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香港鳥類報告

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Published in Mar 2013
2013年3月出版

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

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Kowloon, Hong Kong, China

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Editors: John Allcock, Geoff Carey, Gary Chow and Geoff Welch

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Front Cover 封面：
Chestnut-cheeked Starling *Agropsar philippensis* 栗頰椋鳥
Po Toi Island, 5th October 2011 蒲台島 2011年10月5日
Allen Chan 陳志雄

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Editorial Preface

This edition of the Hong Kong Bird Report marks a return to the annual format. The two-year format has been in place since the 1999-2000 report, but during this time the aim always has been to catch up with publication and return to an annual format, and I am very pleased that we have achieved this with the 2011 report. This would not have been possible without the hard work of Geoff Welch over the last couple of years to make sure records are collected, to write the text for the Systematic Lists, and to ensure that all articles contained in the report are completed and submitted on time. I also cannot forget the work of Gary Chow and a team of translators for providing the Chinese text, or the HKBWS office for their help in the formatting of the report and liaising with the designer and printer.

The annual format allows us more space to look at new ways to present some of the data. This year we have included seasonal occurrence charts in the Systematic List for a number of species. This is the first time these have appeared in a Hong Kong Bird Report, but similar charts were presented in *The Avifauna of Hong Kong*. Species selected for inclusion in the 2011 report are mostly species for which the pattern of occurrence has changed significantly since the time of *The Avifauna*, especially those for which 2011 was an important year. I hope that similar charts for other species will be included in future editions of the report.

I also hope that the annual format will encourage more articles from observers and readers. With the growth in bird watching and photography over the last few years, I am sure there must be many significant observations from a variety of sources which would be of interest to our readers. With more space in the report, and with the report scheduled to be published on an annual basis, it should be possible for more articles to get published in a shorter space of time. Articles could be about any aspect of the birds of Hong Kong; this could include status, identification, habitat or food preferences, behaviour or another subject. Articles could be short or long, according to the subject involved. Any observers with significant observations are welcome to submit articles and/or photographs to be considered for inclusion in the report.

John Allcock
Chief Editor

Editors
Geoff Welch, Geoff Carey and Gary Chow

Translators
Chan Chiu Mei, Chow Lai Kuen, Celia Ho, Alvin Hui, Eling Lee, Katherine Leung,
Patty Tse, Heidi Yu, Cecilia Kwan

編者序言

今期的香港鳥類報告終於回復了單年度報告。雙年度的形式由1999-2000年的報告開始，但期間我們一直都希望可以追趕出版的進度而回復至單年度的形式。我為2011年回復至單年度形式而感欣慰。若沒有Geoff Welch 多年努力搜集鳥類紀錄、撰寫分類總覽，以及確保所有報告內文章完整無誤及準時提交，我們便無法達成這項目標。我亦沒有忘記周家禮及一班翻譯義工安排中文內容，以及香港觀鳥會辦公室的職員協助編排報告並與設計者和印刷商接洽。

單年的報告可提供更多空間放進更多資料。今年我們在分類總覽內包含了數個鳥種的季度出現圖表。這是首次納入在香港鳥類報告，但類似的圖表曾在《香港鳥類名錄》出現。被挑選納入在2011報告內的鳥種多數是自《香港鳥類名錄》出版以來出現了很大改變的鳥種，尤其在2011年發生顯著改變的鳥種。我希望其他鳥種的圖表會陸續在將來的報告出現。

我亦希望單年度報告亦可鼓勵更多觀鳥者及讀者提交報告。隨著近幾年觀鳥及攝影活動的盛行，我相信有更多來自不同途徑的有趣觀察可以和讀者分享。由於報告的空間多了，以及以單年度出版，所以將可容納更多文章及更快出版。文章內容可涉及任何有關香港雀鳥的題目，包括出沒狀況、辨認方法、習性、覓食喜好、行為以及其他題材。文章因需要而可長可短。任何觀鳥者若有有趣的觀察可與大家分享，歡迎提交文章及相片以在報告內刊登。

主編

柯祖毅

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Records Committee Report

Geoff J Carey

Records Committee Chairman

During 2011 a total of 391 Category I and II species were recorded, while the equivalent figures in previous years were: 2010 – 393; 2009 – 391; 2008 – 381; 2007 – 380. These compare with 367 and 377 in 2005 and 2006 respectively, between 318 and 355 species for the years 1999 to 2004, and between 342 and 370 for the years 1993 to 1998. Taxonomic changes over time make it problematic to make a direct comparison with previous years, however.

New additions to the HK List that occurred during 2011 were as follows.

Additions to Category I

Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii*

One picked up at Cheung Sha Wan on 24 June 2011, following the close approach of TS Haima, died in care three days later.

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

One at Mai Po NR on 11 December 2011.

Ashy Woodswallow *Artamus fuscus*

One at Heung Fan Liu, Lower Shing Mun Reservoir on 23 April 2011.

Additions to Category III

Purple Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis purpureus*

One on Lamma Island on 31 July.

Superb Starling *Lamprotornis superbus*

One at Sai Sha on 23 September.

Changes to Category

Species that are moved between categories have been announced on the website. These comprise the movement of Russet Sparrow *Passer rutilans* from Category I to Category III on the basis that many birds have shown evidence of previous captivity, and that non-natural origin could not be ruled out for any other record. Black-throated Tit *Aegithalos concinnus* was moved from Category III to Category IIA following several years of records from Upper Shing Mun and Kowloon Hills that indicate a small but self-sustaining population is present.

紀錄委員會報告

賈知行

紀錄委員會主席

2011年其間共錄得391種第I及第II類雀鳥，而過往數年的紀錄如下：2010年的393種、2009年的391種、2008年的381種以及2007年的380種。亦可與較早幾年的數字作比較：2006年有377種，2005年有367種，1999年至2004年有318至355種，1993年至1998年有342至370種。雖然數字上有差別，但不斷更改的分類方法令不同年份的鳥種數目難以作直接比較。

2011年新加的鳥種如下：

新加至第I類

褐燕鷗 *Bulweria bulwerii*

2011年6月24日颱風海馬吹襲後不久於長沙灣被拾獲，三天後死去。

蒼鷹 *Accipiter gentilis*

2011年12月11日有一隻在米埔自然護理區

灰燕鷗 *Artamus fuscus*

2011年4月23日有一隻在下城門水塘香粉寮

新加至第III類

紫輝棕鳥 *Lamprotornis purpureus*

7月31日有一隻在南丫島

栗頭麗棕鳥 *Lamprotornis superbus*

9月23日有一隻在西沙

分類的變更

鳥種的類別更改已在觀鳥會網頁上發表。當中包括山麻雀由第I類移至第III類，這是由於很多紀錄都有曾被飼養的特徵，而其他紀錄則不能排除非自然引入的因素。而紅頭長尾山雀則由第III類移至第I類，這是基於持續數年在上城門及九龍山的紀錄證明存在著一個細小但穩定的群落。

Annual Summary 2011

Geoff Welch

This summary continues with the seasonal format established in recent years. The Systematic List takes precedence over the Annual Summary in the event of any discrepancies.

Despite a high total of 391 species recorded, 2011 was not a vintage year, and did not match the quality and excitement of the previous four years. Although there were three Hong Kong first records, two of these were one-day birds, seen only by the finder and a few lucky others, and the third was a moribund seabird taken into care which only survived for three days. Large parts of the spring and autumn, which are often the most exciting seasons in Hong Kong, were quiet. For this we can mostly blame the weather, which did not provide the weather systems in spring and autumn which are usually so productive.

Winter 2011 (January to February)

The exception to a year of poor weather was January, which was cold throughout and was the coldest January since 1977. As a consequence, there were many birds to be seen in January, particularly thrushes, chats and winter flycatchers. February weather was normal.

The year started with several species still in place from 2010. The two Taiga Bean Geese remained at Mai Po until 22nd February and the female Smew even longer, until 4th March but the Chestnut-crowned Warbler at Tai Po Kau was last seen on 9th January. A male Fujian Niltava at Tai Po Kau from 9th January was joined by a female on 31st. January was good for thrushes and chats, with high numbers of White's, Grey-backed, Pale and Dusky Thrushes and Daurian Redstart. A Japanese Swamp Warbler seen at Sai Sha on 19th January was the fourth HK record and the first to be identified in the field. The Po Shan Road section of Lung Fu Shan CP was often the place to be towards the end of January and into February, with a male Fujian Niltava and a male and female Small Niltava there into March, together with a fine male Japanese Robin. A female Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher photographed on Lamma Island on 29th January was the first of three at this time, with a male at Bride's Pool and a female at Yuen Long in early February.

The peak aggregate total of waterbirds in the whole Deep Bay area was 76,679, 12% below similar counts in the previous two winters in spite of the cold January weather. There were good numbers of Falcated Duck with a peak count of 20 on 12th February and a male Green-winged Teal at Mai Po on 20th February was the third HK record and the first since 1997. A record count of 1,602 Eurasian Curlew came in the January WC but peak counts of only one Mallard, three Common Shelduck and 125 Eurasian Coot were all very low and there were no Indian Spot-billed Duck or Dalmatian Pelican recorded all year.

February was notable for a flock of up to 50 Chinese Grosbeak including two Japanese Grosbeak and a single Hawfinch, unfortunately considered to be possibly ex-captive, in the Lam Tsuen valley throughout the month. A Plain Flowerpecker at Tai Po Kau on 3rd February was the first accepted record since 1997, a Yellow-browed Bunting at Long Valley from 9th February through into March was the first winter record and a Blyth's Reed Warbler at Cheung Chau on 14th February was an unusual field observation record of a rare *Acrocephalus* warbler.

Spring 2011 (March to May)

The weather from March through May was mostly sunny and dry, particularly so in the key month of April. The final cold front of spring passed through on 3rd April and apart from two small depressions on 17th and 22nd April and one in late May, the benign weather allowed spring migration to proceed without interruption, leading to the quietest spring for many years.

Few unusual species were reported in March. Two adult Brown-headed Gulls at the boardwalk from 8th to 21st March were the first records since 2008. A White Wagtail of the taxon *personata* near Kam Tin on 20th March was the fourth HK record for this taxon and a Narcissus Flycatcher of the taxon *owstoni* at Yuen Long on 29th March was the first of two, the second being at Shek Kong from 10th to 13th April.

In a poor April for both land and seabirds, two records stand out. A female Black Redstart was on Po Toi from 5th to 11th April, the second HK record after the first single observer record in 1995. Although this bird was often secretive, its long stay enabled many to see and photograph it, unlike the other outstanding bird of April, the first Hong Kong record of Ashy Woodswallow near the Lower Shing Mun Reservoir on 23rd April. This bird was found during a casual afternoon walk and unfortunately could not be relocated when large numbers of hopeful observers assembled in the area the following day.

Spring is the peak time in Hong Kong for most waders. Overall wader passage in the Deep Bay area in 2011 was poor by comparison with the previous four years with aggregate and one-day counts of 16,187 and 9,482 respectively, both 60% of the average for the previous four years. A new highest count was made for Marsh Sandpiper of 3,705 on 1st March but the peak count of 463 Spotted Redshank was the lowest since *The Avifauna*. Numbers of Asian Dowitcher (NT) were also low following four good years although Nordmann's Greenshank (EN) had a good spring with at least 46 individual birds. Spoon-billed Sandpiper (CE) had an average spring with four individuals. In other records from Deep Bay, the Green-winged Teal from February returned on 4th April, an adult Black-legged Kittiwake was on the Mai Po Reserve on 5th April and a first-summer Relict Gull was seen from the boardwalk from 5th to 11th April.

Spring is the peak time in Hong Kong for seabirds but passage through southern waters in 2011 was poor. Strong easterly winds are usually needed to bring seabirds passing through the South China Sea into Hong Kong waters but winds above a moderate force four occurred on only five days through April and May with never

more than two days consecutive. Numbers of migrant terns and jaegers were low and only one Short-tailed Shearwater was recorded all spring; the average annual count since the spring migration for this species was first discovered in 2006 is 30.

Late April and May were quiet with a few exceptions, notably pipits. Pechora Pipits had their best spring since Typhoon Leo in 1999 with more than 20 individual birds between 30th April and 29th May. The second HK record of Rosy Pipit was found on Po Toi in the late evening of 10th May but this bird had unfortunately left by the next morning. Three Cinnamon Bitterns at Long Valley on 30th April was the highest one-day count since *The Avifauna* and calling Malayan Night Herons were found at Tai Po Kau on 11th May and Sai Sha on 19th May. Finally, a number of latest spring records occurred with Grey-headed Flycatcher on 25th April, Tristram's Bunting on 1st May, Grey-faced Buzzard on 5th May, Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler on 18th May and both Black-winged Cuckooshrike and Little Bunting on 26th May.

Summer 2011 (June to August)

The weather in June and July was average for those months. Three tropical storms passed close to Hong Kong, two in June and one in July. The second of these, TS Haima, passed to the southwest of Hong Kong on 22nd June, stranding two unfortunate seabirds. August was hot, sunny and dry.

Egret nest data from the Egret Monitoring Programme showed good counts for two species, Little and Great Egret, an average count for Chinese Pond Heron and a decline for Black-crowned Night Heron and Cattle Egret. Looking at trends over the last ten years, Great Egret shows a slight increase, Little Egret, Chinese Pond Heron and Cattle Egret are relatively stable but Black-crowned Night Heron shows a continuing decline. In the Population Survey of Terns, 533 breeding terns (Bridled, Black-naped and Roseate) were counted in Mirs Bay, just below the average count of 574 over the last ten years, but there were also counts of up to 564 birds around breeding colonies in southern and eastern waters, making a total of 1097 breeding terns in Hong Kong waters. 56% of which were Bridled Tern, 33% Black-naped and 11% Roseate.

