer.

188. House Swift (*Apus affinis*)

Fairly common in urban areas and occasionally elsewhere. Breeding proved at Yuen Long where two nests with young were located, this particular colony holding about 30 pairs. Breeding also occurred at Lai Chi Kok and almost certainly at several other localities in Kowloon. The largest recorded concentration is of 150 at Mai Po on 6 January. Although seen throughout the year, most records are for the summer months.

189. Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*)

13 records of up to three in the area of the Deep Bay marshes, throughout the year. One at Sha Tau Kok on 8 January.

191. Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

Widespread and locally common. Seen in all months except June and July on the Deep Bay marshes and at Ho Chung ponds. Elsewhere, recorded from Tai Lam Chung, Sha Tau Kok, Sai Kung, Three Fathoms Cove, Sha Tin Wai, Sek Kong woods, Tai Tam and Pokfulam Reservoirs, Chi Ma Wan and Silvermine Bay on Lantau and Lamma Island. A pair probably bred at Silvermine Bay where a fish was seen to be taken into a likely nesting hole.

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

Common and widespread for most of the year, but particularly so in the winter months. In summer, regularly seen at Deep Water Bay and elsewhere recorded at Wong Nei Chung, Tai Po Kau forest and in display flight at Tsing Lung Tau.

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

Many records from widespread areas throughout the year. Breeding may have occurred at Tai Po Kau and Deep Water Bay where birds were regularly seen in the summer months. However, although widespread usually only one or two birds seen in each locality. Good areas to see this species in the cooler months are Mai Po, Mong Tseng, Ho Chung ponds, Chi Ma Wan, Silvermine Bay and Kadoorie Beach.

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

One at She Shan on 21 April and 14 May. Single birds at Tai Po Kau on 14 May, Kowloon Peak on 17 September and Mai Po woods on 15 October.

197. Great Barbet (*Megalaima virens*)

At least two pairs resident in Tai Po Kau and breeding proved when a nest was located there on 21 May. One pair seen in the Lam Tsuen Valley at Tai Om and She Shan. Elsewhere, single birds at Tai Mong Tsai on 7 August and Jubilee Reservoir on 21 May and 28 December.

200. Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*)

11 records, all of single birds, from widespread areas viz:— Kings Park (7 and 8 January), Ho Chung (30 January and 20 February), Castle Peak Monastery (13 February), Mong Tseng (15 February), Sha Tin (21 March), Stanley (31 March), Sek Kong woods (23 September), Ho Man Tin (14 November), Mong Tseng (5 December) and Mai Po (16 December).

203. Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

Recorded from 23 January and rather spasmodically through February but well established by mid-March. Several pairs breeding at Yim Tso Ha on 11 April and up to two pairs probably bred at Chatham Road, Kowloon. Remained very common in the New Territories until early September and last reported on 3 October.

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

One at Long Valley on 2 January. c.14 at Mai Po South on 6 January. One at Sek Kong on 12 March and two at Mai Po on 9 April. c.20 at Mai Po on 12 November and c.30 at Lok Ma Chau on 16 November. Single birds at Ping Shan on 3 December and Mai Po on 17 December. c. ten at Lok Ma Chau on 17 December and two there on 24 December. Up to eight in the Ho Chung/Sai Kung area on 30 and 31 December.

205. House Martin (*Delichon urbica*)

c. five at Au Tau, Mai Po on 9 May (M.A.W.)

206. Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*)

Three at Mai Po on 10 September (T.P.G.) and two at Lok Ma Chau on 13 December (J.M.G.C.)

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

Recorded in widespread areas in the New Territories throughout the year, but with an apparent increase May to August. Breeding occurred at Tseng Lan Shue where adults with two young were regularly seen until mid-June. The melanistic Dusky Shrike often recorded but nowhere near as common and analysis of records for 1971 and 1972 indicates approximately one in ten melanistic, or partially so.

210. Brown Shrike (*Lanius cristatus*)

Widespread but not common. One regularly seen near Kai Tak in early March and again from October to the end of the year. One at Sek Kong woods on 2 January, 5 and 12 March. One at Beas River on 8 January. One at Lead Mine Pass on 12 February. Single birds at She Shan on 13 February, 1 April and 17 December, Ho Chung Ponds on 5 May, Lau Fau Shan on 3 September and Kowloon Peak on 17 September and 1 October. Two at Mai Po on 18 September and three plus at Ping Shan on 22 September. Single birds at Lok Ma Chau on 3 October and Sai Kung on 21 October.

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

At least one pair in the Fanling/Beas River area between 9 May and 5 September and earlier on 8 January a female seen there. A male in Sek Kong woods on 9 April and up to four there including an immature bird between 17 September and 26 November. Single birds in the Tai Po Kau area between 9 June and 20 August. A pair

at Mai Po woods on 15 October. Single birds at King's Park on 13 April and Yim Tso Ha on 1 September.

212. Black Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocercus*)

Widespread and quite common from 12 March until the end of October, with several winter records from Lok Ma Chau, Mong Tseng, Castle Peak and Bethanie. Usually seen singly or in pairs but up to ten in a small area near Sai Kung in September and October and eight in Stanley woods on 20 September.

213. Ashy Drongo (*Dicrurus leucophaeus*)

Single birds of the sub-species *salangensis* at Stanley on 16 February and 12 and 14 March and 26 November and at Luen Tak on 3 December. Single birds of the sub-species *leucogenis* (White-cheeked) at Sek Kong woods from the beginning of the year until 1 April and again from 1 October onwards.

214. Hair-crested Drongo (*Dicrurus hottentottus*)

First recorded from Mai Po on 16 April where eight were seen, then at Tai Po Kau from 6 May where several pairs were present. Elsewhere, recorded regularly at She Shan and Yim Tso Ha in the summer and also seen at Sha Tin, Happy Valley, Junk Bay, Three Fathoms Cove and Chi Ma Wan until 27 October. A single winter record of one at Sha Tin on 23 December.

215. Chinese Starling (*Sturnus sinensis*)

The latest spring date was 30 April and the earliest autumn date 8 October. Widespread and locally quite common, usually in small flocks of up to 20. Mainly seen in the northern and western New Territories but also at Sek Kong, Sai Kung, Tai O and eastern Kowloon (where up to six were present in both winters). Two birds at Castle Peak Monastery on 30 April appeared to be building a nest, and this is the only evidence of breeding.

216. Silky Starling (*Sturnus sericeus*)

Widespread and locally common in the New Territories in winter, usually in small flocks of up to 30. Extreme dates were 12 March and 3 November.

217. Grey Starling (*Sturnus cineraceus*)

All records are for the winter and from the north-west New Territories, apart from one at Tai Po on 16 January. Usually in small flocks, with a maximum of 20 at Mong Tseng on 29 November. Extreme dates were 12 March and 25 November.

217x. Common Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

The wintering birds at Lok Ma Chau remained until 27 February where a maximum of seven were seen on 20 February. They returned on 7 November (the same date as first recorded last year) and were still there at the end of the year with a maximum of ten on

24 December. In both years numbers increased in December but as yet the species does not appear to have spread.

218. Black-necked Starling (*Sturnus nigricollis*)

Quite common in the northern, central and eastern New Territories throughout the year. Usually pairs or small flocks with a maximum of 14+ at Three Fathoms Cove on 15 October. An unusual record is of a single bird at King's Park on 25 May. This species appears well established where it occurs, particularly in the eastern New Territories.

219. Common Mynah (*Acridotheres tristis*)

Only nine records and in view of the uncertain status of this species they are given in full:—

- Sek Kong — two pairs on 5 February and one pair on 3 December.
Castle Peak — three on 1 April and single birds on 30 January and 16 December.
Mong Tseng — Single birds on 15 February and 18 March.
San Tin/Mai Po — one pair on 23 April.
Ping Shan — one on 10 September.

220. Crested Mynah (*Acridotheres cristatellus*)

Very common and widespread with particularly large concentrations in certain areas outside the breeding season. Breeding recorded in the weepoles to a cutting on the Clearwater Bay Road in early May. Largest flocks are of 70+ at Silvermine Bay on 30 October and 50+ regularly at Chi Ma Wan in October.

221. Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*)

Single birds at Jubilee Reservoir on 4 and 21 January, 23 May, 7, 14 and 28 December. One at Plover Cove on 6 February. One at Wong Chuk Yeung (Sai Kung) on 12 March. Up to seven plus in Tai Po Kau from 8 September to 1 October. Three at Kowloon Peak on 18 September.

222. Blue Magpie (*Urocissa erythrorhyncha*)

Common on Hong Kong Island and in wooded areas of the New Territories. One observer considers that although still fairly common there has been a decline in numbers on Hong Kong Island, which may reflect the loss of suitable breeding habitat through new development.

