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# 香港鳥類年報



2005-06





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# Ecology of the Birds of Hong Kong



## 《香港鳥類生態 - 英文版》

本書由研究香港鳥類多年的專家編寫，涵蓋多方面本地鳥類生態知識。內容提及生活在各種生境包括人工環境的鳥類知識，同時也闡述了禽流感與及氣候變化對本地鳥類可能帶來的影響。讀者將會發現，香港雖然是世界上人口稠密的大城市，但仍然有很多鳥類在此棲息！

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成立於一九六八年，是香港歷史最悠久的民間環保團體。我們積極倡議可持續發展的理念、致力於自然保育、保護環境和文化遺產。我們的使命是提升當代和未來社群的生活素質，並確保香港履行對鄰近地區以至全球生態環境的責任。我們倡導合適的政策、監察政府工作、推動環境教育和帶頭實踐公眾參與，為完成使命全力以赴。

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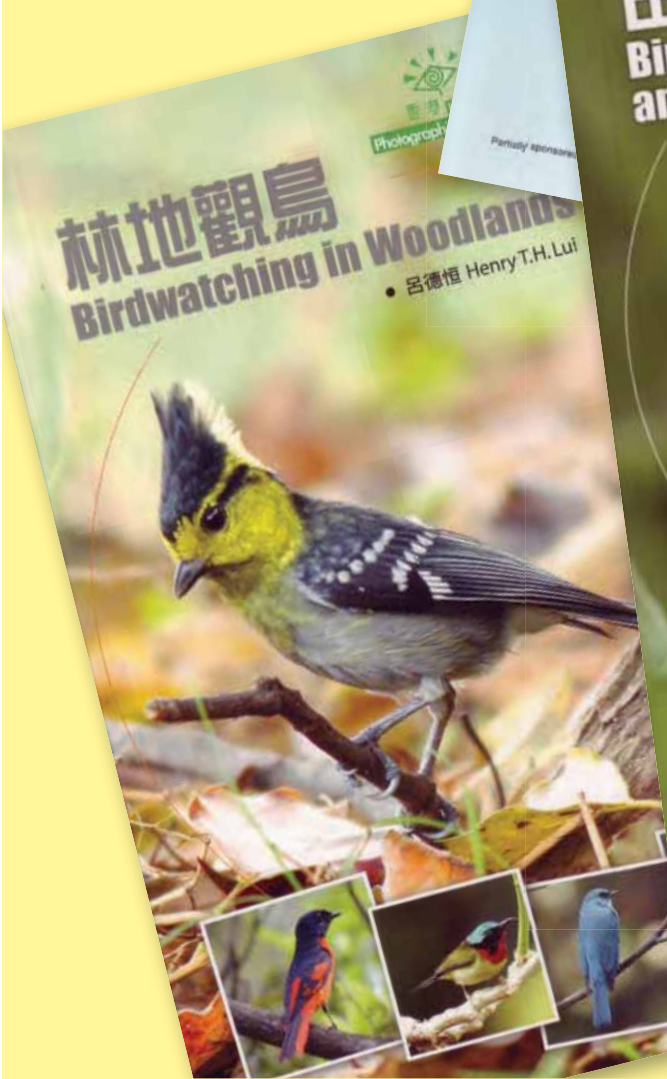
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*Editors: Geoff J. Carey and Helen Lockey*  
*編輯：賈知行及Helen Lockey*

**Front Cover 封面：**

Collared Scops Owl *Otus lettia* Adult 領角鴞成年  
Hang Tau Village, Hong Kong, May 2004 香港·坑頭 2004年5月  
John & Jemi Holmes 孔思義及黃亞萍





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## Editor's Preface

In an effort to bring HKBR production back on schedule, this is another two-year issue. My thanks are due to Gary Chow and a group of volunteers\*, who provided the Chinese text, and to the authors of the Systematic List and various papers. In addition, I am very grateful to my co-editor Helen Lockey, who has turned all of the text and photos into the finished product, and to Wai Yan Lo of the HKBWS for his excellent support throughout.

The quality of bird photographs taken in Hong Kong continues to increase, and this is reflected in this report. The number of records submitted has also increased, which is very welcome, as the usefulness of the Systematic List is greater the larger the number of records submitted. The Records Committee continues to encourage both binders and bird photographers to submit records utilising the recording forms available on the website.

**Geoff J. Carey**

\*Bonnie Chan, Derek Chan, Chan Ying Chi, Chow Lai Kuen, Alvin Hui, Angel Li, Eling Lee, Lo Chun Fai and Patty Tse.





## 編者序言

爲了盡快追回脫期的《香港鳥類報告》，我們再次將兩年的紀錄合併出版。我要感謝周家禮及一組義工\*負責中文翻譯、鳥類名錄和各篇文章的作者、以及和我合力將所有文字和圖片整理的Helen Lockey以及羅偉仁的鼎力支持。

在本地拍得的鳥類照片水平不斷提升，各位可在本報告中見到。我們收到的鳥類紀錄亦增加了，令鳥類名錄更有用，實在可喜。紀錄委員會繼續鼓勵鳥友和拍友使用網頁上的紀錄表提交紀錄。

### 賈知行

\* 陳芳玲、陳健德、陳盈之、周麗娟、許桓峰、李安琪、李佩玲、勞浚暉及謝穎詩。





# The Hong Kong Bird Report 2005-06

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# Records Committee Report 2005-06

## 紀錄委員會報告2005-06

*Geoff J. Carey* 賈知行

*Records Committee Chairman*

紀錄委員會主席

During 2005 a total of 363 Category A to D species were recorded, while the equivalent figure for 2006 was 368. These compare with between 317 and 345 species for the years 1999 to 2004, and between 342 and 370 for the years 1993 to 1998.

New additions to the Hong Kong List are as follows.

### Additions to Category A

**010.1A** Japanese Cormorant *Phalacrocorax capillatus* 暗綠背鸕鶿

An immature on Po Toi from 17<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> April 2005.

**038.2A** Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* 小白額雁

Two at the KCRC Lok Ma Chau mitigation wetland and Mai Po NR from 6<sup>th</sup> November 2006 into 2007.

**196.9A** Orange-breasted Green Pigeon *Treron bicinctus* 橙胸綠鳩

One of the endemic Hainan subspecies *T.b. domvillii* on Po Toi from 18<sup>th</sup> February to 16<sup>th</sup> March 2006.

**229.9A** Ruddy Kingfisher *Halcyon coromanda* 赤翡翠

One on Po Toi on 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May 2006.

**261.5A** Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseus* 粉紅胸鵐

One at Long Valley from 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> May 2006.

**361.5A** Sulphur-breasted Warbler *Phylloscopus ricketti* 黑眉柳鶯

One in Tai Po Kau on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2005.

**399.1A** Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortelana* 圃鵐

One at Long Valley on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2005.



In addition, the taxon *Ficedula narcissina owstoni* was added to the Hong Kong List on the basis of a male at Mount Davis on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2002; this was followed by a male on Po Toi during 26-30<sup>th</sup> March 2006.

## Additions to Category E

The following species were added to Category E: Diamond Dove *Geopelia cuneata*, Sun Parakeet *Aratinga solstitialis*, Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis* and Southern Red Bishop *Euplectes orix*.

Records Committee membership remained unchanged until the end of 2005, and comprised Geoff Carey (Chairman), Ho Fai Cheung, Paul Leader, Michael Leven and Richard Lewthwaite. On 21<sup>st</sup> February 2006 Yat Tung Yu joined the committee, which remained at six members until the end of the year.

The Systematic List for the two years was compiled by the following:

- Geoff Carey: galliformes, rails and allies, larids, warblers to flycatchers, rarities and Category E species.
- Yu Yat Tung: grebes to ducks, shorebirds.
- Richard Lewthwaite: raptors, doves to martins.
- John Holmes: swallows to parrotbills.
- John Allcock: tits to corvids.

Thanks are due to the following, who submitted records for inclusion in this report:

J. A. Allcock, K. & R. Barretto, L. Bull, G. J. Carey, M. L. Chalmers, A. Chan, H. F. Cheung, J. A. Cheung, E. Cheuk, J. Chim, G. Chow, F. Chu, A. Crow/KFBG, M. Digma, D. A. Diskin, M. Hale, G. Ho, J. G. Holmes, T. Jara, M. Kilburn, K. Ko, P. K. Kwan, S. Lam, Katherine Leung, M. R. Leven, R. W. Lewthwaite, A. J., S. J. & M. Peaker, V. Reed, Bena Smith, S. H. So, D. J. Stanton, Y. H. Sung, G. Talbot, Y. L. Tam, W. Tsui, G. Welch, C. Wong, J. A. P. Wong, M. & P. Wong, T. Woodward, WWFHK, W. Y. Yam and Y. T. Yu.

# Records Committee Report 2005-06

## 紀錄委員會報告2005-06

*Geoff J Carey* 賈知行

*Records Committee Chairman* 紀錄委員會主席

2005年期間總共紀錄了363種A至D類別的鳥種，而2006年同期間則紀錄了368種。1999年至2004年期間紀錄了317至345種鳥種，而1993年至1998年期間則紀錄了342至370種鳥種。

新增至香港鳥類名錄的鳥種如下。

### 新增至類別A

**010.1A Japanese Cormorant *Phalacrocorax capillatus* 暗綠背鸕鶿**

An immature on Po Toi from 17<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> April 2005.

**038.2A Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* 小白額雁**

Two at the KCRC Lok Ma Chau mitigation wetland and Mai Po NR from 6<sup>th</sup> November 2006 into 2007.

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One on Po Toi on 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May 2006.

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One at Long Valley from 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> May 2006.

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One in Tai Po Kau on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2005.

**399.1A Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* 圃鵯**

One at Long Valley on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2005.

此外，基於2006年3月26日摩星嶺錄得的一隻雄鳥及於2006年3月26至30日蒲台島所錄得的另一隻雄鳥，*Ficedula narcissina owstoni* (黃眉鶺鴒)被加入香港鳥類名錄。

## 新增至類別E

下列品種已被新增至類別E：姬地鳩、金黃鸚哥、黃腹花蜜鳥、紅巧織雀。

紀錄委員會委員至2005尾維持不變，當中包括賈知行（主席）、張浩輝、利雅德、利偉文、Richard Lewthwaite。余日東於2006年2月21日的加入，令委員會合共有6位委員。

- Geoff Carey: galliformes, rails and allies, larids, warblers to flycatchers, rarities and Category E species.
- Yu Yat Tung: grebes to ducks, shorebirds.
- Richard Lewthwaite: raptors, doves to martins.
- John Holmes: swallows to parrotbills.
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# Annual Summaries 2005-06

## 全年摘要 2005-06

*Geoff Welch*

The format of these summaries has been changed to quarterly, and it is hoped the element of seasonality will make them more relevant to the birding calendar. The divisions are thus: winter (December to February), spring (March to May), summer (June to August) and autumn (September to November). In addition, the summaries will be less detailed than previously, with more focus on significant events and sightings, as well as weather events. The editor welcomes any comments from members with regard to this new format.

As in previous summaries, the Systematic List takes precedence over the Annual Summaries in case of discrepancies.

### Winter 2005 (January to February)

The year started off extremely cold with a daily average temperature below 10°C on New Year's Day. The usual winter succession of cold fronts with warmer intervals occurred, although the cold periods were more severe than normal with ice on Tai Mo Shan on 14<sup>th</sup> January. As a result, the average daily temperature over the winter was lower than usual, which might be expected to bring more birds of certain species to HK.

Whether weather-related or not, there were several highest ever HK counts of waterbirds in the Deep Bay area: 1,667 Tufted Duck on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 11,424 Great Cormorant on 5<sup>th</sup> February and 1,292 Eurasian Curlew on 13<sup>th</sup> February. The peak count of 15 Dalmatian Pelicans from 13<sup>th</sup> February was an increase of two over the previous winter period, while 57 Saunders's Gulls on 26<sup>th</sup> February was a welcome increase on last year's maximum of only 15. On the debit side, numbers of Falcated Duck remained low at only four individuals. This species has been upgraded by BirdLife International to Near-threatened, due to declining numbers in the wintering areas of China (including HK).

The Winter Atlas survey concluded in February after four seasons of survey. Four forest species that were unknown or major rarities at the start of the survey, Mountain Bulbul, Pygmy Wren Babbler, Mountain Tailorbird and Lesser Shortwing, have become established, probably through natural range expansion in at least three cases. These species join others such as Grey-chinned and Scarlet Minivets, White-bellied Yuhina, Buff-bellied Flowerpecker and Fork-tailed Sunbirds that have colonised HK naturally over the last 50 years and are now relatively common in suitable forest habitats.

The year began with two Ferruginous Ducks in the Mai Po/Lok Ma Chau area, and a White-throated Rock Thrush and a Chestnut-crowned Warbler at Tai



Po Kau. At least one of the Ferruginous Ducks and the Chestnut-crowned Warbler remained to March. Other records of note in the winter period included a male Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush at KFBG from 10<sup>th</sup> January, a specialty species for that location, the first record of Eurasian Jay since 2002 (found dead at Kam Tin on the 12<sup>th</sup> January), the first ever winter record of Purple-backed Starling at Lok Ma Chau on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, a White-spectacled Warbler at Tai Po Kau on the same date and a Large Hawk Cuckoo calling at Kam Tin on 8<sup>th</sup> February, the earliest spring date on record.

A Red-throated Diver was found at Sam A Tsuen in the northeast NT on 20<sup>th</sup> February, the second HK record, just after the passage of an intense cold front. This was followed by a Collared Kingfisher at the other end of HK at the Tai O salt pans on 26<sup>th</sup> February, the third HK record. The Red-throated Diver was later relocated at Nam Chung and stayed into March.

### **Spring 2005 (March to May)**

Spring weather was variable. March was normal with four rapidly passing cold fronts at weekly intervals, April was warmer and drier than usual with only two cold fronts, the most significant passing through on 12<sup>th</sup>, and May was much wetter than usual with depressions in the HK/South China Sea area for most of the month. However, the resulting birds were rather different from what this sequence would predict, with April being quite good and May poor.

A Brown Bush Warbler was in song at Sha Lo Tung from 9<sup>th</sup> March, while two early spring records occurred on 19<sup>th</sup> March: Yellow Bittern at Mai Po and Narcissus Flycatcher at Tai Po Kau, two different species at very different locations highlighting the variety of a HK spring. At Sha Lo Wan, Lantau 30 Grey-faced Buzzards on 25<sup>th</sup> March immediately following the passage of a cold front constituted a typical late March record of this species. A female Yellow-rumped Flycatcher on Po Toi on 5<sup>th</sup> April was only the second ever spring record of the species, with the four more typical spring migrant flycatchers, Ferruginous, Narcissus, Mugimaki and Blue-and-white also present on the same day. Early April also saw a total of five Siberian Blue Robins and three Eastern Crowned Warblers at various locations, both unusually high numbers for spring migration.

A quieter period for land birds followed, and centre stage was taken by sea birds seen from boat trips to southern waters, which are becoming a regular feature of spring bird watching in HK. One boat trip following three days of strong easterly winds on 17<sup>th</sup> April yielded the highest count on record in HK of 50 Streaked Shearwaters, the previous highest being just three, together with 20 Long-tailed, two Pomarine and five Arctic Jaegers, the latter only the second HK record of this species. However, the seabird of the day was a first-year cormorant seen and photographed sitting on a rock at the entrance to Po Toi harbour. The photographs later proved this to be a Japanese Cormorant, a new addition to the HK list.

Wader passage in the Deep Bay area reached its spring peak on 21<sup>st</sup> April at 7,120 birds (excluding wintering Pied Avocet numbers). This was 16% down on the peak of 8,474 birds in 2004. The estimated minimum number of waders

This was largely due to a decline in the numbers of Red-necked Stints and Curlew Sandpipers, the most numerous species, but others such as Pacific Golden Plover, Lesser Sand Plover, Turnstone, Red Knot and Long-toed Stint also showed significant declines over 2004. These declines were partially compensated by a record one-day count of 13 Spoon-billed Sandpipers on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, contributing to a minimum estimate of 21 birds over the whole season for this Critically Endangered species. Minimum spring estimates for the other two rare species, Nordmann's Greenshank (Endangered) and Asian Dowitcher (Near Threatened) were also up on 2004 numbers at 31 birds (24 in 2004) and 44 birds (33 in 2004) respectively.

Unusual May records included a Silver-backed Needletail on Po Toi on 2<sup>nd</sup>, a Purple-backed Starling at Kam Tin from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> and several latest ever spring records, for Pale Thrush (1<sup>st</sup> May at Tai Po Kau), Chestnut Bunting (6<sup>th</sup> May at Ho Chung), Scaly Thrush (8<sup>th</sup> May at Ng Tung Chai) and Ruddy Shelduck (14<sup>th</sup> May at Mai Po). Generally, however, May was a disappointing month, and there were no other records of significance, perhaps influenced by the 509mm of rain recorded, over 60% above normal, which may have prevented normal bird watching activity.

### **Summer 2005 (June to August)**

The summer period was one of the wettest on record, with 2,225mm of rain over the three months, more than twice the normal average. Despite this, only three tropical cyclones affected HK in 2005, and of these only Typhoon Damre in September caused the raising of a signal above Number 1. With the exception of Damre, Tropical Cyclones were a non-event from a bird watching point of view in 2005.

A total of 1,030 egret nests were counted during the breeding season, an increase of 16% on 2004. The 5-year trend shows the number of Great, Little, Cattle Egret and Pond Heron nests stable or increasing, whereas the number of Black-crowned Night Heron continues to decrease. Other interesting actual or potential breeding records were Greater Painted-snipe and Black-winged Stilt at Mai Po, Mountain and Russet Bush Warblers on Tai Mo Shan, Red-rumped Swallow, Yellow-billed Grosbeak, White-cheeked and White-shouldered Starlings at Kam Tin, Mountain Tailorbird at Ng Tung Chai and Black Baza in Sai Kung. At least two juvenile Malayan Night Herons were raised by a pair in the northern NT. However, tern breeding (Black-naped, Roseate and Bridled) on the outer islands declined substantially, in sharp contrast to the increasing trend of the previous six years, possibly due to the amount of rainfall or human disturbance. Records of Oriental Pratincole at Mai Po, comprising two on 23<sup>rd</sup> May and a newly-fledged juvenile on 7<sup>th</sup> June, indicate breeding may have occurred near HK.

A Black Bulbul at Tai Po Kau on 10<sup>th</sup> July was an unusual summer record, while a Forest Wagtail at Ho Chung on 28<sup>th</sup> July was the earliest ever autumn record. A low pressure system over the South China Sea brought over 500mm of rain during 20-21<sup>st</sup> August, and with it the highest autumn counts on record of many species of wader at Mai Po, including 885 Red-necked Stints, 48 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, 256 Terek Sandpipers and 28 Asian Dowitchers out of a total

of over 2,500 waders. A Horsfield's Cuckoo on Po Toi on 28<sup>th</sup> August was the first ever record of this species in the month.

### **Autumn 2005 (September to November)**

Autumn was warm and generally dry. The only significant rain over the whole autumn was in the period 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> September with the passing of Typhoon Damre to the south of HK, close enough to bring sea birds and other species in sight of HK. Temperatures in October and November were consistently above normal and there was hardly any rain in either month. However, there were several periods of northerly winds, conditions conducive to autumn migrants appearing in HK, the most prolonged being from 15<sup>th</sup> November for nine days.

September started with the second Collared Kingfisher of the year at Mai Po on 10<sup>th</sup>. Significant counts during the month included 19 Pallas's Grasshopper Warblers at Kam Tin on 12<sup>th</sup> and 16 Common Koels at Mai Po on 19<sup>th</sup>, while a juvenile Rose-coloured Starling was at Kam Tin on 24<sup>th</sup>. An Asian Lesser Cuckoo taken into KFBG care after being attacked by a cat in Sai Kung on 28<sup>th</sup> September was later released in good condition.

A Thick-billed Warbler at Mai Po on 5<sup>th</sup> October was followed by a Paddyfield Warbler there on 6<sup>th</sup> and Blyth's Reed Warbler at Kam Tin on 15<sup>th</sup>. However, the bird of the autumn was a first winter Ortolan Bunting at Long Valley on 20<sup>th</sup> October, the first record for HK and south China.

Migrant wader numbers are hard to judge in autumn since they include wintering birds, particularly as the season progresses. However, the high numbers in Deep Bay first noted in August continued through September and October, suggesting that the 2005 autumn wader passage was a good one.

Remarkably, November started as it did in 2004, with a juvenile Greater White-fronted Goose at Lok Ma Chau on 2<sup>nd</sup>, the second HK record, as was a Baikal Bush Warbler at Mai Po on 6<sup>th</sup>. The goose remained in the Deep Bay area during the winter. A Black-headed Bunting was present at Long Valley during 2-5<sup>th</sup> November, the second rare bunting of the autumn. However, the autumn passage of Yellow-breasted Buntings was poor once again with a peak count of just ten birds. This species is now classified as Vulnerable due to excessive harvesting in China. Three Yellow-bellied Tits at Sha Lo Tung on 20<sup>th</sup> November were the start of an irruption of the species into HK, the first such since the winter of 1990-91 and possibly related to the long spell of northerly winds.

### **Winter 2005-06 (December to February)**

The winter followed the usual pattern of cold days after the passage of a cold front followed by a warmer spell before the next cold front arrived. There were four significant cold fronts, two each in December and January with none in February. December was cold, with temperatures below average from 5<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>. January had average temperatures and the coldest point of the winter was reached at 10.4°C on 7<sup>th</sup> January. February was warmer than usual, the highest average daily temperature reaching 22.8°C on the 15<sup>th</sup> February with a

Peak numbers of wintering waterbirds in Deep Bay occurred in February rather than January as is normal. The peak count of 56,889 was marginally higher than the 54,454 recorded in the 2004-05 winter period and slightly above the range of 50,000–54,000 waterbirds established since winter 1997-98. Black-faced Spoonbill numbers reached a new high of 340 on 29<sup>th</sup> December, as did Tufted Duck at 3,953 on 17<sup>th</sup> December, nearly twice the previous highest just eleven months before. Much less encouraging was the record of only two Dalmatian Pelicans, which were present for only a brief period from 18<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> January. Other waterbird species of concern were Falcated Duck, with only two birds over the winter period, and Common Shelduck, with a maximum of 60. Although numbers of the latter species have been rather variable over the years, there appears to have been a sharp decline since the late 1990s, when counts of over a thousand were regular in winter.

The invasion of Yellow-bellied Tits that started in November continued throughout the winter. The number at Sha Lo Tung increased to eight by mid-December when this flock or another group of eight moved to the Lam Tsuen Valley. Yellow-bellied Tits were then seen in the Lam Tsuen Valley until 26<sup>th</sup> March, with birds also being recorded in Ng Tung Chai, Tai Po Kau Headland, Mount Davis and Sha Lo Tung again. The Lam Tsuen Valley became a focus of attention in early January, with a Hume's Leaf Warbler from 2<sup>nd</sup> January and a Thick-billed Green Pigeon from 5<sup>th</sup>.

Elsewhere in the northern NT, 71 Greater Scaup in Deep Bay on 21<sup>st</sup> January was the highest ever HK count, but the number rose even higher to 83 on 17<sup>th</sup> February, after which the birds quickly left. However, the closure of Mai Po from 1<sup>st</sup> February to 13<sup>th</sup> April for 'public health' reasons restricted the options for birding in the north of HK and for this and other reasons attention moved to the south.

More regular midweek watching of the migration hot-spot of Po Toi Island was rewarded by a Chinese Thrush, the second HK record, on 16<sup>th</sup> February. A group visiting to see the thrush on 18<sup>th</sup> February was astonished to also find an Orange-breasted Green Pigeon, the first HK record, and the first in China for 30 years. It seems likely that both birds arrived with southwesterly winds on 15<sup>th</sup>. Both remained on the island into March, the green pigeon until 16<sup>th</sup> and the thrush until 24<sup>th</sup>. Regular watching of Po Toi was to result in many other unusual records in 2006 and somewhat compensated for the closure of Mai Po.

### **Spring 2006 (March to May)**

Temperatures and rainfall in spring 2006 were normal. However, an unusually large number of cold fronts and depressions, five in March, four in April and three in May, plus a rare May typhoon created good conditions for migrant falls in HK.

A Black-legged Kittiwake from the Po Toi Ferry on 2<sup>nd</sup> March and three early Long-tailed Jaegers on 12<sup>th</sup> March were the forerunners of an excellent spring for sea birds, mostly seen from systematic boat-based transect surveys from 21<sup>st</sup> March to 11<sup>th</sup> May. A total of 8,750 sea birds of 23 species were recorded on the 22 survey days, of which 6,618 were Red-necked Phalaropes



and 1,727 were terns. Record day counts of Red-necked Phalarope, jaegers and Streaked Shearwaters were made. The Survey also gave a clear indication of the timing of migration of different species, with the majority of gulls migrating in March, jaegers in April and shearwaters and terns in early May. But the most significant discovery was the passage of Short-tailed Shearwaters through HK waters between 23<sup>rd</sup> April and 23<sup>rd</sup> May, with a peak count of eight birds on 5<sup>th</sup> May. This passage was also seen from the southernmost headland of Po Toi.

In terms of land birds March started quietly, albeit with the Greater White-fronted Goose remaining at Mai Po and the Orange-breasted Green Pigeon and Chinese Thrush still on Po Toi. The first new birds of note both occurred on 26<sup>th</sup>: the earliest ever spring flock of White-throated Needletails (15 at Kam Tin) and the earliest spring record of Horsfield's Cuckoo, in Lam Tsuen Valley. On the same day, a male Narcissus Flycatcher of the subspecies *owstoni* was photographed on Po Toi, the second record for HK. This taxon of Narcissus Flycatcher breeds on the Nansei Shoto (Ryukyu Islands) of Japan and some may winter in the Philippines.

A cold front that lingered over the South China Sea for three days from 14<sup>th</sup> April was responsible for record numbers of Chinese Goshawks being seen on Po Toi, with 299 on 15<sup>th</sup> and 780 on 16<sup>th</sup> April. The next cold front on 24<sup>th</sup> April brought to Po Toi a flock of 50 Common Sandpipers and at least 83 Brown Shrikes, a new high. A further cold front saw a Fairy Pitta at Tai Po Kau and a male Yellow-rumped Flycatcher on Po Toi (the third spring record), both on 29<sup>th</sup>.

Spring wader passage in the Deep Bay area peaked on 28<sup>th</sup> April at 7,710, up 8% on the 2005 peak of 7,120 birds. The minimum aggregate of birds over the whole spring was 14,942, a marginal increase of 4% over 14,312 in 2005. Curlew Sandpiper and Pacific Golden Plover showed some recovery from their 2005 counts, but the decline continued for Red-necked Stint. Peak spring counts of the three globally-threatened species regularly recorded at Mai Po in spring were reasonable for Nordmann's Greenshank (32), low for Asian Dowitcher (25) and very poor for Spoon-billed Sandpiper, which had its worst year since 2001 as only one bird was seen (in contrast to 16 in 2005).

A Rosy Pipit in breeding plumage at Long Valley from 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> May was the first HK record. The passage of Typhoon Chanchu on 17<sup>th</sup> May brought two latest ever spring records to Po Toi prior to its arrival, a female Mugimaki Flycatcher on 15<sup>th</sup> and a male Grey Bushchat on 16<sup>th</sup>. As the typhoon passed on 17<sup>th</sup> May, many sea birds came into the waters surrounding the island, including at least one noddy of undecided species but probably Brown, together with 80 Streaked Shearwaters, a new high count for this species, and a Ruddy Kingfisher, another first for HK, from 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> May.

### **Summer 2006 (June to August)**

The weather of summer 2006 was normal, with average temperatures and rainfall. HK was affected by seven tropical cyclones during the year with three, Chanchu (May), Prapiroon (August) and Cimaron (November) bringing sea birds to offshore waters.

The total count of nesting egrets in 2006 was 1,017 nests (1,030 in 2005). Black-crowned Night Heron nests continued to decline at 121 (170 in 2005), there was an increase in Great Egrets (135 vs. 118 in 2005), while Little, Cattle Egret and Pond Heron were stable. Terns showed another substantial decline to the lowest number of breeding birds on record, a total of only 279, the previous lowest being 557 in 1998, with Roseate Tern almost disappearing as a breeding species. Although typhoons and rain had their effect, this was not an unusual summer for weather and it is likely that human disturbance at the nesting sites was the main reason. One Roseate Tern seen in June had a leg flag from Queensland, Australia, while another in August was from North Island, New Zealand.

Non-breeding summer records included Swinhoe's Egret, Black-faced Spoonbill, Terek Sandpiper and Nordmann's Greenshank, all at Mai Po, Lesser Whistling Duck at Nam Sang Wai and Grey-headed Lapwing at Kam Tin. Other interesting summer records were Pheasant-tailed Jacana at Lok Ma Chau, Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler at Lion Rock, the first summer record away from Tai Mo Shan, and Red-billed Starlings at Tai Po and Tai Mei Tuk. Possible or actual breeding records included Oriental Turtle Dove and Black-naped Oriole at Lok Ma Chau, Red-rumped Swallow at Kam Tin, Yellow-billed Grosbeak near Yuen Long and Oriental Pratincole somewhere in the HK area, as was the case in 2005.

A Brown Fish Owl at Tai Po Kau on 25<sup>th</sup> August was an unusual location for this secretive species. Earliest autumn records in August were a Eurasian Wigeon at Lok Ma Chau on 13<sup>th</sup>, earliest by over one month, a Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler at Lok Ma Chau on 23<sup>rd</sup>, a Dollarbird on 24<sup>th</sup> and an Asian Brown Flycatcher on 29<sup>th</sup>, both on Po Toi.

### **Autumn 2006 (September to November)**

September was colder and wetter than normal, mainly due to the effect of a severe cold front on 9<sup>th</sup> September followed immediately by a tropical depression on 13<sup>th</sup>. This combination resulted in an unprecedented fall of Tiger Shrikes and other species in mid September. October and November were both warmer than average. There were significantly fewer spells of northerly winds during these months, and relatively fewer birds also.

A number of interesting records in the period 13-17<sup>th</sup> September were related to these weather patterns, starting with a juvenile Sooty Tern off Po Toi on 13<sup>th</sup>. Three first-winter Tiger Shrikes on Po Toi from 14<sup>th</sup> September, and at Tai Po Kau and Mai Po on 16<sup>th</sup> were the first since 1996. Also present during the same period were a Drongo Cuckoo at Tai Po Kau on 16<sup>th</sup>, the fourth HK record, an Asian Lesser Cuckoo and a Blue-throated Bee-eater on Po Toi on 17<sup>th</sup> September and a Manchurian Reed Warbler at Mai Po on the same date, with two at San Tin on 21<sup>st</sup>. Two earliest autumn records followed with a Verditer Flycatcher at Po Toi on 19<sup>th</sup> and a Japanese Sparrowhawk at Mai Po on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The Orange-breasted Green Pigeon, which was last seen in March, was a surprising rediscovery on Po Toi on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, after which it was seen intermittently through to January 2007. Stars of the month for most birdwatchers lucky enough to see them were two Cotton Pygmy Geese, which

arrived at Mai Po on 29<sup>th</sup> October and stayed for just one day. The two previous records occurred over 30 years ago, also in late October, making this a welcome return for the species.

Total wader numbers were generally higher over the whole autumn season than in 2005, with most of the commoner species showing increased peak numbers – Common Redshank (1,470 c.f. 742 in 2005), Common Greenshank (1,816 c.f. 1,216) and Wood Sandpiper (597 c.f. 280). The exception, as in spring, was Red-necked Stint with a peak of only 182 (c.f. 885 in 2005).

November started with another first, two Lesser White-fronted Geese at Lok Ma Chau on 6<sup>th</sup>. These birds stayed in the Deep Bay area until January 2007, usually at Lok Ma Chau but sometimes at Mai Po, where they were memorably photographed in December under attack from an Imperial Eagle. Fortunately they survived. A Brown Booby was seen from Po Toi on 2<sup>nd</sup> at the closest passage of Typhoon Cimaron, a Pallas's Reed Bunting was at Lok Ma Chau on 8<sup>th</sup> and a Rustic Bunting was at Long Valley on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The remainder of the autumn season was relatively quiet.

### **Winter 2006 (December)**

December started warmer than usual, a continuation of the weather in October and November. However a spell of northerly winds from 13<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> December quickly brought the temperature down to normal levels.

The first record of a Water Rail from the west of the species' range, either *aquaticus* or *korejewii*, was seen at Mai Po from 2-8<sup>th</sup> December. The December Waterbird Count of 475 Black-faced Spoonbills in the Deep Bay area was the highest on record in HK, as were 790 Great Crested Grebe and 3,053 Tufted Duck on the same date, and 11,260 Red-billed Starlings at Mai Po on 25<sup>th</sup> December, which was more than three times the previous record count. A female Smew appeared at Mai Po on 24<sup>th</sup> with a Bay Woodpecker at Tai Po Kau on 26<sup>th</sup>. The year ended almost as it had started, with a green pigeon in the Lam Tsuen Valley from 30<sup>th</sup> December, this one a White-bellied (the fourth HK record), making three species of green pigeon in HK in one year – another first in a memorable year of HK firsts!

# Systematic List 2005-06

## 分類總覽 2005-06

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Researchers should note that, in the interests of brevity, this systematic list provides a summary of the ornithological observations reported in Hong Kong during the years in question, but does not refer directly to all records received and archived. The conservation status of species placed in any category other than 'Not globally threatened' in BirdLife International (2006) – and updated in line with subsequent changes – is indicated by the use of abbreviations after the scientific name. These and other abbreviations used within species entries are as follows:

BirdLife International (2006)	
CE	Critically Endangered
EN	Endangered
VU	Vulnerable
NT	Near-threatened
Abbreviations in species accounts	
CP	Country Park
DB	Deep Bay
SI	Starling Inlet
SW	Shuen Wan
HK	Hong Kong
NT	New Territories
KARC	Kadoorie Agricultural Research Centre
KFBG	Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden
ZBG	Zoological and Botanical Garden
NR	Nature Reserve
NC	Not counted

The order, categorisation and nomenclature used in this Systematic List follow Carey *et al.* (2001), with certain corrections to scientific names as reported in issues of the HKBR since that for 1999-2000.



The dates of the coordinated waterbird counts, which occur in Deep Bay, Shuen Wan and Starling Inlet, were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
2005	16 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	nc	18 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>
2006	22 <sup>nd</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>

It should be noted that waterbird totals might include counts made up to a week either side of the actual count date. The abbreviation "nc" indicates that no count took place, usually due to bad weather conditions. Where no data are provided for a site, no birds of the relevant species were recorded. Where waterbird count data do not add anything to the species account, they are not provided.

## CATEGORIES A-D

### 000.9A Red-throated Loon *Gavia stellata* 紅喉潛鳥

2005: One was seen at Sam A Tsuen on 20<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> February (PW, MW) and then at Nam Chung from 10-14<sup>th</sup> March (MLC, PW, MW). This is the second Hong Kong record (Plate 1).



Plate 1. Red-throated Loon *Gavia stellata* 紅喉潛鳥  
Sam A Tsuen, Hong Kong, 20<sup>th</sup> February 2005  
Michelle and Peter Wong

### 002A Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* 小鵝鶖

2005: The highest count in the first half of the year was 255 in the February waterbird count, while the highest in the second half of the year was 163 in the October count. Elsewhere, other reports comprised six in the Kam Tin and Sha Po area on 12<sup>th</sup> January, one at Tan Shan Valley on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, three at Ping Che on 4<sup>th</sup> February, up to six at Ho Pui Reservoir on 14<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> February and three at Tsing Tam Reservoir on 19<sup>th</sup> February. Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area, (including Futian National Nature Reserve, Shenzhen, China), Shuen Wan and Starling Inlet were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	208	255	170	208	179	77	106	nc	97	163	138	225
SW	9	0	0	0	0	0	nc	nc	0	0	0	0
SI	4	0	4	3	1	0	0	nc	0	0	0	6

**2006:** The highest count in the first winter period was 225 in the March waterbird count and the highest in the second winter period was 156 in the November count. Elsewhere, three were at Sha Po on 15<sup>th</sup> June and 15 were at Nam Chung on 25<sup>th</sup> September. Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area, (including Futian National Nature Reserve, Shenzhen, China) and Starling Inlet were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	186	185	225	148	107	88	76	100	121	98	156	127
SW	6	1	1	2	0	2	0	4	nc	10	12	8

### 003A Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* 鳳頭鸕鶿

**2005:** The highest count in the first half of the year was 229 in the March waterbird count, of which only 49 were recorded within Hong Kong territory. This was also the latest report in the first winter period. In the second half of the year, reports only derived from monthly waterbird counts, with three in November and a total of 291 in December (221 individuals recorded within HK territory). The monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	2	86	229	2	0	0	0	nc	0	0	3	291

**2006:** The highest count in the first winter period was 273 in the February waterbird count. Numbers subsequently decreased to 177 in the March waterbird count, which was also the latest report of the early part of the year. In the second half of the year, reports only came from the monthly waterbird count. The highest count was 790 in December, of which 582 were counted within Hong Kong territory. The monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area (including Futian National Nature Reserve, Shenzhen, China) were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	223	273	177	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	790

### 006A Streaked Shearwater *Calonectris leucomelas* 白額鸕

**2005:** The first record was of one in Aberdeen Harbour on 4<sup>th</sup> March, which was taken into care but unfortunately died that same day. Subsequently, up to 50 were seen in southern waters on 17<sup>th</sup> April.

**2006:** In late March six were seen on 21<sup>st</sup> and nine on 24<sup>th</sup>, while in early April two were recorded on 8<sup>th</sup>. Nine on 23<sup>rd</sup> April were followed by up to 20 on

5<sup>th</sup> May, one on 11<sup>th</sup> and, finally, 80 on 17<sup>th</sup> (GW); the latter is the highest count on record in HK. All birds were seen in southern waters.

**006.4A Short-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus tenuirostris* 短尾護**

**2006:** A total of 17 birds were reported flying northeast between Po Toi and Dangan Island from 23<sup>rd</sup> April to 5<sup>th</sup> May (GW). In addition, a total of 16 were also seen during seabird surveys in southern waters in the same period, with a further record on 23<sup>rd</sup> May. The highest day count was a combined sum of 14 on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

**007A Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus* 卷羽鵜鶘 VU**

**2005:** The first report was of two individuals in Deep Bay on 8<sup>th</sup> January. Numbers rose to 14 on 21<sup>st</sup> January, reached 15 on 13<sup>th</sup> February, and these remained until 15<sup>th</sup> March. Departure occurred shortly after, with one on 19<sup>th</sup> March the latest report in the first half of the year. None were reported in the second half of the year.

**2006:** The two individuals first recorded on the Deep Bay mudflat on 18<sup>th</sup> January remained only until 27<sup>th</sup> January. None were reported in the second half of the year. The East Asia population of this species was recently estimated to be only 30 individuals (Yu & Chan 2008).

**008A Red-footed Booby *Sula sula* 紅腳鰹鳥**

**2004:** An immature was on Dong Ping Chau on 7<sup>th</sup> July (KCL, RY).

**009A Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster* 褐鰹鳥**

**2004:** An adult in Tolo Channel on 15<sup>th</sup> May (RF, HL).

**2006:** An adult near Po Toi on 2<sup>nd</sup> November (GW).

**010A Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* 普通鸕鶿**

**2005:** A simultaneous count at the roosting sites of Mai Po NR and Nam Sang Wai on 5<sup>th</sup> February yielded 7,963 and 3,461 respectively. A total of 11,424 from these figures is a new high for this species in Hong Kong and the first time the wintering population has exceeded 10,000 individuals. One at Mai Po NR on 30<sup>th</sup> June was the latest report in the first half of the year. In the second half of the year, the first report was two birds at Mai Po NR on 30<sup>th</sup> September and then numbers increased toward the end of the year. Elsewhere, 47 were at Kam Tin on 29<sup>th</sup> January and up to five were at Ho Pui Reservoir on 14<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> February; a total of 597 flew over Ping Che on 16<sup>th</sup> February; 90 were at Sam A Tsuen on 20<sup>th</sup> February; singles were at Nai Chung on 23<sup>rd</sup> February; four at Tai Lam Chung on 26<sup>th</sup> February; seven were at Yung Shue O on 27<sup>th</sup> March and 20



remained at A Chau on 5<sup>th</sup> April. Monthly waterbird count figures in Deep Bay area, Shuen Wan and Starling Inlet were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	9,552	2,414	4,253	14	2	2	0	nc	4	1,137	6,380	6,808
SW	0	1	5	0	0	0	nc	nc	0	0	0	0
SI	87	110	179	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25

**2006:** The highest count in the first winter period was 10,347 in the January waterbird count. At least one bird remained in the Deep Bay area over the summer. In the second half of the year, the first record was of one in flight over Lok Ma Chau on 18<sup>th</sup> September. Away from the Deep Bay area, two were in southern Hong Kong waters on 30<sup>th</sup> March, while a single and four were on Po Toi on 27<sup>th</sup> October and 23<sup>rd</sup> November respectively; records from Tai Lam Chung Reservoir included ten on 25<sup>th</sup> February, nine on 9<sup>th</sup> December and ten on 30<sup>th</sup> December. Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area, Shuen Wan and Starling Inlet were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	10,347	5,329	3,091	3	2	0	1	1	1	180	5,351	6,913
SW	1	16	nc	0	0	0	nc	0	nc	0	1	2
SI	103	62	123	0	0	0	0	0	nc	0	7	23

#### 010.1A Japanese Cormorant *Phalacrocorax capillatus* 暗綠背鸕鶿

**2005:** An immature was on Po Toi from 17<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> April (CHF *et al.*); this is the first Hong Kong record (Plate 25).

#### 013A Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel* 白斑軍艦鳥

**2006:** One was over Po Toi for about five hours on 3<sup>rd</sup> May (GW).

#### 014A Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* 蒼鷺

**2005:** The highest count in the first winter period was 1,202 in the January waterbird count. Smaller numbers persisted at Mai Po NR, with 15 present on 6<sup>th</sup> July, and 41 on 20<sup>th</sup> July. The highest count in the second half of the year was 1,050 in the November count. Elsewhere, records came from Kam Tin (singles on 15<sup>th</sup> January and 25<sup>th</sup> September, 34 on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 32 on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 51 on 8<sup>th</sup> February and 66 on 16<sup>th</sup> November), San Po Kong, urban Kowloon (three on 30<sup>th</sup> November), Long Valley (one on 26<sup>th</sup> November) and Po Toi (one on 9<sup>th</sup> October). Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area (including Futian National Nature Reserve, Shenzhen), Shuen Wan and Starling Inlet were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	1,202	755	524	156	16	8	5	nc	257	479	1,050	970
SW	14	13	12	0	1	0	nc	nc	1	3	13	17
SI	94	15	24	21	1	0	1	nc	5	19	52	63

**2006:** The highest count in the first winter period was 871 in the February waterbird count, while the highest in the second winter period was 1,036 in the November count. Elsewhere, records came from Ho Sheung Heung (15 on 14<sup>th</sup> September), Kam Tin (singles on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 18<sup>th</sup> February, 8<sup>th</sup> April and 23<sup>rd</sup> September), Long Valley (singles intermittently from 8<sup>th</sup> January to 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> September; three on 28<sup>th</sup> October and four on 16<sup>th</sup> December), Po Toi (singles on 19<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> October and 21<sup>st</sup> November), Tai Lam Chung Reservoir (one on 14<sup>th</sup> October and 30<sup>th</sup> December), Tap Mun (one on 20<sup>th</sup> May) and Yeung Chau, Tolo Harbour (one on 8<sup>th</sup> October). Monthly waterbird count figures in Deep Bay area, Shuen Wan and Starling Inlet were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	740	871	540	64	7	8	19	10	169	562	1,036	895
SW	25	11	nc	0	1	0	nc	0	nc	12	12	21
SI	74	62	67	29	1	4	0	3	nc	36	50	42

#### 015A Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* 草鷺

**2005:** In the first half of the year the highest count was five at Mai Po NR on 7<sup>th</sup> May. Four remained on the reserve on 15<sup>th</sup> June. A count of 12 individuals at Mai Po NR on 17<sup>th</sup> October was the highest count in the second winter period. Elsewhere, single juveniles were at Shuen Wan on 14<sup>th</sup> October and at Shui Mei on 18<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	0	2	0	0	1	0	3	nc	1	6	4	5

**2006:** The highest count in the first winter period was four in the February waterbird count. The latest report in this period was of one on 31<sup>st</sup> May. In the second winter period the highest count was six on 30<sup>th</sup> October. All records came from the Mai Po and Deep Bay area. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	2	4	2	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	2	3

#### 016A Great Egret *Egretta alba* 大白鷺

**2005:** The highest count in the first winter period was 1,565 in the January waterbird count, of which 1,196 were present in Hong Kong. The highest count in the second winter period was 1,185 including 1,055 birds in Hong Kong side during the November waterbird count. Away from Deep Bay area, records came from Kam Tin (single on 29<sup>th</sup> January, two on 25<sup>th</sup> September), Mui Wo

(single on 25<sup>th</sup> March), Nai Chung (on 13 dates from 6<sup>th</sup> January to 19<sup>th</sup> October with a maximum count of 28 on 14<sup>th</sup> April), Penfold Park (seven on 4<sup>th</sup> March, two on 22<sup>nd</sup> March and 26<sup>th</sup> April), Po Toi (one on 2<sup>nd</sup> May), Sha Po (seven on 2<sup>nd</sup> February), Tai Po Market (one on 1<sup>st</sup> January) and Tung Chung (one on 25<sup>th</sup> March). Breeding was noted in egrettries at A Chau (79 nests) and Centre Island (39 nests). Monthly waterbird count figures in Deep Bay area, Shuen Wan and Starling Inlet were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	1,565	645	597	580	553	222	755	nc	580	628	1,185	731
SW	22	19	16	3	13	14	nc	nc	9	29	84	86
SI	295	10	185	296	176	90	130	nc	132	123	37	163

**2006:** The highest count in the first winter period was 720 in the February waterbird count, with an additional 139 birds in Futian, Shenzhen, while the highest count in the second half of the year was 908 in the December count (with 322 birds present in Futian, Shenzhen). At Long Valley, singles or small flocks were regularly recorded throughout the year with two exceptional flocks of 500 and 200 birds on 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> September respectively. Elsewhere, records came from Kam Tin (one on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 71 heading south on 26<sup>th</sup> October), Lam Tsuen River (one on 2<sup>nd</sup> February), Penfold Park (40 on 6<sup>th</sup> January), Po Toi (one on 4<sup>th</sup> May), Airfield Road, Shek Kong (one on 25<sup>th</sup> March), Tai Lam Chung Reservoir (one on 14<sup>th</sup> April and 100 on 10<sup>th</sup> September), near Po Toi (several records on 19<sup>th</sup> February and from 27<sup>th</sup> August to 25<sup>th</sup> October, with the largest count being 150 on 4<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> October), Yeung Chau (in Tolo Harbour, 120 on 1<sup>st</sup> August, 83 on 15<sup>th</sup> August and 28 on 8<sup>th</sup> October). Breeding was noted at the following egrettries: A Chau (80 nests), Centre Island (four nests), Pak Nai (three nests), Penfold Park (42 nests), Tai Po Market (one nest) and Yeung Chau (five nests). Counts of this species away from the Deep Bay area are welcome, especially where these involve regular counts during the year. Monthly waterbird count figures in Deep Bay area, Shuen Wan and Starling Inlet were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	1,087	859	403	399	326	708	850	505	601	848	1,025	1230
SW	88	42	nc	8	7	11	nc	83	nc	47	95	241
SI	192	219	119	202	134	155	3	93	nc	140	184	125

#### 017A Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia* 中白鷺

**2005:** The highest count in the first half of the year was 20 on 12<sup>th</sup> January and in the February waterbird count, while the highest count in the second half of the year was 33 in the November waterbird count. Apart from the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay area, records came from Kam Tin (two on 4<sup>th</sup> April, singles on 8<sup>th</sup> May and 24<sup>th</sup> July), Kuk Po (one on 12<sup>th</sup> February), Nai Chung (one on 25<sup>th</sup> April), Pui O (three on 1<sup>st</sup> October), Tung Chung Bay (two on 11<sup>th</sup> September) and Tung Shing Lei (one on 11<sup>th</sup> May). Monthly waterbird count figures in Deep Bay area, Shuen Wan and Starling Inlet were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	13	20	14	25	6	3	3	nc	7	29	33	24
SI	2	0	2	0	2	0	1	nc	3	5	6	2



Plate 2. Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia* 中白鷺  
 Mai Po NR, Hong Kong, December 2006  
 Cherry Wong

**2006:** The highest count in the first half of the year was 28 in the February waterbird count, while the highest count in the second half of the year was 27 at Mai Po NR on 9<sup>th</sup> September. Several records came from Kam Tin on 17<sup>th</sup> April (one), 3<sup>rd</sup> June (five), 9<sup>th</sup> June (six), 14<sup>th</sup> September (two), 22<sup>nd</sup> November (one) and 10<sup>th</sup> December (one). Elsewhere, one was at Long Valley on 20<sup>th</sup> May, three were at Nam Chung on 25<sup>th</sup> September, one was at Shui Mei on 25<sup>th</sup> October, and one to two were reported from southern Hong Kong waters on 14<sup>th</sup> April and 18<sup>th</sup> October. Monthly waterbird count figures in Deep Bay area, Shuen Wan and Starling Inlet were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	15	28	25	20	25	17	5	0	6	11	20	18
SW	0	0	nc	0	1	0	nc	0	nc	0	0	0
SI	2	2	3	2	2	6	55	2	nc	2	1	2

### 018A Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* 小白鷺

**2005:** The highest count in the first winter period was 2,146 (including 458 birds at Futian, Shenzhen) in the January waterbird count, while the highest in the second winter period was 2,345 (350 at Futian) in the November waterbird count. Away from the Deep Bay area, reported from widespread mainly coastal areas of Hong Kong, with the highest counts being 39 at Kam Tin on 29<sup>th</sup> August and 58 at Tung Chung on 11<sup>th</sup> September. Breeding was noted at the following egretries: A Chau (29 nests), Centre Island (17 nests), Ha Che (three nests), Ha Mei San Tsuen (eight nests), Ho Sheung Heung (17 nests), Little Green Island (15 nests), Mai Po Lung Village (five nests), Mai Po Village (37 nests), Pak Nai (40 nests), Penfold Park (17 nests), San Po Tsui, Lantau (25 nests), Tai O (30 nests), Tai Tong (one nest), Tai Po Market (five nests), Tuen Mun (27 nests) and Tung Shing Lane (36 nests). Monthly waterbird count figures in Deep Bay area, Shuen Wan and Starling Inlet were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	2,146	1,503	1,426	791	812	528	1,230	nc	1,568	1,226	2,345	1,175
SW	4	12	14	7	11	25	nc	nc	34	9	11	7
SI	84	10	60	130	75	37	49	nc	43	60	20	70

**2006:** The highest count in the first half of the year was 2,004 including 714 birds at Futian, Shenzhen in the January waterbird count, while the highest count in the second half of the year was 1,658, including 861 individuals at Futian. Elsewhere, reports were received from widespread areas of Hong Kong, with the highest counts being 200 at Kam Tin on 23<sup>rd</sup> September and 30 at Penfold Park on 6<sup>th</sup> January. In addition, one was on Po Toi on 5<sup>th</sup> May. Breeding was noted at the following egretries: A Chau (five nests), Ha Mei San Tsuen (seven nests), Ho Sheung Heung (36 nests), Little Green Island (13 nests), Mai Po Lung Village (12 nests), Mai Po Village (35 nests), near Ngau Hom Shek (two nests), Pak Nai (64 nests), Penfold Park (25 nests), San Po Tsui (Lantau, 15 nests), Tai Long (one nest), Tai O (15 nests), Tai Po Market (12 nests), Tuen Mun (16 nests), Tung Shing Lane (43 nests) and Yeung Chau (two nests). Counts of this species away from the Deep Bay area are welcome, especially where these



involve regular counts during the year. Monthly waterbird count figures in Deep Bay area, Shuen Wan and Starling Inlet were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	2,004	1,058	1,280	912	750	1,237	983	1,026	1,184	1,208	1,658	1,565
SW	8	6	nc	42	12	13	nc	20	nc	23	12	37
SI	57	80	62	62	44	42	2	23	nc	38	62	35

#### 019A Swinhoe's Egret *Egretta eulophotes* 黃嘴白鷺 VU

**2005:** Only two records were received, both at the Mai Po boardwalk: two on 17<sup>th</sup> April and one on 28<sup>th</sup> April. This was a poor year for this species.

**2006:** From 4<sup>th</sup> April to 25<sup>th</sup> May singles were recorded on ten dates and groups of three individuals were noted on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 14<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May at Mai Po. One that remained at Mai Po and moulted into non-breeding plumage was noted on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 14<sup>th</sup> July and 8<sup>th</sup> August. Elsewhere, one was seen in southeastern Hong Kong waters on 8<sup>th</sup> April.

#### 020A Pacific Reef Egret *Egretta sacra* 岩鷺

**2005:** Reported regularly from Po Toi with a maximum count of nine on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Elsewhere, birds were reported from Aberdeen (five individuals on 21<sup>st</sup> April), Lai Chi Wo, Lamma, Lamma Channel, Port Island, Sam A Chung and Tung Chung.

**2006:** The maximum count from Po Toi was seven on 25<sup>th</sup> February. Elsewhere, a total of ten were counted from Victoria Harbour to Lamma, and other reports came from Dong Ping Chau, Ham Tin, HK Island (eastern coast), Ma Wan, Soko Islands and Yung Shue Ha.

#### 021A Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* 牛背鷺

**2005:** Several notable counts were reported during autumn migration: 124 at Mai Po NR on 19<sup>th</sup> September, 60 at Kam Tin and 96 at Long Valley (with records on other four dates) on 25<sup>th</sup> September and 300 at Kam Tin on 28<sup>th</sup> September. Elsewhere, reports came from Deep Water Bay (47 birds on 17<sup>th</sup> April), Hang Tau Tsuen (seven on 1<sup>st</sup> January), Kowloon Bay (one on 3<sup>rd</sup> October), Lamma Channel (five on 17<sup>th</sup> April), Nai Chung (ten on 21<sup>st</sup> August), Pak Sha O (one on 27<sup>th</sup> March), Penfold Park (ten on 26-27<sup>th</sup> April), Po Toi (four on 22<sup>nd</sup> April and two on 2<sup>nd</sup> May), Pui O (37 on 1<sup>st</sup> October), southern Hong Kong waters (12 on 21<sup>st</sup> April), Sai O Village (one on 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> June), Sha Po (40 on 10<sup>th</sup> May), Shek Kong (eight on 19<sup>th</sup> February), Shek Pik (three on 25<sup>th</sup> March), Tung Chung Bay (34 on 11<sup>th</sup> September) and Victoria Park (one on 22<sup>nd</sup> October). Breeding was noted at the following egretries: A Chau (49 nests), Centre Island (three nests), Ho Sheung Heung (12 nests), Pak Nai (one nest), Penfold Park (two nests), Tai Tong (ten nests) and Tung Shing Lane (three nests). Monthly waterbird count figures in Deep Bay area, Shuen Wan and

Starling Inlet were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	71	75	64	88	108	173	109	nc	63	19	59	56
SW	0	0	0	0	0	20	nc	nc	23	0	0	0
SI	5	0	4	23	107	33	7	nc	16	2	0	0

**2006:** The highest counts were 225 at Nam Chung on 10<sup>th</sup> September and 200 at Long Valley on 14<sup>th</sup> September. Reports also came from HK Island (east coast, one on 5<sup>th</sup> May), Kam Tin (where the highest count was 61 on 22<sup>nd</sup> September), Lam Tsuen (six on 19<sup>th</sup> September), Mong Kok (one on 6<sup>th</sup> October), Pak Nai (seven on 17<sup>th</sup> February), Pak Tam Chung (one on 4<sup>th</sup> May), Penfold Park (three on 21<sup>st</sup> April, one on 27<sup>th</sup> April), Po Toi (on nine dates from 9<sup>th</sup> April to 21<sup>st</sup> May and 15-16<sup>th</sup> September, highest count five birds), Airfield Road, Shek Kong (on five dates from 8<sup>th</sup> April to 10<sup>th</sup> September, highest count 22), Somerset Road, Kowloon Tong (one on 25<sup>th</sup> May), southern Hong Kong waters (highest count 31 birds on 30<sup>th</sup> April on seven dates from 11<sup>th</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> June), Tai Lam Chung (one on 17<sup>th</sup> September and 14<sup>th</sup> October) and Wing Kei Tsuen (45 on 12<sup>th</sup> August). Breeding was noted at the following egrettries: A Chau (32 nests), Ho Sheung Heung (29 nests), Pak Nai (one nest), Tai Tong (15 nests), Tung Shing Lane (two nests) and Yeung Chau (one nest). Monthly waterbird count figures in Deep Bay area, Shuen Wan and Starling Inlet were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	62	51	69	155	134	119	64	45	89	41	32	40
SW	0	0	nc	14	36	0	nc	0	nc	14	0	0
SI	10	7	2	39	64	36	95	28	nc	13	0	0

## 022A Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus* 池鷺

**2005:** The highest Deep Bay count in the first winter period was 221 in the January waterbird count, while the highest in the second winter period was 324 in the October waterbird count. Elsewhere, reports came from Hang Tau Tsuen (three on 1<sup>st</sup> January), Kam Tin (maximum count of 13 on 5<sup>th</sup> February), Kowloon Tong (one on 19<sup>th</sup> August), Lam Tsuen Valley (one on 8<sup>th</sup> January and maximum count of five birds on four dates from 11-31<sup>st</sup> December), Nai Chung (on 13 dates from 12<sup>th</sup> January to 19<sup>th</sup> October, maximum count two each on 9<sup>th</sup> April and 2<sup>nd</sup> September), Nam Wa Po (one on 7<sup>th</sup> November), Penfold Park (on nine dates from 4<sup>th</sup> March to 28<sup>th</sup> October, maximum count seven on 26<sup>th</sup> April), Ping Che (two on 17<sup>th</sup> February), Po Toi (one on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and two on 11<sup>th</sup> September and 9<sup>th</sup> October), Pui O (two on 1<sup>st</sup> October), Tai Po Kau area (one on 8<sup>th</sup> July and two on 14<sup>th</sup> August), Tsim Sha Tsui (one on 8<sup>th</sup> October), Tung Chung (three on 25<sup>th</sup> March) and Wan Chai (one on 14<sup>th</sup> October). Breeding was noted at the following egrettries: Ha Che (24 nests), Ha Mei San Tsuen (26 nests), Ho Sheung Heung (73 nests), Lam Tsuen (11 nests), Ma On Kong (11 nests), Mai Po Lung Village (56 nests), Mai Po Village (51 nests), Pak Nai (11 nests), Penfold Park (five nests), Shuen Wan (Chim UK, six nests), Tai Tong (17 nests) and Tam Kon Chau (23 nests) and Tung Shing Lane (36 nests). Monthly waterbird count figures in Deep Bay area, Shuen Wan and Starling Inlet were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	221	215	148	216	136	151	246	nc	188	324	244	227
SW	8	6	8	6	6	5	nc	nc	25	7	8	6
SI	5	0	5	4	5	0	4	nc	7	1	0	5

**2006:** The highest count in the first winter period was 200 in the February waterbird count, while the highest count in the second winter period was 253 in the October waterbird count. Another notable count was of 102 at Shuen Wan on 11<sup>th</sup> September. Elsewhere, reports came from Kam Tin (singles on 18<sup>th</sup> February and 23<sup>rd</sup> September), Kowloon Park (six on 23<sup>rd</sup> September), Lam Tsuen (singles on 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> February), at She Shan, up to three birds on eight dates between 2<sup>nd</sup> January and 17<sup>th</sup> December), Long Valley (regular records throughout the year with a maximum count of 53 on 8<sup>th</sup> September), Ng Tung Chai (singles on 21<sup>st</sup> September and 10<sup>th</sup> October), at sea near Kwun Tong (nine on 16<sup>th</sup> September), Penfold Park (six on 21<sup>st</sup> April and seven on 27<sup>th</sup> April), Po Toi (six dates between 17<sup>th</sup> February and 5<sup>th</sup> May, with a maximum count of ten on 29<sup>th</sup> April; in autumn ten noted on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 20 on 16<sup>th</sup> September and one on 10<sup>th</sup> October), Shau Kei Wan (one on 14<sup>th</sup> November), Shek Kong area (on twelve dates from 22<sup>nd</sup> January to 17<sup>th</sup> December, with a maximum count of 26 on 22<sup>nd</sup> December), Siu Lam (one on 1<sup>st</sup> October), Sok Kwu Wan (16 on 7<sup>th</sup> September), southern Hong Kong waters (60 on 30<sup>th</sup> April and four on 4<sup>th</sup> November), Tai Lam Chung Reservoir (single on 14<sup>th</sup> April and 28<sup>th</sup> May, two on 17<sup>th</sup> September and 30<sup>th</sup> December). Breeding was noted at the following egrettries: Ha Che (17 nests), Ha Mei San Tsuen (30 nests), Ho Sheung Heung (82 nests), Lam Tsuen (seven nests), Ma On Kong (18 nests), Mai Po Lung Village (74 nests), Mai Po Village (50 nests), Sham Po (near Ngau Hom Shek, two nests), Pak Nai (ten nests), Penfold Park (two nests), San Po Tsui, Lantau (five nests), Tai Tong (ten nests), Tam Kon Chau (37 nests) and Tung Shing Lane (32 nests). Monthly waterbird count figures in Deep Bay area, Shuen Wan and Starling Inlet were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	189	200	164	183	131	177	206	222	248	253	232	151
SW	8	6	nc	6	7	5	nc	11	nc	9	7	7
SI	6	4	2	4	2	4	3	6	nc	6	7	9

### 023A Striated Heron *Butorides striatus* 綠鷺

**2005:** The only report in the first winter period referred to a bird at Shing Mun CP on 15<sup>th</sup> February. The highest count in the wet season was of 22 in the September waterbird count. Another notable count was of 11 at Mai Po NR on 13<sup>th</sup> August. Elsewhere, singles were noted at Lam Tsuen Valley on 26<sup>th</sup> December, Shek Kong Catchment on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, Tai Po Kau on 10<sup>th</sup> September, 21<sup>st</sup> November and 22<sup>nd</sup> December, and Tung Chung on 25<sup>th</sup> March and 11<sup>th</sup> September. Monthly waterbird count figures in Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	0	0	1	2	2	7	11	nc	22	0	0	0

**2006:** Single wintering birds were recorded at Lam Tsuen (18<sup>th</sup> February and 23<sup>rd</sup> December), Nam Wa Po (on 4<sup>th</sup> December), and Tai Po Kau (11<sup>th</sup> January and 18<sup>th</sup> December). The first wet season record was of a single at Mai Po NR on 13<sup>th</sup> April. The highest count in the summer months was of 11 in the August waterbird count, while ten were also recorded at Mai Po NR on 24<sup>th</sup> June. Elsewhere, singles (unless stated) were recorded at Ham Tin (13<sup>th</sup> April), Ho Sheung Heung (14<sup>th</sup> September), Kam Tin (27<sup>th</sup> August), Po Toi (13<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April, 5<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 15<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> September), Sam A Tsuen (three on 7<sup>th</sup> July), Sha Lo Wan (25<sup>th</sup> March), Shek Kong Catchment (19<sup>th</sup> April) and Sok Kwu Wan (24<sup>th</sup> August). Monthly waterbird count figures in Deep Bay area and Starling Inlet were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	0	0	0	0	5	6	4	11	3	1	0	0
SW	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	nc	0	0	0

#### 024A Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* 夜鷺

**2005:** The highest count from the monthly waterbird counts was 70 in September, while 61 birds were recorded at Mai Po NR on 6<sup>th</sup> July. Elsewhere, reports came from Kam Tin (three dates, highest count 41 on 22<sup>nd</sup> December), Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung) (27 on 22<sup>nd</sup> February), Penfold Park (six dates, highest count three on 4<sup>th</sup> March), Tai Po Kau (adult on 26<sup>th</sup> March) and Tung Chung (two on 25<sup>th</sup> March). Breeding was noted at the following egrettries: A Chau (111 nests), Centre Island (15 nests), Little Green Island (eight nests), San Po Tsui (Lantau, 25 nests), Tai O (eight nests) and Tai Po Market (three nests). Monthly waterbird count figures in Deep Bay area, Shuen Wan and Starling Inlet were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	5	0	5	15	62	32	60	nc	70	23	34	9
SW	1	1	2	3	3	2	nc	nc	3	2	4	3
SI	2	3	57	175	169	19	29	nc	7	0	0	25

**2006:** The highest count in the Deep Bay area was 285 birds in the June waterbird count. Elsewhere, reports came from Ho Chung (one on 16<sup>th</sup> March), Ho Sheung Heung (40 on 14<sup>th</sup> September), Hong Kong Park (one on 3<sup>rd</sup> January), Kam Tin (a high of 54 on 8<sup>th</sup> October), Kowloon Park (one on 11<sup>th</sup> April), Kowloon Reservoir (one each on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> December), Long Valley (a maximum count of five on 19<sup>th</sup> September), Nam Wa Po (one on 4<sup>th</sup> June), Pak Nai (11 on 22<sup>nd</sup> October), Penfold Park (a maximum of 12 on 6<sup>th</sup> January), Po Toi (one on 5<sup>th</sup> October), She Shan (two on 2<sup>nd</sup> January), Siu Lam (one each on 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> October), So Lo Pun (one on 1<sup>st</sup> October), Sok Kwu Wan (seven on 7<sup>th</sup> September), Tai Lam Chung Reservoir (a maximum of eight on 14<sup>th</sup> October), Yeung Chau (18 on 15<sup>th</sup> August and one on 8<sup>th</sup> October). Breeding was noted in the following egrettries: A Chau (78 nests), Centre Island (five nests), Little

Green Island (four nests), Penfold Park (seven nests), Tai O (nine nests), Tai Po Market (eight nests) and Yeung Chau (ten nests). Monthly waterbird count figures in Deep Bay area, Shuen Wan and Starling Inlet were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	7	18	21	135	99	285	151	206	144	20	75	17
SW	2	2	nc	4	3	3	nc	18	nc	3	3	3
SI	27	66	500	156	64	118	58	42	nc	1	15	11

#### 025.5A Malayan Night Heron *Gorsachius melanolophus* 黑冠鵞

**2005:** Up to two adults and two juveniles were seen from 14<sup>th</sup> July to 13<sup>th</sup> August at Hang Tau village (JAPW, JGH). An adult was at On Po on 10<sup>th</sup> October (KPK). Presumably breeding pairs are scattered through lowland areas of the NT and offshore islands, and observers are encouraged to survey apparently suitable habitat late in the day.

#### 026A Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis* 黃葦鶯

**2005:** At Mai Po NR the first report was of one on 19<sup>th</sup> March and the latest concerned one on 18<sup>th</sup> December. The highest count was eight at the same site on 22<sup>nd</sup> August. Away from the Deep Bay area, singles were reported came from Kam Tin (18<sup>th</sup> July), Long Valley (12<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> May) and Nai Chung (11<sup>th</sup> May). One was sent to KFBG from an unknown locality on 25<sup>th</sup> September. Monthly waterbird count figures in Deep Bay area and Starling Inlet were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	nc	1	0	0	0
SI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	nc	1	0	0	0

**2006:** At Mai Po NR the first report was of a single on 16<sup>th</sup> April and the latest report was of two on 18<sup>th</sup> November. The highest count in the Deep Bay area was 12 in the September count. Elsewhere, reports came from Fung Lok Wai (three on 11<sup>th</sup> September), Ho Sheung Heung (one on 17<sup>th</sup> May and 15<sup>th</sup> September), Kam Tin (eight on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, two on 20<sup>th</sup> June, one on 29<sup>th</sup> August and 27<sup>th</sup> September), Lok Ma Chau KCRC mitigation ponds (one on 30<sup>th</sup> September, two on 29<sup>th</sup> May and 18<sup>th</sup> September, six on 15<sup>th</sup> September), Long Valley (singles on 4<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> May, 4<sup>th</sup> June, 16<sup>th</sup> September and 14<sup>th</sup> October, two on 14<sup>th</sup> May), Pak Nai (one on 22<sup>nd</sup> October), Pat Heung (a male on 27<sup>th</sup> May), Po Toi (one on 17<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May, 12<sup>th</sup> September, three on 18<sup>th</sup> May, five on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> June), San Tin (two on 15<sup>th</sup> September and four on 21<sup>st</sup> September), Sha Po (one on 12<sup>th</sup> September), Tsim Bei Tsui (one on 26<sup>th</sup> May) and Tung Chung (one on 31<sup>st</sup> May). Monthly waterbird count figures in Deep Bay area were as follows:



	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	0	0	0	0	3	11	3	1	12	5	0	0

**027A Schrenck's Bittern *Ixobrychus eurhythmus* 紫背葦鶉**

**2005:** At Long Valley a male was present on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May and a pair were there on 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

**2006:** There was only one report: a female at Long Valley on 19<sup>th</sup> May.

**028A Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus* 栗葦鶉**

**2005:** All records referred to single birds unless stated. The first report came from Tai Long Wan on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Subsequently, records were from Long Valley (on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> May), Kam Tin including Shui Mei (on 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> August; 12<sup>th</sup> (two birds), 20<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> September and 18<sup>th</sup> October), Causeway Bay (18<sup>th</sup> October) and Mai Po NR (25<sup>th</sup> October).

**2006:** All reports referred to single birds unless stated. In the first winter period birds were reported from Mai Po NR on 21<sup>st</sup> January and Palm Springs on 28<sup>th</sup> February. Subsequently, reports came from Ho Heung Sheung (17<sup>th</sup> May), Kam Tin (11<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 25<sup>th</sup> August and 15<sup>th</sup> September), Lok Ma Chau KCRC mitigation ponds (15<sup>th</sup> September and 15<sup>th</sup> October), Long Valley (26<sup>th</sup> May, 16<sup>th</sup> (two birds) and 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 11<sup>th</sup> October), Mai Po NR (23<sup>rd</sup> September), Po Toi (17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> October) and Siu Lam (20<sup>th</sup> May).

**029A Black Bittern *Dupetor flavicollis* 黑鶉**

**2005:** An adult male was at Kam Tin on 26<sup>th</sup> July and another was at Mai Po NR on 16-17<sup>th</sup> September.

**030A Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* 大麻鶉**

**2005:** In the first winter period singles were reported on 30<sup>th</sup> January and 11<sup>th</sup> March. The first returning bird was reported on 27<sup>th</sup> October, and subsequently singles were reported on 28<sup>th</sup> October, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> December. All records came from Mai Po NR.