143 Collared Crow at Mai Po NR on 3rd June was a new HK highest count and continues the almost annual sequence of increasing highest counts for this Near-threatened species. Mountain Tailorbird continues to flourish in HK and a new highest count of 14 was recorded at Ng Tung Chai on 6th June. A pair of Grey-capped Greenfinch was seen with a juvenile at Yuen Long on 3rd July and juvenile Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoos were found in two locations in August. Other unexpected summer records included an Asian Dowitcher at Mai Po on 30th June, a Little Tern at Mui Wo on 2nd July, the second summer record, a male Cinnamon Bittern at Lok Ma Chau on 12th July and a Black Baza at Fung Yuen on 17th July. A flock of Great Crested Grebe over-summered on the Futian side of Deep Bay, an unprecedented record.

The most interesting, if also the most unfortunate, event of the summer occurred immediately after the passage of TS Haima on 22nd June. On 23rd June, a moribund Streaked Shearwater was found at To Kwa Wan on the eastern side of the Kowloon peninsular, and on the next day a Bulwer's Petrel was found in the same condition

at Cheung Sha Wan playground on the opposite side of the peninsular. The Bulwer's Petrel was the first record for Hong Kong. Unfortunately, both birds died in care a few days later.

Late July and August showed the usual return of early migrants. Earliest HK records were established for Pintail/Swinhoe's Snipe and Red Turtle Dove on 26th July, Dunlin on 31st July, Pale Martin on 8th August and Japanese Paradise Flycatcher on 28th August.

Autumn 2011 (September to November)

Weather conditions in autumn were generally mild. September was dry and warm, with only one weather system, Typhoon Nesat, which passed Hong Kong to the southwest on 29th September. October was average throughout with no significant weather systems and November was warm with a weak northeast monsoon and just one spell of northerly winds from 8th to 13th. As in spring, benign weather conditions led to a generally quiet autumn for birds.

A Brown-breasted Flycatcher near Tai Po Kau village on 2nd September was the fifth HK record and the second in September, following one in 2010. Baikal Bush Warblers trapped at Mai Po on 6th and 27th September were the first September records for this species. Manchurian Reed Warbler, classified as Vulnerable by IUCN, is now a regular early autumn passage migrant through Hong Kong; this year, a record total of at least 11 birds were recorded between 6th September and 18th October. Another early autumn migrant having a record year was Forest Wagtail, with up to 11 birds recorded at nine different locations from 28th August to 23rd October. Two species recently recorded in increasing numbers in Hong Kong also had highest counts, with 15 Mountain Bulbuls at Shing Mun on 24th September and four Pied Harriers at Mai Po on 28th September. There were two earliest autumn records in September: Black-naped Monarch trapped at Mai Po on 17th and Yellow-browed Bunting at Long Valley on 23rd. A Common Ringed Plover was at the Mai Po boardwalk on 24th September.

It was a good autumn for small raptors with Amur Falcon, Hobby and Eurasian Sparrowhawk all recorded regularly throughout October and into November. A single flock of 11 Black Baza at Long Valley on 4 October was the highest count since 2000. Rare species records for October included the second HK record of Alstrom's (Plain-tailed) Warbler on Po Toi on 16th, a Common Chiffchaff at Lok Ma Chau on 19th and the first accepted Green-backed Flycatcher for 14 years, a first-winter male at Po Shan Road on 21st. The first of three Blunt-winged Warblers was trapped at Mai Po on 24th October, the other two were in November and December, and the second of two Plain Flowerpeckers in the year was at Sham Chung on 30th October.

The November spell of northerly winds brought an unusual late fall of Blue-and-white Flycatchers into Po Toi, with at least 12 on 10th and some remaining until the end of the month. Other unusual records on Po Toi were autumn Japanese Yellow Bunting on 2nd and male Narcissus Flycatcher on 16th. A Crested Bunting at Long Valley on 13th followed two records there in 2010, and a White-bellied Green Pigeon was at Mai Po also on 13th. Finally, a Pallas's Reed Bunting was trapped at Mai Po on 22nd November

and a juvenile Rosy Starling was at San Tin from 23rd November to 6th December.

Winter 2011 (December)

December was cold and dry, with four spells of cold northerly winds, the most severe from 8th to 13th.

A Eurasian Oystercatcher was at the Mai Po boardwalk on 6th December, the fourth HK record and the earliest. The third and final Hong Kong First Record of the year was photographed at Mai Po NR Pond 20 on 11th December by a group taking part in the HKBWS Elementary Bird Watching Course, who spotted a large raptor under attack from a Collared Crow. The photographs proved the raptor was a Northern Goshawk, but unfortunately the bird was only seen that day and could not be relocated. A Hume's Leaf Warbler was at Pak Sha O on 15th December, 488 Black-faced Spoonbill in Deep Bay in the December WC was the second highest count on record for this Endangered species and a Crested Honey Buzzard seen at the end of December in the Lam Tsuen valley was possibly the same bird over-wintering for the third successive year.

全年摘要 2011

Geoff Welch

本篇全年摘要繼續沿用季度順序：12至2月為冬季、3至5月為春季、6至8月為夏季，以及9至11月為秋季。與往年相同，若此全年摘要內容與分類總覽不符，一切以分類總覽所述為準。

雖然本年錄得高記錄的391個鳥種，論質量與驚喜卻不及過去四年，因此不算是豐收的一年。本年有三個香港新紀錄鳥種，但其中兩種只停留了一天，只有發現者與少數幸運兒能目睹，而第三種是一隻垂死的海鳥，獲救後只生存了三天。春秋兩季本該是香港最有驚喜的季節，偏偏本年春秋大部分時間鳥況都很平靜，這大可歸咎於天氣未有出現能帶來好鳥況的狀態。

2011年冬季（1至2月）

儘管全年天氣不利鳥況，但1月份是個例外。本年1月是自1977年最冷的，低氣溫亦持續了整個月，故1月有很多鵝、鵠及鶺鴒的記錄。2月的天氣普遍正常。

本年的開始有數個2010年底的鳥種仍然停留，包括在米埔自然保護區的兩隻寒林豆雁逗留至2月22日，同樣在米埔的一隻雌性白秋沙鴨更停留至3月4日，而在大埔滘的栗頭鶺鴒最後紀錄是在1月9日。1月9日起在大埔滘錄得一隻雄性棕腹大仙鶺鴒，同月31日更有一隻雌性出現。1月分有頗多鵝及鵠的記錄，其中懷氏地鵝、灰背鵝、白腹鵝及北紅尾鵠都錄得高數量。1月19日在西貢西沙錄得一隻斑背大尾鶺鴒，是香港的第四個紀錄，亦是第一個在野外辨識到的紀錄。龍虎山郊野公園的寶珊路，在1月底至2月是不錯的觀鳥點，有一隻雄性棕腹大仙鶺鴒，另外亦有一雌一雄的小仙鶺鴒在此逗留至3月，同時更有一隻雄性的日本歌鶺鴒。1月29日在南丫島拍攝到一隻雌性橙胸姬鶺鴒，是這兩個月期間三個紀錄中的第一隻，隨後2月初在新娘潭錄得一隻雄性，以及在元朗錄得一隻雌性。

雖然本年1月氣溫較低，但后海灣水鳥調查最高數字為76,679隻，比過去兩年冬季下跌12%。本年冬季羅紋鴨數量頗高，在2月12日錄得20隻的最高數量。2月20日在米埔自然護理區錄得一隻美洲綠翅鴨，是自1997年以來，本港的第三個紀錄。白腰杓鶺鴒數字在1月分水鳥調查中打破歷來紀錄，錄得1,602隻的新高。相反數個鳥種數量卻未如理想，綠頭鴨只錄得一隻，翹鼻麻鴨只有3隻，骨頂雞亦只錄得125隻，印緬斑嘴鴨和卷羽鶺鴒更全年沒紀錄。

2月值得留意的是全個月皆在林村谷出現的多達50隻黑尾蠟嘴雀、兩隻黑頭蠟嘴雀，和一隻被認為是逃逸鳥的錫嘴雀。2月3日在大埔滘錄得一隻純色啄花鳥，是自1997年以來首個獲接納的紀錄。2月9日至3月在塱原記錄到的一隻黃眉鶺鴒是該鳥種在港首個越冬紀錄。2月14日在長洲錄得一隻布氏葦鶺鴒，是難得在野外確認的 *Acrocephalus* 屬罕見葦鶺鴒。

2011年春季（3月至5月）

本年3至5月大致天晴乾燥，而對春季鳥況影響最大的4月氣候亦如是。冬季最後一個冷鋒在4月3日掠過本港，除了4月17和22日及5月底有低氣壓出現外，整個春季的溫和氣候，讓大部分春季過境鳥持續遷徙而無需停棲休息，故本年春季可算是多年來鳥況最差的。

3月分錄得數個特別的鳥種，包括：8至21日在米埔泥灘錄得兩隻棕頭鷗成鳥，是自2008年首個紀錄；20日在錦田錄得一隻白鵲鴿 *personata* 亞種，是該類別在港的第四個紀錄；另外29日在元朗錄得一隻黃眉姬鵲 *owstoni* 類，是此分類在本年春季的第一個紀錄，第二個紀錄在4月10至13日於石崗出現。

4月份陸鳥與海鳥的鳥況皆強差人意，其中有兩個令人鼓舞的紀錄。第一個是4月5至11日在蒲台記錄到的一隻雌性赭紅尾鴿，是自1995年本港第二個紀錄。值得一提的是，這鳥種的第一個紀錄當年只由一位觀鳥者看見，這次的個體雖然常常隱藏起來，但由於牠逗留了一段頗長的時間，很多觀鳥者和攝影師都能一睹。另一個4月份最佳紀錄，是24日在城門下水塘錄得的香港首個灰燕鴿紀錄。該鳥在偶然情況下由一位當日只打算在附近散步的人士發現，令人惋惜的是，在大批觀鳥者滿懷希望到場守候的翌日，該鳥並未再出現。

香港春季是大量涉禽過境的高峰期。2011年后海灣的過境涉禽數量偏低，以各鳥種最高數量計算總和為16,187隻，單日最高總數為9,482隻，比過往四年的平均數下跌四成。在3月1日錄得3,705隻澤鵞的新高，相反鶴鵞的最高數量只有463隻，是《香港鳥類名錄》出版以來的新低。易危鳥種半蹼鵞繼過往四年出現高數量後，本年數量回落。瀕危鳥種小青腳鵞本年春季最少共錄得46隻，令人滿意。極度瀕危的勺嘴鵞今季數量平平，共錄得四隻。其他后海灣的鳥類紀錄包括：2月分曾出現的美洲綠翅鴨在4月4日再度出現；而4月5日則在米埔自然保護區內錄得一隻三趾鷗成鳥，另外在4月5至11日亦在泥灘錄得一隻第一次度夏的遺鵞。

春季亦是海鳥過境本港的高峰期，可惜本年海鳥鳥況亦未如理想。普遍來說，遷徙越過南中國海的海鳥，需遇上強烈東風才會移至本港海域。本年4至5月間，風力達四級或以上程度的日子只有五天，風力亦沒有持續兩天以上，因此過境遷徙的燕鷗和賊鷗數量偏低。自2006年本港首次錄得短尾鵲起，每年春季過境平均數量為30隻，本年整個春季只錄得一隻，讓人大為失望。

4月下旬和5月鳥況平靜，只有數個例外，尤其是鵲科鳥類。4月30日至5月29日期間，共錄得逾20隻北鵲，是自1999年颱風利奧襲港以來春季最高數量。5月10日傍晚在蒲台更錄得本港第二個粉紅胸鵲紀錄，可惜這個體在翌日清晨已不復見。4月30日在塹原錄得3隻栗葦鵲，是自《香港鳥類名錄》出版以來單日最高數量。5月11及19日分別在大埔滘和西沙記錄到黑冠鵲的鳴叫。最後，有數個鳥種刷新了春季最遲紀錄，包括：4月25日的方尾鵲；5月1日的白眉鵲；5月5日的灰臉鵲鷹；5月18日的小蝗鵲，以及5月26日的暗灰鵲鵲和小鵲。

2011年夏季 (6月至8月)

6月和7月的天氣大致正常。共有三個熱帶風暴接近本港，兩個在6月，一個在7月，其中第二個，即熱帶風暴海馬在6月22日掠過本港西南面，令兩隻不幸的海鳥受困。8月天晴炎熱，雨量不多。

鷺鳥林普查數據顯示，大白鷺與小白鷺繁殖情況良好，池鷺數量正常，夜鷺與牛背鷺數量則下跌。根據近十年資料，大白鷺有輕微增加的趨勢，小白鷺、池鷺和牛背鷺數量平穩，而夜鷺則持續下跌。燕鷗調查在大鵬灣錄得包括褐翅燕鷗、黑枕燕鷗和粉紅燕鷗三個鳥種，共533隻燕鷗繁殖，稍低於過去十年574隻的平均數。但另外亦在南部及東部海域的繁殖地點，錄得564隻燕鷗，即全港海域合共錄得1,097隻燕鷗繁殖，褐翅燕鷗佔56%，黑枕燕鷗33%，粉紅燕鷗則佔11%。

近年易危鳥種白頸鴉在港最高數量幾乎每年遞增，本年亦不例外，6月3日在米埔自然護理區錄得143隻新高紀錄。金頭縫葉鶯在港數量近年亦有增長，本年6月6日在梧桐寨錄得14隻的新高。7月3日在元朗錄得一對金翅雀成鳥與一隻幼鳥，8月分別在兩個地點錄得霍氏鷹鵑的幼鳥。其他意想不到的夏季紀錄包括：6月30日在米埔錄得一隻半蹼鶯；7月2日在梅窩錄得一隻白額燕鷗，是歷來第二個夏季紀錄；7月12日在落馬洲錄得一隻栗葦鶯；以及7月17日在鳳園錄得一隻黑冠鵑隼。一群鳳頭鸚鵡在后海灣福田岸度夏，是一項前所未有的紀錄。

本年夏季最有趣亦最不幸的事件發生於6月22日，亦即熱帶風暴海馬掠過本港時。6月23日先於九龍東的土瓜灣發現一隻垂死的白額鶯，翌日再在九龍半島的另一邊，於長沙灣一遊樂場發現另一隻垂死的褐翅燕鷗，此鳥種是第一次在港錄得。不幸地，兩隻鳥均在療養數日後不治。