223. Magpie (*Pica pica*)

Common and widespread. Regularly recorded for most of the year but surprisingly local during July and August when notably absent from many of its familiar haunts. Breeding recorded from Kowloon Railway Station (at least two nests in the mast), Victoria

Barracks, Bowen Road (nest in pylon), Tai Lam Chung, Wong Chuk Yeung (four or five pairs in a small area) and Ma Wan, all January to March. Nest building noted again at Kowloon Railway Station and Victoria Barracks in December. The Lam Tsuen Valley holds a large winter concentration and 21 were seen there on 2 January.

226. Jungle Crow (*Corvus macrorhynchus*)

Quite common and widespread in the New Territories and Hong Kong Island, usually pairs but occasionally larger numbers with a maximum of 12 at Route Twisk on 22 September. Three nests in pylons were located at Aberdeen Reservoir on 3 September with 11 birds in the immediate vicinity.

227. Collared Crow (*Corvus torquatus*)

Common throughout the year in the area of the Deep Bay marshes, Plover Cove and the Sai Kung district, with odd reports from Starling Inlet and Sha Tin. Usually seen in pairs but five at Sai Kung on 28 October.

228. Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike (*Coracina melaschistos*)

Up to three (two males and a female) in Sek Kong woods from the beginning of the year until 16 April and at least four there from 10 September until 26 November. Single birds regularly at She Shan in the winter months. At least two at Tseng Lan Shue from 22 January to 2 March. One at Tai Po Tsai (Clearwater Bay) on 15 December and two at Beas River on 5 December. On Hong Kong Island single birds at Pokfulam on 17 September and Bowen Road on 10 November with a pair on the Peak on 6 November.

231. Ashy Minivet (*Pericrocotus divaricatus*)

Only two records. A flock of about ten at Sek Kong woods on 9 April and one at Pokfulam on 12 April.

233. Scarlet Minivet (*Pericrocotus flammeus*)

Up to 27 including three males remained at Tai Po Kau until 19 March. Up to ten including one male at Sek Kong woods between 16 January and 20 February. Three plus at Tung Chung, Lantau on 9 January. Five at Ma Nam Wat (Sai Kung) on 13 February and 12 including two males at She Shan on 23 February. No autumn records.

234. Chestnut Bulbul (*Hypsipetes castanotus*)

Only one record of four at Chi Ma Wan on 14 January.

235. Black Bulbul (*Hypsipetes madagascariensis*)

Recorded between 13 February and 19 March from Tai Po Kau (maximum 34+), She Shan (maximum ten) Jubilee Reservoir (ten) and Hatton Path, The Peak (five).

236. Crested Bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus*)

Common and widespread but particularly so on Hong Kong Island.

237. Chinese Bulbul (*Pycnonotus sinensis*)

Very common throughout the Colony in all types of habitat. Flocks up to 100 outside the breeding season. Several hundred roost in the mangroves at Ho Chung.

238. Red-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus aurigaster*)

Common and widespread but tends to avoid urban areas.

243. Black-faced Laughing-thrush (*Garrulax perspicillatus*)

Common and widespread, usually in noisy groups of up to 15 birds.

244. Black-throated Laughing-thrush (*Garrulax chinensis*)

Only recorded from various parts of Hong Kong Island from 12 February to 7 September. Up to four regularly seen and often heard.

245. Hwamei (*Garrulax canorus*)

One or two regularly seen at King's Park until 23 April. A pair seen at Tseng Lan Shue from the beginning of the year to 15 October and a young bird there on 11 June indicates that breeding probably occurred. Up to ten at Jubilee Reservoir between 7 and 14 December, five on Kowloon Peak on 26 September. Elsewhere, recorded from Tai Po Kau (six), Junk Bay, Tsing Lung Tau (two), Tai Mo Shan, Sha Tin and on Hong Kong Island at Bowen Road (two), Po Shan Road, Hatton Path (four) and the Botanical Gardens. Single birds at Farm Road and Ki Lung Street, Kowloon were probably escapes. It would appear that this species is becoming much commoner and more widespread in the New Territories.

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

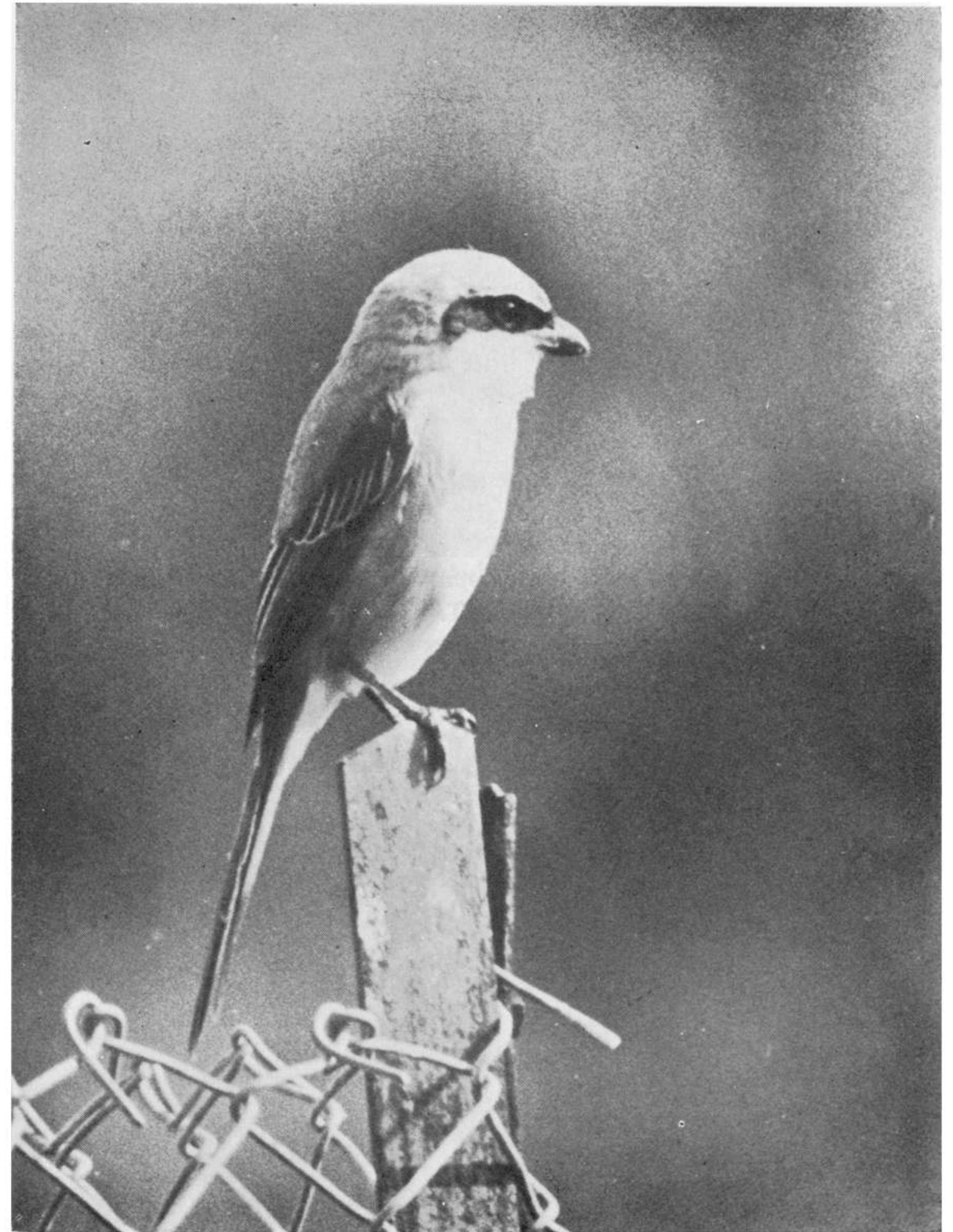
Up to four remained at Pokfulam until 21 January. Three at Po Shan Road on 5 January and two at King's Park on 24 May. As these records are from fairly urbanized districts the possibility of escapes cannot be disregarded, although a feral population may have been established at Pokfulam.

246x. Greater Necklaced Laughing-thrush (*Garrulax pectoralis*)

A party of c.12 seen at Tai Po Kau on 31 December.

247. Chinese Babax (*Babax lanceolatus*)

Two on the Peak (Harlech Road) on 30 April (T.S.) and reported from Middle Gap Road in early March. These are the first records since 1963.