**2006:** Singles reported on 1<sup>st</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> January were the only records in the first winter period. One reported on 15<sup>th</sup> October was the first returning bird in the second half of the year. Subsequently, singles were reported on 20<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> October, and two were present on 18<sup>th</sup> November. All records came from Mai Po NR.

**031A Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* 黑鶴**

**2005:** One in flight over Sunset Peak, the first record of this species on Lantau, was chased away by a White-bellied Sea Eagle on 25<sup>th</sup> December. A

first-winter bird was at Mai Po NR on 29<sup>th</sup> December.

### 035A Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* 白琵鷺

**2005:** All records came from Mai Po NR, except for one at the Wetland Park on 23<sup>rd</sup> January. In the first winter period up to two birds were reported on seven dates from 3<sup>rd</sup> January to 11<sup>th</sup> March. The first report in the second winter period was of one on 11<sup>th</sup> November, and subsequently singles were reported on 29<sup>th</sup> November, and 1<sup>st</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

**2006:** Only two reports in the first winter period: singles at Mai Po NR on 12<sup>th</sup> January and at Tsim Bei Tsui on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. In the second winter period the first record was of one on 2<sup>nd</sup> November at Mai Po. Numbers increased to two on 4<sup>th</sup> November and five on 18<sup>th</sup> November. Singles reported from the same site on 10<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> December were the final reports of that year.

### 036A Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor* 黑臉琵鷺 EN

**2005:** The highest count in the first winter period was 311 in the January waterbird count. Numbers subsequently decreased to 179 on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. A count of 110 was made on 28<sup>th</sup> April, possibly indicating an influx of passage birds. Numbers fell further to 31 on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 16 on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 10 on 7<sup>th</sup> June and two on 22<sup>nd</sup> June. These two birds remained at Mai Po NR to 11<sup>th</sup> July, but only one was reported thereafter. The first certain indication of southward passage or arrival of wintering birds referred to six birds on 18<sup>th</sup> October. Subsequently, numbers increased to 28 on 21<sup>st</sup> October, 42 on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 148 on 3<sup>rd</sup> November and 171 on 11<sup>th</sup> November. Finally, 340 were counted on 29<sup>th</sup> December, a new high of this globally endangered species in Hong Kong. All records came from the Deep Bay area. Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area (including Futian National NR, Shenzhen, China) were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	311	319	169	59	50	2	0	nc	0	0	284	350

**2006:** All records came from the Deep Bay area. The highest count in the first winter period was 316 in the February waterbird count. Numbers subsequently dropped to 75 on 18<sup>th</sup> April, 27 on 21<sup>st</sup> May and 14 on 31<sup>st</sup> May. Up to 11 birds remained during the summer at Mai Po NR to 21<sup>st</sup> August. Six reported from Mai Po on 14<sup>th</sup> October were the first returning birds. Numbers built up to 100 on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 118 on 4<sup>th</sup> November, 164 on 16<sup>th</sup> November, 234 on 7<sup>th</sup> December and 319 on 10<sup>th</sup> December. Finally, in the December waterbird count a total of 475 birds, comprising 364 at Mai Po NR, 21 at the Wetland Park and 90 at Futian National NR, Shenzhen, was a new high for the Deep Bay area. The count of 385 birds was also a new high for Hong Kong. Monthly waterbird count figures for the Deep Bay area (including Futian National NR, Shenzhen) were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	238	316	333	80	3	10	11	11	0	0	302	475

**037A Lesser Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna javanica* 栗樹鴨**

**2005:** One was at Mai Po NR on 13<sup>th</sup> June.

**2006:** One was at Nam Sang Wai on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> July (Plate 3). Another was regularly present at Mai Po NR from 5<sup>th</sup> November to 24<sup>th</sup> December.



**Plate 3.** Lesser Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna javanica* 栗樹鴨  
Nam Sang Wai, Hong Kong, 30<sup>th</sup> July 2006  
Michelle and Peter Wong

**038.1A Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* 白額雁**

**2005:** A juvenile was present at the KCRC Lok Ma Chau mitigation wetland from 2<sup>nd</sup> November to the end of the year (MRL). This is the second record of a bird considered to have arrived naturally, and follows by almost exactly a year the first such record.

**2006:** The same juvenile was present at the KCRC Lok Ma Chau mitigation wetland from the beginning of the year to 20<sup>th</sup> March.

**038.2A Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* 小白額雁**

**2006:** Two were at the KCRC Lok Ma Chau mitigation wetland on 6<sup>th</sup> November (MRL *et al.*); these birds remained at either this site or Mai Po NR into 2007. This is the first Hong Kong record (Plates 26 and 27).

**039A Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* 赤麻鴨**

**2005:** One was present at Mai Po NR from 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> May, which is the latest date on record in Hong Kong.

**040A Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* 翹鼻麻鴨**

**2005:** The highest count in the first winter period was 68 in the February waterbird count. The only other significant count at this time was of 25 at Tsim Bei Tsui on 1<sup>st</sup> January. The only report in the second winter period concerned three in the December waterbird count.

**2006:** Reports came from the Deep Bay area: one on 8<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> January, 60 on 30<sup>th</sup> January and finally three at Tsim Bei Tsui on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. This species has experienced a dramatic decline in recent winters.

**041A Cotton Pygmy-goose *Nettapus coromandelianus* 棉鳧**

**2006:** Two were at Mai Po NR on 29<sup>th</sup> October (FC *et al.*). This is the third Hong Kong record, and comes almost exactly 30 years after the previous occurrence. All three records have occurred in the narrow window of 23-31<sup>st</sup> October.

**043A Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* 赤頸鴨**

**2005:** The highest count in the first winter period was 3,106 in the January waterbird count. Numbers dropped to 123 by 2<sup>nd</sup> April and 26 on 28<sup>th</sup> April, the latest report in the first half of the year. The first returning birds were four at Mai Po NR on 15<sup>th</sup> October, increasing to five on 17<sup>th</sup> October and 226 on 31<sup>st</sup> October. The highest count in the second winter period was 2,199 in the December waterbird count. Elsewhere, reports came from Fung Kat Heung (three on 13<sup>th</sup> December), Kam Tin (nine on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 12 on 28<sup>th</sup> November and one on 22<sup>nd</sup> December) and Pak Nai (two on 16<sup>th</sup> January). Monthly waterbird count figures in Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	3,106	1,945	780	25	1	0	0	nc	0	3	604	2,199

**2006:** The highest count in the first winter period was 2,054 in the March waterbird count. A total of 39 birds were still present in the April waterbird count, while two at Mai Po NR on 1<sup>st</sup> May was the latest report in the first winter period. One female at Lok Ma Chau KCRC mitigation ponds on 13<sup>th</sup> and

17<sup>th</sup> August was the first record in the second half of the year. Subsequently, one was at Mai Po on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 17 were present on 14<sup>th</sup> October, and numbers increased to 25 on 23<sup>rd</sup> October. The highest count in the second winter was 1,642 in the December waterbird count. All records came from the Deep Bay area. Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	1,417	1,455	2,054	39	0	0	0	1	0	0	402	1,642

### Hybrid Eurasian x American Wigeon *A. americana*

2005: A male was at Mai Po NR on 26<sup>th</sup> December.

### 044A Falcated Duck *Anas falcata* 羅紋鴨 NT

2005: A female was at Mai Po NR on 11<sup>th</sup> January, a male and two females were at Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung) on 22<sup>nd</sup> February and the male remained there on 8<sup>th</sup> March. In the second winter period, two females were at Mai Po NR on 27<sup>th</sup> December.

2006: Singles were at Mong Tseng Wai on 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> January, and at Fung Lok Wai on 10<sup>th</sup> January. A male at Mai Po on 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> April was obviously an escaped or released individual. A female at Mai Po on 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November was the sole record in the second half of the year.

### 045A Gadwall *Anas strepera* 赤膀鴨

2005: Up to six individuals were noted regularly from 8<sup>th</sup> January to 17<sup>th</sup> March. The first record in the second winter period was of 11 birds on 25<sup>th</sup> October. Numbers increased to 14 on 29<sup>th</sup> December and 21 on 30<sup>th</sup> December. These records came from Mai Po NR; in addition, one was at Kam Tin on 28<sup>th</sup> December.

2006: The flock of 21 reported from the end of 2005 was again noted on 1<sup>st</sup> January. Numbers increased to 25 on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 28 on 15<sup>th</sup> January and reached a peak of 30 on 1<sup>st</sup> February. No further records occurred until two birds on 30<sup>th</sup> March, which was the latest report in the first winter period. There were only two reports in the second winter period: two males and a female on 5<sup>th</sup> November and one on 25<sup>th</sup> December. All records came from Mai Po NR.

### 046A Baikal Teal *Anas formosa* 花臉鴨 VU

2005: A male noted intermittently at Mai Po NR from 11<sup>th</sup> January to 18<sup>th</sup> February and at Tsim Bei Tsui on 27<sup>th</sup> January, is thought to be the same individual as recorded in 2004.

2006: Two females were at Mai Po NR on 26<sup>th</sup> January, with one recorded the following day.



#### 047A Common Teal *Anas crecca* 綠翅鴨

**2005:** The highest count in the first winter period was 3,023 in the January waterbird count. Numbers subsequently decreased to 27 at Mai Po NR on 4<sup>th</sup> April and four on 15<sup>th</sup> April, the latest report in the first half of the year. The first report in the second half of the year was of 29 at Mai Po NR on 16<sup>th</sup> September, 190 in the November waterbird count and 1,016 birds on 29<sup>th</sup> December. Elsewhere, reports came from Fung Kat Heung (three on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 15 on 3<sup>rd</sup> December and 61 on 13<sup>th</sup> December), Kam Tin (one on 14<sup>th</sup> October, six on 22<sup>nd</sup> October), Kuk Po (25 on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> February), Nam Chung (18 on 13<sup>th</sup> March), Shuen Wan (30 on 24<sup>th</sup> October) and Shui Lau Tin, Sai Kung (seven on 29<sup>th</sup> October). Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area, Shuen Wan and Starling Inlet were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	3,023	1,529	1,009	10	0	0	0	nc	0	23	190	425
SW	0	0	0	0	0	0	nc	nc	0	30	0	0
SI	11	0	31	8	0	0	0	nc	0	15	70	51

**2006:** The highest count in the first half of the year was 1,227 in the February waterbird count, while the latest report in spring was at Mai Po NR on 14<sup>th</sup> May. One in the same place on 9<sup>th</sup> July appears to indicate an over-summering bird. One at Long Valley on 21<sup>st</sup> September was the first indication of southward passage. Also at this time singles were noted at Mai Po NR and Lok Ma Chau KCRC mitigation ponds on 22<sup>nd</sup> September and six were noted at Mai Po on 24<sup>th</sup> September. The highest count in the second winter period was 475 in the November count. Elsewhere, reports came from Fung Kat Heung (13 on 11<sup>th</sup> November and 42 on 13<sup>th</sup> November), Kam Tin (one on 17<sup>th</sup> January, six on 18<sup>th</sup> February and 11 on 28<sup>th</sup> February, and on eight dates from 5<sup>th</sup> November to 24<sup>th</sup> December with a maximum of 46 birds on 22<sup>nd</sup> November), Long Valley (one on 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> October) and Nam Chung (32 on 3<sup>rd</sup> February). Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area, Shuen Wan and Starling Inlet were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	1,137	1,227	893	29	1	0	0	0	0	36	475	353
SW	0	0	nc	0	0	0	nc	0	nc	0	11	0
SI	47	41	82	0	0	0	0	0	nc	7	168	87

#### 049A Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* 綠頭鴨

**2005:** A female was at Mai Po NR on 12<sup>th</sup> January, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March, and two females were at Lok Ma Chau KCRC mitigation ponds on 13<sup>th</sup> February. In the second winter period a female was at Mai Po NR on 25<sup>th</sup> October, two birds were there on 5<sup>th</sup> November and one again on 26<sup>th</sup> November. Finally, one was at Mai Po NR on 13<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** Six were present at Mai Po NR during 6-12<sup>th</sup> January, while two were recorded there on 27<sup>th</sup> January. No records in the second half of the year.

**050A Indian Spotbill *Anas poecilorhyncha* 印緬斑嘴鴨**

**2005:** All records were from Mai Po NR. One was present on 3<sup>rd</sup> January and two were noted on 10<sup>th</sup> January. Three were noted on 13<sup>th</sup> March. Pairs were noted on 16<sup>th</sup> April, 5<sup>th</sup> July and 17<sup>th</sup> September. A female paired with a male *A. zonorhyncha* was noted on 3<sup>rd</sup> April and 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Subsequently, four were noted on 15<sup>th</sup> October, the highest count of the year, and two were noted on 30<sup>th</sup> October. Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	nc	0	4	4	0

**2006:** No reports. Observers are encouraged to submit all records of 'spot-billed ducks', assigning birds to taxon whenever possible.

**050.1A Chinese Spotbill *Anas zonorhyncha* 中華斑嘴鴨**

**2005:** All records came from Mai Po NR. The highest count was nine in the February waterbird count and on 30<sup>th</sup> October. A male paired with a female *A. poecilorhyncha* was noted on 3<sup>rd</sup> April and 22<sup>nd</sup> June, as well as a pair of this taxon on the first date. Three were still present on 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	2	9	2	1	0	0	0	nc	0	1	6	2

**2006:** Apart from the monthly waterbird counts, only four records from Mai Po NR were received: ten on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 25 on 1<sup>st</sup> February, two on 21<sup>st</sup> October and 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Monthly waterbird count figures in Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	1	6	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	11

**Spotbill sp. *Anas poecilorhyncha/zonorhyncha***

**2005:** 'Spotbills' unassigned to species were recorded at Mai Po NR in all months except August and the monthly peak counts were: eight (January), 16 (February), 15 (March), ten (April), two (May), one (June), nine (July), 16 (September), five (October), 15 (November), 16 (December). Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	0	4	2	2	1	0	0	nc	16	0	0	0

**2006:** The highest count was 17 in the January waterbird count. All records came from Mai Po NR, except one at Tsim Bei Tsui on 23<sup>rd</sup> February. Two at Mai Po on 16<sup>th</sup> September was the only record in the second half of the year. Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	17	6	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0

### 051A Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* 針尾鴨

**2005:** All records came from the Deep Bay area, except two records at Fung Kat Heung (a female on 3<sup>rd</sup> December and five on 13<sup>th</sup> December). The highest count in the first winter period was 3,332 in the February count. One at Mai Po on 17<sup>th</sup> April was the latest report in the first half of the year. Six from Mai Po boardwalk on 15<sup>th</sup> October was the first report in the second winter period. Numbers at Mai Po NR increased to 530 on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 1643 on 30<sup>th</sup> November and 2,464 on 29<sup>th</sup> December, the latter being the highest count in the second winter period. Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	1,956	3,332	165	2	0	0	0	nc	0	11	1,361	1,365

**2006:** The highest count in the first winter period was 1,469 in the January waterbird count. One present in the April waterbird count was the latest report in the first half of the year. One at Mai Po on 24<sup>th</sup> September was the first report in the second half of the year. The highest count in the second winter period was 1,556 in the December waterbird count. Elsewhere, there were several records at Kam Tin: up to six on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November, nine on 10<sup>th</sup> December and six on 24<sup>th</sup> December. In addition, 11 birds were at San Tin on 20<sup>th</sup> December. Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	1,149	1,193	165	1	0	0	0	0	0	23	389	1,556

### 052A Garganey *Anas querquedula* 白眉鴨

**2005:** All records came from Mai Po NR. The highest count in the first winter period was 95 in the March waterbird count. Fifty were still present on 3<sup>rd</sup> April and six on 15<sup>th</sup> April. A male noted from 22<sup>nd</sup> June to 6<sup>th</sup> July indicated over-summering. One noted on 7<sup>th</sup> September should be the first returning bird. Number increased to seven on 13<sup>th</sup> September, 24 on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 31 on 19<sup>th</sup> September, 89 on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 165 on 17<sup>th</sup> October and 325 on 31<sup>st</sup> October, the highest count of the year. Smaller numbers were still present toward the end of the year with 32 birds noted on 29<sup>th</sup> December. Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	21	69	95	17	0	0	0	nc	6	7	27	17

**2006:** Forty-seven birds were noted at Mai Po NR on 1<sup>st</sup> January, while the highest count in the first winter period was 105 in the March waterbird count. Twenty-eight birds present in the April waterbird count was the latest report in

the first half of the year. One at Mai Po NR on 22<sup>nd</sup> September was the first report in the second half of the year and a flock of 50 was present the next day. Numbers reached a peak of 286 birds in the October waterbird count. Elsewhere, one was noted at Fung Lok Wai on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 12 flew northeast near Po Toi on 5<sup>th</sup> April, four were noted in southern Hong Kong waters on 9<sup>th</sup> April and singles were at Kam Tin on 14<sup>th</sup> November and 24<sup>th</sup> December. Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	26	87	105	28	0	0	0	0	0	286	30	37

#### 053A Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* 琵嘴鴨

**2005:** The highest count in the first winter period was 9,703 in the January waterbird count but only 1,185 birds were present within Hong Kong territory. In the second winter period, a total of 4,903 birds counted in the November waterbird count included 4,600 off the Mai Po boardwalk. A female noted on 23<sup>rd</sup> May was the latest report in the first half of the year. Two on 14<sup>th</sup> September were the first returning birds and four were present on the following day. Low numbers remained in October and early November, but then rose towards the end of the year. Elsewhere, seven were noted at Pak Nai on 16<sup>th</sup> January. Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	9,703	9,017	4,840	16	0	0	0	nc	0	2	4,905	3,378

**2006:** Contrasting with the high figures of the previous year, the highest count was only 2,901 in the February waterbird count, with only 601 birds present in Hong Kong. Sixteen in the April waterbird count was the latest report in the first half of the year. One on 22<sup>nd</sup> September was the first report in the second half of the year and the number increased to ten the following day. All records came from Mai Po and Deep Bay area, except one at Long Valley on 15<sup>th</sup> October. Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	2,870	2,901	1,499	16	0	0	0	0	0	17	397	1,052

#### 054A Common Pochard *Aythya ferina* 紅頭潛鴨

**2005:** A pair was noted at Deep Bay on 11<sup>th</sup> January. A female was at Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung) on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, presumably the same bird recorded at the same site on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2004. In the second winter period, a female was noted at Mai Po NR on 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November, with a pair there on 14<sup>th</sup> November. Numbers increased to three on 19<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> November and finally a maximum of five individuals on 8<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** Three were present at Mai Po NR on 1<sup>st</sup> January and a female was there on 4<sup>th</sup> January. Two males and a female were noted at Mai Po NR on 23<sup>rd</sup> December. A male and two females were noted two days later.

### 056A Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* 白眼潛鴨 NT

**2005:** At Mai Po, up to two birds were noted intermittently from 19<sup>th</sup> January to 27<sup>th</sup> February and one remained on 11<sup>th</sup> March. Two females were at the Lok Ma Chau KCRC mitigation wetland on 1<sup>st</sup> March. All these records are thought to be same individuals first seen at Mai Po on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2004. A male and female were at Mai Po NR on 20<sup>th</sup> December (JAPW, JGH).

**2006:** Two males and a female were present at Mai Po NR from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 1<sup>st</sup> February. Up to two, including one male, were at Mai Po NR on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> December.

### 057A Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* 鳳頭潛鴨

**2005:** The highest count in the first winter period was 1,667 in the January waterbird count. This is the second highest count in Hong Kong (see below). Two noted on 4<sup>th</sup> April was the latest report in the first winter period. The first report in the second winter period was of one on 5<sup>th</sup> November, but numbers increased rapidly to 1,206 in the November waterbird count. All records came from Mai Po and Deep Bay area. Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	1,667	30	829	0	0	0	0	nc	0	0	1,206	837

**2006:** The highest count in the first winter period was 1,068 birds in the February waterbird count; 33 birds present in the March count was the latest report in the first winter period. One noted on 5<sup>th</sup> November was the first report in the second winter period, and a total of 3,053 birds recorded in the December waterbird count was a new high for this species in Hong Kong. This new high is almost double the previous highest count of 1,667 recorded in January 2005. All records came from Mai Po NR and the Deep Bay area, apart from a flock of 17 noted at Kam Tin River on 20<sup>th</sup> November. Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	1,059	1,068	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	332	3,053

### 058A Greater Scaup *Aythya marila* 斑背潛鴨

**2005:** Two females were in Deep Bay on 11<sup>th</sup> January and a female/immature was at Mai Po NR on 5<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** Large numbers were present in the Tsim Bei Tsui area in January and February: up to 71 were counted on 21<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> January, rising to 83 birds on 17<sup>th</sup> February (RWL), a new high in Hong Kong. The previous highest count was 25 on 24<sup>th</sup> December 1959. A drake present at Mai Po on 16<sup>th</sup> April was the latest report of the first half of the year. This date is also a new late date for this species, the previous latest occurring on 21<sup>st</sup> February 1996. In the second half of the year, 13 were counted at Tsim Bei Tsui on 17<sup>th</sup> December.



**061A Smew *Mergellus albellus* 斑頭秋沙鴨**

**2006:** One, probably an adult female, was at Mai Po on 24<sup>th</sup> December (CW). The current categorisation of this species on the Hong Kong List is under review, due to the likely occurrence of birds that have escaped or been released from aviaries.

**062A Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* 紅胸秋沙鴨**

**2005:** A female was at Lok Ma Chau KCRC mitigation ponds on 30<sup>th</sup> November and two were there on 14<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** Two females/immatures were noted flying north near Po Toi on 14<sup>th</sup> February. Also, two females/immatures were noted flying northeast in East Lamma Channel on 7<sup>th</sup> December.

**063A Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* 鶚(魚鷹)**

**2005:** Recorded in Deep Bay up to 14<sup>th</sup> May and from 14<sup>th</sup> July, including a record total of 26 in the co-ordinated count in Deep Bay on 18<sup>th</sup> November (surpassing the previous highest of 19 on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2004). Totals of 17 were also recorded in co-ordinated counts on 13<sup>th</sup> March, the highest ever count in this month, and on 18<sup>th</sup> December. The only records outside of Deep Bay were singles at Shuen Wan on 8<sup>th</sup> February and 19<sup>th</sup> December and three at Sam A Tsuen on 20<sup>th</sup> February. Peak counts in each month in Deep Bay were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	8	11	17	6	2	0	2	1	5	6	26	17

**2006:** All records were from Deep Bay, apart from singles at Shuen Wan on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 8<sup>th</sup> March and 8<sup>th</sup> November, Po Toi on 5<sup>th</sup> October (flying south) and Tai Lam Chung on 9<sup>th</sup> December and two at Sam A, Double Haven on 18<sup>th</sup> November. Totals of 15 logged in the co-ordinated Deep Bay counts of 22<sup>nd</sup> January and 19<sup>th</sup> November and 14 in the count of 19<sup>th</sup> February were the highest of the year. Peak counts in each month in Deep Bay were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	15	14	7	3	1	2	1	3	3	7	15	11

**064A Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes* 黑冠鵝隼(鳳頭鵝隼)**

**2005:** Breeding may have occurred at Sha Kok Mei (Sai Kung), where there were sightings of single adults on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> July, two adults with one to two juveniles on 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> July, and a total of five individuals on 23<sup>rd</sup> July (MK, PW). The only other record of the year concerned one of unknown origin found in urban Kowloon and taken into care at KFBG on 6<sup>th</sup> September.

**2006:** There were just two records this year: one at Kam Tin on 16<sup>th</sup> June and seven at Fanling on 6<sup>th</sup> October.

**065A Crested Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus* 鳳頭蜂鷹**

**2003:** Five were seen above Kwun Yam Shan on 19<sup>th</sup> October.

**2005:** The only spring record was of a dark-morph bird at Ng Tung Chai on 17<sup>th</sup> April. In autumn, single birds at Ng Tung Chai on 14<sup>th</sup> September and Mai Po on 1<sup>st</sup> October, and two at Sunset Peak, Lantau on 11<sup>th</sup> October were the only reports.

**2006:** Singles at Mai Po on 21<sup>st</sup> October and Po Toi on 22<sup>nd</sup> October were the only records.

**066A Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* 黑翅鳶**

**2005:** There were just two records this year – singles along the road to Mai Po NR on 25<sup>th</sup> February and at Mai Po NR on 19<sup>th</sup> March.

**067A Black Kite *Milvus migrans* 黑鳶(麻鳶)**

**2005:** Although recorded over widespread parts of Hong Kong, with nesting noted in Aberdeen CP in May, the only sizeable counts of the year were in Deep Bay, where there were up to 100 in the first winter period and up to 189 in the second winter period. Results of the monthly Deep Bay counts were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	100	60	29	11	16	5	8	nc	15	22	60	189

**2006:** Recorded at widespread areas. No reports were received from traditional roost-sites, but there were reports of 100 over Devil's Peak, Lei Yue Mun in late afternoon on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 23 over Yim Tin Tsai island (near Shuen Wan) before dusk on 1<sup>st</sup> October and 50 at Aberdeen South Harbour on 16<sup>th</sup> October. Flocks of ten passing Po Toi on both 30<sup>th</sup> August and 10<sup>th</sup> October were thought to be migrants. Up to 123 were logged in co-ordinated Deep Bay counts (see below). There was one nesting observation - two downy chicks seen in a nest in a banyan tree on Po Toi on 15<sup>th</sup> April. Results of the monthly Deep Bay counts were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	43	123	40	29	28	10	9	8	39	18	19	71

**069A White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* 白腹海鵟**

**2005:** Up to four were in the East Lamma Channel during April. There were also regular sightings of one or two adults and an immature in the inner Tolo Harbour area in January-March and October-December, mainly at Shuen Wan and Tai Po Kau Headland, occasionally also at Fung Yuen and Pat Sin Leng. An immature flying towards Lion Rock on 23<sup>rd</sup> November and an adult at Sha Tin Pass on 24<sup>th</sup> December were unusual records from the Kowloon hills. Elsewhere, one or two were noted at Tsim Bei Tsui and Tung Wan Shan (January), Shing

Mun CP and Tai O (February), Po Toi (April and early May), Tsim Bei Tsui again (November) and Ho Chung and Sham Chung (December). The only breeding record concerned an adult seen at a nest on Magazine Island on 21<sup>st</sup> April.

**2006:** Although summer coverage was unusually poor and the only report during the period from late May to early September was of two adults at Shuen Wan, birds were frequently reported in other months. The vast majority of records were from the Deep Bay area (especially Mai Po, but also Nam Sang Wai, Shek Wu Wai and Lok Ma Chau), Tai Lam Chung (and adjacent Siu Lam), southern waters (mainly Aberdeen to Po Toi, and Shek O), and the inner Tolo Harbour area (especially Shuen Wan and Tai Po Kau Headland). Most records involved one or two adults, occasionally single juveniles or immatures, and peak counts were five between Aberdeen and Po Toi on 19<sup>th</sup> February and three at Tai Lam Chung on 9<sup>th</sup> December. Elsewhere, there were sightings of one or two birds, mainly adults, at the Soko Islands (in January), Victoria Harbour (March and September), Lam Tsuen (March), Sai Kung (May), Kat O, Chek Keng and Chek Lap Kok (November) and Pak Sha O (December). There were no confirmed breeding records.

#### **071A Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela* 蛇鵟**

**2005:** As shown in the table below, which shows weekly aggregates summed into monthly totals, birds were noted throughout the year, though (unusually) not in May. Two sites in the NT, Ng Tung Chai and Tai Po Kau, together accounted for nearly half of all records. Counts of five, the highest of the year, were recorded at these two sites on 23<sup>rd</sup> July and 14<sup>th</sup> September, respectively. Elsewhere in the NT, apart from three at Kam Tin on 5<sup>th</sup> March and three at Fung Yuen on 20<sup>th</sup> November, all reports were of one or two birds, localities being Mong Tseng, Lin Ma Hang, Ma Tso Lung, Long Valley, Tai Mo Shan, Kap Lung, Tai Po Kau Headland, Sha Lo Tung, Shuen Wan, Chung Mei, Brides Pool, Luk Keng, Ho Chung and So Lo Pun. The only records outside the NT concerned singles at Fei Ngo Shan on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, Beacon Hill on 27<sup>th</sup> August and Chi Ma Wan, Lantau on 1<sup>st</sup> October. Birds were noted calling in January, February, June and September. Monthly totals of sightings were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	8	12	6	2	0	1	6	1	9	4	5	4

**2006:** Noted in all months and with all records from the northern and central NT, apart from singles in the southeast NT at Pak Sha O on 1<sup>st</sup> May and Sai Kung on 6<sup>th</sup> May. Thus, unusually, there were no records from the northeast NT this year. The peak count was four over Hong Lok Yuen on 1<sup>st</sup> February; all other records were of one or two birds. Ng Tung Chai was again the best site, and the area from Ng Tung Chai north along the Lam Tsuen Valley to Nam Wa Po accounted for almost half of all records. The only other locality in the central NT with multiple sightings was the Tai Po Kau area. In the northern NT, sightings were reported from widespread sites in the Yuen Long and Kam Tin plains, border hills and adjacent lowlands. Birds were heard vocalising in January, February, March, July, October and December. Monthly totals

(summed from weekly aggregates) were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	6	11	6	5	4	3	2	6	9	3	1	2

#### 072A Grey-faced Buzzard *Butastur indicus* 灰臉鵟鷹

**2005:** Following one near Lei Yue Mun on 19<sup>th</sup> March, a typical date for the first record of the year, and one at Tsim Bei Tsui five days later, a small influx was noted on 25<sup>th</sup> March, comprising 30 heading northeast at Sha Lo Wan (Lantau), three at Lion Rock and one at Tai Po Kau. Subsequently, there were reports of two at Tai Po Kau on 31<sup>st</sup> March, one at Mong Tseng on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, two on Po Toi on the same date, singles there on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> April, one at Mai Po on 16<sup>th</sup> April and, finally, one over Ng Tung Chai on 20<sup>th</sup> April.

**2006:** Spring records comprised singles on Po Toi on 1<sup>st</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> April and Long Valley on 17<sup>th</sup> April. The only autumn record was of two singles flying southeast off Po Toi and out to sea in the early morning on 4<sup>th</sup> October.

#### 073A Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucos* 鵟鵒

**2005:** In spring, singles were noted at Mai Po on 11<sup>th</sup> March (female) and 12<sup>th</sup> March (male). In autumn, birds were reported singly at Mai Po on 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September (juvenile, both dates) and 14<sup>th</sup> October (unaged), at Ma Tso Lung on 16<sup>th</sup> October (juvenile) and at Mai Po again on 3<sup>rd</sup> November (unaged).

**2006:** Single birds were seen at Mai Po on 8<sup>th</sup> January and on seven dates during 2-23<sup>rd</sup> October.

#### 074A Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus* 白腹鵟(澤鵟)

**2005:** Recorded up to 10<sup>th</sup> April and from 21<sup>st</sup> September, with peak counts of three in both winter periods and all records from Deep Bay. A female was observed feeding on a Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* in front of the Mai Po boardwalk on 28<sup>th</sup> March. Based on results of co-ordinated monthly counts and other reports, peak day-counts in Deep Bay in each month were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	3	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	3

**2006:** Recorded up to 19<sup>th</sup> March and from 7<sup>th</sup> October, with all records from Mai Po or over the Inner Deep Bay intertidal area, except for singles at Tsim Bei Tsui on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, Long Valley on 29<sup>th</sup> October and Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung) on 19<sup>th</sup> November, these sites also being within the greater Deep Bay area. Following peak counts of three in the first winter period, larger numbers were recorded in the second winter period, with eight in the co-ordinated count of 19<sup>th</sup> November, five going to a roost at Mai Po on 9<sup>th</sup> December and five again in the co-ordinated count of 17<sup>th</sup> December. Based on results of co-ordinated monthly counts and other reports, peak day-counts in Deep Bay in each month

were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	8	5



**Plate 4.** Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus* 白腹鷂(澤鷂)  
Mai Po NR, Hong Kong, 30<sup>th</sup> October 2006  
Michelle and Peter Wong



### 075A Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus* 鳳頭鷹

**2005:** Recorded in all months, with reports referring to one or two birds, except for three at Mong Tseng on 15<sup>th</sup> October. Sites within the Tai Mo Shan massif, especially Ng Tung Chai, Tai Po Kau NR and Tai Po Kau Headland, accounted for 60% of records. Elsewhere in the NT, there were fairly frequent sightings, including at Nai Chung on four dates in February, March and August. The only reports outside of the NT were singles at Tung Chung, Lantau on 11<sup>th</sup> September and Po Toi on 9<sup>th</sup> October. Aerial display flights were noted at six localities (Ng Tung Chai, Tai Mo Shan, Kadoorie FBG, Fung Yuen, Sha Lo Tung and Man Uk Pin) and in four months (January, March, November and December). Breeding was strongly suspected at Tai Po Kau Headland, where a juvenile was observed near a nest on 24<sup>th</sup> July (KB, RB). Finally, an unprecedented number of injured birds, eight in total, were taken into care at KFBG, having been found in urban Kowloon and on HK Island. Of these, four were subsequently released and four died. Excluding birds taken into care, totals reported in each month were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Total	4	5	4	3	1	2	2	4	7	9	6	3

**2006:** Recorded in ones or twos in all months of the year. The vast majority of records were from the central and northwest NT, especially Tai Po Kau Headland, Ng Tung Chai, Lam Tsuen, Tai Po Kau, Tai Lam Chung and Siu Lam, with occasional reports from other widespread localities across the NT. Away from the NT, there were sightings from the Soko Islands on 25<sup>th</sup> January, Po Toi (a series, comprising one on 19<sup>th</sup> February, an immature on four dates between 28<sup>th</sup> February and 16<sup>th</sup> March, an adult on 21<sup>st</sup> March, two on 1<sup>st</sup> April and one on 5<sup>th</sup> October and 28<sup>th</sup> December), Sha Lo Wan, Lantau on 25<sup>th</sup> March and Kowloon Park on 26<sup>th</sup> November. Aerial display flights were noted in January, March and May. A pair nested and two young fledged at Tai Po Kau Headland. One at Kap Lung on 30<sup>th</sup> September was feeding on a small mammal, probably a squirrel. Totals reported in each month are shown below:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Total	10	9	15	6	10	9	6	1	7	7	3	6

### 076A Chinese Goshawk *Accipiter soloensis* 赤腹鷹

**2005:** In a poor year, two at Mai Po and one on Po Toi on 16<sup>th</sup> April were followed by three on Po Toi on 17<sup>th</sup> April, singles there on 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April and one at Tai Po Kau on 30<sup>th</sup> April.

**2006:** The arrival in early April of a strong surge of the northeast monsoon led to record numbers being found on Po Toi, eclipsing the counts of spring 2003. Two on Po Toi on 8<sup>th</sup>, the first of the spring, were followed by three there on 9<sup>th</sup> and ten on 14<sup>th</sup>. The next day a total of 299 (successive flocks of six, 86, 160 and 47 between 1245h and 1345h) were seen circling high over Po Toi then moving north towards Cape D'Aguilar (RWL, RB, KB). On 16<sup>th</sup> a record total of 780 individuals (in flocks up to 250; average flock size approximately 70) were

counted as they arrived on Po Toi between 1015h and 1245h (GW). The flocks moved on rapidly, and only three birds were found on Po Toi and six at Lei Yue Mun the following day. Subsequently there were sightings of singles on Po Toi and Mai Po on 18<sup>th</sup>, two at Ng Tung Chai on 19<sup>th</sup>, six on Po Toi on 25<sup>th</sup>, one there during 28-30<sup>th</sup> and, finally for the month, one at Tai Po Kau on 30<sup>th</sup> April. In May one or two were on Po Toi during 4-6<sup>th</sup> and two were there on 12<sup>th</sup>. The previous highest count was 665 over Lamma on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2003. In autumn, singles were noted on Po Toi on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, Tai Po Kau on 5<sup>th</sup> October, Po Toi again on 24<sup>th</sup> October and two were seen at Sha Lo Tung on 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

#### 077A Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis* 日本松雀鷹

**2005:** In the first winter period of a rather poor year, singles were noted at Tai Sang Wai on 12<sup>th</sup> January, Mai Po NR on 18<sup>th</sup> January, Tai Po Kau on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung) on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, Tai Po on 22<sup>nd</sup> March and Tai Po Kau on 24<sup>th</sup> March. One at Mai Po on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, the first autumn record, was followed by three near Tai Po on 21<sup>st</sup> October and singles at Kam Tin on 1<sup>st</sup> November, Pak Sha O on 24<sup>th</sup> November and Mai Po NR on 4<sup>th</sup> December. In addition, there were four records of small unidentified accipiters, probably this species, during the spring and autumn passage periods. Excluding these, totals reported in each month were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Total	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	1

**2006:** In the first winter period, the only reports were of a female at Kam Tin on 5<sup>th</sup> April and a male at Mai Po on 13<sup>th</sup> April. In a good autumn, one at Mai Po on 22<sup>nd</sup> September (LB), the earliest such record, was followed by one at Lin Barn Tsuen on 26<sup>th</sup> September, singles on Po Toi and Long Valley on 10<sup>th</sup> October, two on Po Toi on 12<sup>th</sup> October, singles at Mai Po and Sai Kung on 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> October, five on Po Toi on 27<sup>th</sup> October, singles at Kam Tin and San Tin the same day and one at Mai Po on 30<sup>th</sup> October. Subsequent reports were of single birds on Po Toi during 1-7<sup>th</sup> November, Mai Po on 10<sup>th</sup> November, Po Toi again on 16<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> November, Mai Po on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, Palm Springs on 4<sup>th</sup> December and, finally, San Tin on 20<sup>th</sup> December. Totals reported in each month were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Total	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	13	4	3

#### 078A Besra *Accipiter virgatus* 松雀鷹

**2005:** Sites in the central and northwest NT, especially Tai Po Kau, Ng Tung Chai and Mai Po, accounted for over 75% of records this year. Elsewhere, there were occasional records from the eastern NT, two records from Po Toi (21<sup>st</sup> April and 9<sup>th</sup> October) and one from Lantau (Chi Ma Wan on 1<sup>st</sup> October). Apart from four at Tai Lam CP on 16<sup>th</sup> May, all records were of one or two birds. Pairs were noted displaying at Lok Ma Chau on 10<sup>th</sup> April and at Tai Lam CP on 16<sup>th</sup> May, and breeding was again suspected at Shuen Wan. A male at Ng Tung Chai

on 18<sup>th</sup> May was seen carrying a Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*, and a male at Chi Ma Wan on 1<sup>st</sup> October had predated an Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*. Totals reported in each month were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Total	2	5	6	5	6	2	3	2	7	5	1	2

**2006:** Recorded throughout the year, with all reports referring to single birds or pairs. Sites in the central and northwest NT, especially Mai Po and Ng Tung Chai, again accounted for the bulk of records, and there were also fairly frequent reports from the eastern NT, including Shuen Wan, where breeding was suspected. Elsewhere, singles were seen at Sha Tin Pass on 19<sup>th</sup> February and Wonderland Villas, Kwai Chung on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, and there was a series of autumn reports from Po Toi, where one or two were noted on eight dates between 26<sup>th</sup> October and 30<sup>th</sup> November. Totals reported in each month were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Total	4	2	6	3	4	3	1	6	7	9	10	9

#### **079A Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* 雀鷹**

**2005:** There were four records, all involving single birds: at Kam Tin on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, Po Toi on 9<sup>th</sup> October and Kam Tin on 29<sup>th</sup> October (a female chasing a starling flock) and 5<sup>th</sup> November (again a female).

**2006:** In the first winter period, a female was noted at Kam Tin on 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> February and 7<sup>th</sup> March. In the second winter period single birds were reported from Lok Ma Chau on 13<sup>th</sup> October, Mai Po on 14<sup>th</sup> October, Long Valley on 29<sup>th</sup> October and Bride's Pool Road on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

#### **080A Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* 普通鵟**

**2005:** Recorded up to 5<sup>th</sup> April and from 15<sup>th</sup> October. Seven at Mai Po on 12<sup>th</sup> January and seven in co-ordinated Deep Bay counts on 16<sup>th</sup> January and 18<sup>th</sup> November were the largest counts of the year. Also notable were counts of four at Kam Tin on 29<sup>th</sup> January and four at Long Valley on 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November. Almost exactly two-thirds of records were from the Deep Bay area and hinterland. Based on results of co-ordinated counts and other reports, peak counts in this area in each month were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	7	6	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	7	2

Of the remaining records, the bulk comprised sightings of one or two birds at widespread localities across the central and northeastern NT, including Tai Po Kau Headland and KFBG, in both winter periods. Also, single birds were recorded at Tai O (Lantau) on 25<sup>th</sup> March and 12<sup>th</sup> November, Happy Valley on 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> November and Sha Tin Pass on 24<sup>th</sup> December, and two were noted at Dong Ping Chau on 14<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** Recorded up to 14<sup>th</sup> April and from 8<sup>th</sup> October, including a total of 12 in Deep Bay in the co-ordinated count of 19<sup>th</sup> February. This is the highest count on record, surpassing that of nine on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2000. Totals of eight were also recorded in the co-ordinated counts of 19<sup>th</sup> November and 17<sup>th</sup> December, and the highest single-site count was five at San Tin on 5<sup>th</sup> November. Sites in the Deep Bay area and hinterland, especially Mai Po, Kam Tin, Airfield Road (Shek Kong) and Long Valley, once again accounted for the bulk of records. Based on results of co-ordinated counts and other reports, peak counts in Deep Bay in each month were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	4	12	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	8	8

Elsewhere in the NT, there were regular reports in both winter periods of up to three along the Lam Tsuen Valley and at Siu Lam, and occasional sightings in the central and northeast NT including one roosting at Cloudy Hill on 6<sup>th</sup> November. Outside the NT, reports were received from generally more widespread areas in the second winter period, including two at Aberdeen South Harbour on 17<sup>th</sup> October and singles at Hung Hom on 29<sup>th</sup> October, Kowloon Park on 7<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November and Tai Tam Reservoir on 29<sup>th</sup> December. Records from offshore islands comprised one at the southern Sokos on 25<sup>th</sup> January and singles on Po Toi from the beginning of the year to 12<sup>th</sup> April and from 24<sup>th</sup> October to the year's end

### **081A Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga* 烏鵲 VU**

**2005:** Recorded up to 28<sup>th</sup> March and from 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Except for singles at Nam Sang Wai on 8<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January, Kam Tin on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> February, Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung) on 8<sup>th</sup> March and Kam Tin again on 15<sup>th</sup> December, all records were from Mai Po, where this species was noted on 15 dates in the first winter period and nine dates in the second winter period. Three adults at Mai Po on 27<sup>th</sup> January, four unaged birds in a co-ordinated Deep Bay count on 13<sup>th</sup> February and three unaged birds in the Deep Bay count of 18<sup>th</sup> November were the highest numbers recorded. All other counts were of one or two birds. Peak day-counts in Deep Bay in each month were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	3	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	2

**2006:** Recorded up to 4<sup>th</sup> March and from 21<sup>st</sup> October. Reports in the first winter period comprised singles on eight dates at Mai Po, two there on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, three in Deep Bay in the co-ordinated count of 19<sup>th</sup> February and singles at Kam Tin on 26<sup>th</sup> February and Nam Sang Wai on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> March. Three individuals (a juvenile, a second-winter and an adult or sub-adult) probably accounted for all these records. The earliest arrivals of the second winter period (a second-year at Mai Po on 21<sup>st</sup> October and an adult and two juveniles there on 28<sup>th</sup> October) may have accounted for all subsequent records in the year, comprising two birds at Long Valley on 29<sup>th</sup> October, singles at Mai Po on eight dates between 30<sup>th</sup> October and 24<sup>th</sup> December, two there on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, three in Deep Bay in the co-ordinated count of 19<sup>th</sup> December, singles

at Lok Ma Chau on 7<sup>th</sup> November, Kam Tin on 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November and 10<sup>th</sup> December, and also one at Ma Tso Lung on 17<sup>th</sup> December. Peak day-counts in each month were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Total	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	3

#### 082A Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca* 白肩鵟 VU

**2005:** Recorded up to 6<sup>th</sup> April and from 13<sup>th</sup> November, with all records at Mai Po except for single birds at Tai Lam CP on 14<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> February and Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung) on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Although birds were frequently reported during both winter periods, it seems that only a small number of individuals were involved, namely two adults, a juvenile and a second-plumage bird in the first winter period and two adults and two juveniles in the second winter period. Peak day-counts in each month were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Total	3	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4

**2006:** Recorded up to 4<sup>th</sup> March and from 4<sup>th</sup> November, with all records in the Deep Bay area, apart from one at Tai Lam Chung on 25<sup>th</sup> February. Three adults, a second-winter and a juvenile appear to be responsible for all reports in the first winter period, the peak count being four at Mai Po on 9<sup>th</sup> January. Most reports of the first winter period were from Mai Po in January, with only a small number received in February and March when the reserve was closed. Elsewhere, single birds were noted at Kam Tin on 19<sup>th</sup> January and Ma Tso Lung on 19<sup>th</sup> February. Records in the second winter period appear to have involved just four individuals (two adults and two juveniles), which were reported in various combinations at Mai Po on ten dates between 4<sup>th</sup> November and 24<sup>th</sup> December, but with not more than three present on any one day. Away from Mai Po, there were sightings of one at Lok Ma Chau on 7<sup>th</sup> November, an adult at Ma Tso Lung on 19<sup>th</sup> November and a juvenile at San Tin on 20<sup>th</sup> December. Peak day-counts in Deep Bay in each month were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3

#### 083A Bonelli's Eagle *Hieraetus fasciatus* 白腹山鵟

**2005:** A juvenile was observed feeding on a Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus* at Mai Po NR on 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Possibly the same juvenile was noted at Mai Po NR on 11 dates between 22<sup>nd</sup> October and 31<sup>st</sup> December, accounting for the bulk of records this year. In addition, there were sightings of two adults at Ho Pui Reservoir on 14<sup>th</sup> February, single adults at Ma Tso Lung on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, Sai O (Ma On Shan) on 13<sup>th</sup> June and Sunset Peak on 15<sup>th</sup> October, and an unaged individual at Kam Tin on 14<sup>th</sup> December.



**2006:** In the first half of the year, there were reports of single unaged birds at Mai Po on 1<sup>st</sup> January, Lam Tsuen on 7<sup>th</sup> January, Mai Po again on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> January, an immature there on 1<sup>st</sup> February, an adult at Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung) on 19<sup>th</sup> February, an immature at Airfield Road, Shek Kong on 3<sup>rd</sup> March and single adults at Kam Tin on 13<sup>th</sup> March and Ho Chung on 15<sup>th</sup> April. Sightings in the second half of the year comprised an adult predated a Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* in the Kam Tin buffalo fields on 26<sup>th</sup> August, single birds there on 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> October and 10<sup>th</sup> November, a juvenile at Mai Po on 8<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October, an immature on Po Toi on 1<sup>st</sup> November and an adult at Ma Tso Lung on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

**085A Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* 紅隼**

**2005:** Recorded up to 26<sup>th</sup> March and from 25<sup>th</sup> September, with peak numbers once again in October. All records were of single birds, except for two at Chek Lap Kok on 12<sup>th</sup> January, two at Buffalo Hill on 10<sup>th</sup> February, four on Po Toi on 8<sup>th</sup> October and two at Mai Po NR on 28<sup>th</sup> October. Records were received from widespread parts of the NT in the first winter period and mainly from the Deep Bay area in the second winter period. Away from the NT, there were reports from Chuk Yuen South Estate in urban Kowloon on 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> January, Tai O (Lantau) on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> February, Kai Tak Nullah on 26<sup>th</sup> February, Po Toi on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> October, Sunset Peak on 11<sup>th</sup> October, Sha Tin Pass on 29<sup>th</sup> October and Port Island on 24<sup>th</sup> December. A male was observed chasing an unidentified bat at Mai Po NR on 26<sup>th</sup> November. Based on weekly aggregates, totals reported in each month were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Total	6	6	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	13	5	5

**2006:** Reported up to 18<sup>th</sup> April and from 11<sup>th</sup> September, with almost 70% of records during September-November and peak numbers as usual in October. Eight at Chek Lap Kok on 28<sup>th</sup> September was the largest count; all other records were of one to three birds. Most sightings in the first winter period were from Deep Bay, with occasional reports along the Lam Tsuen Valley and at Penfold Park, Siu Lam and Po Toi. In contrast, relatively few reports were received from the Deep Bay area in the second winter period, when the bulk of sightings came from Po Toi and Chek Lap Kok. Totals reported in each month were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Total	9	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	13	18	10	1

**085.5A Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis* 亞穆爾隼**

**2005:** Six were present over the southern end of Mai Po NR at dusk on 12<sup>th</sup> October.

**2006:** Following two (including an adult male) on 6<sup>th</sup> October, there were singles on 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> October and ten on 15<sup>th</sup> October, all at Mai Po; in

addition, two were at Lok Ma Chau on 13<sup>th</sup> October. and one was at Long Valley on 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

**086A Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo* 燕隼**

**2005:** In a poor year, there were just four records, all of single birds: at Long Valley on 12<sup>th</sup> May, Hang Tau Tsuen on 19<sup>th</sup> September (observed catching a bat at dusk), Mai Po NR on 1<sup>st</sup> October and a juvenile on Po Toi on 9<sup>th</sup> October.

**2006:** One over fishponds near Mai Po on 8<sup>th</sup> April, the first of the year, was followed by singles at Tsim Bei Tsui on 12<sup>th</sup> April, Long Valley on 4<sup>th</sup> May, Nam Wa Po on 13<sup>th</sup> May, Tai Po Kau on 14<sup>th</sup> May (a rare record over forest) and Mai Po NR on 19<sup>th</sup> May. There were no further reports until 5<sup>th</sup> August when one was noted at Tsim Bei Tsui, the first of what proved to be a good autumn. Subsequent sightings, all between 10<sup>th</sup> September and 21<sup>st</sup> October and involving single birds except as otherwise noted, were as follows: Ng Tung Chai on 10<sup>th</sup> September, Long Valley on 14<sup>th</sup> September, Mai Po on 16<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September and 14<sup>th</sup> October, Palm Springs on 23<sup>rd</sup> September and 15<sup>th</sup> October, Po Toi on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October (two on the latter date), Lok Ma Chau on 24<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September and 14<sup>th</sup> October, Mong Tseng on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, Tai Lam Chung on 8<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October (two on the earliest date) and Kam Tin on 15<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> October.

**087A Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* 游隼**

**2005:** Recorded at the beginning of the year up to 28<sup>th</sup> April and from 13<sup>th</sup> August to the end of the year, so that, unusually, there were no summer records. Over 75% of records were from Deep Bay and hinterland, especially Mai Po NR. In the first winter period, there were fairly frequent reports of one or two birds in this area, including an adult showing characteristics of the subspecies *peregrinator* at Nam Sang Wai on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January and a northern-form adult at Mai Po on 10-11<sup>th</sup> March and 9<sup>th</sup> April. Elsewhere during this period there were reports from Ting Kok on 4<sup>th</sup> January, Kowloon Park on 8<sup>th</sup> January, Shuen Wan on 6<sup>th</sup> February, Luk Keng on 16<sup>th</sup> March (two) and near Aberdeen on 17<sup>th</sup> April. In the period from 13<sup>th</sup> August, all records were from the Deep Bay area, chiefly Mai Po NR, apart from one at Plover Cove on 16<sup>th</sup> November. Totals reported in each month (based on weekly aggregates) were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Total	12	6	4	5	0	0	0	2	1	1	4	4

**2006:** In a rather poor year, there were no reports in June, September or December. The majority of records were from the Deep Bay area and Po Toi. All sightings were of one or two birds apart from three (two adults and an immature) on Po Toi on 1<sup>st</sup> January. Of interest were records from two other islands (Port Island on 26<sup>th</sup> March and Dong Ping Chau on 5<sup>th</sup> April) and two urban localities (Sai Wan Ho on 17<sup>th</sup> February and Hung Hom on 21<sup>st</sup> November). An adult of the local subspecies *peregrinator* was observed taking a

Chinese Bulbul *Pycnonotus sinensis* at Sham Chung on 29<sup>th</sup> March. Totals reported in each month were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Total	4	6	4	3	1	0	1	1	0	4	2	0

**088A Chinese Francolin *Francolinus pintadeanus* 鷓鴣**

**2005:** Reported from Lin Ma Hang, Ma Tso Lung, Sha Lo Tung, Bluff Island, So Lo Pun, Wo Keng Shan and Tai Mo Shan.

**2006:** Reported from Sha Lo Tung, Kam Tin, Chau Tau, Lantau and Sunset Peaks, Crest Hill and Sok Kwu Wan.

**089A Japanese Quail *Coturnix japonica* 鶉**

**2006:** Singles were recorded at Long Valley on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 19<sup>th</sup> February and 4<sup>th</sup> November, San Tin on 27<sup>th</sup> October and Kam Tin on 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

**090A Yellow-legged Button-quail *Turnix tanki* 黃腳三趾鶉**

**1999:** One was at Kam Tin on 26<sup>th</sup> January (RWL).

**2006:** One was at Mai Po on 21<sup>st</sup> October (JAA).

**091A Barred Button-quail *Turnix suscitator* 棕三趾鶉**

**2005:** One was at Pat Sin Leng on 27<sup>th</sup> November (JAA).

**2006:** Unidentified button-quails comprised singles at Long Valley and Kam Tin on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2006 (and at Kam Tin on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2002).

**093A Slaty-breasted Rail *Gallirallus striatus* 灰胸秧雞**

**2005:** At Mai Po and Deep Bay area, only four sightings were reported: an adult from Mai Po boardwalk on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 27<sup>th</sup> March, three at the reserve on 8<sup>th</sup> September (the highest count this year) and two on 29<sup>th</sup> October. Away from the Deep Bay area, reports came from Long Valley (one on 1<sup>st</sup> October), Po Toi (two on 9<sup>th</sup> April and one on 17<sup>th</sup> April), Sha Kok Mei (Sai Kung, one on 2<sup>nd</sup> July) and Tai O (two on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> February).

**2006:** All records referred to single birds: at Mai Po NR and Nam Sang Wai on 7<sup>th</sup> January, Ham Tin on 13<sup>th</sup> April, Lok Ma Chau KCRC mitigation ponds on 30<sup>th</sup> September and Long Valley on 11<sup>th</sup> October and 16<sup>th</sup> December.

**094A Water Rail *Gallirallus aquaticus* 普通秧雞**

**2005:** One was at Long Valley on 15<sup>th</sup> April.

**2006:** One showing features of either the nominate subspecies or *korejewski* was present at Mai Po from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> December (JAA); this is the first record of this taxon for Hong Kong. Individuals showing features of the subspecies *indicus*, which occurs widely in eastern China, were noted at Lam Tsuen on 18<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> December and at Long Valley on 29<sup>th</sup> December.

**095A Slaty-legged Crake *Rallina eurizonoides* 白喉斑秧雞**

**2005:** Singles were heard at Ng Tung Chai on 19<sup>th</sup> April and at Wonderland Villas, Kwai Chung on 24<sup>th</sup> June, Two were heard at Tai Po Kau on 20<sup>th</sup> June and one was heard on 4<sup>th</sup> July. One was picked up at North Point on 29<sup>th</sup> September and subsequently released at KFBG on 7<sup>th</sup> October.

**2006:** Only two were reported: at Ng Tung Chai on 5<sup>th</sup> April and Wonderland Villas, Kwai Chung on 21<sup>st</sup> May.

**098A Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla* 小田雞**

**2005:** After two years of no records, one was at Long Valley on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> April. Another was at Kam Tin on 27<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> October.

**2006:** One at Kam Tin on 3<sup>rd</sup> June (JAA), is the latest record of this species in Hong Kong.

**099A Ruddy-breasted Crake *Porzana fusca* 紅胸田雞**

**2005:** One was near the road to Mai Po NR on 10<sup>th</sup> January, two were at Long Valley on 15<sup>th</sup> April and one was at Mai Po NR on 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

**2006:** Singles were noted at Mai Po on 17<sup>th</sup> September (trapped), 30<sup>th</sup> September, 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December and at Long Valley on 7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> October, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> December.

**101A White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus* 白胸苦惡鳥**

**2005:** Reports came from Airfield Road Shek Kong, Hang Tau Tsuen, Kam Tin, Kowloon Park, Lam Tsuen, Nai Chung, Nam Wa Po, Ng Tung Chai and Penfold Park. The highest count in the monthly waterbird count was 53 in February. Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area, Shuen Wan and Starling Inlet were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	23	53	11	54	39	21	32	nc	22	38	32	15
SW	2	1	2	1	2	1	Nc	nc	0	0	0	2
SI	2	0	1	2	3	0	0	nc	0	0	0	3

**2006:** Reports came from Hong Kong Disneyland, Kam Tin, Lam Tsuen (including Lam Tsuen Valley and She Shan), Long Valley, Nam Sang Wai, Ng Tung Chai, Po Toi (one on 19<sup>th</sup> October, the only record of the year), Airfield

Road Shek Kong and Siu Lam. Breeding was proven at Shuen Wan and Siu Lam. The highest monthly waterbird count was 45 in June. Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area, Shuen Wan and Starling Inlet were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	17	12	32	25	13	45	39	23	26	40	42	12
SW	1	0	nc	2	2	4	Nc	0	nc	0	1	1
SI	6	2	7	3	0	2	3	4	nc	1	3	1

### 102A Watercock *Gallicrex cinerea* 董雞

**2005:** Singles were noted at Lok Ma Chau KCRC mitigation ponds on 18<sup>th</sup> September and at Kam Tin on 25<sup>th</sup> October.

**2006:** Reports came from Ho Sheung Heung (a male during 16-18<sup>th</sup> May), Lok Ma Chau KCRC mitigation ponds (31<sup>st</sup> August and 6<sup>th</sup> September), Long Valley (a male on 12<sup>th</sup> August), Mai Po (a female on 20<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> May, female/immature on 1<sup>st</sup>, 14-15<sup>th</sup>, and 19-20<sup>th</sup> October) and Po Toi (one on 21<sup>st</sup> September). This was a good year for this species.

### 103A Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* 黑水雞

**2005:** The highest count in the Deep Bay area was 265 in the December waterbird count, a new high for this species in Hong Kong. Apart from the regular monthly waterbird counts, reports came from Fung Kat Heung (one on 6<sup>th</sup> May), Kam Tin (11 on 29<sup>th</sup> January, eight on 21<sup>st</sup> April and one on 24<sup>th</sup> August), Long Valley (two on 26 November), Hoo Hok Wai, Ma Tso Lung (38 on 3<sup>rd</sup> March), Mong Tseng (four on 16<sup>th</sup> January) and Tai O (one on 25<sup>th</sup> March). Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area and Starling Inlet were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	212	185	215	181	95	15	13	nc	11	48	143	265
SI	3	2	2	2	0	0	0	nc	0	0	0	1

**2006:** The highest count in the monthly waterbird count was 235 in January. Apart from the waterbird counts, reports came from Cheung Po (Pat Heung, one on 30<sup>th</sup> September), Kam Tin (one on 22<sup>nd</sup> October), Kuk Po (one on 1<sup>st</sup> October), Long Valley (one on 1<sup>st</sup> October, five on 4<sup>th</sup> November, 11 on 16<sup>th</sup> December and four on 24<sup>th</sup> December), Pak Nai (six on 22<sup>nd</sup> October), Penfold Park (one on 6<sup>th</sup> January), She Shan (one on 26<sup>th</sup> November), Shek O (one on 11<sup>th</sup> October and southeastern Hong Kong waters (one on 29<sup>th</sup> April). Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area and Starling Inlet were as follows:



	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	235	148	176	133	27	19	12	11	13	51	170	118
SI	4	0	4	1	0	0	0	2	nc	3	2	1

#### 104A Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra* 白骨頂

**2005:** The highest count in the first winter period was 149 in the March waterbird count. Two noted at Mai Po NR on 16<sup>th</sup> March was the latest report in this period. One at Mai Po on 3<sup>rd</sup> November was the first returning bird in the second half of the year and the highest count was 317 in the December waterbird count. Elsewhere, one was noted at Nam Chung on 20<sup>th</sup> February. Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area was as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	54	145	149	0	0	0	0	nc	0	0	139	317

**2006:** The highest count in the first half of the year was 226 in the February waterbird count. One on 22<sup>nd</sup> April was the latest report in this period. The first returning bird was noted on 4<sup>th</sup> November and the highest count in the second half of the year was 378 in the December waterbird count. This species remains in low numbers compared to the thousand or so individuals recorded in the early 1990s. All records came from the Deep Bay area and monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Total	122	226	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	378

#### 105A Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus* 水雉

**2005:** In spring the only record was of two birds at Lok Ma Chau KCRC mitigation ponds on 8<sup>th</sup> May. Several birds were noted in autumn: at Mai Po NR up to three were present from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September, with singles also present on 1<sup>st</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> October, two on 1<sup>st</sup> November, and singles on 3<sup>rd</sup> November and during 19-27<sup>th</sup> November. Elsewhere, singles were at Kam Tin on 5<sup>th</sup> November and San Tin on 16<sup>th</sup> November. These records seem to have involved about 11 individuals. This was a very good year for this species.

**2006:** In spring, singles were noted at Nam Chung on 15<sup>th</sup> May; over the sea near Po Toi on 18<sup>th</sup> May, at Lok Ma Chau KCRC mitigation ponds on 26<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May and 11<sup>th</sup> June. Records in autumn only came from two sites: Lok Ma Chau KCRC mitigation ponds and Mai Po NR. At Lok Ma Chau, two were noted on 29<sup>th</sup> September, three on 30<sup>th</sup> and four on 14<sup>th</sup> October. At Mai Po, one was noted from 28-30<sup>th</sup> September, while up to three were present from 13<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> October, and four were noted on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> October. The total for both sites of seven birds on 14<sup>th</sup> October is a new high for Hong Kong. At least 18 individuals were recorded this year, the best for this species since the loss of the local breeding population in the 1970s.

106A Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* 彩鷸



**Plate 5.** Greater Painted snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* 彩鷸  
Mai Po NR, Hong Kong, June 2005  
Cherry Wong

**2005:** Recorded almost every month except October, the highest count was a total of 32 in the Kam Tin and Sha Po area (17 at Kam Tin and 15 at Shui Mei) on 3<sup>rd</sup> December; there were also 12 birds in the same area on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Reports also came from Cheung Po (Pat Heung, four on 12<sup>th</sup> November), Kam Tin (11 on 12<sup>th</sup> January, up to six from 8<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> May, 16 on 29<sup>th</sup> August and one on 13<sup>th</sup> November), Long Valley (a pair on 8<sup>th</sup> January, four on 12<sup>th</sup> February, up to four from 15<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> April and 28<sup>th</sup> May), Luk Keng (two on 30<sup>th</sup> March), Mai Po NR (two on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, two in June and on 6<sup>th</sup> July, a male on 23<sup>rd</sup> August), Shek Kong (four on 8<sup>th</sup> May) and Shui Lau Tin (seven on 17<sup>th</sup> December and ten on 30<sup>th</sup> December). Breeding was proven at Kam Tin (a male on nest on 11<sup>th</sup> May, a male with a chick on 21<sup>st</sup> May), Mai Po NR (a pair with a downy chick on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, a male with two chicks on 1-2<sup>nd</sup> September) and Tsang Uk Tsuen, Shek Kong (a male with two chicks on 23<sup>rd</sup> May and a nest on 31<sup>st</sup> July).

**2006:** Recorded in all months of this year, the highest count was 12 at Long Valley on 18<sup>th</sup> November. Reports came from Cheung Po (at least seven on 10<sup>th</sup> April, four on 16<sup>th</sup> April, eight on 30<sup>th</sup> September), Fung Kat Heung (a pair on 27<sup>th</sup> May), Kam Tin (one on 15<sup>th</sup> June, seven on 28<sup>th</sup> June, up to 11 from 12<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> September, nine on 14<sup>th</sup> November, ten on 12<sup>th</sup> December), Lok Ma Chau (a female on 18<sup>th</sup> September), Long Valley (regular records with monthly peak counts of one in January, two in March, four in May and June, two in July, six in

August, eight in September, seven in October, 12 in November and five in December), Mai Po NR (two on 16<sup>th</sup> May), Pat Heung (one on 27<sup>th</sup> May, four on 26<sup>th</sup> August), Shek Kong (monthly peak counts of ten in January, two in February, two in March, three in April, one in September, one in November and eight in December) and Shui Mei (11 on 21<sup>st</sup> January, up to eight on 14<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February). Breeding was proven at Cheung Po (display calls on 10<sup>th</sup> April), Fung Kat Heung (a nest with four eggs on 27<sup>th</sup> May), Kam Tin (a nest with four eggs on 15<sup>th</sup> June) and Shui Mei (displaying call on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, the earliest date for breeding activity in Hong Kong).

#### 107A Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* 黑翅長腳鷗

**2005:** The highest count was 381 in the October waterbird count, which included 334 birds in Hong Kong territory, while the highest count in spring passage was 252 on 13<sup>th</sup> April at Mai Po NR. This species has established a breeding population at Mai Po NR in recent years, and breeding activity and chicks were noted regularly in the summer months. One pair was noted copulating as late as 15<sup>th</sup> October. Away from the Deep Bay area, reports came from Kam Tin (23 on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 22 on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 19 on 5<sup>th</sup> March, 40 on 20<sup>th</sup> August, five on 25<sup>th</sup> September, one and four on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> December respectively), Nam Sang Wai (30 on 8<sup>th</sup> January), San Tin (five on 8<sup>th</sup> December) and Shuen Wan (11 on 21<sup>st</sup> August). Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	40	25	47	60	93	63	83	nc	176	381	366	289

**2006:** The highest count in the first half of the year was 495 in the February waterbird count, of which 399 were present in Hong Kong territory. In the second half of the year the highest count was 668 in the October count, with a total of 567 birds present in Hong Kong. The next highest Deep Bay count was 250 at Nam Sang Wai on 17<sup>th</sup> February. Breeding was again noted at Mai Po NR, where three nests were present on 1<sup>st</sup> May and at least 15 chicks were seen on 24<sup>th</sup> June. At Kam Tin, the highest spring count was five on 28<sup>th</sup> February, while in September the highest count was seven on 22<sup>nd</sup>, and in November and December it was 47 on 30<sup>th</sup> November. Birds regularly turned up at Long Valley from 3<sup>rd</sup> September to 24<sup>th</sup> December, and the peak counts in September, October, November and December were 20, 21, nine and three respectively. On Po Toi, birds were noted as follows: one on 10<sup>th</sup> May, two on 12<sup>th</sup> September and six the following day. Other passage birds away from Deep Bay comprised one at Shuen Wan on 13<sup>th</sup> September and four at Shek Kong on 17<sup>th</sup> September. A leucistic individual was seen at Mai Po on 9<sup>th</sup> September. Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	77	495	108	81	105	33	48	113	222	668	158	228

#### 108A Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* 反嘴鷗

**2005:** The highest count in the first winter period was 4,490 in the February waterbird count. Numbers remained high until late March, and at least 3,900 were still present on 31<sup>st</sup>. Subsequent counts were 1,590 on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 1,185 on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 650 on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 270 on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 165 on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 97 on 27<sup>th</sup> May, 44 on 7<sup>th</sup> June and 26 on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Finally, the latest report was of one on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. The first returning bird was noted on 16<sup>th</sup> October, with 34 reported on the following day. The highest count in the second half of the year was 3,340 in the December waterbird count. Elsewhere, up to 80 were present at Nam Sang Wai on 8<sup>th</sup> January. One roosted with Great Egrets at Shuen Wan on 29<sup>th</sup> November and five were at San Tin on 8<sup>th</sup> December. Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	3,920	4,490	4,301	2,100	270	0	0	nc	0	1	837	3,340

**2006:** The highest count of the first winter period was 5,813 in the February waterbird count, the only higher count being 5,864 in February 2003. At least 5,000 remained on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Subsequent counts were 3,790 on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2,500 on 14<sup>th</sup> April, 1,799 on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 1,093 on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 726 on 6<sup>th</sup> May, 472 on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 249 on 29<sup>th</sup> May and 57 on 27<sup>th</sup> June. The latest report was of one on 7<sup>th</sup> July. Ten present on 22<sup>nd</sup> August were the first of the autumn, though the next report was of 18 on 9<sup>th</sup> October. Subsequently, numbers increased to 5,163 in the December count. All these records were from Mai Po NR and the Deep Bay mudflat. Elsewhere, a flock of 20 were present at Nam Sang Wai on 7<sup>th</sup> January, up to 38 were present on fishponds at San Tin in December and at Long Valley up to 20 were present in December. Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	2,934	5,813	5,503	1,200	590	0	0	0	0	17	456	5,163

#### 109A Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum* 普通燕鷗

**2005:** Two at San Tin fishponds on 11<sup>th</sup> March was the first report of the year, and one remained the following day. During spring passage, in the Mai Po area four were present on 14-15<sup>th</sup> March and up to six were seen on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> April. Nine at Mai Po on 18<sup>th</sup> April was the highest count in spring; singles were present on 23<sup>rd</sup> April and 7<sup>th</sup> May, while three on 12<sup>th</sup> May was the final record in the area. Elsewhere, reports came from Chek Lap Kok (two on 21<sup>st</sup> March and one on 26<sup>th</sup> April), Kam Tin (one on 26<sup>th</sup> March, two on 14<sup>th</sup> April, five on 16<sup>th</sup> April and three on 20<sup>th</sup> April), Lok Ma Chau KCRC mitigation ponds (one on 8<sup>th</sup> May), Long Valley (one on 17<sup>th</sup> March and two on 23<sup>rd</sup> March) and Luk Keng (one on 30<sup>th</sup> March). Two on 23<sup>rd</sup> May and a newly-fledged juvenile on 7<sup>th</sup> June at Mai Po indicated breeding nearby, though not necessarily in Hong Kong. In

autumn there was only one record: one at Mai Po on 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

**2006:** The first record of this year was two birds at Ma Tso Lung on 19<sup>th</sup> February, followed by one at Mai Po NR on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Several records came from the fishponds along the road to Mai Po NR: one on 3-5<sup>th</sup> March, up to 71 during 21-29<sup>th</sup> March, four on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, five on 8<sup>th</sup> and three on 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> April. At Mai Po NR, spring counts were eight on 4<sup>th</sup> April, one on 6<sup>th</sup>, four on 17<sup>th</sup>, three on 18<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April, six on 11<sup>th</sup> May, three on 21<sup>st</sup> May and one on 25<sup>th</sup> May. A flock of 21 birds including nine juveniles present on 29<sup>th</sup> May was very unusual, and for the second year in succession indicated that birds bred near to Hong Kong. Fifteen were still present two days later, but only one was noted on 13<sup>th</sup> June and 7<sup>th</sup> July. In autumn three and one were noted at the reserve on 4<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> October respectively. Elsewhere, one was noted at Kam Tin on 18<sup>th</sup> April, while at Long Valley up to five were present on 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> April and three were noted on 10<sup>th</sup> October.