7月底至8月如常陸續有秋季過境鳥出現。數個鳥種亦打破秋季最早出現的紀錄，包括：7月26日的針尾/大沙錐；7月31日的黑腹濱鶯；8月8日的淡色沙燕；及8月28日的紫綵帶。

2011年秋季 (9月至11月)

本年秋季氣候普遍溫和。9月乾燥和暖，較特別的是颱風納沙在29日於本港西南面掠過。10月整體天氣平穩，沒異常情況。11月亦和暖，有一微弱東北季候風到港，以及在8至13日有一道寒冷北風吹至。與春季的情況相似，穩定的天氣狀況令本年秋季的鳥況相當平靜。

9月2日在大埔滘村錄得一隻褐胸鶯，是本港第五個紀錄，亦是繼2010年後第二次在9月份錄得這鳥種。9月6日及27日各在米埔自然保護區環誌了一隻北短翅鶯，是首次在9月份錄得這鳥種。易危鳥種遠東葦鶯已成為香港初秋過境的常客，本年的9月6日至10月18日期間，更破紀錄錄得最少11隻。山鵪鶉是另一打破初秋過境最高數量紀錄的鳥種，8月28日至10月23日期間共在九個地點錄得11隻。另外兩種近年在港數量有所增加的鳥種亦刷新數量紀錄：9月24日在城門錄得15隻綠翅短腳鶯；以及9月28日在米埔錄得4隻鶯鶯。9月亦錄得兩個打破秋季最早出現的紀錄，包括：17日在米埔環誌的黑枕玉鶯；和

23日在塋原錄得的黃眉鶇。9月最後的好紀錄，是24日在米埔浮橋錄得的一隻劍鶇。

本年秋季小型猛禽鳥況頗佳，10月全月至11月皆定期錄得阿穆爾隼、燕隼和雀鷹。10月4日在塋原記錄到11隻黑冠鵟隼，是2000年以來最高紀錄。10月亦有其他罕見紀錄，包括：16日在蒲台錄得本港第二個純色尾鷓鴣紀錄；19日在落馬洲錄得一隻噉渣柳鶇；以及21日在寶珊道錄得14年來首個獲接納的綠背姬鶇紀錄。10月24日在米埔環誌到一隻鈍翅葦鶇，是今年三個紀錄的首個，另外兩個紀錄分別是在11和12月。10月30日在深涌記錄的純色啄花鳥，是本年第二個紀錄。

11月的北風為蒲台帶來數隻遲來的白腹藍姬鶇，在11月10日錄得最少12隻，部分逗留至月底。蒲台其他特別紀錄包括，11月2日錄得秋季過境硫磺鶇，以及16日錄得的雄性黃眉姬鶇。11月13日在塋原錄得一隻鳳頭鶇，是2010年的兩次紀錄後再度錄得，同日於米埔自然護理區錄得一隻紅翅綠鳩。最後，11月23日在米埔環誌到一隻葦鶇，而11月23至12月6日在新田則有一隻粉紅棕鳥幼鳥。

2011年冬季 (12月)

12月寒冷乾燥，一共有四道寒冷北風抵港，當中12月8至13日的最為強勁。

12月6日在米埔浮橋錄得一隻蠟鶇，是本港第四個紀錄，也是最早出現的紀錄。本年第三個(亦是最後一個)香港新紀錄鳥種，是由香港觀鳥會觀鳥基礎班拍攝到的：12月11日在米埔自然護理區20號塘，拍攝到一隻正受一隻白頸鴉襲擊的大型猛禽，其後根據相片鑑定為蒼鷹。可惜該鳥只在當天出現，之後沒能再找到。12月15日在白沙澳記錄到一隻淡眉柳鶇。本月的后海灣水鳥調查共錄得488隻黑臉琵鶇，是這瀕危鳥種在后海灣第二高的數量紀錄。最後，月底在林村谷錄得一隻鳳頭蜂鷹，很可能是連續三年在此越冬的同一個體。

Systematic List 2011

Taxonomy

The Records Committee follows the International Ornithological Congress (IOC) taxonomy and the scientific nomenclature that goes with it. The species list in this Systematic List follows the taxonomy of the IOC List v3.2.

Systematic List Format

The format for each species is as follows:

- i) Title, giving common name in English, scientific name, common name in Chinese, species category and IUCN Red List Conservation Status, where applicable.
- ii) Brief description of the status in Hong Kong as at end of 2010, in italics.
- iii) Summary of records for the year 2011.

The species category definition is as follows:

Category I: species that have been recorded in an apparently wild state in HK.

Category IIA: southeast China breeding species, the currently established HK breeding population of which is considered to derive from captive stock, but which probably occurred in HK prior to habitat changes.

Category IIB: extralimital species that, although originally introduced to HK by man, maintain a regular feral breeding stock without necessary recourse to further introduction.

Category IIC: previously established feral species.

Category III: species for which all published HK records are considered likely to relate to birds that have escaped or have been released from captivity.

The Conservation Status is based on the IUCN Red List and any status other than 'Least Concern' is indicated by the use of abbreviations. These are:

IUCN Red List (2011.2)	
CE	Critically Endangered
EN	Endangered
VU	Vulnerable
NT	Near-threatened

The Systematic List provides a summary of the records reported in Hong Kong during the year in question but does not include all records received and archived. Records are not listed individually unless they differ from the typical pattern as described in italics below the species name, or concern a species sufficiently uncommon to warrant

listing all records. Where possible, the description is divided into seasons or winter periods with only the highest count and extreme dates provided. The 'peak' count refers to the highest count in the year. Sites of occurrence are not generally listed unless records occur in atypical habitats or at unusual times of year. All records of species requiring assessment by the Records Committee are listed in full.

Peak counts by year since the year 2000 are given for most waterbirds and some other species to give a recent historical perspective to the numbers. If provided, these appear in tables at the end of the relevant species account.

This report also includes Weekly Occurrence Graphs for 22 land bird species. These are based on the Avifauna Red Charts (page 116 of *The Avifauna*) and are the sum of peak counts of the species at separate locations for each weekly period in the year, including data in *The Avifauna* plus annual data from 1999 to 2011. They give an indication of the frequency of occurrence of the species during the year. The species have mostly been chosen where the annual occurrence pattern has changed since *The Avifauna*. It is intended to include Weekly Occurrence Graphs for other species in future Annual Reports.

Abbreviations used in the species accounts are listed below.

CP	Country Park	NNR	National Nature Reserve
DB	Deep Bay	NT	New Territories
HK	Hong Kong	SI	Starling Inlet
HKBR	Hong Kong Bird Report	SW	Shuen Wan
KFBG	Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden	WC	Waterbird Count
LMC	Lok Ma Chau Spur Line Wetland Mitigation Area	WMP	Waterbird Monitoring Programme
MPNR	Mai Po Nature Reserve	WP	Wetland Park

Monthly Waterbird Counts

Counts of waterbird species are conducted as part of the Ramsar Site Waterbird Monitoring Programme on behalf of AFD on a monthly basis throughout the year at Deep Bay, Starling Inlet and Shuen Wan. A full set of the Deep Bay counts for each month in 2011 is given in tables at the end of the Systematic List. Where appropriate, totals from these counts are included in the main text under the description 'WC'.

Note that, in order to provide a complete overview of waterbird populations in Deep Bay, these waterbird counts include Futian NNR, Shenzhen in addition to sites in Hong Kong. Given the movement of birds between Hong Kong and Shenzhen, these totals are included to provide data on the number of birds using Deep Bay as a whole.

The dates of the monthly Waterbird Counts conducted during 2011 were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
2011	16 th	13 th	13 th	17 th	8 th	19 th	17 th	14 th	11 th	9 th	13 th	18 th

The waterbird totals might include counts made up to a week either side of the actual count date.

Sources of Data for the 2011 Systematic List

Most of the data within the 2011 Systematic List comes in the form of records from individuals. However, a substantial amount of data now comes from on-going and one-off projects, the major ones in 2011 being the following.

Waterbird Monitoring Programme (WMP)

This programme, funded by AFCED, covers the Deep Bay area and counts waterbirds and shorebirds at regular intervals throughout the year. This is an on-going project which first started in 1979, and in its current form in 1998.

WWF Morning Bird Count

WWF staff count all bird species within the WWF Mai Po NR on a twice-monthly basis throughout the year. This monitoring activity started in 2005.

Long Valley Weekly Bird Count (LVP)

As part of the Nature Conservation for Long Valley programme, counts of all bird species are made at Long Valley on a weekly basis throughout the year. This project started in January 2010 and is supported by the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF).

Ringling Groups

Data was submitted by the following Ringling Groups - HKBWS Ringling Group (HKBWS RG) and the Hong Kong Ringling Group (HKRG)

Tern Breeding Data

Tern breeding data comes from the Population Survey of Terns in Hong Kong, 2011, funded by AFCED.

Other project sources

Data also comes from projects funded by AFCED and run by HKBWS, the main sources being the Research Groups for Egrets and White-bellied Sea Eagle which count breeding activity for these species.

Individual records

Thanks are due to the following, who submitted their individual records for this report

J.A. Allcock, K. & R. Barretto, G.J. Carey, G. Cattrall, N.M. Cheng, K.C. Cheung, J. Chim, G. Chow, A. Crow/KFBG, D.A. Diskin, J. & J. Holmes, T. Hung, J.A. Kennerley, E.M.S. Kilburn, B. Klick, L. Ko/KFBG, P.K. Kwan, J. Lambert, P.J. Leader, R. Lee, C.T. Leung, K. Leung, R.W. Lewthwaite, M. Lisse, H. Lo, J. Martinez, R. Peard, W. Poon, V. Reed, B. Smith, D.J. Stanton, S.L. Tai, W. Tsui, G. Welch, M.D. Williams, H.C. Wong, N. & A. Wong, M. & P. Wong, T. & T. Woodward, WWF-HK and Y.T. Yu.

Records were also taken from the HKBWS Website (Website). Where recorded, the individual names for these records appear below

Allen Chan, K.M. Chan, Peter Chan, K. Ko, K. Koo, C.W. So, Y.L. Tam, V. Yeung.

The Systematic List for the year 2011 was compiled by Geoff Welch.

References to *The Avifauna* within the Systematic List refer to Carey *et al.* (2001).

分類總覽 2011年

分類方法

紀錄委員會採用國際鳥類學會議International Ornithological Congress (IOC)分類方法及配合此分類方法慣常使用的學命。2011年分類總覽鳥種名稱按照IOC 3.2版本分類列表作出分類。

分類總覽規格

鳥種資料如下：

- 甲) 鳥種標題以英文名、學名，中文名、鳥種類別以及國際自然保育聯盟紅皮書的保育狀況（若適用）列出。
- 乙) 以斜體字概要描述2010年前香港狀況。
- 丙) 2011年總結紀錄。

鳥種類別如下：

- 第I類： 在香港有明確野生紀錄。
- 第IIA類： 中國東南部地區繁殖的鳥種，現時在香港的群落被認為是由逃逸的籠鳥所繁衍的，但亦可能在棲息地出現變化前已在香港出沒。
- 第IIB類： 非原居鳥種，經人為引入香港，現無需靠額外幫助已能繼續繁衍。
- 第IIC類： 曾經在香港有野生群落的鳥種。
- 第III類： 根據所有已發表的香港紀錄顯示，此鳥種可能在飼養時逃逸或是人為放生。

保育狀況是根據國際自然保育聯盟紅皮書及其他現狀使用以下簡稱，但不包括「無危」，計有：

國際自然保育聯盟紅皮書(2011. 2)	
CE	極危
EN	瀕危
VU	易危
NT	近危

分類總覽提供香港某年份的紀錄匯報，但不包含所有已收集及存檔的紀錄。除非有關紀錄與鳥種名稱底下用斜體字描述的典型模式不同，又或某鳥種非常獨特以致必須保存所有資料，否則不會作出個別紀錄。在容許的情況下，描述會分為季節或冬季時段，並只提供最多數目的紀錄及最極端日子資料。鳥種出現位置一般不會列明，若在罕有的棲息地或非正常時期錄得則例外。另外須由紀錄委員會評核的鳥種已臚列在報告中。

報告提供自2000年大部分水鳥及其他鳥種的年度最高數目，展現牠們近年的數目。相關的數據顯示在該鳥種闡述後的表格中。

此報告亦提供23種陸棲鳥種的「每週出現圖表」資料。這些資料是根據「鳥類紅色圖表」（《香港鳥類名錄》第116頁）及每年於不同地點錄得每種鳥種的每週最高數目的總和，包括了《香港鳥類名錄》及1999至2011年度的數據。圖表反映該年某鳥種的出現頻率。大部分鳥種是自從《香港鳥類名錄》出版後每年出現的模式發生變化。在未來的《香港鳥類報告》中，將陸續增加其他鳥種的每週出現圖表。

鳥種闡述中所使用簡稱如下：

CP	郊野公園	NNR	國家級自然保護區
DB	后海灣	NT	新界
HK	香港	SI	沙頭角海
HKBR	香港觀鳥報告	SW	船灣
KFBG	嘉道理農場暨植物園	WC	水鳥普查
LMC	落馬洲支線濕地緩解區	WMP	水鳥監測計劃
MPNR	米埔自然護理區	WP	濕地公園

每月水鳥普查

這項全年在后海灣、沙頭角海及船灣進行的普查是替漁農自然護理署進行的拉姆薩爾濕地水鳥監察計劃的其中一部分。后海灣2011年每月普查數據記述在分類總覽最後的表格中。其他相關的詳細統計資料則在正文裏以“WC”（水鳥統計）為示顯示出來。

為了讓大家全面了解后海灣的水鳥數目，水鳥普查除在香港進行，亦包括了福田國家級自然保護區的水鳥數目。考慮到雀鳥在深港兩地間自由往來，后海灣的整體水鳥數字已包括了該數據。