Rufous-backed Shrike (*Lanius schach*)

Photo by D. J. Galloway



Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*)
Photo by T. Shiota



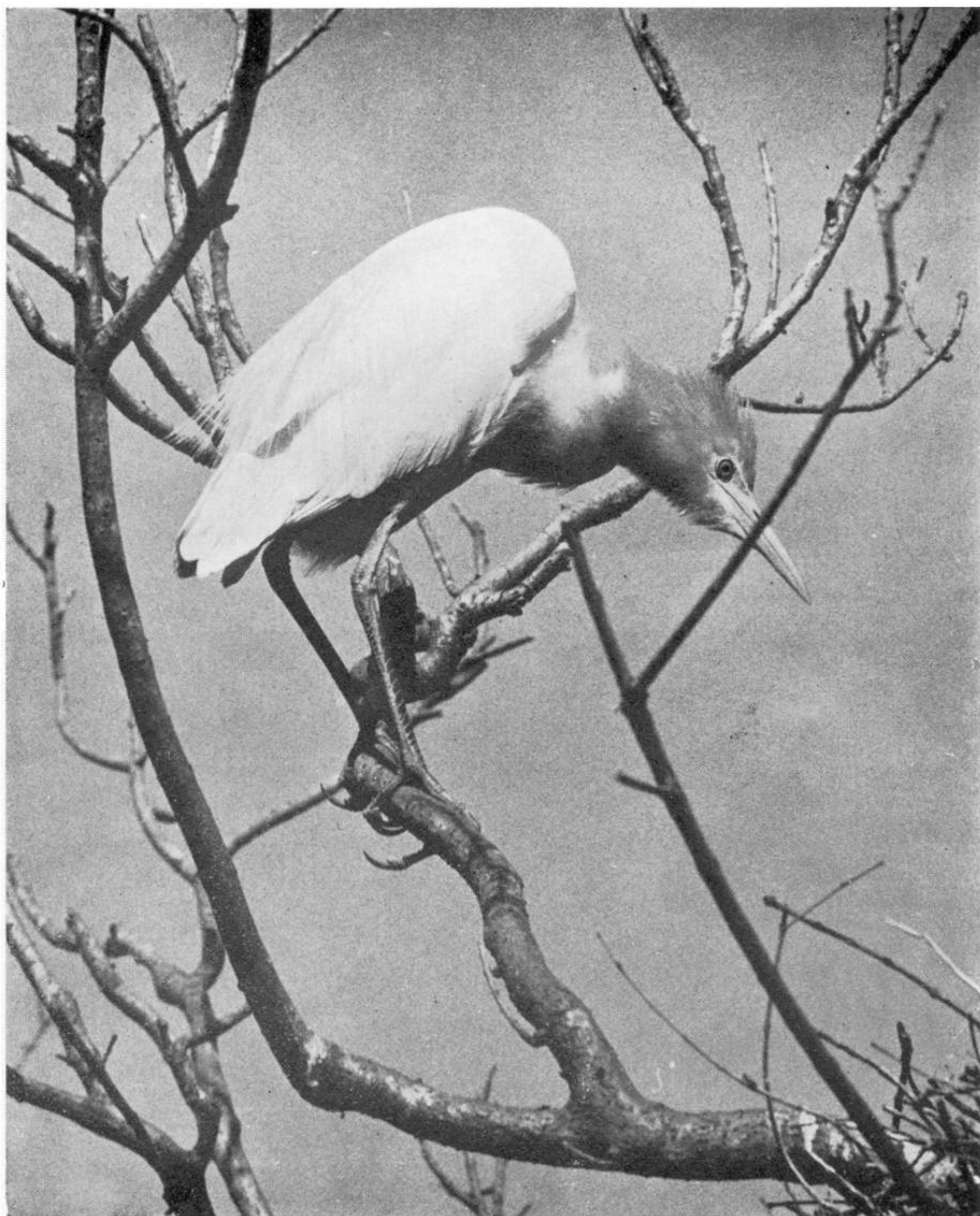
Richard's Pipit (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*)
Photo by D. J. Galloway



Female Daurian Redstart (*Phoenicurus aureus*)
Photo by D. J. Galloway



White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*)
Photo by D. J. Galloway



Cattle Egret (*Ardeola ibis*)
 Photo Copyright by Dr. R. K. Murton

251. Ince's Paradise Flycatcher (*Terpsiphone paradisi*)

Six records all of females or immatures. One or two in Tai Po Kau from 5 September to 1 October. Single birds on the Peak on 11 September and 14 October and Sek Kong woods on 8 October.

252. Japanese Paradise Flycatcher (*Terpsiphone atrocaudata*)

One female or immature at Tai Po Kau on 1 October.

253. Grey-headed Flycatcher (*Culicicapa ceylonensis*)

One, possibly two, in Sek Kong woods until 13 February. One at Bethanie on 30 and 31 December.

254. Black-naped Monarch Flycatcher (*Hypothymis azurea*)

One male at She Shan on 27 February. One female or immature at Bethanie on 31 December.

255. Brown Flycatcher (*Muscicapa latirostris*)

Fairly common and widespread. Up to three regularly seen in Sek Kong woods, but elsewhere usually seen singly. Last spring record was 21 April and first autumn record was 9 September; both from Sek Kong woods. Only one record for December may indicate that fewer birds have over-wintered this year.

256. Grey-spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa griseisticta*)

One on the Peak on 15 September and two there on 29 September. A single bird at Sek Kong woods between 8 and 29 October.

257. Ferruginous Flycatcher (*Muscicapa furruginea*)

Two at Chi Ma Wan on 15 January (I.W.H.)

258. Verditer Flycatcher (*Muscicapa thalassina*)

Regularly reported from widespread areas until 19 March and from 12 October. Favours wooded areas such as Tai Po Kau, where up to three were seen, She Shan, Sek Kong woods and Jubilee Reservoir, but also recorded from Sha Tin, Lead Mine Pass, Sai Kung and The Peak.

259. Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa parva*)

One or two in Sek Kong woods from 6 February until 5 March and a single bird there on 12 November and 24 December. One at She Shan on 6 and 27 February. One at Tai Po Kau on 7 January. One at Mai Po Mei on 6 February. An adult in summer plumage at Kadoorie Beach on 5 April. Single birds at Mai Po wood on 7 October and Sai Kung on 18 October.

260. Robin Flycatcher (*Muscicapa mugimaki*)

One at Sek Kong woods on 1 April. Three records from Tai Po Kau of one there on 19 November, up to ten there on 24 December and two there on 31 December. One at Jubilee Reservoir on 7 December.

- 262. Tricolour Flycatcher** (*Muscicapa zanthopygia*)
A female at Sek Kong on 9 September (T.P.G.)
- 263x. Orange-bellied Niltava** (*Niltava sundara/davidi*)
A single bird at Po Shan Road on 7 January was the same bird seen there the previous month and was probably an escape.
- 264. Blue and White Flycatcher** (*Cyanoptila cyanomelana*)
A male and a female on the Peak from 12 to 14 April. One female at Mong Tseng on 3 December.
- 265. Chinese Bush Warbler** (*Cettia diphone*)
17 records from widespread areas. Usually seen singly but occasionally in pairs. Last spring date was 8 April and the first autumn date 5 September.
- 267. Short-tailed Bush Warbler** (*Cettia squameiceps*)
Three records. One at Chi Ma Wan on 16 January. One at She Shan on 17 December and one at Jubilee Reservoir on 28 December.
- 270. Von Schrenck's Reed-warbler** (*Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*)
All records are from Mai Po. Eight spring records of up to five plus between 8 March and 7 May and two autumn records of three plus on 15 and 24 October.
- 271. Great Reed-warbler** (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*)
Only one record for the spring of two at Ho Chung ponds on 5 May. Abundant on the Deep Bay marshes during the autumn passage, with peak numbers on 17 to 18 September and 15 to 24 October. Also recorded from Sai Kung on 26 September and surprisingly Farm Road, Kowloon on 26 to 28 September and 2 October. Extreme dates for the autumn passage were 3 September until 12 November.
- 273. Dusky Warbler** (*Phylloscopus fuscatus*)
Quite common and widespread until 21 April and from 1 October. Usually singly or in pairs but over 20 in the reeds at Mai Po North on 24 October.
- 274. Yellow-browed Warbler** (*Phylloscopus inornatus*)
Common and widespread until 16 April and from 19 September. Even regularly recorded at King's Park, where as many as ten were seen.
- 275. Pallas's Warbler** (*Phylloscopus proregulus*)
Reported from widespread localities until 14 March and from 17 December. Up to 15 in Sek Kong woods in the early part of the year.

- 276. Arctic Warbler** (*Phylloscopus borealis*)
Uncommon on the spring passage with only four records. However, common on the autumn passage in widespread areas. Extreme dates were, for the spring 12 March to 5 April and for the autumn 8 September to 22 October.
- 277. Pale-legged Willow-warbler** (*Phylloscopus tenellipes*)
Three records. Single birds at Sek Kong woods on 7 and 22 October and one at Bethanie on 16 October. (all M.A.W.)
- 278. Crowned Willow-warbler** (*Phylloscopus occipitalis*)
One at Mong Tseng on 15 February (D.G.R.).
- 280. Yellow-eyed Flycatcher-warbler** (*Seicercus burkii*)
A possible bird of this species at Tai Po Kau on 7 January (T.P.G.). The bird was well seen at short distance but the field notes do not entirely agree with published descriptions for this species.
- 281x. Chestnut-crowned Warbler** (*Seicercus castaniceps*)
One at Tai Po Kau on 13 February (D.G.R.) and 12 March (M.A.W.). Described by D.G.R. as very small, probably smaller than Pallas's Warbler. Head chestnut, back and wings light green with two lemon-yellow wing bars, throat and upper breast light grey, remainder of breast and abdomen very bright lemon-yellow; bill yellowish-orange, legs yellowish-orange; part-eye ring white. Very active and hawks flies. This is a new species for the Colony.
- 282. Long-tailed Tailorbird** (*Orthotomus sutorius*)
Common and widespread but particularly in areas with good scrub cover. Even recorded from such differing localities as the summit of Tai Mo Shan and King's Park in the centre of Kowloon.
- 285. Brown Wren-warbler** (*Prinia subflava*)
Very few records submitted. Recorded from the Deep Bay marshes in March, April, September and October but presumably it breeds there in some numbers. Elsewhere, one at Sek Kong on 9 January and four on a grass-covered hill at Mong Tseng on 5 December.
- 286. Yellow-bellied Wren-warbler** (*Prinia flaviventris*)
Generally, quite common and widespread but particularly common in the area of the Deep Bay marshes. Found near the summits of Tai Mo Shan and Kowloon Peak. Two breeding records; one of a nest containing four fresh eggs near Au Tau on 26 March and another of a pair constructing a nest in a lantana bush at Lok Ma Chau on 28 March.