#### **110A Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* 鳳頭麥雞**

**2005:** Eight were noted at Mai Po NR on 1<sup>st</sup> January; subsequently, one or two were present on six dates from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> January, four were noted on 22<sup>nd</sup> January and five on 24<sup>th</sup> January. One was at Kam Tin on 26<sup>th</sup> February. In the second winter period the first bird was reported from Mai Po on 19<sup>th</sup> November, followed by two at Kam Tin on 25<sup>th</sup> November. Three or four birds were noted at Mai Po from 27<sup>th</sup> November to 26<sup>th</sup> December, apart from an exceptionally large flock of 24 on 14<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** Up to four were noted at Mai Po NR to 1<sup>st</sup> February. In the second winter period, four were at Mai Po NR again on 6<sup>th</sup> December and one was at San Tin on 20<sup>th</sup> December.

#### **111A Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus* 灰頭麥雞**

**2005:** Reported regularly in the Kam Tin area, the highest count in the first winter period being 20 on 30<sup>th</sup> January; 14 were still present on 26<sup>th</sup> February, ten on 12<sup>th</sup> March and the latest record was of one on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. The first returning bird was noted on 24<sup>th</sup> July at Lut Chau. At Kam Tin, the first bird (possibly the same) was noted on 31<sup>st</sup> July, and presumably the same individual was noted again on 3<sup>rd</sup> August. Two were present on 21<sup>st</sup> August, and numbers increased to three on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 11 on 10<sup>th</sup> October, 14 on 16<sup>th</sup> October, 20 on 2<sup>nd</sup> November and peaked at 22 on 13<sup>th</sup> November. Several birds were also reported from Mai Po: three on 4<sup>th</sup> September, singles on 19<sup>th</sup> September, 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October, two on 17<sup>th</sup> October, four on 1<sup>st</sup> November and three on 10<sup>th</sup> November.

**2006:** In the first winter period the peak count at Kam Tin was 20 on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, with 19 still present on 17<sup>th</sup> February. Numbers dropped to 17 on 7<sup>th</sup> March, ten on 10<sup>th</sup> March, eight on 26<sup>th</sup> March, four on 9<sup>th</sup> April and three on 29<sup>th</sup> April. Records of one bird on 27<sup>th</sup> June and 3<sup>rd</sup> July are unprecedented in Hong Kong, and perhaps indicate an oversummering individual. Subsequent records

comprised two on 28<sup>th</sup> July, three on 12<sup>th</sup> September, five on 26<sup>th</sup> September, eight on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 18 on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 19 on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 20 on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 14 on 22<sup>nd</sup> November and 23 on 24<sup>th</sup> December, the peak count in the second half of the year. Elsewhere, singles were reported from Tsim Bei Tsui on 12<sup>th</sup> January and at Long Valley on 17<sup>th</sup> April, while at Mai Po, three were reported on 20<sup>th</sup> October and five were noted on 28<sup>th</sup> October and 10<sup>th</sup> November.

### 112A Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* 太平洋金斑鴉

**2005:** In what was a poor year for this species, the highest counts in the Deep Bay area were 57 in the January waterbird count, 54 during spring migration (on 15<sup>th</sup> April) and 17 during autumn migration (on 23<sup>rd</sup> August). None were reported in the monthly waterbird counts during the second winter period. Other reports at Mai Po involved only very small numbers: singles on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> March, and up to five from 21<sup>st</sup> August to 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Elsewhere, two were at Tam Kon Chau on 17<sup>th</sup> March, one was at Long Valley on 15-16<sup>th</sup> April and five were at Chek Lap Kok on 27<sup>th</sup> April, while one at Tai Mo Shan on 16<sup>th</sup> May was unusual; two were at Kam Tin on 24<sup>th</sup> August and 10<sup>th</sup> October, and three were at Lok Ma Chau on 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	57	0	0	5	1	0	0	nc	1	0	0	0

**2006:** None were recorded in the Deep Bay area during the monthly waterbird counts in the first winter period. The first reports were of at least one during 3-4<sup>th</sup> March and a flock of 19 at Mai Po on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Subsequently, counts peaked at 219 on 14<sup>th</sup> April and the latest report was of three on 21<sup>st</sup> May. The first returning birds during autumn migration were six at Mai Po on 13<sup>th</sup> August; numbers increased to 37 on 22<sup>nd</sup> August and 62 on 27<sup>th</sup> August. The peak count in the second winter period was 104 on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, although this could involve both migrating and wintering individuals. Elsewhere, at Kam Tin one was noted on 7<sup>th</sup> March, at Long Valley two were present on 24<sup>th</sup> August and singles were noted on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 9<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> September and 15<sup>th</sup> October; two were noted along the road to Mai Po NR on 11<sup>th</sup> November, one was on Po Toi on 14<sup>th</sup> September and four were in flight over southern Hong Kong waters on 14<sup>th</sup> April. Monthly waterbirds count figures in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	0	0	0	50	15	0	0	3	0	12	3	3

### 113A Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* 灰斑鴉

**2005:** The highest count in the first winter period was 565 in the February waterbird count, while 501 were also present at the Mai Po boardwalk on 5<sup>th</sup> February. Numbers then declined to 28 on 26<sup>th</sup> March, eight on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, and four on 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> April. Then a small influx of 54 were noted on 15<sup>th</sup> April;



ten remained on 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April, nine on 10<sup>th</sup> May and six on 7<sup>th</sup> June, the latest report in the first part of the year. Two present on 5<sup>th</sup> July indicated over-summering, while four on 20<sup>th</sup> July were presumably the first returning birds. Forty present on 6<sup>th</sup> September was the highest count during autumn migration, while the highest count in the second winter period was 136 in the December waterbird count. All records came from Mai Po NR. Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	146	565	370	16	9	2	0	nc	4	26	0	136

**2006:** The highest count in the first winter period was 583 on 27<sup>th</sup> January; 220 birds were still present on 25<sup>th</sup> March and, subsequently, numbers decreased to 108 on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 75 on 17<sup>th</sup> April, 47 on 28<sup>th</sup> April and five on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. An influx of birds was noted on 11<sup>th</sup> May, increasing to 29 on 16<sup>th</sup> May, then falling to 18 on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 11 on 13<sup>th</sup> June and nine on 27<sup>th</sup> June. Seven present on 7<sup>th</sup> July were presumably summering individuals. Numbers increased from 12 on 14<sup>th</sup> August to 22 on 11<sup>th</sup> September, 28 on 24<sup>th</sup> September and 42 on 21<sup>st</sup> October. The peak count in the second winter period was 389 in the December waterbird count. All records came from Mai Po NR. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	520	23	220	75	29	14	7	4	22	0	116	389

#### 116A Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* 金眶鸻

**2005:** The highest count in the first winter period was 217 in the March waterbird count, while the highest in the second winter period was 173 in the October count. Other notable counts in the Deep Bay area were 76 at Tsim Bei Tsui on 13<sup>th</sup> February and 40 at Mai Po on 8<sup>th</sup> January and at a drained pond at San Tin on 11<sup>th</sup> March. Elsewhere, three were at Chek Lap Kok on 26<sup>th</sup> April, 20 were at Cheung Lek on 8<sup>th</sup> January, one was at Chinese University on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 30 were at Hang Tau Tsuen on 1<sup>st</sup> January and nine were still present the following day. At Kam Tin the maximum count in the first half of the year (recorded 8<sup>th</sup> January to 23<sup>rd</sup> April) was 16 on 29<sup>th</sup> January and the highest in the second half of the year (recorded 24<sup>th</sup> August to 24<sup>th</sup> December) was 30 on 25<sup>th</sup> September. At Kuk Po 17 were counted on 11<sup>th</sup> February, at Long Valley birds were present from 12<sup>th</sup> November to 25<sup>th</sup> December, with a maximum count of seven on 26<sup>th</sup> November, at Nai Chung up to 12 (on 31<sup>st</sup> August) were present from 23<sup>rd</sup> February to 8<sup>th</sup> October, at Shuen Wan two were seen on 2<sup>nd</sup> January, and in the saltpan at Tai O, Lantau fourteen were noted on 26<sup>th</sup> February. Breeding activity was noted at Kam Tin on 12<sup>th</sup> January (a displaying pair) and at Nai Chung on 9<sup>th</sup> April (copulation). Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	91	174	217	46	31	17	66	nc	55	173	144	155

**2006:** The highest count in the first winter period was 221 in the January

waterbird count, while the highest in the second winter period was 241 in the October count. Other notable counts were 60 at Fung Lok Wai on 23<sup>rd</sup> January and 32 at San Tin fishponds on 21<sup>st</sup> September. Elsewhere, at Kam Tin only one or two birds were reported in the first half of the year, two (an adult and a juvenile) were noted on 4<sup>th</sup> June, with 24 on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 30 on 12<sup>th</sup> September and six on 7<sup>th</sup> October. At Long Valley twelve birds were noted on 7<sup>th</sup> January and isolated birds were reported until 27<sup>th</sup> May; eight noted on 12<sup>th</sup> August was the first report at this site in the second part of the year, and 22 were present on 20<sup>th</sup> August, four on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 15 on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 20 on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 12 on 4<sup>th</sup> November, seven on 25<sup>th</sup> November and 24 on 24<sup>th</sup> December (the highest count at this site in the second winter period). Three were at Pat Heung on 26<sup>th</sup> August, one was at Airfield Road Shek Kong on 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> March and another was at Tai Long Wan, Sai Kung on 4<sup>th</sup> August. Breeding was noted at She Shan, Lam Tsuen on 30<sup>th</sup> April, where a nest with four eggs was found empty on 6<sup>th</sup> May. Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	221	92	90	27	18	10	33	61	35	241	201	225

#### 117A Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* 環頸鷸

**2005:** None were reported in the first winter period during the monthly waterbird counts because of unsuitable high tide levels, but some counts came from other observations: from Mai Po boardwalk 50 on 20<sup>th</sup> February, 400 on 26<sup>th</sup> February, 330 on 13<sup>th</sup> March. Subsequent counts were 15 on 26<sup>th</sup> March, four on 8<sup>th</sup> April and two on 11<sup>th</sup> April. A small influx of seven birds was recorded on 13<sup>th</sup> April climbing to ten on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Subsequently, up to three were noted to 27<sup>th</sup> May. The first returning birds were two at Mai Po on 15<sup>th</sup> September, followed by 30 on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 66 on 21<sup>st</sup> October (the highest count in the second half of the year) and 53 on 31<sup>st</sup> October. Elsewhere, one was at Nai Chung on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, and two were present on 26<sup>th</sup> September and 8<sup>th</sup> October. Also two birds were reported from Shuen Wan on 20<sup>th</sup> December. Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	0	0	0	4	3	0	0	nc	2	30	6	6

**2006:** The highest count in the first winter period in the Deep Bay area was 30 in the February waterbird count, while the highest count in the second winter period was 827 in the November count. Generally, however, there were very few records of this species in the first winter period. At Mai Po, two were present on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, increasing to six on 19<sup>th</sup> April. Subsequently, four were noted on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, declining to two on 3<sup>rd</sup> May and, finally, one on 16<sup>th</sup> May. Two noted on 25<sup>th</sup> July were the first birds on southward passage; subsequently, singles were reported on 13<sup>th</sup> August and 11<sup>th</sup> September. The wintering flock numbered 251 on 4<sup>th</sup> October and 310 on 18<sup>th</sup> November. Reports also came from Dong Ping Chau (three on 1<sup>st</sup> April) and Chek Lap Kok (one on 28<sup>th</sup> September and four on 29<sup>th</sup> November). Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	0	30	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	15	827	70

The publication of Bakewell and Kennerley (2008) and Kennerley *et al.* (2008) has highlighted the likelihood that the so-called 'White-faced Plover' *Charadrius (alexandrinus) dealbatus* occurs in HK during the year. Observers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the plumage and structural characters of this taxon, and pay particular attention to Kentish Plovers away from Inner Deep Bay, especially on sandier substrates.

#### 118A Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus* 蒙古沙鵲

**2005:** One reported on 26<sup>th</sup> February from Mai Po boardwalk was the only record in the first winter period. Northward passage was first evident on 11<sup>th</sup> March, though numbers only increased slowly to four on 26<sup>th</sup> March, six on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 18 on 8<sup>th</sup> April and 30 on 23<sup>rd</sup> April (the highest count in the spring). The next higher count was 17 on 12<sup>th</sup> May, while 12 on 27<sup>th</sup> May was the latest report in the first half of the year. There were fewer records in autumn and the first returning bird occurred on 20<sup>th</sup> July. The highest count at this time was only six, noted on 15<sup>th</sup> September, and the last report concerned one on 20<sup>th</sup> September. Away from Deep Bay area, one was recorded at Nai Chung on 31<sup>st</sup> August. A poor year for this species.

**2006:** There were very few reports of this species, and this year appears to have been only marginally better than the previous. The first record of the year did not occur until 4<sup>th</sup> April; numbers increased to 13 on 11<sup>th</sup> April and 35 on 18<sup>th</sup> April (the highest count of the spring). A further small influx occurred in May, with seven noted from 11-21<sup>st</sup> May, and eight from 25-31<sup>st</sup> May. Two noted in the June waterbird count was the last report of the spring. Three present on 7<sup>th</sup> July appear to be birds on southward migration. Fourteen were noted in the July waterbird count, while 24 recorded on 27<sup>th</sup> August was the largest count in the autumn; other notable subsequent counts were 11 on 30<sup>th</sup> July and ten on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Four recorded during the monthly waterbird count on 19<sup>th</sup> November was the latest report in this year. All were recorded in the Deep Bay area.

#### 119A Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* 鐵嘴沙鵲

**2005:** The first record was of two from Mai Po boardwalk on 12<sup>th</sup> March and three were there on 19<sup>th</sup> March. Numbers increased to 50 on 26<sup>th</sup> March, while the peak count in the spring was 306 on 8<sup>th</sup> April. Subsequently, numbers declined to 152 on 25<sup>th</sup> April, while a further small influx brought 220 on 5<sup>th</sup> May. Numbers declined to 66 on 27<sup>th</sup> May, five on 5<sup>th</sup> June and one on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Two noted on 5<sup>th</sup> July were followed by an increase to 13 on 20<sup>th</sup> July, 25 on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 51 on 31<sup>st</sup> August and 117 on 6<sup>th</sup> September, the highest count in the autumn. On 15<sup>th</sup> September 55 were present, while 54 were noted on 7<sup>th</sup> October, but only small numbers thereafter, until 31<sup>st</sup> October. The only record away from the Deep Bay area was of one at Shuen Wan on 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

**2006:** The first report was of 33 at Mai Po NR on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Numbers remained low until 232 birds were counted on 11<sup>th</sup> April, the peak count of the spring. Numbers fell to 145 on 14<sup>th</sup> April, 95 on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 80 on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 20 on 3<sup>rd</sup> May and seven on 6<sup>th</sup> May. Another influx of birds was noted on 11<sup>th</sup> May when 99 birds were present. The last report in the spring was two on 13<sup>th</sup> June. Four on 7<sup>th</sup> July were the first southward bound birds, and influxes brought 149 on 30<sup>th</sup> July and 227 on 27<sup>th</sup> August, the highest count of the autumn. A flock of 222 were still present on 28<sup>th</sup> August, but thereafter only small numbers were reported in September and October. One on 3<sup>rd</sup> November was the latest report of the year. All records were from Deep Bay area.

**120A Oriental Plover *Charadrius veredus* 紅胸鵪**

**2006:** A male at Kam Tin on 5<sup>th</sup> March (JAA) is the earliest spring record in HK. In autumn five were present at Chek Lap Kok on 25<sup>th</sup> September.

**121A Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* 黑尾塍鷸 NT**

**2005:** The highest count in the Deep Bay area was 491 in the January waterbird count, a new winter high. At least 450 were present on 5<sup>th</sup> February, and numbers subsequently fell to 407 on 20<sup>th</sup> February and 324 on 24<sup>th</sup> March. Northward passage saw numbers rise to the peak spring count of 700 on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, subsequently declining to 532 on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 472 on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 382 on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 276 on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 13 on 30<sup>th</sup> April, seven on 10<sup>th</sup> May and two on 15<sup>th</sup> May (the latest report in spring). The first bird noted in the autumn occurred on 26<sup>th</sup> July. Numbers built up steadily throughout the autumn to eight on 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 130 on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 260 on 19<sup>th</sup> September and 427 on 31<sup>st</sup> October. All records were from the Deep Bay area. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	491	360	270	532	7	0	3	nc	237	376	403	0

**2006:** The highest count in the first winter period was 451 in the February waterbird count; subsequently, numbers declined to 283 in the March count, 262 on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 206 on 1<sup>st</sup> April and 141 on 11<sup>th</sup> April. But numbers increased again due to the (rather late) arrival of passage birds, with 950 on 17<sup>th</sup> April being the peak count of the spring. Numbers fell to 474 on 26<sup>th</sup> April, 358 on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 107 on 1<sup>st</sup> May, 85 on 3<sup>rd</sup> May and 11 on 6<sup>th</sup> May. A small influx brought 20 birds on 16<sup>th</sup> May, declining to 13 on 27<sup>th</sup> June. Up to 11 birds noted from 7<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> July indicate over-summering, while 18 noted on 25<sup>th</sup> July presumably included southward-bound birds. Subsequently, numbers increased to 31 on 8<sup>th</sup> August, 151 on 28<sup>th</sup> August, 373 on 24<sup>th</sup> September and 683, the peak count in the autumn, during the October waterbird count. Smaller numbers were present in November and December. All records were from the Deep Bay area. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	250	451	283	950	10	0	11	30	214	683	563	530

### 122A Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* 斑尾塍鷸

**2005:** Singles were noted on 5<sup>th</sup> February and 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Spring passage birds were first noted on 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March, when eight were present. Then, nine were noted on 8<sup>th</sup> April and the peak count in the spring was 11 on 15<sup>th</sup> April. After these counts, all records in the spring referred only to single birds until the last report on 27<sup>th</sup> May. The first returning bird was noted on 9<sup>th</sup> August, followed by five on 21<sup>st</sup> August and nine on 6<sup>th</sup> September. Larger numbers were noted in the second half of September, with 43 present on 15<sup>th</sup> September and 45 on 29<sup>th</sup> September, the peak count in the autumn. Only 14 remained on 5<sup>th</sup> October, declining to two on 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October, the latest report in the autumn. All records were from the Deep Bay area.

**2006:** In the first winter period there was only one recorded in the January waterbird count, while the first report of spring passage birds was a single on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Five were noted on 30<sup>th</sup> March; subsequently 12 were noted on 17<sup>th</sup> April, and 23 present on 19<sup>th</sup> April was the peak count in the spring. Five noted on 22<sup>nd</sup> April were followed by singles to 13<sup>th</sup> June. The first in the autumn was on 5<sup>th</sup> September, followed by seven on 11<sup>th</sup> September, eight on 24<sup>th</sup> September, three on 21<sup>st</sup> October and nine in the November waterbird count. One in the December waterbird count was the latest report of the year.

### 123A Little Curlew *Numenius minutus* 小杓鷸

**2005:** Two were noted in Lam Tsuen CP near Kam Tin from 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Singles were at Mai Po NR on 25<sup>th</sup> April and Penfold Park during 26-27<sup>th</sup> April, while four were at Chek Lap Kok on 26<sup>th</sup> April.

### 124A Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* 中杓鷸

**2005:** One bird spent at least the latter part of the first winter period in Deep Bay, and was recorded from 4-27<sup>th</sup> February, and on 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March. Three noted at Mai Po NR on 13<sup>th</sup> April were the first spring passage birds. Subsequently, 21 were noted on 16<sup>th</sup> April and then smaller numbers of ten to 19 birds were noted between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April. Numbers rose to 23 on 5<sup>th</sup> May and then declined to 15 on 10<sup>th</sup> May, eight on 27<sup>th</sup> May and one on 7<sup>th</sup> June. Nine present on 23<sup>rd</sup> June and eight on 5<sup>th</sup> July were presumed to be the first birds on southward passage. Subsequently, 21 were noted on 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 79 on 9<sup>th</sup> August and 175 on 21<sup>st</sup> August, which was the highest count in the autumn. This flock remained to at least 1<sup>st</sup> September, with 154 still present on 19<sup>th</sup> September. Numbers dropped to 102 on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 37 on 7<sup>th</sup> October, nine on 21<sup>st</sup> October, and four on 31<sup>st</sup> October and in the November waterbird count. Elsewhere, a flock of 90 birds were noted flying east of Po Toi on 24<sup>th</sup> April, the second highest spring count. Single birds were noted at Pui O on 1<sup>st</sup> October and at Shuen Wan on 29<sup>th</sup> August, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> September. Monthly waterbird

count figures were as follows:

**2006:** One in the January waterbird count was the only record in the early part of the first winter period. Passage birds were not certainly present until 17<sup>th</sup> April, when 11 were counted, following singles in late March and early April. Numbers increased to 29 on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 51 on 28<sup>th</sup> April and 53 on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, the highest count in the spring. Numbers declined to 24 on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 15 on 19<sup>th</sup> May and 12 on 25<sup>th</sup> May, but increased slightly to 15 on 13<sup>th</sup> June. Seven noted on 7<sup>th</sup> July and one on 25<sup>th</sup> July presumably comprised over-summering individuals, but 22 counted on 8<sup>th</sup> August included southbound migrants, and numbers increased sharply in the course of August. A total of 63 were noted on 14<sup>th</sup> August, increasing to 126 on 22<sup>nd</sup> August and 134 on 28<sup>th</sup> August, the peak count in the autumn. Subsequently, numbers dropped to 79 on 11<sup>th</sup> September and 25 on 19<sup>th</sup> September, but a further influx brought 90 birds on 24<sup>th</sup> September and 105 on 9<sup>th</sup> October. Numbers declined to 49 on 19<sup>th</sup> October and seven on 5<sup>th</sup> November. Elsewhere, at Shuen Wan several birds were noted, comprising one on 5<sup>th</sup> May, two on 2<sup>nd</sup> October and three on 15<sup>th</sup> October. One was seen at Sok Kwu Wan, Lamma on 7<sup>th</sup> September and two were at Starling Inlet on 1<sup>st</sup> October. In southern Hong Kong waters, several reports included singles on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 18 on 29<sup>th</sup> April, six on 30<sup>th</sup> August, three on 7<sup>th</sup> September and one on 12<sup>th</sup> October.

#### 125A Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* 白腰杓鹬

**2005:** The highest count in the first winter period and the highest on record was 1,292 in the February waterbird count. Most birds departed in the second half of March and early April, and numbers decreased to a minimum of 13 in the April and May waterbird counts. Returning birds were noted at Mai Po in July, with 46 present in that month's waterbird count, and numbers increased steadily during the second half of the year. The highest count in the second winter period was 696 on 11<sup>th</sup> December. All records came from the Deep Bay area, including a record of 38 at Pak Nai on 16<sup>th</sup> January.

**2006:** The highest count in the first winter period was 1,087 in the February waterbird count. Numbers decreased subsequently to a low of 26 in late June and early July. Counts of 36 on 17<sup>th</sup> July and 57 on 25<sup>th</sup> July indicated that some birds had returned to Mai Po, and numbers increased slowly during the autumn to 103 in the October waterbird count. The highest count in the second winter period was 588 in the December waterbird count. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	591	1,087	576	39	28	32	2	66	68	103	66	588

#### 126A Far Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis* 紅腰杓鹬 NT

**2005:** One at Mai Po NR on 8<sup>th</sup> January and 13<sup>th</sup> March was presumably the same wintering individual. Up to two noted from 26<sup>th</sup> March to 3<sup>rd</sup> April were thought to be spring passage birds. Numbers increased to peak at six on 16<sup>th</sup>



April. Five remained on 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April, and then singles on 7<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> May and 7<sup>th</sup> June, the latest report of the spring. One noted on 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> July was either an over-summering bird or, perhaps less likely, the first returning bird. The next record concerned two on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> September. Singles were noted intermittently from 20<sup>th</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> November, with two again present on 15<sup>th</sup> October.

**2006:** One was noted at Mai Po from 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> January. The next report came on 22<sup>nd</sup> March and this bird remained until 30<sup>th</sup> March. Singles were noted on 4<sup>th</sup> and 14-19<sup>th</sup> April, while two were present on 28<sup>th</sup> April. Subsequently, one was noted on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 25-31<sup>st</sup> May. In autumn, singles were noted on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 4<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> October, and 3<sup>rd</sup> November. All records came from Mai Po NR. This was a relatively poor year for this species.

### 127A Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* 鶴鵲

**2005:** The highest count in the first winter period was 1,111 in the February count; the same figure was recorded on 26<sup>th</sup> March, while 1,106 were noted on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, suggesting that many wintering birds stayed in the Deep Bay area until this time. Subsequently, a total of 1,443 noted on 13<sup>th</sup> April indicated the arrival of birds on northward passage, and this count was also the peak of the spring. Numbers declined to 1,119 two days later, but only 341 were present on 18<sup>th</sup> April and 104 on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Two other smaller influxes were noted: 945 on 25<sup>th</sup> April and 799 on 10<sup>th</sup> May. The latest report in spring was of two on 23<sup>rd</sup> May. The first reports in autumn were two on 23<sup>rd</sup> August and then three on 31<sup>st</sup> August. Numbers rose to 34 on 6<sup>th</sup> September, 64 on 15<sup>th</sup> October and 89 on 31<sup>st</sup> October, the peak count of the autumn. Smaller numbers were present in the November and December waterbird counts. All records came from the Deep Bay area. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	640	1,111	762	993	799	0	0	nc	21	64	33	37

**2006:** The highest count in the first winter period was 1,687 in the February count. Other notable counts were 1,035 on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1,448 on 4<sup>th</sup> April and 1,190 on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, suggesting that some wintering birds had left the Deep Bay area in March. Numbers subsequently declined to 879 on 26<sup>th</sup> April, 772 on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 472 on 1<sup>st</sup> May, 368 on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May, 234 on 13<sup>th</sup> May, 156 on 16<sup>th</sup> May and 85 on 19<sup>th</sup> May (the latest report this spring). The first returning birds were two noted on 30<sup>th</sup> July, the number gradually increasing to six on 8<sup>th</sup> August, 12 on 28<sup>th</sup> August, 31 on 9<sup>th</sup> October and 40 on 21<sup>st</sup> October. Wintering individuals mainly arrived in late October/early November as 268 were noted on 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Finally, a count of 398 present in the December waterbird count was the highest in the second winter period. Away from the Deep Bay area, one remained at Kam Tin from 27<sup>th</sup> October to 24<sup>th</sup> December. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	22	1,687	963	938	160	0	0	0	6	46	13	398

### 128A Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* 紅腳鷸

**2005:** The highest count in the first winter period was 268 from the Mai Po boardwalk on 5<sup>th</sup> February. Numbers dropped to 140 in the March waterbird count suggesting that some wintering birds had left on northward migration. Subsequently, numbers slightly increased to 224 on 29<sup>th</sup> March and 267 on 15<sup>th</sup> April but a big influx was noted as 567 on 23<sup>rd</sup> April and 992 on 25<sup>th</sup> April, also the peak count this spring. Numbers fell afterwards and another smaller influx was noted as 563 birds on 10<sup>th</sup> May. Then, only 210 were noted on 12<sup>th</sup> May, 122 on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 33 on 23<sup>rd</sup> May and 18 on 27<sup>th</sup> May. There was no further record till 23<sup>rd</sup> June, with twelve birds present at Mai Po. These would be returning birds for the southbound migration. Numbers built up quickly to 54 on 5<sup>th</sup> July, 143 on 11<sup>th</sup> July, 576 on 20<sup>th</sup> July and the peak count this autumn of 742 on 3<sup>rd</sup> August. The second influx was noted on 15<sup>th</sup> September (405) and the third influx was 353 in the October waterbird count. Smaller numbers were present in the winter months. All records were from the Deep Bay area. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	40	0	140	215	563	12	614	nc	405	353	216	1

**2006:** The only significant count in the first winter period was 190 in the February waterbird count. Birds on northbound migration appeared as early as the March waterbird count, which recorded 395. Numbers fluctuated in late March and early April, and influxes were noted on 14<sup>th</sup> April (1,079) and 19<sup>th</sup> April (1,544), the peak count of the spring. A total of 1,412 were still present on 26<sup>th</sup> April, though numbers subsequently dropped to 1,132 on 28<sup>th</sup> April and 1,101 on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Birds then departed, numbers falling to 363 on 6<sup>th</sup> May, 270 on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 157 on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 88 on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 39 on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 27 on 31<sup>st</sup> May and one on 13<sup>th</sup> June. Ten were noted on 27<sup>th</sup> June, followed by 17 on 11<sup>th</sup> July, 434 on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 867 on 25<sup>th</sup> July and 1,470 on 30<sup>th</sup> July, the peak count of the autumn. Smaller numbers were noted in August and September, while influxes brought 384 on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 460 on 9<sup>th</sup> October and 461 on 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Three hundred were still present in the December waterbird count. Apart from one at Long Valley on 14<sup>th</sup> September, all records were from the Deep Bay area. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	4	190	441	779	0	4	200	900	384	301	84	300

### 129A Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* 澤鷸

**2005:** The peak count in the first two months was 870 in the January waterbird count. A total of 1,589 were counted in the March count; numbers increased to 2,076 on 29<sup>th</sup> March and reached 2,378, the peak count of the spring, on 31<sup>st</sup> March. Numbers subsequently dropped to 1,033 on 11<sup>th</sup> April, but a

second influx of 2,288 birds was noted on 15<sup>th</sup> April. Subsequently, numbers reduced markedly to 1,712 on 18<sup>th</sup> April, 395 on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 99 on 30<sup>th</sup> April and two on 5<sup>th</sup> May. A maximum of seven were noted in the course of May and the latest report of two individuals came on 7<sup>th</sup> June. Up to two summering individuals were then recorded to 3<sup>rd</sup> August, while the first returning birds were noted on 9<sup>th</sup> August, when six were present. Numbers increased to 94 on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 207 on 6<sup>th</sup> September, 501 on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 842 on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 1,056 on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 1,456 on 7<sup>th</sup> October and 1,785 on 15<sup>th</sup> October. The highest count in the second half of the year was 2,001 in the November waterbird count. All records were from the Deep Bay area and monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	870	723	1,589	2,164	7	0	11	nc	877	1,863	2,001	224

**2006:** A total of 2,068 was recorded in the February waterbird count, falling to 1,586 in the March count, indicating that some wintering birds had left on northward migration. Late March and early April counts fluctuated with figures of 2,319 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1,347 on 25<sup>th</sup> and 1,593 on 30<sup>th</sup>, 1,630 on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2,411, the peak spring count, on 4<sup>th</sup>. A count of 1,545 on 11<sup>th</sup> April was followed by an influx noted on 14<sup>th</sup> April that saw 2,344 present. Numbers decreased slowly from mid April, though a significant departure was noted on 26<sup>th</sup> April when only 424 were present, decreasing further to 167 on 28<sup>th</sup>, 53 on 1<sup>st</sup> May and five on 6<sup>th</sup> May. The last report this spring was of one on 24<sup>th</sup> June. Five noted on 11<sup>th</sup> July were the first returning birds, and numbers increased slowly in July and August. A total of 203 was recorded on 5<sup>th</sup> September, increasing to 570 on 11<sup>th</sup> September and 1,303 on 24<sup>th</sup> September. The peak autumn count was 1,656 on 21<sup>st</sup> October. All records were from the Deep Bay area. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	78	2,068	1,586	1,940	0	0	0	20	642	840	448	205

### 130A Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* 青腳鵞

**2005:** Numbers generally increased from the January waterbird count to the March count. On 24<sup>th</sup> March numbers reached 536 but subsequently fell to 264 on 26<sup>th</sup> March, 241 on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 158 on 8<sup>th</sup> April and 108 on 13<sup>th</sup> April, indicating that some wintering and early passage birds had departed on northward migration. Numbers built up again in late April and early May from 318 on 18<sup>th</sup> April to 540 on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 1,036 on 5<sup>th</sup> May and the peak count of 1,112 on 10<sup>th</sup> May. Subsequently, numbers decreased to 533 on 12<sup>th</sup> May, 235 on 15<sup>th</sup> May and 31 on 7<sup>th</sup> June. Some individuals apparently summered at Mai Po, as 22 were noted on 23<sup>rd</sup> June and 34 on 5<sup>th</sup> July. The later count also suggested that some birds had returned to Mai Po. Numbers increased steadily to 162 on 20<sup>th</sup> July, 304 on 26<sup>th</sup> July and 726 on 9<sup>th</sup> August. Further influxes occurred that brought 970 on 6<sup>th</sup> September, 1,216 on 3<sup>rd</sup> October and 1,307 in the October waterbird count, the latter being the peak count in the autumn. All records came from Deep Bay, except for one at Kam Tin during 7-8<sup>th</sup> May. Monthly waterbird count

figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	43	474	515	170	1,113	44	431	nc	904	1,307	1,099	112

**2006:** As in 2005, numbers initially increased from 525 in the January waterbird count to peak at 936 in March, and decreased in late March (511 on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 739 on 25<sup>th</sup> March and 470 on 30<sup>th</sup> March), indicating departure from or passage through Hong Kong. Subsequently, influxes of passage birds brought 865 on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 827 on 17<sup>th</sup> April, 1,089 on 22<sup>nd</sup> April and 1,233, the peak count of spring, on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Numbers declined in the course of May to 869 on 6<sup>th</sup>, 380 on 13<sup>th</sup>, 183 on 19<sup>th</sup>, 73 on 21<sup>st</sup>, 15 on 29<sup>th</sup> and three on 27<sup>th</sup> June. In July numbers increased from 64 on 7<sup>th</sup> to 108 on 17<sup>th</sup> and 355 on 25<sup>th</sup>. This increase continued in August to reach 1,816 on 22<sup>nd</sup> August, the highest ever count of this species in Hong Kong. High numbers persisted until 5<sup>th</sup> September, when 1,446 remained, and departure occurred in the second and third weeks of September. Another influx brought 1,308 birds on 9<sup>th</sup> October, after which numbers declined toward the end of the year. Away from Deep Bay area, singles were at Kam Tin on 29<sup>th</sup> April and 14<sup>th</sup> November, two were at Long Valley on 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> September and one was there on 4<sup>th</sup> November and 24<sup>th</sup> December. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	525	764	936	828	14	73	40	985	954	1,215	352	242

### 131A Nordmann's Greenshank *Tringa guttifer* 小青腳鵞 EN

**2005:** One was noted regularly in the first winter period from 8<sup>th</sup> January to 19<sup>th</sup> March. Although one was present on 29<sup>th</sup> March, the first certain evidence of northward passage comprised a record of two on 31<sup>st</sup> March. Six to eight birds were then reported from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> April, up to three were present during 15-16<sup>th</sup> and eight were noted on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, with five remaining two days later. Up to two were noted on 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April. In May, two were noted on 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> May, this number increasing to three on 8<sup>th</sup>, four on 10<sup>th</sup>, five on 12<sup>th</sup> and six on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. All these records in May referred to first summer individuals. It appears that at least 31 different individuals were noted on spring passage. One on 31<sup>st</sup> October was the sole autumn record. All records occurred in Inner Deep Bay and at Mai Po NR.

**2006:** The first report of the year was of one on 25<sup>th</sup> March, followed by two on 30<sup>th</sup> March. Nine, the highest count of the spring, were noted on 4<sup>th</sup> April. Subsequently, one or two birds were reported on nine dates from 13<sup>th</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> May, involving no fewer than five individuals. Another five individuals were noted on 3<sup>rd</sup> May and one, presumed to be one of these, remained to 6<sup>th</sup> May. A further five, also presumed to be different individuals, were recorded on 13<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> May, and another five individuals were present on 25<sup>th</sup> May, one remaining to 26<sup>th</sup> May. The latest report was of two on 13<sup>th</sup> June. Summing up gives an estimate of a minimum of 32 individuals recorded in spring. In the second half of the year, one was present on 11<sup>th</sup> July, the earliest on record in Hong Kong. Finally, one was seen intermittently throughout the autumn and winter on 13

dates, with the last report occurring on 16<sup>th</sup> December. All records came from the Deep Bay area, mainly Mai Po NR.

### 133A Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* 白腰草鵞

**2005:** The highest count in the Deep Bay area in the first winter period was 49 in the January waterbird count, while the highest count in the second was only 23 in the October count. The only other notable counts occurred at Hang Tau Tsuen, where 24 were present on 1<sup>st</sup> January and 22 were noted on 19<sup>th</sup> September. The latest record in the first half of the year was on 8<sup>th</sup> May, while the first in the second half was of one at Kam Tin on 18<sup>th</sup> July. Reports regularly came from Kam Tin, with the highest count being 12 on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 19<sup>th</sup> February and 15<sup>th</sup> April. Records at Long Valley included a count of six on 26<sup>th</sup> November. Other reports included 12 at Cheung Lek on 8<sup>th</sup> January, singles at Lam Tsuen (on three dates), one at Leng Pei Tsuen (Tan Shan Valley) on 27<sup>th</sup> January, three at Nam Chung on 13<sup>th</sup> March, two at Airfield Road, Shek Kong on 24<sup>th</sup> December, and one at Ping Che on 4<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> February. Monthly waterbird count figures for this species were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	49	34	31	32	13	0	5	nc	14	23	19	19

**2006:** The highest count in the Deep Bay area in the first half of the year was 48 in the March waterbird count, while the highest count in the second half was 57 in the October count. At Long Valley, regular observations throughout the year gave a maximum count of five and four birds in the first and second halves of the year respectively. Along Airfield Road, Shek Kong up to four were noted from 7<sup>th</sup> January to 8<sup>th</sup> April and a maximum of three were noted from 26<sup>th</sup> August to 17<sup>th</sup> December. At Kam Tin up to four birds were present from 7<sup>th</sup> January to 14<sup>th</sup> April, while four were noted on 7<sup>th</sup> October and ten were present on 26<sup>th</sup> October. In Lam Tsuen Valley (including Golden Triangle, She Shan and Lam Tsuen River), singles were noted on 27<sup>th</sup> January, 12<sup>th</sup> February, and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> December. Reports also came from Cheung Po (six on 16<sup>th</sup> April), Nam Wa Po (one on 12<sup>th</sup> August) and Po Toi (one over the sea on 20<sup>th</sup> August). The last report in spring was on 4<sup>th</sup> May, while the first report in autumn was on 9<sup>th</sup> July, only three days later than the earliest on record. Monthly waterbird count figures in Deep Bay were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	16	3	48	20	0	0	1	7	7	57	37	31

### 134A Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* 林鵞

**2005:** The highest count in the Deep Bay area in the first winter period was 109 in the March waterbird count, which is exceptionally low compared to counts in 2006. Counts at Mai Po NR during the spring migration gave a peak of 253 on 18<sup>th</sup> April. In the second half of the year the highest count was 474 in the September waterbird count. At Kam Tin the highest count in the first half of the year was 32 on 5<sup>th</sup> February, while 76 on 22<sup>nd</sup> August was the highest count for

the second half of the year. At Long Valley the highest counts were 30 on 15<sup>th</sup> April and 50 on 26<sup>th</sup> November. Another notable count was of 48 at Hang Tau Tsuen on 1<sup>st</sup> January. Elsewhere one was at Nam Chung on 13<sup>th</sup> March. The latest record in the spring was of one on 7<sup>th</sup> June. One noted on 5<sup>th</sup> July was presumably an over-summering individual, while eight were noted on 11<sup>th</sup> July. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	29	48	109	109	139	0	134	nc	474	243	268	112

**2006:** The wintering population in the Deep Bay area peaked at a maximum of 290 birds in the January waterbird count, while the peak count of birds on northward passage was 335 in the April waterbird count. The peak count in the autumn was 597 at Mai Po NR on 9<sup>th</sup> October; this is the second highest count in Hong Kong. At Kam Tin, up to eight were present from 7<sup>th</sup> January to 14<sup>th</sup> April, 35 were present on 26<sup>th</sup> August and then smaller numbers remained till 22<sup>nd</sup> November. At Long Valley recorded up to 4<sup>th</sup> May, when the highest count was 34 on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, and from 22<sup>nd</sup> July, when the highest count was 53 on both 24<sup>th</sup> August and 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Smaller numbers were also present in the Shek Kong area (one on 28<sup>th</sup> February, three on 25<sup>th</sup> March and two on 8<sup>th</sup> April, and up to three from 10<sup>th</sup> September to 17<sup>th</sup> December). At Lok Ma Chau KCRC mitigation ponds, counts were reported of 64 on 24<sup>th</sup> July, 95 on 13<sup>th</sup> August and 206 on 23<sup>rd</sup> August. Reports also came from Cheung Po (23 on 16<sup>th</sup> April), Nam Wa Po (45 on 12<sup>th</sup> August), Pat Heung (seven on 26<sup>th</sup> August), Penfold Park (two on 21<sup>st</sup> April) and southern Hong Kong waters (34 on 14<sup>th</sup> April). Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	290	172	296	335	2	0	14	133	156	563	326	292

### 135A Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* 翹嘴鷸

**2005:** The first record in the spring was of three on 26<sup>th</sup> March. Numbers remained low till the last week of April when a large influx of 262 birds was recorded on 23<sup>rd</sup>, the peak count of the spring. Subsequently, numbers dropped to 149 on 12<sup>th</sup> May, 148 on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 133 on 27<sup>th</sup> May and finally 29 on 7<sup>th</sup> June. The first returning birds were four on 20<sup>th</sup> July. Up to six were present until 9<sup>th</sup> August, but then increased rapidly to 32 on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 230 on 21<sup>st</sup> August and a peak autumn count of 256 on 23<sup>rd</sup> August. This is also a new autumn high; this large flock was related to the bad weather from a low pressure system over the South China Sea during 19-21<sup>st</sup> August (see also Red-necked Stint and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper below). A total of 125 birds were still present on 1<sup>st</sup> September, but only 15 birds remained on 6<sup>th</sup> September. Further influxes brought 38 birds on 15<sup>th</sup> September and 31 on 3<sup>rd</sup> October; subsequently in October, there were seven on 7<sup>th</sup>, two on 15<sup>th</sup> and one on 21<sup>st</sup>. All records came from Mai Po NR.

**2006:** The first record in spring was of two birds noted on 25<sup>th</sup> March; numbers remained low until mid April. An influx of 372 birds was noted on 21<sup>st</sup> April and this was also the peak spring count. Another influx brought 245 birds during 16-29<sup>th</sup> May. A total of 156 were present on 31<sup>st</sup> May, while 130 remained



on 27<sup>th</sup> June. During southbound migration, the first returning birds were five on 25<sup>th</sup> July; an influx brought 29 on 30<sup>th</sup> July. Smaller numbers were present in August, and another influx also brought 29 on 5<sup>th</sup> September. Eight were noted on 4<sup>th</sup> October, three on 9<sup>th</sup> October and, finally, one on 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Away from Deep Bay area, one was seen on Po Toi on 30<sup>th</sup> April.

**136A Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* 磯鵲**



**Plate 6.** Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* 磯鵲  
Kam Tin, Hong Kong, November 2005  
Cherry Wong

**2005:** The highest count in the Deep Bay area in the first half of the year was 72 in the April waterbird count, while the highest count in the second half of the year was 76 in the December count. Birds were present throughout the year, although most had departed in May and some began to return in July. Other notable counts were 12 at Kam Tin on 29<sup>th</sup> January, eight at Long Valley on 26<sup>th</sup> November, seven at Nai Chung on 19<sup>th</sup> October (with regular records from January to May, and August to October) and six at Shuen Wan on 20<sup>th</sup> August. Singles were also reported from Ho Chung, Lam Tsuen, Penfold Park, Po Toi, Pui O and Sham Wat Wan (Lantau). Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	57	70	60	72	36	6	26	nc	65	68	72	76

**2006:** The highest count in the first half of the year in the Deep Bay area was

100 in the March waterbird count, while 96 in the November count was the highest during the second half of the year. The latest report in spring was of two on 14<sup>th</sup> June and the earliest record in autumn was of 27 recorded on 9<sup>th</sup> July during that month's waterbird count. In addition, an exceptional record of 50 on Po Toi on 24<sup>th</sup> April, equalled the highest spring count recorded at Sha Tin on 18<sup>th</sup> April 1959. A total of 17 were noted at Kam Tin on 26<sup>th</sup> October. At Long Valley, only one or two birds were recorded in the first half of the year, but up to six (on 20<sup>th</sup> August) were noted in the second half. Single birds (unless stated) were also reported from: Dong Ping Chau (four on 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> April), Kowloon Reservoir, Shuen Wan (one on 17<sup>th</sup> August, two on 29<sup>th</sup> August and three on 1<sup>st</sup> September) and Tai Long Wan (Sai Kung). Monthly waterbird count figures in the Deep Bay area were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	73	58	100	84	25	2	27	29	79	80	96	78

### 137A Grey-tailed Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes* 灰尾漂鷗

**2005:** In Deep Bay area, the first report was of two from Mai Po boardwalk on 16<sup>th</sup> April, followed by two again on 23<sup>rd</sup> and four on 30<sup>th</sup>. The next count recorded an influx of 78 on 5<sup>th</sup> May, this being the peak count of the spring. The number declined quickly to 28 on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 13 on 15<sup>th</sup> May and four on 23<sup>rd</sup> May (the latest report in the spring). Elsewhere, two were noted in southern Hong Kong waters on 17<sup>th</sup> April and eight were present at Shuen Wan on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, while at Nai Chung there were several records: five on 25<sup>th</sup> April, two on 11<sup>th</sup> May and four on 31<sup>st</sup> August. The first returning bird in autumn was noted on 26<sup>th</sup> July, but there were very few records subsequently. Seven were noted on 19<sup>th</sup> September and nine, the highest and latest count of the autumn, were reported on 5<sup>th</sup> October.

**2006:** The first report in this spring was of a single bird at Mai Po NR on 13<sup>th</sup> April, with two on 16<sup>th</sup> April. Numbers increased to ten on 28<sup>th</sup> April and 15 on 6<sup>th</sup> May, the peak count this spring. Thirteen were still present on 11<sup>th</sup> May, but only five remained on 13<sup>th</sup> May, declining to three on 25<sup>th</sup> May. Four were present at Pak Nai on 15<sup>th</sup> May. The first bird in autumn was noted on 30<sup>th</sup> July and the peak count was only five, noted on 13<sup>th</sup> August and 4<sup>th</sup> October. The latest report was of one on 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Elsewhere, several records came from Shuen Wan: two on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 14 on 5<sup>th</sup> May, two on 14<sup>th</sup> May, five on 15<sup>th</sup> May and one on 1<sup>st</sup> October. This was a poor year for this species.

### 138A Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* 翻石鷗

**2005:** The first record in the spring was of one on 5<sup>th</sup> April. Records fell into two periods: 8-25<sup>th</sup> April and 30<sup>th</sup> April to 15<sup>th</sup> May. The highest count in the first period was 20 on 18<sup>th</sup>, while in the second it was 39 on 10<sup>th</sup> May. In autumn the first bird was noted on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, followed by two on 7<sup>th</sup> September. The peak count was eight noted on 19<sup>th</sup> September, and one still remained on 21<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September. Away from the Deep Bay area, one was noted at Nai Chung on 9<sup>th</sup> August.

**2006:** In spring recorded mainly from 11<sup>th</sup> April to 19<sup>th</sup> May. Only three birds were noted on 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> April, but numbers rose rapidly to 17 on 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> April and peaked at 34 on 26<sup>th</sup> April. Thirty one were still present on 28<sup>th</sup>, while 13 on 11<sup>th</sup> May indicated a small influx. One noted on 13<sup>th</sup> June was the latest report this spring. All records were from Mai Po NR, apart from one on Po Toi on 5<sup>th</sup> May. No records in the second half of the year.

### **139A Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* 紅頸瓣蹼鵞**

**2005:** The first report came on 12-13<sup>th</sup> March when one was in the San Tin area. Also in March four were off the Mai Po boardwalk on 16<sup>th</sup> and a flock of 22 were seen from the Kwun Tong – Po Toi ferry on 19<sup>th</sup>. Main passage was noted in April. In the Po Toi area between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> the highest count was of 100 birds on 5<sup>th</sup> April, while 90 were present on 2<sup>nd</sup>, as well as 240 in Tathong Channel. In Lamma Channel, 150 were noted on 17<sup>th</sup> April, increasing to approximately 1,000 on 21<sup>st</sup>; another 150 were in southern waters the following day. Small numbers were also present at Mai Po from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> April, with a peak count of eight on 10<sup>th</sup> April. In autumn, a total of 57 were logged on 11<sup>th</sup> September between Aberdeen and Waglan. Smaller numbers were also present at Mai Po NR and fishponds nearby, with up to ten noted to 25<sup>th</sup> September, and up to three until 2<sup>nd</sup> October. A flock of 120 were noted in Victoria Harbour during the close approach of Tropical Storm Damrey on 24<sup>th</sup> September. One was at Penfold Park on 30<sup>th</sup> September and, finally, two were noted at Lamma Channel on 9<sup>th</sup> October.

**2006:** A report of five birds between Aberdeen and Po Toi ferry on 17<sup>th</sup> February is only the third late winter record. Subsequently, spring passage was reported from 10<sup>th</sup> March when a bird was seen in the same area. Seabird surveys in the southern and southeastern Hong Kong waters conducted regularly from 17<sup>th</sup> March to 8<sup>th</sup> May produced a series of counts of this species. Several high counts were made, such as 952 on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 790 on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 743 on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 696 on 26<sup>th</sup> April and 595 on 8<sup>th</sup> May, and lower numbers were recorded in all other surveys. These indicated that more birds pass through HK in late March and early April, but in general numbers are very variable. At Mai Po NR and nearby fishponds areas, records occurred from 22<sup>nd</sup> March to 21<sup>st</sup> May, with a peak count of seven on 28<sup>th</sup> March, and on 13<sup>th</sup> June when one was present. Elsewhere, twelve were noted from the Central – Mui Wo ferry and one was at Mui Wo on 25<sup>th</sup> March, with one at Kam Tin on the same date. A total of 1,025, the largest count of the spring, were recorded at the Kwun Tong – Po Toi ferry on 1<sup>st</sup> April. Near Dong Ping Chau, 72 and 30 were reported on 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> April respectively.

In autumn, up to two were noted at Lok Ma Chau KCRC mitigation ponds from 23<sup>rd</sup> August to 6<sup>th</sup> September, up to 150 were noted near Po Toi on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> September, a total of 1,500 was noted from the Kwun Tong – Po Toi ferry on 15<sup>th</sup> September and 200 were recorded in southern waters the day after. Finally, at Long Valley one was present during 8-16<sup>th</sup> September and another was there on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> September.

**141A Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* 丘鵲**

**2005:** All records referred to single birds unless stated. In the first half of the year, reported from 8<sup>th</sup> January to 25<sup>th</sup> March at the following sites: Kong Tong (Sai Kung), Pak Nai, Fung Kat Heung, (up to two), Keung Shan (Lantau) and Mai Po Village. The first report in the autumn was from Sunset Peak on 11<sup>th</sup> October. Subsequently, reports came from Tai Po Kau headland on 13<sup>th</sup> October, Sai Ying Pun (HK Island, transferred to KFBG and released at Tai Po Kau on 11<sup>th</sup> November), Mai Po on 30<sup>th</sup> October, Wonderland Villa, Kwai Chung on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, Tai Po Kau on 4<sup>th</sup> December, Fung Kat Heung on 13<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> December (two birds), Airfield Road, Shek Kong on 15<sup>th</sup> December and Pak Sha O on 24<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** In the first half of the year singles were noted at Kam Tin on 17<sup>th</sup> January, Lam Tsuen Valley on 7<sup>th</sup> January, Po Toi on 12<sup>th</sup> March, Airfield Road, Shek Kong on 7<sup>th</sup> January and 28<sup>th</sup> February, Tai Po Kau on 10<sup>th</sup> January and Wu Kau Tang on 18<sup>th</sup> February. Two were reported from Fung Kat Heung on 18<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February. In autumn, one was on Po Toi on 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> October, with two there on 17<sup>th</sup> October and three on 26<sup>th</sup> October. One was found dead at Science Museum, East Tsim Sha Tsui on 5<sup>th</sup> November and one was at Tai Po Kau on 8<sup>th</sup> December.

**142A/143A Pintail/Swinhoe's Snipe *Gallinago stenura/megala* 針尾沙錐/  
大沙錐**

In view of the extreme difficulty of field identification described in Leader & Carey (2003), records of these two species are combined. Only in-hand records or substantiated field records in which the diagnostic structure of the outer tail feathers is noted are considered sufficient. Further work on vocalisations is required before apparent differences in call can be confirmed.

**2005:** In the Kam Tin/Sha Po area records in the first winter period comprised up to ten from 8<sup>th</sup> January to 5<sup>th</sup> February, eight on 3<sup>rd</sup> April and one on 8<sup>th</sup> May. The first returning bird was noted there on 7<sup>th</sup> August, and numbers peaked at 15 on 24<sup>th</sup> September, declining to three on 22<sup>nd</sup> October. At Long Valley there were, surprisingly, no records in the first half of the year. In the second half, noted from 10<sup>th</sup> September; an influx of 30 birds was noted on 1<sup>st</sup> October, and numbers peaked at 40 on 9<sup>th</sup> October. Six on 12<sup>th</sup> November and one on 25<sup>th</sup> December followed. Smaller numbers were recorded at Mai Po NR and nearby fishponds, comprising singles on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 10<sup>th</sup> May, 9-10<sup>th</sup> August and 15<sup>th</sup> September, three on 1<sup>st</sup> October and two on 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Elsewhere, five were noted at Luk Keng on 30<sup>th</sup> March, one was at Mui Wo on 25<sup>th</sup> March, one was at Penfold Park on 13<sup>th</sup> September, with two there on 30<sup>th</sup> September, one was on Po Toi on 22<sup>nd</sup> April and another single was noted at Tsang Uk Tsuen (Shek Kong) on 19<sup>th</sup> September. In addition, three unidentified snipes *Gallinago* were at Pui O on 1<sup>st</sup> October, an uncommon record on Lantau.

**2006:** As usual, most records were from Kam Tin and Long Valley. In the first half of the year, up to five were noted at Kam Tin from 17<sup>th</sup> January to 18<sup>th</sup> April, while the highest count at Long Valley at this time was only three birds

from 15<sup>th</sup> January to 17<sup>th</sup> May. More significant numbers were recorded at these two sites in the second half of the year. At Kam Tin, birds were recorded from 12<sup>th</sup> August to 24<sup>th</sup> December with a peak count of 24 noted on 15<sup>th</sup> September. The first autumn record at Long Valley was eight birds noted on 19<sup>th</sup> August and the peak count was 34 on 31<sup>st</sup> August. The last report was a single noted on 24<sup>th</sup> December. Elsewhere, two were at Lok Ma Chau KCRC mitigation ponds on 23<sup>rd</sup> August. At Mai Po and nearby fishponds, singles were noted on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 30<sup>th</sup> August, 11<sup>th</sup> September and 4<sup>th</sup> October, while two were present on 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> September, four on 30<sup>th</sup> September and eight on 19<sup>th</sup> September. Elsewhere, three were noted at Penfold Park on 12<sup>th</sup> September and one remained on 19<sup>th</sup> September, singles were on Po Toi on 10<sup>th</sup> May and 3<sup>rd</sup> October, and three were at Shek Kong on 26<sup>th</sup> March, with one there on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

**142A Pintail Snipe *Gallinago stenura* 針尾沙錐**

**2006:** Two were trapped at Mai Po on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

**143A Swinhoe's Snipe *Gallinago megala* 大沙錐**

**2005 & 2006:** None were trapped during these years.

**144A Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* 扇尾沙錐**

**2005:** The highest count in the Deep Bay monthly waterbird surveys in the first half of the year was only five in March, but the highest in the second half of the year was 38 in December. The first report in the second winter period was of three at Mai Po NR on 19<sup>th</sup> September. In the Kam Tin/Sha Po area this species was commoner in the first winter period but scarcer in the second. The highest count was 33 on 5<sup>th</sup> February and the last report was on 7<sup>th</sup> May. One noted there on 19<sup>th</sup> August was the first returning bird and equalled the earliest autumn record in Hong Kong; subsequently, two were noted a month later on 25<sup>th</sup> September. Eleven on 22<sup>nd</sup> October was the peak count in the area in the second half of the year. There were even fewer reports from Long Valley: one on 8<sup>th</sup> January, 35 on 26<sup>th</sup> November and 12 on 10<sup>th</sup> December. Elsewhere, 20 were counted at Luk Keng on 30<sup>th</sup> March.

**2006:** The highest totals in the Deep Bay area waterbird counts in the first and second halves of the year were 14 and 50 in January and November respectively. However, the largest single counts in both periods were at Long Valley where 50 and 58 birds were noted on 20<sup>th</sup> January and 8<sup>th</sup> October respectively; at this site extreme dates were 20<sup>th</sup> April and 14<sup>th</sup> September. Other high counts at Long Valley were 45 on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 41 on 15<sup>th</sup> October and 32 on 16<sup>th</sup> December. At Kam Tin, the highest count in the first half of the year was 27 on 16<sup>th</sup> February, while 13 was the highest in the second half of the year on 24<sup>th</sup> December; extreme dates were 18<sup>th</sup> April and 26<sup>th</sup> September. Away from these regular sites, one was at Pak Nai on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, while there were five records from Po Toi, on 15-16<sup>th</sup> April, 5<sup>th</sup> May, 12<sup>th</sup> September and 10<sup>th</sup> October. Finally,



one was at Shek Kong on 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

#### 145A Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* 長嘴半蹼鶺

**2005:** A wintering individual was noted from 8<sup>th</sup> January to 3<sup>rd</sup> April, while two were noted on 10<sup>th</sup> March. One in breeding plumage was noted on 10<sup>th</sup> April, with two on 15<sup>th</sup> April and, finally, one on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. There was only one record in the second winter period, a single on 31<sup>st</sup> October. All records came from Mai Po NR.

**2006:** The first report was of one at Tsim Bei Tsui on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March. Subsequently, two were noted at Mai Po on 30<sup>th</sup> March and three on 1<sup>st</sup> April, with one again on 6<sup>th</sup> April. Up to two were noted again at Mai Po from 14<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> April. In autumn one was seen on 19<sup>th</sup> October and two were noted on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

#### 146A Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus* 半蹼鶺 NT

**2005:** The first report of northward migration concerned one on 10<sup>th</sup> April. Subsequently, an influx of 20 birds was noted on 16<sup>th</sup> April, while the highest count was 44 as a result of a second influx noted on 26<sup>th</sup> April; this was also the latest report in the spring. During southward migration the first report was of three birds on 3<sup>rd</sup> August, but numbers remained at two until three were seen on 19<sup>th</sup> August, increasing to 28 on 21<sup>st</sup> August. This is a new high for the autumn, and was associated with the bad weather of 19-21<sup>st</sup> August. Subsequently, another small influx of ten birds was noted on 15<sup>th</sup> September; singles remained on 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> September. Finally, four were reported on 1<sup>st</sup> October, three on 3<sup>rd</sup> October and two on 5<sup>th</sup> October. All records were from Mai Po NR.

**2006:** The first birds on northward migration were two reported on 6<sup>th</sup> April. From 11<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> April up to 14 birds were noted; subsequently, the highest count of the spring was 25 on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, while only two remained on 6<sup>th</sup> May. Up to five were present during 11-21<sup>st</sup> May. The first report in autumn was of six on 8<sup>th</sup> August; subsequently, up to five were present until 11<sup>th</sup> September and one was present during 23-24<sup>th</sup> September. All records were from the Deep Bay area.

#### 147A Red Knot *Calidris canutus* 紅腹濱鶺

**2005:** Two wintering individuals were noted regularly from 27<sup>th</sup> January to 19<sup>th</sup> March, and then only one remained from 26<sup>th</sup> March to 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Another individual was noted on 8<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> April, but there were no further records till 5<sup>th</sup> May when two were present. Numbers increased to three on 7<sup>th</sup> May and seven on 10<sup>th</sup> May, the peak count and latest report this spring. The first autumn record was of two birds on 21<sup>st</sup> August, while 16 counted on 31<sup>st</sup> August was the peak count in the autumn. Numbers decreased to seven on 6<sup>th</sup> September, five on 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September and three on 20<sup>th</sup> September. Smaller influxes brought 14 birds on 3<sup>rd</sup> October and 11 birds on 15<sup>th</sup> October. Six were still



present on 31<sup>st</sup> October and five were counted in the November waterbird count. All records came from Mai Po NR.

**2006:** Eleven birds were noted in the January waterbird count and five present on 22<sup>nd</sup> March were possibly from the same group. Subsequently, small groups passed through in April and early May: up to two from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> April, three on 11<sup>th</sup> April, up to eight on 17<sup>th</sup> April, six on 26<sup>th</sup> April and two on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Finally, 15 birds were noted on 13<sup>th</sup> May, increasing to 16 on 16<sup>th</sup> May, the peak count in the spring. Thirteen were still present on 19<sup>th</sup> May decreasing to 12 on 31<sup>st</sup> May. The first returning bird was noted on 8<sup>th</sup> August, but few records followed. These comprised two on 11<sup>th</sup> September, one on 9<sup>th</sup> October and four (highest count in this autumn) were noted on 19<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> October and 5<sup>th</sup> November. Finally, four were counted in the December waterbird count. All records above came from Mai Po NR. Elsewhere, a flock of 15 was noted migrating in east Hong Kong waters on 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

#### **148A Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* 大濱鷸**

**2005:** In the first winter period, the highest count was of 21 on 5<sup>th</sup> February, and wintering individuals appear to have departed by the time of the March waterbird count. Northward migration was first evident on 24<sup>th</sup> March, and influxes subsequently brought 72 on 26<sup>th</sup> March and 231 on 9<sup>th</sup> April, the latter being the peak spring count. Numbers declined quickly to only five on 18<sup>th</sup> April. Another small influx of 20 was noted on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, while in May up to 12 were present during 5-15<sup>th</sup> May. One on 23<sup>rd</sup> May was the latest report in the spring. Seven on 21<sup>st</sup> August was the first report of southward migration; numbers increased to 12 on 6<sup>th</sup> September and 24 on 15<sup>th</sup> September. Another influx of 26 was noted on 7<sup>th</sup> October, the peak count this autumn. Subsequent records comprised six on 21<sup>st</sup> October and five on 31<sup>st</sup> October. All records came from Mai Po NR.

**2006:** Two from the Mai Po boardwalk on 27<sup>th</sup> January was the sole record of the first winter period. The first birds on northward migration were noted on 22<sup>nd</sup> March; numbers increased to 31 on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 39 on 6<sup>th</sup> April and 41 on 17<sup>th</sup> April (the peak count this spring). Smaller numbers were present into May and an influx of first summer birds was noted on 25<sup>th</sup> May when 37 were present. Two on 27<sup>th</sup> June was the latest report of the spring, while the first southward-bound bird was noted on 25<sup>th</sup> July. Numbers increased to seven on 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> August, and 13, the peak count in the autumn, on 9<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> October. Four remained on 5<sup>th</sup> November, while the final record was of 15 in the December waterbird count. All records came from Mai Po NR.

#### **149A Sanderling *Calidris alba* 三趾濱鷸**

**2005:** Four on 31<sup>st</sup> March was the first report on northward migration. Numbers remained low in the first half of April, after when influxes brought five on 16<sup>th</sup> and seven on 30<sup>th</sup> April. In May, ten were noted on 5<sup>th</sup> and 11 were counted on 10<sup>th</sup>, the highest count this spring. Thereafter, records comprised nine on 12<sup>th</sup>, six on 15<sup>th</sup> and singles on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> May. There were no autumn

records. All reports were from Mai Po NR.

**2006:** In the Deep Bay area, the first bird was reported on 22<sup>nd</sup> March and remained on 25<sup>th</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> April. Up to five were present from 14<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> April, increasing to 23 on 26<sup>th</sup> April, the peak count of the spring. Subsequently, 11 were present on 28<sup>th</sup> April and three on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> May. The last report was of one on 16<sup>th</sup> May. In addition, one was at Dong Ping Chau on 1<sup>st</sup> April. None were reported in autumn.

#### **150A Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis* 紅胸濱鵲**

**2005:** One on 26<sup>th</sup> February was the only record in the first winter period. Northward passage was evident in the Deep Bay area from 13<sup>th</sup> March, though no more than 235 were evident in the first three weeks of April. Subsequently, the first large influx was noted on 23<sup>rd</sup> April when 914 birds were counted, increasing to 1,248 two days later. In May 1,406 were present on 5<sup>th</sup>, increasing 1,909 on 12<sup>th</sup>. The final record was of six on 7<sup>th</sup> June. Three on 17<sup>th</sup> August were followed by 329 on 21<sup>st</sup> August and 885 on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, the latter being a new autumn high; this influx was associated with a low pressure system over the South China Sea that brought unstable weather during 19-21<sup>st</sup>. A total of 158 were still present on 31<sup>st</sup> August, and then numbers decreased to 122 on 6<sup>th</sup> September and two on 20<sup>th</sup> September. Subsequently, up to 25 were present from 29<sup>th</sup> September to 15<sup>th</sup> October, and the final record was of two on 31<sup>st</sup> October. Away from the Deep Bay area, singles were noted at Luk Keng on 30<sup>th</sup> March, at Nai Chung on 25<sup>th</sup> April and at Kam Tin on 7<sup>th</sup> May.

**2006:** The first record of the year was of five on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. As in 2005 only small numbers were present in the first three weeks of April, the highest count being 179 on 22<sup>nd</sup>. Subsequently, 1,141 were noted on 26<sup>th</sup>, and only smaller numbers were present in the period to mid May. A second influx, this time of 1,133 birds, was noted on 16<sup>th</sup> May, increasing to 1,478 on 19<sup>th</sup>, the peak count of this spring. Number decreased significantly to 805 on 21<sup>st</sup>, and 12 on 31<sup>st</sup> May was the latest report of the spring. During southward migration, the first report was of four on 25<sup>th</sup> July, followed by 32 on 30<sup>th</sup> July. Numbers increased to 112 on 22<sup>nd</sup> August, declined in early September and then climbed again to 182 on 24<sup>th</sup> September, the peak count of autumn. The final autumn record was of 23 on 4<sup>th</sup> October. The only count in the second winter period was of one in the December waterbird count. All records came from the Deep Bay area.

#### **151A Little Stint *Calidris minuta* 小濱鵲**

**2005:** In spring, singles were present on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 9<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April, and 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> May, while two were noted on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April. In autumn, one was noted on 21<sup>st</sup> August, and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> September; this is the first autumn record in Hong Kong. All records came from Mai Po NR.

**2006:** Singles, involving four individuals, were noted at Mai Po NR on 19<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> April, and 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May.

## 152A Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* 青腳濱鷸

**2005:** The highest count of the monthly waterbird counts in the first winter period was 14 in February, while the highest in the second period was 16 in November. Other Deep Bay area reports included three at Lut Chau on 13<sup>th</sup> January, one at Tam Kon Chau on 24<sup>th</sup> January, two at Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung) on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 12 at San Tin on 11<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March, with 11 there on 13<sup>th</sup> April, six at Fung Lok Wai on 4<sup>th</sup> April, with three there on 12<sup>th</sup> September (the first report of the autumn), and five at Tsim Bei Tsui on 8<sup>th</sup> January, with 12 there on 13<sup>th</sup> February. One at Mai Po NR on 27<sup>th</sup> May was the latest record in spring by nine days. Away from the Deep Bay area, at Kam Tin one was present on 18<sup>th</sup> January and two were noted on 6<sup>th</sup> March.

**2006:** In the first winter period ten were noted at Fung Lok Wai on 23<sup>rd</sup> January and at Tsim Bei Tsui on 8<sup>th</sup> February. Smaller numbers were also noted along the road to Mai Po NR and at Lin Barn Tsuen from 26<sup>th</sup> January to 4<sup>th</sup> March. One at Mai Po NR on 25<sup>th</sup> March appeared to be a passage bird, and a notable influx of 43 was recorded in the April waterbird count, of which a total of 31 were present at Lok Ma Chau KCRC mitigation ponds. Fewer were reported in the second half of the year and the first report was of three at Mai Po on 22<sup>nd</sup> August. Highest counts were seven at the Lok Ma Chau KCRC mitigation ponds on 6<sup>th</sup> October, 19 in the October waterbird count, 11 at San Tin on 20<sup>th</sup> December and a total of 20 in the December waterbird count. All records came from the Deep Bay area.

## 153A Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta* 長趾濱鷸

**2005:** The sole record in the first winter period concerned one at Kam Tin on 29<sup>th</sup> January. During northward migration the first report was of four at both Mai Po NR and Fung Lok Wai on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Up to three birds were present from 10-18<sup>th</sup> April, up to seven on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April, the peak count of the spring, and one on 28<sup>th</sup> April. Subsequently, two on 5<sup>th</sup> May and five on 10<sup>th</sup> May. In autumn, the first report was of three at Mai Po on 3<sup>rd</sup> August, while the peak autumn count was five at Mai Po on 21<sup>st</sup> August. Three were present on 31<sup>st</sup> October and singles were noted in the November and December waterbird counts. Elsewhere, four were at Kam Tin on 23<sup>rd</sup> April and one was at Nai Chung on 25<sup>th</sup> April.

**2006:** One along the road to Mai Po NR on 4<sup>th</sup> March was the sole record in the first winter period. The first bird on northward migration occurred on 4<sup>th</sup> April, while the main passage period occurred from 14<sup>th</sup> April to 3<sup>rd</sup> May, when the peak count of 44 birds was recorded on 16<sup>th</sup> during the April waterbird count. Finally, one remained on 14<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May, the latest report in the spring. The first returning bird was noted at Mai Po NR on 30<sup>th</sup> July, while the peak count was eight on 13<sup>th</sup> August; seven were recorded in both the August and September waterbird counts. Numbers were lower in October but increased to seven during the November waterbird count. Away from Mai Po NR and the Lok Ma Chau area, reports also came from Cheung Po (Pat Heung, two on 16<sup>th</sup> April), Kam Tin (one on 12<sup>th</sup> September), Long Valley (singles on 19<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> September) and Wing Kei Tsuen (one on 24<sup>th</sup> April).

**154A Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* 斑胸濱鷸**

**2005:** Singles, involving more than one individual, were noted at Mai Po NR on 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> April.

**155A Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* 尖尾濱鷸**

**2005:** Recorded on northward migration from 26<sup>th</sup> March to 7<sup>th</sup> June. Numbers increased from 21 on 8<sup>th</sup> April to 26 on 15<sup>th</sup> and the peak spring count of 41 on 25<sup>th</sup> April. Subsequently, up to nine were seen from 5-15<sup>th</sup> May, while another influx of 30 was noted on 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Recorded on southward passage from 26<sup>th</sup> July to 17<sup>th</sup> October. Numbers increased to nine on 21<sup>st</sup> August and 48 on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, a new autumn high (YTY). High numbers of this species, Terek Sandpiper and Red-necked Stint were associated with bad weather in the South China region at that time. Subsequently, 31 were noted on 15<sup>th</sup> September, followed by one on 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October. All these records came from the Deep Bay area. Elsewhere, singles were noted at Long Valley on 15<sup>th</sup> April, Kam Tin on 21-23<sup>rd</sup> April and 21<sup>st</sup> August, and Po Toi on 24<sup>th</sup> April.