2011年每月進行水鳥統計的日子為：

	1月	2月	3月	4月	5月	6月	7月	8月	9月	10月	11月	12月
2011	16日	13日	13日	17日	8日	19日	17日	14日	11日	9日	13日	18日

水鳥普查數據可能包含實際計算當日前後一週的水鳥數目。

2011年分類總覽數據來源

2011年分類總覽大部分數據來自個人紀錄；但亦有相當部分的數據是從現在進行中或一次性的研究項目中取得，2011年主要的項目如下：

水鳥普查計劃

漁農自然護理署資助的水鳥普查計劃，全年定期在后海灣地區進行水鳥及濱鳥統計。這項計劃從1979年首次展開，現時的模式是由1998年開始沿用的。

世界自然基金會清晨雀鳥統計

世界自然基金會香港分會成員在米埔自然護理區全年間每月兩次統計所有雀鳥種類。此項監察活動始於2005年。

塱原每週雀鳥普查

是項普查是塱原自然保育管理計劃的一部分，全年間每週統計塱原雀鳥種類。此項目始於2010年1月，由環境及自然保育基金資助。

環誌組

由香港觀鳥會鳥類環誌組及香港鳥類環誌協會提供數據。

燕鷗繁殖數據

2011年度香港燕鷗繁殖調查，由漁農自然護理署資助。

其他項目

其他資料來源包括由漁農自然護理署資助及香港觀鳥會舉辦的研究項目，主要來源計有鷺鳥及白腹海鷗研究組，這些研究組負責統計上述鳥種的繁殖活動。

個人紀錄

感謝各鳥友提交個人紀錄：（鳴謝名單請參閱英文原文）

互聯網紀錄

本報告亦有摘取香港觀鳥會網上紀錄：（紀錄發表者的名單請參閱英文原文）

2011年的分類總覽由Geoff Welch整理。

分類總覽中所提及的參考資料《香港鳥類名錄》是源自Carey *et al.* (2001)。

CATEGORIES I-II

Chinese Francolin *Francolinus pintadeanus* 中華鸕鶿 I

Locally-distributed resident in areas of grassland with scattered shrubs or rocks, usually found in upland areas. Most records are of birds calling between mid-March and early June; highest count 15 on 30 April 1994. Declining in some areas due to succession to shrubland.

Although a resident species, all records were from 3 April to 7 August with most being calling birds, peak count four on Tai Mo Shan on 21 May and 1 August. Other records from Siu Lam, Nim Wan, Pak Nai, Robin's Nest, Lamma Island, Tai Long Sai Wan and the hills around Kam Tin.

Japanese Quail *Coturnix japonica* 鶉 I NT

Winter visitor and migrant, though much declined and now mostly in late autumn, to open country, often agricultural areas; extreme dates 26 September to 23 May, highest count 15 at Long Valley in winter 1994/95.

A poor year with a high count of only one and possibly only four individuals.

First winter period: one in the Long Valley area from 8 March to 12 April.

Second winter period: recorded from 1 October to 24 November with singles at She Shan, Po Toi and Long Valley.

Lesser Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna javanica* 栗樹鴨 I

Rare migrant and summer visitor to freshwater wetland areas of Deep Bay; extreme dates 26 April to 11 October and one over-wintering record.

One at MPNR on 12 September.

Taiga Bean Goose *Anser fabalis* 寒林豆雁 I

Two of the taxon middendorffii at MPNR from 3 November to end December 2010.

The two birds at MPNR at the end of 2010 remained until 22 February (many observers).

Greylag Goose *Anser anser* 灰雁 I

Four winter records between 6 November and 22 March, the last being in 1997.

One recorded at Long Valley, Nam Sang Wai and MPNR from 20 October to 22 November was obviously ex-captive (YLT *et al.*).

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* 翹鼻麻鴨 I

Previously a common, if somewhat erratic, winter visitor to Deep Bay intertidal areas; now much declined; extreme dates 22 October to 29 May, highest count 4,011 on 17 January 1988.

The decline of this species over the past decade continued in 2011.

First winter period: three at MPNR between 2 and 28 January with one there on 5 March.

Second winter period: no records.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
1,320	373	268	192	240	68	60	44	24	9	20	3

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata* 鴛鴦 I

Rare winter visitor; status now uncertain due to the occurrence of ex-captive individuals.

First winter period: a female on Tan Shan River from 22 February to 28 March and a pair near Tai Po from 13 to 20 March. Both these records were considered to be of ex-captive birds.

Second winter period: two eclipse males of unknown origin at Wo Shang Wai on 29 October.

Gadwall *Anas strepera* 赤膀鴨 I

Scarce winter visitor to Deep Bay wetland areas, extreme dates 25 October and 6 May, highest count 42 on 12 January 1986.

All records from MPNR in the first winter period. No records in the second winter period for the first time since 2003.

First winter period: recorded up to 14 March with a peak count of 12 on 15 February.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
26	0	1	0	6	21	30	26	13	7	8	12

Falcated Duck *Anas falcata* 羅紋鴨 I NT

Rare and much declined winter visitor to Deep Bay wetland areas, extreme dates 26 September and 26 May, highest count 413 on 14 January 1984.

A very good year by recent standards with a highest count since 2000.

First winter period: regularly recorded at MPNR up to 30 March with a peak count of 20 on 12 February.

Second winter period: one at MPNR on 20 November and one at Kam Tin on 19 December.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
20	6	4	7	5	3	1	8	16	6	13	20

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* 赤頸鴨 I

Abundant winter visitor to Deep Bay wetland areas with two summer records; typically present September to April, highest count 6,705 on 14 January 2001.

Relatively low numbers by recent standards. All records from MPNR and Deep Bay unless stated.

First winter period: high count 2,499 in the March WC, latest record on 16 May. 25 at Kam Tin on 24 January.

Second winter period: first record on 4 October, peak count 2,919 in the December WC.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
3,143	6,705	3,797	4,080	2,744	3,106	2,054	5,764	5,050	4,439	4,429	2,919

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* 綠頭鴨 I

Scarce and declined winter visitor to Deep Bay wetland areas; extreme dates 5 October to 22 May, highest count 70 on 7 November 1959.

A poor year with a high count of only one, the lowest since *The Avifauna*. All records from MPNR.

First winter period: a male from 7 January to 16 February.

Second winter period: a female on 21 October, a male from 11 to 14 November and another or possibly the same on 27 December.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
8	15	2	2	2	2	6	2	2	3	2	1



Plate 1 Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* 綠頭鴨
 Mai Po NR, 14th November 2011 米埔 2011年11月14日
 Yue Pak Wai 余柏維

Indian Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha* 印緬斑嘴鴨 I

Present all year, apparently resident, though has declined in recent years; highest count 40 on 7 October 1997.

There were no records for the second successive year. Observers are encouraged to submit all records of this species as it appears to be becoming increasingly rare.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
4	3	1	16	6	4	0	2	0	5	0	0



Plate 2 Chinese Spot-billed Duck *Anas zonorhyncha* 中華斑嘴鴨
Mai Po NR, 30th November 2011 米埔 2011年11月30日
Andy Li 李偉仁

Chinese Spot-billed Duck *Anas zonorhyncha* 中華斑嘴鴨 I

Previously a common winter visitor to Deep Bay wetland areas typically present October to March and with regular breeding records at MPNR, although now declined; highest count 511 on 13 January 1991.

Numbers continue to show a decline although at least one pair remained for most of the summer. All records from MPNR.

First winter period: ten on 21 January gradually declining to five on 29 May.

Summer: a pair remained until at least 16 July.

Second winter period: two on 14 November increasing to five on 6 December.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
81	59	41	44	23	9	16	31	25	25	18	10

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* 琵嘴鴨 I

Common winter visitor to Deep Bay wetland areas; typically present October to April with two summer records, highest count 14,253 on 13 January 2008.

Lower numbers than the previous three years. All records from MPNR and Deep Bay unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: a peak of 9,674 in the February WC, latest date 20 May. One at Starling Inlet in the January WC.

Second winter period: recorded from 7 September, high count 4,995 in the December WC. At Kam Tin from 12 November with 85 there on 19 December. Singles at Long Valley on 17 October and 19 December.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
3,231	6,414	2,576	4,271	3,086	9,703	2,870	8,930	14,253	11,271	20,008	9,674

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* 針尾鴨 I

Common winter visitor to Deep Bay wetland areas; typically present October to April, highest count 8,654 on 11 January 1997.

A typical year. All records from MPNR and Deep Bay.

First winter period: peak count 2,586 in the February WC, latest record on 4 April.

Second winter period: earliest record on 7 October, high count only 810 in the December WC.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
8,086	3,435	2,609	4,381	2,054	3,332	1,556	4,647	2,444	2,010	3,622	2,586

Garganey *Anas querquedula* 白眉鴨 I

Passage migrant, mainly autumn, and winter visitor to Deep Bay wetland area; typically present September to April, highest count 715 on 27 September 1986.

A poor year with low numbers. All records from MPNR and Deep Bay.

First winter period: high count 60 on 5 April, last record on 9 May.

Second winter period: earliest record on 8 September, peak count 96 on 29 September.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
251	212	70	112	93	95	286	280	130	137	600	96

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca* 綠翅鴨 I

Common but declining winter visitor to wetland areas, primarily Deep Bay, with occasional summer records; typically present September to April, highest count 5,411 on 24 January 1999.

Numbers continue to show a steady decline with the lowest peak count since *The Avifauna* and probably since 1985. Most records in the first winter period from MPNR and Deep Bay but records in the second winter period came from a wide variety of locations.

First winter period: peak count 1,131 in the February WC, last record on 28 May, a late date. 12 at Starling Inlet in the January WC with five there in the February WC.

Second winter period: recorded from 26 September, high count 937 in the December WC. Also recorded from Long Valley, Ho Sheung Heung, Kam Tin, San Tin, Starling Inlet and Shek Kong with a high count of 84 at Kam Tin on 19 December.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
4,099	2,509	3,147	3,286	2,238	3,023	1,227	2,785	2,322	1,581	1,459	1,131

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis* 美洲綠翅鴨 I

Two records; 23 February to 23 March 1986 and 7 February 1997.

A male at MPNR on 20 and 21 February (RWL, AC) and what was probably the same bird at MPNR on 4 and 5 April (J&JH, JAA). This is the third Hong Kong record and the first since 1997.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina* 紅頭潛鴨 I

Scarce winter visitor to Deep Bay wetland areas; extreme dates 22 October and 20 June, highest count 14 on 11 January 1997.

A female in the January WC was the only record.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
2	1	2	1	1	5	3	9	2	2	4	1

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* 鳳頭潛鴨 I

Common winter visitor to Deep Bay wetland areas; typically present October to April, highest count 6,742 on 15 February 2009.

Another good year. This species has shown a significant increase over the past five years. All records from Deep Bay area unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: peak count 4,762 in the January WC with 3,207 within MPNR on 14 January. Latest date 19 April.

Second winter period: earliest record on 19 October, high count 2,399 in December WC. Singles at Starling Inlet in the November WC and at Nim Wan on 8 December.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
665	832	1,156	1,095	763	1,667	3,053	4,285	1,846	6,742	5,823	4,762

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila* 斑背潛鴨 I

Scarce winter visitor to Deep Bay area; extreme dates 25 October and 16 April, highest count 83 on 17 February 2006.

One in the January WC was the only record.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
1	6	0	6	3	2	83	0	1	40	4	1

Smew *Mergellus albellus* 白秋沙鴨 I

Three winter records; extreme dates 26 November to 16 April.

The adult female at MPNR at the end of 2010 remained there until 4 March (many observers). A first-winter female at Pui O on 28 February (NMC) was aged from photographs as a different bird. This is the fourth Hong Kong record.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* 紅胸秋沙鴨 I

Previously a scarce winter visitor and spring passage migrant to the Deep Bay area, now mostly a spring passage migrant through southern waters; extreme dates 16 November and 4 May, highest count 97 on 14 January 1990.

Five flying northeast past Po Toi on 15 March with another five on 30 March.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
0	0	3	0	0	1	2	1	0	11	3	5

Streaked Shearwater *Calonectris leucomelas* 白額鷗 I

Regular spring migrant in small numbers, with occasional autumn records, primarily in eastern and southern waters; extreme dates 4 March to 26 June and 21 August to 26 September, highest count 80 on 17 May 2006.

The only record was a moribund bird found at To Kwa Wan on 23 June which died at KFBG three days later. This record coincided with the close pass of TS Haima which also resulted in a Bulwer's Petrel on the opposite side of the Kowloon peninsular one day later.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
0	0	0	0	0	50	80	6	2	8	1	1

Short-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus tenuirostris* 短尾鷗 I

Regular spring migrant in small numbers, primarily in southern waters; extreme dates 20 April to 26 May, highest count 15 on 14 May 2007.

A very poor year with only one record, a single bird passing Po Toi on 11 May. This follows five years of regular spring passage with more than 25 birds annually between late April and late May.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
0	0	0	0	1	0	14	15	15	8	13	1

Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii* 褐燕鷗 I

No records.

A debilitated bird was found at Cheung Sha Wan Playground on 24 June, following the close pass of TS Haima. It died in care three days later. This is the first record for Hong Kong.



Plate 3 Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* 小鵝鶖
 Mai Po NR, 25th December 2011 米埔 2011年12月25日
 Arshad Kanzhada

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* 小鵝鶖 I

Present all year on ponds and pools, primarily in Deep Bay area; highest count 352 on 12 January 1986.

Recorded throughout the year in the Deep Bay WC with a peak count of 236 in the December WC. Regular records at MPNR, where the high count was 50 on 8 March, and at Nim Wan, where the high count was 54 on 21 September. Breeding occurred in both places. Elsewhere occasional records at Ho Pui Reservoir, Ho Sheung Heung, Luk Keng, Nam Chung, Starling Inlet and Wo Shang Wai with a high of 13 at Starling Inlet in the December WC.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
146	132	155	182	204	255	225	221	224	210	276	236

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* 鳳頭鸕鶿 I

Common winter visitor to Deep Bay area; extreme dates 15 October to 12 May with one over-summering record, highest count 790 on 17 December 2006.