287. Fantail Warbler (*Cisticola juncidis*)

Common in the area of the Deep Bay marshes but also recorded from Ho Chung, Sai Kung, Sha Tau Kok, Silvermine Bay and Long Valley in fewer numbers. No summer records.

289. Red-tailed Robin (*Luscinia sibilans*)

One at Mong Tseng on 15 February.

290. Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*)

One at Long Valley on 2 January and one at Mai Po North on 6 January.

291. Rubythroat (*Luscinia calliope*)

Single birds, mostly males, recorded in widespread areas until 19 April. One male at Ping Shan on 3 December.

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

Exceptionally common and widespread until 10 April. Several adult males were seen and the ratio of males to females/immatures was about one in ten. Apart from an unusually early record of a female on the Peak on 25 September this species was not seen again this year.

293. Magpie-Robin (*Copsychus saularis*)

Common and widespread in the New Territories and on Hong Kong Island where it can be found in urban areas.

294. Daurian Redstart (*Phoenicurus aureus*)

Exceptionally common and widespread until 30 March. Very much less common this winter with only eight records to the end of the year, from widespread areas. First seen in the autumn on 18 August, which is very early, then from 27 November onwards.

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

Up to three females on the headwaters of the Tai Lam Chung Reservoir until 13 February. One male and two females at Ho Chung on 6 February. One female at Tai Po Kau on 16 January and a male and a female there on 23 January. A male at Lead Mine Pass on 12 February.

296. Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*)

Common and widespread until 21 April and from 26 September. Prefers open cultivated and grazing areas and most suitable localities in the New Territories and on Hong Kong Island hold a few birds.

297. Grey Bushchat (*Saxicola ferrea*)

Two males and two females in the Lam Tsuen Valley on 2 January. Up to three males and two females near Silvermine Bay on 8 and 9 January. Two at Castle Peak Monastery on 30 January

and a female there on 13 February. Two at Beas River on 30 January. Two males and three females at Mong Tseng and one at Ma Nam Wat (Sai Kung) on 15 February. A male at Chi Ma Wan on 3 December and a male and a female at Nam A (Sai Kung) on 31 December.

298. Blue Rock-Thrush (*Monticola solitaria*)

Both sub-species quite common along rocky coasts and inland usually near hill-tops or reservoirs, but occasionally urban areas as single birds were regularly seen at Farm Road and King's Park, Kowloon. Last spring date was 2 May and first autumn date 13 September.

299. Chestnut-breasted Rock-Thrush (*Monticola rufiventris*)

A male at Strawberry Hill on the Peak on 1 March and a male and a female there on 24 March. A single bird at Sai Kung on 31 December.

300. Violet Whistling Thrush (*Myiophonus caeruleus*)

Widespread but only locally common, usually near streams in wooded areas.

301. Pale Thrush (*Turdus pallidus*)

One at Beas River on 8 January. One at Sek Kong Woods on 23 January. Single birds at Stanley on 29 January, 17 February and 12 March, with two there on 14 March. One at Kadoorie Beach and one at Mount Kellett on 30 January. One at Headland Road on 6 February. Single birds at Plantation Road on 8 and 12 February, Findlay Road on 10, 13 and 16 February and two regularly seen at Strawberry Hill on the Peak from 19 February until 13 April. One at Mount Austin on 6 and 11 March. Single birds at She Shan on 12 March, Bethanie and Lady Clementi's Ride on 31 March. The above records indicate at least 15 separate birds. Only one later record of a single bird at Bethanie on 31 December.

302. Eyebrowed Thrush (*Turdus obscurus*)

A female at Mount Austin on 7 March.

303. Brown Thrush (*Turdus chrysolaus*)

Two at Strawberry Hill on the Peak on 9 March (H.D.S.)

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

Common in wooded areas until 8 April. Only six records from 26 November onwards of single birds at Bethanie and Mong Tseng and a pair at Beas River.

305. Dusky Thrush (*Turdus naumanni eunomus*)

An irruption of this species occurred between 9 January, when a single bird was seen at Tai Po Tsai (Clearwater Bay) and 8 April. In between those dates a single bird was seen at Lok Ma Chau on

16 and 23 January and numbers increased dramatically in February and March when this species became common and widespread. The Lok Ma Chau area alone held over 12 and several could be seen on the golf courses at Fanling. She Shan and Sek Kong woods held several. Even King's Park held up to 11 in these months. Other areas where birds were seen include Sai Kung, Mong Tseng, Stanley, Wo Hop Shek and the Peak. No positive record of this species since the 8 April, although a single bird in Sek Kong woods on 6 December may have been of the race *naumanni*.

306. Blackbird (*Turdus merula*)

Up to five in Sek Kong woods until 5 March. Two at Long Valley and one at Lok Ma Chau on 2 January. Four at She Shan on 2 January and two there on 6 February: Five at Lok Ma Chau on 6 January. One at Beas Hill on 8 January and three there on 13 February. One at Tseng Lan Shue between 22 January and 5 February. Single birds at Ma Nam Wat (Sai Kung) on 15 February. About 20 at She Shan on 26 November and up to 15 at Beas River between 5 and 16 December.

307. Grey Thrush (*Turdus cardis*)

Fairly common in widespread areas until 14 April. From 24 November until the end of the year up to ten regularly seen at Bethanie. One on the Peak on 7 December and two at Tai Po Kau on 31 December are the only other records for the latter part of the year.

310. White's Thrush (*Turdus dauma*)

Single birds at She Shan on 14 January, Bethanie on 29 January, Kadoorie Beach on 30 January, Ho Chung on 6 February, Bowen Road on 1 March and Strawberry Hill on the Peak from 1 March until 22 April.

313. Great Tit (*Parus major*)

Common in wooded areas but particularly so at Tai Po Kau and Jubilee Reservoir. D.G.R. submitted this interesting breeding record from a nesting box in his garden at Headland Road:— nesting material brought to the nest-box by two adults on 18 March, three eggs there on 25 March, six or seven chicks there with primaries, secondaries and head feathers, presumably one or two weeks old, on 22 April and fledglings left the nest by 29 April—one unhatched egg removed. Young birds seen at Tai Po Kau in May and June and at Three Fathoms Cove on 30 April.

313x. Yellow-bellied Tit (*Parus venustulus*)

This species made a welcome return when four were seen at She Shan on 2 January and remained there until 12 March. At least two at Tai Po Kau from 7 January until 6 February. Six at Fanling on 6 January and 20 seen nearby at Beas River on 18 March

and a single bird there on 26 March. Two or three at Three Fathoms Cove on 12 February and five plus at Mong Tseng on 15 February.

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

Quite common and widespread in open areas until 30 April and from 26 September, although two or three were seen at Clearwater Bay beach on 11 and 22 August.

316. Indian Tree-Pipit (*Anthus hodgsoni*)

Common in widespread areas until 25 April and from 19 October.

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

Quite common in the area of the Deep Bay marshes until 16 April and from 5 November. Also recorded from Tai O and Silvermine Bay on Lantau.

319. Upland Pipit (*Anthus sylvanus*)

One at She Shan on 19 March (M.A.W.) Two at 3000 feet on Tai Mo Shan on 6 August and up to three near the summit of Kowloon Peak on 16 July and 5 September.

320. Forest Wagtail (*Dendronanthus indicus*)

One at Sek Kong woods on 19 February and again on 1 October. One at Tai Tam on 9 September.

321. White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*)

Very common and widespread until 23 April and from 22 September. During a survey in widespread areas, conducted January to April, a minimum of 62.5% of the White Wagtails recorded were of the sub-species *ocularis*. It is known that many specimens of this race can only be identified in the hand, and it is reasonable to assume that a large proportion of the balance were also of this race.

322. Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)

Quite common and widespread in the winter but usually only seen in ones or twos along watercourses or at ponds, although occasionally seen along the shore. Extreme dates were until 11 May and from 5 September.

323. Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*)

Common in winter in the area of the Deep Bay marshes becoming very common, if not numerous, on the spring and autumn passages. Also recorded from King's Park (11 on 7 January), Sai Kung, Ho Chung ponds (several with the characteristics of race *simillima* in April) and Deep Water Bay (50 with the characteristics of race *simillima* on 13 May). Extreme dates were until 13 May and from 22 September.

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

The stronghold is Tai Po Kau where several birds were reported regularly throughout the year, but the total numbers are difficult to assess. Elsewhere, single birds at Headland Road on 25 January, 1 and 6 February and 15 March, Clearwater Bay beach on 13 February and Jubilee Reservoir on 21 May.

325. White-eye (*Zosterops japonica*)

Common and widespread, particularly in wooded areas. A flock of c.100 at Tseng Lan Shue on 28 January.

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

Widespread reports throughout the year. Up to ten regularly seen at Tai Po Kau. Also recorded from Sek Kong woods (one or two), Wong Chuk Yeung (Sai Kung), She Shan, Three Fathoms Cove, Tai Mong Tsai and King's Park (where up to two were seen January to March and again in December).

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

A female at Tai Po Kau on 15 January and two males there on 26 November. A male and a female at King's Park on 11 March.

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

Fairly common in widespread areas in the winter months. Usually a few together with a maximum of 20 at Mong Tseng on 27 February. Extreme dates were until 3 April and from 25 November.

329. Chinese Greenfinch (*Chloris sinica*)

Locally quite common. Recorded in every month except August. Flocks of up to 24 regularly seen outside the breeding season. Three young birds at King's Park on 13 May. Areas in which it is most regularly reported are Fanling, Sek Kong woods, Castle Peak, Sai Kung, Kowloon Tong and on Hong Kong Island at Pokfulam, Stanley, Aberdeen and the Peak.

331. Common Rosefinch (*Carpodacus erythrinus*)

Up to ten regularly seen in Sek Kong woods until 9 April. Five at She Shan on 6 January and four there on 13 February. Two males and two females at Beas Hill on 8 January. Two at Castle Peak Monastery on 30 January. One at Mai Po Mei on 6 February. Five at Mong Tseng on 15 February, 15 there on 27 February. Two at Mong Tseng on 26 November and on 26 December are the only records for the latter part of the year.

332. Masked Bunting (*Emberiza spodocephala*)

Quite common and widespread in the winter months. Extreme dates were until 25 April and from 27 October.

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

Up to 15 in Tai Po Kau until 12 March and four there on 24 December. About five at Castle Peak monastery on 30 January and one there on 13 February. Five at Beas River on 30 January. One at She Shan on 12 March and four there on 19 March. One at Jubilee Reservoir on 14 December.

336. Chestnut Bunting (*Emberiza rutila*)

Three plus at Tai Po Kau on 26 November and about ten including a male at Jubilee Reservoir on 14 December.

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

Up to six at Mong Tseng on 15 and 27 February was the only spring record. Quite common in the autumn with a flock of 50+ in the rice fields at Silvermine Bay on 31 October. Several at Sai Kung between 14 October and 12 November, with a maximum of c.30 on 14 October. At least one at Three Fathoms Cove on 15 October and one at Mai Po on 24 October. Two at Chi Ma Wan on 28 October and 2 December. One near Plover Cove on 7 November.

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

Five plus at Long Valley on 2 January. Four at She Shan on 2 January and one there on 23 February. Four at Tsing Lung Tau on 30 January and one there on 5 April. One at Sek Kong on 6 February. Six at Mong Tseng on 15 February and one there on 27 February. During the latter part of the year, two were seen at Long Valley on 24 December and one at Mong Tseng on 26 December.

339. Little Bunting (*Emberiza pusilla*)

Quite common in small numbers in widespread areas of the New Territories until 16 April. Two records for Hong Kong Island of single birds at the Peak on 14 January and Lady Clementi's Ride on 31 March. In the latter part of the year recorded from 31 October onwards, again in small numbers in widespread areas.

340. Crested Bunting (*Melophus lathamii*)

Quite common in the cooler months in widespread areas but appears to favour the Mong Tseng area and the eastern New Territories. Flocks up to 50 recorded in the winter. In the summer recorded from the summit area of Tai Mo Shan (above 2000 feet) on 2 July and 6 August, where up to five were seen.

341. Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

Very common in the vicinity of buildings throughout the year. Prolific breeders with 30 pairs breeding at Clearwater Bay Apartments in the spring. A partial albino with a white head except for

a black cheek spot was seen in a flock of this species at Silvermine Bay on 8 January.

343. Red Avadavat (*Estrilda amandava*)

Only one record of 20+ at Long Valley on 2 January.

344. Java Sparrow (*Padda oryzivora*)

Single birds at Mount Austin on 28 July, 30 August and 3 September associating with tree sparrows. One at Mai Po on 10 September and one at Conduit Road on 12 October. All were probably escapes.

345(b). Chestnut Munia (*Lonchura malacca atricapilla*)

Up to five seen regularly at Mai Po from 7 May until 12 November. One near Sek Kong on 17 December.

346. Spotted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*)

Quite common but only recorded from January until May and from September onwards, in widespread localities. Occurs mostly in flocks of up to 60. Seen regularly at the Lam Tsuen Valley, Sai Kung area, Silvermine Bay, Long Valley and the Pat Heung Plain. One record of ten at King's Park on 19 February.

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

Recorded from Bethanie on 2 January (three), 29 January (four) and 22 December (12), Pokfulam on 13 January (three), 21 January (six) and 3 December (five), Ma Nam Wat (Sai Kung) on 13 and 15 February (maximum 12), Bowen Road on 1 March (three), Tai Po Kau on 19 March (two plus) and the Peak on 26 October (two).

ESCAPE

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (*Kakatoe sulphurea*)

Recorded throughout the year on almost every day from the area of Victoria Barracks where a flock is resident and roosts there most nights. The maximum number seen in the Barracks in 1972 is 13. Some of the birds have orange/yellow crests as against yellow and appear older but no obviously young birds have been noted. Elsewhere on the Island most regularly seen at Happy Valley (maximum 11), Bowen Road (maximum 16), Mid-levels and Victoria Peak. An extraordinary sighting was of a flock of 21 flying south over the roof of the Ocean Terminal at 22.00 hours on 29 September, which indicates both larger numbers and more movement than suspected. Another Mainland record is of a single bird at King's Park on 16 April. At the beginning of 1973 up to 20 have been seen in Victoria Barracks and an interesting record is of one at Jubilee Reservoir. The total Colony population is at the minimum 21 but probably about 30.

This species was first recorded as an escape in the years 1961 to 1963 when about three were regularly seen on Hong Kong Island. In 1964/65 numbers increased to five with one interesting sighting of one at Ping Shan. By 1967 a small flock of six plus was seen in Victoria Barracks and by 1969 this increased to ten. In 1970 and 1971 numbers did not appear to increase but birds were sighted at Stonecutters Island and Ho Chung.

There is no doubt that the original birds in the early sixties were escapes but is the present population made up of entirely escaped birds? As yet we have no evidence of breeding and this species is notoriously long-lived; in support of the escape theory four were seen with the remains of chains on their legs at Hatton Path on 19 February, 1972. However, feral populations of this species have established themselves in Singapore and New Zealand.

In 1973 full records for this species should be submitted in order that its present status can be determined with some accuracy.

SAI KUNG PENINSULA

Perhaps the entry in the Check-List which most caught my imagination at first reading, after only a few weeks in Hong Kong, was that of the two White Storks over Clear Water Bay. When I moved to the area I was struck by the potential of the whole Sai Kung peninsula, but surprised by the apparent lack of regular watchers.

Reference to the Bird Reports show that in the mid-sixties Society outings to the area were quite frequent and entries in the Reports indicate substantial additional watching. More recently there has been less attention given to the area and so, in 1972 with three members of the Society living in the peninsula a conscious effort has been made to tap the potential.

As a result 132 species have been recorded including many surprises and the feeling that almost anything on the Hong Kong list could turn up.

The valley that leads down from Tseng Lan Shue to Junk Bay contains the foulest stream in the Colony but it attracts birds; in winter, thrushes, including Blackbirds and Ruby-throats; Black-winged Cuckoo-shrikes and in summer Koels and Hair-crested Drongos. In the hills on either side the Francolin calls from March to September, Black-headed Gulls visit Junk Bay in winter and overhead a pair of Bonelli's Eagles were seen regularly over a four month period.

Francolin can also be heard frequently on Kowloon Peak, Crested Buntings summer there and Upland Pipits were seen. In autumn a Broad-billed Roller was sighted in the wooded area below the peak, which is also at the head of the Ho Chung Valley, still an excellent area with substantial paddy and a variety of woodland. Plumbeous Water-redstarts were seen by the stream and Grey Bushchats, a Wryneck and a White's Thrush elsewhere. At the end of the year eight Red-rumped Swallows were present for a few days.