**2006:** Recorded on northward migration from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> May, though numbers remained low to mid April, reaching only eight by 17<sup>th</sup> April. An influx of 21 was noted on 19<sup>th</sup>, with a further and larger influx of 68 on 16<sup>th</sup> May. Fifty-two were still present on 19<sup>th</sup>, falling to 28 on 21<sup>st</sup> and 15 on 31<sup>st</sup> May. Noted on southward passage from 8<sup>th</sup> August to 3<sup>rd</sup> November, the peak count being a rather low two birds noted on four dates from 28<sup>th</sup> August to 21<sup>st</sup> October. All records came from the Deep Bay area.

**156A Dunlin *Calidris alpina* 黑腹濱鷸**

**2005:** Only small numbers were present in the winter months, with the peak count being 70 on 26<sup>th</sup> February and 13<sup>th</sup> March. Singles on passage were noted on 31<sup>st</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> April, 8-9<sup>th</sup> April and 5-10<sup>th</sup> May. The first report in the autumn was of one on 23<sup>rd</sup> August. Subsequently, numbers increased to six on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 86 on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 30 on 15<sup>th</sup> October and 222 on 31<sup>st</sup> October, the final report of the year. This was a poor year for this species. All records came from Mai Po NR and the boardwalk, except for one along the road to Mai Po NR from 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> September.

**2006:** The highest count in the first winter period was 701 in the February waterbird count. Two noted on 22<sup>nd</sup> March was the latest report in the first half of the year. Two on 13<sup>th</sup> August was the first report of southward migration, while the peak September count was 15 on 24<sup>th</sup>; only two remained on 21<sup>st</sup> October. An influx of 92 birds was noted on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, increasing to 1,990 in the November waterbird count. While winter counts of this species in 2005 and 2006 were low, it is unclear to what extent this is a true reflection of numbers. It would appear more likely to reflect poor survey conditions during waterbird counts.

**157A Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* 彎嘴濱鷸**

**2005:** Recorded from 3<sup>rd</sup> March to 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Numbers remained at no more than 45 in March, but several influxes were noted in the course of April: 298 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 379 on 13<sup>th</sup>, 794 on 18<sup>th</sup>, 3,947 on 23<sup>rd</sup> (the peak spring count) and 3,722 birds on 28<sup>th</sup>. Numbers decreased sharply in May: 1,064 on 7<sup>th</sup>, 679 on 10<sup>th</sup>, 223 on 12<sup>th</sup> and 30 on 15<sup>th</sup>. Six were still present on 7<sup>th</sup> June and two on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. The first report in the autumn was of 18 on 20<sup>th</sup> July, and numbers increased to 54 on 3<sup>rd</sup> August. A second influx of passage birds was noted on 23<sup>rd</sup> August when 95, the peak count this autumn, were present. Numbers gradually fell to 20 on 20<sup>th</sup> September (Plate 7), increased slightly to 36 on 3<sup>rd</sup> October before falling again to three on 15<sup>th</sup> October and, finally, one on 31<sup>st</sup> October.



**Plate 7.** Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* Juvenile 彎嘴濱鷸  
Mai Po, Hong Kong, September 2005  
John & Jemi Holmes

**2006:** The first spring report occurred on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, and numbers that month reached 354 on 25<sup>th</sup>. Thereafter, counts increased slowly in the first half of April from 67 on 6<sup>th</sup> April to 221 on 19<sup>th</sup> April, before a second influx brought 1,046 on 22<sup>nd</sup>. A count of 4,151 on 28<sup>th</sup> April was the highest of the spring, though numbers appear to have fallen quickly, with only 773 counted on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, falling to 163 on 6<sup>th</sup>, 111 on 11<sup>th</sup> and 25 on 13<sup>th</sup> May. A small influx of 88 first-summer birds was noted on 16<sup>th</sup> May, while 23 on 13<sup>th</sup> June was the latest report this spring. Seven noted on 14<sup>th</sup> July were the first returning birds in the autumn, and numbers increased to 99 on 25<sup>th</sup> July and 161 on 30<sup>th</sup> July, the peak autumn count. Numbers then decreased to 112 on 8<sup>th</sup> August, 20 on 28<sup>th</sup> August, four on 19<sup>th</sup> September and two on 24<sup>th</sup> September and 4<sup>th</sup> October. Finally, one on 19<sup>th</sup> October was the latest report. All records were from Deep Bay.



#### 158A Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus* 勺嘴鷸 CE

**2005:** The first report was of a flock of 13 at Mai Po NR on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. This is a new high for Hong Kong and the first double-digit count. Subsequently in April there were three from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> April, singles on 11<sup>th</sup>, from 15-17<sup>th</sup> and on 28<sup>th</sup>, and two on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Finally, one was seen from 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May. These records may have involved 21 individuals. In autumn, one was at Mai Po on 26<sup>th</sup> October, an unusual autumn record. This was a very good year for this species, especially in view of the relatively low numbers in Hong Kong in recent years.

**2006:** One seen intermittently from 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> May was the only spring record. An adult was seen on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> September. In contrast to 2005, this was a poor year for this species.

#### 159A Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* 闊嘴鷸

**2005:** The first report in the spring was of three on 13<sup>th</sup> March. Numbers increased to 11 on 1<sup>st</sup> and 18 on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. A larger influx brought 116 on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, the peak count of the spring, while another influx was noted on 5<sup>th</sup> May when 110 were counted. Numbers fell to 87 on 7<sup>th</sup>, 56 on 12<sup>th</sup>, two on 23<sup>rd</sup> May and one on 27<sup>th</sup> May, the latest report of the spring. During southbound migration the first report comprised a flock of 19 on 21<sup>st</sup> August, the highest count this autumn. These birds, together with unusually high numbers of Red-necked Stints and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, were brought by persistent rain and unstable weather from a low pressure system over the South China Sea during 19-21<sup>st</sup> August. Two other small influxes were noted in September: 11 on 15<sup>th</sup> and 18 on 29<sup>th</sup>. Finally, two were noted on 2<sup>nd</sup> October and singles were present on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> October, the latest reports of the autumn. All records occurred in the Deep Bay area.

**2006:** The earliest record on northward migration was noted on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, while the latest occurred on 29<sup>th</sup> May. Numbers remained low till mid April, after which an influx of 21 birds was noted on 17<sup>th</sup> April. The largest influx this spring was noted on 3<sup>rd</sup> May when 39 birds were present. Later, up to 20 birds were present from 11-21<sup>st</sup> May, after when numbers fell to five on 25<sup>th</sup> and one on 29<sup>th</sup> May. The first report on southward migration was of two on 13<sup>th</sup> August, after when seven were noted on 21<sup>st</sup> August. Numbers increased to 13 on 11<sup>th</sup> September and 17 on 24<sup>th</sup> September, the peak count this autumn. Subsequently, singles were noted on 4<sup>th</sup> October and 18<sup>th</sup> November. All records were from the Deep Bay area.

#### 160A Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* 流蘇鷸

**2005:** A wintering individual was noted intermittently from 8<sup>th</sup> January to 14<sup>th</sup> March. Passage birds increased numbers to three on 19<sup>th</sup> March, with two present from 26-31<sup>st</sup> March. One noted on 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> April, was the latest report at this time. The first autumn report was of one on 17<sup>th</sup> August. Singles were also noted on 6<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup> September, and 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> October, while two were noted on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> October and in the November waterbird



count. All records came from the Deep Bay area.

**2006:** Three were present in the February waterbird count and subsequently one bird was noted on 2-3<sup>rd</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March, the last report in the first half of the year. One on 14<sup>th</sup> August was the first report in the autumn, but no further records occurred until singles on 5<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September. Numbers increased to three on 24<sup>th</sup> September and five on 4<sup>th</sup> October, the peak count this autumn. Three were noted on 9<sup>th</sup> October, but only one was counted from 19<sup>th</sup> October to 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Three were noted again on 5<sup>th</sup> November and, finally, one was present in the December waterbird count.

#### **161A Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus* 中賊鷗**

**2005:** Two were seen near Po Toi on 17<sup>th</sup> April (PW, MW).

**2006:** Three on 12<sup>th</sup> March were followed by nine on 21<sup>st</sup> March, one on 30<sup>th</sup> March, three on 5<sup>th</sup> April, singles on 8<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> April and five on 5<sup>th</sup> May. All were seen in southern and southeastern waters. This species appears to be a regular, offshore migrant in spring.

#### **161.5A Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus* 短尾賊鷗**

**2005:** Five were seen near Po Toi on 17<sup>th</sup> April (PW, MW).

**2006:** Two were seen on 5<sup>th</sup>, one on 6<sup>th</sup>, three on 8<sup>th</sup>, singles on 17<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, and two on 29<sup>th</sup>; in May, up to ten were reported on 5<sup>th</sup>. All were seen in southern and southeastern waters. This species appears to be a regular, offshore migrant in spring.

#### **162A Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus* 長尾賊鷗**

**2005:** At least 20 were present in southern waters on 17<sup>th</sup> April.

**2006:** Three in southern waters on 12<sup>th</sup> March (PW, MW *et al.*) is the earliest on record. Subsequently 69 were seen in southern waters on 5<sup>th</sup> April (YTY), the highest count in Hong Kong, while two were also seen from Po Toi on the same date. On 8<sup>th</sup> a count of 15 was made, on 23<sup>rd</sup> four birds were noted, and during 26-29<sup>th</sup> up to four were seen daily. Finally, 11 were recorded on 5<sup>th</sup> May. The high number of records and individual birds occurred as a result of regular seabird surveys through southern and southeastern waters.

#### **163A Black-tailed Gull *Larus crassirostris* 黑尾鷗**

**2005:** Three adults and an immature were recorded at Mai Po from 27<sup>th</sup> January to 19<sup>th</sup> March.

**2006:** A first-winter was seen near Po Toi on 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> February, one was at Tsim Bei Tsui on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, two first-winters were in southern waters on 17<sup>th</sup> March and, finally, five first-winters were present in eastern waters on 23<sup>rd</sup>

December.

**164A Mew Gull *Larus canus* 海鷗**

**2006:** Single first-winters were seen from the Mai Po boardwalk on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> January, and 19<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

**165A Heuglin's Gull *Larus heuglini* 休氏銀鷗 (烏灰銀鷗)**

**2005:** The peak count in the first-winter period was 460 on 5<sup>th</sup> March; numbers subsequently declined to 245 on 19<sup>th</sup> and 85 on 1<sup>st</sup> April, the last record of the spring. The only report in the second winter period was of 70 in the December waterbird count. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	154	202	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	70

**2006:** The highest count in the first winter period was of 345 in the February waterbird count, while the latest Deep Bay record was that of 12 in the March waterbird count. As a result of regular observations from Po Toi and seabird surveys, there was an interesting suite of records of migrants moving north. From Po Toi a total of 119 birds were seen flying northeast from 7<sup>th</sup> February to 12<sup>th</sup> April, in addition to 92 seen foraging in the east Lamma channel on 14<sup>th</sup> February. Elsewhere in southern waters, regular seabird surveys recorded a total of 159 birds, with peak counts of 69 on 17<sup>th</sup> March and 58 ten days later. The only record in the second winter period was of four flying southwest off Po Toi on 25<sup>th</sup> October. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	176	345	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**166A Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans* 黃腳銀鷗**

**2005:** Up to four adults and one first-year were reported from Mai Po boardwalk from 5<sup>th</sup> February to 27<sup>th</sup> March.

**2006:** There were only four reports of singles on 27<sup>th</sup> January and 17<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March from the Mai Po boardwalk and southern and southeastern waters.

**167A Slaty-backed Gull *Larus schistisagus* 灰背鷗**

**2005:** Up to two first-winters were recorded from 26<sup>th</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> April.

**2006:** A first-winter was recorded in southern waters on 17<sup>th</sup> March.

**170A Pallas's Gull *Larus ichthyaetus* 漁鷗**

**2005:** From the Mai Po boardwalk an adult in breeding plumage was seen on 27<sup>th</sup> February and a first-winter was present on 12<sup>th</sup> March.

**2006:** The sole record was of an adult in breeding plumage on 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

**171A Brown-headed Gull *Larus brunnicephalus* 棕頭鷗**

**2005:** Reports of an adult seen at Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay from 26<sup>th</sup> January to 14<sup>th</sup> April are presumed to relate to the same individual. In addition, one was reported during the November waterbird count.

**173A Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* 紅嘴鷗**

**2005:** The peak count in the first winter period was 8,985 in the February waterbird count. At least 400 remained on 1<sup>st</sup> April, and counts subsequently fell to 37 on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 15 on the 16<sup>th</sup>; subsequently, up to two first-summer birds were recorded at Mai Po NR through the summer to at least 19<sup>th</sup> September. The highest count in the second winter period was 4,768 in the December waterbird count. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	7,723	8,985	5,170	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,239	4,768

**2006:** The highest count in the first winter period was 14,016 in the February waterbird count, while the latest was of one on 14<sup>th</sup> May. In the second winter period, the first record occurred on 21<sup>st</sup> October, while the highest count was 2,496 in the December waterbird count. All records were from the Deep Bay area and Kam Tin River. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	11,300	14,016	1,530	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,243	2,496

**176A Saunders's Gull *Larus saundersi* 黑嘴鷗 VU**

**2005:** The highest count in the first winter period was 57, comprising 44 adults and 13 first-winters, on 26<sup>th</sup> February. Subsequently, 38 remained as late as 6<sup>th</sup> March, after which no more than four first-winters were recorded until 16<sup>th</sup> April. There were only two reports in the second winter period, that of eight on 16<sup>th</sup> November and five in the December waterbird count. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	10	48	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	5

**2006:** The peak count in the first winter period was 51 in the February waterbird count, while the final spring record occurred on 4<sup>th</sup> April. Noted again from 5<sup>th</sup> November, the highest count in the second winter period was 52

in the December waterbird count. Monthly waterbird count figures were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	7	51	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	52

**177A Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* 三趾鷗**

**2003:** A first-winter was seen off Mai Po Boardwalk on 9<sup>th</sup> February (JAA).

**2006:** An adult was near Po Toi on 2<sup>nd</sup> March (GW).

**178A Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus* 鬚浮鷗**

**2005:** A weak northward passage, with the only reports comprising 12 at Mai Po NR on 15<sup>th</sup> April, with one present there the following day. Southward passage was somewhat stronger, with, in September, up to ten present at Mai Po NR during 1-2<sup>nd</sup>, 57 in Sai Kung Harbour on 25<sup>th</sup>, and up to 30 over the fish ponds near Mai Po during 28-30<sup>th</sup>; 19 were counted there on 1<sup>st</sup> October.

**2006:** Northward passage was much stronger than 2005, and the first record occurred on 13<sup>th</sup> April. Subsequently, the highest counts were 20 off Po Toi on 5<sup>th</sup> May, 17 at Mai Po NR on 14<sup>th</sup> May and 26 there on 28<sup>th</sup> May. Subsequently, five were present on 31<sup>st</sup> May and two were seen on 24<sup>th</sup> June. Southward passage was noted from 10<sup>th</sup> September to 5<sup>th</sup> November, with five off Po Toi on 10<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> September the highest count. The final record of the year was of one over fish ponds at San Tin on 20<sup>th</sup> December. Records occurred mainly at Mai Po and in southern waters, but there was an unusual report of one in Victoria Park on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

**179A White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* 白翅浮鷗**

**2005:** Northward passage was relatively weak this year, as it was for the other marsh tern, with only two records: four on 12<sup>th</sup> May and one on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, both at Mai Po NR. There were only three reports during southward passage, all in September, comprising eight at Mai Po NR on 2<sup>nd</sup>, one in Lamma Channel on 11<sup>th</sup> and seven in Sai Kung Harbour on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**2006:** Northward passage was very strong, in marked contrast to 2005. First noted on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, peak passage occurred in early May, when 222 were seen on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 490 flew northeast past Po Toi with presumably a different 50 birds seen on 5<sup>th</sup>. A further pulse of passage was noted on 18<sup>th</sup> May, when 500 were seen off Po Toi and 348 were recorded elsewhere. The final record of the spring occurred on 30<sup>th</sup> May. In contrast there were only two autumn reports, four on 19<sup>th</sup> August and one on 14<sup>th</sup> September. Nearly all records occurred in southern and southeastern waters, with a few also at Mai Po NR.

#### 180A Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica* 鷗嘴噪鷗

**2005:** One seen on 19<sup>th</sup> March was relatively early. This was followed by a count of 71 on 1<sup>st</sup> April; numbers reached a peak of 266 on 18<sup>th</sup> April. A sharp decline appears to have occurred subsequently, with only 20 counted on 23<sup>rd</sup>. The final double-figure count was of 15 on 8<sup>th</sup> May, followed by eight on 15<sup>th</sup> and presumably the same first-summer bird present on 7<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> June, and possibly even 26<sup>th</sup> July. Subsequently, singles were recorded on 23<sup>rd</sup> August and 29<sup>th</sup> September, while the final record was of three on 1<sup>st</sup> October. All reports were from Mai Po NR or the boardwalk.

**2006:** One on 22<sup>nd</sup> March was followed by 40 on 12<sup>th</sup> April rising to 65 the day after and at least 100 on 20<sup>th</sup> April, the highest count of the spring. Subsequently, only single figure counts were made apart from 21 off Po Toi on 5<sup>th</sup> May and ten on 28<sup>th</sup> May, with the final record of the spring occurring on 3<sup>rd</sup> June. There were two autumn reports of singles on 27<sup>th</sup> August and 11<sup>th</sup> September at Mai Po NR. Most records were from Mai Po, but others occurred in southern waters.

#### 181A Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia* 紅嘴巨鷗

**2005:** A count of eight, the same as the previous year, was the highest of the first-winter period. Subsequently, no more than three were recorded until 19<sup>th</sup> March, after which date numbers increased to nine on 2<sup>nd</sup> April and again on 18<sup>th</sup> April; these were the highest counts of a weak northward passage. The final record at this time was of five on 28<sup>th</sup> April. There were two more records during the year, two on 22<sup>nd</sup> June and one on 6<sup>th</sup> October. Apart from two in southern waters on 17<sup>th</sup> April, all records were from the Deep Bay area.

**2006:** The only record in the first winter period was of two on 7<sup>th</sup> January. Northward passage was noted from 30<sup>th</sup> March to 5<sup>th</sup> May, with the highest count a rather low ten on 28<sup>th</sup> April. The only autumn record was of three on 6<sup>th</sup> November. Records occurred at Mai Po and in southern waters.

#### 182A Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* 普通燕鷗

**2005:** Remarkably, there were only two spring reports: at least 20 in southern waters on 17<sup>th</sup> April and one south of Lamma on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Southward passage was not much stronger, with ten in southern waters on 11<sup>th</sup> September, and a juvenile in Sai Kung Harbour and ten birds at Shuen Wan on 25<sup>th</sup> September in the wake of Severe Tropical Storm Damrey.

**2006:** Northward passage was much more evident than in previous years, and was first noted on 24<sup>th</sup> March. An initial period of stronger passage occurred from 8<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> April, when up to 23 birds were seen during seabird counts in southern and southeastern waters. A second period occurred from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> May, which included 330 flying northeast past Po Toi on the latter date. Subsequently the highest count was 73 on 18<sup>th</sup> May, while the only two spring records after this date occurred on 31<sup>st</sup> May and 3<sup>rd</sup> June, involving two birds at Mai Po. There were three autumn records, 17 in eastern waters on 19<sup>th</sup> August,

20 flying southwest past Po Toi on 5<sup>th</sup> September and one off Ocean Park headland on 21<sup>st</sup> September.

**183A Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* 粉紅燕鷗**

**2005:** There were two reports during the year: four in Tolo Harbour and Mirs Bay on 14<sup>th</sup> May and one in southeastern waters on 12<sup>th</sup> June.

**2006:** Recorded in spring from 29<sup>th</sup> April, though with no more than five birds on any one date up to 26<sup>th</sup> May. Subsequently, at Kong Tau Pei, Sai Kung, up to ten were recorded until 28<sup>th</sup> June, with 42 present on 5<sup>th</sup> August and 13 on 19<sup>th</sup> August; both latter counts included two juveniles. The only other record was of two west of Lamma on 6<sup>th</sup> August.

**184A Black-naped Tern *Sterna sumatrana* 黑枕燕鷗**

**2005:** Six off Po Toi on 24<sup>th</sup> April were followed by two west of Lamma on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 101 in Tolo Harbour and Mirs Bay on 14<sup>th</sup> May, with 102 there on 21<sup>st</sup> May, two north of Lantau on 10<sup>th</sup> June and one in southeastern waters on 12<sup>th</sup> June.

**2006:** One flying northeast past Po Toi on 12<sup>th</sup> April was followed by 42 near Lamma on 26<sup>th</sup> April. Subsequently, up to 56 were recorded during seabird surveys in southern and southeastern waters, while at the breeding island of Kong Tau Pei, Sai Kung, the peak count was 114 on 11<sup>th</sup> June, with the final record of the year being 78 there on 19<sup>th</sup> August.

**185A Aleutian Tern *Sterna aleutica* 白腰燕鷗**

**2005:** There were four reports during the year: ten in southern waters on 17<sup>th</sup> April, two west of Lamma on 28<sup>th</sup> August, up to 20 in southern waters on 11<sup>th</sup> September and three west of Lamma on 9<sup>th</sup> October.

**2006:** A very strong northward passage was evident this year, occurring from 11<sup>th</sup> April to 18<sup>th</sup> May. Main passage occurred from 26<sup>th</sup> April to 5<sup>th</sup> May, during which time the highest count was 130 on 29<sup>th</sup> April in southern and southeastern waters. There were four autumn records, comprising one in eastern waters on 19<sup>th</sup> August, five in Mirs Bay on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 23 off Po Toi three days later and three in southern waters on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

**186A Bridled Tern *Sterna anaethetus* 褐翅燕鷗**

**2004:** Three were near Green Island on 16<sup>th</sup> July.

**2005:** The first record concerned 202 in Mirs Bay on 14<sup>th</sup> May, which was followed by 340 there on 21<sup>st</sup> May. Subsequently, however, the only counts were of three north of Lantau on 10<sup>th</sup> June, one in southeastern waters on 12<sup>th</sup> June, and singles west of Lamma on 28<sup>th</sup> August and 11<sup>th</sup> September.



**2006:** The first record was of one flying northeast off Po Toi on 12<sup>th</sup> April. Subsequent counts of passage birds included 27 on 29<sup>th</sup> April and 40 on 5<sup>th</sup> May. Presumed breeding bird counts included 70 at Shek Ngau Chau on 20<sup>th</sup> May and 22 at Kong Tau Pei on 11<sup>th</sup> June, with 41 near Waglan on the latter date also. Subsequently at Kong Tau Pei the highest count was 104 on 19<sup>th</sup> August, while the final records of the year were 30 near Po Toi on 13<sup>th</sup> September and one at Stanley four days later.



**Plate 8.** Aleutian Tern *Sterna aleutica* 白腰燕鷗  
Southern Waters, Hong Kong, May 2006  
John & Jemi Holmes

**187A Sooty Tern *Sterna fuscata* 烏燕鷗**

2006: A juvenile was seen from Po Toi on 13<sup>th</sup> September (GW).

**188A Little Tern *Sterna albifrons* 白額燕鷗**

2005: Recorded in southern waters and at Mai Po on northward passage from 27<sup>th</sup> March to 27<sup>th</sup> May, when the peak count was a low seven on the earliest date. Subsequently, up to four were counted. There were two autumn reports, one at Mai Po NR on 21<sup>st</sup> August and two in Sai Kung Harbour on 25<sup>th</sup> September.

2006: Recorded from 22<sup>nd</sup> March to 14<sup>th</sup> May, with the highest count being six flying past Po Toi on 5<sup>th</sup> and at Mai Po on 6<sup>th</sup>. The sole autumn record was of eight near Po Toi on 6<sup>th</sup> September.

**189A Greater Crested Tern *Sterna bergii* 大鳳頭燕鷗**

2005: There were three records during the year: six in southern waters on 21<sup>st</sup> April, one in southeastern waters on 12<sup>th</sup> June and two in southern waters on 11<sup>th</sup> September.

2006: As with other tern species this year, there was a strong spring passage. Recorded from 6<sup>th</sup> April to 5<sup>th</sup> May with up to three birds on a number of dates up to early May, when four were seen flying northeast past Po Toi on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, while four birds seen between Lamma and Po Toi on the latter date may refer to the same birds. The only autumn record was of one at Kong Tau Pei on 5<sup>th</sup> August. A total of 960 unidentified terns were recorded flying northeast off Po Toi on 5<sup>th</sup> May, with 72 seen on the same date in other areas of HK waters.

**190A Ancient Murrelet *Synthliboramphus antiquus* 扁嘴海雀**

2006: A flock of nine birds was seen in waters between Lamma and Po Toi on 19<sup>th</sup> February; this is the largest group recorded in Hong Kong. Subsequently, one was off Repulse Bay on 5<sup>th</sup> March, three flew northeast off Po Toi on 16<sup>th</sup> March, two or three were in southern waters on 21<sup>st</sup> March, one was in the same area on 6<sup>th</sup> April, five were off Po Toi on 7<sup>th</sup> April and, finally, one was off Po Toi on 4<sup>th</sup> May.

**191D Rock Dove *Columba livia* 原鴿**

2005 & 2006: No significant reports.

**192A Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis* 山斑鳩**

2005: Recorded up to 23<sup>rd</sup> April and from 14<sup>th</sup> October. With the exception of one at Ng Tung Chai on 27<sup>th</sup> February, all records in the first winter period were from the Deep Bay area and hinterland. Peak counts were 50 at Pak Nai on 15<sup>th</sup>

January, 77 entering a roost at Kam Tin on 27<sup>th</sup> February and 57 at Lok Ma Chau on 13<sup>th</sup> March. Thirty-three were still present at Kam Tin on 20<sup>th</sup> April. Numbers were generally lower in the second winter period, the peak counts in the Deep Bay area being 18 at Long Valley on 25<sup>th</sup> November and 14 at Kam Tin on 30<sup>th</sup> November, but reports were received from more widespread areas, including ten at Tai Po Kau Headland on 23<sup>rd</sup> November and ten at Sha Lo Tung on 10<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** Recorded in all months except June. In January-February, most records were from the Deep Bay area and the three highest counts were 46 at San Tin on 12<sup>th</sup> January, 100 moving through Kam Tin on 17<sup>th</sup> January and 17 at Lai Chi Wo on 18<sup>th</sup> February. The wintering population then appears to have largely departed, with only three records of one or two birds in March and at the beginning of April. Spring passage was then noted between 5<sup>th</sup> April and 11<sup>th</sup> May, records comprising 27 birds at Shek Kong on 5<sup>th</sup> April, up to 32 at Kam Tin during 8-29<sup>th</sup> April, 34 at Mai Po on 16<sup>th</sup> April, up to four at Ng Tung Chai and Lam Tsuen on 21<sup>st</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April, two at Sai Kung on 7<sup>th</sup> May and finally one on Po Toi on 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May. In summer, there were reports of single birds at San Tin on 21<sup>st</sup> July and 30<sup>th</sup> August and nine at Lok Ma Chau on 20<sup>th</sup> August; two at Kam Tin on 12<sup>th</sup> September and seven again at San Tin on 21<sup>st</sup> September probably belonged to this summer population. One on Po Toi on 10<sup>th</sup> October was the first definite arrival of the autumn; numbers there then built slowly to three on 24<sup>th</sup> October and eight on 25<sup>th</sup> November. Elsewhere, except for up to three at Ng Tung Chai and Lam Tsuen on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November and two at Tai Lam Chung on 30<sup>th</sup> December, all records were from the Deep Bay area between 22<sup>nd</sup> October and the end of the year, with peak counts of 12 at Mai Po on 5<sup>th</sup> November and 22 at Lut Chau on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

### **193A Red Turtle Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica* 火斑鳩**

**2005:** Reported in relatively low numbers up to 24<sup>th</sup> March, on 11-12<sup>th</sup> May, and from 17<sup>th</sup> September, with all records in the Deep Bay area and hinterland. In the first winter period peak counts were 11 in the Mong Tseng hills on 8<sup>th</sup> January and ten at Lok Ma Chau on 13<sup>th</sup> March, with smaller numbers at Mai Po, Lok Ma Chau, Tsim Bei Tsui and Kam Tin. Spring records comprised seven at Lok Ma Chau on 11<sup>th</sup> May and one at Kam Tin on 11-12<sup>th</sup> May. The peak count in the second winter period was 15 at Mai Po on 23<sup>rd</sup> October; smaller numbers were also reported from Long Valley, Tsim Bei Tsui, San Tin, Shek Kong, Kam Tin and Mong Tseng.

**2006:** Except for one on Po Toi on 18<sup>th</sup> May and four at Lok Ma Chau on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, all reports occurred up to 26<sup>th</sup> March and from 14<sup>th</sup> September, with record numbers present in early October. The Deep Bay area accounted for all records in the first three months of the year, the peak count being 26 at Tsim Bei Tsui on 27<sup>th</sup> January, with smaller numbers noted at Lok Ma Chau, Mai Po, Mong Tseng, San Tin and Pak Nai. In the last four months of the year, with the exception of one or two on Po Toi on five dates between 15<sup>th</sup> September and 22<sup>nd</sup> October and one at Chek Lap Kok on 25<sup>th</sup> September, all records were again from the Deep Bay area and the peak count was 106 at Mong Tseng on 2<sup>nd</sup> October (DAD). This is the largest number yet recorded, the previous highest

count being 74 at the same locality on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1997. Subsequently, the only significant reports were of 42 at San Tin on 27<sup>th</sup> October and 17 there on 20<sup>th</sup> December.

**194A Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis* 珠頸斑鳩**

**2005 & 2006:** No significant reports.

**196A Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica* 綠背金鳩**

**2005:** Reported in all months except July, August and November, with most records from the central and eastern NT. Up to three were noted at Pak Sha O on 3<sup>rd</sup> April and on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> December, and two were found at So Lo Pun on 11<sup>th</sup> February and 5<sup>th</sup> April. All other records involved single birds on one or two dates at Mai Po NR, Ma Tso Lung, Long Valley, Kap Lung, Ng Tung Chai, Lam Tsuen, Tai Po Kau NR, Tai Po Kau Headland, Chinese University campus, Fung Yuen, Shuen Wan, Wu Kau Tang, Sha Tin Pass, Tei Tong Tsai (Lantau) and Sunset Peak.

**2006:** Reported from widespread localities in the NT and on offshore islands in all months except December. Peak counts were six at Dong Ping Chau on 1<sup>st</sup> April, the second highest count on record (the highest being a total of seven logged in a survey of Tai Po Kau by multiple observers on 11<sup>th</sup> July 1982), and three at Lok Ma Chau on 11<sup>th</sup> June and three at Ma Tat (Lamma) on 22<sup>nd</sup> June. All other reports were of one or two birds. No locality accounted for more than two records, apart from Ng Tung Chai, where there were three records. In addition to the localities mentioned, reports were also received from Mai Po, Man Uk Pin, Ping Kong, Shek Kong, Fung Kat Heung, Tai Po Kau NR, Tai Po Kau Headland, Lung Fu Shan, Sam Mun Tsai, Shuen Wan, Sam A Wat, Nam Chung, Ho Chung, Wonderland Villa (Kwai Chung), Po Toi and Tung O (Lamma).

**196.9A Orange-breasted Green Pigeon *Treron bicinctus* 橙胸綠鳩**

**2006:** One of the endemic Hainan subspecies *T.b. domvillii* was seen on Po Toi on 18<sup>th</sup> February (GH) and again on 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March (GW). This most unexpected addition to the Hong Kong List was the first record of this taxon for approximately 30 years (Plate 28). What is presumed to be the same, returning individual was seen again on 2<sup>nd</sup> October (GJC) and 22<sup>nd</sup> November (GW).

**197A Thick-billed Green Pigeon *Treron curvirostra* 厚嘴綠鳩**

**2006:** A female was at the Golden Triangle, Lam Tsuen from 5-27<sup>th</sup> January (MH *et al.*).

**198A White-bellied Green Pigeon *Treron sieboldii* 紅翅綠鳩**

**2006:** A female was at Airfield Road, Shek Kong on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> December (DAD).

**201A Chestnut-winged Cuckoo *Clamator coromandus* 紅翅鳳頭鵯**

**2005:** Recorded between 5<sup>th</sup> April and 5<sup>th</sup> August. In April, which accounted for most records, up to three were noted at Ng Tung Chai on eight dates between 5<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, and there were also singles at Lion Rock on 17<sup>th</sup>, Tai Po Kau Headland on 27<sup>th</sup> and Sai O on 30<sup>th</sup>. Subsequent reports, with the exception of a bird in poor condition found at Sai Kung and taken into care on 5<sup>th</sup> August, comprised one at Ho Chung on 6<sup>th</sup> May, two at Tai Lam CP on 16<sup>th</sup> May, one at Sai O on 20<sup>th</sup> June, one at Violet Hill on 3<sup>rd</sup> July and two at Sha Lo Tung in July.

**2006:** Reported from widespread localities between 29<sup>th</sup> March (a rare record in that month) and 17<sup>th</sup> June, with four further records between 2<sup>nd</sup> August and 8<sup>th</sup> October. All reports were of one or two birds, most of which were heard, with singing also noted at night in early April and late May. Three localities (Ng Tung Chai, Tai Po Kau and Tai Po Kau Headland) accounted for the majority of records in the main period of occurrence. All other records at this time involved birds on single dates at the following localities: Nam Wa Po, Ham Tin, Ho Chung, Sha Lo Tung and Po Toi (in April), Sai Kung, Chek Nai Ping and Yung Shue O (May) and Fung Kat Heung, Ping Kong, Man Uk Pin, Mong Tseng and Fung Yuen (June). The four records outside the main period comprised singles at Mai Po on 2<sup>nd</sup> August, Po Toi from 30<sup>th</sup> August to 7<sup>th</sup> September, Yung Shue Ha (Lamma) on 7<sup>th</sup> September and Mai Po on 8<sup>th</sup> October.

**202A Large Hawk Cuckoo *Hierococcyx sparveroides* 鷹鵯**

**2005:** One singing at Kam Tin on 8<sup>th</sup> February (JAA) was by three days the earliest on record. There were no further records until 12<sup>th</sup> March, when one was heard at Sha Lo Tung. Subsequently in March, singles were noted at KFBG, Ng Tung Chai, Sham Wat Wan (Lantau), Tung Chung, Tai Po Kau, Yung Shue O and Sha Tin Pass. Reports became more frequent in April, with mainly single birds singing at most of these sites and also at Sai O, Shuen Wan, Long Valley and again at Kam Tin. In May, birds were reported throughout the month at Shuen Wan and occasionally also at Shek Kong Catchment, Ng Tung Chai, Sai O and Tai Po Kau. Singles heard at Sai O on 13<sup>th</sup> June and Sha Tin Pass on 30<sup>th</sup> June were the last of the year.

**2006:** Reported from 3<sup>rd</sup> March to 5<sup>th</sup> July, which are typical dates, with three further records from 21<sup>st</sup> August to 16<sup>th</sup> September. Except for one on Po Toi on 16<sup>th</sup> May, all records were from the NT, mostly involving singing birds. Seven localities together accounted for over 70% of records: Nam Wa Po (singles, 10<sup>th</sup> March-23<sup>rd</sup> April), Lam Tsuen (up to three, 10<sup>th</sup> March-30<sup>th</sup> April), Tai Po Kau (up to four, 18<sup>th</sup> March-4<sup>th</sup> June), Tai Po Kau Headland (up to three, 18<sup>th</sup> March-30<sup>th</sup> April), Siu Lam (up to three, 19<sup>th</sup> March-28<sup>th</sup> May), Long Valley (up to two, 14<sup>th</sup> April-17<sup>th</sup> June) and Shuen Wan (up to two, 7<sup>th</sup> May-5<sup>th</sup> July). There were

also occasional records at Castle Peak, Tsim Bei Tsui, Shek Kong, Shing Mun, Chek Nai Ping, Sha Lo Tung, Fung Yuen and Kowloon Hills Catchment. Outside the main period, singles were noted at Mai Po on 21<sup>st</sup> August, Long Valley on 8<sup>th</sup> September (DAD) and Tai Po Kau on 16<sup>th</sup> September (TJW), the latter two being the latest dates on record.

### **203A Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo *Hierococcyx fugax* 棕腹杜鵑**

**2003:** A singing bird was noted at Ng Tung Chai on 1<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> April, 13<sup>th</sup> May and 6<sup>th</sup> June.

**2004:** A singing bird was noted along Route Twisk on 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> April.

**2005:** Single singing birds noted at two sites: at Ng Tung Chai on 13 dates between 3<sup>rd</sup> April and 28<sup>th</sup> May and at Tai Po Kau on three dates between 22<sup>nd</sup> April and 18<sup>th</sup> May.

**2006:** Recorded between 3<sup>rd</sup> April and 4<sup>th</sup> June as follows: at Shek Kong Catchment on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, Ng Tung Chai on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> April, Po Toi on 29<sup>th</sup> April, Pak Sha O on 29<sup>th</sup> April, Tai Po Kau on five dates between 1<sup>st</sup> May and 4<sup>th</sup> June and Shing Mun on 12<sup>th</sup> May. All records were of single birds, mostly in song, except for two at Tai Po Kau on 20<sup>th</sup> May.

### **204A Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus* 四聲杜鵑**

**2005:** Single birds, mostly heard, were occasionally recorded at ten localities between 10<sup>th</sup> April and 13<sup>th</sup> June, which are typical dates. The only localities accounting for three or more records were Long Valley and Sai O. All records in April, with the exception of two records at Ng Tung Chai in the last week of the month, were in the Deep Bay area at Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung), Long Valley, Kam Tin, Nai Chung and Mai Po, whereas all records in May, apart from one at Tai O (Lantau) on 11<sup>th</sup>, were from the eastern NT at Shuen Wan and Sai O. The final records of the year were at Sunset Peak (Lantau) on 12<sup>th</sup> June and at Nai Chung and Sai O on 13<sup>th</sup> June.

**2006:** Recorded on 2<sup>nd</sup> April to 17<sup>th</sup> June. A chick observed in a Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus* nest on 16<sup>th</sup> June (JAA) is one of only a few confirmed breeding records. Elsewhere, up to three adults were noted on Po Toi from 18<sup>th</sup> April to 2<sup>nd</sup> June and up to two were at Long Valley between 22<sup>nd</sup> April and 4<sup>th</sup> June and at Ho Sheung Heung on 18<sup>th</sup> May. All other records were of single adults, mostly in song, at Mai Po (13<sup>th</sup> April-20<sup>th</sup> May), Shuen Wan (7<sup>th</sup> May and 17<sup>th</sup> June) and at the following localities on single dates: Palm Springs, Tsim Bei Tsui, Kam Tin (all 2-13<sup>th</sup> April), Siu Lam (11<sup>th</sup> May) and Mong Tseng (11<sup>th</sup> June).

### **205A Horsfield's Cuckoo *Cuculus horsfieldi* 中杜鵑**

**2005:** Singles at So Lo Pun on 5<sup>th</sup> April and near Mai Po on 16<sup>th</sup> April were the only spring records. A juvenile on Po Toi on 28<sup>th</sup> August (MK, PW), the earliest ever autumn date by 12 days, was the only subsequent report.



**2006:** Spring records comprised one at the Golden Triangle, Lam Tsuen on 26<sup>th</sup> March (DAD), the earliest date on record by eight days, and two on Po Toi on 15<sup>th</sup> April. In autumn, singles were noted on Po Toi on 12<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> September, Mai Po on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, Long Valley on 25<sup>th</sup> September and again on Po Toi on 10<sup>th</sup> October.

**206A Asian Lesser Cuckoo *Cuculus poliocephalus* 小杜鵑**

**2005:** One found at Lok Mei village was transferred to KFBG on 28<sup>th</sup> September (KFBG).

**2006:** One was on Po Toi on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2006 (P & MW) (Plate 9).

Although identification of non-adult *Cuculus* cuckoos remains somewhat problematic, based on current knowledge, these birds appeared typical of this species.

**207A Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus* 八聲杜鵑**

**2005:** Recorded in all months except October, with singing noted between 27<sup>th</sup> January and 9<sup>th</sup> July. Peak counts were five at Kam Tin on 12<sup>th</sup> April and four at Ping Che on 17<sup>th</sup> February. Except for three at Mai Po on 18<sup>th</sup> May and three at Ngau Tam Mei on 30<sup>th</sup> December, all other reports were of one or two birds. In a similar pattern to previous years, the Deep Bay area and adjacent lowlands, notably including Long Valley and Kam Tin, accounted for all records in autumn and early winter. Records in spring and early summer were from more widespread areas, including So Lo Pun, Shuen Wan, Ng Tung Chai, Shek Kong Catchment, Tai Po Kau Headland and Nai Chung.

**2006:** Recorded in all months of the year, with singing noted between 14<sup>th</sup> February and 24<sup>th</sup> August. Apart from one at Kowloon Park on 11<sup>th</sup> April, all records were from the NT. The peak counts were five at Kam Tin on 29<sup>th</sup> August, three at Long Valley on 7<sup>th</sup> January and 11<sup>th</sup> October, and three at Airfield Road, Shek Kong on 2<sup>nd</sup> April. All other reports were of one or two birds. Long Valley and Kam Tin accounted for all records up to 5<sup>th</sup> February and nearly all from 20<sup>th</sup> August. From mid February to mid August, reports were from widespread areas, including Siu Lam, Lam Tsuen Valley, Tai Po Kau Headland, Fung Yuen, Sam Mun Tsai, Shuen Wan and Tai Mei Tuk.

**207.5A Drongo Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris* 烏鵲**

**2002:** One was at Tai Po Kau on 21<sup>st</sup> September (KPK).

**2004:** One was at Tai Po Kau on 21-22<sup>nd</sup> August (P & MW).

**2006:** One was at Tai Po Kau 16<sup>th</sup> September (JAA).



**Plate 9.** Asian Lesser Cuckoo *Cuculus poliocephalus* 小杜鵑  
Po Toi, Hong Kong, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2006  
Michelle and Peter Wong

**208A Common Koel *Eudynamys scolopacea* 噪鵲**

**2005:** Recorded in all months, with singing noted between 29<sup>th</sup> January and 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Apart from one found in poor condition at Tsim Sha Tsui on 12<sup>th</sup> May and taken into care, all reports were from the NT, especially the Deep Bay area

and adjacent lowlands. Peak counts were at Mai Po NR, including ten on 19<sup>th</sup> April, 13 on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 11 on 6<sup>th</sup> July and 16 on 19<sup>th</sup> September (WWFHK), the latter equalling the highest single-site count of this species (11<sup>th</sup> September 2004, also at Mai Po NR). Highest counts elsewhere were seven at Kam Tin on 7<sup>th</sup> May and five at Airfield Road, Shek Kong on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** Recorded in all months, with singing noted between 29<sup>th</sup> January and 17<sup>th</sup> June. Single birds were noted at three urban localities - Kowloon Park on 17<sup>th</sup> February and 11<sup>th</sup> April, Kwun Tong on 15<sup>th</sup> April and Signal Hill, Tsim Sha Tsui on 16<sup>th</sup> September – and singles were regularly seen on Po Toi between 1<sup>st</sup> June and 22<sup>nd</sup> November, with two there on 18<sup>th</sup> August and 1<sup>st</sup> October. All other reports were from widespread parts of the NT, with largest numbers again noted at Mai Po NR, including ten on 24<sup>th</sup> June, nine on 21<sup>st</sup> August and eight on 24<sup>th</sup> September. Peak counts elsewhere were six at Airfield Road, Shek Kong on 5<sup>th</sup> March and five at Long Valley on 31<sup>st</sup> August. A juvenile was being fed by two Black-collared Starlings at Ho Sheung Heung on 15<sup>th</sup> June.

**209A Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis* 褐翅鴉鵂**

**2005** Peak counts were ten at Mai Po NR on 22<sup>nd</sup> August and 17<sup>th</sup> October

**2006:** No significant reports.

**210A Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis* 小鴉鵂**

**2005 & 2006:** No significant reports.

**212A Oriental Scops Owl *Otus sunia* 紅角鴞**

**2000:** One was calling in Tai Po Kau on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> April, 17<sup>th</sup> May and 13<sup>th</sup> June (RWL).

**2005:** One at Cloudy Hill on 17<sup>th</sup> November was the only record.

**2006:** Single birds were present at Cloudy Hill on 29<sup>th</sup> October and 4<sup>th</sup> November. In addition, two birds were found in poor condition in the urban areas – at Ho Ma Tin on 13<sup>th</sup> November and Cheung Sha Wan on 20<sup>th</sup> November - and taken into care at KFBG. Whilst the former unfortunately died, the latter was successfully rehabilitated and released at Cloudy Hill nine days later.

**213A Collared Scops Owl *Otus lettia* 領角鴞**

**2005:** Recorded in all months, with most reports in January and April. Four at Bride's Pool on 11<sup>th</sup> March was the highest count of the year, and one or two birds were noted on multiple dates at Sai O, Ng Tung Chai, Tai Po Kau and Tai Po Kau Headland and on single dates at Kam Tin, Luk Keng, Tai Lam CP, Po Toi and Cloudy Hill. In addition four birds were found injured in the urban areas and taken into care at KFBG. Of these, one died and three were successfully rehabilitated and released.

**2006:** In a poor year, most reports were in October. One or two birds were noted at Pak Sha O, Tai Po Kau Headland, Ng Tung Chai, Tai Po Kau, Po Toi, Tai Lam Chung and Lam Tsuen.



**Plate 10.** Oriental Scops Owl *Otus sunia* 紅角鴞  
Cloudy Hill, Hong Kong, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2006  
Michelle and Peter Wong

**214A Eurasian Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo* 鵞鴞**

**2005:** One was present in the hills near Kam Tin on 27<sup>th</sup> January. In addition, one was found in poor condition at Sai Ho Wan on 3<sup>rd</sup> January and subsequently died.

**2006:** One was present at Sunset Peak (Lantau) on 10<sup>th</sup> February and one was seen calling from a rock at Pak Nai on 10<sup>th</sup> March.



**215A Brown Fish Owl *Ketupa zeylonensis* 褐漁鴞**

**2004:** One was seen near Pak Nai on 28<sup>th</sup> October.

**2005:** In a good year, recorded at three localities: up to two at Tai Lam CP on 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> March; at Tai Tan, Sai Kung on 27<sup>th</sup> March; and at Pak Sha O on 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

**2006:** Singles were noted at Tai Lam CP on 22<sup>nd</sup> January and 5<sup>th</sup> February and at Tai Po Kau, a new locality for this fine owl, on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> August.

**216A Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides* 斑頭鵂鶯**

**2005:** Up to three were noted at Kam Tin in February and October. Elsewhere, reports were of one or two birds at Pak Nai and Tai Po Kau (January), Tai Lam CP and Fung Kat Heung (February), Wu Kau Tang and Lok Ma Chau (March), Ho Pui and Long Valley (May), Mai Po (August and October) and Wu Keng Shan and Hang Tau Tsuen (September). Juveniles were noted at Chuk Yeung Road on 3<sup>rd</sup> May and at Long Valley on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May.

**2006:** Recorded in all months except July. Kam Tin, where up to four were noted, together with Tai Lam Chung CP and Beas River accounted for the bulk of records. Juveniles were reported from Beas River on 31<sup>st</sup> May and at Ho Sheung Heung on 15<sup>th</sup> June. Elsewhere singles were noted at Sam A Tsuen (February), Airfield Road, Shek Kong (February and April), Mong Tseng and Tai Po Kau (March), Long Valley (April and May), Shuen Wan (September), Tai Po Kau Headland (October) and Pat Heung (November).

**217A Northern Boobook *Ninox japonica* 鷹鴞**

**2004:** One was in Kowloon Park on 21<sup>st</sup> April (CM-G).

**2005:** One was at Kam Tin on 21<sup>st</sup> October (JAA).

**2006:** Singles were reported on Po Toi on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> April, and 16<sup>th</sup> May, when one was seen arriving from the sea at the southern end, and flying over the sea in southern waters on 8<sup>th</sup> April and 5<sup>th</sup> May. One was found in an industrial building in Chai Wan on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, though its origin is uncertain.

**219A Grey Nightjar *Caprimulgus indicus* 普通夜鷹**

**2005:** One found in poor condition at Tseung Kwan O on 2<sup>nd</sup> October that died in care the next day was the only record.

**2006:** In spring, one was heard at Pak Sha O, a possible new breeding locality for the species, on 29<sup>th</sup> April and two were present at Yung Shue O on 7<sup>th</sup> May. Autumn records comprised one on Po Toi on 17<sup>th</sup> October and another found in poor condition in the urban area at Yau Ma Tei on 18<sup>th</sup> November, which died in care the next day.

**220A Savanna Nightjar *Caprimulgus affinis* 林夜鷹**

**2005:** In the area bordering Deep Bay, up to four were noted at Kam Tin on 18<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> January, 16<sup>th</sup> February, 28<sup>th</sup> July and 14<sup>th</sup> November, and singles were reported from Fung Kat Heung on 28<sup>th</sup> January, Mai Po on 28<sup>th</sup> January and 12<sup>th</sup> December, Tsim Bei Tsui on 19<sup>th</sup> February and Chau Tau on 11<sup>th</sup> March. Elsewhere, one was present at Tai Po Kau on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, an unusual locality for this species, and one or two were at Tai Lam Chung on 23<sup>rd</sup> April and 15<sup>th</sup> May.

**2006:** Kam Tin was again the best site with up to four noted between 16<sup>th</sup> February and 25<sup>th</sup> March. In the Deep Bay area two were at Pak Nai on 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March and singles were detected at Mai Po on 5<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> February, Tin Shui Wai on 3<sup>rd</sup> March and Chau Tau on 14<sup>th</sup> April and 13<sup>th</sup> October. Elsewhere, singles were reported from Sha Lo Tung on 3-4<sup>th</sup> March and 19<sup>th</sup> November, Siu Lam on three dates between 6<sup>th</sup> March and 16<sup>th</sup> April, Tai Lam Chung on 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> April, 14<sup>th</sup> October and 25<sup>th</sup> November and Po Toi on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and 20<sup>th</sup> October.

**221A Himalayan Swiftlet *Collocalia brevirostris* 短嘴金絲燕**

**2005:** One was at Kam Tin on 13<sup>th</sup> April (JAA).

**222A White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus* 白喉針尾雨燕**

**2006:** There were two records – 15 at Kam Tin on 25<sup>th</sup> March and six on Po Toi on 16<sup>th</sup> April.

**223A Silver-backed Needletail *Hirundapus cochinchinensis* 灰喉針尾雨燕**

**2005:** Three at Mai Po on 1<sup>st</sup> April and one on Po Toi on 2<sup>nd</sup> May were the only records.

**2006:** One on Po Toi on 21<sup>st</sup> March was followed by 15 at Kam Tin on 25<sup>th</sup> March and one near Mai Po on 26<sup>th</sup> March.

**225A Pacific Swift *Apus pacificus* 白腰雨燕**

**2005:** Following one near Mai Po on 31<sup>st</sup> January, up to six were noted over fishponds in the Deep Bay area on 13-14<sup>th</sup> February and during 8-16<sup>th</sup> March. A flock of 20 over fishponds beside the road to Mai Po NR on 1<sup>st</sup> April was the only double-digit count of the year. Subsequent reports there comprised four on 2<sup>nd</sup> April and two on 15-16<sup>th</sup> April. Elsewhere, records comprised two at Chek Lap Kok on 21<sup>st</sup> March, three at Shek Uk Shan (Sai Kung) on 27<sup>th</sup> March and two on Po Toi on 15<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> April.

**2006:** In the Deep Bay area, there were sightings of singles beside the road to Mai Po NR on 20<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> January and 3<sup>rd</sup> March, ten there on 4<sup>th</sup> March and



up to two there on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March and 8<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> April. Elsewhere in the NT, there were reports of one at Siu Lam on 16<sup>th</sup> April, two at Tai Po Kau Headland on 25<sup>th</sup> April and two at Long Valley on 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September, with six there on 29<sup>th</sup> September. On Po Toi, following one on 5<sup>th</sup> March, birds were regularly sighted between 2<sup>nd</sup> April and 3<sup>rd</sup> June, with a peak of 20 on 24<sup>th</sup> May, and also occasionally from 26<sup>th</sup> August to 13<sup>th</sup> October, with a peak of 10 on 12<sup>th</sup> September. In addition, 20 seen at cliffs on the East Ninepins on 11<sup>th</sup> June may have been nesting and one was seen at Waglan Island on the same date.

## 226A Little Swift *Apus affinis* 小白腰雨燕

**2005:** Peak counts were 200 over fishponds beside the road to Mai Po NR on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 200 at Tsim Bei Tsui on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 300 at Ma Tso Lung on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 500 at the road to Mai Po NR on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 500 at Tsim Bei Tsui on the same day, 500 at Mai Po on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 200 at Lut Chau on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 500 at Mai Po on 16<sup>th</sup> April and 150 at Kam Tin on 29<sup>th</sup> October.

**2006:** Largest counts were at fishponds beside the road to Mai Po NR, including 200 on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 800 on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 250 on 5<sup>th</sup> March and 200 on 17<sup>th</sup> December. The only other three-figure count was 100 at Long Valley on 10<sup>th</sup> January. Records on Po Toi comprised four on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 55 on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 11 on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 15 on 18<sup>th</sup> August, at least one on 14<sup>th</sup> September and one on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

## 228A Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* 斑魚狗

**2005:** Recorded throughout the year in the Deep Bay area and adjacent lowlands, including Kam Tin and Long Valley. The largest number detected was 25 in a co-ordinated count on 16<sup>th</sup> October. This is the second highest on record. The only reports elsewhere concerned up to five in the Starling Inlet area in most months and singles at Tai Lam Chung Reservoir on 26<sup>th</sup> February and 5<sup>th</sup> March. Results of co-ordinated counts in Deep Bay were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	11	12	10	16	13	13	10	nc	12	25	20	19

**2006:** In Deep Bay, where there were records in all months, the peak counts were 34 on 11<sup>th</sup> June and 27 on 19<sup>th</sup> November, both in in co-ordinated counts. These are the highest counts on record, surpassing a co-ordinated count of 26 in Deep Bay on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2004. In the lowlands near to Deep Bay, there were reports of up to five at Kam Tin in January-March and December, up to three at Long Valley in March-June and August, and a pair, thought to be breeding, at Ho Sheung Heung. Elsewhere, up to five were recorded in nearly all months of the year in the Starling Inlet area and one was present at Shuen Wan on 4<sup>th</sup> June. Results of co-ordinated counts in Deep Bay were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	14	18	16	21	15	34	14	16	21	12	27	11

### 229A Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* 普通翠鳥

**2005:** Recorded throughout the year in the Deep Bay area. This year's peak count of 64 in a co-ordinated Deep Bay count on 16<sup>th</sup> October is the third highest on record. In lowland areas near Deep Bay, there were counts of up to seven at Kam Tin and up to three at Long Valley, whilst in the Starling Inlet area up to six were present in the first four months of the year. Elsewhere, one or two were noted throughout the year at Nai Chung and there were occasional sightings at Chinese University, Kuk Po, Tung Chung, Shuen Wan, Tai Po Kau, Hang Tau Tsuen and Nam Wa Po mainly in the winter months. Results of co-ordinated counts in Deep Bay were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	49	36	40	35	16	17	33	nc	44	64	35	59

**2006:** Recorded throughout the year in Deep Bay, with a peak count of 70, the largest on record, in the co-ordinated count of 10<sup>th</sup> September. Numbers remained high in October and November, and a count of 67 on 19<sup>th</sup> November equalled the previous highest count dating back to August 2000. Elsewhere, up to three were regularly noted at Long Valley, Shuen Wan and Starling Inlet, singles were frequently sighted on Po Toi during 1-29<sup>th</sup> April and from 21<sup>st</sup> September to 25<sup>th</sup> October, and there were occasional reports of one or two at Lamma Island, Tai Po Kau, Nam Wa Po, Lam Tsuen, Yung Shue O, Siu Lam, Kowloon Hills Catchwater, Kwun Tong (15<sup>th</sup> April), Ma Wan, Tai Lam Chung and Sha Lo Tung. Results of co-ordinated counts in Deep Bay were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	50	32	36	25	16	18	20	40	70	64	67	27

### 229.9A Ruddy Kingfisher *Halcyon coromanda* 赤翡翠

**2006:** One was on Po Toi on 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May (GT, JACM); this is the first record for Hong Kong.

### 230A White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis* 白胸翡翠

**2005:** Recorded in all months. The peak count this year, 46 in a co-ordinated survey on 18<sup>th</sup> December, equalled the previous highest count recorded on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2000. Elsewhere, up to five were noted at Starling Inlet in most months, singles were regularly seen at Shuen Wan and Long Valley up to early April and from mid August, and there were occasional sightings at Kuk Po, Ping Che and Sam A Chung (all in February), Nai Chung (May) and Penfold Park and Pui O (September-October). In addition, breeding seems likely to have occurred at Ng Tung Chai, where following a sighting of two birds on 5<sup>th</sup> April, trilling was noted from 19<sup>th</sup> April to 7<sup>th</sup> May, one was observed food-carrying on 28<sup>th</sup> May

and an apparently bonded pair was still present on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Results of co-ordinated counts in Deep Bay were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	31	18	16	8	7	4	46	nc	19	39	35	46

**2006:** Recorded in all months. The peak count this year was 36 during the co-ordinated Deep Bay counts of both 8<sup>th</sup> October and 19<sup>th</sup> November. Elsewhere, up to four were regularly noted at Starling Inlet, Long Valley and Shuen Wan in most months of the year, and there were occasional reports at Lam Tsuen (in February), Dong Ping Chau (four on 1<sup>st</sup> April, one on 24<sup>th</sup> September), Tai Lam Chung (April, October), Tung O (June), Ng Tung Chai (July and September), Penfold Park and Kuk Po (September) and Po Toi (17<sup>th</sup> September, 5<sup>th</sup> October). Breeding was recorded at Siu Lam, where following sightings from 19<sup>th</sup> March, a pair was observed copulating on 6<sup>th</sup> April and five juveniles accompanied by an adult were noted on 11<sup>th</sup> June, with a further sighting of a juvenile on 9<sup>th</sup> July. The observation of five juveniles accords with the statement in Vaughan and Jones (1913) that five is the usual clutch size of this kingfisher in the Pearl River Delta area. Results of co-ordinated counts in Deep Bay were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	23	22	14	15	5	10	19	32	22	36	36	30

### 231A Black-capped Kingfisher *Halcyon pileata* 藍翡翠

**2005:** Recorded up to 23<sup>rd</sup> April and from 24<sup>th</sup> August. As usual, most reports were from Deep Bay, where the peak count was ten in the co-ordinated counts of 19<sup>th</sup> November and 17<sup>th</sup> December. Elsewhere, up to three were noted at Starling Inlet and Shuen Wan in most winter months and singles were occasionally reported from Lai Chi Wo and Tai O (in February), Tung Chung (March) and Ng Tung Chai and Sha Po (April). Results of co-ordinated counts in Deep Bay were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	7	1	2	3	0	2	0	nc	3	2	10	10

**2006:** Recorded up to 21<sup>st</sup> April and from 12<sup>th</sup> September, with the exception of one at Mai Po on 8<sup>th</sup> August and two there on 13<sup>th</sup> August. This year's peak counts, again recorded in co-ordinated counts in Deep Bay, were 13 on 19<sup>th</sup> November and ten on 17<sup>th</sup> December. Elsewhere, one or two were present at Shuen Wan in both winter periods, singles were on Po Toi on 24<sup>th</sup> April, during 12-21<sup>st</sup> September and on 4<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> October, and there were occasional reports of single birds at South Soko Islands (in January), Lam Tsuen (February-March), Kam Tin and Sha Lo Wan (March), Penfold Park (April), Long Valley (April, October), Dong Ping Chau (September) and So Lo Pun (October). Results of co-ordinated counts in Deep Bay were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DB	3	4	0	3	0	0	3	2	1	4	13	10

### 232A Collared Kingfisher *Halcyon chloris* 白領翡翠

**2004:** One was at Plover Cove Reservoir on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April (PC, MRL). This is the second Hong Kong record.

**2005:** Singles were at Tai O on 26<sup>th</sup> February (GH), and Mai Po NR on 10<sup>th</sup> September (KML) and 2<sup>nd</sup> October (CW). These are the third and fourth Hong Kong records.

### 233A Blue-throated Bee-eater *Merops viridis* 藍喉蜂虎

**2006:** One was on Po Toi on 17<sup>th</sup> September (P & MW).

### 234A Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus* 栗喉蜂虎

**2005:** There were just three records this year. In spring, three were at Mai Po NR on 30<sup>th</sup> April and seven, including a pair copulating, were at Lok Ma Chau on 8<sup>th</sup> May. This observation led to hopes that this species might breed in Hong Kong, but there were no further records until the autumn, when eight were at Lok Ma Chau on 18<sup>th</sup> October, the final record of the year.

**2006:** Spring records comprised four at Mai Po NR on 14<sup>th</sup> April, five there on 16<sup>th</sup> April and one on Po Toi on 25<sup>th</sup> April. In addition, four unidentified bee-eaters, thought to be probably this species, were at Kam Tin on 29<sup>th</sup> April. In autumn, 15 at Mai Po on 6<sup>th</sup> October was followed by six there the next day.

### 235A Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis* 三寶鳥

**2005:** One on Po Toi on 17<sup>th</sup> April, the first record of a rather poor spring, was followed by singles at Tai Po Kau on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> April, two there on 30<sup>th</sup> April, two at Ho Chung on 7<sup>th</sup> May and one at Ng Tung Chai on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> May. The first record of the autumn was one at Ngau Tam Mei on 7<sup>th</sup> September. This was followed by singles at Ng Tung Chai on 8<sup>th</sup> September and Tai Mo Shan on 10<sup>th</sup> September, two between Tung Chung and Sham Wat Wan and three on Po Toi on 11<sup>th</sup> September, singles at Ng Tung Chai on 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September and at Tai Po Kau Headland during 17-19<sup>th</sup> September, four at Hang Tau Tsuen and one at Kap Lung on 19<sup>th</sup> September, five at Fung Kat Heung on 20<sup>th</sup> September and three there and one beside the Lam Kam Road on 24<sup>th</sup> September.

**2006:** Spring records comprised, in April, two at Ham Tin on 13<sup>th</sup>, one at Ho Chung on 15<sup>th</sup>, one on Po Toi on 18<sup>th</sup>, 12 there on 28<sup>th</sup> (quite a large count in this season), one there on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, and three at Lam Tsuen and two at Hoi Ha on 30<sup>th</sup>, and in May, two at Ng Tung Chai on 2<sup>nd</sup> and one on Po Toi on 18<sup>th</sup>. One on Po Toi during 24-27<sup>th</sup> August (GW) is the earliest autumn record by 13 days. There were no further reports until 16<sup>th</sup> September when one was again present

on Po Toi; one or two were then regularly noted there until 15<sup>th</sup> October. Elsewhere, apart from singles at Tai Po Kau on 17<sup>th</sup> September, Ng Tung Chai on 25<sup>th</sup> September and Aberdeen Reservoir on 7<sup>th</sup> October, all reports were from Siu Lam, where, following two on 21<sup>st</sup> September, there were seven on 24<sup>th</sup>, two on 25<sup>th</sup> September, five on 1<sup>st</sup> October, three on 7<sup>th</sup>, four on 8<sup>th</sup> and singles during 11-14<sup>th</sup> October.

### **236A Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops* 戴勝**

**2005:** Recorded up to 17<sup>th</sup> March and from 10<sup>th</sup> September, with nearly all records from the Deep Bay area and hinterland. In the first winter period, two were present at Fung Lok Wai on 16<sup>th</sup> January and at Tsim Bei Tsui on 24<sup>th</sup> January and 7<sup>th</sup> March, with one noted singing at the latter site on 17<sup>th</sup> March. Elsewhere singles were reported from Kam Tin on 18<sup>th</sup> January and 17<sup>th</sup> February, Chinese University on 11<sup>th</sup> February, Long Valley on 22<sup>nd</sup> February and San Tin on 16<sup>th</sup> March. In the second winter period, the only reports concerned single birds at Beas River on 10<sup>th</sup> September and Long Valley on 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November and 26<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** Recorded up to 24<sup>th</sup> March and from 26<sup>th</sup> August. In the first winter period, one or two were regularly seen at Long Valley during 7-28<sup>th</sup> January, with further sightings of one there on 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> March. Elsewhere, singles were noted at Kam Tin on 17<sup>th</sup> January and on Po Toi from 17<sup>th</sup> February to 4<sup>th</sup> March and again on 24<sup>th</sup> March. One on Po Toi on 26<sup>th</sup> August, the first record of the second winter period, was followed by singles there on 12<sup>th</sup> September and 21<sup>st</sup> December. The only other reports in this period were of singles at Mai Po on 8<sup>th</sup> October and 25<sup>th</sup> December and Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung) on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

### **237A Great Barbet *Megalaima virens* 大擬鴉(大擬啄木鳥)**

**2005:** Up to two were reported from Ng Tung Chai, Tai Po Kau, Tai Po Kau Headland, Tai Mo Shan, Shing Mun, Kap Lung and KFBG, all of which lie within the Tai Mo Shan massif. In addition, one or two were noted on four dates at Mui Tsz Lam.

**2006:** Most records this year were from Tai Po Kau Headland where up to three were noted in February and from August to November. Elsewhere, there were occasional reports of one or two at Ng Tung Chai, Tai Po Kau, Shing Mun, Shek Kong Catchment and Sai Kung.

### **238A Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* 蟻鴉**

**2005:** Recorded up to 10<sup>th</sup> April and from 18<sup>th</sup> September. In the first winter period, singles were reported from Ma Tso Lung on 16<sup>th</sup> January and 10<sup>th</sup> April, Mai Po on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 26<sup>th</sup> March and 9<sup>th</sup> April, Ping Che on 16<sup>th</sup> February and Kam Tin on 25<sup>th</sup> February and 26<sup>th</sup> March. One beside the road to Mai Po NR on 18<sup>th</sup> September, the first record of the second winter period, was followed by singles at Kam Tin on 14<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> October, Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung)

on 18<sup>th</sup> December and Fung Yuen on 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> December, the latter being the only records of the year outside the Deep Bay area.

**2006:** Recorded up to 6<sup>th</sup> April and from 21<sup>st</sup> September. There were just four records in the first winter period – one at Lok Ma Chau on 8<sup>th</sup> January, two there on 23<sup>rd</sup> February and 2<sup>nd</sup> April and one on Po Toi on 6<sup>th</sup> April. In the second winter period, apart from two at Dong Ping Chau on 24<sup>th</sup> September and one at Ng Tung Chai on 20<sup>th</sup> November, all reports were from the Deep Bay area. These comprised singles at Long Valley on 21<sup>st</sup> September and 13<sup>th</sup> October, Mai Po on 23<sup>rd</sup> September and 14<sup>th</sup> October, Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung) on 19<sup>th</sup> November, San Tin fishponds on 29<sup>th</sup> November and Kam Tin on 10<sup>th</sup> December and two at Kam Tin on 24<sup>th</sup> December. The Kam Tin record of 10<sup>th</sup> December involved a bird trapped at Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung) on 18<sup>th</sup> December of the previous year.

**243A Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis* 黃嘴栗啄木鳥**

**2006:** A male was at Tai Po Kau on 26<sup>th</sup> December (AHP).

**244A Fairy Pitta *Pitta nympha* 仙八色鸚**

**2006:** One was at Tai Po Kau on 29<sup>th</sup> April (KPK).

**247A Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis* 雲雀**

**2005:** Except for three at Kam Tin on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, all reports were from Long Valley between 11<sup>th</sup> October and 6<sup>th</sup> December, where up to two birds were reported on nine dates.

**2006:** One was at Long Valley on five dates during 1-17<sup>th</sup> January.

**248A Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula* 小雲雀**

**2005:** Records comprised two at Tsim Bei Tsui on 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January, one there on 12<sup>th</sup> March, two at Kam Tin on 26<sup>th</sup> March, one there on 4<sup>th</sup> April, two at Ma Tso Lung on 16<sup>th</sup> October and singles at Mai Po on 20<sup>th</sup> October, Kam Tin on 25<sup>th</sup> October, Long Valley on 4<sup>th</sup> December and Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung) on 18<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** There were just two records of single birds: on Po Toi on 22<sup>nd</sup> April and at Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung) on 19<sup>th</sup> November.

**250A Pale Martin *Riparia diluta* 淡色沙燕**

**2005:** In a poor year, spring records comprised two at Fung Lok Wai on 4<sup>th</sup> April, one at the road to Mai Po NR on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 15 there on 10<sup>th</sup> May and two at Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung) on the same date. There was just one autumn record – one at San Tin on 21<sup>st</sup> October.



**2006:** Following sightings of singles at San Tin on 6<sup>th</sup> January, Mai Po on 17<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March and Long Valley on 26<sup>th</sup> March, passage picked up in April and early May with reports of ten on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 50 on 16<sup>th</sup> April and 20 on 4<sup>th</sup> May, all at fishponds beside the road to Mai Po NR, and 20 migrating over Po Toi on 15<sup>th</sup> April. In autumn, singles were noted at Mai Po on 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> October and at Tai Po Kau on 7<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **251A Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* 家燕**

**2005:** The only reports of the first two months of the year were from Mai Po on 15<sup>th</sup> January, Tin Shui Wai on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, Ng Tung Chai on 4<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> February (three), Wu Kau Tang on 11<sup>th</sup> February and Shuen Wan on 27<sup>th</sup> February, all involving single birds except as indicated. Passage briefly peaked in the second half of March and at the beginning of April, with counts of 250 at Lok Ma Chau on 17<sup>th</sup> March and 800 at the road to Mai Po NR, 200 at Lut Chau and 500 at San Tin, all on 1<sup>st</sup> April. Birds were then reported in small numbers (not more than 14 at any single site) from widespread areas in the NT until the end of August, with breeding noted at Ng Tung Chai and Nai Chung. Subsequently, there were only four reports – two at sea in southern waters on 11<sup>th</sup> September, four at Tai Mo Shan on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 25 at Mai Po on 30<sup>th</sup> October and finally two at Port Island on 24<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** Two at Nam Chung on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 20 at Mai Po on 21<sup>st</sup> January and one or two at Ng Tung Chai, Kam Tin, Po Toi and Stanley during the first two and a half weeks of February were the only reports prior to the first signs of breeding, which were noted at Palm Springs, Nam Wa Po and Lam Tsuen during 19-26<sup>th</sup> February. Spring passage was unusually weak, the peak counts being 60 at the road to Mai Po NR on 5<sup>th</sup> March, 40 at Airfield Road, Shek Kong on 25<sup>th</sup> March and 25 on Po Toi on 21<sup>st</sup> May (the first two of these records may well have involved local breeders). There were then no significant records until late August when southward passage was noted, with up to 24 on Po Toi from 29<sup>th</sup> August to 19<sup>th</sup> September and up to 15 at Long Valley throughout September. Peak autumn counts were 77 at Mai Po on 14<sup>th</sup> October and 300 there on 21<sup>st</sup> October. These were the last records of the year except for one on Po Toi on 1<sup>st</sup> November.