A good year with a peak count of 420, equivalent to 1% of the regional population, and a series of summer records from the Shenzhen side of Deep Bay following a first ever summer record in HK in 2010. Most records from the Deep Bay WC.

First winter period: high count 110 in the February WC, last record on 17 April. Also recorded at Nim Wan, high count four on 25 January.

Summer: 80 in the June WC falling to 53 in the July WC and six in the August WC, all from the Shenzhen side of Deep Bay. This is an exceptional set of summer records.

Second winter period: two at LMC on 1 September (PJJ) is a new earliest date for Hong Kong by over one month, except for the 2010 over-summering record, and is probably related to the summer flock at Shenzhen. Seven at Nim Wan on 21 September is also an early record. Peak count 420 in December WC.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
438	66	163	104	213	291	790	375	331	357	215	420

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* 白琵鷺 I

Winter visitor to Deep Bay wetland areas; extreme dates 16 October and 18 May, highest count 30 on 14 March 1976.

All records from the Deep Bay area.

First winter period: peak count six in the March WC, latest date 17 April.

Second winter period: earliest date 21 October, high count three in the December WC.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
4	4	4	4	4	2	5	7	3	4	7	6



Plate 4 Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor* 黑臉琵鷺
 Mai Po NR, 5th April 2011 米埔 2011年4月5日
 Peter and Michelle Wong 黃理沛 江敏兒

Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor* 黑臉琵鷺 I EN

Winter visitor to Deep Bay wetland areas with regular summer records; typically present October to April, highest count 496 on 24 January 2010.

Numbers in Deep Bay have shown a progressive increase since 1999 and the 2011 peak count was the second highest on record. All records from the Deep Bay area unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: high count 441 in the January WC.

Summer: five present until 27 July.

Second winter period: earliest record on 24 September, peak count 488 in the December WC. Six at Long Valley on 22 November and two there on 5 December.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
252	197	234	266	305	340	475	358	421	405	496	488



Plate 5 Eurasian Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* 大麻鵞
Mai Po NR, 5th November 2011 米埔 2011年11月5日
C Y Lam 林卓源

Eurasian Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* 大麻鵞 I

Winter visitor to larger reedmarshes; extreme dates 12 September and 16 May, highest count 31 on 19 March 2010.

High peak counts over the last three years have come from co-ordinated counts at MPNR. All records from MPNR unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: peak count 21 on 21 March, last record on 3 April. Two at Nam Sang Wai on 28 February.

Second winter period: earliest record on 2 November, high count eight on 7 November and 7 December.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
5	8	4	1	5	1	2	4	2	11	31	21

Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis* 黃葦鶉 I

Uncommon summer visitor from April to September in Deep Bay reedmarsh and mangrove, with more widespread spring and autumn migrants and occasional winter records; has greatly declined in summer; highest count 50 on 21 May 2008.

First winter period: singles in the Deep Bay area from 16 January to 19 April when one was trapped at MPNR. A typical spring passage. One at Long Valley from 2 to 16 May and then on Po Toi from 17 May with a high count of nine there on 25 May and six at MPNR on the same date. Other May records from Stanley, Nim Wan, Kam Tin and Tsing Yi.

Breeding season: recorded throughout the breeding season at MPNR with a high count of nine in the August WC. One was also recorded in the Long Valley area throughout this period.

Second winter period: the peak count of 17 in the October WC was unusually high for autumn. Other autumn passage records were mostly singles from MPNR, Po Toi, Long Valley, Luk Keng, Kam Tin, Shing Mun and Nam Chung. One remained at MPNR until year end.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
16	7	5	6	25	2	12	21	50	7	10	17

Von Schrenck's Bittern *Ixobrychus eurhythmus* 紫背葦鶉 I

Scarce migrant to wetland areas; extreme dates 27 April to 11 June and 29 August to 21 October, highest count 29 on 21 May 2008.

Spring: singles only recorded on Po Toi from 1 May, at Tsing Yi on 29 May and Long Valley on 30 May. One taken into care at KFBG from North Point on 3 June was the last report of spring.

Autumn: a poor autumn passage with only one reported, at MPNR on 25 September.

Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus* 栗葦鶉 I

Scarce migrant and rare summer visitor to freshwater wetland areas with occasional winter records; highest count ten on 19 May 1971.

First winter period: singles recorded at Long Valley from 17 April to 23 May, Deep Bay in the April WC and on Po Toi from 7 to 18 May. Peak count three at Long Valley on 30 April was the only record of more than one, and was the highest one-day count since *The Avifauna*.

Summer: a male at LMC on 12 July was a rare summer record.

Second winter period: mostly singles recorded at Long Valley, San Tin and MPNR from 15 August, high count two. Records continued at MPNR until 22 November and at Long Valley until 12 December.



Plate 6 Von Schrenck's Bittern *Ixobrychus eurhythmus* 紫背葦鶉
Tsing Yi, 28th May 2011 青衣 2011年5月28日
Allen Chan 陳志雄

Black Bittern *Dupetor flavicollis* 黑鵝 I

Scarce migrant to freshwater wetland areas; extreme dates 9 March to 21 June and 24 July to 8 October, highest count 16 on 25 April 2009.

Spring: a very poor spring passage with one at MPNR on 25 May the only record.

Autumn: one at Pui O on 9 October (BK), one at MPNR on 13 and 18 October (JAA, PJJ) and one at Yung Shue O on 30 October (JAA) are all later than the previous latest date.

Malayan Night Heron *Gorsachius melanolophus* 黑冠鵝 I

Probably a rare breeding species in undisturbed wooded areas, also rare spring passage migrant, extreme dates 19 April to 10 October.

One at Tai Po Kau on 11 May (KPK) and one at Che Ha, Sai Sha on 19 May (JAA). Both birds were initially located from vocalisations.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* 夜鷺 I

Present all year, though generally in lower numbers than previously, mainly in Deep Bay wetlands and at scattered breeding colonies; highest count 2,500 on 21 January 1996, peak count since The Avifauna 727 on 11 February 2001.

Recorded from widespread sites and in all months with both migrants and breeding birds.

First winter period: a relatively low high count of 56 in the April WC.

Breeding season: total number of nests recorded by the Egret Survey was 69, a continuation of the decline in nesting birds over the last ten years. Nests at what used to be the main colony at A Chau, which numbered 177 in 2002, were down to 15 in 2011. The reason may be changes in the practices of fish-pond management in that area. High count of mostly non-breeding birds, 98 in the July WC.

Second winter period: peak count 189 in the September WC with numbers falling rapidly thereafter. Migrants on Po Toi from 15 September to 1 November.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
103	727	97	141	79	70	285	385	361	200	136	189

Striated Heron *Butorides striatus* 綠鷺 I

Typically occurs mid April to September in Deep Bay, and at scattered coastal and inland sites in winter; highest count 26 on 15 August 2004.

Another poor year following a similar poor one in 2010 with relatively few records and a low breeding season count.

First winter period: recorded from 1 January, mostly singles at Tai Po Kau, Nam Chung, Shing Mun, Tsing Tam Reservoir, Po Toi, Shui Hau and MPNR with a peak of seven there on 16 May.

Breeding season: seven regularly recorded at MPNR. One in Sai Kung CP on 17 July.

Second winter period: seven remained at MPNR until 7 September. Thereafter mostly singles to the end of October, on Po Toi and at San Tin, Shing Mun, Tai Lam CP, Lau Fau Shan and at Pak Sha O. In December, one at Kuk Po and one at KFBC.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
11	5	15	18	26	22	11	25	11	14	7	7

Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus* 池鷺 I

Winter, migrant and breeding populations present in widespread wetlands and damp areas; highest count 684 on 14 January 1990.

First winter period: high count 116 in the January WC. 36 at Tai Tam Reservoir on 2 May were probably migrants.

Breeding season: 233 nests were recorded by the Egret Survey, a typical number. High count 249 in the August WC.

Second winter period: 116 migrating southwest over Po Toi on 22 September with 63 the following day. Peak count 267 in the October WC, thereafter lower numbers at widespread locations until year end.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
488	299	341	307	342	324	253	259	260	242	252	267

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus* 牛背鷺 I

Winter, migrant and breeding populations, present in freshwater wetland areas mainly in NT; highest count 1,000 on 29 August 1977.

First winter period: winter records mostly from the Long Valley area, high count 22 on 28 February. Spring migration records from mid-March to late May with high counts of 75 at Shing Mun on 1 May and 78 at Tai Tam Reservoir on 2 May.

Breeding season: 32 nests recorded by the Egret Survey was the lowest since 2000. 220 from the Mai Po Boardwalk on 30 July was the peak year count.

Second winter period: high September counts, probably mostly migrants, included 110 at MPNR on 17 September, 70 at Ping Long on 21 September, 180 flying south at Long Valley on 26 September and 101 at San Tin on 30 September with 82 at Starling Inlet on 9 October. Thereafter numbers fell although with widespread reports of small numbers until the year end.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
195	159	206	600	344	300	225	119	148	149	202	220

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* 蒼鷺 I

Present all year at wetlands and some coastal areas, mainly in Deep Bay area, though numbers in summer very low; highest count 1,962 on 1 February 1996.

First winter period: high count 723 in the February WC. The highest count outside the Deep Bay area was 19 at Tai O on 23 March.

Summer: the high summer count was 31 at MPNR on 14 June.

Second winter period: numbers started to return in September with 77 at MPNR on 7 September and a peak count of 940 in the November WC. Elsewhere, widespread reports of small numbers with a highest count of 34 at Kam Tin on 27 November.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
1,164	1,086	1,297	1,146	1,158	1,202	1,036	862	930	1,085	818	940

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* 草鷺 I

Migrant and winter visitor (occasional in summer) to reedmarsh and other vegetated wetlands, mainly in Deep Bay area; typically present end September to mid April, highest count 50 on 11 October 1974.

Recorded in all months with most records at MPNR and Nam Sang Wai.

A first half high count of three at Nam Sang Wai on 28 February. Singles on Po Toi on 17 May and at Nim Wan on 11 July. A second half peak of 11 at MPNR on 18 November with singles during October at LMC, Nam Chung and Ho Sheung Heung.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
9	6	5	9	4	12	6	8	10	11	6	11

Great Egret *Ardea alba* 大白鷺 I

Present all year in wetlands, mainly in Deep Bay area; passage migrants and winter visitors occur; highest count 2,058 on 14 November 2004.

All records are from MPNR unless otherwise stated

First winter period: high counts 719 in the January WC and 185 at Starling Inlet in the February WC. Elsewhere small numbers at various locations with seven at Sok Kwu Wan on 3 April the highest count.

Breeding season: 124 nests counted by the Egret Survey, a good count. High count 1,016 in the July WC, also a good count.

Second winter period: autumn migrant flocks relatively small with 35 over Po Toi on 30 August the highest count. 1,169 in the November WC was the peak count for the year.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
1,205	931	1,239	1,429	2,058	1,565	1,087	890	1,167	978	804	1,169

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia* 中白鷺 I

Present all year, though rather few in summer, mainly at freshwater wetlands in Deep Bay area; highest count 77 on 22 September 2010.

First winter period: 31 in the April WC was the highest count, with 20 at Tai Po Kau village on 4 February, up to six in the Long Valley area in May and two at Aberdeen on 7 June.

Summer: at least three over-summered at MPNR with nine there on 19 June.

Second winter period: 52 in the November WC was the peak count. Elsewhere recorded at San Tin, Starling Inlet, Long Valley, Nam Sang Wai and Shek Kong.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
21	18	18	15	54	33	28	43	66	50	77	52

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* 小白鷺 I

Present all year in wetland areas throughout HK, mostly Deep Bay area; passage migrants and winter visitors occur; highest count 3,212 on 12 December 2004.

First winter period: high count 841 in the April WC with spring migrant counts of 50 on the Ham Tin River, Lantau on 28 March and 107 at Sok Kwu Wan, Lamma on 3 April.

Breeding season: 345 nests counted by the Egret Survey was the highest since 2000. Peak count 1,661 in the July WC was also a high summer count.

Second winter period: high count 1,019 in the October WC. Elsewhere 106 on the Ham Tin River on 27 November and 143 at Sok Kwu Wan on 17 December.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
1,629	1,726	1,653	2,151	3,212	2,345	2,004	1,969	1,675	2,076	1,197	1,661

Pacific Reef Heron *Egretta sacra* 岩鷺 I

Resident in rocky coastal areas; highest count 18 on 21 January 2003.

Recorded throughout the year from Po Toi, Lamma and Lantau Islands and from other islands and the coastline in eastern waters during breeding tern counts in summer. Also occasional records from Stanley, Aberdeen, Tai Tam Harbour and Nim Wan. Peak counts, a family party of five on the Ham Tin River, Lantau on 13 June and five on the Soko Islands on 21 July.



Plate 7 Swinhoe's Egret *Egretta eulophotes* 黃嘴白鷺
Mai Po NR, 4th May 2011 米埔 2011年5月4日
Andy Cheung 張玉良

Swinhoe's Egret *Egretta eulophotes* 黃嘴白鷺 I VU

Scarce spring migrant with one autumn record, mostly to Deep Bay area; extreme dates 5 March to 22 October, highest count 11 on 16 April 1960. Formerly bred.

A poor year. Recorded from 12 April to 6 June but only singles. All records from three locations: MPNR, Po Toi and Tsing Yi.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
4	3	3	2	5	2	3	2	2	3	2	1

Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus* 卷羽鵜鶘 I VU

Winter visitor to Deep Bay, highest count 85 on 21 February 1960; numbers have since declined considerably and now no longer present annually. East Asia population recently estimated at only 30 individuals (Yu and Chen 2008).

No records in 2011 for this declining species. This is the second year without records, the previous being in 2007.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
21	16	16	14	14	15	2	0	1	1	1	0



Plate 8 Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel* 白斑軍艦鳥
The Peak, 27th August 2011 山頂 2011年8月27日
Herman Ip 葉紀江

Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel* 白斑軍艦鳥 I

Scarce spring and summer visitor with other isolated records and some long-staying individuals.