The most striking series of records came from the Ho Chung fish ponds during the spring migration, a total of 22 species of waders were seen including Turnstone; Whimbrel; Marsh, Grey-rumped, Terek, Sharp-tailed, Broad-billed and Curlew Sandpipers, Sanderling, Collared Pratincole and over 50 Red-necked Phalarope. In addition a Chestnut Bittern, a Ruddy Crake and a Gull-billed Tern were noted; Little Green Herons were seen on many occasions and it is probable that they bred.

Towards Sai Kung the Ma Nam Wat peninsula provides an interesting area with substantial woodland, which produced records of Verditer Flycatchers, Scarlet Minivets and White-backed Munias. Just beyond Sai Kung the Sha Ha area of paddies and sands is well worth a visit at any time. Sightings for the paddies include Yellow-breasted Buntings, Red Turtle-doves, Dusky Thrushes and a Chestnut-breasted Rock-thrush. The sands deserve more regular watching than was

achieved in 1972 as there are often waders present and Curlew and Golden Plover were records of special interest. Reef Egrets were seen regularly in the area and eight were recorded on one occasion.

In the hills above Sha Ha is the unspoilt village of Wong Chuk Yeung with adjacent paddies and woods; a Jay and a Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker were seen here. The valley above Tai Mong Tsai is also interesting and has flowerpeckers and barbets in residence.

Three Fathoms Cove offers a wide variety of habitat along its shore and in winter large flocks of Crested Buntings and Spotted Munias are present; throughout the year Black-necked Starlings and Collared Crows are noticeable. Rarities seen include an Emerald Dove and Yellow-bellied Tits.

The waters of Port Shelter, Junk Bay and Three Fathoms Cove seem disappointing, although this may be due to insufficient watching, Great Crested Grebes were seen in Three Fathoms Cove and White-bellied Sea-eagles were regularly seen in Port Shelter and off Clear Water Bay. An Osprey was noted at Silverstrand Beach.

There are many changes taking place on the Sai Kung peninsula, the High Island water scheme is the most obvious with access roads in many valleys including Ho Chung. The scars of the roads will soon heal but the opportunities they provide for development and increased recreational traffic may well prove very damaging to bird life. Three Fathoms Cove has suffered particularly badly and the deterioration over the past year has been very marked. A realistic development plan for the area including its recreational potential is needed but even more urgent is an indication that existing plans will be adhered to and not abandoned to expediency.

John Chapman

DUCK AT DEEP BAY

The following notes have been compiled by one of the Colony's leading wildfowlers and comprise only his personal records. It is of interest that many of his records show a marked difference to those of the Society but it is to be remembered that the author is a far more frequent and earlier visitor to the area than most bird watchers.

Yellow-Nib. Common. First flocks normally sighted in July around the Deep Bay area; most plentiful in August and the beginning of September, after which they tend to thin out gradually until very cold weather brings in new flocks (I believe the late summer birds may be from a different breeding area from the winter flocks). These birds used to nest in the old Mong Tseng marshes and Deep Bay marshes as late as 1958, until civilisation drove them off.

Mallard. Not very common. Normally single birds from early November to February, around the Deep Bay, Tai Tseng, and Mong Tseng marshes.

Shelduck. Common. Not normally sighted inland, as they tend to stay out in the Deep Bay estuary, and only fly inland when severe weather conditions drive them in. Normally the birds can be observed from late November, feeding at low tide, and I have seen occasional small flocks in April.

Pintail. Common. Early arrivals, mostly strays, early October; main arrivals around November/December gradually thinning out until February when the birds tend to regroup before flying north.

Falcated Teal. Common. Early arrivals mid-November; main concentration December/January; small flocks up to February, strays to April. Used to be very common in Mong Tseng, but now birds are mostly found in Tai Tseng, and areas north-east of Tai Tseng.

Wigeon. Common. Early arrivals late October; main arrivals November/December; small flocks and stray birds January/February.

Gadwall. Rare. One shot in Mong Tseng, December 1967. Difficult to differentiate in eclipse plumage.

Cotton Teal. Rare. Early arrivals October/November sightings Chuk Yuen and Mong Tseng (in eclipse plumage).

Baikal Teal. Very rare. Quite common in San Tin before 1960; nowadays very rare; I have not seen one for years.

Lesser Whistling Teal. Rare. Early arrivals October; I have seen one small flock of three birds in October and strays in April

(Mong Tseng and Yuen Long area). Flight pattern differs from other ducks, and is similar to rails and waterhens.

Mandarin Duck. Rare. Early arrivals around November; biggest flock seen by a party of hunters was seven immature birds at Mong Tseng in 1959; two shot. These birds normally seen in pairs, occasionally singles.

Tufted Duck. Not common. A sea duck; early arrivals at beginning of November, staying until March. Not normally shot by hunters, as they only fly inland when weather conditions at sea become very severe and drive them in.

Shoveler. Common. Early arrivals mid-October, main arrivals November/December; strays are seen up till April.

Garganey. Very common. First birds late August/early September, main concentration mid-September to early October. The birds then tend to move further south, and return in April in large flocks before flying north.

Common Teal. Very common. Early arrivals late September, main concentration October/November; scattered flocks December/January. In February/March they tend to regroup in large flocks before flying north. Occasional strays April.

Scaup. Common. First arrivals November (usually when strong north winds are blowing). In February/March large flocks may be observed way out to sea gathering to fly north.

S. de E. Carvalho

THE HONG KONG BIRD CHART

This project was initiated by a long-standing committee member of the Society, David Robertson, who has now moved to Singapore.

The chart comprises coloured illustrations of twenty common Hong Kong birds, which were produced from some excellent paintings by Mr. Roger Pedlar who was at the time teaching in an army school here. We are most appreciative of his gift of time and skill and his interest in the project. The text was written by David Robertson.

We were most fortunate that Mobil Oil Hong Kong Ltd. kindly sponsored the chart and at a presentation ceremony which took place in October, Mr. J. L. Soong, Managing Director of Mobil Oil Hong Kong Ltd., handed over the charts to the Hon. J. Canning, J.P., Director of Education. Ten thousand copies were produced (9,000 in Chinese and 1,000 in English) and most of these were distributed by the Education Department to the local schools.

The intention of this project was to provide children with sufficient information to recognise and appreciate local birds in the hope that they would have a greater understanding of the need for conserving wild bird life.

The timing of the Agriculture and Fisheries Department's show at Sek Kong in December was opportune, as having been invited to participate, we took a stand and organised a competition for children, the prizes for which were the bird charts. The demand for competition forms during the four day show was overwhelming and the answers were enlightening and rather amusing. For example:—

Question: What do birdwatchers carry?

Answer: Guns!

Question: Which bird is wise?

Answer: A sparrow!

Question: A pigeon is used for carrying. . . . ?

Answer: Rubbish!

We were fortunate in being able to put youngsters right and well over 200 charts were presented.

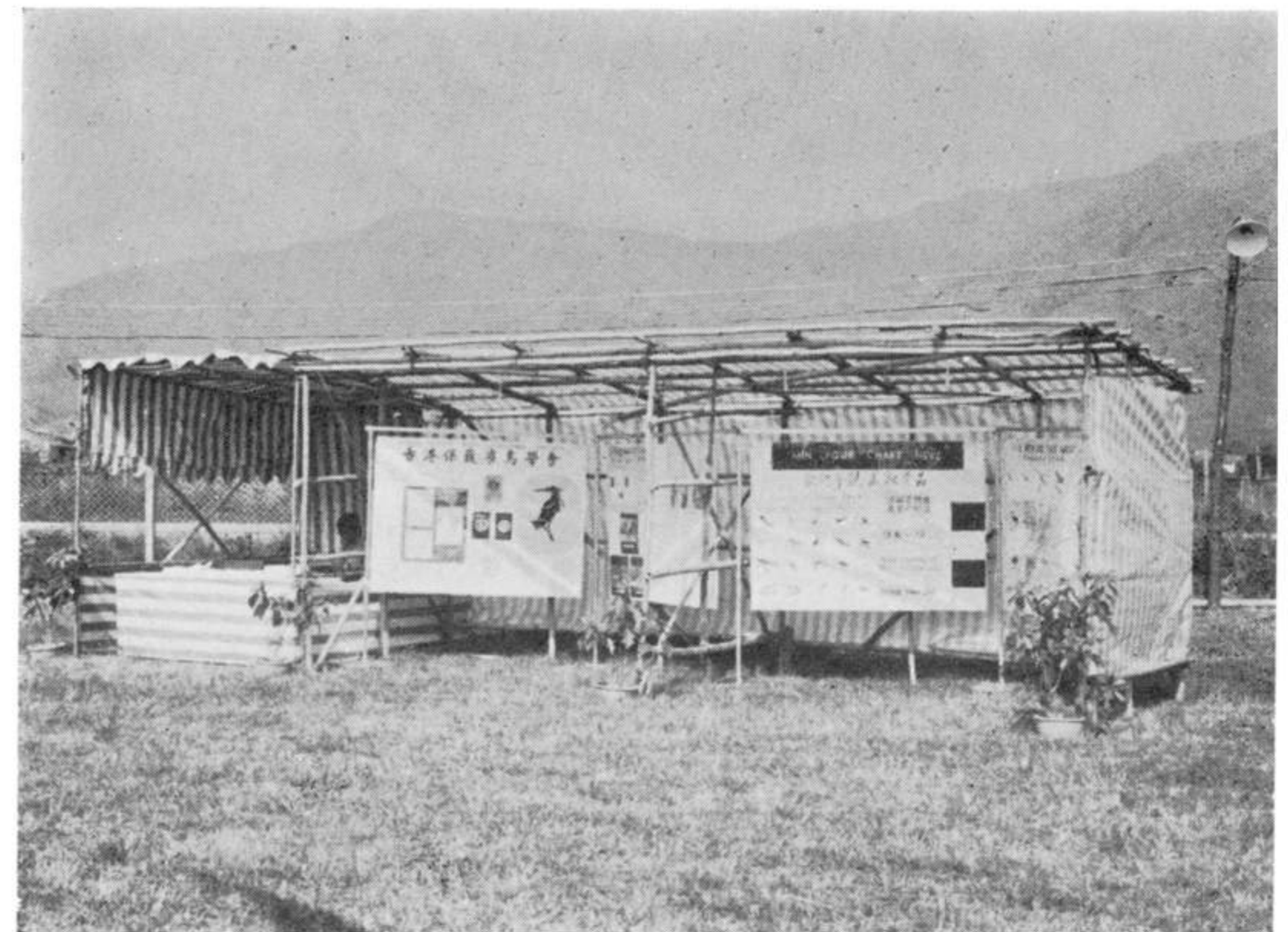
My personal thanks go to Fred Elliott, Clive Viney, Kwok Sui Yee and Keith Ouyang for their kind assistance in controlling the eager hordes of youngsters and in manning the stand during the show. Also to David Galloway for assistance in erecting the stand. His Excellency the Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose who opened the Agricultural Show, visited our stand and he and Lady MacLehose expressed considerable interest in our bird charts and asked to have one sent to them.