#### **252A Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* 金腰燕**

**2005:** Breeding again occurred at Kam Tin. Following an observation of four birds there on 19<sup>th</sup> January, two of which were collecting mud for nest-building, there were no further records until March when one bird was noted on 7<sup>th</sup> and four again were present on 22<sup>nd</sup>, including one with nest material; three were noted on 13<sup>th</sup> April and breeding was finally confirmed on 3<sup>rd</sup> May when a pair were seen feeding unfledged chicks; subsequently two active nests were observed on 9<sup>th</sup> May and four birds including two juveniles on 29<sup>th</sup> July were the last of the year at this locality (JAA). Elsewhere, apart from one at Chek Keng on 14<sup>th</sup> February, all records were from the Deep Bay area. Up to four were occasionally noted at Lok Ma Chau, Mai Po and Ma Tso Lung between the last week of January and the first week of March and, in a very light spring

passage, up to three were at Mai Po, San Tin and Sha Po during 13-16<sup>th</sup> April. Three at Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung) on 16<sup>th</sup> October were the first of the autumn. Subsequent records comprised up to eight at Long Valley on 5<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November, two at Ma Tso Lung on 9<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December and up to 23 in the Mai Po area on 28<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> December.

**2006:** In January, peak counts were 34 at Lut Chau on 10<sup>th</sup> (also the highest count of the year) and 16 along the road to Mai Po NR on 20<sup>th</sup>, with up to eight also noted at Lok Ma Chau, San Tin, Long Valley, Kam Tin, Ma Tso Lung and Sha Chau during 4-28<sup>th</sup>. Three at Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung) on 9<sup>th</sup> February was the only report received for that month. Subsequently, apart from two on Po Toi on 6<sup>th</sup> April and 21<sup>st</sup> May, two at Tai Lam Chung on 14<sup>th</sup> April and 30 at the road to Mai Po NR on 16<sup>th</sup> April, all other records from the first week of March to the middle of November concerned up to six birds at various localities in Deep Bay, all of which may have belonged to the local breeding population. At least four juveniles were seen going to roost in a nest at Kam Tin on 25<sup>th</sup> May (JAA), again confirming breeding at this locality. Birds were also observed singing near a potential nesting site at Mai Po village on 14<sup>th</sup> March and collecting nesting material at two sites (Kam Tin on 3<sup>rd</sup> June and 24<sup>th</sup> December and San Tin on 29<sup>th</sup> November). In the last two months of the year, numbers increased, with 12 at Long Valley on 19<sup>th</sup> November, up to 22 at San Tin on 29<sup>th</sup> November and 20<sup>th</sup> December and 11 at Ma Tso Lung on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

#### **253A Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus* 煙腹毛腳燕**

**2005:** Most reports in the first three months of the year were from the road to Mai Po NR, where there were singles on four dates between 15<sup>th</sup> January and 28<sup>th</sup> February and up to five on five dates during 1-14<sup>th</sup> March. Other reports in this period concerned three at Sha Po on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, six at Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung) on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, one or two at Kam Tin on 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March, ten at Nam Chung on 10<sup>th</sup> March and one at San Tin on 16<sup>th</sup> March. The only subsequent records in the first half of the year occurred during 13-15<sup>th</sup> April, when up to three were at the road to Mai Po NR, San Tin, Sha Po and Long Valley. In the second half of the year there were just four records - two at Tai Po Kau on 19<sup>th</sup> November, nine at Lam Tsuen on 20<sup>th</sup> November, one at Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung) on 9<sup>th</sup> December and 15 at Nam Chung, the peak count of the year, on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** In a rather poor year, singles at Lut Chau on 10<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> January were followed by up to six at Mai Po on 16<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March, three at the road to Mai Po NR on 16<sup>th</sup> April, one on Po Toi on 28<sup>th</sup> April and one at Ng Tung Chai on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> December.

#### **254A Forest Wagtail *Dendronanthus indicus* 林鵲鵒**

**2005:** A wintering bird was noted several times at Tai Po Kau between 6<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> January. In autumn singles were noted at Ho Chung on 28<sup>th</sup> July, Fung Yuen on 28<sup>th</sup> August and Twisk Camp Site Area on 10<sup>th</sup> September. A single was also noted at Shing Mun on 28<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** In the first part of the year, singles were at Kowloon Reservoir on 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February, and at Kowloon Hills Catchwater and Shing Mun on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Autumn records comprised singles on Po Toi on 30<sup>th</sup> August and 10<sup>th</sup> September, Fung Yuen on 17<sup>th</sup> September and Ng Tung Chai on 18<sup>th</sup> September. A much-watched individual lingered at Mai Po during 17-24<sup>th</sup> September. A good autumn for this species ended with one at Lai Chi Wo on 1<sup>st</sup> October.

**255A Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* 黃鵪鶉**



**Plate 11.** Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava taivana* 黃鵪鶉  
Fung Lok Wai, Hong Kong, April 2006  
John & Jemi Holmes

**2005:** Although the commonest taxon occurring in Hong Kong, few ascribed records of *taivana* were received. The highest counts were 50 along the road to Mai Po NR on 15<sup>th</sup> January, with 40 there on 24<sup>th</sup> January, and 29 at Long Valley on 10<sup>th</sup> December.

The three spring records of *tschutschensis* received occurred in April, with 35 along the road to Mai Po NR on 30<sup>th</sup> being the highest count. The two autumn records occurred on 31<sup>st</sup> August and 1<sup>st</sup> September, both involving singles.

Only five records of *macronyx* were received. These comprised, in April, one on 13<sup>th</sup> and three on 30<sup>th</sup>, in November, seven on 12<sup>th</sup> and ten on 26<sup>th</sup>, and one on 10<sup>th</sup> December.

Birds unasccribed to taxon were noted up to 27<sup>th</sup> April and from 24<sup>th</sup> August to the end of the year. The highest counts were 50 at Long Valley on 26<sup>th</sup> November and 37 at Kam Tin on 29<sup>th</sup> January. All birds were noted at lowlying areas of Hong Kong, primarily the northern NT, with some birds noted over the sea.

**2006:** Most ascribed reports were of *taivana*. Singles were reported from midwinter here and there but spring passage was most evident with 83 along the road to Mai Po NR on 28<sup>th</sup> March. Long Valley hosted up to 52 *taivana* in late April.

Evidence of *tschutschensis* passage included 16 at Long Valley on 20<sup>th</sup> April, an exhausted single that stayed on a boat during a seabird outing for a couple of hours on 29<sup>th</sup> April, and a peak count of 260 *tschutschensis* at Long Valley on 4<sup>th</sup> May.

Autumn records began on 24<sup>th</sup> August and peaked at Long Valley (again mainly *taivana*) in late October.

Evidence of *tschutschensis* passage included 14 at Long Valley on 31<sup>st</sup> August and 45 there on 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Eight *tschutschensis* were also reported from Long Valley on 8<sup>th</sup> October.

Singles of *macronyx* were noted on several dates from 23<sup>rd</sup> September, as well as four on 1<sup>st</sup> October and the highest count of 13 at Long Valley on 15<sup>th</sup> October. Observers are encouraged to ascribe birds to taxon where possible.

#### **256A Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* 黃頭鵲**

**2005:** Singles were noted at Lin Barn Tsuen on 21<sup>st</sup> January and at Long Valley on 8<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** Singles were at Long Valley on 14<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> January, and a female was at Kam Tin on 29<sup>th</sup> April.

#### **257A Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* 灰鵲**

**2005:** Mostly singles were noted in scattered localities between 6<sup>th</sup> January and 25<sup>th</sup> April, with a high count of 23 at a night roost at Nam Sang Wai on 23<sup>rd</sup> February. A single at Bluff Island on 23<sup>rd</sup> May was unusually late. Autumn records occurred from 10<sup>th</sup> August, when it was noted in single figures at Mai Po NR, Nam Wah Po, Ng Tung Chai, Shek Kong and Long Valley until the end of the year.

**2006:** Noted mostly in single figures from various sites from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 30<sup>th</sup> April, with the channel at Airfield Road a particularly favoured site. After three at Pak Nai on 15<sup>th</sup> May, the latest records were on Po Toi, where singles occurred on 18<sup>th</sup> May and 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Recorded again from 24<sup>th</sup> August to the end of the year, with no more than three at any one site until the end of October. Subsequently up to eight were recorded at Airfield Road, while five at Kowloon Hills catchwater was the next highest count.

## 258A White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* 白鶺鴒

**2005:** *M.a. leucopsis* was widely noted throughout the winter with the highest counts being 100 along the road to Mai Po NR on 24<sup>th</sup> January and 48 at Kam Tin on 29<sup>th</sup> January, while a further 30 unascrbed birds at Tsim Bei Tsui on 30<sup>th</sup> January appear likely to have also been this taxon, suggesting a significant influx at this time. Breeding records comprised a family party at Penfold Park on 26<sup>th</sup> April, four recently-fledged juveniles at Kam Tin on 8<sup>th</sup> May, a juvenile at Tai Po Kau Headland on 2<sup>nd</sup> July and an adult and two juveniles at Twisk Camp Site on 10<sup>th</sup> September. Migrant numbers picked up from the end of August, with the highest count being 12 on 21<sup>st</sup> October.

*M.a. ocularis* was reported until 22<sup>nd</sup> March, followed by a further record on 26<sup>th</sup> April, with the peak count during this time being 15 at Pak Nai on 16<sup>th</sup> January. Only three reports were received for the latter part of the year, comprising up to three at Penfold Park near the end of October and four at Airfield Road on 24<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** Rather lower numbers were reported in the first winter period compared with 2005, with the highest count being ten at Airfield Road on 22<sup>nd</sup> January. Records of juveniles occurred from 25<sup>th</sup> March to 4<sup>th</sup> June at Airfield Road, Lam Tsuen, San Tin, Pat Heung, Ho Sheung Heung, Mai Po, Kam Tin and Long Valley. Numbers increased in the last ten days of August, though somewhat lower numbers were present in September, followed by another increase occurring in early October that peaked at 26 at Long Valley on 15<sup>th</sup>, the highest count of the year.

*M.a. ocularis* was reported until 14<sup>th</sup> April and from 15<sup>th</sup> October, with the highest counts being six in the first winter period and four in the second.

Increased record submission of *M. a. ocularis* at all times of year, and of *M. a. leucopsis* in the breeding season or when occurring in significant numbers is encouraged. The numbers and distribution of *ocularis* remain unclear, while the current breeding distribution of *leucopsis* within Hong Kong still needs to be fully established.

## 259A Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi* 田鸫

**2005:** Noted from midwinter until 7<sup>th</sup> May with high counts of 23 at Kam Tin on 23<sup>rd</sup> January and 24 at Chek Lap Kok on 27<sup>th</sup> April. Autumn reports began on 19<sup>th</sup> September with most from Long Valley in November, including the highest of 15 on 19<sup>th</sup>.

The only report of the breeding taxon *sinensis* was of an adult and a juvenile on 28<sup>th</sup> May on Tai Mo Shan. However, an unusual record of three at Kam Tin on 29<sup>th</sup> July may have been *sinensis*.

**2006:** Noted until 18<sup>th</sup> May, mainly at Lam Tsuen, Ham Tin, Kam Tin and Long Valley, with the highest count being nine at Long Valley on 26<sup>th</sup> February. Autumn records begin again with reports of singles at Kam Tin and on Po Toi, at the latter of which one or two were recorded daily until 2<sup>nd</sup> November.



Elsewhere, the highest counts of the autumn were from Chek Lap Kok, with 38 on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 42 on 31<sup>st</sup> October and 38 on 29<sup>th</sup> November.

Reports of presumed *sinensis* comprised one at Tai Mo Shan on 24<sup>th</sup> June and three at Pat Sin Leng on 30<sup>th</sup> July.

#### **260A Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* 樹鵲**

**2005:** Reported from the start of the year until 23<sup>rd</sup> April from widespread wooded or semi-wooded localities, with the highest count being 14 at Kam Tin on 29<sup>th</sup> January. Noted again from 22<sup>nd</sup> October, with highest numbers occurring in the final week of November, when 18 were at Tai Po Kau Headland, 13 were at Lam Tsuen and 30 were at Long Valley. Subsequently the most significant count was 21 at Lam Tsuen on 26<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** Counts of up to 40 at Long Valley during 7-10<sup>th</sup> January were the highest of the first winter period. The latest spring record occurred on 15<sup>th</sup> April on Po Toi. Autumn records occurred from 12<sup>th</sup> October, with the highest counts being 20 on 5<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November at She Shan and Long Valley respectively, and 28 at Long Valley on 24<sup>th</sup> December and 40 at Mai Po NR on 25<sup>th</sup> December.

#### **261A Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* 紅喉鵲**

**2005:** The highest count of the first winter period was 33 at Shek Kong on 19<sup>th</sup> February, while the highest counts of spring passage birds were 26 along the road to Mai Po NR on 31<sup>st</sup> March and 19 at Shek Kong on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. The final spring record occurred on 28<sup>th</sup> April, while the first in autumn appeared on 10<sup>th</sup> October. By far the highest subsequent counts were 96 at Kam Tin on 22<sup>nd</sup> October and an estimated 300 at Long Valley on 26<sup>th</sup> November (DAD), a new high for Hong Kong; the previous highest was 250 on 17<sup>th</sup> April 1992.

**2006:** Noted from the start of the year until 20<sup>th</sup> April. The highest winter counts were 50 at Long Valley on 20<sup>th</sup> January and 41 at San Tin on 16<sup>th</sup> February. Main spring passage occurred between 26<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> March, when up to 58 were noted at San Tin and up to 52 along the road to Mai Po NR. Autumn records occurred from 4<sup>th</sup> October, with main passage occurring in the last half of October and early November. Highest numbers at this time all occurred Long Valley, where up to 46 were present. Up to 23 were counted there in December.

#### **261.5A Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus* 粉紅胸鵲**

**2006:** One was at Long Valley from 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> May (GT, JACM); this is the first Hong Kong record (Plates 29 and 30).

#### **262A Pechora Pipit *Anthus gustavi* 北鵲**

**2005:** In spring, one was at Mai Po on 19<sup>th</sup> April. In autumn at Long Valley, singles were present on 10<sup>th</sup> September and 22<sup>nd</sup> October, while two were



present on 1<sup>st</sup> October.

**2006:** One at Long Valley on 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May was followed by three on Po Toi on 17<sup>th</sup> May during the close approach of Typhoon Chanchu. In autumn singles were noted on Po Toi on 12<sup>th</sup> September and 27<sup>th</sup> October and at Long Valley on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September.

**263A Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens* 黃腹鷓**

**2005:** Up to two were at Kam Tin during 8-19<sup>th</sup> January at Kam Tin, while one was also at Long Valley on the earliest of these dates. In the second winter period, singles were at Long Valley on 19<sup>th</sup> November and at Wing Kei Tsuen on 16<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** In what was a very good first winter period for this species, up to 15 were reported from the fish ponds along the road to Mai Po NR from 26<sup>th</sup> January to 2<sup>nd</sup> February, with two there on 12<sup>th</sup> January and singles thereafter until 17<sup>th</sup> March, apart from six on 5<sup>th</sup> March. Elsewhere, two were at Kam Tin on 5<sup>th</sup> February, up to six were at Long Valley from 14<sup>th</sup> January to 5<sup>th</sup> March, one was at Mai Po San Tsuen on 24<sup>th</sup> January and singles were at Tam Kon Chau on 24<sup>th</sup> January and 4<sup>th</sup> March. In the second winter period two were on Po Toi on 1<sup>st</sup> November and at Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung) on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

**264A Upland Pipit *Anthus sylvanus* 山鷓**

**2005:** In spring all records were from Tai Mo Shan with up to four between 19<sup>th</sup> April and 11<sup>th</sup> June. Singles were reported from 10<sup>th</sup> September until year end at Ma On Shan, Pat Sin Leng, Lantau Peak and Sunset Peak.

**2006:** Three were at Tai Mo Shan on 7<sup>th</sup> May, followed by singles there on 18<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June and 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Three were at Lantau and Sunset Peaks on 1<sup>st</sup> May, and one was at Pat Sin Leng on 30<sup>th</sup> July.

**265A Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina melaschistos* 暗灰鶇鶇**

**2005:** Noted in ones and twos in wooded areas from 26<sup>th</sup> January to 17<sup>th</sup> April. In autumn noted from 10<sup>th</sup> September until year end at Tai Po Kau, Ng Tung Chai, Mai Po and Long Valley.

**2006:** Recorded on 10<sup>th</sup> January to 29<sup>th</sup> April in ones and twos on Po Toi and at Lower Shing Mun, Ho Chung, Ng Tung Chai, Lam Tsuen, Kowloon Hills Catchwater, Mui Tsz Lam, Lung Fu Shan and Kowloon Park. Autumn records began on 1<sup>st</sup> September at Ng Tung Chai, where it was frequently reported until the end of the year. As in the first winter period, ones and twos were recorded at widespread localities. There was, however, a run of records from Po Toi, with this species seemingly continually present from 19<sup>th</sup> September to 18<sup>th</sup> October.

**267A Ashy Minivet *Pericrocotus divaricatus* 灰山椒鳥**

**2005:** All spring records were in April, beginning with three at Mai Po on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and a single on Po Toi Island on the same day. Later, Po Toi hosted five on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, four on the 5<sup>th</sup> and a single on the 17<sup>th</sup> April. In autumn, single females appeared at Tai Po Kau headland on 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> October and at Ng Tung Chai on 11<sup>th</sup> November.

**2006:** Po Toi dominated spring records, which occurred from 27<sup>th</sup> March to 5<sup>th</sup> May. Mainly singles were reported, but a flock of 17 was present on 7<sup>th</sup> April. The only records away from Po Toi were two on Tung Ping Chau on 1<sup>st</sup> April and five at Tai Po Kau on 9<sup>th</sup> April. There were four reports of singles in the autumn. Apart from one near Mai Po Village on 9<sup>th</sup> October, the others occurred on Po Toi on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of the same month.

**268A Grey-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris* 灰喉山椒鳥**

**2005:** Regularly reported between 2<sup>nd</sup> January and 16<sup>th</sup> April at Tai Po Kau, Shing Mun and Ng Tung Chai. A report of two at A Ma Wat on 20<sup>th</sup> February was the only record away from the central NT. The only other record of significance was a high of 50 in Tai Po Kau on 3<sup>rd</sup> September; this was also the first of the second winter period.

**2006:** From the start of the year regular reports were received of fewer than ten birds at Tai Po Kau, Ng Tung Chai and Lam Tsuen Valley in the central NT. Pairing behaviour was noted on 24<sup>th</sup> March and 3<sup>rd</sup> April at Ng Tung Chai. Spring reports culminated in ten at Shing Mun on 13<sup>th</sup> May. No reports were received for the summer months (this presumably reflects observer inactivity). In autumn, the highest count was 80, again at Ng Tung Chai on 16<sup>th</sup> October, and a flock of 70 was at Tai Po Kau on 13<sup>th</sup> December. The only report from away from the central NT was of two at Sha Lo Tung on 9<sup>th</sup> December.

**269A Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus* 赤紅山椒鳥**

**2005:** Reported throughout the year from Tai Po Kau headland, Tai Po Kau, and Ng Tung Chai, with one record from Shatin Pass. Away from the Tai Mo Shan massif, two were at So Lo Pun on 12<sup>th</sup> February and at A Ma Wat on 5<sup>th</sup> April, and one was at Sai O Village, Sai Kung on 13<sup>th</sup> June.

**2006:** Probably under-reported with counts of no more than six throughout the year. The only records away from the Tai Mo Shan massif were of one at Man Uk Pin on 6<sup>th</sup> June and four at Ping Kong on 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

**270A Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus* 紅耳鶇**

**2005:** The highest counts were of 100 emerging from night roosts at both Cheung Lek and Ng Tung Chai on 8<sup>th</sup> January.

**2006:** No significant reports.

**271A Chinese Bulbul *Pycnonotus sinensis* 白頭鶇**

**2005:** Counts of 100 to 200 were made at Mai Po NR during WWF monthly bird counts. Apparent migrant flocks were noted in March, with 30 at Shuen Wan on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 50 at Tai Po Kau on the 19<sup>th</sup>. These counts are, however, unexceptional compared with some other years.

**2006:** Significant records comprised a flock of 100 on Po Toi on 24<sup>th</sup> January and 500 there on 1<sup>st</sup> April attacked by a Peregrine. In autumn, migrant flocks noted regularly on Po Toi from 25<sup>th</sup> October until the end of November.

**272A Sooty-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster* 白喉紅臀鶇**

**2005:** The highest count was of 14 at Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung) on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Elsewhere, reported in single figures throughout the year at favoured sites such as Long Valley, Lam Tsuen Valley, Kuk Po and Sha Lo Tung.

**2006:** Parties of up to eight noted through the year, mostly from Long Valley and Lam Tsuen.

**272.8B Mountain Bulbul *Hypsipetes mcclllandii* 綠翅短腳鶇**

**2003:** Two were also at Ng Tung Chai on 11<sup>th</sup> January.

**2005:** Recorded in ones and twos at Tai Po Kau and Ng Tung Chai up to 25<sup>th</sup> March and after 29<sup>th</sup> August, though this seasonality is probably only apparent and arises from a lack of observer activity in the summer months. Two were noted in midsummer at Ng Tung Chai on 17<sup>th</sup> July.

**2006:** Up to five reported regularly from Tai Po Kau up to 8<sup>th</sup> April and after 15<sup>th</sup> September. There were also reports in February, April, September and December of up to two at Ng Tung Chai.

**273A Chestnut Bulbul *Hypsipetes castanonotus* 栗背短腳鶇**

**2005:** Recorded throughout the year at Tai Po Kau and Ng Tung Chai, as well as occasional reports from a scattering of woodland sites away from the central NT, such as Sam A Tsuen, So Lo Pun and Sunset Peak. An abundance of reports in November indicates the arrival of wintering flocks, in particular 30 in the mangroves at Mai Po NR on 11<sup>th</sup> November and two flocks totalling 165 flying from Tsim Bei Tsui towards Mai Po on 13<sup>th</sup> November.

**2006:** At least 40 were in Tai Po Kau on 8<sup>th</sup> January, and a flock of 20 was reported on 30<sup>th</sup> January at High Island. Up to nine were reported from Siu Lam in late January, and other reports away from the central NT included, on 4<sup>th</sup> February, five at The Peak, ten at Shatin Pass and 30 at Kowloon Hills Catchwater. This species was present at Jacob's Ladder (Sai Kung) on 6<sup>th</sup> February, while up to four were on Po Toi later in the month. Noted also at Tung Ping Chau on 5<sup>th</sup> April. Later in the year a flock of 27 over the mangroves at Mai Po on 18<sup>th</sup> November was the most significant, as was a report of at least

60 on Po Toi on 30<sup>th</sup> November. The year ended with a flock of 30 reported from Tai Lam Chung on 30<sup>th</sup> December.

**274A Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus* 黑短腳鵯**

**2005:** All reports were from Tai Po Kau, mainly between 15<sup>th</sup> February and 4<sup>th</sup> April, with the highest count ten on 19<sup>th</sup> February. A single on 10<sup>th</sup> July was unusual, while two on 29<sup>th</sup> October comprised the only autumn record.

**2006:** Records of up to three at Tai Po Kau in January, February and December. Elsewhere, all records were from Po Toi with up to four were present from 12-25<sup>th</sup> February.

**275A Orange-bellied Leafbird *Chloropsis hardwickii* 橙腹葉鵯**

**2005:** Reported up to 16<sup>th</sup> March and from 10<sup>th</sup> October, mostly from Tai Po Kau (including TPK headland) and Ng Tung Chai. Also noted at Lau Shui Heung and Wu Kau Tang.

**2006:** Reported up to 15<sup>th</sup> April from Ng Tung Chai, Tai Po Kau and Ho Chung, as well as Mui Tsz Lam and Wonderland Villas. The only report from the second winter period was three at Ng Tung Chai on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

**276A Tiger Shrike *Lanius tigrinus* 虎紋伯勞**

**2006:** Single first-winters were on Po Toi on 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> September (GW), and in Tai Po Kau (JAA) and at Mai Po (CW) on 16<sup>th</sup> September. Such a concentration of records has not occurred before.

**277A Bull-headed Shrike *Lanius bucephalus* 牛頭伯勞**

**2005:** A female at Mai Po NR on 22<sup>nd</sup> October was the year's only report.

**2006:** All records occurred in autumn. One was at Mai Po on 30<sup>th</sup> October and 2<sup>nd</sup> November, and another was on Po Toi on 31<sup>st</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> November. Two were reported from Fung Yuen on 30<sup>th</sup> November, while one was at Tai Po Kau from 10-28<sup>th</sup> December.

**278A Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus* 紅尾伯勞**

**2005:** One or two wintering birds were present in the Kam Tin area up to mid April. From 16<sup>th</sup> April to 8<sup>th</sup> May there were regular sightings at a variety of sites, though none were ascribed to any particular race. In autumn, several records occurred at Mai Po NR from 9<sup>th</sup> September to 2<sup>nd</sup> October, followed by records of a wintering bird again at Kam Tin and another at Penfold Park, Shatin.

**2006:** The Kam Tin bird was reported again in January and March and

another was present at Shui Mei during the same winter period. A graphic illustration of the perils of migration involved the rescuing of three *lucionensis* from the sea on a boat trip on 29<sup>th</sup> April. The year's highest count was of 83 on Po Toi on 25<sup>th</sup> April, and the last spring report from there occurred on the 20<sup>th</sup> May. Autumn records began on 30<sup>th</sup> August and peak numbers of *lucionensis* on Po Toi were six on 23<sup>rd</sup> September and eight the following day.

*L. c. cristatus*: only two spring reports were ascribed to the nominate subspecies *cristatus*. These were on Po Toi on 15<sup>th</sup> April and Kam Tin on 24<sup>th</sup> April. On 2<sup>nd</sup> October a first-winter *cristatus* was trapped at Kam Tin and noted again there on 24<sup>th</sup> October, while two first-winters were trapped at Mai Po NR on 6<sup>th</sup> October.

Observers are encouraged to check the subspecific identity of Brown Shrikes were possible, and indicate in their submissions whether birds are *lucionensis*, *cristatus* or unknown. It appears that nominate *cristatus* is the commonest in autumn.

#### **279A Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach* 棕背伯勞**

**2005:** The only significant reports were counts of 14 and 17 at Mai Po NR during the WWFHK July and August monthly bird counts.

**2006:** No significant reports.

#### **280.5A Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophrys* 白喉短翅鸚**

**2005:** Heard regularly at Tai Mo Shan, Tai Po Kau and Ng Tung Chai from early January to 28<sup>th</sup> May and again after 15<sup>th</sup> October.

**2006:** Up to three heard regularly at Tai Po Kau and Ng Tung Chai until 15<sup>th</sup> April. Summer records occurred at Tai Mo Shan on 18<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June, and 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Frequent observations resumed at Ng Tung Chai on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, while other sites included Pun Shan Chau (north of Tai Po Kau), Fung Yuen and Pat Sin Leng CP.

#### **281A Japanese Robin *Erithacus akahige* 日本歌鵲**

**2005:** A female was at Tai Po Kau 8<sup>th</sup> January.

**2006:** A male was at Ng Tung Chai on 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

#### **282A Rufous-tailed Robin *Luscinia sibilans* 紅尾歌鵲**

**2005:** Recorded in the first winter period up to 8<sup>th</sup> April, with regular reports from Tai Po Kau, Ng Tung Chai, Shatin Pass, Chung Mei and Po Toi. The highest count was seven on 13<sup>th</sup> February at Ng Tung Chai, coinciding with the arrival of a cold front. As usual, singing birds were noted toward the end of the period of occurrence, in late March and early April. Reported in the second winter period from 21<sup>st</sup> November; mostly ones or twos were reported, apart

from five at Shatin Pass on 29<sup>th</sup> December.



**Plate 12.** Rufous-tailed Robin *Luscinia sibilans* 紅尾歌鵪  
Lamma Island, Hong Kong, March 2005  
Cherry Wong

**2006:** Widespread reports from the start of the year until 9<sup>th</sup> April with eight on Tung Ping Chau on 1<sup>st</sup> April being the highest count. Second winter period records begin again on 16<sup>th</sup> November. Apart from birds at Mai Po NR on 25<sup>th</sup> November and on Po Toi on 16<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of the same month, all reports were from Ng Tung Chai or Tai Po Kau.

**283A Siberian Rubythroat *Luscinia calliope* 紅喉歌鵪(紅點頰)**

**2005:** More often heard than seen, reports came from widespread localities including Mai Po NR, Kam Tim and Sha Lo Tung up to 19<sup>th</sup> April and after 6<sup>th</sup> November, when ten were recorded on Lamma and five were trapped at Mai Po NR.

**2006:** Widespread open country reports through both winter periods, the first ending with a run of records from Po Toi between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> April. Autumn records began on 11<sup>th</sup> October, and the highest count was ten at Kam Tin on 12<sup>th</sup> November.



**284A** Siberian Blue Robin *Luscinia cyane* 藍歌鵪

**2005:** Six spring records occurred from 1-17<sup>th</sup> April at Kowloon Park, Po Toi Island and Ng Tung Chai, probably involving five birds. There were two autumn reports concerning a female on 10<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September, both at Kap Lung.

**2006:** There was one spring record, a male at Ng Tung Chai on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. In autumn, five to seven birds were recorded in total during 6-30<sup>th</sup> September on Po Toi, Ho Pui, Mai Po NR, Ng Tung Chai and Tai Po Kau.

**285A** Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* 藍喉歌鵪(藍點頰)



**Plate 13.** Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* 藍喉歌鵪(藍點頰)  
Long Valley, Hong Kong, December 2006  
Cherry Wong

**2005:** Most reports were from Long Valley where ones and twos were reported up to 16<sup>th</sup> April and from 5<sup>th</sup> November until the end of the year. Also reported from Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung) and Mai Po NR.

**2006:** Reported in ones and twos, mainly from Long Valley but also at Tsim Bei Tsui and Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung), from 4<sup>th</sup> January until 1<sup>st</sup> April. Records for the second winter period began on 18<sup>th</sup> October.

**286A Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* 紅脇藍尾鵯**

**2005:** Rather few winter records numbering only five birds in total until 27<sup>th</sup> February. Subsequently, singles were on Po Toi on 19<sup>th</sup> March and 2<sup>nd</sup> April, while one was at Sunset Peak on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. By contrast, the second winter period saw a glut of records from 21<sup>st</sup> November to the year end from the Tai Mo Shan massif, Sunset Peak, Lau Shui Heung and Fung Yuen. The highest counts were of eight on 17<sup>th</sup> December on the Kap Lung Trail and 11 at Shatin Pass on 29<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** Continued to be reported frequently at many sites in the NT, as well as Governor's Ride on Hong Kong Island and on Po Toi until 25<sup>th</sup> March, with the highest count being 12 at Shing Mun on 11<sup>th</sup> January. In the second winter period noted at widespread shrubland sites from 5<sup>th</sup> November, although most records occurred from 28<sup>th</sup>, with the highest count being five.

**287A Oriental Magpie Robin *Copsychus saularis* 鵲鵯**

**2005 & 2006:** No significant reports.

**289A Daurian Redstart *Phoenicurus aureus* 北紅尾鵯**

**2005:** A good year for this species. Early winter reports from 3<sup>rd</sup> January until 10<sup>th</sup> April at Ng Tung Chai, So Lo Pun, Kuk Po, Ping Che, Man Uk Pin, Nam Chung and Po Toi. Autumn records began with a single at Penfold Park on 21<sup>st</sup> October, and included ones and twos at Kam Tin, Mai Po and Ng Tung Chai. A maximum count of four was made on Tai Mo Shan on 16<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** Reported until 28<sup>th</sup> March on the mainland, followed by two on Tung Ping Chau on 1<sup>st</sup> April and regularly on Po Toi until 11<sup>th</sup> April. The last spring report was from Po Toi on 22<sup>nd</sup> April (SHS); this is the latest on record in HK. Records resumed – again on Po Toi – on 26<sup>th</sup> October and continued until the end of the year. Highest daily counts were five at Pak Sha O on 12<sup>th</sup> November and five at Tai Lam Chung on 30<sup>th</sup> December.

**290A Plumbeous Redstart *Rhyacornis fuliginosus* 紅尾水鵯**

**2005:** A male and female were noted at Chung Mei four times from 14<sup>th</sup> January to 11<sup>th</sup> February, and one was there on 12<sup>th</sup> December. Other second period winter records were single females at Wun Yiu on 28<sup>th</sup> November and at

Shing Mun on 28<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** A female was reported from Chung Mei in early February, while a male was at Lam Tsuen Valley from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> February. Second winter records resumed with a male in Lam Tsuen near the Tai Wo Water Treatment Plant on December 8<sup>th</sup>, and a single at Tung O, Lamma on 25<sup>th</sup> December.

**291A Slaty-backed Forktail *Enicurus schistaceus* 灰背燕尾**

**2005:** One was reported in Tai Po Kau five times from 22<sup>nd</sup> January to 24<sup>th</sup> February. One at Ng Tung Chai on 5<sup>th</sup> April was the only other report.

**292A Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* 黑喉石鷓**

**2005:** Widespread winter visitor with a maximum of 15 at Kam Tin on 29<sup>th</sup> January. The latest spring report was on 15<sup>th</sup> April while the first autumn arrival was noted on 11<sup>th</sup> September. The highest autumn count was 20 at Long Valley on 19<sup>th</sup> November.

**2006:** Reported in the first winter period until 20<sup>th</sup> April, with 12 at Long Valley on 7<sup>th</sup> January the highest count. Noted in the second winter period from 8<sup>th</sup> September until the end of the year. Increased reporting of this species would be welcome, especially records away from the traditional sites of Long Valley and Mai Po, and of wintering birds.

**293A Grey Bushchat *Saxicola ferrea* 灰林鷓**

**2005:** A female was reported from Leng Pei Tsuen, Tan Shan Valley on 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> January and 19<sup>th</sup> February. Also reported from Wu Kau Tang on 20<sup>th</sup> February, 16<sup>th</sup> March (two) and 19<sup>th</sup> March. Earliest autumn record was on 15<sup>th</sup> October at KFBG; this was followed by singles at Mai Po, Tai Mo Shan, Ng Tung Chai, Sha Tau Kok and again at Leng Pei Tsuen.

**2006:** A female noted at Mong Tseng on 27<sup>th</sup> January and 3<sup>rd</sup> March was the same individual. Two different females were noted at Sam A Tsuen and Wu Kau Tang, both on 18<sup>th</sup> February. On Po Toi a male was present on 5<sup>th</sup> December, while another there on 16<sup>th</sup> May may have been of non-natural occurrence, given the usual pattern of occurrence of this species.

**295A White-throated Rock Thrush *Monticola gularis* 白喉磯鷓**

**2005:** The male of unknown age first seen on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2004 remained at Tai Po Kau to 15<sup>th</sup> January (PW, MK *et al.*).

**296A Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush *Monticola rufiventris* 栗腹磯鷓**

**2005:** A male was at KFBG from 10<sup>th</sup> January to 6<sup>th</sup> March.

**297A Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius* 藍磯鶇**

**2005:** Ten reports of the taxon *philippensis* were made for the period from 9<sup>th</sup> January and 19<sup>th</sup> March from such diverse places as Tsim Bei Tsui, Sharp Peak, Kam Tin and Po Toi. A single *pandoo* at Tung Chung MTR station on 9<sup>th</sup> February was the only spring report of this taxon. Four at Chek Lap Kok on 22<sup>nd</sup> March and one there on 26<sup>th</sup> April were migrants. In autumn noted on seven days in September and three in October (all *philippensis*). The taxon *philippensis* was also reported from Sunset Peak on 25<sup>th</sup> December and a single *pandoo* from Crest Hill on 29<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** A bird that spent the first winter period on Po Toi was last seen on 12<sup>th</sup> April; this bird and another at Port Island on 26<sup>th</sup> March were the only first winter period records. Up to six were reported from Po Toi from 30<sup>th</sup> August until the end of the year. Away from there one at Ng Tung Chai on 23<sup>rd</sup> November and up to three at Chek Lap Kok on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> October, 30<sup>th</sup> November and 30<sup>th</sup> December were the only reports.

**298A Blue Whistling Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus* 紫嘯鶇**

**2005 and 2006:** No significant reports.



**Plate 14.** Blue Whistling Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus* 紫嘯鶇  
Lamma Island, Hong Kong, April 2005  
Cherry Wong

**299A Orange-headed Thrush *Zosterops citrina* 橙頭地鸚**

**2005:** Single adults were reported from Tai Po Kau on 4<sup>th</sup> February and Po Toi on 2<sup>nd</sup> April. In autumn, a juvenile was noted at Tai Po Kau headland on 11<sup>th</sup> September.

**2006:** A single was in Tai Po Kau on 30<sup>th</sup> April, while others were reported from Ng Tung Chai on 29<sup>th</sup> September and Mai Po NR on 1<sup>st</sup> October.

**300A Siberian Thrush *Zosterops sibirica* 白眉地鸚**

**2005:** At Ng Tung Chai single males were seen in April on 5<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, with a female also present on 16<sup>th</sup>. Ng Tung Chai also boasted the first of the autumn with a female on 28<sup>th</sup> September, while a male was there on 1<sup>st</sup> December. The only other autumn record was of a female along the Wong Lung Hang CP Trail (Lantau) on 19<sup>th</sup> November.

**2006:** An adult male was at Lung Fu Shan on 14<sup>th</sup> February and 18<sup>th</sup> March, while it or another was seen at HKU on 17<sup>th</sup> March. The two autumn reports came from Ng Tung Chai, where a first-winter male was present on 16<sup>th</sup> October and a female was noted on 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

**301A Scaly Thrush *Zosterops dauma* 虎斑地鸚**

**2005:** Apart from two near Pak Nai on 16<sup>th</sup> January, all reports were of single birds from well-wooded areas such as Tai Po Kau, Shing Mun, So Lo Pun, and Sharp Peak. Also noted on Po Toi on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 19<sup>th</sup> March and 16<sup>th</sup> April. Latest spring reports occurred on 1<sup>st</sup> May at Tai Po Kau and 8<sup>th</sup> May at Ng Tung Chai. Autumn arrivals were first noted on 9<sup>th</sup> November at Ng Tung Chai, and the 16 subsequent reports occurred at Tai Po Kau, Tai Po Kau headland, Kap Lung, Twisk Nature Trail and Airfield Road, Shek Kong. A good year for this species.

**2006:** Widespread records in the first winter period included a peak count of three at Airfield Road on 22<sup>nd</sup> January. The latest report comprised the last sighting of a bird that spent the winter on Po Toi, on 27<sup>th</sup> April. This species returned to Po Toi on 11<sup>th</sup> October and mainland records resumed with a single at Mai Po NR on 5<sup>th</sup> November.

**302A Japanese Thrush *Turdus cardis* 烏灰鸚**

**2005:** Reported in higher numbers than the previous species from 8<sup>th</sup> January to 6<sup>th</sup> April. The highest counts were of nine at Chek Keng and at nearby Sharp Peak, Sai Kung on 22<sup>nd</sup> January. Seven were at Kuk Po on 11<sup>th</sup> February. Autumn reports resumed on 19<sup>th</sup> November and singles were thereafter reported from widely scattered localities until the end of the year.

**2006:** Widespread reports in the first winter period, the highest being five at Mui Tsz Lam on 8<sup>th</sup> January and at HKU on 20<sup>th</sup> February, 17<sup>th</sup> March and 25<sup>th</sup>



March. The last report was on 30<sup>th</sup> March at Lin Barn Tsuen. Second winter period returnees were noted from 28<sup>th</sup> November.



Plate 15. Japanese Thrush *Turdus cardis* 烏灰鶇  
Lamma Island, Hong Kong, April 2005  
Cherry Wong

### 303A Common Blackbird *Turdus merula* 烏鶇

**2005:** Reported up to 6<sup>th</sup> April and again from 16<sup>th</sup> October, with the highest count being a flock of 130 at Ng Tung Chai on 18<sup>th</sup> November. Reported from the Deep Bay area, Tai Po Kau and various village areas in the northern NT.

**2006:** Reported in the first winter period until 7<sup>th</sup> April, and again from 13<sup>th</sup> October. Counts of 41 at Pak Sha O on 12<sup>th</sup> November and 60 near Sha Lo Tung on 19<sup>th</sup> November were the highest.

### 304A Brown-headed Thrush *Turdus chrysolaus* 赤腹鶇

**2005:** Reported from Bride's Pool on 10<sup>th</sup> March, Tai Po Kau on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, Mai Po on 30<sup>th</sup> March and Po Toi on 5<sup>th</sup> April. The sole autumn report from Tai Po Kau on 21<sup>st</sup> November rounded off a good year for this rarely reported species.

**2006:** A first-winter male was noted from 2<sup>nd</sup> February until 14<sup>th</sup> March on Po Toi. A single female was also noted on Po Toi on 21<sup>st</sup> March. The only other



records were of one at Lung Fu Shan/HKU on 20<sup>th</sup> February (when described as male) and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> March.

**305A Grey-backed Thrush *Turdus hortulorum* 灰背鶇**

**2005:** Reported in the first winter period until 25<sup>th</sup> March and from 19<sup>th</sup> November, with peak counts of 15 at Lam Tsuen Valley on 27<sup>th</sup> November and 12 at Pak Sha O on 24<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** Present until 3<sup>rd</sup> April and again from 20<sup>th</sup> November. Thereafter 10-12 birds were noted daily at favoured sites such as Kam Tin and Tai Po Kau.

**306A Pale Thrush *Turdus pallidus* 白腹鶇**

**2005:** A good year for this species, with nine reports from the start of the year until 1<sup>st</sup> May. The only autumn reports concerned a male at Sha Lo Tung (presumably the same bird) reported on 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** Singles were reported from 2<sup>nd</sup> January to 13<sup>th</sup> March, sites included Ng Tung Chai and Lung Fu Shan/HKU. The first record of the second winter period occurred on 29<sup>th</sup> November on Po Toi, where up to six individuals were noted there until the end of the year. A single was at Lam Tsuen Valley on 9<sup>th</sup> December and another was seen regularly at Ng Tung Chai from 9<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> December. A single near Leadmine Pass on 28<sup>th</sup> December rounded off the year.

**307A Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus* 白眉鶇**

**2005:** Reported up to 1<sup>st</sup> May in fairly widespread areas, mainly in the NT, but also on HK Island, Lantau and Po Toi. There were four records of single birds in the second winter period, from Sunset Peak on 19<sup>th</sup> November, Lung Fu Shan on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, Tai Po Kau on 7<sup>th</sup> December and Sha Tin Pass on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**2006:** Ten at Mui Tsz Lam on 9<sup>th</sup> January got the year off to a good start, and singles were noted at HKU/Lung Fu Shan in March. The latest spring records occurred on Po Toi on 24<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> April and 4<sup>th</sup> May. Autumn records resumed on Po Toi on 6<sup>th</sup> November, with up to three individuals remaining until the end of the month. One at Kam Tin River on 20<sup>th</sup> November was the only report from elsewhere in the second winter period.

**308A Dusky Thrush *Turdus naumanni* 斑鶇**

**2006:** Up to two *eunomus* were at Shek Kong during 2-26<sup>th</sup> March, and one was on Po Toi on 14<sup>th</sup> November.

**308.5A Chinese Thrush *Turdus mupinensis* 寶興歌鶇**

**2006:** One was on Po Toi from 16<sup>th</sup> February to 24<sup>th</sup> March (GW). This is the second HK record.



Plate 16. Chinese Thrush *Turdus mupinensis* 寶興歌鵲  
Po Toi, Hong Kong, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2006  
Michelle and Peter Wong

309C Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficollis* 棕頸  
鈎嘴鵲

2005: Reported throughout the year, mainly from the Tai Mo Shan massif. The only records away from this area were at Yung Shue O, where one was heard on 18<sup>th</sup> March and two were seen on 27<sup>th</sup> March, and at Jardine's Lookout, where a family party was noted on 9<sup>th</sup> August.

**2006:** Again, reports mainly came from Tai Po Kau and Ng Tung Chai. Elsewhere, one was at Siu Lam on 31<sup>st</sup> January, two were at Ho Pui on 30<sup>th</sup> September, and recorded at Kowloon Hills Catchwater and Tai Lam Chung in December.

**309.5A Pygmy Wren Babbler *Phoepyga pusilla* 小鱗胸鷓鴣**

**2005:** Regularly reported (mostly heard) in February and March at Tai Po Kau and Ng Tung Chai, up to 18<sup>th</sup> April. Elsewhere singles were noted at So Lo Pun on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> February, and at Sha Lo Tung on 12<sup>th</sup> March. On 11<sup>th</sup> June one was at Leadmine Pass, but no midsummer reports followed. One on 31<sup>st</sup> August at Ng Tung Chai began a run of reports from this location and Tai Po Kau, similar to the first winter period.

**2006:** Noted through the year at Tai Po Kau and Ng Tung Chai. Away from this area reports were received from both Sha Lo Tung and Wo Hop Shek in March.

**310C Rufous-capped Babbler *Stachyris ruficeps* 紅頭穗鷓**

**2005:** Reported mainly from Ng Tung Chai and Tai Po Kau, with the highest count being 16 at the nearby Tai Po headland on 20<sup>th</sup> July.

**2006:** Reported all year in the central NT (Tai Po Kau, Ng Tung Chai, Shing Mun, Lam Tsuen). Elsewhere, noted at Ho Chung, Kowloon Hills Catchwater, Fung Yuen and Tai Lam Chung.

**311C Chinese Babax *Babax lanceolatus* 矛紋草鷓**

**2005:** One was on Tai Mo Shan on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. This species' foothold in Hong Kong seems to be slipping, and observers are encouraged to report all records. There were no reports at all in 2006.

**312A Masked Laughingthrush *Garrulax perspicillatus* 黑臉噪鷓**

**2005 & 2006:** No significant reports.

**313C Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax pectoralis* 黑領噪鷓**

**2005:** Reported from shrubland and woodland areas of the NT, with the highest count being 15 at Tai Po Kau on 8<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** Away from the Tai Mo Shan massif, where the highest count was 15, double-digit counts comprised ten at Siu Lam and Tai Lam Chung, 13 at Sam A Tsuen, and 15 at Plover Cove and Mount Davis. Also noted imitating Koel and Large Hawk Cuckoo in Tai Po Kau on 18<sup>th</sup> March.

**314C Black-throated Laughingthrush *Garrulax chinensis* 黑喉噪鵲**

**2005:** Reported from widespread areas of the NT, with the highest count being 14 at Tai Po Kau on 28<sup>th</sup> November. Due to the relative lack of birding on HK Island, only one report was received.

**2006:** Reported from widespread areas of the NT and HK Island.



**Plate 17.** Black-throated Laughingthrush *Garrulax chinensis* 黑喉噪鵲  
Tsuen Wan, December 2005  
Cherry Wong

**315A Hwamei *Garrulax canorus* 畫眉**

**2005 & 2006:** No significant reports.

**316C White-browed Laughingthrush *Garrulax sannio* 白頰噪鵲**

**2005:** Up to five birds recorded in the Pun Shan Chau-Shan Tong New Village area during the year. In addition, two were at Lam Tsuen on 18<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** Up to six reported from She Shan (Lam Tsuen) in January, February March, November and December. The year's highest count was nine at Ta Tit Hang (above Wun Yiu) on 28<sup>th</sup> December, while up to five were seen during the year at nearby Shan Tong Road.

**317C Silver-eared Mesia *Leiothrix argenteauris* 銀耳相思鳥**

**2005:** Reported primarily from the Tai Mo Shan massif, with the highest counts being 21 at Tai Po Kau and 20 at Ng Tung Chai. Elsewhere, reported from Kowloon Hills and Lung Fu Shan.

**2006:** Reported from the Tai Mo Shan massif, Kowloon Hills, Lung Fu Shan/HKU. By far the highest count was 42 at Kowloon Hills on 4<sup>th</sup> February (DAD), a new high.

**318C Red-billed Leiothrix *Leiothrix lutea* 紅嘴相思鳥**

**2005:** All reports were from Ng Tung Chai and Tai Po Kau, apart from six on Tai Mo Shan on 22<sup>nd</sup> May (including a juvenile) and eight at Wong Lung Hang Country Trail, Sunset Peak on 7<sup>th</sup> August.

**2006:** Reported from the Tai Mo Shan massif, with 20 at Tai Po Kau on 28<sup>th</sup> January the highest count, as well as Tai Tam Reservoir, Kowloon Hills and Kowloon Park.

**319C Blue-winged Minla *Minla cyanouroptera* 藍翅希鵒**

**2005:** Although well-established on the Tai Mo Shan massif at Tai Po Kau and Ng Tung Chai, two on the Chinese University campus on 18<sup>th</sup> March was the first record at that site. Elsewhere, recorded at Kowloon Hills and Mui Tsz Lam, Ma On Shan.

**2006:** Recorded mainly on the Tai Mo Shan massif and Kowloon Hills, with the only other record being 14 at Tai Lam Chung.

**320C White-bellied Yuhina *Yuhina zantholeuca* 白腹鳳鵒**

**2005:** Widespread in small numbers at woodland sites in the NT through the year. The highest count was four at Tai Po Kau on 4<sup>th</sup> December, while up to two birds were noted at Bride's Pool, Hok Tau, Kap Lung, Kowloon Hills Catchment, Kuk Po, Lam Tsuen, Ng Tung Chai, Sha Lo Tung and So Lo Pun.

**2006:** Tai Po Kau remains the main source of records, with up to four birds recorded during the year. Elsewhere, up to three birds were recorded at Lam Tsuen, Kap Lung, Kowloon Hills, Loi Tung (Sha Tau Kok Road) and Sha Lo Tung.

**321C Striated Yuhina *Yuhina castaniceps* 栗耳鳳鵒**

**2005:** A flock of up to 50 were noted at Tai Po Kau from 8<sup>th</sup> January to 27<sup>th</sup> March. At Sha Tin Pass up to 20 were noted from 6<sup>th</sup> April to 24<sup>th</sup> August. There were at least seven at Mount Parker on 6<sup>th</sup> September, and up to 15 near Ng Tung Chai from 14<sup>th</sup> September to 22<sup>nd</sup> October. In November and December records continued at Ng Tung Chai as well as Tai Po Kau, Sha Tin Pass and Hok



Tau.

**2006:** Up to 40 were seen at Tai Po Kau and Lower Shing Mun during January. After an unusually large summer group of 18 on 1<sup>st</sup> July at Lion Rock CP, autumn reports resumed at Ng Tung Chai with 15 on 16<sup>th</sup> October and continued there and at Tai Po Kau until the end of the year with flocks of up to 50 at both sites.

**322C Vinous-throated Parrotbill *Paradoxornis webbianus* 棕頭鴉雀**

**2005:** Reported from Tai Mo Shan on 11<sup>th</sup> June (ten), 28<sup>th</sup> June (two) and 5<sup>th</sup> November (one).

**2006:** Reported from Tai Mo Shan on 18<sup>th</sup> June, when at least eight were present.

**323A Asian Stubtail Warbler *Urosphena squameiceps* 鱗頭樹鶯**

**2005:** Recorded in the first winter period until 5<sup>th</sup> April, mostly ones or twos with the highest count being four at Sha Tin Pass on 4<sup>th</sup> February. Recorded in the second winter period from 29<sup>th</sup> October, when singles were at Sha Tin Pass and Tai Po Kau, to the year end. The next record occurred on 11<sup>th</sup> November, and most birds were reported in the last half of November. The highest count at this time was five at Pak Sha O on 24<sup>th</sup> November. Recorded in woodland and closed-canopy shrubland areas in the New Territories and on Lantau.

**2006:** Recorded in the first winter period until 29<sup>th</sup> March, mostly ones or twos with the highest count being four at Mui Tze Lam on 9<sup>th</sup> January. Recorded in the second winter period from 4<sup>th</sup> November, when two were at Tai Po Kau, to the year end. Most birds were reported in the last week of November and first nine days of December. The highest count at this time was nine at Pak Sha O on 25<sup>th</sup> November, while eight were at Kowloon Hills catchwater on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Recorded at woodland and closed-canopy shrubland areas in the New Territories and on HK Island and Lantau.

**325A Manchurian Bush Warbler *Cettia canturians* 遠東樹鶯**

**2005:** Recorded in the first winter period until 5<sup>th</sup> April, mostly ones or twos with the highest count being three at Sharp Peak on 22<sup>nd</sup> January and between Tung Chung and Tai O on 25<sup>th</sup> March. Recorded in the second winter period from 20<sup>th</sup> November, when one was at Sha Lo Tung, to the year end. Most birds were reported in the first half of December. The highest count at this time was five at Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung) on 9<sup>th</sup> December and Sha Tin Pass on 13<sup>th</sup> December. Recorded at diverse shrubland areas in the NT and on Lantau.

**2006:** Recorded in the first winter period until 2<sup>nd</sup> April while, on Po Toi, one remained to 13<sup>th</sup> April. Recorded mostly in ones or twos, with the highest count being three that wintered on Po Toi. At the same site in the second winter period up to four birds were present, with the first recorded on 14<sup>th</sup> November.



Elsewhere, only four reports were received to the year end. These comprised two at San Tin on 29<sup>th</sup> November, up to five at Kam Tin on 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> December and one at Clearwater Bay on 26<sup>th</sup> December. Recorded at diverse shrubland areas in the New Territories and on Lantau. Observers are encouraged to submit all records of this species.

**326A Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler *Cettia fortipes* 強腳樹鶯**

**2005:** Recorded in the first winter period until 25<sup>th</sup> March, with the highest count being of three birds at Tai Mo Shan on 10<sup>th</sup> February and at Ng Tung Chai on 19<sup>th</sup> February. Elsewhere, singles were noted at Fung Yuen, Sha Lo Tung, Sam A Tsuen, Tai Po Kau, Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung), Lion Rock and Tai O. Breeding season reports occurred from 27<sup>th</sup> March to 1<sup>st</sup> July at Tai Mo Shan, with the maximum count being five in song on 16<sup>th</sup> May and 26<sup>th</sup> June, and four adults and a juvenile on 19<sup>th</sup> June. Recorded in the second winter period from 6<sup>th</sup> November to year end, all records comprising singles at Ng Tung Chai, Sunset Peak, Lin Ma Hang, Mai Po and Man Uk Pin.

**2006:** Recorded in the first winter period until 10<sup>th</sup> March, with the highest count being two on the latter date; noted at Ng Tung Chai, She Shan, Po Toi and Sha Lo Tung. One at Dong Ping Chau on 1<sup>st</sup> April was presumably a passage migrant. Breeding season reports comprised up to 12 birds at Tai Mo Shan from 7<sup>th</sup> May to 22<sup>nd</sup> July and one at Lion Rock on 1<sup>st</sup> July. In the final part of the year, all reports occurred in December at Ng Tung Chai, where up to two birds were recorded.

**327.1A Baikal Bush Warbler *Bradypterus davidi* 北短翅鶯**

**2005:** Following hard on the heels of the first record in January 2004, one was trapped at Mai Po NR on 6<sup>th</sup> November (JAA, PJL).

**328A Brown Bush Warbler *Bradypterus luteoventris* 棕褐短翅鶯**

**2005:** One was heard in song at Sha Lo Tung from 9-18<sup>th</sup> March (GJC *et al.*).

**329A Russet Bush Warbler *Bradypterus seebohmi* 高山短翅鶯**

**2005:** Wintering birds were recorded in the first winter period up to 18<sup>th</sup> March at Mai Po, Man Uk Pin, Ng Tung Chai, Sha Lo Tung, Mui Tsz Lam, Sam A Chung, Sam A Tsuen, Lin Ma Hang, Shui Mei, Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung) and Chung Mei. The highest counts were five at Lin Ma Hang on 24<sup>th</sup> February and four at Sha Lo Tung on 9<sup>th</sup> March. Breeding season reports all came from Tai Mo Shan, where up to two in song were heard from 27<sup>th</sup> March to 1<sup>st</sup> July. Recorded in the second winter period from 9<sup>th</sup> November at Ng Tung Chai, Pak Sha O, Sha Lo Tung, Tai Tan, Lau Shui Heung, Kam Tin and Long Valley. The highest count was of four at Sha Lo Tung on 14<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** Recorded in the first winter period until 11<sup>th</sup> March at Kam Tin, Sha Lo

Tung, Ng Tung Chai, Shan Tong Road (Tai Po), Nam Chung and Po Toi, with the highest count being three at Sha Lo Tung on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Breeding season reports comprised one on 7<sup>th</sup> May and three on 18<sup>th</sup> June, both on Tai Mo Shan. The only reports in the second winter period were of one at Kam Tin on 11<sup>th</sup> November and two on Po Toi on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

### **330A Large Grass Warbler *Graminicola bengalensis* 大草鶯 NT**

**2005:** At Tai Mo Shan up to three were seen from 27<sup>th</sup> March to 30<sup>th</sup> August, and one was noted on 5<sup>th</sup> November. Elsewhere, on Fei Ngo Shan up to two were recorded on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> July, one was at Ma On Shan on 10<sup>th</sup> September, one was at Sha Lo Tung on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> December, one was at Lantau Peak on 25<sup>th</sup> December, and one was at Sunset Peak on 12<sup>th</sup> June, with two present on 25<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** At Sha Lo Tung one was noted on 1<sup>st</sup> February while five were present on 18<sup>th</sup> March; at both Sunset and Lantau Peaks singles were present on 1<sup>st</sup> May, and at Tai Mo Shan one was seen on 7<sup>th</sup> May. In addition, one was handed in at KFBG on 31<sup>st</sup> August, while another was found dead there on 4<sup>th</sup> September.

### **331A Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata* 矛紋蝗鶯**

**2005:** Singles were present in October at Lok Ma Chau on 16<sup>th</sup>, Long Valley on 18<sup>th</sup> and Kam Tin on 25<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>; in addition, one was at Kam Tin on 9<sup>th</sup> November.

**2006:** In what was a rather better year than the previous, there was one spring record, that of one on Po Toi on 5<sup>th</sup> May. In autumn, singles were recorded during 1-23<sup>rd</sup> October at Kowloon Bay, Lok Ma Chau, Long Valley, Mai Po NR, Po Toi, Kam Tin and Chek Lap Kok; subsequently, one was at Mai Po on 2<sup>nd</sup> November and two were at Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung) on 9<sup>th</sup> November.

### **332A Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella certhiola* 小蝗鶯**

**2005:** Wintering birds holding territory were present at Lok Ma Chau on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, Tsim Bei Tsui the following day and San Tin on 16<sup>th</sup> March. The autumn migration began strongly with 19 at Kam Tin on 12<sup>th</sup> September; this was followed, however, only by singles from 13<sup>th</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> October at Kennedy Road (found dead), Ho Pui, Kam Tin and Long Valley.

**2006:** The first records of the year occurred on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> August. Subsequently, strong passage was noted in September, with up to six birds noted on most days of the month at widespread sites, mainly in the NT; the highest count, however, concerned 12 at Long Valley on 16<sup>th</sup>. Subsequently, two were at Long Valley on 7<sup>th</sup> October, and this was followed by singles on five dates to 6<sup>th</sup> November, and on 6<sup>th</sup> December. The bulk of records were from widespread sites in the NT, as well as on the islands of Lantau, Lamma and Po Toi.

**334A Styan's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella pleskei* 史氏蝗鶯 VU**

2006: One was in the mangrove at Mai Po NR on 26<sup>th</sup> April.

**335A Black-browed Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps* 黑眉葦鶯**

2005: Incredibly, there was only one spring report, that of a single at Long Valley on 12<sup>th</sup> May. In autumn, up to six were at Kam Tin from 28<sup>th</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> October, and 50 were recorded at Mai Po on 6<sup>th</sup> November. The lack of spring records is noteworthy as, while previously regarded simply as a result of laxity of reporting, there may have been a real decline. Observers are encouraged to submit all records of this species.

2006: There was one winter record, that of a bird in song at Mai Po San Tsuen on 19<sup>th</sup> January. In spring, four records of single birds were received for the period from 29<sup>th</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> May. In autumn a record of three at Kam Tin on 26<sup>th</sup> September was followed by up to ten birds at a number of northwest NT sites in October and November up to 29<sup>th</sup>. Observers are encouraged to submit all records of this species.

**336A Manchurian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus tangorum* 遠東葦鶯**

2003: Singles were trapped at Mai Po NR on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September, and 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> October (JAA, PJJ).

2004: Singles, unless stated, were trapped at Mai Po NR on 18<sup>th</sup> September, 25<sup>th</sup> September (two birds, one retrapped 1<sup>st</sup> October) and 1<sup>st</sup> October (JAA, PJJ).

2005: Singles were trapped at Mai Po NR on 4<sup>th</sup> (retrapped on 6<sup>th</sup>), 17<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> September, and 11<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October (JAA, PJJ).

2006: One trapped at Mai Po NR on 17<sup>th</sup> September (JAA) and two seen at San Tin on 21<sup>st</sup> September (JAA).

**337A Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola* 稻田葦鶯**

2006: One was trapped at Mai Po NR on 6<sup>th</sup> October (JAA, PJJ).

**338A Blunt-winged Warbler *Acrocephalus concinens* 鈍翅葦鶯**

2005: Singles were trapped at Mai Po NR on 6<sup>th</sup> September (retrapped 17<sup>th</sup> October) and 12<sup>th</sup> November.

2006: One was trapped at Mai Po NR on 14<sup>th</sup> January.

**339A Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* 布氏葦鶯**

2005: One was at Kam Tin on 15<sup>th</sup> October (JAA).

**340A Oriental Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis* 東方大葦鶯**

**2005:** There were three spring reports of singles along the Mai Po road on 13<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April, and at Shuen Wan on 27<sup>th</sup> May. Noted in autumn from 17<sup>th</sup> September to 26<sup>th</sup> November, with the highest count being nine at Mai Po NR on 17<sup>th</sup> October. All records were from the northwest NT and Penfold Park.

**2006:** Spring reports comprised two at Mai Po NR on 22<sup>nd</sup> April and Kam Tin on 29<sup>th</sup> April, one along the Mai Po road on 30<sup>th</sup> May and, of most interest perhaps, one on Po Toi, presumed to be the same individual, from 3<sup>rd</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> June. In autumn first recorded on 30<sup>th</sup> August, subsequent records occurred from 10<sup>th</sup> September to 5<sup>th</sup> November, during which period the highest count was 50 at Mai Po NR on 28<sup>th</sup> September. In addition, one was present on 5<sup>th</sup> December. All records were from the northwest NT.



**Plate 18.** Oriental Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis* 東方大葦鶯  
Mai Po NR, Hong Kong, October 2006  
Cherry Wong

**341A Thick-billed Warbler *Acrocephalus aedon* 厚嘴葦鶯**

**2005:** One was present at Mai Po NR on 5<sup>th</sup> October.

**343A Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* 棕扇尾鶯**

**2005:** The highest counts of wintering birds were of 15 at Long Valley on 12<sup>th</sup> February and 19 at Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung) on 8<sup>th</sup> March. The latest record of the spring was of one at Chek Lap Kok on 27<sup>th</sup> April, while the earliest in autumn concerned one at Kam Tin on 29<sup>th</sup> August. Subsequently, the highest monthly counts were two in September and October, five in November and seven in December. The final record of the year was of one at the unusual location of Sunset Peak on 25<sup>th</sup> December. Other than the latter, birds were reported from lowlying areas of the northern NT.

**2006:** Reported in the first winter period to 2<sup>nd</sup> March, with the highest count being ten birds at Long Valley on 10<sup>th</sup> January and Fung Lok Wai on 23<sup>rd</sup> January. Reported in the second winter period from 11<sup>th</sup> September, with the highest count being 11 at Long Valley on 24<sup>th</sup> December. Most records were from the northwest NT, with single records at Chek Lap Kok and She Shan in Lam Tsuen.

**344A Bright-capped Cisticola *Cisticola exilis* 黃頭扇尾鶯**

**2000:** Two were present along High Junk Peak Trail in Clearwater Bay CP on 9<sup>th</sup> September (MT). This is the earliest winter period record yet.

**2005:** Recorded in the first winter period from 8<sup>th</sup> January to 5<sup>th</sup> April at Sha Lo Tung, Buffalo Hill, Ping Che, Lin Ma Hang, Chau Tau, Wu Kau Tang, Tai Mo Shan, Kuk Po and Shek Kong. The highest count was of four at Buffalo Hill on 10<sup>th</sup> February. There were three September records, comprising six at Ngong Ping (Ma On Shan) on 10<sup>th</sup>, and one at Fung Yuen and five at Pat Sin Leng the following day. In the second winter period noted from 9<sup>th</sup> November at Pat Sin Leng, Kam Tin, Sha Lo Tung and Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung). The highest count at this time was of four at Sha Lo Tung on 27<sup>th</sup> November and 10<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** Recorded in the first winter period to 18<sup>th</sup> March, with the highest count being three on 22<sup>nd</sup> January at Ping Yeung. Two were present on Po Toi from 16<sup>th</sup> February to 13<sup>th</sup> April. Recorded in the second winter period from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> October, when singles were at Mong Tseng and Kam Tin, and from 8<sup>th</sup> November to 22<sup>nd</sup> December at Sha Lo Tung, Kam Tin, Shek Kong and Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung), with the highest count being of four at Kam Tin and Shek Kong in December.

**345A Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris* 灰頭鷓鴣**

**2005 & 2006:** No significant reports.

**346A Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata* 褐頭鷓鴣**

**2005:** The only report of significance concerned one on Port Island on 24<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** No significant reports.

**346.9A Mountain Tailorbird *Orthotomus cuculatus* 栗頭縫葉鶯**

**2005:** Recorded at Beacon Hill, Chung Mei, Eagle's Nest Nature Trail, Hok Tau, Kowloon Hills catchment, Kuk Po, Ng Tung Chai, Pak Sha O, Pat Sin Leng, Tai Mo Shan, Tai Po Kau, Tai Po Kau Headland and Wu Kau Tang. Most records came from Ng Tung Chai, Tai Po Kau and Tai Po Kau headland, where regular observations were made during the year. The highest counts were made at Ng Tung Chai, where up to seven birds were noted, and Tai Po Kau, where up to six were seen. Breeding activity was noted at Ng Tung Chai, where a juvenile was seen on 17<sup>th</sup> July. The bulk of records occurred during the two winter periods, though to what extent this reflects observer activity is unknown. This species is well and truly established in Hong Kong.

**2006:** Recorded in all months of the year except June, though with only one record in each of May and July. Sites comprised Fung Yuen, Kap Lung, Kowloon Hills catchwater and reservoir, Lion Rock, Shing Mun, Ng Tung Chai, Pak Sha O, Pat Sin Leng, Pun Shan Chau, Sham Chung, Shing Mun, Tai Po Kau and Wonderland Villas. The highest counts were 12 at Ng Tung Chai on 30<sup>th</sup> September (GJC), the highest on record in HK, and seven at Tai Po Kau on 28<sup>th</sup> October.

**347A Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius* 長尾縫葉鶯**

**2005 & 2006:** No significant reports.

**349A Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* 褐柳鶯**

**2005:** In the first winter period recorded until 5<sup>th</sup> May, with the highest count being 15 at Kam Tin on 9<sup>th</sup> February. In the second winter period recorded from 19<sup>th</sup> September, with the highest count being nine at Long Valley on 12<sup>th</sup> November and 10<sup>th</sup> December. Recorded in widespread areas of Hong Kong.

**2006:** In the first winter period recorded until 4<sup>th</sup> May, with the highest count being ten at Long Valley on 7<sup>th</sup> and Airfield Road on 22<sup>nd</sup> January. In the second winter period recorded on 19<sup>th</sup> September, with the highest count being 25 at Mai Po NR on 23<sup>rd</sup> October and 10<sup>th</sup> December. Reported from widespread areas of Hong Kong.

**351A Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* 巨嘴柳鶯**

**2005:** Singles were at Fung Yuen on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, Shing Mun on 23<sup>rd</sup> October and Ng Tung Chai on 24<sup>th</sup> November.



**2006:** Singles were on Po Toi on 19<sup>th</sup> October and 9-10<sup>th</sup> November, at Mai Po NR on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, Shui Mei on 9<sup>th</sup> November, Kam Tin on 10<sup>th</sup> November, and Tai Po Kau on 13<sup>th</sup> November and 8<sup>th</sup> December.

**352A Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* 黃腰柳鶯**

**2005:** Noted in the first winter period to 7<sup>th</sup> April, with the highest counts at Tai Po Kau and Ng Tung Chai, where up to 12 birds were noted. Birds in song were noted from 8<sup>th</sup> March. Recorded in the second winter period from 16<sup>th</sup> November, with the highest count being 15 at Tai Po Kau on 4<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** Recorded in the first winter period up to 6<sup>th</sup> April, with the highest count being 30 at Airfield Road, Shek Kong on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Reported in the second winter period from 31<sup>st</sup> October, with the highest counts coming from Tai Po Kau and Ng Tung Chai in December, when up to 35 were at the former and 30 at the latter. Rather higher numbers reported this year than last.

**354A Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* 黃眉柳鶯**

**2005:** Recorded in the first winter period to 26<sup>th</sup> April, with the highest numbers between Tung Chung and Tai O, Lantau, where 27 birds were counted. Recorded in the second winter period from 11<sup>th</sup> September, when one was on Po Toi. The highest count at this time was ten at Lau Shui Heung on 27<sup>th</sup> November. Recorded at widespread areas of Hong Kong.

**2006:** Recorded in the first winter period to 16<sup>th</sup> April, with the highest numbers reported from Airfield Road, Shek Kong, where double-figure counts were made up to 25<sup>th</sup> March, the highest being 20 on 22<sup>nd</sup> January. Recorded in the second winter period from 8<sup>th</sup> September. The main arrival appears to have occurred in the second half of October, when the highest count was 20 on Po Toi on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Reported from widespread areas of Hong Kong.

**355A Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei* 淡眉柳鶯**

**2004:** One was seen and trapped at Kam Tin on 4<sup>th</sup> November (PJJ, JAA).

**2006:** One was present at She Shan, Lam Tsuen on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> January (DAD).

**356A Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* 極北柳鶯**

**2005:** All spring records were from Po Toi, where singles were recorded on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> April. Passage birds in autumn were recorded from 28<sup>th</sup> August to 29<sup>th</sup> October, with the highest numbers occurring during 10-12<sup>th</sup> September, and the highest count being 26 birds along the north Lantau coast west of Tung Chung. Singles only were recorded after 19<sup>th</sup> September. Finally, one was present at Mai Po NR on 13<sup>th</sup> November and 4<sup>th</sup> December, presumably the same bird.