2010: one in the East Lamma Channel on 25 April (P&MW, J&JH), initially thought to be a possible Great Frigatebird, was eventually identified as a second year female Lesser Frigatebird after consultation with overseas experts.

2011: a juvenile on Po Toi on 22 April (P&MW) with probably the same individual there on 17 and 19 May (GW). Another juvenile at The Peak from 22 to 27 August (Website photographs) and one near the Shenzhen River on 9 October (JAA).

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* 普通鸕鷀 I

Winter visitor to ponds and inshore waters, mainly in Deep Bay area; typically present from end September to mid April, highest count 11,424 on 5 February 2005.

A typical year although with summer records. The peak count of 10,023 birds represents 11% of the regional population. Away from Deep Bay, also recorded at Chek Lap Kok, Ho Pui Reservoir, Ho Sheung Heung, Nam Chung, Plover Cove, Starling Inlet and Tai Lam Chung Reservoir.

First winter period: peak count 10,023 in the February WC, latest date 28 May.

Summer: two at Lut Chau on 5 July and one at Nim Wan on 11 July were rare summer records.

Second winter period: earliest date 22 September, high count 9,431 in the December WC.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
7,712	7,142	6,534	7,959	8,964	11,424	10,347	10,081	11,144	8,736	10,758	10,023

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* 鵟 I

Common winter visitor, mostly to Deep Bay wetland areas, typically present October to April, with a few individuals over-summering; highest count 26 on 18 November 2005.

Recorded in all months, mainly from Deep Bay, with most records and all high counts in the winter months January to March and November to December.

First winter period: peak count 13 in the January WC. One at Starling Inlet in the January and February WC.

Summer: singles at MPNR and Tolo Harbour in July.

Second winter period: peak count 13 in the November and December WC. Away from Deep Bay, singles at Kei Ling Ha on 15 October, Starling Inlet in the November and December WC and Yung Shue Au on 4 December.

Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes* 黑冠鵲隼 I

Passage migrant and scarce summer visitor to shrubland and open woodland; extreme dates 11 April to 31 October (also 16 February 2002), highest count 50 on 17 August 1997.

Two at Long Valley on 26 April. One at Fung Yuen on 17 July, an interesting summer record. A flock of 11 at Long Valley on 4 October (Website photograph) is the largest single flock since 2000.

Crested Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus* 鳳頭蜂鷹 I

Scarce autumn migrant and rare winter visitor and spring migrant; extreme dates 29 August to 20 April, highest count six on 25 October 1996.

A good year with winter, spring and autumn records.

First winter period: one at Tai Po Kau on 2 February (KPK) and a different bird at Fung Yuen on 26 February (GH) and Tai Om on 10 March (BK). These follow similar winter records in 2010. One at MPNR on 7 April (MDW).

Second winter period: one at Tai Sang Wai on 9 September was followed by one at Tai Po Kau on 17 and 18 September and on 16 October. Three passed over Long Valley on 18 October with four over Po Toi on 26 October and two over Mai Po Lung Tsuen on 28 October. One at Tai Po Kau on 11 November was a different bird to that in September. One over Po Toi on 13 November. Finally, one at Ping Long on 11 and 31 December (EMSK) suggested a bird over-wintering in the Lam Tsuen valley for the third successive winter.

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* 黑翅鳶 I

Occasional visitor in ones or twos to open country throughout year.

One at Long Valley on 12 April. A single was recorded regularly in the MPNR area from 10 August to 20 November, possibly just one bird involved.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* 黑鷲 I

Present all year and widespread, with increased numbers in winter between October and March; highest roost count 1,150 on 30 December 1959.

The highest counts recorded were 100 at Tai Lam on 5 and 27 February, 76 at Stonecutter's Island on 19 October, 104 in the Deep Bay November WC and 37 past Braemar Hill on 16 December.

White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* 白腹海鵬 I

Resident in coastal areas, mainly in the eastern NT; highest count six on 14 June 2003.

Recorded in most months from widespread coastal locations including Deep Bay, Tai Lam, Lantau, Lamma, Hong Kong and Po Toi Islands, Sai Kung and Tolo Harbour, peak count of three on Po Toi on 29 March. The WBSE Research Group reported 2010/11 as the most successful breeding year since their records started in 2002/03 with eight successful breeding pairs raising a total of ten juveniles.

Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela* 蛇鵬 I

Present all year, probably largely resident, in woodland; highest count ten on 24 March 2008.

Recorded in every month of the year and from widespread locations in north and central NT and Lantau Island, peak count seven at Ping Long on 26 February. Also singles on Po Toi on 25 January, at Shek O on 25 November and Pok Fu Lam on 29 November.

Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus* 白腹鷗 I

Common winter visitor to Deep Bay wetland areas; typically present from October to April,

*A very low peak count of three, the equal lowest since *The Avifauna*.*

First winter period: three at MPNR on 10 and 14 January. Last record an adult male flying north at Nam Sang Wai on 19 April.

Second winter period: recorded from 15 September; peak count three at MPNR on 21 October. The only record for the year away from the Deep Bay area was one at Long Valley on 2 November.

Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucos* 鵲鷗 I

Scarce autumn migrant, rare winter visitor and spring migrant; extreme dates of 15 September to 23 April, highest count three on 18 October 2004 .

A very good year. A juvenile male at MPNR from 2 to 7 April. In the second winter period, the first record at MPNR on 25 September, then regularly recorded there until 13 December, almost all juveniles of both sexes. The peak count of four on 28 September (PJL) is a new high count. Single juveniles also at LMC and San Tin with two at LMC on 3 November.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Pied Harrier up to the end of 2011 is given as Figure 1.

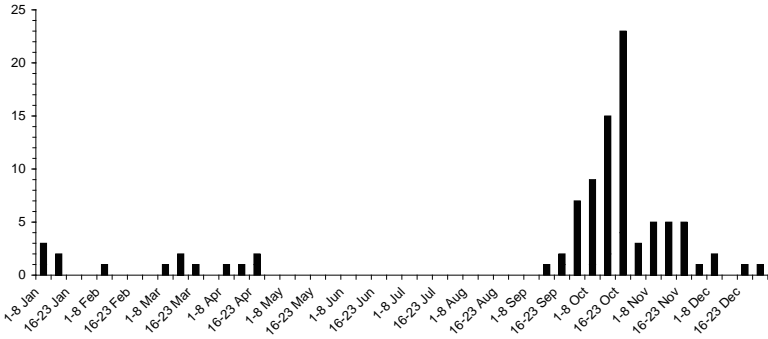


Figure 1. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucos* 鵞鵝

Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus* 鳳頭鷹 I

Resident in woodland throughout HK; peak count five on 4 February 1989.

Recorded in all months and from widespread locations including one with prey flying along Queens Road East, Wanchai on 14 April. Peak count three at Ling Kok Shan, Lamma on 14 April. Locations for KFBG rescues included Ruttonjee Hospital.

Chinese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter soloensis* 赤腹鷹 I

Spring migrant, sometimes in large flocks, scarce in autumn; extreme dates 3 April to 6 June and 8 September to 12 November, highest count 1,440 on 15 April 2010.

A poor year following the record year in 2010, relatively few records and a peak count of only four.

Spring: recorded from 14 April to 25 May on Po Toi and at Lower Shing Mun Reservoir, Long Valley, Tai Tam CP and on the Soko Islands, peak count four on Po Toi on 30 April.

Autumn: recorded from 10 September to 24 October on Po Toi and at Tai Po Kau, south Lamma and MPNR. One on Po Toi on 19 November (P&MW) is a new latest autumn record.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
5	5	0	665	34	3	780	126	9	53	1440	4

Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis* 日本松雀鷹 I

Passage migrant, mainly autumn, and scarce winter visitor to open country; extreme dates of 16 September to 5 May, highest count five on 27 October 2006.

First winter period: singles at Ngong Ping on 15 January and MPNR on 23 January were unusual winter records. On spring migration, singles on Po Toi and at Long Valley on 12 April with one taken into care at KFBG from Sheung Wan on 26 April.

Second winter period: recorded between 1 October and 22 November, all singles at Tai Po Kau, Ping Long, MPNR, Long Valley, Tai Lam CP, Sham Chung, Tsim Bei Tsui, Po Toi and LMC. One at San Tin on 28 December.



Plate 9 Besra *Accipiter virgatus* 松雀鷹
Long Valley, 31st December 2011 壟原 2011年12月31日
Peter and Michelle Wong 黃理沛 江敏兒

Besra *Accipiter virgatus* 松雀鷹 I

Resident and autumn migrant in shrubland areas (probably also breeds in mangroves); highest count four on 5 January 2003.

Recorded in every month except December and from widespread locations in the north and central NT and islands, including HK Island. The peak count was three at Sai Sha on 19 January and MPNR on 26 August.



Plate 10 Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* 雀鷹
Long Valley, 27th December 2011 塱原 2011年12月27日
Kennix Lam 林家興

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* 雀鷹 I

Scarce winter visitor to lowland areas of NT, mainly Deep Bay; extreme dates 9 October to 22 April.

One at MPNR on 25 April (BK) is a new latest spring date. In an exceptional second half year, regular records of up to three in the MPNR area from 27 September (PJL),

a new earliest date, to 24 December, and one at Long Valley between 7 October and 7 November. Three at MPNR on 18 October (PJL, GJC) with possibly the same three at Nam Sang Wai on 20 October (PJL) is a new highest count. One at Lai Chi Kok on 12 November.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Eurasian Sparrowhawk up to the end of 2011 is given as Figure 2.

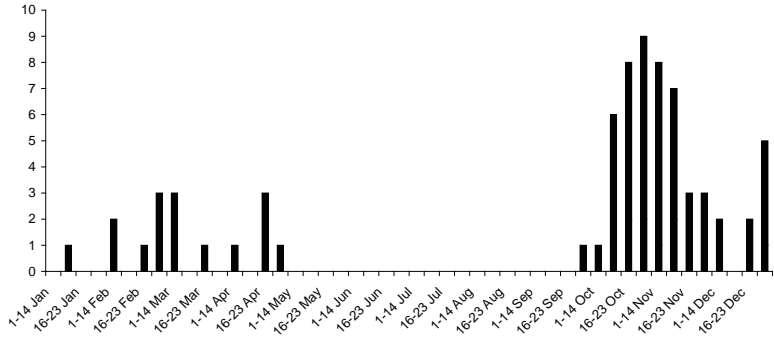


Figure 2. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* 雀鷹

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* 蒼鷹 I

No records.

One at MPNR on 11 December (PC *et al.*). This is the first record for Hong Kong.

Grey-faced Buzzard *Butastur indicus* 灰臉鵟鷹 I

Migrant, mainly in spring; extreme dates of 13 March to 1 May and 29 September to 10 November, highest count 147 on 22 March 1993.

A poor year for numbers with no autumn records.

Spring: Recorded from 3 to 22 April with two the maximum except for ten at Tai Po Kau on 10 April. One on the Soko Islands on 5 May (YYT) is a new latest spring date.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
1	100	0	2	31	30	1	28	98	16	34	10

Eastern Buzzard *Buteo japonicus* 普通鵟 I

Common winter visitor to open country and lightly wooded areas, extreme dates 4 October to 10 May; highest count 16 on 11 November 2007.

Widespread records from all parts of mainland Hong Kong plus islands including HK Island.

First winter period: recorded up to 22 April when two were on Po Toi; peak count nine in the January and February WC.

Second winter period: recorded from 13 October; high count seven in the December WC.

Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga* 烏鵟 I VU

Scarce winter visitor largely confined to Deep Bay area; extreme dates of 9 October to 13 April, highest count six on 14 November 1990.

All records from the Deep Bay area.

First winter period: recorded up to 6 April; high count three on 23 January, 13 and 16 February. At least four birds involved.

Second winter period: recorded from 19 October; peak count five on 24 December. At least six birds involved.

Eastern Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca* 白肩鵟 I VU

Winter visitor, mainly November to March, and largely confined to Deep Bay area; extreme dates of 18 September to 17 April, highest count 21 on 27 February 1993.

All records except one from Mai Po and LMC.

First winter period: recorded up to 28 March; peak count four at MPNR on 21 January and the March WC. An adult at Ping Che on 12 February is a rare record away from Deep Bay.

Second winter period: recorded from 3 November; high count three in the Deep Bay December WC and at MPNR on 24 December.



Plate 11 Eastern Imperial and Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila heliaca*/*Aquila clanga* 白肩鵟/烏鵟
Mai Po NR, 25th November 2011 米埔 2011年11月25日
Ho Ka Wai 何家偉

Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciatus* 白腹隼鷂 I

Resident in open country and upland areas of NT; highest count three on 9 November 2004.

Sightings of one or two in most months at widespread locations in the north and east NT and on Lantau Island.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* 紅隼 I

Autumn migrant and winter visitor to open country, mainly mid-September to mid-April; extreme dates 5 September to 22 May with one summer record, highest count ten on 6 November 1968.

Recorded from widespread areas, mainly in the peak migration period of late September to mid-November, but in low numbers.

First winter period: singles recorded up to 16 April.

Second winter period: recorded from 24 September, peak count only two.

Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis* 阿穆爾隼 I

Scarce autumn migrant with one spring record, extreme dates 19 to 20 May and 3 October to 7 November; highest count 11 on 22 October 2007.

A very good year. First recorded at Kau Lung Hang on 9 October. Thereafter most records at MPNR from 22 October to 15 November (DJS), a new latest date, high count five on 28 October, at Long Valley from 27 October to 14 November, high count two on 29 October, and at Tsim Bei Tsui from 24 to 30 October, high count three on the first date. Singles also from south Lamma, Po Toi, Kai Kung Leng with seven at Wo Hop Shek on 27 October being the peak count for the year.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Amur Falcon up to the end of 2011 is given as Figure 3.