Series II of the Chart is now in preparation and it is anticipated that copies will be available in early 1974.

Clive Briffett



Mr. J. L. Soong of Mobil Oil H.K. Ltd., presents the charts to the Hon. J. Canning, Director of Education. SCMP.



The Society's stand at the Agricultural Show 1972.
Photos by D. J. Galloway

THE FLYING BARN-DOOR

The Black Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*) is the largest flying bird in the Old World; its wingspan of 12 ft. is only exceeded by the Andean and Californian Condors. Its normal range reaches to the Himalayas, the Western border of China, and in the north, Chihli and Southern Siberia. Hong Kong is therefore a long way from its normal range, although carrion-eating birds often travel great distances to an area where food is abundant. For example, the Taiping Rebellion of 1911 clogged the Yangtse with corpses, and this is the only recorded occasion when Black Vultures were common in any part of China with the exception of Chihli.

Hong Kong does not therefore seem to be a very suitable locale for them, except during the Japanese Occupation (when several were seen near Stanley), and the 1961-62 refugee influx, when unconfirmed reports tell of several near the Chinese border. There are, however, a number of records, and it has recently become almost annual. Details are as follows:—one near Lo Wu on April 3, 1938, one near Shataukok in January 1947, one near Yuen Long in January 1961; up to three near Lo Wu from December 31, 1963 to March 19, 1964; three at Castle Peak on December 29, 1965; one at Mai Po on January 1, 1970; one at Lo Wu on March 4, 1971; two over Long Valley on December 26, 1972; up to two around Lo Wu from December, 1972 to March 1973.

The photograph is of one of the 1972/73 birds, which came so close that David Galloway was afraid he would not be able to get the whole bird within the frame! Vultures spend most of the daytime aloft, soaring on warm air currents with practically no expenditure of energy. They are unmistakable because of their huge size, and the plank-like appearance of their wings. They are in fact dark brown, though they look black in flight. They change direction with the merest flick of the primaries, and lose height by half-closing their wings, which allows them to glide downwards at great speed.

Vultures use their incredible eyesight to spot dead or dying animals from a great height; in countries where they are common it is normal for them to gather in large numbers from miles around whenever there is a likelihood of food. Here they are still a welcome rarity, but they would not be so welcome if they ever became common! Some idea of their size can be gained from the fact that they were clearly visible from Lok Ma Chau while they were soaring over Crest Hill, at least a couple of miles away; a closer view is something which no birdwatcher could ever forget.

Michael Webster



Black Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*)



Photo by D. J. Galloway

THE TRADE IN RAPTORIAL BIRDS IN HONG KONG

by

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INTRODUCTION

The extremely rich avifauna of Hong Kong includes a wide range of raptorial birds some of which are permanent residents and nest in Hong Kong. At least two pairs of White-bellied Sea-Eagles *Haliaeetus leucogaster* and one pair of Peregrines are persistent in their efforts to raise young although their eyries have been raided for eggs, and in the case of the Peregrines, for eyasses on more than one occasion. Wanton destruction of the nests of White-bellied Sea-Eagles has been recorded on a number of occasions. Another raptor which breeds in Hong Kong is the Black-eared Kite which nests in colonies on Stonecutters Island and on the Peak, and single nests are known in such fairly accessible areas as the Medical Centre of the University of Hong Kong in Sassoon Road. Bonelli's Eagle is reported by Herklots to have nested in Castle Peak in 1937 and it may well have nested near the border in the Sheung Shui and Lo Wu area in recent years. Apart from these, the following diurnal raptors have been reliably recorded as winter visitors — the Kestrel, Buzzard, Sparrow-hawk, and the Marsh Harrier which are all common winter visitors, the Golden Eagle, the Imperial Eagle, the Spotted Eagle, the Osprey are recorded as regular visitors. The Hong Kong Check-List mentions eighteen other species, some of which are occasional and some rare visitors.

The birds described in this paper are not however those found wild, whether resident or migrant, but those which are imported from China chiefly for consumption as food or medicine by the Chinese population of Hong Kong. The Chinese medicine shops especially those of the Western District of Hong Kong Island deal, in addition to herbal remedies, in a very wide range of animal products from the well-known rhinoceros and deer horn to fossil teeth and pickled birds. The commonest bird in the Chinese pharmacopoeia is the Crow-Pheasant *Centropus sinensis* which, preserved in wine, is sold in Chinese medicine shops throughout South-East Asia and Indonesia. Another very common bird is the heron, several of the smaller species being pickled and displayed for sale in glass jars.

In 1967 Dr. P. M. Marshall of the Department of Zoology of the University of Hong Kong purchased from a hawkker seven Kestrels *Falco tinnunculus* four of which died of sinusitis and three were ringed and released. An Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca* was also purchased in April 1967 from the same dealer, ringed and released. Four Buzzards *Buteo buteo* in poor condition were not purchased. One specimen of

the Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela* was purchased in May 1967 and mounted as a specimen in the Zoology Department of the University of Hong Kong.

In 1967 the writer having spent some time at the Falconry Centre at Newent, Gloucestershire learning the techniques of handling, feeding and caring for birds of prey, was joined by F. O. P. Hechtel and J. A. Farrell in initiating a survey of the extent and nature of the trade in raptorial birds. Funds for the purchase of birds came mainly from The Hong Kong Bird Ringing Project. Hechtel has recorded details of birds ringed and released which included sampling of blood and of external parasites. The period under review commenced in October 1967 and extended to March 1969 with irregular records after March 1969. Periodical checks since that date would seem to indicate that the trade has not, in any way, declined and as recently as April 24, 1973 four Peregrine eyasses were imported by a dealer who recently also had in his possession two White-tailed Sea-Eagles, an Imperial Eagle, two adult Peregrines, one Egyptian Vulture and one Cinereous Vulture. As an indication of the present demand for Peregrines, the price offered by an Italian source for the Peregrines was US\$150 per bird.

THE SOURCES OF SUPPLY

The principal dealers in song birds and parrots rarely have birds of prey for sale since their very presence would adversely affect their principal stock in trade. The main importers are found in the Mongkok area and import under contract with the suppliers in China and are obliged to accept any birds that are delivered. Should birds of prey be included in a shipment, these are disposed of quickly either to hawkers or unlicensed dealers. Thus the birds of prey are usually found in small roadside stalls under deplorable conditions and are kept by hawkers completely ignorant of the basic requirements. Their one object is to dispose of the birds as quickly as possible, but even so, such are the filthy conditions under which the birds are kept, mortality is high. In addition to these roadside hawkers who are spread throughout the Colony even as far as Tsuen Wan and Yuen Long, itinerant hawkers with baskets of owls or Kestrels are seen frequently in the main streets of Hong Kong.