**2006:** As with the previous year, all spring records occurred on Po Toi, where up to 25 birds were recorded from 26<sup>th</sup> April to 18<sup>th</sup> May, the highest count occurring on the last date. Recorded in autumn from 22<sup>nd</sup> August to 25<sup>th</sup> October, the highest counts being 15 at Shing Mun on 15<sup>th</sup> October and nine at Dong Ping Chau on 24<sup>th</sup> September. Singles only were recorded after 17<sup>th</sup> October.

**357A Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* 暗綠柳鶯**

**2003:** One was at Ng Tung Chai on 4<sup>th</sup> January.

**2004:** One was at Tai Po Kau on 26<sup>th</sup> January.

**2005:** The first record of the year concerned one in Tai Po Kau from 9<sup>th</sup> January to 27<sup>th</sup> February. The next record was of one at the same locality during 21-29<sup>th</sup> October. Subsequently, in November singles were recorded at Tai Mo Shan on 5<sup>th</sup>, Sunset Peak on 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, Ng Tung Chai on 21<sup>st</sup> and Kap Lung on 27<sup>th</sup>; finally, one was seen at Tai Po Kau on six dates from 19<sup>th</sup> November to 27<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** In the first winter period singles were recorded at Ng Tung Chai on 1<sup>st</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> January, Tai Po Kau on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> January, She Shan on 3<sup>rd</sup> March and Pun Shan Chau on 8<sup>th</sup> April. Records in the second part of the year comprised singles on Po Toi on 16<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> September, 8<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 25-26<sup>th</sup> October, Ng Tung Chai on 18<sup>th</sup> September, Kam Tin on 15<sup>th</sup> October, Pak Sha O on 12<sup>th</sup> November, Sha Tin Pass on 17<sup>th</sup> November, Kowloon Hills catchwater on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, Ng Tung Chai on 5<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December and, finally, Tai Tam Reservoir on 29<sup>th</sup> December.

**358A Pale-legged Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus tenellipes* 淡腳柳鶯 or**

**359A Sakhalin Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus borealoides* 庫頁島柳鶯**

Since reliable criteria for separation in the field remain to be established, for the time being records of these two species will be combined, unless birds are trapped, allowing for known differences in wing formula to be used.

**2005:** In April on Po Toi one was present on 2<sup>nd</sup>, and two were noted on 16-17<sup>th</sup>, while one was at Ng Tung Chai on 7<sup>th</sup>. Autumn passage was noted from 2<sup>nd</sup> September to 29<sup>th</sup> October, with the highest count being nine on 11<sup>th</sup> September between Tung Chung and Tai O. Winter records comprised two at Pak Sha O on 19<sup>th</sup> November and up to two at Sha Tin Pass in the final week of the year.

**2006:** In spring singles were recorded on Po Toi on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 1<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> April, at Tung Ping Chau on 1<sup>st</sup> April and at Tai Po Kau on 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Southward passage was recorded from 2<sup>nd</sup> September to 17<sup>th</sup> October, with the highest count being eight on Tung Ping Chau on 24<sup>th</sup> September. Subsequently, singles were recorded on Po Toi on five dates between 5-28<sup>th</sup> November, probably involving three birds.

**358A Pale-legged Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus tenellipes* 淡腳樹鶯**

**2006:** One was trapped at Mai Po NR on 1<sup>st</sup> October (JAA).

**359A Sakhalin Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus borealoides* 庫頁島樹鶯**

**2005:** One was trapped at Kam Tin on 22<sup>nd</sup> October (JAA).

**360A Eastern Crowned Warbler *Phylloscopus coronatus* 冕柳鶯**

**2005:** Spring reports comprised singles on Po Toi during 2-3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> April, and at Tai Po Kau on 4<sup>th</sup> April. Reported in autumn from 28<sup>th</sup> August to 29<sup>th</sup> October, with most records occurring in Tai Po Kau, as usual. At this site up to six birds were recorded during the whole period. Elsewhere, singles were at Tei Tong Tsai (Lantau) on 11<sup>th</sup> September, Ng Tung Chai on 13<sup>th</sup> September, Mai Po on 2<sup>nd</sup> October and on Po Toi on 9<sup>th</sup> October, and two were at Kowloon Hills catchment on 1<sup>st</sup> October.

**2006:** Spring reports comprised one at Sunset Peak on 28<sup>th</sup> March, up to two on Po Toi from 30<sup>th</sup> March to 4<sup>th</sup> April and one at Tai Po Kau on 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Reported in autumn from 13<sup>th</sup> August to 28<sup>th</sup> October, all reports bar two coming from Tai Po Kau or Ng Tung Chai, where the highest count was three on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. The remaining records occurred at Mai Po, where one was present on 17<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> September.

**361A Goodson's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus goodsoni* 華南冠紋柳鶯**

Following Olsson *et al.* (2005), birds previously identified in Hong Kong as Blyth's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides goodsoni* are now treated as *Phylloscopus goodsoni*. At present, only the nominate subspecies *P.g. goodsoni* is considered to occur for certain, based on the extensive yellow on the underparts and face that is diagnostic of this taxon. Although it is considered that those birds lacking this yellow are likely to refer to *P.g. fokiensis*, this is not proven, as *P. claudiae* cannot be excluded. Observers are encouraged to carefully note the appearance of birds seen and submit records as *P.g. goodsoni* or *fokiensis/claudiae*, where appropriate.

**2005:** *P.g. goodsoni* was reported in the first winter period up to 25<sup>th</sup> March, with most records at Tai Po Kau, where the highest count was at least two. Also recorded at Ng Tung Chai, Bride's Pool and Tai O, where one was in song on the latest date. Noted in the second winter period from 16<sup>th</sup> October, when one was in Tai Po Kau (KPK), the earliest on record in Hong Kong. Also recorded at this time at Ng Tung Chai, while the highest count was of two birds on 27<sup>th</sup> December at Tai Po Kau.

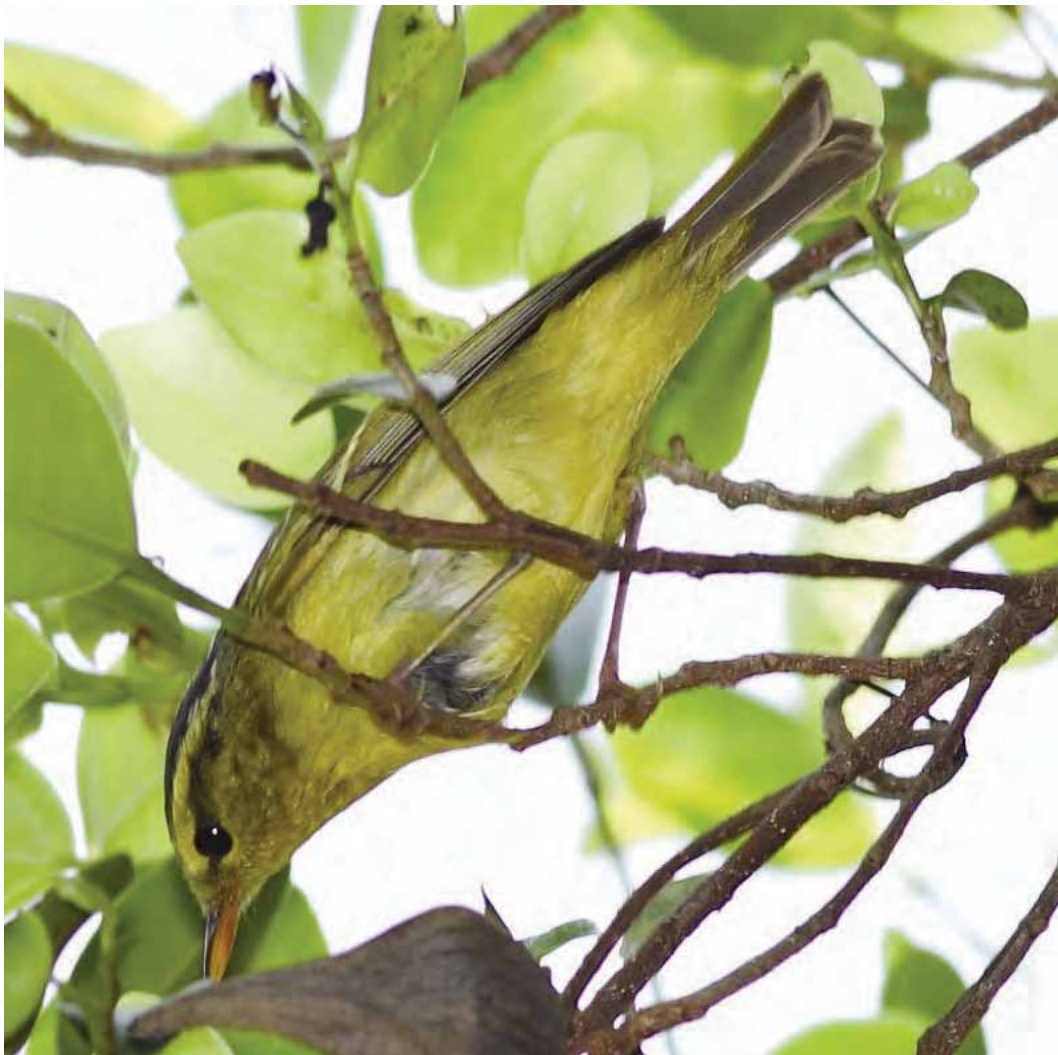
Birds reported as either *fokiensis* or *claudiae* based on plumage characters were reported from 9<sup>th</sup> January to 26<sup>th</sup> March. Most reports were from Tai Po Kau, including the peak count of seven on 15<sup>th</sup> February, with others from Ng Tung Chai and Bride's Pool. In the second winter period reported from 6<sup>th</sup> November, with the highest count being five at Tai Po Kau on 19<sup>th</sup> November. Also

recorded at Ng Tung Chai, Fung Yuen, Lai Chi Wo and Sha Tin Pass. Birds not ascribed to any taxon were reported up to 26<sup>th</sup> March and from 9<sup>th</sup> October.

**2006:** Only one record of *P.g. goodsoni* was received for the first winter period, that of one at Ng Tung Chai on 5<sup>th</sup> January. In the second winter period reported from 5<sup>th</sup> November at Ng Tung Chai and Tai Po Kau, singles on all dates.

There was only one record in the first winter period of either *fohkiensis* or *claudiae*, a single at Tai Po Kau on 6<sup>th</sup> February. In the second winter period reported from 4<sup>th</sup> November at Tai Po Kau and Ng Tung Chai, with the highest count being two at each site in December. Birds not ascribed to taxon were reported up to 25<sup>th</sup> March and from 1<sup>st</sup> November, with the highest counts being two in the first winter period and three in the second.

**361.5A Sulphur-breasted Warbler *Phylloscopus ricketti* 黑眉柳鶯**



**Plate 19.** Sulphur-breasted Warbler *Phylloscopus ricketti* 黑眉柳鶯  
Po Toi, Hong Kong, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006  
Michelle and Peter Wong

2005: One was seen in Tai Po Kau on 25<sup>th</sup> November (KPK); this is the first Hong Kong record.

2006: One was seen on Po Toi on 1<sup>st</sup> April (GH) (Plate 19). One was seen in Tai Po Kau from 4-25<sup>th</sup> November (GJC, MH *et al.*).

### 363.5 White-spectacled Warbler *Seicercus affinis*. 白眶鵯鶯

2004: One was at Tai Po Kau on 15<sup>th</sup> February (GJC), presumably the same as recorded in late 2003.

2005: One of the *cognitus* phase was at Tai Po Kau from 22<sup>nd</sup> January to 12<sup>th</sup> February (PW, MW).

### Unidentified spectacled warblers *Seicercus sp.* 眼眶鵯鶯

2003: A Bianchi's *S. valentini* or Plain-tailed Warbler *S. soror* was present at Tai Po Kau on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2003 (JAA).

2004: A Plain-tailed or Emei Warbler *S. omeiensis* was at Tai Po Kau on 9<sup>th</sup> October. Single unidentified birds were at Beacon Hill on 25<sup>th</sup> December and Tai Po Kau on 29<sup>th</sup> December.

2005: Single unidentified birds were at Ng Tung Chai on 18<sup>th</sup> January, Po Toi on 20<sup>th</sup> November and Ng Tung Chai on 27<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> December.

2006: Singles were seen in Tai Po Kau from 14<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> January, at Ng Tung Chai on 8<sup>th</sup> February and Lung Fu Shan on 29<sup>th</sup> November.

It should be noted that while records of *Seicercus sp.* do not require substantiation, a detailed description may allow identification in the future. All records of warblers *Seicercus* identified to species level need to be assessed by the Records Committee and, thus, details should be provided.

### 364A Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Seicercus castaniceps* 栗頭鵯鶯

2004: Up to two were in Tai Po Kau from 17<sup>th</sup> November to 29<sup>th</sup> December.

2005: Singles were seen at Tai Po Kau from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 25<sup>th</sup> March. Reports of this species were regularly made during the winter period in 2004-05, and on the basis of substantiated records, such reports have been included.

### 367A Grey-streaked Flycatcher *Muscicapa griseisticta* 斑胸鵯鶯

2005: Spring reports comprised one on Po Toi on 9<sup>th</sup> April, up to two at Mai Po NR from 28<sup>th</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> May, and singles at Fung Yuen and Mai Po NR on 14<sup>th</sup> May. Autumn reports comprised singles at Mai Po NR on 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September, and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> October, at Ng Tung Chai on 29<sup>th</sup> September, and Po Toi and Tai Po Kau headland on 9<sup>th</sup> October.



**2006:** Recorded in spring from 25<sup>th</sup> April to 23<sup>rd</sup> May, with all records bar one coming from Po Toi. At this site the highest count was three on 29<sup>th</sup> April, while the only record away from there concerned two at Mai Po NR on 1<sup>st</sup> May. In autumn, on Po Toi up to two were present between 11-17<sup>th</sup> and on 24<sup>th</sup> September. Away from there, singles were present at Ng Tung Chai on 19<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September, Mai Po on 28<sup>th</sup> September, Tai Po Kau on 4<sup>th</sup> October and Lions Nature Centre, and Sai Kung on 16<sup>th</sup> October.

**368A Dark-sided Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica* 烏鶇**

**2005:** Recorded on 4<sup>th</sup> September to 19<sup>th</sup> November, with further records on 10<sup>th</sup> and 18-26<sup>th</sup> December. Up to two birds were recorded at individual sites until 18<sup>th</sup> October, after which date singles only were noted. The December records occurred at Tai Po Kau and Tai Po Kau headland respectively. Records occurred at areas of woodland in the NT and on Lantau.

**2006:** Recorded on 5<sup>th</sup> September to 25<sup>th</sup> November. Passage was relatively marked this year, and up to two birds were recorded at individual sites until 27<sup>th</sup> October, with singles thereafter. On Po Toi up to two birds were recorded daily from the beginning of passage to 11<sup>th</sup> October.

**369A Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica* 北灰鶇**

**2005:** Recorded in the first winter period until 7<sup>th</sup> May, single birds only were noted during the first three months of the year, while up to three were present at Mai Po NR in April. Recorded in the second winter period from 2<sup>nd</sup> September, with the highest counts being seven between Tung Chung and Ngong Ping on 11<sup>th</sup> September and five at Mai Po NR on 1<sup>st</sup> October. Up to three birds were recorded in November and December. Records were received from widespread areas of trees throughout Hong Kong.

**2006:** Counts in the first winter period were higher than the previous year, though all greater than two occurred at only two sites: Tai Po Kau and Airfield Road, Shek Kong. The latest record occurred on 4<sup>th</sup> May, and counts of spring migrants numbered no more than two. Recorded in the second part of the year from 29<sup>th</sup> August, when one was present on Po Toi; at this site, up to six birds were noted daily until 24<sup>th</sup> October. Elsewhere, counts were no higher than three until the last week of September and first week of October, during which period up to nine were recorded at Mai Po NR, seven were on Po Toi, four were at Kam Tin and one was in Tai Po Kau. Subsequently, up to three birds were noted at Tai Po Kau and Airfield Road, Shek Kong, with mainly singles elsewhere.

**370A Ferruginous Flycatcher *Muscicapa ferruginea* 紅褐鶇**

**2005:** Recorded in spring from 27<sup>th</sup> March to 21<sup>st</sup> April. On Po Toi singles were noted, apart from three on 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Elsewhere, singles were recorded at Mai Po NR, Tai Po Kau, Kap Lung and Ng Tung Chai.



2006: Singles were recorded on 23<sup>rd</sup> March to 2<sup>nd</sup> April at Lung Fu Shan, Tai Po Kau, Po Toi, Ng Tung Chai and Kowloon Hills catchwater.



Plate 20. Ferruginous Flycatcher *Musciapa ferruginea* 紅褐鶇  
Po Toi, Hong Kong, April 2005  
Cherry Wong

### 371A Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassina* 銅藍鶇

2005: Recorded in the first winter period as follows: at Tai Po Kau a male and a female on 2<sup>nd</sup> January, a male on 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> February; at Shuen Wan one on 11<sup>th</sup> January; at ZBG one on 7<sup>th</sup> February; at So Lo Pun a male and a female during 11-12<sup>th</sup> February; at KFBG a male on 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> March; and at Ng Tung Chai one on 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> March. In the second winter period one was at Lam Tsuen on 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> December; at Ng Tung Chai a female was present from 25<sup>th</sup> October to 30<sup>th</sup> December, joined by a male on 15<sup>th</sup> November; at Tai Po Kau singles present from 21<sup>st</sup> October to 29<sup>th</sup> November involved at least one male and one female; at Tai Po Kau headland a female was present on 20<sup>th</sup> November; and at Sha Tin Pass two males and a female were present on 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

**2006:** A male was present in the 'Golden Triangle' Lam Tsuen valley during 8-15<sup>th</sup> January, with it or another bird present on 18<sup>th</sup> February. At Ng Tung Chai a male was seen on 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> January, and a female was present on 30<sup>th</sup> January. Singles were also present at Shek Kong on 2<sup>nd</sup> January and 5<sup>th</sup> March, and at Wonderland Villas on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. In the second winter period singles were present on Po Toi during 19-20<sup>th</sup> September and on 7<sup>th</sup> October; a male and a female were seen intermittently at Ng Tung Chai from 1<sup>st</sup> November to 20<sup>th</sup> December; a female was present at Pak Sha O on 12<sup>th</sup> November; at Tai Po Kau one was recorded on 25<sup>th</sup> November and 2<sup>nd</sup> December (identified as a male on the latter date); and at Fung Yuen two were seen on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

### **372A Yellow-rumped Flycatcher *Ficedula zanthopygia* 白眉姬鵯**

**2005:** Spring records of this species are very unusual, and so a female on Po Toi on 5<sup>th</sup> April is noteworthy. The vast bulk of records, of course, occur in autumn, and this year passage was noted from 4<sup>th</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> October, during which period singles were recorded at widespread sites in the NT.

**2006:** As with the previous year, there was a spring record, a male on Po Toi during 29-30<sup>th</sup> April. Autumn passage this year was relatively strong, and lasted from 2<sup>nd</sup> September to 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Up to three birds were recorded until 24<sup>th</sup> September, after when singles only were noted. Finally, a first winter male was present on Po Toi during 6-10<sup>th</sup> November; given the lateness of this record, some doubt exists regarding its origins.

### **373A Narcissus Flycatcher *Ficedula narcissina* 黃眉姬鵯**

**2002:** A male of the taxon *F.n. owstoni* was at Mount Davis on 26<sup>th</sup> March (PH, HH). This is the first Hong Kong record. Although initially considered by the RC possibly to be this taxon, the record seemed highly unlikely. However, subsequent occurrence of a well-photographed individual on Po Toi in 2006 enabled successful reassessment of the record.

**2005:** Recorded in spring from 19<sup>th</sup> March to 17<sup>th</sup> April, with a further record on 29<sup>th</sup> April. Singles were involved in all records, and all were males apart from females at Sha Tin Pass on 6<sup>th</sup> April and Mai Po NR the following day. Presumably females are overlooked to some extent. Birds were recorded at widespread sites, varying from mature woodland to plantation and the offshore island of Po Toi.

**2006:** Recorded on 25<sup>th</sup> March to 29<sup>th</sup> April, all records involving one or two birds on Po Toi, Fung Yuen, Ng Tung Chai and Dong Ping Chau, though most records were from Po Toi.

In addition, a male of the taxon *F.n. owstoni* was present on Po Toi on 26<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> March (MK, PW, FC, CKC) (Plate 21). This is the second Hong Kong record.



**Plate 21.** Narcissus Flycatcher *Ficedula narcissina owstoni* 黃眉姬鶇  
Po Toi, Hong Kong, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2006  
Michelle and Peter Wong

**375A Mugimaki Flycatcher *Ficedula mugimaki* 鶇姬鶇**

**2005:** There were four records in the first winter period, comprising singles at Tai Po Kau on 13<sup>th</sup> January and 6<sup>th</sup> March, Sha Tin Pass on 8<sup>th</sup> February and Mai Po NR on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Recorded in spring during 2-16<sup>th</sup> April, with an immature male present on Po Toi for the whole of this period, a female at Pak Sha O on 3<sup>rd</sup>, and single immature males at Kowloon Park on 4<sup>th</sup> and Sha Tin

Pass on 6<sup>th</sup>. Recorded in the latter part of the year from 27<sup>th</sup> October to 16<sup>th</sup> December, with most records occurring during 13-26<sup>th</sup> November. The highest count was four at Pak Sha O on 19<sup>th</sup> November. One was recorded eating *Zanthoxylum avicennae* fruit at Tai Po Kau headland on 20<sup>th</sup> November.

**2006:** Spring reports came from Po Toi, and concerned a female during 2-7<sup>th</sup> April, a male during 6-7<sup>th</sup> April and a female on 15<sup>th</sup> May (GW); the latter is the latest on record in HK, the previous latest having occurred on 26<sup>th</sup> April 1976. In autumn, on Po Toi up four birds were present from 10<sup>th</sup> October to 30<sup>th</sup> November (GW), with the first of these dates earlier than any other HK record. Elsewhere, singles were recorded at Tai Mo Shan, Tai Po Kau, Ng Tung Chai, Fung Yuen, Fung Yuen, Bride's Pool and Pak Sha O up to 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

**376A Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophitata* 橙胸姬鵯**

**2004:** One was at Ng Tung Chai on 9<sup>th</sup> February (EMSK).

**2006:** One was on Po Toi on 24<sup>th</sup> December (PKS).

**377A Red-throated Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla* 紅喉姬鵯**

**2005:** Records in the first part of the year were divided into two periods, 7<sup>th</sup> January to 7<sup>th</sup> March and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> April. In the first period singles were present at Airfield Road, Pak Nai, Nam Sang Wai, Kam Tin, Ling Pai Tsuen and Mai Po NR. In April singles were noted at Kam Tin, Po Toi and Ng Tung Chai. In the second part of the year recorded on 18<sup>th</sup> September, with up to two birds noted at any one site, apart from three at Airfield Road, Shek Kong on 15<sup>th</sup> December. Recorded at widespread open country sites in the NT and on Lantau.

**2006:** A relatively large number of records occurred up to 5<sup>th</sup> March, most concerning up to three birds, though the highest count was four at Airfield Road, Shek Kong on 22<sup>nd</sup> January. One at Airfield Road on 25<sup>th</sup> March may have been a wintering bird, though singles at Kowloon Hills catchwater on 28<sup>th</sup> March and at Kam Tin on 5<sup>th</sup> April likely involved passage migrants. Recorded in the second winter period from 14<sup>th</sup> October to the end of the year, with the highest count being two at Kam Tin on 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Recorded at widespread open country areas throughout the NT.

**378A Blue-and-white Flycatcher *Cyanoptila cyanomelana* 白腹鵯**

**2005:** In spring recorded on 14<sup>th</sup> March and from 23<sup>rd</sup> March to 17<sup>th</sup> April. Males only were reported until 2<sup>nd</sup> April, when the first female was seen. The highest site counts were four on Po Toi on 2<sup>nd</sup> April and three at Tai Po Kau on 25<sup>th</sup> March and Ng Tung Chai on 5<sup>th</sup> April. All reports were assigned to sex, and 18 males and eight females were reported, though there may be some duplication of individuals in these figures. In autumn, a male was at Fung Yuen on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, and single first-winter males were at Mai Po NR the following day and Ng Tung Chai on 12<sup>th</sup> November; on the same date a female was at Tai Po Kau, at which site subsequently a male was reported on 18<sup>th</sup> November and

6<sup>th</sup> December, and two females/immatures were present on 10<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** Rather fewer spring reports were received compared with last year. The first records were of three males on Po Toi and a male at Ng Tung Chai on 25<sup>th</sup> March. This was followed by males at Shek Kong and Ng Tung Chai on 26<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March respectively. Subsequently, singles were on Po Toi on 30<sup>th</sup> March and Tai Po Kau on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, up to two males and a female were recorded at Ng Tung Chai during 3-8<sup>th</sup> April, and single males were recorded on Po Toi during 4-5<sup>th</sup> April. Most autumn records occurred on Po Toi, where a male was present on 21<sup>st</sup> September, and singles were present on most days during 4<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> October, with a male and a female on 10<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere, singles were present at Mai Po on 26<sup>th</sup> September, Tai Po Kau on 5<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> October, Ng Tung Chai on 29<sup>th</sup> October and Mai Po on 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

**379A Fujian Niltava *Niltava davidi* 棕腹大仙鷓**

**2005:** A male was at Sha Tin Pass on 24<sup>th</sup> December (P & MW).

**379.3E Small Niltava *Niltava macgrigoriae* 小仙鷓**

**2004:** A female or immature was at Tai Po Kau on 15<sup>th</sup> December (GH).

**380A Hainan Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis hainanus* 海南藍鷓**

**2005:** The sole winter record was of a male at Sha Tin Pass on 8<sup>th</sup> February. Subsequently, one or two males, often in song, were recorded from 19<sup>th</sup> March to 29<sup>th</sup> April at Tai Po Kau, Ng Tung Chai, Po Toi and Sha Tin Pass. The peak site count was four, at Tai Po Kau on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 29<sup>th</sup> May and 11<sup>th</sup> June. Elsewhere in May and June recorded at Shing Mun, Tai Lam CP and Tai Po Kau headland. There were no reports from 13<sup>th</sup> July to 28<sup>th</sup> August, when one was at Tai Po Kau; subsequently at this site, up two were recorded during 2-11<sup>th</sup> September. Elsewhere, singles were at Ng Tung Chai on 31<sup>st</sup> August and 13<sup>th</sup> September, Kap Lung on 19<sup>th</sup> September and Pak Sha O on 19<sup>th</sup> November.

**2006:** A male at Pat Sin Leng on 26<sup>th</sup> February was followed by a male at Ng Tung Chai on 29<sup>th</sup> March. Subsequently, recorded at Tai Po Kau, Ng Tung Chai, Sham Chung, Sha Lo Tung, Shing Mun and Kap Lung until 18<sup>th</sup> June, with the highest count being seven at Tai Po Kau on 17<sup>th</sup> April. Subsequently, one or two birds were recorded at Tai Po Kau, Ng Tung Chai, Kowloon Hill and Ap Lei Chau until 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

**383A Grey-headed Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis* 方尾鷓**

**2005:** One or two birds were recorded at woodland and closed-canopy shrubland sites in the central and eastern NT up to 25<sup>th</sup> March. Recorded in the second winter period from 21<sup>st</sup> October, with the main arrival occurring after 11<sup>th</sup> November; the peak count at this time was five at Tai Po Kau and Ng Tung Chai, rising to seven at the former site in early December.

**2006:** In the first winter period one or two birds were recorded at Tai Po Kau, Ng Tung Chai, Shek Kong, Lam Tsuen, Shing Mun, Nam Shan (Lantau), Fung Yuen, Kowloon Hills catchwater, Yung Shue O and Airfield Road to 29<sup>th</sup> March, with a further record of one on Po Toi on 20<sup>th</sup> April (GW); the latter is the latest on record in HK. Recorded in the second winter period from 16<sup>th</sup> October, with the main arrival apparently occurring in the last week of October and first week of November, when the peak count was seven at Tai Po Kau. Subsequently recorded at a similar range of sites as the first winter period, with the highest count being nine birds at Kowloon Hills catchwater on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

**384A Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea* 黑枕王鷄**

**2005:** In the first winter period singles were at Fung Yuen on 8<sup>th</sup> January and 19<sup>th</sup> February, Bride's Pool on 11<sup>th</sup> February, Ng Tung Chai on 19<sup>th</sup> February, KFBG on 21<sup>st</sup> February, Sha Lo Tung on 26<sup>th</sup> March and Yung Shue O on 27<sup>th</sup> March. Recorded in the second winter period from 18<sup>th</sup> October, though there were only three records before 11<sup>th</sup> November. From this date, one or two birds were recorded at Tai Po Kau, Ng Tung Chai, Fung Yuen, Lau Shui Heung, Tsim Bei Tsui, Lam Tsuen and Sha Tin Pass, with the peak count being three at Tai Po Kau on 4<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** In the first winter period singles were recorded at Tai Po Kau, Ng Tung Chai, Golden Triangle, She Shan, Shing Mun, Mui Tsz Lam, Sam A Tsuen and Fung Yuen to 28<sup>th</sup> March. In addition, up to two were at Dong Ping Chau on 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> April, presumably passage migrants. In the second winter period recorded on 14<sup>th</sup> October; subsequently, mainly singles were recorded at Mai Po, Po Toi, Ng Tung Chai, Tai Po Kau, Fung Yuen and She Shan to the end of the year, with two at Tai Po Kau on 30<sup>th</sup> October and Ng Tung Chai on 26<sup>th</sup> December.

**385A Asian Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradise* 壽帶鳥**

**2005:** Only recorded in autumn, from the period 30<sup>th</sup> August to 16<sup>th</sup> October, with the main passage period occurring up to 13<sup>th</sup> September. Mainly singles were reported, though two were present at both Tai Po Kau and Ng Tung Chai on 10<sup>th</sup> September, and at Tai Po Kau a week later on 17<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere, recorded at Mai Po NR, Tei Tong Tsai (Lantau), Kap Lung and Tai Po Headland.

**2006:** Unlike the previous year, a number of spring records were received, comprising singles at Tai Po Kau on 21<sup>st</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April, and Mai Po NR on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, while two were on Po Toi on 29<sup>th</sup> April. A strong southward passage was reported from 22<sup>nd</sup> August to 10<sup>th</sup> December, with most birds recorded during the month of September. Generally one or two birds were recorded, including one that stayed on Po Toi for ten days from 10<sup>th</sup> September, while the highest count was four at Ng Tung Chai on 9<sup>th</sup> September. Singles only were recorded after 2<sup>nd</sup> October, while the final few records refer to what appears to be the same bird that remained at Tai Po Kau from 25<sup>th</sup> November to 10<sup>th</sup> December.



**386A Japanese Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone atrocaudata* 紫壽帶鳥**  
**NT**

**2005:** There were seven spring reports, all in April: singles at Tai Po Kau on 1<sup>st</sup> and Mai Po NR on 13<sup>th</sup>, two males and a female at Ng Tung Chai during 16-19<sup>th</sup>, a female at Shing Mun on 24<sup>th</sup> and a male at Tai Po Kau on 29<sup>th</sup>. Southward passage was noted from 2<sup>nd</sup> September to 23<sup>rd</sup> October, with further records of one in Tai Po Kau on 13<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November. Singles were reported, apart from two at Tai Po Kau on 1<sup>st</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> October. There were three records from sites other than Tai Po Kau: Kap Lung, Kowloon Hills catchment and Mai Po.

**2006:** As with 2005, there were seven spring records in April, comprising singles at Tai Po Kau and Dong Ping Chau on 5<sup>th</sup>, Tai Po Kau on 9<sup>th</sup>, Po Toi on 18<sup>th</sup>, Tai Po Kau on 21<sup>st</sup> and Po Toi on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Reported on southward passage from 13<sup>th</sup> September to 30<sup>th</sup> October, all records involving singles apart from three at Tai Po Kau on 22<sup>nd</sup> October and two there on 28<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere, recorded at Mai Po NR, Po Toi and Ng Tung Chai.

**387A Chinese Penduline Tit *Remiz consobrinus* 攀雀**

**2005:** Clearly under-recorded during the year, with just three records received: singles at Sha Po on 5<sup>th</sup> February and 3<sup>rd</sup> April, and three birds at Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung) on 8<sup>th</sup> March.

**2006:** After just three records in 2005, the only report of the year was of 25 at Mai Po on 26<sup>th</sup> November. This is thought to reflect a reduction in reporting of this species rather than a real decline in numbers.

**388A Yellow-bellied Tit *Parus venustulus* 黃腹山雀**

**2005:** An irruption of this species occurred towards the end of the year. Following three at Sha Lo Tung on 20<sup>th</sup> November, up to eight were recorded at the same site between 4<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December, two (possibly from the Sha Lo Tung flock) were at Hok Tau on 10<sup>th</sup> December and at least eight were present in the Lam Tsuen Valley between 18<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> December. These are the first records since one in 2001, and the first irruption since 1990-91.

**2006:** The irruption that started at the end of 2005 continued into early 2006, and a total of 141 bird-days were reported until 26<sup>th</sup> March. Most of these (116 bird days) were from the Golden Triangle in the Lam Tsuen Valley, where eight birds were regularly recorded until 26<sup>th</sup> March, with higher counts of ten on 8<sup>th</sup> January and 13 on 5<sup>th</sup> February. Elsewhere, birds were recorded at Ng Tung Chai (one on 1<sup>st</sup> January), Mount Davis (four on 1<sup>st</sup> January), Sha Lo Tung (six on 1<sup>st</sup> February and up to eight between 10<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March) and She Shan (one on 3<sup>rd</sup> March). Overall, a total of 192 bird-days were reported for Winter 2005-06, including a minimum of 27 individuals, making this the best winter since 60 individuals were recorded in the irruption of 1990-91. In the second half of the year, the only report was of two at Mount Davis on 26<sup>th</sup> December.

**389A Great Tit *Parus major* 大山雀**

**2005:** No significant reports.

**2006:** Two on Po Toi on 29<sup>th</sup> May were unusual for this location.

**390C Yellow-cheeked Tit *Parus spilonotus* 黃頰山雀**

**2005:** As usual, most records came from Tai Po Kau, where the peak count was of eight birds on 21<sup>st</sup> November. Other sites included Tai Po Kau Headland, Ng Tung Chai, Sha Tin Pass, Kowloon Hills catchment and Lion Rock, although no more than two birds were recorded at any of these sites.

**2006:** All records were from typical sites in the central NT, including Tai Po Kau, Ng Tung Chai and Kowloon Hills Catchment. The peak count was of just four on 28<sup>th</sup> January, at Tai Po Kau.

**391D Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis* 絨額鶇**

**2005:** As usual, most records were from Tai Po Kau and nearby at Tai Po Kau Headland. The peak count was of eight birds and evidence of breeding was reported in the form of juveniles seen on 11<sup>th</sup> June and 12<sup>th</sup> July and one seen at an apparent nest site on 24<sup>th</sup> July. Other sites at which the species was reported were Chinese University, KFBG, Ng Tung Chai, Kowloon Hills catchment and Lam Tsuen Valley.

**2006:** Recorded throughout the year from the central NT, including Tai Po Kau, Ng Tung Chai, Kowloon Hills Catchment, Kap Lung, Shek Kong Catchment, Shing Mun and Lam Tsuen.

**393A Buff-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus* 紅胸啄花鳥**

**2005:** In spring, recorded at Tsim Bei Tsui (two on 14<sup>th</sup> February), A Ma Wat (four on 20<sup>th</sup> February), Tai Po Kau (three singing on 11<sup>th</sup> March) and Wu Kau Tang (two singing on 16<sup>th</sup> March). There were no summer records; birds were recorded again from 26<sup>th</sup> October until the end of the year. All records at this time were singles at Ng Tung Chai and Tai Po Kau, except for one at Mui Tze Lam on 30<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** Recorded in the central NT at Ng Tung Chai, Kap Lung, She Shan and Tai Po Kau. Just seven reports were received for the year, with none between May and September, although this is thought to reflect reporting effort rather than the true pattern of occurrence.

**394A Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum* 朱背啄花鳥**

**2005:** Recorded throughout the year from Ng Tung Chai, Tai Po Kau and Ho Chung. Also recorded in winter at Lam Tsuen, Kam Tin and Mui Tze Lam.

**2006:** Recorded throughout the year from sites in the NT, including Ng Tung Chai, KFBG, Lam Tsuen, Kowloon Hills Catchwater, Sha Tin Pass, Pak Sha O, Kap Lung, Shek Kong, Kam Tin, Long Valley and Mai Po Village.

**394.8A Mrs Gould's Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae* 藍喉太陽鳥**

**2005:** A male was at Tai Po Kau from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> January (CKC *et al.*).

**2006:** A male was at Tai Po Kau from 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> January (YL *et al.*).

**395A Fork-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga christinae* 叉尾太陽鳥**

**2005:** Recorded throughout the year from the Tai Po Kau area, where the peak count was of ten on 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Small numbers (up to two) were also reported from Lok Ma Chau Lookout, Kam Tin, Ng Tung Chai, Lung Fu Shan and Mui Tze Lam. As in most recent years, this species seems to be under-recorded.

**2006:** Most records were from traditional sites in the NT, but birds were also recorded at Mo Tat, Lamma (two on 7<sup>th</sup> September) and on Po Toi (three from 30<sup>th</sup> November until the end of the year). No records were received between March and August, although this surely reflects reporting effort rather than the absence of the species during these months.

**396A Chestnut-flanked White-eye *Zosterops erythropleurus* 紅脇繡眼鳥**

**2005:** Singles were recorded at Tai Po Kau on 29<sup>th</sup> January and at Sha Tin Pass on 29<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** The only report of the year was of two at Tai Po Kau on 9<sup>th</sup> December.

**397A Japanese White-eye *Zosterops japonicus* 暗綠繡眼鳥**

**2005:** No significant reports.

**2006:** No significant reports.

**399.1A Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* 圃鵪**

**2005:** One was at Long Valley on 20<sup>th</sup> October (GW); this is the first Hong Kong record (Plate 31).

**400A Tristram's Bunting *Emberiza tristrami* 白眉鵪**

**2005:** Recorded in Tai Po Kau (up to three birds) until 22<sup>nd</sup> March and also at Kap Lung on 19<sup>th</sup> February and 1<sup>st</sup> April. Recorded again from 23<sup>rd</sup> November until the end of the year at widespread locations including Sunset Peak (Wong

Lung Hang Country Trail), Tai Mo Shan, Ng Tung Chai, Sha Tin Pass and Tai Po Kau).

**2006:** Up to five individuals were recorded at the start of the year until 25<sup>th</sup> March from sites in the central and eastern NT, including Ng Tung Chai, Tai Po Kau, Shing Mun, Mui Tsz Lam, Wu Kau Tang, Hok Tau and Wonderland Villas (Kwai Chung). In addition, three were on Po Toi on 25<sup>th</sup> February and one was there from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> April. A total of 50 bird-days were recorded in the first part of the year, a relatively high total for recent years. The first autumn record was of two on Po Toi on 7<sup>th</sup> November; this was followed by singles on Po Toi on 16<sup>th</sup> November and 11<sup>th</sup> December, two in Tai Po Kau on 16<sup>th</sup> December and one at Ng Tung Chai on 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

#### **401A Chestnut-eared Bunting *Emberiza fucata* 栗耳鵪 (赤胸鵪)**

**2005:** No birds were recorded in spring. In autumn, singles were seen at Kam Tin on 14<sup>th</sup> October and at Long Valley on 5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November. One at Wu Kau Tang on 12<sup>th</sup> December may have been overwintering or a late autumn migrant.

**2006:** Two at Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung) on 19<sup>th</sup> February were presumably overwintering in the area. The only spring migrant was a male at Kam Tin on 21<sup>st</sup> April. Autumn passage comprised one at Long Valley on 14<sup>th</sup> October, another there on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, two at Mai Po on 4<sup>th</sup> November and one at Yuen Long Bypass Floodway on 6<sup>th</sup> November. The last record of the year was one on the Mai Po Access Road on 10<sup>th</sup> December.

#### **402A Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* 小鵪**

**2005:** Recorded at the start of the year until 30<sup>th</sup> April. Peak counts at this time occurred during the typical passage period in mid-April, when up to 25 were present at Ng Tung Chai and up to ten were at Long Valley. Present again from 22<sup>nd</sup> October, when one was at Kam Tin, until the end of the year. The only record away from the central and northern NT was of one bird at Sir Cecil's Ride on 24<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** Birds were recorded at the start of the year until 30<sup>th</sup> April from widespread locations in the northern and central NT, especially Long Valley, where a wintering flock of up to 30 birds was recorded throughout January and February. Other sites at this time included She Shan, Lam Tsuen Valley, Ng Tung Chai, Shek Kong, Kam Tin, Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung), Ping Yeung and Po Toi. The first returning birds involved an unusually early flock of five on Po Toi from 4<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> October. Birds were then seen from 2<sup>nd</sup> November until the end of the year on Po Toi, at Shek Kong, Kam Tin, Ng Tung Chai and Lok Ma Chau; numbers at this time were relatively low, with a peak of just eight birds at Shek Kong on 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

**403A Yellow-browed Bunting *Emberiza chrysophrys* 黃眉鵪**

**2004:** Singles were at Long Valley on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> October (JAPW) and at Fung Kat Heung on 3<sup>rd</sup> November (JAA).

**2006:** One was on Po Toi on 15<sup>th</sup> November (GW).

**404B Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica* 田鵪**

**2005:** One was at Long Valley on 6<sup>th</sup> March (JAA); however, this bird appeared to show evidence of cage damage.

**2006:** One was at Long Valley on 19<sup>th</sup> November (GJC).

**405B Yellow-throated Bunting *Emberiza elegans* 黃喉鵪**

**2006:** One was on Po Toi on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April (GW). Given the late date and the tameness of this bird, its status is, perhaps, open to debate.

**406A Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola* 黃胸鵪 VU**

**2005:** There were no midwinter records, the first bird occurring on 22<sup>nd</sup> March at the unusual location of Penfold Park. The next record was of another single at San Tin on 6<sup>th</sup> April, and thereafter small numbers were recorded in the northwest NT (Deep Bay, Long Valley and Kam Tin) until 6<sup>th</sup> May; the peak count at this time was of 12 birds around Mai Po on 16<sup>th</sup> April. One bird was at Mai Po on 9<sup>th</sup> September, but the main autumn passage occurred from 11<sup>th</sup> October to 27<sup>th</sup> November. All records at this time were from the northwest NT, and numbers were relatively low, with peak counts of just ten birds at Long Valley on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November. Overall a poor year for this declining species, with a total of just 94 bird-days reported.

**2006:** The first records of the year were on 16<sup>th</sup> April, when there were six along the Mai Po Access Road and four at Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung). Passage continued until 4<sup>th</sup> May, with records from Long Valley (up to 15 birds), Mai Po Access Road (three on 19<sup>th</sup> April), Kam Tin (seven on 29<sup>th</sup> April) and Ping Kong (one on 4<sup>th</sup> May). Autumn passage commenced on 15<sup>th</sup> September, when one was in the fishpond area near San Tin, and continued until 9<sup>th</sup> December, when there was one in the Lam Tsuen Valley. Other sites at this time included Mai Po, Long Valley, Kam Tin, Fung Yuen and Po Toi. Although this was a slightly better year than 2005, with 114 bird-days recorded, numbers were still considerably lower than in previous years.

**407A Chestnut Bunting *Emberiza rutila* 栗鵪**

**2005:** In spring, a single male was present at Ng Tung Chai between 5-8<sup>th</sup> April, and one was at Ho Chung on 6<sup>th</sup> May. Recorded again from 15<sup>th</sup> October, when four were at KFBG, until the end of the year. Most records at this time were from Sha Lo Tung, where seven were recorded on 27<sup>th</sup> November and up

to five were present until at least 17<sup>th</sup> December. Other sites included Kam Tin (one on 24<sup>th</sup> October and two on 9<sup>th</sup> November), Long Valley (singles on 5<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November), Tai Po Kau (three on 1<sup>st</sup> November), Fung Yuen (one on 3<sup>rd</sup> December), Ng Tung Chai (one on 25<sup>th</sup> December) and Tei Tong Tsai on Lantau (four on 25<sup>th</sup> December).

**2006:** In spring, two were on Po Toi on 30<sup>th</sup> April. In autumn, up to ten were on Po Toi between 24<sup>th</sup> October and 14<sup>th</sup> November, a female was at Tai Po Kau on 12<sup>th</sup> November, four were at Fung Kat Heung on 13<sup>th</sup> November and a male was at Mai Po Village on 13<sup>th</sup> December. Overall, a relatively poor year for this species.

**408A Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala* 黑頭鵪**

**2003:** A male was at Tai Sang Wai on 14<sup>th</sup> February (YYT).

**2005:** An adult female was at Long Valley from 2-5<sup>th</sup> November (GW, OBI).



**Plate 22.** Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala* Adult female 黑頭鵪  
Long Valley, Hong Kong, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2005  
Michelle and Peter Wong



**409A Japanese Yellow Bunting *Emberiza sulphurata* 硫黃鷓 VU**

**2005:** All records involved singles: on Po Toi on 5<sup>th</sup> April, Hoo Hok Wai (Ma Tso Lung) on 10<sup>th</sup> April (female), Kam Tin on 13<sup>th</sup> April (male) and Mai Po on 16<sup>th</sup> April.

**2006:** Singles were recorded at Mai Po on 18<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> April, and on Po Toi on 21<sup>st</sup> April, while up to five were recorded at Long Valley from 20-22<sup>nd</sup> April.



**Plate 23.** Japanese Yellow Bunting *Emberiza sulphurata* 硫黃鷓  
Long Valley, Hong Kong, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2006  
Michelle and Peter Wong

**410A Black-faced Bunting *Emberiza spodocephala* 灰頭鷓**

**2005:** Recorded at the start of the year until 28<sup>th</sup> April, and again from 31<sup>st</sup> October. Only two double-figure counts were recorded: 16 at Ma Tso Lung on

3<sup>rd</sup> March and ten at Sha Lo Tung on 10<sup>th</sup> December. Most records were from widespread locations throughout the New Territories, but also recorded at Tai Ho (Lantau) and Sir Cecil's Ride.

**2006:** Recorded at the start of the year until 23<sup>rd</sup> April at sites in the NT and on Po Toi. Another was recorded on Po Toi on 14<sup>th</sup> May, a relatively late date for this species in Hong Kong. The first of the autumn was at Long Valley on 24<sup>th</sup> September, although there was then a gap of one month before regular records from 24<sup>th</sup> October until the end of the year.

**412A Pallas's Reed Bunting *Emberiza pallasii* 葦鷀**

**2006:** One was at the KCRC Spur Line wetland compensation area at Lok Ma Chau on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2006 (MH).

**414A Brambling *Fingilla montifringilla* 燕雀**

**2003:** A female was at Mai Po NR on 5<sup>th</sup> January (PJL). This is the first midwinter record.

**2005:** A male was on Po Toi during 5-29<sup>th</sup> November (GW).

**415A Grey-capped Greenfinch *Carduelis sinica* 金翅雀**

**2005:** No records were received for the year, for the first time since 1962.

**2006:** Most records were from Siu Lam, where up to three were recorded in January, February, April, May, July, October and December. Also recorded at Mai Po (one on 15<sup>th</sup> January), Tsim Bei Tsui Lookout (one on 30<sup>th</sup> January), Beas River (two on 31<sup>st</sup> January) and Po Toi (two on 15<sup>th</sup> April).

**416A Eurasian Siskin *Carduelis spinus* 黃雀**

**2006:** A flock of 36 was at Lo Lung Tin, Kam Tin on 4<sup>th</sup> February. Two were at Tai Po Kau on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, with four there the following day, and another four were on Po Toi on 2<sup>nd</sup> April. In autumn, one was on Po Toi from 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> November, with two or three present on the last date.

**417A Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* 普通朱雀**

**2005:** The only record received was of three at Kei Lun Shan, Sheung Shui on 8<sup>th</sup> January.

**2006:** A male was at Airfield Road, Shek Kong on 12<sup>th</sup> February and up to five birds were at the same site between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March. In addition, five were at Kam Tin on 5<sup>th</sup> March and a female or immature was on Po Toi 21<sup>st</sup> April.

**418A Yellow-billed Grosbeak *Eophona migratoria* 黑尾蠟嘴雀**

**2005:** At the start of the year, double figure counts were made at Tong Kung Leng, Sheung Shui (peak of at least 60 on 8<sup>th</sup> January), Fung Lok Wai (14 on 8<sup>th</sup> January), Kam Tin (76 on 29<sup>th</sup> January and 21 still present on 10<sup>th</sup> March), Lok Ma Chau Lookout (12 on 15<sup>th</sup> February) and Ping Che (42 on 17<sup>th</sup> February); smaller numbers were also recorded at Hang Tau Tsuen, Tsim Bei Tsui, Mong Tseng and Mai Po. Two at Ham Tin, Tai Long Wan, on 22<sup>nd</sup> January were the only birds reported away from the northern NT. The latest record of probable wintering birds was of three at Mai Po on 19<sup>th</sup> April. As in recent years, small numbers were recorded in the Kam Tin/Sha Po area until early August; three birds on 7<sup>th</sup> August included at least one juvenile, suggesting that the species again bred locally during 2005. Elsewhere during summer, a pair was seen along the Mai Po Access Road on 31<sup>st</sup> May and one was at Lok Ma Chau on 21<sup>st</sup> August. There were no records in September, with the first autumn record being of three birds at Kam Tin on 1<sup>st</sup> October, following which there were scattered reports until the end of the year. Most records were from the Kam Tin/Sha Po/Fung Kat Heung area, with the largest flock being 32 birds at Fung Kat Heung on 10<sup>th</sup> December. Elsewhere recorded during the latter part of the year at Ma Tso Lung (one on 16<sup>th</sup> October), Lin Ma Hang (four on 25<sup>th</sup> October), Airfield Road, Shek Kong (seven on 15<sup>th</sup> December) and Ngau Tam Mei (eight on 30<sup>th</sup> December).

**2006:** Apart from two at Mount Davis on 1<sup>st</sup> January, all records at the start of the year were from the Deep Bay and Kam Tin/Shek Kong areas. Highest counts were 31 at Fung Kat Heung on 24<sup>th</sup> February and 59 at Tsim Bei Tsui on 4<sup>th</sup> March. In summer, two were at Sha Po on 5<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> June and a pair with a fledged juvenile were at Ho Sheung Heung on 16<sup>th</sup> June, the first recorded breeding record from this site. In autumn, recorded on 14<sup>th</sup> October until the end of the year, with peak counts of 12 at Kam Tin on 14<sup>th</sup> November and Shek Kong on 22<sup>nd</sup> December. Away from the typical sites in the northern and western NT, one was on Po Toi on 30<sup>th</sup> November and six at Ng Tung Chai on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

**419A Japanese Grosbeak *Eophona personata* 黑頭蠟嘴雀**

**2003:** The bird at Lam Tsuen occurred on 17<sup>th</sup> March, not as stated in *HKBR 2003-04*.

**2005:** Singles were at Tong Kung Leng, near Hang Tau Tsuen, on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> January (JAPW, JGH, GJC) (Plate 24), and at Man Uk Pin on 25<sup>th</sup> January (JAA).

**420A White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata* 白腰文鳥**

**2005:** Recorded throughout the year in the NT and HK Island. The highest count was of 38 in the ZBG on 25<sup>th</sup> November.

**2006:** No significant reports.



Plate 24. Japanese Grosbeak *Eophona personata* 黑頭蠟嘴雀  
Hang Tau Tsuen, Hong Kong, 1<sup>st</sup> January 2006  
John & Jemi Holmes

**421A Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata* 斑文鳥**

**2005:** Recorded throughout the year in the NT. The largest flocks were at Mai Po: 300 on 23<sup>rd</sup> May and 150 on 19<sup>th</sup> September.

**2006:** Recorded throughout the year in the NT, with the highest count being 250 at Long Valley on 15<sup>th</sup> June. Also reported from Po Toi, with 64 present from 21<sup>st</sup> December until the end of the year.

**424A Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* 樹麻雀**

**2005 & 2006:** No significant reports.

**425D Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus* 黃胸織布鳥**

**2005:** For the first year since 1993, no records were received.

**2006:** As in 2005, no records were received. The feral population at Mai Po has clearly declined and may no longer survive; observers are urged to report

any sightings of this species.

**426B Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnus malabaricus* 灰頭椋鳥**

**2005:** At Kowloon Park 12 were present on 27<sup>th</sup> January (the largest flock yet recorded) and three on 5<sup>th</sup> April. The population at this site has been present for several years and is considered to derive from ex-captive birds.

**2006:** The only record was of two in Kowloon Park on 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

**427A Red-billed Starling *Sturnus sericeus* 絲光椋鳥**

**2005:** At the start of the year triple-figure flocks were recorded at Shuen Wan (maximum 250 on 4<sup>th</sup> January), Fung Yuen (300 on 7<sup>th</sup> January), Chek Keng (150 on 8<sup>th</sup> January), Lok Ma Chau (350 on 22<sup>nd</sup> January) and Ping Che (159 on 24<sup>th</sup> February); the largest flock, however, was of 2,000 birds at Mai Po on 11<sup>th</sup> March, which may have included some individuals on passage. Wintering birds were also recorded at Long Valley, Tsim Bei Tsui, Shing Uk Tsuen, Pak Nai, Fung Kat Heung, Kam Tin, Ng Tung Chai, Kwan Tei, Tai Po Kau Headland and Tai O, while nine at Mui Wo on 25<sup>th</sup> March and two in Kowloon Park on 4<sup>th</sup> April (with one still present on 6<sup>th</sup>) were presumably migrants. Late spring records of a flock of up to four birds (two males and two females) at Kam Tin between 7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May and three birds at Cheung Po (Pat Heung) on 8<sup>th</sup> May were outside the usual period of occurrence, and a male at Mai Po on 14<sup>th</sup> July was the first summer record of this species.

Autumn passage started early with a single female at Tung Chung on 11<sup>th</sup> September, followed by two at Kam Tin on 24<sup>th</sup> September, another one there on 29<sup>th</sup> September and one along the Mai Po Access Road on 9<sup>th</sup> October. Numbers picked up from late October, the first double-figure count being at least 50 at Kam Tin on 29<sup>th</sup>. The largest flock at the end of the year was 300 at Mai Po 19<sup>th</sup> November; elsewhere flocks were also recorded at Shuen Wan (maximum 140 on 16<sup>th</sup> December), Ng Tung Chai (200 from 14<sup>th</sup> December), Shui Lau Tin (134 on 30<sup>th</sup> December), Long Valley (maximum 100 on 26<sup>th</sup> November), Lam Tsuen Valley (maximum 55 on 27<sup>th</sup> December) and Tai Po (40 on 10<sup>th</sup> December). Twelve birds at Kam Tin on 25<sup>th</sup> February were apparently 'anting' by holding black tree ants onto their feathers; this appears to be the first time this behaviour has been recorded in Hong Kong. This species is extending its period of occurrence in Hong Kong, and it may be breeding in nearby areas.

**2006:** As usual, the largest numbers came from the Deep Bay area, especially Mai Po and the KCRC mitigation wetlands at Lok Ma Chau; peak counts at these two sites at the start of the year were 3,000 and 1,000, respectively. Other sites at which the species was recorded at the start of the year included Shek Kong (maximum 350), Long Valley (maximum 200), She Shan (maximum 70), Shuen Wan (maximum 40), Ng Tung Chai (maximum 20), Mui Wo (eight on 25<sup>th</sup> March), Tung Ping Chau (six on 1<sup>st</sup> April), Chek Lap Kok (four on 15<sup>th</sup> March), Po Toi (maximum four) and Sha Lo Tung (one on 1<sup>st</sup> February). The last records of spring were five at Kam Tin on 29<sup>th</sup> April and one at Mai Po on 1<sup>st</sup> May.



Summer records included a female at Tai Po Waterfront Park on 12<sup>th</sup> June and up to six at Tai Mei Tuk between 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> June; records at this time of year are very unusual and have previously been assumed to relate to ex-captive individuals, although there has been a tendency for birds to remain later in spring in recent years and these may be wild individuals.

The first of the autumn was recorded at Kam Tin on 19<sup>th</sup> October. Numbers then increased rapidly through late October and early November and remained high until the end of the year; the peak count of 11,260 at Mai Po on 25<sup>th</sup> December (GJC) is by far the highest count on record in Hong Kong, beating the previous record of 3,000 on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1994 and 7 December 2000. Away from Deep Bay, the species was also recorded in autumn at Siu Lam (maximum 1000), Long Valley (maximum 875), Tai Po Waterfront Park (maximum 800), Penfold Park (maximum 250), Chung Mei (maximum 200), Kam Tin (maximum 150), Shek Kong (maximum 117), Fung Yuen (maximum 100), Pak Sha O (two on 12<sup>th</sup> November) and Po Toi (one throughout November and another on 26<sup>th</sup> December).

**428A Chestnut-cheeked Starling *Sturnus philippensis* 紫背椋鳥**

**2005:** The only record was of a male at Kam Tin on 29<sup>th</sup> September.

**2006:** Two males were on Po Toi on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, with one remaining until 5<sup>th</sup>. A female was at Fung Kat Heung on 28<sup>th</sup> October.

**429A Purple-backed Starling *Sturnus sturninus* 北椋鳥**

**2005:** A female at Lok Ma Chau on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> January (JAA) was the first winter record of this species. Another female at Kam Tin between 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> May was also unusual; there have only been two previous spring records. In autumn most records were from Kam Tin: six on 24<sup>th</sup> September, two on 29<sup>th</sup> September, two (male and female) on 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> October and one female on 29<sup>th</sup> October. Elsewhere, two were at Ma Tso Lung on 16<sup>th</sup> October.

**2006:** As in 2005, unseasonal birds were reported in winter and spring. These involved a first-winter male at Lok Ma Chau on 6<sup>th</sup> February and a female on Po Toi on 4<sup>th</sup> May. In autumn, present on Po Toi from 16<sup>th</sup> September until 4<sup>th</sup> October, the peak count being ten on the latter date. Also recorded at Mai Po (one on 17<sup>th</sup> September), Long Valley (six on 23<sup>rd</sup>, one on 25<sup>th</sup> and two on 30<sup>th</sup> September) and Kam Tin (singles on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> September and 7<sup>th</sup> October).

**430A Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus* 粉紅椋鳥**

**2005:** One was at Kam Tin on 24<sup>th</sup> September (JAA).

**431A Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* 紫翅椋鳥**

**2005:** All records were from Kam Tin. Up to eight were recorded at the start



of the year until 7<sup>th</sup> March, and a single was present on 13<sup>th</sup> November.

**2006:** One was at Lut Chau on 8<sup>th</sup> January, with two in the same area on 21<sup>st</sup> January. In autumn, singles were recorded at Kam Tin on 28<sup>th</sup> October and 24<sup>th</sup> December. The number of individuals of this species has declined considerably in recent years, especially at Kam Tin.

#### **432A White-cheeked Starling *Sturnus cineraceus* 灰椋鳥**

**2005:** In the early part of the year, most records were from the Deep Bay area (peak count 150 at Lok Ma Chau on 22<sup>nd</sup> January) and Kam Tin (peak count 50 on 5<sup>th</sup> February). Singles were also reported on Po Toi on 5<sup>th</sup> February, at Ping Che on 17<sup>th</sup> February and Long Valley on 17<sup>th</sup> March. The last record apparently relating to wintering birds was of 23 along Mai Po Access Road on 31<sup>st</sup> March.

There were a series of records at Kam Tin between 12<sup>th</sup> April and 23<sup>rd</sup> May included a peak count of nine (six male and three female) on 8<sup>th</sup> May. Evidence of breeding at this time included a pair investigating a potential nest site on 12<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> April, a male carrying nest material on 22<sup>nd</sup> April and a male carrying food on 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> May. This is the first breeding record in Hong Kong.

The first autumn record was of 12 at Kam Tin on 24<sup>th</sup> September. Numbers at Kam Tin rose to a peak of at least 50 on 29<sup>th</sup> October. Also recorded on 9<sup>th</sup> October until the end of the year at Mai Po, where the peak count was 79 on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. The only other site was of two in the Lam Tsuen Valley on 27<sup>th</sup> November.

**2006:** Relatively small numbers were reported from the northwest NT at the start of the year, with peak counts of just ten individuals at Mai Po on 1<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> January. The last record of a certain migrant was one on Po Toi on 29<sup>th</sup> April.

Four birds at Cheung Po (Pat Heung) on 13<sup>th</sup> April included a pair apparently investigating potential nest sites in drainage holes of a bridge. Two pairs at Kam Tin on 27<sup>th</sup> May included one bird carrying food, and another on 3<sup>rd</sup> June was seen carrying food. This is the second successive year with evidence of breeding in the Kam Tin area.

The first record of the autumn was also from Kam Tin, on 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Birds were then recorded at Kam Tin, Long Valley, Mai Po and Lok Ma Chau, but numbers were again lower than usual, with a peak of 32 at Kam Tin on 8<sup>th</sup> October. Elsewhere, one was on Po Toi on 4<sup>th</sup> October.

#### **433A Black-collared Starling *Sturnus nigricollis* 黑領椋鳥**

**2005:** The largest count reported was of 68 birds at Mai Po on 1<sup>st</sup> September.

**2006:** Two at Ho Sheung Heung on 15<sup>th</sup> June were recorded feeding a juvenile Common Koel.

#### 434A White-shouldered Starling *Sturnus sinensis* 灰背椋鳥

**2005:** As in 2004, recorded during all months of the year, with most records from Deep Bay and Kam Tin. Wintering birds were recorded at Sha Po (peak count three) and Deep Bay from Mai Po and Ma Tso Lung (peak counts 39 at Mai Po on 18<sup>th</sup> February and 41 at Ma Tso Lung on 22<sup>nd</sup> February). In addition, one was recorded at Kowloon Park on 27<sup>th</sup> January.

Given the number recorded during the winter, the start of spring migration was not clear; a flock of 51 at Mai Po on 16<sup>th</sup> March probably contained migrants, however. Five were at Long Valley the following day, this flock increasing to 16 by 15<sup>th</sup> April. Apparent migrants were also recorded at Mui Wo (two on 25<sup>th</sup> March), Kowloon Park (ten on 6<sup>th</sup> April), Nai Chung (seven on 9<sup>th</sup> April) and Po Toi (two on 22<sup>nd</sup> April).

The first evidence of breeding was observed on 30<sup>th</sup> March, when a pair was seen investigating potential nest sites at Kam Tin; a count of 29 at this site included at least one juvenile, and presumably also other breeding birds. Further confirmation of breeding was received at Long Valley (two carrying food on 28<sup>th</sup> April) and Shek Kong (six including two nests and adults carrying food on 23<sup>rd</sup> May), while the presence of birds during summer at Kowloon Park, Mai Po and Che Ha probably also indicates breeding. A flock of at least 70 at Kam Tin on 7<sup>th</sup> August presumably included post-breeding birds and dispersing juveniles.

Peak autumn passage occurred during September and included reports of five birds on Po Toi on 11<sup>th</sup> September, 40 at Tung Chung on 11<sup>th</sup> September, 80 at Mai Po on 16<sup>th</sup> September, 20 at Long Valley on 17<sup>th</sup> September and 82 at Kam Tin on 24<sup>th</sup> September. From October to December recorded at Kam Tin (peak count 15 on 29<sup>th</sup> October) and Mai Po (peak count 64 on 18<sup>th</sup> December).

**2006:** The largest wintering flock was at Lok Ma Chau, where 44 birds were recorded on 8<sup>th</sup> January. Singles were also recorded in January and February at Mai Po, Long Valley, Lam Tsuen and Ho Chung, while up to three were seen at Kam Tin during the same period. Spring passage was underway by 25<sup>th</sup> March, when seven were at Mui Wo, and continued until 24<sup>th</sup> May, when one was on Po Toi. The peak count between these dates was of 36 at Penfold Park on 21<sup>st</sup> April, although birds were also recorded at a number of sites in the NT.

The largest counts relating to breeding birds were at Kam Tin, where eight pairs were noted on 9<sup>th</sup> April, two juveniles were seen on 24<sup>th</sup> May and 11 nests were found on 27<sup>th</sup> May. Other sites with confirmed or probable breeding during May and June included Lin Barn Tsuen, Tsim Bei Tsui and Long Valley, while birds at Mai Po and Shuen Wan in June may also have been breeding. Flocks at Long Valley (including 45 on 12<sup>th</sup> August and 50 on 20<sup>th</sup> August) and Kam Tin (32 on 30<sup>th</sup> August) presumably included birds dispersing after breeding.

Passage was evident in early September and peaked in the last week of the month, including flocks of up to 120 at Long Valley, 25 at Kam Tin, 25 on Po Toi and 21 on Tung Ping Chau. Lower numbers were recorded from October to December, the highest count at this time being 23 at Kam Tin on 25<sup>th</sup> November, with birds also recorded at Kowloon Park, Lam Tsuen and the San Tin fishpond

area.

**435D Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* 家八哥**

**2005:** Most records were from traditional sites in the NT, at Mai Po Village, San Tin and Kam Tin. The peak count was of 20 birds gathering to roost at Kam Tin on 30<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** The largest count was of 13 birds at Kam Tin on 7<sup>th</sup> January. Elsewhere, singles were reported from Shek Kong, Long Valley and Lam Tsuen.

**436A Crested Myna *Acridotheres cristatellus* 八哥**

**2005:** The largest flocks were of 92 gathering to roost at Nam Sang Wai on 5<sup>th</sup> February and 102 at Tsang Uk Tsuen (Shek Kong) on 31<sup>st</sup> July.

**2006:** The largest flocks were of 53 going to roost at Kam Tin on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 50 on Po Toi on 1<sup>st</sup> October and 75 at Long Valley on 25<sup>th</sup> November.

**437A Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis* 黑枕黃鸝**

**2005:** The only spring records were of three (two males and one female) at Lok Ma Chau and one female at Ma Tso Lung on 8<sup>th</sup> May, and one male at Ma Tso Lung on 19<sup>th</sup> June. In autumn a total of 36 bird-days were recorded between 7<sup>th</sup> September and 16<sup>th</sup> October. The peak count was of nine at Tai Po Kau Headland on 11<sup>th</sup> October; other sites included Mai Po, Long Valley, Kam Tin, Penfold Park and Po Toi.

**2006:** In spring, singles were at Tai Po Kau on 2<sup>nd</sup> April and on Po Toi on 19<sup>th</sup> May. Singles at the KCRC mitigation wetlands at Lok Ma Chau on 20<sup>th</sup> May and 7<sup>th</sup> June (singing on the latter date) may have overwintered, while three were nearby in the fishpond area near San Tin on 21<sup>st</sup> July. A good autumn for the species involved records between 14<sup>th</sup> September and 19<sup>th</sup> October. Most records came from Po Toi, where there was a peak count of 25 on 2<sup>nd</sup> October; other sites included Kam Tin, Lok Ma Chau, Long Valley, Mai Po, Tung Ping Chau, Siu Lam, Fung Kat Heung and Mong Tseng.

**438A Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus* 黑卷尾**

**2005:** Small numbers of wintering birds were recorded around Deep Bay at the start of the year, the highest count at this time being of 12 at San Tin on 11<sup>th</sup> March, although this count may include some migrants. Migration apparently occurred between mid April and early May, with birds recorded at Long Valley (eight on 17<sup>th</sup> April), Po Toi (three on 21<sup>st</sup> April) and Kam Tin (up to 12 on 7<sup>th</sup> May). Most summer records were from Mai Po (peak count seven), but singles were also recorded on Lantau (on 1<sup>st</sup> August) and at Penfold Park (on 31<sup>st</sup> August). Peak autumn passage occurred in late September and early October, when the highest counts occurred at Mai Po (peak count 26 on 5<sup>th</sup> October), and

passage continued until mid November. Also recorded on Po Toi (four on 11<sup>th</sup> September and two on 9<sup>th</sup> October), Kam Tin (seven on 25<sup>th</sup> September), Pui O (eight on 1<sup>st</sup> October), Long Valley (three on 12<sup>th</sup> November) and Tsim Bei Tsui (three on 13<sup>th</sup> November). The last record of the year was of one on 27<sup>th</sup> November at Ng Tung Chai, an unusual location for this species.

**2006:** Wintering flocks were recorded in the Deep Bay area at Lin Barn Tsuen (15 on 19<sup>th</sup> February) and Fung Lok Wai/Tsim Bei Tsui (12 on 8<sup>th</sup> February), while singles were also seen at Mai Po Village on 15<sup>th</sup> January and on Lamma, an unusual wintering site for this species, on 4<sup>th</sup> January. Six along the Mai Po Access Road on 22<sup>nd</sup> March may have been early migrants. Birds were then recorded regularly between April and October from widespread locations throughout Hong Kong, with peak numbers in late September/early October. The last records of the year were of one near the Kam Tin River on 20<sup>th</sup> November and ten at Fung Yuen on 9<sup>th</sup> December.

#### **439A Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus* 灰卷尾**

**2005:** Wintering birds were recorded at Tai Po Kau until 18<sup>th</sup> March and Tai Po Kau Headland until 17<sup>th</sup> April. Birds were also recorded near Chinese University on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, Shing Mun on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, Beacon Hill (Kowloon Hills Catchment) on 25<sup>th</sup> March (a grey-cheeked individual) and Uk Tau (Sai Kung) on 5<sup>th</sup> April (a white-cheeked individual). All records were of singles except two at Tai Po Kau on 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> January. The first autumn record was of two at Tai Po Kau Headland on 25<sup>th</sup> September. Dark-cheeked and white-cheeked individuals were then recorded at this site until the end of the year. Up to two wintering individuals were also recorded at Tai Po Kau from 10<sup>th</sup> October (involving dark- and white-cheeked individuals). Other sites included Kam Tin (one on 16<sup>th</sup> October), Ng Tung Chai (two white-cheeked on 24<sup>th</sup> October, and at least one remaining until 30<sup>th</sup> November), Lam Tsuen (one on 26<sup>th</sup> December) and Shing Mun (two on 28<sup>th</sup> December, considered to include *salangensis* and *hopwoodi*).