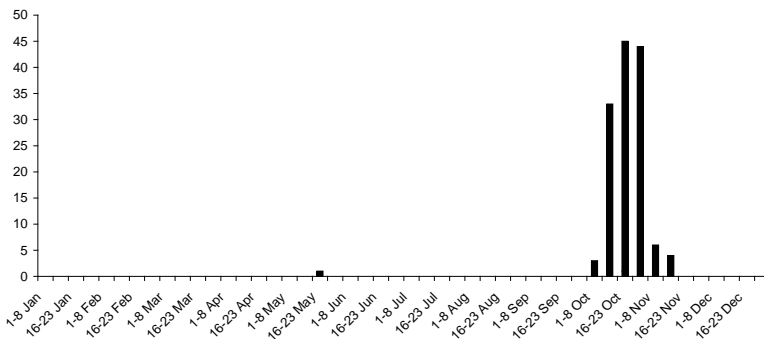


Figure 3. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis* 亞穆爾隼

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo* 燕隼 I

Passage migrant, mainly in autumn, and summer visitor to open country areas; extreme dates 23 March to 5 November; highest count six on 26 April 1980.

A very good year. All spring and summer records were from Deep Bay and the Long Valley area; in autumn, also recorded over southern waters, on Po Toi and Lantau and at Po Shan Road, Lam Tsuen and Tai Lam Chung.

Spring and Summer: singles recorded from 3 May to 20 June at MPNR, Long Valley, Nim Wan, San Tin and Sheung Shui.

Autumn: first recorded over southern waters on 19 September. Then regular records until 3 November totalling at least 21 individuals, mostly from Deep Bay and Long Valley but also Kei Ling Ha, Lam Tsuen, Po Shan Road, Tai Lam and Lantau Island, singles with two at Nim Wan, Long Valley and MPNR.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Eurasian Hobby up to the end of 2011 is given as Figure 4.

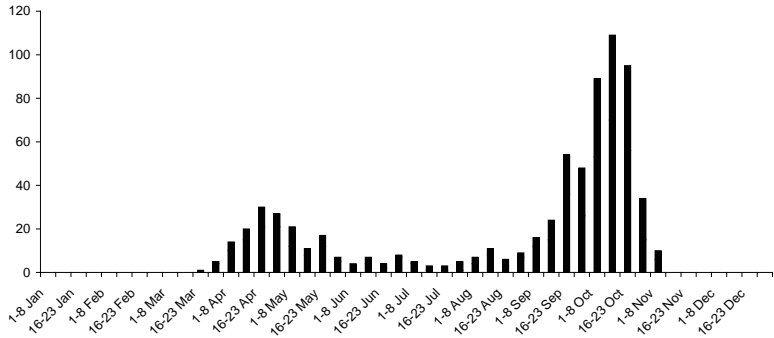


Figure 4. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo* 燕隼

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* 遊隼 I

Resident subspecies peregrinator often in coastal areas, and migrant northerly taxa in open country areas in winter; highest count three.

Recorded in all months except June. Most records from MPNR – observers are encouraged to send in records from other locations.

In addition to MPNR where up to two were recorded in all months except May to July, records came from Aberdeen, Chung Pui, Lamma, Lower Shing Mun Reservoir, Pak Nai, Ping Yeung, Po Toi, San Tin, Siu Lam, Tai Lam Chung and Wong Chuk Hang. Most were singles with a peak count of three including one of a northern taxon on Po Toi on 3 November. Northern taxa were also recorded on three occasions in November at MPNR. One at San Tin on 22 July was the only summer record away from MPNR.

Slaty-legged Crake *Rallina eurizonoides* 灰腳秧雞 I

Breeding season visitor, migrant and scarce winter visitor; mostly heard calling; extreme dates for calling birds 20 March to 14 July, highest count 17 calling at Brides Pool Road on 17 April 2001.

Most records were of birds calling at Tai Po Kau between 25 April and 20 June, peak count three on 4 June. Also one heard calling at Tai Mo Shan on 21 May and one taken into care at KFBG from Mongkok on 3 October.

Slaty-breasted Rail *Gallirallus striatus* 灰胸秧雞 I

Resident in mangrove areas and passage migrant; highest count 15 on 1 June 1969.

A poor year for records with only two, a juvenile in the Long Valley area between 7 and 18 October and one at Long Valley on 19 December.

Eastern Water Rail *Rallus indicus* 普通秧雞 I

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant; extreme dates 13 October to 4 May.

A good year. Up to two regularly recorded at Long Valley between 3 January and 19 April. Singles at Wo Shang Wai on 10 January and at MPNR on 1 April. In the second winter period, one at MPNR on 3 October (DAD) is a new early date. Then singles at MPNR from 26 November to 13 December.

Brown Crake *Amauornis akool* 紅腳苦惡鳥 I

Irregularly recorded, mostly in spring and summer from lowland areas of stream and shrub in northeast NT. Has bred.

One at Mong Tseng Tsuen on 30 October.

White-breasted Waterhen *Amauornis phoenicurus* 白胸苦惡鳥 I

Common resident in low-lying, damp areas; highest count 75 on 12 January 1985.

Recorded in all months, mostly from MPNR and Long Valley, peak count 62 in the October WC. Also reported from the Ham Tin River, Lantau, Lam Tsuen, Nam Sang Wai, Nim Wan, San Tin, Shek Kong, Siu Lam, Starling Inlet, Tai O and Tung Ping Chau. Migrants recorded on Po Toi from 19 to 27 April and on 23 November.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
63	41	36	49	48	54	45	54	64	47	55	62

Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla* 小田雞 I

Scarce migrant, mainly in spring, in marsh or wet agricultural areas; extreme dates 15 April to 3 June and 20 September to 7 November.

An adult at Long Valley on 15 September (BK) is a new earliest date in autumn, with a juvenile there on 25 September. An adult on Po Toi on 21 September.

Ruddy-breasted Crake *Porzana fusca* 紅胸田雞 I

Scarce migrant and winter visitor to freshwater wetlands; extreme dates 9 August to 5 May, highest count three on 16 December 2003.

Regular records in both winter periods from MPNR and Long Valley. In the first winter period, up to two at Long Valley from 5 January to 11 April with one at MPNR on 24 January and a dead bird at Quarry Bay on 28 April. In the second winter period, at Long Valley from 25 September and MPNR from 27 September, in both locations through to December, peak count three at MPNR on 13 December.

Watercock *Gallicrex cinerea* 董雞 I

Scarce migrant; extreme dates 31 March to 18 June and 20 July to 18 November.

No spring records. A male at Nim Wan on 22 and 23 June. In autumn, all records between 24 and 26 September with singles at She Shan, MPNR, Long Valley and Wo Shang Wai.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* 黑水雞 I

Winter visitor, breeding species and migrant in lowland freshwater pools and lakes; highest count 265 on 18 December 2005.

Recorded in all months except June, with most records from MPNR, Long Valley, Nim Wan and Starling Inlet. Peak count 166 in the January WC with 17 at Starling Inlet in the February WC and nine at Nam Chung on 4 February. Elsewhere, singles at Pak Nai on 1 May and Pak Tin Kong on 29 October.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
93	97	156	149	137	265	235	219	188	142	154	166

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra* 骨頂雞 I

Winter visitor to Deep Bay area but much declined, with occasional summer records and has bred; highest count 3,245 on 12 January 1992.

Recorded up to 4 April and from 24 October, peak count 125 in the January WC, the lowest since 2003. All records from MPNR and Deep Bay WC except for singles at Lok Ma Chau on 3 November, Long Valley on 11 November and Hoo Hok Wai on 18 December.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
654	534	179	42	260	317	378	620	728	325	354	125

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

Scarce autumn migrant and rare winter visitor to open country areas; extreme dates 20 September to 10 April.

Singles at LMC on 19 October (PJJ), Shing Mun on 20 October (Website photograph), Mai Po Access Road on 28 October (DAD) and Fanling on 27 December (Website photograph). Two birds were taken into care at KFBG, one from Kennedy Town on 21 October and one from Causeway Bay on 27 October.

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* 蠣鶉 I

Three records, extreme date 9 December to 9 April.

An immature *osculans* from the Mai Po boardwalk on 6 December (RWL). This is the fourth Hong Kong record and the earliest.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* 黑翅長腳鶉 I

Migrant and winter visitor to freshwater marsh and agricultural areas, with breeding records in recent years; highest count 870 on 7 March 2010.

Recorded in all months with most records from MPNR, the Long Valley area and Kam Tin.

First winter period: peak count 701 in the March WC. Elsewhere, high counts of 81 at Kam Tin on 13 and 23 January and 40 at Long Valley on 3 January. One past Po Toi on 5 May and 12 at Nim Wan on 18 May were probable migrants.

Breeding season: several pairs bred at MPNR; highest count at this time 118 on 14 June.

Second winter period: high counts 202 at MPNR on 7 October, 58 at Long Valley on 24 October and 82 at Kam Tin on 19 December. Elsewhere, one at Pui O on 1 September, six at Nim Wan on 21 September and four on the Ham Tin River, Lantau on 12 November .

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
560	240	273	250	350	381	668	792	820	736	870	701

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* 反嘴鶉 I

Abundant winter visitor to Deep Bay, primarily intertidal areas, typically present October to April; has attempted to breed in recent years; highest count 16,123 on 13 January 2008.

All records from the Deep Bay and Starling Inlet WC, Kam Tin, Long Valley, MPNR and Nam Sang Wai.

First winter period: high count 10,944 in the February WC, last record of four on 13 June. Ten at Long Valley on 3 January and 26 at Kam Tin on 13 January.

Second winter period: first record four on 30 September, peak count 11,695 in the December WC. 20 at Starling Inlet on 13 November and at Nam Sang Wai on 3 December and 173 at Kam Tin on 19 December.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
1,758	1,926	2,500	5,864	2,744	4,490	5,813	11,957	16,123	13,061	13,883	11,693



Plate 12 Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* 鳳頭麥雞
 Mai Po NR, 11th December 2011 米埔 2011年12月11日
 Kinni Ho 何建業

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* 鳳頭麥雞 I

Scarce winter visitor to grassland and agricultural areas; extreme dates 6 September to 13 May, highest count 126 on 21 November 1992.

No records in the first winter period. In a good second winter period, one at MPNR on 4 November with a flock of 18 there on 12 November and 12 December, the highest peak count since 2005. Singles at Kam Tin on 27 November and Long Valley on 12 December.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
2	1	1	3	5	24	4	6	1	12	2	18

Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus* 灰頭麥雞 I

Winter visitor and migrant to grassy or marshy areas, particularly at Kam Tin; extreme dates 11 July to 24 May, highest count 80 on 5 October 1960.

A good year for this species which appears to be slowly increasing in numbers, rather surprising considering the degradation at its stronghold of Kam Tin.

First winter period: high count 17 at Kam Tin on 27 January with a last record there on 6 April. Singles at Tai Sang Wai on 15 February, at Nam Sang Wai on 19 February and at MPNR from 16 February to 11 May.

Second winter period: one at MPNR on 31 August was the first record. Then regular records from 22 September to year end, mostly at Kam Tin, with the peak count 31 there on 12 November, the highest since *The Avifauna*. Other records, mostly singles, at Shek Wu Tong, LMC, Long Valley, MPNR, Nam Sang Wai and San Tin.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
15	10	9	14	19	22	23	23	26	24	28	31

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* 太平洋金斑鴉 I

Passage migrant, mainly spring, and winter visitor with some summer records, mainly to Deep Bay; extreme dates 2 August and 20 June, highest count 900 on 13 April 1992.

First winter period: winter counts were higher than spring again this year, as in 2008 and 2009, with a year peak of 853 from the Mai Po boardwalk on 24 January. Numbers fell in March and the spring high count was 178 at San Tin on 20 April. The last double-digit count was on 30 April; after this, three were at Chek Lap Kok on 11 May and two from the Mai Po boardwalk on 11 June.

Second winter period: recorded from 25 August, high count 410 in the October WC. One at Long Valley from 4 to 28 October.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
193	491	230	317	221	57	219	46	533	860	575	853

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* 灰斑鵞 I

Common winter visitor, scarce passage migrant with some summer records; highest count 751 on 28 January 1994.

All records from the Deep Bay area.

First winter period: peak count 479 in the March WC. At least four over-summered.

Second winter period: high count 322 from the Mai Po boardwalk on 26 November.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
309	366	394	297	454	565	583	390	634	705	637	479

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* 劍鵞 I

Rare winter visitor; extreme dates 21 October to 14 April.

An adult in worn breeding plumage from the Mai Po boardwalk on 24 September (JAK), an earliest record, with possibly the same bird at the boardwalk on 15 October (JAA).

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* 金眶鵞 I

Present all year in lowland areas near water, with breeding and wintering populations; highest count 356 on 13 January 1985.

The lowest peak count since 2001. Recorded in all months with most records from the Deep Bay, Kam Tin and Long Valley areas.

First winter period: peak count 114 in the February WC with 30 in the Long Valley area on 18 January and 44 at Kam Tin on 23 January.

Breeding season: present at Kam Tin, Long Valley, MPNR and Nim Wan.

Second winter period: high count 98 in the September WC with 37 at Pak Nai on 23 October, 75 at Kam Tin on 12 November and 38 in the Long Valley area on 19 December.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
247	104	243	191	162	217	221	230	203	315	200	114

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* 環頸鷸 I

Winter visitor and scarce passage migrant to intertidal areas, some summer records; highest count 4,303 on 24 January 2010.

All records from the Deep Bay area unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: peak count 2,877 from the Mai Po boardwalk on 24 January. Last record on 24 May. One past Po Toi on 13 April.

Second winter period: first recorded on 11 September, high count 2,000 from the Mai Po boardwalk on 8 November. One at Pui O on 27 November and 11 December.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
3,000	960	378	530	2,210	400	827	610	2,094	1,766	4,303	2,877

Sightings from Guangdong beaches have highlighted the possibility that ‘Swinhoe’s Plover’ *Charadrius (alexandrinus) dealbatus* occurs in Hong Kong. Observers should pay particular attention to Kentish Plovers away from Inner Deep Bay, especially on sandy shores.

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus* 蒙古沙鷸 I

Passage migrant, mainly in spring, and scarce winter visitor to intertidal areas; highest count 500 on 14 April 1991.