During the current investigation, most of the birds purchased were obtained from one dealer who has supplied the Department of Zoology at the University of Hong Kong for a number of years with a wide variety of birds and mammals. He is typical of his fellows in being completely ignorant of even the basic principles of bird identification and all raptorial birds are offered under the general description of Eagle (麻鷹). Badly injured or diseased birds are offered with the same confidence as perfect newly captured specimens. About 20% of the birds were obtained from well known roadside stalls near the Jordan Road Ferry and from several small stalls in Mongkok, Tsim Sha Tsui, Tsuen Wan and even a snake shop in Gloucester Road. At the

major bulk dealer in Mongkok a daily auction takes place which is attended by many of the small dealers and hawkers and at this shop as many as fifty Kestrels, six eagles and six Buzzards have been reported at one auction. As recently as January 7, 1973, at this same shop, the following were being auctioned: one female Goshawk, thirty-two Buzzards, twenty-five Kestrels, six Short-eared Owls, two Bonelli's Eagles and one Serpent Eagle in addition to a variety of mammals which included six Pangolins, three Leopard Cats, deer and Ferret Badgers. The survey of birds offered for sale is by no means exhaustive. In view of the attitude of the authorities responsible for the control of the import of live animals and birds into the Colony, it is unlikely that any restrictions will be placed on either the species permitted to be imported or that any control will be exercised on conditions under which the wretched specimens are offered for sale.

The majority of birds purchased were obtained during the period October to March and although birds have been offered in every month of the year, the supply during the summer months is very limited. This corresponds with the passage period, and the commencement of the new "season" is heralded by the arrival in October in the dealers' stalls of large numbers of Kestrels, the Kestrel being by far the commonest bird on sale. In spite of the large number of birds ringed and released only one ringed bird has been re-offered for sale. This particular bird, a Kestrel, was released on January 1st, 1970 and re-purchased on January 9th, during which time it had flown into Kwangtung Province and been recaptured using rubber solution. The Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela* has been on sale as late as August, and a young Black-eared Kite *Milvus migrans* was purchased in June 1968. Otherwise only owls are commonly available after the end of April.

HEALTH PROBLEM

a) *Mechanical Damage*

Birds of prey usually arrive from China in baskets of various types normally used for poultry. These baskets are not of course washed and may well account for a good deal of the disease prevalent amongst the birds. A hawker usually transfers his purchases to wire cages often not big enough for the bird to stand, and in the case of large birds the wire mesh bottom is not firm enough to provide a good stance. All cages are bad for birds of prey, which being active and wild, continually attempt to escape with resulting damage to the bill, cere and wings, quite apart from feather damage to the tips of primaries and tail feathers caused by the cage bottom. The distal ends of the radius and ulna are sometimes laid bare as a result of a large bird such as an Imperial Eagle lunging repeatedly against the sides of a wire cage. The smaller birds had frequently been captured by the use of a resinous birdlime or rubber solution which severely damaged the plumage, and damage in some instances was so extensive that the bird was unable to fly. In such severe cases it was only possible to keep the bird until the next moult or to imp on flight feathers to enable

the bird to fly again. Imping is an excellent solution but depends upon an adequate supply of suitable feathers to effect the repair or substitution of damaged feathers.

In a few instances the birds were found to have been deliberately damaged or restricted in such a way as to facilitate handling. In a number of instances Kestrels were found to have thin copper wire passed through both nares and wrapped around the dentary to prevent biting. One Kestrel had had the sharp tip of its bill removed by a pliers in such a way that the bill was split up to the cere. Wings are frequently bound together with twisted cane causing serious damage, in the case of one Serpent Eagle a fractured radius.

b) *Malnutrition*

Many birds showed signs of malnutrition or of wrong feeding. Apart from emaciation and loss of condition the mutes were greenish and watery. Birds in this condition frequently refuse feeding and may well require force feeding with beef or chicken extract. Great care has to be taken to avoid overfeeding. It is easy to over-feed a bird in this condition and it may take several weeks before the bird recovers from malnutrition and from the traumatic effects of capture and handling by the various dealers. In one case, an Imperial Eagle which had trapped itself in an old fortification at Lei Yue Mun was suffering from malnutrition and on capture weighed 6 lbs. 1 oz. When it was released three weeks later on Tai Mo Shan, this bird weighed 7 lbs. 8 ozs. As soon as normal digestion was restored, birds were fed on a diet of shin-beef with rats, mice or sparrows to provide castings twice a week. Birds in a really weak condition were given vitamin injections or glucose solution but normally birds if left alone in a dark room to recover from mishandling and given small feeds twice or three times a day recovered fairly rapidly. Most of the birds which recovered their vigour were ringed and released.

DISEASES

Where definite identification of pathogenic organisms has been made, the author is indebted to Mr. D. A. Higgins of the Agriculture & Fisheries Department of the Hong Kong Government.

"*Sinusitis*"

By far the most frequent cause of death amongst Kestrels was a highly infectious complaint which showed the symptoms of an acute sinusitis. The true cause of death has not been determined and pathological examination of birds succumbing to this infection should be made in future. When once developed this condition was invariably fatal.

Newcastle Disease

Two Kestrels were proved to carry Newcastle Disease in addition to other ailments.

Pasteurellosis

This is an incurable bacterial disease which was diagnosed in a Peregrine, a Kestrel and a Goshawk.

Salmonella

One Imperial Eagle was infected with *Salmonella typhimurium* but responded to treatment. In this case the organism was isolated from the faeces. A Goshawk which was infected with Newcastle disease, capilliarasis, and coccidiosis also carried *Salmonella stanleyville*.

Aspergillosis

The dry dusty chicken baskets in which the birds are transported are almost ideal for the propagation of the mould which causes this disease which infects the respiratory tract. There is some indication that aspergillosis affects short-winged hawks such as Goshawks and Buzzards more than the long-winged falcons such as Kestrels and Peregrines.

Arizona

A disease known in turkeys in the U.S.A., this was recorded in a Goshawk which was also infected with aspergillosis.

Pneumonia

In a few cases birds which appeared to be suffering from symptoms resembling those of pneumonia were saved by being kept in a heated and darkened room and treated with broad-spectrum antibiotics.

RAPTORS RECORDED AS COMMERCIAL IMPORTS INTO HONG KONG

Owls

- Grass Owl — *Tyto longimembris*
- Short-eared Owl — *Asio flammeus*
- Eagle Owl — *Bubo bubo*
- Collared Scops Owl — *Otus bakkamoena*
- Collared Owlet — *Glaucidium brodiei*

Diurnal Raptors

- Cinereous Vulture — *Aegyptius monachus*
- Black-eared Kite — *Milvus migrans*
- Brahminy Kite — *Haliastur indus*
- Black-shouldered Kite — *Elanus caeruleus*
- Buzzard — *Buteo buteo*
- Grey-faced Buzzard-Eagle — *Butastur indicus*

- Bonelli's Eagle — *Hieraaetus fasciatus*
- Imperial Eagle — *Aquila heliaca*
- Spotted Eagle — *Aquila clanga*
- Serpent Eagle — *Spilornis cheela*
- Goshawk — *Accipiter gentilis*
- Japanese Lesser Sparrow-hawk — *Accipiter gularis*
- Crested Goshawk — *Accipiter trivirgatus*
- Peregrine Falcon — *Falco peregrinus*
- Black Shahin Falcon — *Falco peregrinus var*
- Kestrel — *Falco tinnunculus*
- Hobby — *Falco subbuteo*
- Red-footed Falcon — *Falco vespertinus amurensis*

CONCLUSION

A considerable trade in birds of prey exists in Hong Kong, twenty-three different species having been recorded during this investigation. The birds are usually imported by sea from Canton and are residents or migrants from the neighbouring province of Kwantung. The majority of birds are those visiting South China during the winter season although a few are resident and breed in Hong Kong as well as in Mainland China. Birds offered for sale after April are often eyasses or newly fledged birds of the year. There is some indication that birds captured in China for sale in Hong Kong may already be weakened by disease, and may be unable to capture normal prey and thus are more easily trapped by the use of decoys or bait. A very considerable proportion of birds on sale are suffering from fatal diseases, some of which are caused by organisms such as *Aspergillus* or *Salmonella* which are known to affect human beings. Birds of prey are used for making soup or may be pickled in Chinese wine and used medicinally. Even birds as large as the Cinereous Vulture are pickled.

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HONG KONG BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY

Application for Membership

(To be sent to the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, c/o The Chartered Bank, Des Voeux Road, Central, Hong Kong).

Introduced by
(if applicable)

I/We support the objects of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society as listed below and wish to become (a) member(s).

I/We enclose \$30.00 single member or
\$40.00 husband & wife or
\$15.00 single member age between 16 & 20
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or half these fees if joining after 30th June, as my/our subscription for the current year. (Children aged 7-16 one of whose parents is already a member need pay no subscription. All children are permitted to be members provided they are accompanied on Society Outings by a responsible adult and parents should sign below absolving the Society from any responsibility in case of accident or mishap on Outings.)

Date Signature

Name & Address (block letters)

Tel. No. (home) (Office)

The objects of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society are:—

- (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 and keep up-to-date a 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, Cap. 170);
- (f) To operate a lending library of books on birds;
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