**2006:** Wintering birds were recorded at Mount Davis (two birds), Shing Mun, She Shan, Ng Tung Chai and Kowloon Reservoir. Singles at Wonderland Villas (Kwai Chung) on 17<sup>th</sup> March and Shek Kong Catchment on 19<sup>th</sup> April may have been wintering birds or passage migrants. The last record of spring occurred on 20<sup>th</sup> April. The first records of the autumn were on 24<sup>th</sup> September at Siu Lam and on Po Toi; apparent passage occurred at these sites and Wonderland Villas until 13<sup>th</sup> October. Wintering birds were recorded at 10<sup>th</sup> November in Tai Po Kau, as well as 3<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> December at Kowloon Hills Catchwater and 16<sup>th</sup> December at Shing Mun. Those records for which subspecies was recorded included both white-cheeked and dark-cheeked individuals.

#### **440A Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus* 髮冠卷尾**

**2005:** Reported throughout the year from sites in the NT. The highest counts

February, 25 at Mong Tseng on 15<sup>th</sup> October. Also recorded at Mui Wo, Lantau (two on 9<sup>th</sup> February and one on 25<sup>th</sup> March), HK Island (eight at Sir Cecil's Ride on 26<sup>th</sup> November and one dead at Violet Hill on 17<sup>th</sup> December) and Po Toi (up to two between 16<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April).

**2006:** Recorded in all months of the year from sites throughout Hong Kong.

**441A Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius* 松鴉**

**2005:** The only record was of a bird found dead at Kam Tin on 12<sup>th</sup> January. This is the first record of this species since 2002, although a captive origin cannot be ruled out for this individual. Eurasian Jay appears to have almost disappeared from Hong Kong.

**442A Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythrorhyncha* 紅嘴藍鵲**

**2005 & 2006:** No significant reports.

**443A Grey Treepie *Dendrocitta formosae* 灰樹鵲**

**2005:** Up to four were recorded throughout the year at sites in the northern, eastern and central NT, including Sam A Tsuen, So Lo Pun, Chung Pui, Chek Keng, Pak Sha O, Fung Yuen, Sha Lo Tung, Tai Po Kau Headland, Ng Tung Chai and Shek Kong Catchment.

**2006:** Recorded throughout the year; sites (with peak counts for the year) comprised Lai Chi Wo (eight), Chung Mei (six), Mui Tze Lam (six), Fung Yuen (four), Pak Sha O (three), Ng Tung Chai (two), Yung Shue O (two), Shek Kong Catchwater (two), Tai Mong Tsai (one), Wong Cheuk Yeung (one), Hok Tau (one), Ho Chung (one), Chek Keng (one) and Tai Tam Reservoir (one).

**444A Common Magpie *Pica pica* 喜鵲**

**2005:** The peak count was 50 at Mai Po NR on 11<sup>th</sup> January.

**2006:** The peak count was 24 at Mai Po NR on 21<sup>st</sup> October.

**445A Daurian Jackdaw *Corvus dauuricus* 達烏里寒鴉**

**2004:** Two at Mai Po NR on 29<sup>th</sup> January (GJC), and one at Lut Chau from 27<sup>th</sup> November to 22<sup>nd</sup> December (EMSK *et al.*).

**446A Carrion Crow *Corvus corone* 小嘴烏鴉**

**2004:** One at Fung Lok Wai on 20<sup>th</sup> February (JW).

**447A Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos* 大嘴烏鴉**

**2005 & 2006:** No significant reports.

**448A Collared Crow *Corvus torquatus* 白頸鴉 NT**

**2005:** As usual the highest counts were of birds gathering to roost at Mai Po, the largest being 81 on 24<sup>th</sup> August, the highest since 100 were recorded in 1982. Away from Deep Bay, the highest count was of 18 at Shuen Wan on 9<sup>th</sup> November; also recorded from Fung Yuen, Nai Chung, Penfold Park and Tai Po Kau Headland.

**2006:** Few reports were received from the roosting flock at Mai Po, the highest count at this site being of 40 on 9<sup>th</sup> January. Larger numbers were reported roosting at Sha Lan, Shuen Wan, where the highest counts were 77 on 15<sup>th</sup> August and 74 on 8<sup>th</sup> October. Away from these sites, double-figure counts were recorded at Yim Tin Tsai (18 on 1<sup>st</sup> October) and Mong Tseng (24 on 2<sup>nd</sup> October). Smaller numbers (up to four individuals) were reported from several other sites, including Long Valley, Tung Ping Chau, Tap Mun, Lam Tsuen, Hong Lok Yuen, Tai Lam Chung, Tseung Kwan O cemetery, Kwun Tong Pier and Aberdeen Harbour. As one of the globally-threatened species for which Hong Kong may support an important population, observers are encouraged to submit all records of this species.

An unidentified petrel *Pterodroma* was, incredibly, seen from the Mai Po boardwalk on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2001 (MT, JGH) (Plate 32). The choice of species can be narrowed down to Herald *P. arminjoniana*, Providence *P. solandri* and Kermadec *P. neglecta* Petrels, with the former two the most likely. Whichever species, it was a first for Hong Kong and China.

An unidentified dark-rumped petrel and an unidentified Noddy were seen off Po Toi on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2006 (GW), during the close approach of Typhoon Chanchu.



## CATEGORY E

**707E Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* 環頸雉**

2005: A male at Long Valley on 15<sup>th</sup> April.

**708.5E Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* 灰斑鳩**

2005: Up to four birds recorded in the Deep Bay area at Shing Uk Tsuen, Tsim Bei Tsui, Lut Chau and Mai Po fish ponds during the year, and up to two at Kam Tin on 30<sup>th</sup> March and 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

2006: In the Tsim Bei Tsui fish pond area up to eight were recorded during the year; nearby at Mong Tseng up to two were noted. Singles were recorded at Mai Po on 10<sup>th</sup> May and Lin Barn Tsuen on 6<sup>th</sup> November.

**708.7E Diamond Dove *Geopelia cuneata* 姬地鳩**

2003: Ten recently released birds were at Bride's Pool on 1<sup>st</sup> October (JAA). This is the first record of this Australian species in Hong Kong.

**712E Palm Cockatoo *Probosciger aterrimus* 棕樹鳳頭鸚鵡**

2005: Singles at Fung Yuen on 1<sup>st</sup> February and at Ho Pui on 6<sup>th</sup> February.

**721E Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria* 亞歷山大鸚鵡**

2005: One at Ping Che on 17<sup>th</sup> February.

2006: Three at Kowloon Park on 11<sup>th</sup> April, one at Long Valley on four dates in September, October and November, and one at Signal Hill, Tsim Sha Tsui on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

**723.2E Sun Parakeet *Aratinga solstitialis* 金黃鸚哥**

2005: One was at Mui Wo on 9<sup>th</sup> February (GH); this is the first HK record.

**728E Blue-throated Barbet *Megalaima asiatica* 藍喉擬啄木鳥**

2005: One at Mui Tsz Lam, northeast NT, on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2005 (JAA) is presumed to be ex-captive.

2006: One at Kowloon Hills catchment on 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

**730.2E Mongolian Lark *Melanocorypha mongolica* 蒙古百靈**

**2004:** The record at Chung Mei on 23<sup>rd</sup> November (JAPW, JH) was assigned to the incorrect year in *HKBR 2003-04*.

**738E Burmese Shrike *Lanius colluroides* 栗背伯勞**

**2006:** One near Tai Po on 7<sup>th</sup> October (GJC) is presumed to be ex-captive.

**738.2E Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus* 灰背伯勞**

**2004:** One at Tai Po Kau on 22<sup>nd</sup> April (KPK) is presumed to be ex-captive.

**747E White-throated Laughingthrush *Garrulax albogularis* 白喉噪鵲**

**2004:** Seven or eight birds were seen at Tai Lam CP on 26<sup>th</sup> October (BH).

**747.2E Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax monileger* 小黑領噪鵲**

**2004:** One was present in Tai Po Kau on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> December (RWL). The year indicated in *HKBR 2003-04* is incorrect.

**754E Red-tailed Minla *Minla ignotincta* 火尾希鵲**

**2005:** One was in Tai Po Kau on 4<sup>th</sup> December.

**755E Grey-cheeked Fulvetta *Alcippe morrisonia* 灰眶雀鵲**

**2005:** Up to ten recorded at Tai Po Kau during the year, while two were at Tai Mo Shan on 28<sup>th</sup> June and three were at Ng Tung Chai on 16<sup>th</sup> December.

**2006:** At Tai Po Kau up to two were noted during the year, and at Ng Tung Chai up to two were noted in January, September and December.

**764E Black-throated Tit *Aegithalos concinnus* 紅頭長尾山雀**

**2005:** Five at Eagle's Nest Nature Trail on 25<sup>th</sup> March and one at Beacon Hill on 17<sup>th</sup> April.

**2006:** Three at Kowloon Hills on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> February.

**768.7E Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis* 黃腹花蜜鳥**

**2006:** One was at Mount Parker on 13<sup>th</sup> April (VR); this is the first record for Hong Kong.

**776E Yellow-fronted Canary *Serinus mozambicus* 黃額絲雀**

**2005:** Two at Nai Chung on 6<sup>th</sup> January, one at Pak Nai on 16<sup>th</sup> January, one at Lok Ma Chau Lookout on 15<sup>th</sup> February and one at Nai Chung on 27<sup>th</sup> June.

**2006:** Singles were recorded at She Shan, Mai Po and Po Toi during the year.

**780E Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* 錫嘴雀**

**2006:** One was seen along Deep Bay Road near Mong Tseng on 22<sup>nd</sup> January (JGH).

**790.2E Southern Red Bishop *Euplectes orix* 紅巧織雀**

**2004:** A male and a female trapped at Mai Po NR on 18<sup>th</sup> September (CHF) is the first HK record.

**800E Azure-winged Magpie *Cyanopica cyanus* 灰喜鵲**

**2005:** In its stronghold, the Mai Po area, up to 42 birds were recorded during the year. Elsewhere, four were at San Tin on 8<sup>th</sup> December, singles were at Kam Tin on 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> May and at Long Valley on 12<sup>th</sup> November, and an obviously ex-captive bird was at Sha Tin Pass on 10<sup>th</sup> July.

**2006:** In the Mai Po area the highest count was 47 on 20<sup>th</sup> August. Elsewhere, singles were at Kam Tin on 5<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> April and at Clearwater Bay beach on 26<sup>th</sup> December.

**801E House Crow *Corvus splendens* 家鴉**

**2005:** One was recorded in the Mai Po area on four dates in the year. No other records were received, although it is known that large numbers are present in the Kowloon area.

**2006:** Only two records received: one at Pak Nai on 17<sup>th</sup> February and 20 at Sham Shui Po park on 25<sup>th</sup> February.

**Records judged by the Records Committee to be not proven**

**2003:** Button-quail sp. at Hang Tau on 12<sup>th</sup> October; Common Swift at Long Valley on 18<sup>th</sup> December; Fujian Niltava at Ng Tung Chai on 11<sup>th</sup> January.

**2004:** Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush, two at Beacon Hill on 25<sup>th</sup> December. Fujian Niltava at Ng Tung Chai on 9<sup>th</sup> February.

**2005:** Rosy-faced Lovebird *Agapornis roseicollis* Mai Po NR, 29<sup>th</sup> November.

**2006:** Himalayan Swiftlet *Collocalia brevirostris* Po Toi, 12<sup>th</sup> September.

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## Earliest Spring, Latest Spring and Earliest Autumn Records for Selected Species

*Geoff Welch*

### Key

x = no records at all that year

nsp = no spring records that year

su = birds over-summered

nau = no autumn records that year

Dates underlined are new earliest/latest records. An asterisk indicates that records are under review.

### Earliest Spring Records

Species	2005	2006	Median 1994-2004	Earliest to 2004
019 Swinhoe's Egret	17-Apr	4-Apr	8-Apr	5-Mar-62
027 Schrenck's Bittern	15-May	19-May	19-May	28-Apr-90
064 Black Baza	nsp	nsp	18-Apr	16-Feb-02
072 Grey-faced Buzzard	19-Mar	1-Apr	21-Mar	13-Mar-92
076 Chinese Goshawk	16-Apr	8-Apr	15-Apr	6-Apr-01
086 Eurasian Hobby	12-May	8-Apr	12-Apr	23-Mar-82
123 Little Curlew	19-Apr	x	17-Apr	7-Apr-78
135 Terek Sandpiper	26-Mar	25-Mar	23-Mar	20-Mar-88
139 Red-necked Phalarope	12-Mar	17-Feb	21-Mar	15-Feb-03
149 Sanderling	31-Mar	22-Mar	1-Apr	19-Mar-97
155 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	26-Mar	1-Apr	26-Mar	22-Mar-98
158 Spoon-billed Sandpiper	3-Apr	13-May	31-Mar	20-Mar-88
162 Long-tailed Jaeger	17-Apr	12-Mar	13-Apr	9-Apr-97
179 White-winged Tern	12-May	23-Apr	30-Apr	3-Apr-92
184 Black-naped Tern	24-Apr	12-Apr	30-Apr	16-Apr-96
201 Chestnut-winged Cuckoo	5-Apr	29-Mar	6-Apr	8-Mar-82
202 Large Hawk Cuckoo	8-Feb	3-Mar	1-Mar	11-Feb-97

204	Indian Cuckoo	10-Apr	2-Apr	9-Apr	10-Mar-97
205	Horsfield's Cuckoo	5-Apr	26-Mar	13-Apr	3-Apr-92
217	Northern Boobook	x	2-Apr	8-Apr	24-Mar-79
222	White-throated Needletail	x	25-Mar	16-Apr	27-Mar-92
223	Silver-backed Needletail	1-Apr	21-Mar	19-Mar	2-Mar-03
234	Blue-tailed Bee-eater	30-Apr	14-Apr	17-Apr	4-Apr-04
235	Dollarbird	17-Apr	13-Apr	12-Apr	7-Apr-92
267	Ashy Minivet	2-Apr	27-Mar	2-Apr	18-Mar-66
356	Arctic Warbler	2-Apr	26-Apr	15-Apr	30-Mar-94
360	Eastern Crowned Warbler	2-Apr	28-Mar	11-Apr	27-Mar-93
367	Grey-streaked Flycatcher	9-Apr	25-Apr	22-Apr	25-Mar-78
370	Ferruginous Flycatcher	27-Mar	23-Mar	1-Apr	3-Mar-86
373	Narcissus Flycatcher	19-Mar	25-Mar	5-Apr	23-Mar-60
378	Blue and White Flycatcher	14-Mar	25-Mar	2-Apr	25-Feb-61
386	Japanese Paradise Flycatcher	1-Apr	5-Apr	11-Apr	28-Mar-93
409	Japanese Yellow Bunting	5-Apr	18-Apr	8-Apr	27-Mar-89
	<b>Average (Median)</b>	<b>4-Apr</b>	<b>1-Apr</b>	<b>11-Apr</b>	

### Latest Spring Records

Species	2005	2006	Median 1994-2004	Latest to 2004	
003	Great Crested Grebe	10-Apr	16-Apr	6-Apr	12-May-95
027	Schrenck's Bittern	22-May	19-May	31-May	5-Jun-95
045	Gadwall	17-Mar	30-Mar	4-Apr	6-May-94
051	Northern Pintail	17-Apr	16-Apr	15-Apr	22-May-89
057	Tufted Duck	4-Apr	19-Mar	23-Mar	7-May-87
072	Grey-faced Buzzard	20-Apr	17-Apr	12-Apr	28-Apr-85
076	Chinese Goshawk	30-Apr	12-May	8-May	25-May-97
077	Japanese Sparrowhawk	24-Mar	13-Apr	12-Apr	28-Apr-93
080	Common Buzzard	5-Apr	14-Apr	11-Apr	23-Apr-04
081	Greater Spotted Eagle	28-Mar	4-Mar	27-Mar	13-Apr-03
082	Imperial Eagle	6-Apr	4-Mar	31-Mar	17-Apr-94
085	Common Kestrel	26-Mar	18-Apr	11-Apr	22-May-93
089	Japanese Quail	x	nsp	21-Apr	23-May-79
144	Common Snipe	7-May	20-Apr	2-May	28-May-80



149	Sanderling	27-May	16-May	19-May	8-Jun-04
152	Temminck's Stint	<u>27-May</u>	16-Apr	18-Apr	18-May-91
155	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	7-Jun	31-May	25-May	9-Jun-68
156	Dunlin	10-May	nsp	3-May	20-Jun-03
158	Spoon-billed Sandpiper	15-May	20-May	13-May	8-Jun-04
162	Long-tailed Jaeger	17-Apr	5-May	21-Apr	19-May-91
165	Heuglin's Gull	1-Apr	12-Apr	15-Apr	30-Apr-89
176	Saunders's Gull	16-Apr	4-Apr	14-Apr	30-May-93
193	Red Turtle Dove	12-May	18-May	16-May	3-Jun-01
205	Horsfield's Cuckoo	16-Apr	15-Apr	28-Apr	19-May-90
217	Northern Boobok	x	16-May	11-Apr	21-May-83
222	White-throated Needletail	x	16-Apr	30-Apr	11-May-96
223	Silver-backed Needletail	2-May	26-Mar	14-Apr	11-May-91
234	Blue-tailed Bee-eater	8-May	25-Apr	25-Apr	19-May-79
235	Dollarbird	8-May	18-May	6-May	5-Jun-83
238	Eurasian Wryneck	10-Apr	6-Apr	8-Apr	23-Apr-83
253	Asian House Martin	15-Apr	28-Apr	24-Mar	30-Apr-82
260	Olive-backed Pipit	23-Apr	15-Apr	23-Apr	15-May-77
261	Red-throated Pipit	28-Apr	20-Apr	21-Apr	17-May-96
267	Ashy Minivet	17-Apr	5-May	19-Apr	13-May-95
278	Brown Shrike	8-May	20-May	15-May	7-Jun-77
282	Rufous-tailed Robin	8-Apr	9-Apr	8-Apr	17-Apr-96
283	Siberian Rubythroat	19-Apr	17-Apr	21-Apr	10-May-80
286	Red-flanked Bluetail	3-Apr	25-Mar	22-Mar	18-Apr-97
289	Daurian Redstart	10-Apr	<u>22-Apr</u>	25-Mar	17-Apr-75
301	Scaly Thrush	<u>8-May</u>	27-Apr	7-Apr	30-Apr
302	Japanese Thrush	6-Apr	30-Mar	12-Apr	8-May-60
305	Grey-backed Thrush	25-Mar	3-Apr	7-Apr	25-Apr-78
306	Pale Thrush	<u>1-May</u>	13-Mar	3-Apr	26-Apr-96
323	Asian Stubtail Warbler	5-Apr	29-Mar	15-Mar	12-Apr-96
335	Black-browed Reed Warbler	12-May	<u>30-May</u>	8-May	25-May-02
349	Dusky Warbler	5-May	4-May	7-May	17-May-95
352	Pallas's Leaf Warbler	7-Apr	6-Apr	31-Mar	18-Apr-93
354	Yellow-browed Warbler	26-Apr	16-Apr	24-Apr	9-May-99
356	Arctic Warbler	10-Apr	18-May	12-May	27-May-92
360	Eastern Crowned Warbler	<u>17-Apr</u>	4-Apr	11-Apr	15-Apr-92
367	Grey-streaked Flycatcher	14-May	23-May	11-May	26-May-61

369	Asian Brown Flycatcher	7-May	4-May	30-Apr	26-May-63
370	Ferruginous Flycatcher	<u>21-Apr</u>	2-Apr	10-Apr	16-Apr-94
371	Verditer Flycatcher	13-Mar	5-Mar	23-Mar	15-Apr-90
373	Narcissus Flycatcher	29-Apr	29-Apr	15-Apr	2-May-91
375	Mugimaki Flycatcher	16-Apr	<u>15-May</u>	13-Apr	2-May-99
377	Red-throated Flycatcher	17-Apr	5-Apr	10-Apr	27-Apr-97
378	Blue and white Flycatcher	17-Apr	8-Apr	16-Apr	4-May-98
383	Grey-headed Flycatcher	25-Mar	<u>20-Apr</u>	15-Mar	13-Apr-95
384	Black-naped Monarch	27-Mar	5-Apr	3-Apr	27-Apr-94
385	Asian Paradise Flycatcher	nsp	30-Apr	14-Apr	6-May-78
386	Japanese Paradise Flycatcher	29-Apr	26-Apr	15-Apr	30-Apr-98
402	Little Bunting	30-Apr	30-Apr	21-Apr	17-May-98
406	Yellow-breasted Bunting	6-May	4-May	15-May	23-May-00
407	Chestnut Bunting	<u>6-May</u>	30-Apr	24-Apr	5-May-79
409	Japanese Yellow Bunting	16-Apr	23-Apr	18-Apr	8-May-99
410	Black-faced Bunting	28-Apr	14-May	3-May	19-May-85
417	Common Rosefinch	nsp	21-Apr	9-Mar	30-Apr-61
439	Ashy Drongo	17-Apr	20-Apr	26-Mar	27-Apr-68
	<b>Average (Median)</b>	<b>17-Apr</b>	<b>20-Apr</b>	<b>16-Apr</b>	

### Earliest Autumn

Species	2005	2006	Median 1994-2004	Earliest to 2004	
003	Great Crested Grebe	13-Nov	19-Nov	18-Nov	15-Oct-90
030	Great Bittern	27-Oct	15-Oct	25-Oct	12-Sep-87
040	Common Shelduck	18-Dec	nau	16-Nov	22-Oct-99
043	Eurasian Wigeon	15-Oct	<u>13-Aug</u>	8-Oct	23-Sep-99
045	Gadwall	<u>25-Oct</u>	5-Nov	6-Nov	25-Oct-04
051	Northern Pintail	15-Oct	24-Sep	26-Sep	6-Sep-02
057	Tufted Duck	5-Nov	5-Nov	6-Nov	16-Sep-90
074	Eastern Marsh Harrier	21-Sep	7-Oct	19-Sep	5-Sep-81
077	Japanese Sparrowhawk	2-Oct	<u>22-Sep</u>	8-Oct	25-Sep-04
080	Common Buzzard	15-Oct	<u>8-Oct</u>	17-Oct	9-Oct-84
081	Greater Spotted Eagle	22-Oct	21-Oct	23-Oct	10-Oct-01
082	Imperial Eagle	13-Nov	4-Nov	24-Oct	*

085	Common Kestrel	25-Sep	11-Sep	25-Sep	5-Sep-02
085.5	Amur Falcon	12-Oct	13-Oct	20-Oct	7-Oct-04
089	Japanese Quail	x	27-Oct	18-Oct	26-Sep-95
111	Grey-headed Lapwing	24-Jul	su	17-Sep	20-Jul-04
141	Eurasian Woodcock	11-Oct	8-Oct	11-Oct	28-Sep-95
144	Common Snipe	<u>19-Aug</u>	12-Sep	10-Sep	19-Aug-98
152	Temminck's Stint	12-Sep	<u>22-Aug</u>	21-Sep	27-Aug-02
156	Dunlin	23-Aug	13-Aug	13-Sep	9-Aug-58
176	Saunder's Gull	16-Nov	5-Nov	6-Nov	23-Oct-92
193	Red Turtle Dove	17-Sep	14-Sep	12-Sep	14-Aug-03
205	Horsfield's Cuckoo	<u>28-Aug</u>	12-Sep	16-Sep	5-Sep-04
234	Blue-tailed Bee-eater	18-Oct	6-Oct	5-Oct	25-Sep-03
238	Eurasian Wryneck	18-Sep	21-Sep	20-Sep	28-Aug-02
253	Asian House Martin	19-Nov	3-Dec	30-Oct	18-Sep-78
254	Forest Wagtail	<u>28-Jul</u>	30-Aug	6-Sep	7-Aug-93
260	Olive-backed Pipit	22-Oct	12-Oct	14-Oct	28-Sep-86
261	Red-throated Pipit	10-Oct	4-Oct	29-Sep	16-Sep-04
265	Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike	10-Sep	<u>1-Sep</u>	17-Sep	2-Sep-94
282	Rufous-tailed Robin	21-Nov	16-Nov	7-Nov	16-Oct-92
283	Siberian Rubythroat	6-Nov	11-Oct	19-Oct	8-Oct-86
286	Red-flanked Bluetail	21-Nov	5-Nov	9-Nov	27-Oct
289	Daurian Redstart	21-Oct	26-Oct	28-Oct	14-Oct-60
301	Scaly Thrush	9-Nov	11-Oct	6-Nov	30-Sep-95
302	Japanese Thrush	19-Nov	28-Nov	15-Nov	25-Oct-70
303	Common Blackbird	16-Oct	13-Oct	15-Oct	29-Sep-96
305	Grey-backed Thrush	19-Nov	20-Nov	13-Nov	2-Nov-86
306	Pale Thrush	10-Dec	29-Nov	5-Dec	4-Nov-92
323	Asian Stubtail Warbler	29-Oct	4-Nov	27-Oct	2-Oct-94
331	Lanceolated Warbler	16-Oct	1-Oct	29-Sep	15-Sep-91
332	Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler	12-Sep	<u>23-Aug</u>	3-Sep	27-Aug-97
335	Black-browed Reed Warbler	28-Sep	26-Sep	19-Sep	25-Aug-74
349	Dusky Warbler	19-Sep	19-Sep	19-Sep	6-Sep-64
351	Radde's Warbler	22-Oct	19-Oct	31-Oct	8-Oct-94
352	Pallas's Leaf Warbler	16-Nov	<u>31-Oct</u>	9-Nov	4-Nov-97
354	Yellow-browed Warbler	11-Sep	<u>8-Sep</u>	23-Sep	12-Sep-93
356	Arctic Warbler	28-Aug	22-Aug	5-Sep	18-Aug-90
360	Eastern Crowned Warbler	28-Aug	13-Aug	27-Aug	8-Aug-04

368	Dark-sided Flycatcher	4-Sep	5-Sep	7-Sep	28-Aug-96
369	Asian Brown Flycatcher	2-Sep	<u>29-Aug</u>	5-Sep	29-Aug-65
371	Verditer Flycatcher	21-Oct	<u>19-Sep</u>	14-Nov	29-Sep-74
372	Yellow-rumped Flycatcher	4-Sep	2-Sep	1-Sep	17-Aug-80
383	Grey-headed Flycatcher	21-Oct	16-Oct	27-Oct	8-Oct-94
384	Black-naped Monarch	18-Oct	14-Oct	18-Oct	19-Sep-76
385	Asian Paradise Flycatcher	30-Aug	22-Aug	17-Aug	2-Aug-03
402	Little Bunting	22-Oct	4-Oct	14-Oct	24-Sep-02
406	Yellow-breasted Bunting	9-Sep	15-Sep	6-Sep	28-Aug-96
407	Chestnut Bunting	15-Oct	24-Oct	18-Oct	28-Sep-94
410	Black-faced Bunting	31-Oct	24-Sep	26-Oct	19-Sep-93
417	Common Rosefinch	nau	nau	6-Nov	12-Oct-82
429	Purple-backed Starling	24-Sep	<u>16-Sep</u>	29-Sep	16-Sep-03
439	Ashy Drongo	25-Sep	24-Sep	5-Oct	11-Sep-89
	<b>Average (Median)</b>	<b>15-Oct</b>	<b>5-Oct</b>	<b>9-Oct</b>	

# Japanese Cormorant *Phalacrocorax capillatus* on Po Toi Island

The first Hong Kong record

*Ho-fai Cheung*

*c/o Hong Kong Bird Watching Society,  
14/F Ruby Commercial Building, 480  
Nathan Road, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon*

Shortly before 1000h on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2005 while leading a HKBWS bird watching group to Po Toi, I located a cormorant *Phalacrocorax* on a rock near the entrance to the harbour. I called it to the attention of the other 40 members of the group. After a brief glance, the group then hurried to land on Po Toi Island to search for other birds. Intrigued by the extensive white on the underparts, I asked the boat captain to move the ferry closer to take a better look. I was then able to watch and photograph the bird for five minutes (Plate 25), with the closest approach from about 20m.

On reviewing the photographs about two days later, I was able to identify the bird as Japanese (Temminck's) Cormorant *P. capillatus*. The bird was of similar size and shape to a Great Cormorant *P. carbo sinensis*. Its underparts were mostly white, while the angle of the gape was diagnostic in separation of the two species. I then announced the observation and identification on the HKBWS Discussion Forum.

Nial Moores, who has extensive experience of Japanese Cormorant in Japan and South Korea, kindly offered his opinion on the identity of the bird, and commented as follows:

"...based on c. 15 years experience of Temminck's Cormorant in Japan and Korea ... I believe the Temminck's in your images is ... very safely identifiable on:

- a. the yellowness of the lower mandible: absolutely typical of non-breeding and immature Temminck's, and never noted yet in Great;
- b. the cleanness and extent of the yellow lores, often extending in a slight wedge towards the forehead in Temminck's;
- c. diagnostically, the very obvious gape line;
- d. the thickness of the yellow bare skin below and around the eye;
- e. the line of white/whitish feathering to the rear of the facial bare skin. In Great at this age, this appears rather angular and straight/vertical; in Temminck's this line is broken by the gape line, and often forms a kind of "v" shape as it curves around, before extending more obviously along the underside of the bill than in Great;

- f. two further supporting features:
  - i. the very clean white look to the underparts (very typical of many immature Temminck's at this time of the year);
  - ii. habitat: Although Great can be found in such habitat, Temminck's genuinely is a bird...of rocky coasts. I have very rarely observed it in estuaries and have never seen one on freshwater."

The bird was last reported on 22<sup>nd</sup> April.



Plate 25. Japanese Cormorant *Phalacrocorax capillatus* 暗綠背鸕鷀  
Po Toi Island, Hong Kong, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2005  
Ho-fai Cheung 張浩輝



### **Records Committee Comment**

*There has long been speculation that this species was overlooked in Hong Kong, but getting close enough to examine cormorants in appropriate locations has proved difficult. As so often, Po Toi came up trumps, and this bird sat intermittently on the same group of rocks in the harbour for a number of days. The quality of the photographs and Nial Moores' comments based on his experience made assessment a relatively easy process, and the species was accepted into Category A of the Hong Kong List.*

# 蒲台島的暗綠背鸕鶿

## 香港首個紀錄

張浩輝

九龍油麻地彌敦道480號鴻寶商業大廈14樓香港觀鳥會辦事處

2005年4月17日，我帶領香港觀鳥會的觀鳥活動前往蒲台，早上差不多10時，我發現了一隻鸕鶿站在碼頭入口處一塊岩石上，並通知了同行的40位團友。大家略為觀看後，便趕忙上岸尋找其他的雀鳥。但由於其下體大範圍的白色令我感到非常好奇，我著船家把船駛近以便能更詳細地觀察，這得使我能在約20米的近距離下觀察及拍攝該鳥（圖25）。

兩天後我再次檢視圖片時，才能完全夠確認此為綠背鸕鶿（*P. capillatus*）。此鳥和普通鸕鶿（*P. carbo sinensis*）的體型及外貌類似。其下體大部份為白色，嘴裂的尖角用以分辨兩物種的指標。於是我便在香港觀鳥會的討論區宣佈是次觀察及鑑定的發現。

對觀察日本及南韓的暗綠背鸕鶿富有經驗的Nial Moores，對此鳥的鑑定提出了以下的意見：

「...根據過往15年於日本及南韓觀察綠背鸕鶿的經驗...我可以根據以下各點對閣下圖片所示的綠背鸕鶿作出肯定的鑑定:

- a. 下顎的黃色：為非繁殖期及未成年綠背鸕鶿的典型特徵，而從未見於普通鸕鶿...
- b. 暗綠背鸕鶿眼先位置的黃色非常清晰而寬廣，經常向前額微微伸展成楔狀...
- c. 作為分辨特徵的明顯嘴裂線
- d. 眼下及眼周黃色裸露皮膚的厚度
- e. 臉部裸露皮膚後的白色/偏白色羽毛所形成的線條，此部份於同年期的普通鸕鶿顯得比較呈角度及筆直/垂直，但於綠背鸕鶿此線條被嘴裂線打斷，並經常於其轉彎位形成一“V”狀，再進而比普通鸕鶿更明顯地沿下嘴伸展。
- f. 還有兩點特徵可作理據：
  - i. 下體非常清晰的白色範圍（乃一年中同時間未成年暗綠背鸕鶿的典形特徵）
  - ii. 生境：儘管普通鸕鶿可於此生境出現，但暗綠背鸕鶿確實地乃岩岸生長的鳥類。我很少於河口觀察到暗綠背鸕鶿，更從未於淡水生境見過其蹤影。

此鳥的最後觀察報告日期為4月22日。

### **紀錄委員會評註**

雖然長期以來均推測此品種在香港是存在的，只是被忽略了，然而要在合適地點近距離的對鸕鶿作出觀察確實十分困難。一如以往，蒲台又帶來驚喜，此鳥好幾天間歇地坐於港口相同的岩石群上。此高質素的相片及Nial Moores的意見令評估變得相對輕易，此品種亦被納入香港鳥類名錄A類。

## Lesser White-fronted Geese *Anser erythropus* at Lok Ma Chau

### The first Hong Kong record

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At about 0930h on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2006 while in the AEC office, we were advised by H. K. Ying, who had been undertaking a routine field survey at the then KCRC (now MTRC) Lok Ma Chau Wetland Compensation Area (WCA) earlier that morning, that he had seen there two Greater White-fronted Geese *Anser albifrons*. While we were pleased, we did not go to look immediately, as this would have been the third record of this species at the WCA in as many winters!

That afternoon we visited the site to check on conditions and decided that we would first have a look at the geese. Our approach to the pond where the birds had been reported was from the east and, due to the time of day, we were looking into the light. Accordingly, our first view of the birds was largely in silhouette. However, what we saw: small geese with obviously short necks, and small bills, was enough for us to decide to quickly back off and look at the birds from the observation tower where the light would be behind us.

When we reached the tower the birds were out of sight, screened by vegetation on the edge of the pond and we had a few frustrating moments, seeing parts of the birds, before they emerged on to open water and we were able to note features diagnostic of Lesser White-fronted Goose *A. erythropus*: short neck, small head, short pinkish bill, narrow but obvious yellow eye-ring and long wings, clearly extending beyond the tail when swimming or walking.

PJL remained watching the birds whilst MRL returned to the AEC office to collect a telescope, G. J. Carey and other colleagues. On our return, the birds were still present and record photographs were obtained. Once permission had been obtained from KCRC, owners of the site, we contacted observers who were able to reach the site soon. Photographs obtained by Martin Hale are included as Plates 26 and 27.

These clearly show two juvenile Lesser White-fronted Geese. The slightly larger size of one bird and slightly longer, deeper bill is not a photographic artefact and, if it is not simply due to individual variation, may indicate that the larger bird is a male and the smaller, a female. The larger bird also shows more adult-type white feathering at the base of the upper mandible. Note also the presence in the photographs of a couple of dark adult-type feathers on the flanks.



**Plate 26.** Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* 小白額雁  
Lok Ma Chau, Hong Kong, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2006  
Martin Hale

No damage to feathering or bare parts, indicating possible captive origin, was noted in the field or in the photographs.

The birds flew on a couple of occasions when disturbed by an Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus*. In flight the overall plain and brown appearance (due to more limited pale fringes to coverts and back feathers) and very long wings were readily apparent.

On 6<sup>th</sup> November the birds were observed until dusk but they could not be found the next morning and were probably not present in the WCA. However, they were found again on the same pond in the afternoon and were still present on 13<sup>th</sup> November, by which time they had been seen by around 30 observers.

### **Records Committee Comment**

*For rare geese to be recorded at the same site three years in succession is noteworthy enough, but for two of these sightings to comprise the first records of birds considered to have occurred naturally is remarkable. While the occurrence of Lesser White-fronted Goose is somewhat more unexpected than that of Greater White-fronted due to the much lower population size of the former, the fact that thousands winter in the area of Dongting Hu in central China did suggest its occurrence here was not that unlikely. That these birds were juveniles seen and photographed well allowed the species to be placed directly in Category A of the Hong Kong List.*



# 落馬洲的小白額雁

## 香港首個紀錄

利偉民及利雅德

c/o Asia Ecological Consultants 新界元朗

加州花園商場

在2006年11月6日早上約9時半，我們在AEC辦公室工作時，英克勁通知我們在那天較早時份，他在前九廣鐵路公司（即現香港鐵路有限公司）落馬洲支線濕地彌償區（WCA）作例行野外調查時看到兩隻白額雁（*Anser albifrons*）。雖然我們聽到這個消息感到高興，但並沒有立即去查看，因為這可能已經是近幾年冬天在這彌償區第三次錄得白額雁了。

當日下午我們去落馬洲視察情況，並決定先去看一下那兩隻雁。我們從東面到達報稱發現牠們的池塘，因為日照方向的關係，我們逆光看去，所以第一眼只看到牠們的輪廓。可是我們仍然看得見牠們是擁有明顯短頸及細咀的小型雁，這促使我們決定後退到瞭望塔在順光中再作觀察。

當我們到達瞭望塔的時候，卻看不見那兩隻鳥。我們掃視塘邊的植物，卻只能看到部份的鳥體，因而一度感到挫折。直到牠們整隻出現在開闊的水中，我們終於留意到牠們擁有小白額雁的特徵：頸短、頭小、短而粉紅的喙、窄而明顯的黃眼眶，以及一對長翼不論游泳及行走時均明顯超越尾部。

當時利雅德留下繼續觀察那兩隻鳥，利偉民則返回AEC辦公室取單筒望遠鏡及通知賈知行和其他同事。當我們返回現場時，那兩隻鳥還在，我們遂拍下紀錄照片。當我們獲得場地擁有者九廣鐵路公司的授權時，便立即通知其他可以很快到達的觀鳥者。由夏敖天拍攝的照片見圖26及27。

照片清楚顯示牠們是小白額雁的幼鳥。其中一隻體型較大，喙略長及上喙前緣較斜，這卻並非攝影效果。如果這並不屬於個體差異，則可能較大的是雄鳥，而較小的是雌鳥。較大的那隻鳥的上咀基也有較多成鳥才有的白色羽毛，同時從照片可見近脇部有一些成鳥才有的深色羽毛。

不論從野外觀察或照片紀錄均，沒有察覺到羽毛及裸露部分有因捕捉圈養而引致的破損。

那兩隻鳥曾受到白腹鷗（*Circus spilonotus*）的騷擾而數次飛起，在飛行時清楚可見整體純褐色（因覆羽及背部羽毛並無太多淡色邊緣）以及十分長的翼。

直至11月6日黃昏仍可看到那兩隻鳥，但翌日早上卻失去蹤跡，可能牠們已離開了彌償區。不過，當日下午在同一個池塘又再發現牠們的蹤影，直至11月13日再次出現，那時累計已有約30位觀鳥者看過牠們。



Plate 27. Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* 小白額雁  
Lok Ma Chau, Hong Kong, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2006  
Martin Hale

#### 紀錄委員會評註

連續三年在同一地點錄得罕有雁鳥可說是顯赫的紀錄，其中兩次更成為香港首次紀錄的野鳥個案則更是難能可貴。雖然小白額雁的出現較白額雁更令人意外，因為前者族群的數目比後者少很多，然而當每年有數千隻小白額雁在中國中部的洞庭湖過冬，這令人相信牠們在香港出現並非不可能。因這兩隻鳥屬於幼鳥，而又有良好的紀錄照片，所以把小白額雁直接列入香港鳥類名錄A類。

## Orange-breasted Green Pigeon *Treron bicincta* on Po Toi Island

The first Hong Kong record and the first in China for 30 years

### **George Wai-chun Ho**

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Hong Kong*

While searching for Hong Kong's second record of Chinese Thrush *Turdus mupinensis* at Po Toi Island, I found a green pigeon *Treron sp.* near the school at 1105h on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2006. It was resting on an exposed, leafless tree seven metres away. The area comprised small shrubs, trees and rocks in the midst of a cemetery. I then informed other birdwatchers, including Y. T. Yu, Peter L. P. Wong, Michelle P. Y. Kwan, Francis Y. T. Chu and S. L. Tai. We returned to the location, but the bird was not present. After a short wait, it flew back to the top branch of a tree, where it was photographed (Plate 28). It subsequently flew away after twenty minutes of observation.

The obvious orange patch on its breast differed markedly from the two other species of green pigeon on the Hong Kong List, Thick-billed *T. curvirostra* and White-bellied *T. sieboldii*. It was identified by Y. T. Yu as an Orange-breasted Green Pigeon *T. bicincta*.

### **Description**

Based on my notes and discussion with other observers, the following description was compiled.

A chunky, yellowish-green pigeon with yellow wing markings, typical of the genus *Treron*. Its size was similar to a Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*, but it had a shorter tail and more pointed wings in flight, when the dark flight feathers could also be seen.

The head, crown and nape were grey contrasting with the green ear coverts and dull green upperparts. The forehead and throat were green tinged light yellow.

The wing coverts had dull green inner webs and yellow outer webs extended over the primaries. The green scapulars covered most of the wing-coverts. In the closed wing the alula was black.

The mantle, back, rump, and upper tail coverts were green to dull green tinged with olive and light brown. The middle tail feathers were uniformly grey while the rest were blackish with a paler grey terminal band. The tip of the tail was round.



**Plate 25.** Orange-breasted Green Pigeon *Treron bicincta* 橙胸綠鳩  
Po Toi, Hong Kong, 18<sup>th</sup> February 2006  
Michelle and Peter Wong

The most prominent feature of the underparts was the light brown-tinged orange breast patch. Another obvious feature was the pink neck patch above the orange breast that resembled a necklace. The belly was green tinged with yellow. The lower part of the belly was covered with light yellow scaling with dark tips, likely to be grey. The undertail coverts were light orange.

The upper and lower mandibles were greenish, slightly paler at the tip. The pupils were dark while the irides were pale, though the actual colour could not be seen in the field. The legs and feet were obviously red.

The bird was not heard to utter any sound, and showed no damage to the feathers. It was aged as an adult male based on the fully orange breast and the pink neck ring above the orange breast (Gibbs *et al.* 2001).

In October 2006 what was almost certainly the same bird was again recorded on the island, and it was last reported on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2006.

## Identification

The two green pigeons on the Hong Kong List were Thick-billed and White-bellied (Carey *et al.* 2001), both of which are similar to Orange-breasted Green Pigeon. However, Thick-billed is distinguished by its greenish-blue orbital ring and thick bill, while White-bellied is separated by its whitish lower belly, whiter undertail coverts and a golden tinge to the forehead (Viney *et al.* 2005).

In China and Taiwan, five other green pigeons can be found (Cheng 1987, MacKinnon and Phillipps 2000, Jie 2001). Among these, only Pompadour Green Pigeon *T. pompadora* is at significant risk of confusion with Orange-breasted Green Pigeon. The male, however, can be separated by chestnut-maroon on the wings.

In southeast Asia, the genus *Treron* is diverse and 18 species are recognised (del Hoyo *et al.* 1997). Among these, Pink-necked Green Pigeon *T. vernans* is allied to Orange-breasted Green Pigeon (Robson 2000; Gibbs *et al.* 2001), and both of them were placed within the *bicincta* species-group, based on morphology and zoogeography, by Husain (1958). However, the male of Pink-necked Green Pigeon has extensive pink on the hindneck and crown, as well as a bluish-grey forehead.

## Distribution

Orange-breasted Green Pigeon occurs throughout the east Himalayan foothills from east Pakistan through India to Indochina, Bengal and Assam and most countries in southeast Asia, as well as Hainan, China (Husain 1958, del Hoyo *et al.* 1997, Wells 1999, Grimmett *et al.* 1999, Mackinnon and Phillipps 2000 and Gibbs *et al.* 2001).

Four subspecies are recognised (del Hoyo *et al.* 1997), although the validity of all is not unquestioned. The morphology of the four races is similar, with only slight differences in size and plumage (Gibbs *et al.* 2001). *T.b. bicincta* occurs throughout much of the range, with the exception of Sri Lanka, where *T.b. leggei* occurs in the lowlands (Henry 1998), eastern Java and northern Bali, where *T.b. javana* is locally distributed, and Hainan, where *T.b. domvillii* is considered a very rare resident (Cheng 1987; Mackinnon and Phillipps 2000).

Based on plumage and distribution, the Po Toi bird was considered to be the endemic Hainan race of *domvillii*, which differs from the nominate in having yellowish-green underparts, a pink pectoral band extending down the sides of

the orange breast patch and shorter wings (Gibbs *et al.* 2001). This endemic subspecies has not been observed in Hainan since the early 1970s (Chan *et al.* 2005, Lewthwaite 2008). Outside mainland China, a male Orange-breasted Green Pigeon of uncertain provenance was captured in Taiwan in 1911 (Liu 2005).

This record of Orange-breasted Green Pigeon was the first for both Hong Kong and Guangdong. As the first record for approximately 30 years of a species listed as a Class II protected species in China (Wang 1998), it is of great significance in that it probably indicates the species still occurs in China.

### **Possible reason for occurrence**

Orange-breasted Green Pigeon is a lowland species usually found in more open and drier forest, but it seems to prefer secondary growth, coastal forest and even plantation (Gibbs *et al.* 2001). The woody vegetation of Po Toi mainly comprises shrubs, small native tree species and planted *fung shui* trees. Certainly, Po Toi has suitable habitat, as the bird remained for a long period on the island and apparently returned the following winter.

In Po Toi, the *fung shui* woodland mainly comprises mature Chinese Banyan *Ficus microcarpa*, which produces fruit highly attractive to frugivorous bird species. *Treron* pigeons find fig trees very attractive as foraging and roosting sites. The recent first record in Singapore of Orange-breasted Green Pigeon involved a bird feeding on a fig tree (Anon. 2007). As frugivores, Orange-breasted Green Pigeon move in response to local food availability, and it is possible that this bird found its way to Po Toi as a result of such a movement.

### **Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank Richard Lewthwaite for providing information on the status of this species in China and photos of specimens deposited in the Natural History Museum, Tring. I thank Yu Yat Tung for his suggestion for the identity of the pigeon and Michelle and Peter Wong, Francis Chu and S. L. Tai for their opinions and photographs. I am also grateful to Ivy So for editing my contents.

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### **Records Committee Comment**

*An exciting and totally unexpected addition to the Hong Kong List that proved rather elusive during its stay and was not seen by all who searched for it. Its return in the subsequent winter was a great stroke of fortune for those who managed to see it, but, if anything, it was even more elusive during the period it was presumed to be present. Pigeons and doves tend to be shot or trapped for food rather than for trade, and there was little doubt that this species should be accepted into Category A of the Hong Kong List.*

# 蒲台島的橙胸綠鳩

## 香港首個紀錄及中國三十年來首個紀錄

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在2006年2月18日上午11時05分，當我在蒲台島正在尋找香港第二次記錄的寶興歌鸚 *Turdus mupinensis* 的時候，在學校不遠處我見到一隻綠色的鳩 *Treron* sp. 這隻綠鳩棲身於7米以外一棵開陽及沒有樹葉的樹上。附近是一個墓地，有細小的灌木、大樹及大石。我即時通知余日東、江敏兒、黃理沛、關沛兒、崔汝棠及戴尚禮。我們返回原地，但那隻鳥已經不在。等候了不久，該鳥已飛回枝上，並被拍攝(圖28)。觀察了二十分鐘左右，那隻鳥再次飛走。

該鳥的前胸位置具有橙色近橢圓形的標記，與本地有紀錄的兩種綠鳩--紅翅綠鳩 *T. sieboldii* 及厚咀綠鳩 *T. curvirostra* 有明顯不同的特徵。最初余日東建議這鳥是橙胸綠鳩 *T. bicincta*。

### 特徵

根據本人所見及其他觀鳥人士的討論綜合所得的特徵：

綠鳩屬 *Treron* 的成員身形飽滿呈橙綠色，翅上有黃色的橫紋。身形與珠頸斑鳩 *Streptopelia chinensis* 相約，但橙胸綠鳩的尾較短，飛行時翼較長及尖，而深色的飛羽亦可察覺。

頭部、頭冠及頸背灰色，耳羽綠色，背部暗綠色。前額及喉綠色帶點淺黃色。

飛羽內膜暗綠色，黃色的外膜延伸到初級飛羽。綠色的肩羽覆蓋大部分的飛羽。當翼摺疊時小翼羽呈黑色。

上背、背、腰及尾上覆羽綠色至暗綠色帶點橄欖綠及淺啡色。尾中覆羽均勻灰色，其餘的為黑色，尾端圓及有淺灰色間。

最明顯的特徵是淺啡帶橙的胸部，另外橙色的胸部之上有一條似頸鏈的粉紅色斑紋。腹部綠色帶黃，腹部的下半部有淺黃的鱗狀羽毛，末端深灰色。尾下覆羽淺橙色。

上下喙都是綠色的，前端較淺色。雖然在野外未能判決眼睛真實的顏色，但瞳孔大致上是深色而虹膜淺色。腳明顯紅色。

此鳥沒有發出任何聲音，羽毛亦沒有破損。根據牠甚橙的胸部及在胸上部的粉紅色頸環，本人推斷那隻個體是一隻成年的雄鳥 (Gibbs *et al.* 2001)。

2006年10月，相信是同一隻個體再次現身於蒲台島，最後紀錄日期是2006年11月22日。

## 辨認

曾在香港記錄的兩種綠鳩--厚咀綠鳩及紅翅綠鳩(Carey *et al.* 2001)都與橙胸綠鳩相似。厚咀綠鳩有獨特的綠藍色的眼眶及厚喙而紅翅綠鳩有白色的下腹及尾下覆羽及前額帶金色 (Viney *et al.* 2005)。

在中國及台灣共記錄五種綠鳩 (Cheng 1987, MacKinnon and Phillipps 2000, Jie 2001)，當中灰頭綠鳩(*T. pompadora*) 與橙胸綠鳩是較容易產生混淆的，可是前者雄性的翅膀具有栗紅色，可相區別。

在東南亞地區，綠鳩屬的品種有18種個品種 (del Hoyo *et al.* 1997)。粉頸綠鳩 (*T. vernans*)是與橙胸綠鳩最相近似的(Robson 2000; Gibbs *et al.* 2001)，兩種綠鳩均是介定為*bicincta*組的，可是粉頸綠鳩雄性頸部的粉紅色延伸至後頸及頭冠，及牠的前額是灰藍色的。

## 分布

橙胸綠鳩分布由東喜瑪拉雅山山腳至巴基斯坦經印度至印支半島的孟加拉及阿薩姆，以及東南亞地區多個國家和中國的海南島(Husain 1958, del Hoyo *et al.* 1997, Wells 1999, Grimmett *et al.* 1999, Mackinnon and Phillipps 2000及 Gibbs *et al.* 2001)。

橙胸綠鳩有四個亞種(del Hoyo *et al.* 1997)，當中有些亞種的確定亦存疑問。各亞種之間的特徵分別並不大，只有在體形及羽毛上有輕微的不同 (Gibbs *et al.* 2001)。除了斯里蘭卡，*T. b. bicincta*廣泛分布於上述地點; *T. b. leggei*棲息於斯里蘭卡的低地 (Henry, 1998); *T. b. javana*分布局限，只分布於東爪哇及北巴里島; *T. b. domvillii*只分布於海南島，在該島被視為罕見留鳥(Cheng 1987; Mackinnon and Phillipps 2000)。

根據其分布及羽毛，在蒲台島發現的橙胸綠鳩是海南島的特有亞種*domvillii*，與其他亞種不同的地方是下腹黃綠色、胸前的粉紅色帶延伸到橙色斑塊的兩側及翅膀較短(Gibbs *et al.* 2001)。在過往三十年來，此亞種在海南島都沒有紀錄(Chan *et al.* 2005; Lewthwaite 2008)。此亞種的隻雄性鳥亦曾於1911年出現在台灣，被視為台灣的迷鳥 (Liu 2005)。

橙胸綠鳩出現於香港南面的蒲台島，無疑是香港，甚至是廣東地區的首次紀錄，亦是中國三十年來的首次紀錄。由於橙胸綠鳩已很久沒有在中國記錄，該種已列為國家二級保護動物 (Wang 1998)。此紀錄亦證明橙胸綠鳩仍在於中國境內。

## 在本港出沒的原因

這種綠鳩棲身於低地較開陽和乾旱的林地，亦偏好次生林、海岸林地或植林(Gibbs *et al.* 2001)。蒲台島的植被以灌叢、小型土生樹種及風水林為主。明顯地，蒲台島的環境與牠的棲息地十分相近。從此鳥的長逗留時間及於冬天重返蒲台島得知，此島有合適的生境。

再者，蒲台島所見的風水林樹種多為細葉榕*Ficus microcarpa*，其樹所結的果實對以果食為主的鳥類而言，是非常吸引的。近來在新加坡第一次記錄的橙胸綠鳩都是在一棵榕樹上覓食 (Anon 2007)。作為鳩鴿類的成員，橙胸綠鳩往往會因應食物的充足度而遷徙。蒲台島上的各項自然環境條件都能夠解釋到該鳥出現的原因。

## 鳴謝

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### 紀錄委員會評註

一項令人驚喜及意想不到的香港新紀錄。牠在停留期間行踪頗為隱秘，所以多人都見不到牠。在隨後冬季牠的出現同樣為觀鳥者帶來很大的驚喜，但期間牠的行踪更為神秘，以致大家亦不肯定牠是否存在。由於被捉的鳩鵲多數是被射殺及捕獲以作食用而很少作買賣，故此這個品種應被列入香港鳥類名錄的A類。



# Ruddy Kingfisher *Halcyon coromanda* on Po Toi Island

The first Hong Kong record

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## Discovery

On 18<sup>th</sup> May 2006, four days after finding Hong Kong's first Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus* at Long Valley, Jose Alberto Cheung Mok (JACM) and I found a Ruddy Kingfisher *Halcyon coromanda*, on Po Toi island, another first record for Hong Kong. This bird, however, proved far less obliging than the pipit, and was very difficult to see, let alone photograph.

Shortly after arriving on the island, JACM and I began birding a trail that initially led through trees and then into an open area surrounded by low shrub and scattered bushes. As we entered the open area, a bird flew straight past us, low across the ground from the trees we had just walked through, and appeared to land in a tree about 20m away. As the bird flew by, JACM shouted "Ruddy Kingfisher!" and we both managed to get close, albeit brief, flight views through our binoculars. At its closest point the bird was only approximately 2m from us. Although we only saw the bird for a few seconds, the combination of a medium-sized, bright reddish-brown kingfisher with a blue rump confirmed our initial identification. Despite an extensive search of the area where we thought it had landed, we were unable to relocate it.

On 21<sup>st</sup> May 2006, following a report of the bird having possibly been seen again the previous day, a group of birders including myself went to Po Toi hoping to obtain better views. The weather was poor, being overcast with occasional rain, heavy at times. As soon as we arrived, we headed to the small patch of trees from where the bird had first been seen to fly, but despite playing a pre-recorded call of Ruddy Kingfisher, there was no sign. The group then spread out to explore the surrounding area. At about 1100h, Mike Turnbull (MT) and I returned to the original patch of trees, and again played the recording. Within seconds the Ruddy Kingfisher flew in and perched on a branch about 15m away. I watched it for a short period, but it was obscured from view for MT, and as he attempted to gain a view, it dropped from the branch and could not be relocated. Whether the bird actually responded to the tape or whether it was just a coincidence that it appeared at that moment, we cannot say, but there had been no previous response to the recording that day, nor was there any subsequently. The group spent the rest of the day exploring the area, but the rain was now persistent and there were no further sightings.

## Description

The following description was compiled by the observers.

A medium-sized red-billed, reddish-lilac kingfisher with no other obvious markings. Appeared to be similar in size to White-throated Kingfisher *H. smyrnensis*. Mantle, wings and tail bright reddish-lilac, described by JACM as purple-red. Head and ear coverts were slightly lighter in colour. Large, obvious red bill. Underparts buffish, lighter towards the belly. Rump pale silvery blue, seen only in flight.

## Discussion

Of the nine subspecies listed by Fry *et al.* (1992), only two are likely to occur in Hong Kong. *H.c. major*, which breeds in Japan and the northeast China coast and migrates south through the Ryukyu Islands and Taiwan to winter in the Philippines and *H.c. bangsi*, which breeds in the Ryukyu Islands and Taiwan and migrates to the Philippines and as far south as the Talaud Islands, Indonesia. Although the views obtained were insufficient to determine the subspecies, it was more than likely to be either of these. According to Fry *et al.* (1992) the species migrates through Taiwan from late April to late May and the occurrence of this bird in mid May fits well with this migration pattern. Birds on migration are noted as being shy and retiring and difficult to see, and this may explain the lack of any previous records.

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## Records Committee Comment

*Although the circumstances of the observation were not ideal and the description not as full as one might wish for a first record, as the species is so distinctive and unlike any other in the region, acceptance proved straightforward. Nine subspecies are listed by Fry et al. (1992). H.c. major is a medium-distance migrant that breeds in Japan and northeast China and winters in the Philippines and Sulawesi, while H.c. bangsi breeds in the Ryukyu Islands and winters in the Philippines south to the Talaud Islands, Indonesia. In addition, the same authors note that the nominate subspecies breeds in Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, Bihar, West Bengal, Bangladesh, northern Burma and southwest China east to Macau, and winters in the Malay peninsula, Sumatra and Java;*

*unfortunately, the source of the Macanese record is not stated, nor the date, so the assignment to subspecies may be open to question.*

*The sole Guangdong record concerns a specimen taken in the Guangzhou area in December 1917, subsequently deposited in the City Hall Museum, Hong Kong (Mell 1922), and presumably lost during the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong. It is likely this specimen accounts for Meyer de Schauensee's (1984) statement that some winter in southeast China. In Fujian, La Touche (1931-34) reported one taken by Rickett at Fuzhou in May and another taken there some years later. He ascribed these and four specimens taken from the island of Sha Wei Shan, Shanghai between 20<sup>th</sup> May and 18<sup>th</sup> June in 1908 and 1911 (listed in Rickett and La Touche 1912) to the subspecies H.c. major.*

*Although the description of the Po Toi bird was insufficient to determine subspecies, as all possibilities are migratory, Ruddy Kingfisher was accepted into Category A of the Hong Kong List. Let us hope the next one does not prove so elusive.*

# 蒲苔島的赤翡翠

## 香港首個紀錄

杜加勤及張振國

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### 發現經過

2006年5月18日，即發現香港第一個粉紅胸鵯紀錄的4天後，我和張振國在蒲苔島發現了另一個香港新紀錄：赤翡翠 (*Halcyon coromanda*)；但此鳥並非如粉紅胸鵯那麼合作，要看清楚牠的廬山真面目頗不容易，更遑論要拍一張相片。

當天我們抵達蒲苔島後，便在一條小徑開始觀鳥，從小徑拾級而上抵達一塊被矮樹及灌木包圍的開闊空地。我們到達開闊空地的時候，一隻鳥突然飛出並在我們面前飛過，直飛到距離我們 20 米外的一棵樹停下。當牠在我們身邊飛過時，我們和牠最近的距離只有 2 米，張振國大叫：“赤翡翠！”及後我們有幸可從望遠鏡中看到牠的飛行姿態，雖然觀察時間只有幾秒，非常短暫，但牠亮麗的棕紅色羽毛、藍藍的尾端以及中等大小的身型等特徵都令我們肯定牠的身份。後來我們在牠的著陸地作地毯式搜查，可惜無功而還。

2006年5月21日，眾鳥友包括我再到蒲苔島尋找赤翡翠，這因為前一天有人報告此鳥可能出現過。可惜當天天氣甚差：密雲及有幾陣驟雨，而且雨勢有時頗大。抵達後，我們走到首次發現赤翡翠的矮樹林，並播放預早錄好的赤翡翠鳴叫聲，可是沒有反應，故此我們便分頭搜索。大約早上 11 時，我與譚寶爾再回到那矮樹林播放錄音帶，不消數秒赤翡翠便飛出來並停留在我們 15 米以外的一棵樹上。雖然我可作短暫觀察，但譚寶爾的視線卻受阻，當他嘗試移位去看清楚時卻驚動了牠，牠立即往下飛而失去蹤影。我們未能確定究竟牠的出現是偶然還是對錄音帶的赤翡翠鳴叫聲有反應，如果是後者，那為何較早時及稍後播放錄音帶牠都沒有反應呢？雨下得越來越大，我們在附近分頭搜尋卻沒有結果。

### 描述

以下是眾觀察者的描述：

此鳥屬中型、紅咀、棕紅淡紫色及沒有獨特斑點的赤翡翠，跟白胸翡翠(*H. smyrnensis*) 差不多大小，背、翼及尾部都有鮮艷的棕紅及淡紫色羽毛。張振國形容牠是紫紅色，頭及耳外側顏色略淺，咀喙鮮紅色及略大，下體則較淺色，當飛行時可見其背近尾部位位置呈現藍色。

## 討論

Fry et al. (1992) 列出 9 個赤翡翠的亞種，有機會在香港出現的只有 2 種：*H.c.major* 及 *H.c.bangsi*；*H.c.major* 在日本及中國東北沿海地區繁殖，然後往南遷時途經琉球群島、台灣到菲律賓。*H.c.bangsi* 則在琉球群島及台灣繁殖，然後遷徙到菲律賓至印尼塔勞群島(Talau Islands)。雖然今次並未能肯定是哪一個亞種，但相信會是這兩個其中一個。根據 Fry et al. (1992) 一書所描述，此品種會在 4 月尾到 5 月尾途經台灣，而今次於 5 月中所見之赤翡翠亦切合其遷徙路線。一般而言，遷徙中的鳥都比較害羞、疲倦及不容易發現，這正好解釋為何以往並沒有任何此種鳥的紀錄。

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## 紀錄委員會評註

作為香港第一個紀錄而言，今次的觀察環境及描述並不理想，但這品種的特徵實在太突出，在附近區域亦沒有相似的品種，因此我們欣然接受這個紀錄。根據 Fry et al (1992) 一書所列，赤翡翠一共有 9 個亞種，*H.c. major* 是中距離的候鳥，牠們在日本及中國東北部繁殖而在菲律賓及蘇拉威西渡冬；*H.c. bangsi* 則在琉球群島繁殖及在菲律賓南部至印尼塔勞群島(Talau Islands) 渡冬。根據作者指出，亞種的繁殖地包括尼泊爾、錫金(Sikkim)、不丹、印度比哈爾、孟加拉、緬甸北部、中國西南部及澳門，而牠們在馬來西亞半島、蘇門答臘及爪哇渡冬；很可惜作者並沒有說明澳門紀錄的來源及日期，所以我們認為澳門的紀錄有待商榷。

廣東的唯一紀錄在 1917 年 12 月出現，當時廣東省地區收集到一個標本，後來此標本更存放在香港大會堂博物館內 (Mell 1922)，其後相信在日本佔領期間遺失了。我們相信 Meyer de Schauensee (1984) 是根據此標本而說牠們曾在中國東南部渡冬。根據 La Touche (1931-34) 的紀錄，Rickett 曾於 5 月份時在福州找到一個標本，而他幾年後又找到另一個標本，他形容這 4 個標本都屬於 *H.c. major*，都是從 1908 年 5 月至 1911 年 6 月 18 日在上海 Sha Wei Shan 檢取到的 (Rickett and La Touche 1912)。

雖然我們並未能確認在蒲苔島看到的赤翡翠是屬於哪個亞種，但我們仍然接納牠為香港鳥類名錄 A 類的品種，希望下次出現的赤翡翠更為親民吧！

# Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus* at Long Valley

## The first Hong Kong record

*Graham Talbot*

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Hong Kong*

### Discovery

At about 1530h on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2007 I was with Kwok Jai (J. A. Cheung Mok) birdwatching at Long Valley, hoping to find a Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis*, a bird that had eluded me for many years. I decided to explore an area of tall reedy grass in the centre of the area, and as I approached it I noted that there was recently cleared area in the centre. As I got closer I could see a single pipit-like bird feeding amongst the newly-cut vegetation. I assumed it was a Red-throated Pipit, and was surprised when looking at it I saw that it had a pale pink throat and upper breast, with the pink extending towards the lower belly. The other striking feature was the very long pale pink supercilium that appeared to droop at the end.

I immediately thought of Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus*, but was hesitant as I knew it had not been recorded in Hong Kong before. I called Kwok Jai over and as soon as he saw the bird he also said Rosy Pipit. Before I put the news out I wanted to eliminate other possibilities, the first being Water Pipit *A. spinoletta*, which in summer plumage in the nominate form and *A.s. coutellii* can have a pinkish brown wash to the throat and breast. However, the bird we were watching had rather bright pink underparts combined with strong streaking on the flanks and a long drooping supercilium. The only other possibility was an oddly-marked Red-throated Pipit *A. cervinus*; however, the pinkish wash was restricted to the breast and upper belly, whereas in Red throated Pipit it would extend on to the head.

By now I was convinced that we were indeed watching a Rosy Pipit, but to be sure I phoned Richard Lewthwaite who consulted some literature and over the phone checked some of the minor details including the colour of the legs, which are pale in Rosy and dark in Water Pipit.

The bird remained in the area of recently-cut reeds allowing some record photographs to be taken, until it was flushed by an agricultural worker and flew a short distance to a nearby watercress field. It did not call. I saw the bird again on the 16<sup>th</sup> May, and again it did not call on the two occasions it took flight.

During the remaining few hours of light about twenty people managed to see the bird. The bird remained in the area favouring the same two fields until 17<sup>th</sup> May, when heavy overnight rain flooded the area. Photographs were taken by Martin Hale, and two of these are reproduced in Plates 29 and 30.



## Description

The size appeared to be about the same as a Red-throated Pipit, and it had the jizz typical of a small *Anthus* pipit, including a horizontal position when walking and foraging, only becoming upright when alarmed. The most obvious feature was the pale pink wash to its throat and breast, extending to the lower belly, and a long drooping supercilium.



Plate 29. Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus* 粉紅胸鵐  
Long Valley, Hong Kong, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2006  
Martin Hale

In terms of plumage, the forehead and nape were brownish-grey, with dark streaks on the forehead and crown. Ear coverts grey-brown, slightly paler below the eye. Lores dark brown. The pale pink buff supercilium started at the base of the bill and extended well behind the eye, where it drooped. The

supercilium was broader in front of the eye and square-cut at the end. The dark brown moustachial stripe was not very prominent. Throat, upper breast and belly pale pink, with one dark brown streak on the breast. Sides of breast streaked dark brown, but restricted to the edges. The flanks were sparsely streaked dark brown, with the streaking being more numerous on the lower flanks. The ground colour of the upperparts was similar to the head and nape, greyish-brown, with dark streaking on the mantle and pale streaks on the sides producing pale 'tram lines'. The back, rump and uppertail coverts were plain grey brown with no visible sign of streaking. The median and greater wing coverts were dark with broad pale edges. The tertials were dark with pale edges. The bill was dark and the legs pale.

## Identification

The only other Pipits in the region with any hint of pink are Water Pipit and Red-throated Pipit. Red-throated Pipit can be ruled out as on this species the colour is more brick red and extends to the head. Red-throated also has a heavily-streaked back and rump and a pale base to the bill. Some forms of Water Pipit, especially *coutellii* which occurs from eastern Europe to India, show a pinkish tinge to the throat and breast, but this is not as marked as in Rosy Pipit; in addition, Water Pipit lacks prominent streaking on the flanks and has dark legs.

## Range

According to Alström *et al.* (2003), the breeding range of Rosy Pipit extends from eastern Afghanistan and north Pakistan east through the Himalayas to China as far as Shaanxi and as far south as southeast Yunnan. The same authors also note that it probably breeds on Wuyi Shan at the border of Fujian and Jiangxi. Consequently, it is likely that the breeding range actually includes significant areas of southeast China, although it should be noted there are no breeding season records from northern Guangdong.

According to Alström *et al.* (2003), breeding is restricted to mountains above the tree line from 2700m upwards on grassy slopes with scattered boulders. However, the top of Wuyi Shan reaches only 2158m. Birds winter at lower altitudes in flooded meadows, paddyfields and cultivated fields as far south as northwest Thailand and northern Vietnam. There is a single record from the South China coast in Hainan (Cheng 1987).

At first glance Rosy Pipit may be considered an unlikely vagrant to Hong Kong, due to the fact that it is mainly an altitudinal rather than a long-distance migrant and its closest known regular winter areas are in Yunnan. However, its likely occurrence across southeast China and records from another coastal locality on migration, Beidaihe in Hebei province in May 1996 (G. J. Carey pers. obs.), indicate the potential for its occurrence at such sites.

## References

Alström, P., Mild, K. and Zetterström, B. 2003. *Pipits and Wagtails of Europe, Asia and North America. Identification and Systematics*. Christopher Helm, London.

Cheng, T. H. 1987. *A Synopsis of the Avifauna of China*. Science Press, Beijing.

## Records Committee Comment

*A long-anticipated addition to the Hong Kong List, with breeding birds probably occurring at least as near as Wu Yi Shan, Fujian. The combination of pinkish throat and breast, prominent pale supercilium with a downturn at the rear, sparse blackish streaks along the flanks, heavily-streaked mantle but unstreaked rump and uppertail coverts, is distinctive, and the species was accepted into Category A of the Hong Kong List.*

# 塋原的粉紅胸鵯

## 香港首個紀錄

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### 發現的過程

2006年5月14日下午約三時半，我與國仔(張振國)正在塋原觀鳥，希望可以找到黑鵯 (Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis*) 這種我多年來都無緣見到的雀鳥。我決定到塋原中部長滿高高蘆葦的區域找找看。走近時，我留意到中間有個範圍的植物最近被清除了。當我走近一點時，見到一隻看來像鵯的雀鳥正在新近被割去的植物的區間覓食。我當時假定那是紅喉鵯，但經仔細觀察，見到牠的喉和上胸都呈淡粉紅色，而那些粉紅色更伸延至下腹，實在令我感到有點詫異。另一個明顯的特徵，是那十分長而淡粉紅色的眉紋，末端看來是下垂的。

我即時想到是粉紅胸鵯 (Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus*)，但又不禁猶豫起來，因為據我所知當時香港尚未有粉紅胸鵯的紀錄。我叫國仔過來。當他見到那雀鳥的時候，他也說是粉紅胸鵯。但在我公佈這個消息之前，我想排除其他可能性—首先是夏羽的水鵯 (Water Pipit *A. spinoletta*)指名亞種；另一種為喉和胸也可以呈粉紅褐色水鵯的 *coutellii*亞種。然而，我們當時所觀察的那雀鳥下體的粉紅色頗為鮮艷，脇部的縱紋清晰可見，眉紋亦長而下垂。另一個唯一的可能性，牠是一隻外表與別不同的紅喉鵯 (Red-throated Pipit *A. cervinus*)。然而，眼前所見的雀鳥的粉紅色部份只限於胸和上腹，而紅喉鵯的粉紅色則會伸延至頭部。

那時，我確信我們正在觀察的實際上是粉紅胸鵯。但為了進一步肯定，我致電Richard Lewthwaite，他代為翻查文獻，並透過電話核對一些細微的特徵，包括腳的顏色—粉紅胸鵯的腳較淡色，而水鵯的腳較深色。

那雀鳥在新近割下蘆葦的範圍停留了好些時間，讓我們可以拍下一些照片作紀錄。直至被走近的農民驚嚇，牠才飛了一段短距離，去到附近的西洋菜田。牠當時並沒有鳴叫。我在5月16日再次見到那雀鳥，同樣地，牠在兩次飛行的時候均沒有發出叫聲。

在餘下天還未黑的數個小時，約有20人見到這雀鳥。這雀鳥仍逗留在那個範圍，鍾情於那兩塊田，直至5月17日下了一整晚大雨，將那處淹沒為止。夏敖天拍了一些照片，其中兩幅見圖29及30。



Plate 30. Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus* 粉紅胸鵐  
Long Valley, Hong Kong, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2006  
Martin Hale

### 描述

該雀鳥的大小看來與紅喉鵐相若，牠的動態是小型 *Anthus* 屬鵐鳥所特有的，包括在行走及覓食時頭頸和身體保持水平姿勢，只會在受驚時才把身體挺起來。最明顯的特徵是牠的喉和胸呈淡粉紅色，並一直伸延至下腹，牠的眉紋長而下垂。

就羽毛而言，牠的額和枕呈褐灰色，額和頭頂有深色縱紋。耳羽呈灰褐色，眼下的羽毛顏色較淡。眼端呈深褐色。淡粉紅色而呈暗黃色的眉紋由嘴基開始，一直伸延至眼後，並由眼後開始下垂。眼前方的眉紋較闊，末端呈方型。深褐色的頰紋並不明顯。喉、上胸及腹呈淡粉紅色，胸前有一條深褐色縱紋。胸側的縱紋為深褐色，但只長在邊緣部分。脇部有稀疏的深褐色縱紋，而下脇的縱紋較多。上體的底色與頭和枕相似，呈灰褐色，上背有深色縱紋，側面的縱紋顏色較淡，構成了淡色的“電車軌道”。背、腰及尾上覆羽呈純灰褐色，沒有明顯的縱紋。中覆羽和大覆羽呈深色，邊緣闊而淡色。三列飛羽為深色，邊緣淡色。嘴部深色，腳部淡色。



## 辨認

在該區域內呈少許粉紅色的其他鷓鴣只有水鷓鴣和紅喉鷓鴣。該雀鳥屬紅喉鷓鴣的可能性可以排除，因為紅喉鷓鴣的顏色較近似磚紅色，而顏色會伸延至頭部。紅喉鷓鴣的背和腰有濃密深色縱紋，嘴基較淡色。部份水鷓鴣，尤其是在東歐至印度出現的 *coutellii* 亞種，淡淡的粉紅色調會伸延至喉及胸前，但不及粉紅胸鷓鴣的明顯。此外，水鷓鴣的脇部沒有明顯的縱紋，而腳部較深色。

## 分佈

根據Alström *et al.* (2003)載述，粉紅胸鷓鴣的繁殖範圍由阿富汗東面伸延至巴基斯坦北面，向東穿過喜馬拉雅山至中國陝西，南至雲南東南部。文獻的作者亦留意到，粉紅胸鷓鴣很可能在福建及江西邊界的武夷山繁殖。因此，粉紅胸鷓鴣的繁殖範圍實際上可能包括中國東南部相當大的地域，雖然值得注意的是，廣東北部並沒有粉紅胸鷓鴣繁殖季節的紀錄。

根據Alström *et al.* (2003)載述，粉紅胸鷓鴣的繁殖地僅限於林木綫以上的山區、2700米以上地方，通常是長滿草和散佈卵石的斜坡。然而，武夷山最高處只有2158米。粉紅胸鷓鴣渡冬時，會選擇海拔較低的泛濫草地、稻田及耕地，最南的紀錄為泰國西北部及越南北部。南中國沿岸的海南有單一的粉紅胸鷓鴣紀錄(Cheng 1987)。

驟眼看來，粉紅胸鷓鴣或許可以算作香港不大可能出現的迷鳥，因為這個品種主要在不同高度之間遷徙，而非長途遷徙的雀鳥，而巳知牠們最就近的慣常渡冬地為雲南。然而，牠們的分佈橫跨中國東南部的可能性，以及其他沿岸地區的遷徙紀錄，加上1996年5月在河北省北戴河的紀錄(賈知行的個人觀察)，均顯示粉紅胸鷓鴣有可能在這些地點出現。

## 參考文獻

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Cheng, T. H. 1987. *A Synopsis of the Avifauna of China*. Science Press, Beijing.

## 紀錄委員會評註

粉紅胸鷓鴣是一個期待已久的香港新紀錄，這個品種最近的繁殖地點大致在福建武夷山。粉紅色的喉和胸、明顯的淡色眉紋在末端向下垂、脇部稀疏的暗黑縱紋、佈滿縱紋的上背，以及沒有縱紋的腰及尾上覆羽，這些特徵併合起來十分明顯，令這鳥種可納入香港鳥類名錄A類。



# Sulphur-breasted Warbler *Phylloscopus ricketti* at Tai Po Kau

The first Hong Kong record

*Po Kuen Kwan*

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## Discovery

At around 1400h on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2005 I was on the road in Tai Po Kau forest near the nature trail, watching a flock of foraging birds moving through the trees. I noticed just under the canopy a very active warbler *Phylloscopus* with obvious yellow underparts.

It did not resemble any of the taxa of Goodson's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus goodsoni* commonly seen in winter in Tai Po Kau. It was easily distinguished from *P.g. fokiensis/claudiae* by the bright yellow underparts, while it differed from *P.g. goodsoni* in the intensity of this yellow and by the extent, which included the lower belly and vent. The head pattern ruled out any of the spectacled warblers *Seicercus*.

The behaviour of the bird also differed from Goodson's Leaf Warbler in that it did not search the tree trunks for prey, instead remaining in the canopy. At the time I thought it might be a Sulphur-breasted Warbler *P. ricketti*, a species I had not seen before.

As the trees in the vicinity were not tall, I had ample opportunity to watch the bird and record its features in my note book, and the following description was taken.

## Description

It appeared to be a slightly smaller than Goodson's Leaf Warbler. The upperparts were uniform yellowish-green. There was one prominent yellow wing bar, and there may have been a second, although this was very poorly-marked if so. The underparts were a uniform, deep, bright yellow from the throat to the vent. There was no obvious white in the tail.

The head pattern was striking and well-defined. The median crown stripe was yellow reaching all the way from the nape to the base of the bill. The lateral crown stripes were black and also reached the bill base. The supercilium was yellow, while the eyestripe and lores were black. The staring black eyes had no eye ring.

The bill was thin and showed a pale lower mandible, while the legs were pale yellow.

The combination of deep yellow underparts, black lateral crown stripes, yellow median crown stripe and wing bar and uniform greenish upperparts identified this bird as Sulphur-breasted Warbler.

After this encounter, I searched for it again in the next few days but was not able to see it again.

## Distribution

Based on the literature, Sulphur-breasted Warbler occurs in southern Gansu, Sichuan, Guizhou, Hubei, Hunan, Guangxi, Guangdong and Fujian (Cheng 1987). It breeds at relatively low elevations, usually below 1500m, and recent breeding records have come from Emei Shan (Sichuan), Wu Yi Shan (Fujian) and Ba Bao Shan in the Nan Ling mountains (northern Guangdong), where it was commonly in song between 800m and 1000m in April 2009 (G. J. Carey *in litt.*). Given this proximity to Hong Kong, its occurrence here is not surprising.

## References

- Alström, P., Davidson, P., Duckworth, J. W., Eames, J. C., Trai, T. L., Cu, N., Olsson, U., Robson, C. and Timmins, R. 2010. *Description of a new species of Phylloscopus warbler from Vietnam and Laos*. *Ibis* (2010), 152, 145-168.
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## Records Committee Comment

*Sulphur-breasted Warbler* was previously in Category A of the Hong Kong List but was moved to Category F at the time of publication of the Avifauna (Carey et al. 2001). This was as a result of a better understanding of the plumage of Goodson's Leaf Warbler, which indicated that many of previous records of Sulphur-breasted Warbler actually referred to the former, and that there were no records documented sufficiently to allow retention of the latter on the Hong Kong List. However, given its distribution, which at the time was thought to be central China east to Fujian, it was anticipated that Sulphur-breasted Warbler would be proven to occur. This November 2005 record was the first to be documented sufficiently to allow placement in the main Hong Kong List, and it was followed in April 2006 by a well-photographed bird on Po Toi (Plate 19).

The range of Sulphur-breasted Warbler in the literature has traditionally included central and south China, south to southern Vietnam. However, it has recently become clear that birds occurring in lowland limestone forest areas of Vietnam and south Guangxi refer to a separate species Limestone Leaf Warbler *P. calciatilis* (Alström et al. 2010.). In terms of morphology the two are very similar indeed, and Hong Kong records do not rule out the more southerly species. However, until evidence accrues to suggest

*the species occurring in limestone areas occurs north of its breeding area in the non-breeding season, birds showing features typical of Sulphur-breasted Warbler will be treated as the species breeding in mainland China.*

# 大埔滘的黑眉柳鶯

## 香港首個紀錄

### 關寶權

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### 發現經過

2005年11月25日下午約2時，我在大埔滘自然保護區自然教育徑附近的馬路觀察在樹林中移動覓食的鳥群。我留意到林冠稍下的位置，有一隻十分活躍的 *Phylloscopus* 鶯，牠的下體呈鮮黃色。

這隻鶯與冬季常見於大埔滘的華南冠紋柳鶯 (*Phylloscopus goodsoni*) 有明顯的分別。從牠鮮黃色的下體，我很容易認出牠並不是 *P.g. fohkiensis / claudiae*；而牠下體（包括下腹和臀部）黃色的濃度及範圍也異於 *P.g. goodsoni*。牠頭上的紋理清楚顯示牠不是 *Seicercus* 屬的鶯。

這隻鶯的行為與華南冠紋柳鶯不同。華南冠紋柳鶯通常會在樹幹上找尋獵物，但這隻鶯卻留在樹冠覓食。當時我推斷這是一隻黑眉柳鶯 (*P. ricketti*)，那是我從未見過的鳥種。

由於這隻鶯所在附近的樹木不太高，使我可以仔細觀察牠，並將特徵紀錄在筆記本內。以下是我對該鳥的描述：

### 描述

牠的體型比華南冠紋柳鶯略小，上背呈均勻的黃綠色。牠有一條顯眼的黃色翼斑，也可能有第二條很淡的翼斑。下體(由喉至臀部)呈均勻的鮮黃色，尾部沒有明顯的白色。

頭部的紋理清楚及惹人注目。頭部中央的黃色條紋從後頸伸延至嘴基；黑色側冠紋也伸延至嘴基。眉紋呈黃色，而眼線和眼先是黑色。黑色的眼睛沒有眼眶。喙幼，下嘴顏色較淡，雙腿呈淡黃色。

總括而言，以下特徵能確定這隻鶯為黑眉柳鶯：深黃色下體，黑色側冠紋，黃色中央冠紋和翼斑，以及上背呈均勻的綠色。

在發現這隻鶯之後的數天，我未能再次找到牠。

### 分佈

根據文獻所述，黑眉柳鶯分佈於中國甘肅南部、四川、貴州、湖北、湖南、廣西、廣東和福建(Cheng 1987)。牠在海拔較低（通常低於海拔1500米）的地區繁殖。以下地點最近有黑眉柳鶯的繁殖紀錄：峨嵋山（四川）、武夷山（福建）及位於南嶺的八寶山（廣東北部）。在2009年的4月，八寶山在海拔800 – 1000米地方經常有黑眉柳鶯在繁殖季節的鳴唱聲（G. J. Carey in litt.）。因為黑眉柳鶯曾在鄰近香港的八寶山出現，所以這次在香港發現牠並不意外。

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## 紀錄委員會評註

黑眉柳鶯本來列入香港鳥類名錄A類，但在出版《Avifauna》時被列入F類 (Carey et al. 2001)。這是因為當時我們對華南冠紋柳鶯的羽毛特徵的認識加深，發現很多以前被認為是黑眉柳鶯的紀錄應為華南冠紋柳鶯，同時並沒有能確定為黑眉柳鶯的紀錄。雖然如此，因黑眉柳鶯的分佈區域一向被認為在中國中部至福建，所以當時我們能夠預計黑眉柳鶯將會在短時間內被證實在香港出現。這個2005年11月的紀錄是首個有足夠資料可被列入香港鳥類名錄的紀錄。2006年4月更有觀鳥者在蒲苔島拍攝到黑眉柳鶯的照片〔圖19〕。

在文獻裏一向把黑眉柳鶯的分佈範圍列入在中國中部及南部，南至越南南部。可是，最近證實在越南和廣西南部的低地石灰森林的種群，為另一鳥種——Limestone Leaf Warbler *P. calciatilis* (Alström et al. 2010)。在外形方面，這兩種鳥十分相似，香港的紀錄也不排除是 *P. calciatilis*。但除非有證據顯示在石灰林的鳥種會在非繁殖期在其繁殖地的北方出現，否則有黑眉柳鶯特徵的雀鳥將被視為在中國大陸繁殖的 *P. ricketti*。

# Narcissus Flycatcher *Ficedula narcissina owstoni* on Hong Kong Island

## The first Hong Kong record

*Paul and Helen Harris*

*23, Burgess Mead, Oxford, OX2 6 XP, UK*

On the cool and cloudy morning of 24<sup>th</sup> March 2002 while bird watching on Mount Davis, Hong Kong Island, we found a flycatcher *Ficedula* in the low branches of large trees close to Mount Davis Path, about 100-150m below a disused toilet. It allowed close approach and was observed for about 20 minutes between 1130h and 1150h, and observed again later on the same day at the same location between 1420h and 1430h. For much of this time the bird was six feet away or less, and was observed both with binoculars and with the naked eye. The following description was taken at the time.

The mantle, nape and crown were brownish-green, and there was marked colour contrast between the mantle and the black wings and upper tail. The ear coverts were dark brown.

In other respects the bird was like a typical male Narcissus Flycatcher *F. narcissina* of the nominate race, with bright yellow throat and breast, white undertail coverts and underside of the tail, a long yellow supercilium extending well behind the eye, a yellow rump and a white wing bar.

At the time we were unsure of the exact identity of the bird. Although it closely resembled Narcissus Flycatcher, it was slightly, if obviously, different. Our searches through the literature we had to hand threw little light on the bird's identity, and we certainly did not expect it might be an endemic and supposedly resident subspecies confined to the islands of Japan!

### Records Committee Comment

*The record was submitted to the Records Committee, which reached the conclusion that it most resembled *F.n. owstoni* or 'Olive-backed Flycatcher'; however, it was considered highly unlikely this subspecies could reach Hong Kong, as there was nothing in the literature to indicate it was anything other than resident. Consequently, given this, and given a slight lack of detail in the notes submitted, the taxon was not added to the Hong Kong List. It was not until the occurrence of a well-photographed male on Po Toi from 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> March 2006 combined with the recent publication on line of a paper dealing with the identification of the various taxa of Narcissus Flycatcher, *owstoni* and *elisae* (which has been placed on the Hong Kong List as a full species, Green-backed Flycatcher *F. elisae*) that the record could be re-assessed. A photograph of the bird on Po Toi can be found in Plate 21.*



# 香港島的黃眉姬鶉 (*owstoni* 亞種)

## 香港首個紀錄

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在2002年3月24日一個涼快而多雲的上午，我們在港島區的摩星嶺觀鳥，並在一個棄用洗手間下約100至150米，近摩星嶺徑大樹叢中的低枝處發現了一隻姬鶉。該姬鶉容許我們靠近觀察了20分鐘(在11:30至11:50)，並在同一日下午2:20至2:30於同一地點再觀察到該姬鶉。在大部份時間中，該姬鶉和我們距離約六尺或更少，讓我們用雙筒望遠鏡或肉眼觀察並在那時記下了以下描述。

該姬鶉的上背、頸背及冠羽均是啡綠色，並於上背、黑翼位置及上尾羽有著顯著的顏色對比，耳羽澄深啡色。

其他方面，那隻姬鶉像一隻典型的雄性黃眉姬鶉(*F. narcissina*指名種)，有鮮黃色的喉和胸，白色的尾下覆羽及尾羽底部，其長而黃的眉紋延伸至眼後，另有黃色腰部及白色翼帶。

當時我們仍未可以肯定該姬鶉的確實身份，雖然牠很像一隻黃眉姬鶉，但卻是輕微而明顯地不同。我們搜尋不同的文獻，只找到少量有關該姬鶉的資料，我們亦沒有期望牠是在日本特有及分佈局限的亞種留鳥。

### 紀錄委員會評註

這紀錄被呈到紀錄委員會，結論該姬鶉極像*owstoni*亞種或稱橄欖背姬鶉。然而，我們認為此亞種不太可能到達香港，而在文獻中亦無任何資料顯示牠是一種遷徙鳥。結果，因此紀錄沒有足夠證據及資料，此姬鶉沒有被加至香港名錄中。直至2006年3月26至30日一隻雄鳥在蒲台出現並攝得清晰的紀錄照，以及新近文獻處理了黃眉姬鶉*owstoni*及*elisae*兩亞種的辨識(後者為香港鳥類名錄中的一個獨立種---綠背姬鶉)，此紀錄得以被重新審核而通過。〔圖21〕

# Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* at Long Valley

## The first Hong Kong record

*Geoff Welch*

*23A Block 25, South Horizons, Ap Lei  
Chau, Hong Kong*

On 20<sup>th</sup> October 2005, I made one of my first birdwatching trips to Long Valley. I was new to Hong Kong bird watching and unfamiliar with the local species. At around 1100h on the path towards Yin Kong village, I noticed a pale bunting on the overhead wires. I realised it was probably a first-winter bird, but my edition of 'The Birds of Hong Kong and South China' did not have any images of first-winter buntings. I took two photographs with the compact Olympus C765UZ I was using at that time, one of which is reproduced as Plate 31, and made some notes. About 20 minutes later, I saw the bird again, nearer to the lily pond.

Expecting to find only species described in 'The Birds of Hong Kong and South China', I decided the bird must be a first-winter Chestnut-eared Bunting *Emberiza fucata*, although I had no images to compare it with. However, as I later became more experienced with Hong Kong birds, I began to doubt the identification and, when in contact with Paul Leader on other issues early in 2006, I sent him a copy of the two photographs. He immediately replied that the bird was a first-winter male Ortolan Bunting *E. hortulana* and a first record for Hong Kong.

My original description was as follows:

'Bunting. Juvenile. Size as Yellow-breasted. Off-white underparts with streaking, heavy on chest forming a breast-band. Cream throat with dark malar stripe. Light bill. Mid brown back with streaking and dark primaries. No obvious head markings, dark marks around ear coverts, pale eye-ring. Brown rump and tail, no white. No call. Not difficult to approach'

Paul Leader's comments on the photographs were:

'This is not a Chestnut-eared Bunting due to overall rather pale and poorly streaked plumage, and the rather slender proportions of the bird. A further strong pointer away from Chestnut-eared Bunting is the clearly pinkish bill. In combination these indicate that it is an Ortolan, Grey-necked or Cretzschmar's Bunting. The latter occurs nowhere near to HK, but there is one previous HK record of Grey-necked and Ortolan breeds in NW China, and I believe has occurred as a vagrant east to Japan.

The combination of strong malars, the well-streaked mantle and the obvious step in the tertial fringe fit only Ortolan. The streaked plumage indicates a first-winter and the obvious grey tones to the head suggest a male.'



**Plate 31.** Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* 圃鵒  
Long Valley, Hong Kong, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2005  
Geoff Welch

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### Records Committee Comment

*As a common breeding species in Xinjiang, China, and as a first-winter individual of a long-distance migrant species for which there is a previous record in October in Japan (Brazil 2009), the Records Committee accepted Ortolan Bunting into Category A of the Hong Kong List.*

# 塋原的圃鷓

## 香港首個紀錄

Geoff Welch

香港鵝洲海怡半島25座23A

2005年10月20日，我第一次在塋原觀鳥。當時的我只是香港觀鳥的一名新手，對本地的品種並不熟悉。在早上11時左右，我在通往燕崗村的小徑的架空電線上發現一隻淡色的鷓。我意識到這隻鳥可能是一隻首次渡冬的鳥，但我在【香港及華南鳥類】一書中並找不到鷓科鳥類首次渡冬的圖像，因此我用當時使用的奧林巴斯C765UZ型號的相機拍下兩張相片，其中一張載刊於圖31，並在旁加上附註。約在20分鐘之後，我再在荷花池附近見到這隻鳥。

由於我一心以為只可以見到【香港及華南鳥類】書裡描述的品種，雖然沒有以其他圖片加以比對，我當時認定這只是一隻未成年的栗耳鷓 *Emberiza fucata*。不過，隨後當我對本地的鳥類有更深認識，我開始懷疑當初的辨認。直至2006年初我跟利雅德商討其他事情的時候，我把兩張相片轉發給他，他隨即回覆相中的鳥其實是圃鷓 *E. hortulana*，而這更是本港的首個紀錄。

我當日的描述如下：

「鷓，未成年；體型與黃胸鷓相近；下體黃白色帶斑紋，胸部較深色而構成胸帶；喉嚨奶白色並有深色喉紋；咀部細小；背部中度棕色有斑紋和深色初級飛羽；頭部沒有明顯記認；耳羽附近較深色；眼圈淺色；棕色腰和尾，沒有白色；沒有叫聲；不難接近。」

利雅德對相片有以下評論：

「相片中的鳥整體上較為淡色，羽毛少斑紋，比例頗纖瘦，因此不會是栗耳鷓。另外，牠粉紅色的喙是排除栗耳鷓的另一明証。綜觀以上條件，這應該是一隻圃鷓、灰頸鷓或藍頭圃鷓。後者不在鄰近香港的地方出現，但本港過去有一個灰頸鷓的紀錄，而圃鷓則在中國西北部繁殖，故此我相信這個品種在日本以東會是一種迷鳥。」

綜合明顯的顎部，富有斑紋的上背和三級飛羽邊緣明顯的層級這類特徵，除了圃鷓外應該沒有其他品種；而充滿斑紋的羽毛正好指出這是一隻首年渡冬的鳥，頭部明顯的灰色則指出這是一隻雄性的鳥。

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### 紀錄委員會評語

作為一於中國新疆普遍繁殖的鳥種，又以這個紀錄來自一個長途遷徙鳥種的首年渡冬鳥，曾於10月份在日本錄得(Brazil 2009)，紀錄委員會接納紀錄並將列入香港鳥類名錄A類。

# Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis* on Hong Kong Island

## The first Hong Kong record

### *Vaughan Reed*

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Although I live in the U.K., I visit Hong Kong several times a year and am now familiar with most of the common bird species. Mount Parker Road is part of a walk that I do regularly when in Hong Kong, starting from Quarry Bay, going over the top of the Island and down past the Tai Tam reservoirs.

While walking this route on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2006, I found an Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis* feeding on a red flowering tree near the top of Mount Parker Road, next to the picnic area. I had it in view for some ten minutes with binoculars (15x image stabilizing), but unfortunately no camera. At this point it would be approximately 300m above sea level.

In terms of size, the bird was probably slightly larger than Fork-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga christinae* but with the same long down-curved bill, which it used to feed from flowers in characteristic sunbird fashion. The upperparts were uniformly pale green, the underside light yellow, with dark edges to the wings forming a division between the green and yellow. The face, throat and bib varied from deep iridescent purple to shiny black depending on the angle of view in relation to sunlight. The tail had no pointed or spiky feathers and was rounded to square-ended. I did not note white edging to the tail, but neither did I know to look for it.

The bird stayed in or around the same tree for all the time I had it in view. The only call I noted was a soft "si..si..si" note. Although I visited the same area several times over the next few days, I did not see the bird again.

Olive-backed Sunbird is a polytypic species that occurs in southeast Asia and southwest China through the Philippines and Indonesia to northeastern Australia (Cheke *et al.* 2001). In China it occurs only in the southwest, in southern Yunnan, southern Guangxi and southwest Guangdong (Cheng 1987).

### References

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Cheng, T. H. 1987. *A Synopsis of the Avifauna of China*. Science Press, Beijing.



### **Records Committee Comment**

*Although Cheng (1987) indicates that Olive-backed Sunbird occurs on the west side of the Pearl River Delta, there is no evidence that this species is anything other than sedentary. In view of this and as there have been no previous records, it has been placed in Category E of the Hong Kong List.*

# 香港島的黃腹花蜜鳥

## 香港首個紀錄

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雖然我在英國居住，但每年均會來香港幾次，也熟悉香港大部分常見鳥種。栢架山是我在香港行山時定期會走的一段路，由鱮魚涌開始，翻過港島的山脊，再往下途經大潭水塘。

2006年4月13日，當我走這路段時，在近栢架山道最高點的野餐地點旁邊，我看見一隻黃腹花蜜鳥在一棵開了紅花的樹上覓食。我用15倍備有影像穩定器的雙筒望遠鏡觀察了牠大約十分鐘，很可惜身邊沒有照相機。那裡大概位於海拔300米左右。

就體型而言，那隻鳥大概比叉尾太陽鳥 (*Aethopyga christinae*) 略大，但同樣擁有太陽鳥長而下彎的獨特鳥喙，方便吸食花蜜。上體均勻淡綠色，下身淡黃色，翼邊深色，形成黃綠分界。視乎陽光的角度而定，臉、喉及胸會由閃爍的深紫色漸變至亮光的黑色。尾圓近乎方形，並無突出或尖刺的尾羽。我並沒有察覺到牠的尾部有白邊，但也知道要留意它。

在整個觀察過程中，那隻鳥停留在該樹上或其附近。我只聽到牠輕柔的「si..si..si..」叫聲。雖然隨後幾天我數次返回那個地方，可是再沒有看過那隻鳥。

黃腹花蜜鳥是多型種，可見於東南亞及中國西南部，經菲律賓及印尼，下至澳洲東北部 (Cheke et al. 2001)。在中國境內，牠只見於西南部、雲南南部、廣西南部以及廣東西南部 (Cheng 1987)。

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### 紀錄委員會評註

雖然 Cheng (1987) 指出黃腹花蜜鳥見於珠江三角洲西面，但沒有證據顯示這隻種鳥有定棲以外的遷徙特性。有見及此，加上之前並沒有其他這種鳥的紀錄，所以把黃腹花蜜鳥列入香港鳥類名錄 E 類。

# A *Pterodroma* petrel in Deep Bay

## The first Hong Kong record

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Hong Kong*

On the afternoon of 17<sup>th</sup> March 2001 we were in one of the hides viewing Deep Bay from the edge of the mangroves. It was a calm day with faint hazy sunshine. The main birding interest that day had been provided by a juvenile Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*, which had been harrying other birds along the Deep Bay tide line. At around 1500h the frigatebird moved out towards the Shenzhen river channel, which was still dotted with wintering duck and a few cormorants. The afternoon sun was at about 90 degrees to our left, but the frigatebird was more-or-less perpendicular to the front of the hide, near the mouth of the river, approximately 400-500m distant.

Suddenly MT drew attention to a gadfly petrel, which the frigatebird seemed to have disturbed from the surface of the water. Although both of us had seen such petrels previously, neither of us knew the identity of this bird.

Initially appearing uniform dark brown and about the size of a Black-tailed Gull *L. crassirostris*, it was flying – despite the presence of the frigatebird – in a languid fashion towards us. Realising that for such a difficult species “a picture is worth a thousand words”, JGH concentrated on trying to get useful photos of the bird, while MT viewed it through his telescope and binoculars. Unfortunately, the camera did not have an autofocus function, and was near the end of a roll of ISO 100 slide film; only three shots were possible, two of which are reproduced here.

The first photo (Plate 32) was taken with the petrel banking to the right, the right wing tip almost touching the surface of the water and the underparts in shadow. There are broad white bases to all but the outer third of the primaries, forming a pale crescent, and another pale subterminal band at the distal portion of the primary coverts. The belly is pale, mottled darker nearer the feet, while there is fairly extensive pale at the base of the bill.

The petrel, flying towards our left, rose as if skimming above a large ocean wave and turned its back to us. The second photo (Plate 33) provides a good indication of its structure, including the extraordinary length of the wings and the rather square-ended tail.

The petrel then continued its rolling flight more or less towards us, turning away at the last minute, when I took a rather blurred third image that is not included here.

The petrel flew over the mangrove to the west of the hide and was not seen again. Shortly afterwards MT and I met Mike Kilburn, who had also seen the bird from the older boardwalk hides.

MT solicited input to a description and sought views on the bird from experts overseas. Although there was general agreement it was a *Pterodroma* petrel, opinions differed as to species. Providence *P. solandri*, Kermadec *P. neglecta* and Herald *P. heraldica* Petrels were all mooted. Any of these would be a first for China and Hong Kong.

The Records Committee has accepted this as The first Hong Kong record of *Pterodroma sp.*, and welcomes informed comments on its identity from any source.



**Plate 32.** *Pterodroma sp.* 燕鷗  
Deep Bay, Hong Kong, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2001  
John & Jemi Holmes 孔思義及黃亞萍

# 后海灣的燕鷗

香港首個紀錄

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由九龍油麻地彌敦道480號鴻寶商業大廈  
14樓香港觀鳥會辦事處

2001年3月17日下午，我們在后海灣邊緣紅樹林的其中一個觀鳥屋觀察。當天天色平靜，只有朦朧微弱的陽光，能吸引我們的只有一隻沿著后海灣水平面，繞著其他雀鳥飛行的白斑軍艦鳥。大約在下午三時，那隻軍艦鳥飛向仍佈滿越冬的鴨和鸕鶿的深圳河河道。午後陽光約在我們左方90度，但軍艦鳥飛行近乎垂直於觀鳥屋前方，離河口約 400 - 500米的距離。



Plate 33. *Pterodroma* sp. 燕鷗  
Deep Bay, Hong Kong, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2001  
John & Jemi Holmes 孔思義及黃亞萍

突然譚寶爾注意到一隻被軍艦鳥從水面騷擾起來的燕鷗。雖然我們都曾經見過這種燕鷗，但我們都未能辨認這鳥。這鳥大約有黑尾鷗*L. crassirostris*的大小，呈均勻深褐色。即使軍艦鳥的存在，這鳥仍遲緩地飛向我們。明白到這樣一個難以辨認的物種“一張照片勝過千言萬語”，孔思義集中拍攝合用的照片，譚寶爾不斷利用望遠鏡和雙筒望遠鏡觀察。不幸的是，相機沒有自動對焦功能，ISO 100的菲林亦接近用完，只能夠多拍三張照片，其中兩張已在此處附載。

第一張照片（圖32）拍到圓尾鷗轉向右方，右翼尖近乎觸到水面，亦拍到鳥身下部在水面的倒影。在翼尖初級飛羽外部的三份一部份有大片白色，形成一個淺色新月形，另在初級覆羽末端亦有淺色部分。腹部是淺色的，越接近腳的部位，斑點越深色，在喙的底部有相當大片的淺色，在嘴基有頗為大片的淺色部份。

燕鷗向我們的左方飛來，向上飛猶如掠過大海浪，接著轉為背向我們。第二幅照片（圖33）提供了一個良好的徵象顯示其體形結構：包括特別長的翅膀和接近方形的尾部。

燕鷗然後繼續旋轉地飛行來接近我們，飛近了又立即轉身，我亦拍得一幅比較模糊的形象，但沒有在這裏顯示。

燕鷗飛越紅樹林，向觀鳥屋的西方飛去，就沒有再次出現。不久之後我們遇到吳敏，他亦從舊浮橋鳥屋看到同一隻鳥。

譚寶爾整理所見，並向海外鳥類專家徵詢意見。雖然普遍同意這是一隻*Pterodroma*圓尾鷗，亦有意見是屬於不同種，可假設是Providence *P. solandri*, Kermadec *P. neglecta* 及 Herald *P. heraldica*。然而，任何一個都會是中國和香港的第一個紀錄。

紀錄委員會已接受這一紀錄作為首個香港紀錄，並歡迎任何對於有關辨認此鳥的資料和意見。



# Seasonality of the bird community in a secondary forest in Tai Po Kau

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## Introduction

This paper reports the seasonal pattern of the bird community in a secondary forest in Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve, as revealed by a study conducted between November 2003 and February 2005.

## Study Areas and Methods

The study area is located in the 50-year-old secondary forest of Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve, along the Nature Trail and part of the Brown Trail within an altitudinal range of 100-300m. The variable point count method was used to sample birds. There were twelve fixed sampling points in the study area and each was separated from adjacent points by 100m. Ten minutes were spent at each point counting birds. Horizontal distances of birds observed from sampling points were estimated using a rangefinder (Bushnell Yardage Pro Tour), a device that measures distances using infrared ray to an accuracy of one metre. The computer program DISTANCE v4.0, which can estimate the proportion of birds missed by the surveyor, was used to estimate bird densities from visual distance estimates. A total of 89 surveys were carried out between November 2003 and February 2005. The two-week mean of total density and species richness were plotted to study seasonal trends.

## Results

Totals of 2,813 birds and 59 species were recorded in the study area during the study. The mean total density was 34 birds ha<sup>-1</sup>. The three most abundant species were Japanese White-eye *Zosterops japonica*, Chestnut Bulbul *Hypsipetes castanonotus* and Blue-winged Minla *Minla cyanouroptera*, which made up 32%, 14% and 8% of total density respectively. While the first two species are native to Hong Kong, Blue-winged Minla is an exotic species, native to southwest China, including Guangxi, Sichuan and Hainan provinces (Cheng 1987, MacKinnon and Phillipps 2000).

Total density of birds in general showed a winter-summer dichotomy, although there was some fluctuation (Figure 1). The seasonal differences in species richness were less dramatic (Figure 2). However, apart from a consistent drop of species richness in January, species richness was generally higher during winter and the early spring migration season (November – March).

Breeding started in late March and April, and recently-fledged birds were mainly seen in May and June.

Figure 1. Seasonal pattern of total density of birds in Tai Po Kau

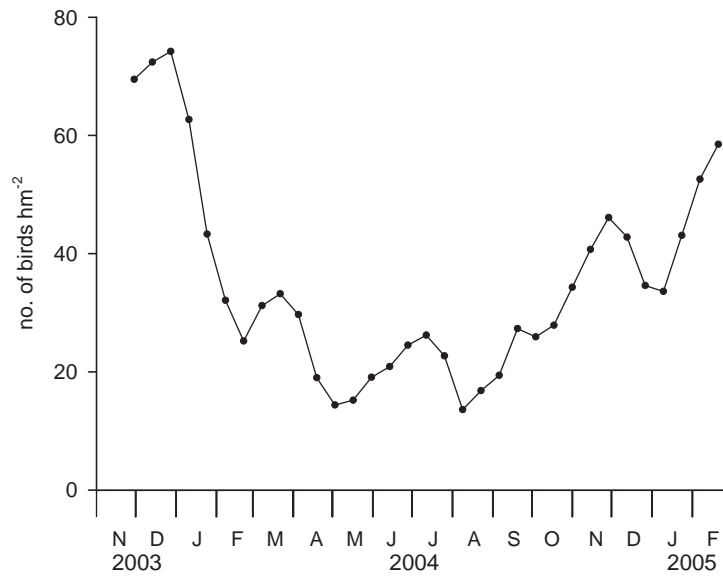
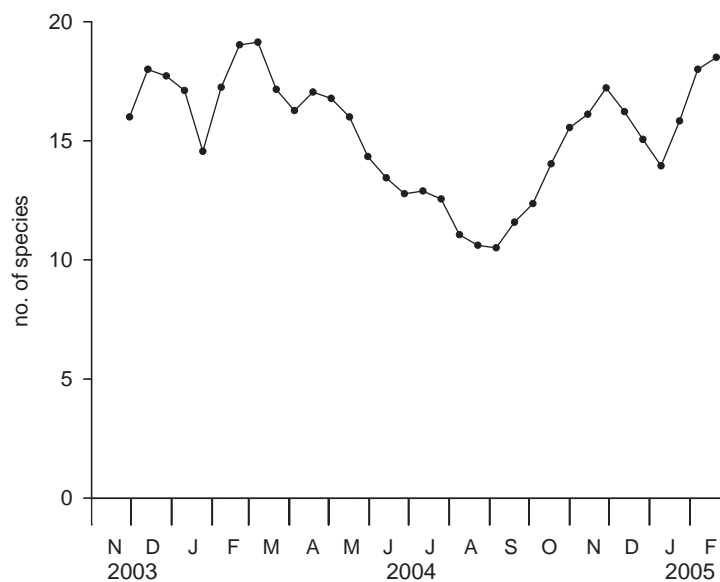


Figure 2. Seasonal pattern of species richness of birds in Tai Po Kau



## Discussion

The seasonal trend of species richness at Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve generally reflected the situation in the south China region, which exhibits a winter-summer dichotomy. Species richness was boosted by arrival of winter visitors and passage migrants. Bird density was greatly increased by the arrival of winter visitors.

The recruitment of juveniles in May and June, however, did not have a similar impact on the population. The smaller peaks in bird density in March, July and late September did not coincide with the appearance of juvenile birds, and may be due to bird movements between forests patches or nearby habitats.

This study shows that, apart from providing habitats for local resident avifauna, forests in the south China region also fulfill an important ecological function as habitats for migrating and wintering birds from the north. The high density of birds in November and December also coincided with peak abundance of understorey fruit in forest habitats in Hong Kong (Kwok 2001).

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# 大埔滘次生林鳥類群落的季節性變化

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## 引言

本報告乃就大埔滘自然保護區內之一片次生林中，其鳥類群落季節性變化的研究。該研究於2003年11月至2005年2月進行。

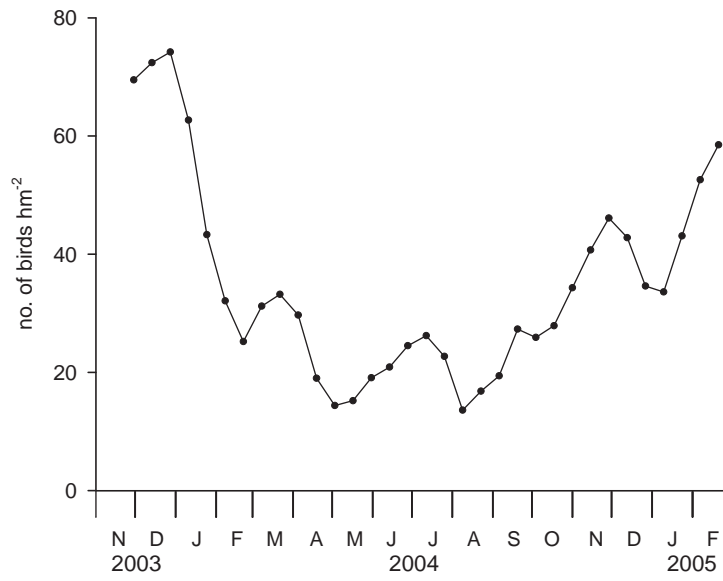
## 研究地點及方法

研究地點是大埔滘自然保護區內一個已有50年歷史的次生林，位於自然教育徑和啡路的其中一段路旁，高度為海拔100 – 300 米。是次研究採用可變性樣點法來數算研究地點內雀鳥的種類和數量。研究地點內設有12個固定樣點，點與點之間相隔100米。每個樣點的數算時間為10 分鐘。雀鳥與樣點之間的距離是利用測距器估計的(Bushnell Yardage Pro Tour)，該儀器能透過紅外線量度物件之間的距離，準確度達正負1米。調查所得數據先經一個名為DISTANCE v4.0的電腦程式修正，該電腦程式能估計調查員漏算的雀鳥比率，然後才用作計算雀鳥的密度。研究期間（2003年11月至2005年2月）共進行了89次調查。每兩星期的平均總密度和鳥種豐富度以圖表方式表達，以研究鳥類群落季節性變化的趨勢。

## 結果

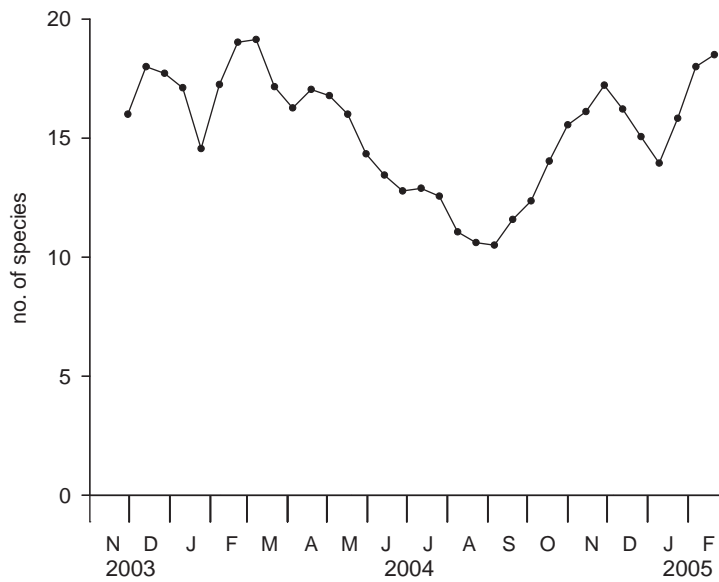
是次研究共紀錄了2813隻雀鳥和 59 個鳥種，平均密度為每公頃34 隻雀鳥個體。個體數量最多的鳥種為暗綠繡眼鳥 (*Zosterops japonica*)，栗背短腳鵯 (*Hypsipetes castanonotus*) 和藍翅希鵡 (*Minla cyanouroptera*)，分別佔總密度的 32%、14% 及 8%。前兩者是香港原生鳥種，而藍翅希鵡則為外來鳥種，牠自然分佈於中國西南部，包括廣西、四川及海南省 (Cheng 1987, MacKinnon and Phillipps 2000)。

雀鳥的總密度雖然有所波動，但大致上在冬季和夏季呈明顯差異 (圖 1)。鳥種豐富度的季節性差異較不明顯 (圖 2)，不過從圖表中也可得知鳥種豐富度在1月持續下跌，而且冬季和初春遷徙期間 (11月至3月) 的鳥種豐富度普遍較高。繁殖季節在3月尾至4月開始，剛懂飛行的幼鳥多在5至6月出現。



Y 軸：個體數量/公頃

圖1. 大埔沼雀鳥總密度的季節性變化



Y 軸：鳥種數量

圖 2. 大埔沼鳥種豐富度的季節性變化

## 討論

大埔滘鳥種豐富度的季節性變化趨勢大致上反映南中國的情況，即冬夏季有明顯差異。冬候鳥和過境遷徙鳥的來臨令鳥種豐富度大幅上升。雀鳥密度也因冬候鳥的來臨而大幅增加。

在5月及6月期間新加入種群的幼鳥（recruitment of juveniles）對種群並無相似/上述的影響。3月、7月和9月尾的雀鳥密度高峰與幼鳥成熟的時間並不脛合，那些高峰也可能是鳥群在森林不同部份或附近生境之間移動所造成的。

是次研究顯示南中國地區的森林除了為留鳥提供生境外，也對來自北方的過境遷徙鳥及冬候鳥有重要的生態功能。此外，11月及12月的雀鳥密度高峰與森林生境內林下層果實數量的高峰脛合(Kwok 2001)。

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# A note on the behaviour of newly-fledged young Collared Scops Owls *Otus lettia* and their parents

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## Introduction

Despite being fairly common and widespread in Asia, due to its strictly nocturnal habits little has been recorded of the post-breeding behaviour of Collared Scops Owl *Otus lettia*. The taxon occurring in Hong Kong is considered to be *O.l. erythrocampe* (Marks *et al.* 1999). In the late spring of 2003 and 2004 family parties of Collared Scops Owls were observed in a garden in the northern New Territories, Hong Kong, and notes were made of their behaviour.

## Observation area

The area consisted of two typical three-storey New Territories village houses (JGH and WAP lived in the top floor of one of them) surrounded by a walled garden. To the front there was a narrow strip of land with mature Chinese Hackberry *Celtis sinensis* trees between the wall and the village road. The rear garden contained a variety of trees, both native and exotic, up to ten metres in height, with a grassy but regularly-trimmed yard below. The yard was usually home to bulbuls *Pycnonotidae*, Tree Sparrows *Passer montanus* and Oriental Magpie Robin *Copsychus saularis* in the daytime. There were also lizards, skinks, frogs, toads, worms and a variety of beetles and centipedes at ground level.

The immediate environs comprised other village houses separated by concrete walls and roads with no substantial vegetation. Thus, to some extent the shared yard was an oasis of greenery in the area. However, a hundred metres beyond lay open countryside.

## Nest location

There was anecdotal evidence (via a neighbour) that the owls had bred in the extractor duct pipe of a kitchen of the middle floor of a vacant village house about thirty metres away from our yard. This has been a favoured type of nesting site for Asian Barred Owlets *Glaucidium cuculoides* in the past (Holmes 1998), but has not previously been recorded in Hong Kong as a nest site for Collared Scops Owl.

Carey *et al.* (2001) describe four previous nests for Collared Scops Owl in Hong Kong:

- (1) a ledge under the eaves of a building 20m above the ground
- (2) a disused Common Magpie *Pica pica* nest on an electricity pylon
- (3) a tree hole
- (4) the hollow stump of a dead tree

### May 2003

On 2<sup>nd</sup> May WAP saw an adult Collared Scops Owl partially-hidden in the dense leaves of a *Pak Lan* tree *Michelia alba* in the rear garden, her attention originally drawn to it by the alarm calls of smaller birds. Later in the day she located two fluffy juveniles perched higher in the same tree at a height of 8m.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> May, an adult and a juvenile Collared Scops were noted in the morning, roosting under cover of a *Tit Shue* tree *Dracena fragrans* next to the house, about four metres off the ground. At about 2030h (well after dark) JGH turned on the main balcony lights to water the potted plants and noticed two fluffy young owls side-by-side on the railing of the balcony of the front bedroom. He turned the lights off again and went back inside. With the bedroom light off it was possible to see the two youngsters just a metre away, silhouetted by the lights on the road and houses opposite. They both wriggled and twisted making a loud hissing sound. Soon they were attended by an adult carrying a sparrow-sized passerine. Balancing on the rail, the prey was torn apart and chunks stuffed down the throats of the young. There was no separation of flesh from feathers, and the whole bird was just ripped apart and stuffed into the gaping maws of the young. No feather or trace was left below the perch. Later in the evening a single juvenile was seen on a strand of bougainvillea between the balconies.

At about 0100h the same night, after a period of quiet, more juvenile hissing could be heard but the owls were not seen. After daybreak both parents and three young were noted in a Cuban Bast *Hibiscus tiliaceus* about 15m in front of the house. It rained heavily during the day and into the evening and no owl activity was noted.

On 5<sup>th</sup> May it rained heavily overnight and the soft ground contributed to the slow collapse of a *Celtis sinensis* in the front of the house. Three juveniles were seen roosting in the *Hibiscus* at a height equal to the roof of the house (about 10m), with an adult about a metre below them. After dark, the hisses of the young could be heard and the adults could be glimpsed, silhouetted by the lights from nearby houses, moving swiftly around and perched on the limbs of the fallen *Celtis* tree, adjacent to the day roost site.



Plate 34. Collared Scops Owl *Otus lettia* Adult 領角鴞  
Hang Tau Village, Hong Kong, early May 2004  
John & Jemi Holmes 孔思義及黃亞萍

On the 6<sup>th</sup>, the young could be seen roosting under cover of the *Hibiscus* with one adult on guard below. The juvenile hissing started soon after sunset and the adults flew purposefully out of sight returning, presumably with prey, to the young, occasionally in view on the fallen hackberry.

During daytime on the 7<sup>th</sup> the owl family had moved to another *Celtis sinensis* between the house next door and the village road, which was only about twenty metres east of the *Hibiscus*, site of the previous day roost. The three juveniles perched together on an upper branch while the parents occupied branches at opposite ends of the canopy below.

The village road is a fairly busy single lane road, with vehicle movements every few minutes and pedestrians and cyclists around as well. However, during the day no-one seemed to notice the cryptically patterned owls in the shade of the tree, only a few metres above their heads. Such proximity to human activity was also noted at Chinese University, where a nest hole and adult were seen only 5m from the windows of a frequently-used classroom (GJ Carey pers. comm.)

Before dusk a number of birders arrived to watch the owl show, including Chim Yuk-ming, Jimmy (CYM). As usual, the juvenile hissing began at dusk while the adults flew off here and there, returning with food items, while the young positioned themselves prominently on the bare limbs of the fallen tree. An adult was seen by CYM offering a frog or toad to one of the young. When it was refused, the adult swallowed the item whole itself.

By daytime on the 8<sup>th</sup> the three young (Plate 35) had moved back to the shady *Michelia* in the rear garden with an adult (possibly the female) in the same tree below them. The presumed male was located twenty metres away in the shade of a Banyan Tree *Ficus microcarpa*. After dark, the young moved to the open branches of a Cotton Tree *Bombax malabaricum* (between the day roosts) and could be clearly seen silhouetted by the lights of the house beyond, positioning themselves prominently and hissing to demand food. They could flutter short distances and clamber around the open cotton tree branches. However, with weak-looking feet and poor co-ordination, they appeared vulnerable to falling to the ground.

The owls were not located in daytime on the 9<sup>th</sup>, but after dark they emerged again from the *Michelia* to perch in the much more open *Bombax*. The juveniles then perched lower than previous evenings as if to watch parents taking prey from the ground. The whole family seemed to be more alert to the presence of humans. If we moved too much on our rooftop viewpoint, the adults hesitated to come to the young in the open. In earlier days the parents had been preoccupied with feeding the young, and were seemingly oblivious to onlookers.

With the help of bulbuls and tailorbirds mobbing, the owls were again sighted on the 10<sup>th</sup> in the *Hibiscus* in front of the house. The owls moved overnight to the *Michelia* in the rear garden. On the 11<sup>th</sup> the fallen hackberry was being chain-sawed for removal at the front of the house. Whether or not they were disturbed by the noise and activity is unknown, but they were not seen again as a group that year. In the autumn, single birds were seen or, more often, heard in the trees in the yard.

## 2004

On 1<sup>st</sup> May the scolding of various bulbuls drew WAP's attention to two adult Collared Scops Owls in the *Michelia* in the corner of the garden. She later discovered that three juveniles had been found by neighbours on the concrete ground outside the garden wall. The adults were in the *Michelia* above. During the day the neighbours had placed the young in a large dog cage to protect them from cats.

In late afternoon the three fluffy young were released inside the garden into a small (2m high) Frangipani *Plumeria rubra* tree below the parents. As it got dark, they were all able to clamber to the top of the Frangipani and hiss for their parents' attention.

Between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of May the owl family stayed in the back garden. The young had been able to get themselves back under the cover of the *Michelia* by day. They would all roost in the shade of one or other of the broadleaved trees by daytime and become active only after dark. The young would usually flutter to more open positions while the parents dashed to and fro hunting.

Later, people moved into the formerly vacant flat and the owl family has not been seen since.

## Discussion

The post-breeding behaviour in scops owls is little described in Asian bird literature. However, the practise of "branching" has been described by Eckhert (1973) in relation to Eastern Screech Owls *Otus asio* in North America:

"For a period of five weeks beyond [leaving the brood tree] the young are closely guarded by their parents.... The adults are vigorously protective of their young and feed them to some extent, but as the young observe the parents and begin to emulate their hunting methods the care diminishes."

The owl practice of branching is described in Marks *et al.* (1999) as a strategy to reduce the likelihood of predation at the nest site. It also marks an intermediate stage between nest-bound fledgling and full independence.

The young Collared Scops Owls, with no natural cover in the immediate vicinity of the nest site, had to fly over a concrete yard to get to the closest tree cover, which happened to be a yard overlooked by birdwatchers. In 2003 they all made it safely, but in 2004 the young had fallen short and had been picked up.

In each year, three young were observed being attended by their parents for 8-10 days. The owls followed a pattern of roosting in thick shade in daytime usually with one or both parents positioned below the young. All activity and feeding was strictly nocturnal.

## Acknowledgements

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# 羽翼剛整的領角鴉幼鳥的行為及其父母親的紀錄

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## 簡介

儘管領角鴉在亞洲是一種非常普遍且廣泛分佈的雀鳥，然而由於其完全的夜行習性，從前鮮有其繁殖後行為的紀錄和研究。香港出現的領角鴉族群為 *O. l. erythrocampe* (Marks et al. 1999)。我家在新界北，2003和2004年春末，在花園裏發現了領角鴉的家族群，我們詳細記錄了牠們的行為。

## 觀察地點

觀察地點為兩座位於新界典型的三層式村屋（孔思義及黃亞萍住在其中一座村屋的頂樓），村屋四周為花園並以圍牆包圍。在屋前狹長的土地上種有朴樹，把圍牆和村路分隔，而後園則種有不同的原生樹種和引入樹種，樹高達10米，地面為定期修剪的草地。在日間，後園裡經常有各種鴨、麻雀和鵲鳩聚集；此外，地上還可找到蜥蜴、小蜥蜴、蛙、蟾蜍、蟲、多種甲蟲和蜈蚣等生物。

當前的環境以混凝土牆及馬路與其他村屋分隔，周圍亦沒有太多豐盛的植被，所以在某程度上，兩座村屋共用的後園便成為了附近一個小綠洲，然而在百米以外卻已是廣闊的郊野地區。

## 巢穴的位置

由非常有趣的証據(由鄰居提供)顯示，在距離我家後園30米遠的空置村屋裡，這些貓頭鷹就在中層廚房的抽氣槽內築巢繁殖。這種環境同時也是從前斑頭鵲所偏愛的築巢地點(Holmes 1998)，不過之前在香港卻還未有領角鴉在這種環境築巢的紀錄。

Carey et al.(2001)曾經介紹香港出現過的四種領角鴉巢：

- 1) 高 20 米以上的建築物，其屋簷下的突出物
- 2) 位於高壓電塔上的喜鵲棄巢
- 3) 樹洞
- 4) 枯死的中空樹幹內



Plate 35. Collared Scops Owl *Otus lettia* Juveniles 領角鴞  
Hang Tau Village, Hong Kong, early May 2003  
John & Jemi Holmes 孔思義及黃亞萍

### 2003年5月

5月2日，當時黃亞萍被小鳥的驚叫聲吸引了注意，她赫然發現了一隻領角鴞成鳥半遮半掩地躲在後園一棵白蘭樹的葉叢裡，稍後她又再找到兩隻毛茸茸的幼鳥在同一棵樹更高處棲息，離地約8米左右。

5月3日早上，一隻成鳥和一隻幼鳥在屋旁離地面4米高的巴西鐵樹上歇息。晚上約8時半(天黑後)，當孔思義開啓客廳露台的照明燈為盆栽澆水時，他發現兩隻毛茸茸的貓頭鷹幼鳥肩並肩站在睡房露台的圍欄上，這時他馬上關燈走回屋內。關了睡房燈後，在馬路和屋子對面的街燈映照下，他便可以在一米的距離細看這些幼鳥。牠們在不斷蠕動和轉身，又發出嘈吵的嘶叫聲。不久一隻成鳥帶著一隻如麻雀大小的燕雀回來，牠在露台的圍欄上站穩後便把獵物撕成大塊，然後塞進幼鳥的咽喉裡去。獵物的皮肉和羽毛並沒被分離，整隻鳥兒被撕開後塞進幼

鳥張開的咽喉去，過後在休息處的地面亦無任何羽毛或殘漬遺下。稍後於黃昏時份，再發現一隻幼鳥站在兩露台之間的蘆荻樹枝上。

是夜凌晨約1時，在寧靜中傳來更多幼鳥嘶叫聲，可惜看不到鳥蹤。黎明後，成鳥父母及3隻幼鳥在屋前15米的黃槿樹上出現，之後大雨由白天至黃昏下個不停，雨大得連貓頭鷹也失了蹤影。

5月5日通宵的大雨把泥土軟化，也令屋前的朴樹出現慢慢倒塌的現象。3隻幼鳥在屋前的黃槿樹上休息，所站的高度與屋頂相若(約10米)，而成鳥則站在牠們下方約1米處。天黑後，又傳來幼鳥的嘶叫聲，成鳥也出現了；在附近村屋燈光的映照下，牠敏捷地走動然後在倒塌的朴樹枝上棲息，那就在牠白天休息地的旁邊。

5月6日，幼鳥在黃槿樹的樹蓋下休息，一隻成鳥則站在下方守護著。日落後不久幼鳥又開始叫，成鳥不時有目的地飛離視線，然後帶回獵物餵給幼鳥吃，偶然又飛到倒塌的朴樹上。

5月7日的白天，貓頭鷹一家遷移到位於鄰居與村路之間的另一棵朴樹去，這個新居所位於牠們原來於日間棲息的黃槿樹東面約20米外。3隻幼鳥聚在一起在上層的枝頭休息，而牠們的父母就在對面的樹冠下遙遙守護。

那村路是一條頗為繁忙的單程路，每數分鐘便有車輛經過，同時亦有行人和單車使用這村路。儘管如此，白天卻沒有人會發現這些身披隱秘圖案、保護色極濃的貓頭鷹躲在頭頂上幾米的樹影裡。貓頭鷹與人類活動這麼親近的個案也曾在香港中文大學出現過，牠們的巢洞和成鳥被發現於一經常使用的課室窗外約5米處(賈知行的個人觀察)。

黃昏時分，數位觀鳥者到來一同欣賞貓頭鷹，包括**詹玉明**。一如過往，幼鳥在黃昏開始便發出嘶叫聲，成鳥則在四周飛來飛去找食物給幼鳥吃，而幼鳥們則站在場樹開揚的秃枝上。**詹玉明**看見一隻成鳥把一隻蛙或蟾蜍餵給幼鳥吃，當幼鳥拒絕時成鳥便把獵物一口吞下。

5月8日的白天，3隻貓頭鷹幼鳥(圖35)遷移到後園的白蘭樹去，同時有一隻成鳥(可能是雌鳥)於同一棵樹下方相隨，一隻雄鳥則在20米外的榕樹蔭裡。天黑後幼鳥遷移到位於日間休息地之間的木棉樹，並站在開揚的分枝上，燈光由屋子上方照下，牠們的身影清晰可見；牠們站在顯眼處並開始發出飢餓的嘶叫。幼鳥們時而拍翅短飛，時而攀爬於開揚的木棉樹枝上，可是牠們的雙腿看起來較軟弱，加上協調不良的動作，脆弱得彷彿要墮下地面去。

5月9日找不到貓頭鷹的蹤影，然而入黑時份牠們在白蘭樹附近再次出現，然後轉移到更開揚的木棉樹上棲息。幼鳥們停留在比之前更低處，彷彿在守望著父母從地下帶獵物回來。整個貓頭鷹家族對人類在場比從前更具警覺性，如果我們太接近屋簷的觀察點，成鳥便變得十分猶豫而且不願意在開揚的地方接近幼鳥。早陣子，當成鳥忙於餵養幼鳥時，對於旁觀者似乎並不在意。

5月10日，鵝和縫葉鶯的聚集令我們又再屋前的黃槿樹上再見貓頭鷹家庭的身影，牠們整夜在後園的白蘭樹上活動。5月11日，前園倒塌的朴樹被鋸開方便清除。在此之後的同一年牠們再沒成群地出現過，這是否受鋸樹的活動和嘈音打擾所致則不得而知。秋天的時候，偶然會看見單隻的貓頭鷹出現，但更多的時候只能聽到牠們在院子的樹裡鳴叫。

## 2004

5月1日，不同的鸚鳥的吵鬧聲令黃亞萍注意到花園角落的白蘭樹上出現了2隻領角鴉成鳥。其後她的鄰居亦在花園牆外混凝土地面發現了3隻幼鳥，而成鳥則在白蘭樹上；白天鄰居把幼鳥置於一個大狗籠裡保護牠們，免被貓兒傷害。

下午3隻毛茸茸的幼鳥被放置到花園內領角鴉成鳥身處的小雞蛋花樹下(2米高)。天黑後，牠們全部都可以爬到雞蛋花樹頂上嘶叫等待父母的照料。

5月2日至8日間，貓頭鷹一家都待在後園裏，幼鳥們漸漸能夠自己返回白蘭樹。白天牠們全部在闊葉樹上休息，夜間才變得活躍。當父母忙於來來回回覓食時，幼鳥通常會在開揚的位置拍翼短飛。

其後，有人搬入了原為空置的樓層，貓頭鷹一家便再沒出現過。

## 討論

雖然角鴉屬的繁殖後行為在亞洲的鳥類文獻鮮有紀錄，然而Eckert (1973)有關北美洲的東美角鴉的文獻紀錄了牠們“branching”（分家）的行為。

“在(離開育雛樹的) 5個星期前，父母會牢牢看守著幼鳥的 ... 成鳥非常活躍地保護牠們的幼鳥並且餵養牠們至一定程度，然而當幼鳥懂得通過觀察開始仿效雙親獵食的方法後，雙親的關注便會減少。

Marks *et al.* (1999)描述了“branching”的行為是一種策略，以便減少幼鳥在巢址附近被掠食的機會，同時也展示了在巢內羽翼剛整與完全自主之間的一個過渡階段。

由於巢穴的附近沒有天然的掩護物，領角鴉幼鳥只好飛越混凝土院子至最近的大樹去掩護自己，而這個院子正正被觀鳥者所忽略了。2003年牠們全部都安全地過渡，但2004年三隻領角鴉幼鳥跌下地上，很快給村民撿起。

每年3隻幼鳥會被父母照料8至10日。貓頭鷹持續地跟隨這模式活動：幼鳥白天躲在樹蔭裡棲息，通常有1至2隻父母成鳥在幼鳥下方守護，而所有活動和餵食活動只在晚間進行。

感謝黃倫昌及Richard Lewthwaite為這紀錄的初稿提供意見。

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# Guidelines for the Submission of Records

## HKBWS Records Committee

One of the most important functions of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society is the publication of the Hong Kong Bird Report. The value of this publication, which includes a detailed summary of birds recorded each year, depends on members submitting records of their observations. The submission of records also provides the raw data on which research can be based regarding such things as the importance of a particular site or habitat in Hong Kong, the rarity of a particular species, patterns of migration or habitat preferences. For these reasons, members are encouraged to submit records at the end of each year.

What kinds of records are required? The answer to this question is most kinds, except those relating to common and widespread species that are recorded in appropriate habitat in typical numbers. In particular, we welcome records of all but the most common migrants and winter visitors, of scarce residents and records of common residents occurring in unusual numbers or habitat. A careful reading of *The Avifauna of Hong Kong* will provide a good guide as to which records might be of interest. If in doubt, however, it is best to submit the record.

The Society wishes to receive records entered into a simple Excel spreadsheet, as this facilitates compilation and analysis and allows easy extraction of records for both species and sites. This Excel file should contain seven columns containing the following data: species number, species name (both as contained in *The Avifauna of Hong Kong* or issues of the *Hong Kong Bird Report* published since), date, place, number of birds, notes and observer name. Observations can then be entered, using one row for each record. Those requiring a sample file can download it from the Society website ([www.hkbws.org.hk](http://www.hkbws.org.hk)).

Written records are acceptable, but by no means preferred.

### Rarities

While the birds of Hong Kong are better known than those of many parts of Asia, new species are regularly being added to the Hong Kong List, and the status of a number of other species remains uncertain. In addition, field identification techniques for some species still require refinement. For these reasons the Society has a Records Committee to assess records and ensure that a high standard of reporting is maintained. This quality control provides, in part, the Society with a reputable voice in relation to the birds of Hong Kong and the region.

While the Records Committee may examine any record submitted, close attention is generally only given to records of rarities and of species seen in exceptional numbers or at unusual times of year. A list of rare species considered by the Records Committee is provided below. The list may seem



rather long, but adequate substantiation in the form of a written description, photograph, video, audio recording or some combination of these is, nevertheless, required if the record is to be considered valid and to be published. A standard recording form for unusual records is available from the Society website. Ideally, field notes supporting an observation of a rarity should cover the following points:

1. Date, time, duration and location of sighting, number present and sex or age, if known.
2. Binoculars or telescopes used, distance of bird from observer, weather and light conditions.
3. Description of habitat and a record of other birds, if any, it was associating with.
4. Activity of bird (at rest, in flight, swimming etc).
5. General size, shape and structure compared with other more familiar species. Structural features that may be important should be detailed (e.g. bill length compared to length of head, relative position of wing tips to tail tip, primary projection, hind claw length etc).
6. The most detailed description possible of plumage and bare parts, and not just those considered helpful in identification. Try to organise the components of the description logically, for example: head, upperparts, upper- and underwings, upper- and undertail, underparts, bare parts (iris, bill, gape if seen, legs and feet)
7. Any vocalisations. Try to indicate the quality of the sound (harsh, piercing, rattling, hoarse, liquid etc), and compare it with calls of other species.
8. Previous experience with the species or similar species.
9. Names of other observers or photographers present.

A rough sketch or diagram is often very helpful, and photographs, of course, are invaluable. Try to get others to see the bird, as two descriptions are better than one, and make sure you take notes on the spot, as it is all too easy to imagine field marks after consulting a book! Records of species not on the Hong Kong List generally require more than usually detailed descriptions for acceptance.

With regard to species that have distinctive vocalisations, the Records Committee realises that in some cases call only records are acceptable. However, no matter how distinctive, the call should be described in as much detail as possible. Ideally, a recording should be obtained.

The increasing number of field guides on the market often make positive identification appear straightforward, but it should be remembered that there are still a number of species that are difficult to separate, and it is only by careful observations that some birds can be identified.

The list of species requiring substantiation to be provided and assessed by the Records Committee is regularly updated in light of better understanding

and changed patterns of occurrence. The most up to date version can be found on the website.

Any record of a species not in Categories A-E of the Hong Kong List also requires substantiation as a 'first' for Hong Kong. The Records Committee may also request substantiation of any record that is unusual in terms of the habitat, number of birds or time of year. If you make such an observation, please be prepared to supply written details, preferably made at the time of observation. Records of species on this list that are submitted without substantiation cannot be considered.

## Notes for Applicants

### Visit Mai Po Marshes Nature Reserve

Members should note that entry to the Mai Po Nature Reserve is restricted in order to minimise disturbance to wildlife. Applications for permits to enter the restricted area will not normally be entertained unless the applicants are experienced bird watchers, scientific researchers or others with official duties to perform in the area.

When applying for a permit, HKBWS members and birdwatching visitors to Hong Kong are advised to state clearly reasons for wishing to visit the reserve. To apply, write to the following address, marking the envelope 'Application for Mai Po permit':

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor Cheung Shan Wan Government Offices  
303 Cheung Sha Wan Rd  
Kowloon  
Hong Kong

You should send photocopies of the following together with your application letter.

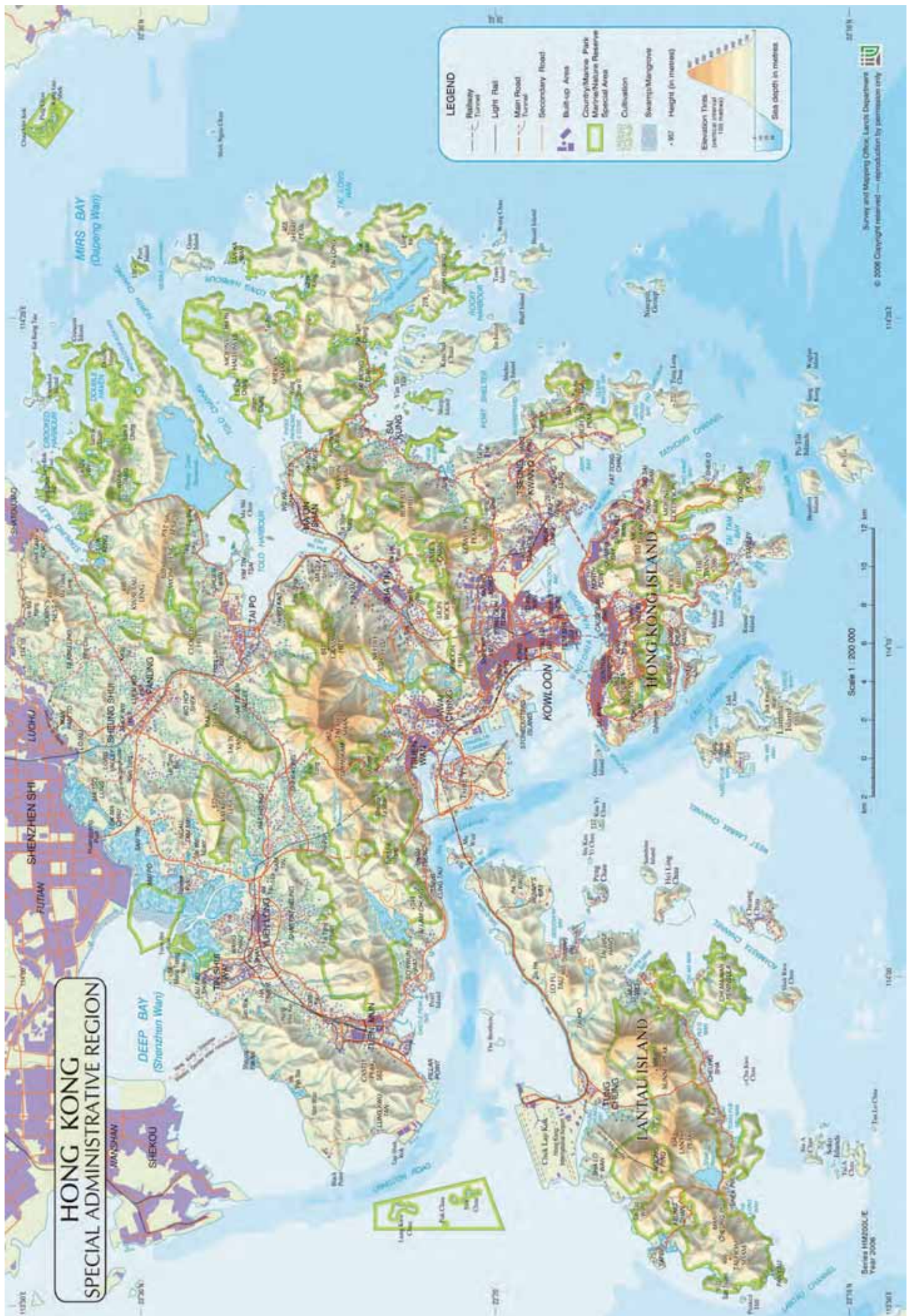
- HKID Card or Passport
- HKBWS membership fees receipt
- WWF membership fees receipt
- Previous entry permit, if any.

Visitors should note that it is a requirement of the Wildlife Protection Ordinance that a permit is obtained to enter the Reserve. Further, it is a requirement of WWF-HK, which manages the Reserve, that users of its facilities are members of that organisation. Relevant application forms for HKBWS and WWF-HK can be obtained from the following websites:

[http://www.hkbws.org.hk/doc/membership/hkbws\\_2008\\_application\\_english.pdf](http://www.hkbws.org.hk/doc/membership/hkbws_2008_application_english.pdf)

<http://www.wwf.org.hk/eng/online/membership.php>





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