All records from Mai Po unless otherwise stated, with records of both *atrifrons* and *mongolus*-type in both seasons.

First winter period: winter records from 16 January with a high count of eight on 8 February. Spring peak count 79 on 15 April with 69 on 16 May and the last record on 2 June.

Second winter period: recorded from 16 July, high count only nine on 8 November. Away from Deep Bay, two at Shui Hau, Lantau on 2 September.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
74	41	103	200	59	30	35	179	78	85	87	79

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* 鐵嘴沙鴉 I

Passage migrant, mainly in spring, to intertidal areas, rare in winter and some summer records; highest count 2,700 on 9 April 1989.

First winter period: two from Mai Po boardwalk on 24 January and one at Chek Lap Kok on 25 January. Then from 22 March to 1 June, peak count 590 on 15 April. Away from Deep Bay, one off Po Toi on 27 April and three over southern waters on 8 May. Three at MPNR on 29 June were either over-summering or early returning birds.

Second winter period: recorded from 17 July, high count 115 on 16 September. Away from Deep Bay, two at Shui Hau, Lantau on 2 September with two Lesser Sand Plovers.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
200	410	600	243	241	306	232	147	500	305	773	590

Oriental Plover *Charadrius veredus* 東方鴉 I

Scarce passage migrant to grassland and wetland areas; extreme dates 5 March to 2 June and 1 September to 27 October, highest count 28 on 24 September 1979.

Singles at Chek Lap Kok on 30 March and at MPNR on 22 September.

Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* 彩鴉 I

Scarce resident breeding species, possibly with some migrants and winter visitors, in freshwater marsh and wet agricultural areas; highest count 40 on 14 October 1996.

Recorded throughout the year from Long Valley with a peak count of 22 on 28 October. Also at MPNR, mostly in the summer with a high count of seven on 25 July and at LMC, high count 12 on 11 October. Other records of up to two from the Kam Tin area, San Tin and Shek Kong Airfield Road.

Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus* 水雉 I

Migrant to freshwater marsh areas, has increased in recent years due to habitat management at MPNR and LMC; bred until late 1970s; recent highest count nine on 18 October 2003.

First winter period: one over-wintered at LMC. Spring migration from 18 to 30 May with all records from MPNR, high count three on 28 May. No summer records.

Second winter period: recorded from 15 September to 15 November at Long Valley, MPNR, LMC and San Tin, peak count six at MPNR on 28 October. Elsewhere one at Kam Tin on 12 November, two at Wetland Park on 20 November and one at Tsim Bei Tsui on 5 December. One at MPNR from 6 to 19 December.

Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* 丘鶉 I

Winter visitor and passage migrant to wooded areas; extreme dates 28 September and 19 April, highest count seven on 17 December 1999.

First winter period: recorded to 5 March at Wonderland Villas, Pak Sha O, Siu Lam, Lung Fu Shan, Shek Kong Airfield Road, Sha Lo Tung and Lam Tsuen, with a high count of three at Lam Tsuen on 12 February.

Second winter period: recorded from 19 October to 5 December from Robin's Nest, Pak Tam Au, Po Toi, Tai Po Kau, Mei Foo and Sai Kung, with a peak count of four on Po Toi on 2 November.

Pintail Snipe *Gallinago stenura* 針尾沙錐 I or Swinhoe's Snipe *Gallinago megala* 大沙錐 I

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 for separation. Further work on vocalisations is required before apparent differences in call can be confirmed.

Primarily passage migrants to freshwater marsh, wet agricultural areas and fish ponds, with highest numbers in autumn, scarce in winter; highest count 100 on 21 September 1996, extreme dates 7 August to 27 May. Pintail Snipe is believed to be more common than Swinhoe's Snipe, in a ratio of approximately 4:1.

First winter period: recorded at Long Valley from 31 January to 26 April, high count seven on 18 April, and at MPNR from 7 to 29 April, peak count 13 on last date. Also two at Tai Kong Po on 20 March and singles on Po Toi on 30 March and 5 April.

Second winter period: two at Wing Kei Tsuen on 26 July (GJC) is an earliest record for either species. Thereafter, recorded from 22 August to 26 December, high count 12 at San Tin on 14 October. Most records from Long Valley, high count ten on 19 September, also at Kam Tin, MPNR, Lam Tsuen, Shek Kong Airfield Road and Tai Tam.

Single Pintail Snipes were trapped at MPNR on 8 and 22 September.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* 扇尾沙錐 I

Passage migrant and winter visitor to freshwater marsh, wet agricultural areas and fish ponds, with extreme dates 19 August to 28 May; highest count 212 on 14 January 1990.

All records from the Long Valley area, Kam Tin, MPNR and San Tin.

First winter period: peak count 59 at Long Valley on 24 January, last record on 9 May. 12 at Kam Tin on 23 January.

Second winter period: earliest record on 22 August, high count 48 at Long Valley on 24 October with 47 there on 12 December. 25 at San Tin on 21 November.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
17	40	80	65	60	38	58	66	47	40	52	59

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* 長嘴鷸 I

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor to Deep Bay intertidal areas; extreme dates 4 October to 12 May, highest count five on 15 February 2009.

In a good year for this species, regularly recorded at MPNR from 24 January to 22 April, peak count four on 6 and 7 April. Singles at MPNR from 28 October to 10 November and on 30 December.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Long-billed Dowitcher up to the end of 2011 is given as Figure 5.

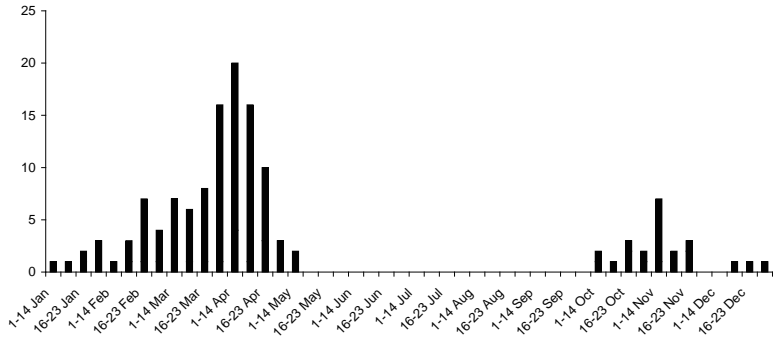


Figure 5. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* 長嘴半蹼鷸

Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus* 半蹼鷸 I NT

Passage migrant, mainly in spring, with one summer record; extreme dates 22 March to 8 June and 23 July to 13 November, highest count 540 on 2 May 2003.

A poor year after four good years. All records from Mai Po boardwalk and NR.

Spring: recorded from 11 April to 16 May, peak count 68 on 2 May. One on 30 June (BS) is the second summer record.

Autumn: recorded from 12 August to 13 October, high count five on 14 August.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
57	49	36	540	33	44	25	132	428	173	189	68

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* 黑尾膝鶉 I NT

Common passage migrant, mainly spring, and winter visitor to intertidal areas; highest count 2,190 on 8 April 1996.

Another good year with a high peak count, although unusually the peak occurred in February rather than April. All records at MPNR.

First winter period: peak winter count 1,900 in the February WC; high spring count 1,562 in the April WC. Eleven birds probably over-summered.

Second winter period: high count 472 on 4 October.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
454	1,003	440	571	977	532	950	1,662	790	1,900	1,697	1,900

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* 斑尾膝鶉 I

Passage migrant, mainly in spring, to intertidal areas with occasional winter and summer records; highest count 400 on 14 September 1981.

A poor year with the lowest peak count since 1999. All records from Deep Bay unless otherwise stated.

Spring: one on 24 January was an unusual winter record. Main passage from 8 March to 6 May, high count nine on 10 April. One off Po Toi on 7 April. Three in late May and one throughout June were unusual summer records.

Autumn: recorded from 25 August to 19 November, peak count 14 on 16 September.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
17	30	85	29	28	45	23	114	25	105	26	14

Little Curlew *Numenius minutus* 小杓鹬 I

Rare spring and autumn passage migrant with many early records from Kai Tak Airport; extreme dates 7 April to 2 June and 29 September to 29 October, highest count 50 on 28 April 1985.

One at Discovery Bay on 26 April. One at MPNR on 28 September (Website photograph) is an earliest autumn record.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* 中杓鹬 I

Passage migrant, mainly in autumn, and scarce winter visitor to intertidal areas, with some summer records; highest count 300 on 24 August 1991.

A rather low peak count compared to recent years.

First winter period: 18 in the January WC with one remaining into March. Spring migration from 21 April, high count 49 on 30 April. At least 23 over-summered, an unusually high number.

Second winter period: autumn migration from 10 August, peak count 109 on 25 August, the lowest since 2004. Last record on 22 November.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
95	81	33	27	35	175	134	157	217	131	237	109

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* 白腰杓鹬 I NT

Common winter visitor to intertidal areas, small numbers remain during summer; highest count 1,292 on 13 February 2005.

First winter period: peak count 1,602 in the January WC is a new highest count. This fell to 1,018 on 10 March and 36 on 8 May. A total of 49 observed migrating northeast past Po Toi between 30 March and 30 April. At least 26 over-summered in Deep Bay.

Second winter period: numbers building again from mid-July with a rapid increase in December to a high count of 1,128 in the December WC.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
755	810	558	1,014	739	1,292	1,087	1,049	1,116	1,065	1,075	1,602

Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis* 紅腰杓鷗 I VU

Passage migrant, mainly in spring, and scarce winter visitor to intertidal areas; highest count 44 on 19 April 1988.

All records from MPNR in a poor year following three good years.

First winter period: first record on 12 March, peak count five on 30 April, last record on 30 May.

Second winter period: first record on 11 September, high count only two, last record on 21 November.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
5	14	3	9	4	6	2	6	15	17	19	5



Plate 13 Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* 鶴鷗
Mai Po NR, 3rd December 2011 米埔 2011年12月3日
Wing Ho 何錦榮

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* 鶴鷗 I

Common winter visitor and passage migrant, mainly in spring, to Deep Bay area; highest count 2,500 on 17 April 1987.

A very poor year with the lowest peak count since *The Avifauna* following a similar result in 2010. All records from the Deep Bay area and Long Valley.

First winter period: high count in winter 160 in the February WC. Peak spring count 463 on 4 May. Last record on 18 May.

Second winter period: first record on 16 July, high count 30 on 18 December. Regularly recorded at Long Valley from 26 September, with ten there on 3 December.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
970	1,050	1,108	1,288	884	1,443	1,687	1,239	1,373	903	711	463

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* 紅腳鷸 I

Common winter visitor and passage migrant, mainly in spring, to intertidal areas; highest count 3,539 on 19 April 2008.

Numbers were lower again this year. All records from the Deep Bay area unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: high count of 953 in the April WC. One on Po Toi on 26 April. At least ten birds over-summered.

Second winter period: numbers increased from 16 July with a peak count of 1,002 on 10 August and 213 in the December WC.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
1,497	1,795	1,661	1,672	1,133	992	1,544	1,139	3,539	911	1,446	1,002

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* 澤鷸 I

Winter visitor and passage migrant, mainly in spring, to intertidal areas; highest count 3,381 on 22 March 2010.

Another good year with a new highest count for the third successive year. The numbers of this species appear to be increasing. All records from the Deep Bay area unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: peak count 3,705 in the March WC is a new highest count. Last record on 1 June.

Second winter period: earliest record on 16 July, high count 1,349 on 24 October. Up to two at Long Valley from 19 September.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
1,165	1,171	1,495	2,249	1,896	2,378	2,344	2,049	2,521	3,192	3,381	3,705

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* 青腳鵞 I

Winter visitor and passage migrant, mainly in spring, to intertidal areas; highest count 2,516 on 19 April 2008.

A typical year since 2004 when peak numbers started to exceed 1,000. All records from the Deep Bay area unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: peak count 1,710 in the April WC. 13 at Starling Inlet on 13 February with singles at Long Valley up to 28 March and at Nam Chung on 16 April. At least three over-summered.

Second winter period: high count 1,173 on 15 August, with 944 in the December WC. Records away from Deep Bay at Hang Tau, Kam Tin, Kuk Po and Long Valley with six at Kam Tin on 12 November.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
796	737	822	883	1,128	1,307	1,816	1,522	2,516	1,337	1,976	1,710

Nordmann's Greenshank *Tringa guttifer* 小青腳鵞 I EN

Passage migrant, mainly in spring, and scarce winter visitor to intertidal areas; highest count 58 on 13 April 1993.

A good year with high numbers present in the spring. All records from MPNR and the boardwalk.

First winter period: up to three seen regularly from 11 February to 31 March. Numbers then increased with counts of 35 on 6 April and the peak of 38 on 12 April, then fell equally rapidly. Last record on 1 June. A minimum of 46 individuals were believed to be involved.

Second winter period: one from 28 October to 11 November.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
26	17	11	10	18	8	9	46	8	30	8	38

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* 白腰草鶩 I

Passage migrant and winter visitor to freshwater wetland areas; extreme dates 6 July to 9 May, highest count 76 on 12 January 1992.

Recorded in all months except June although WC counts were relatively low and the peak count was the lowest since *The Avifauna*. Widespread in lowlands of central and northern NT, mainly in Deep Bay and at Kam Tin, the Lam Tsuen valley, Long Valley and Shek Kong areas.

First winter period: high counts of 24 in Deep Bay in the February WC, 16 at Kam Tin on 23 January, 11 at Long Valley on 26 March and two at Shek Kong on 25 January. Last record on 8 May.

Second winter period: earliest record on 17 July, peak count 31 in Deep Bay in the December WC with 11 at Nim Wan on 16 September, 11 at Kam Tin on 12 November, 16 in the Long Valley area on 24 October and three at Shek Kong on 2 December.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
65	53	44	44	57	49	57	55	34	42	42	31

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* 林鶩 I

Common passage migrant and winter visitor to freshwater marshy areas; highest count 1,221 on 10 September 1998.

Recorded in all months with most records from the Deep Bay, Kam Tin and Long Valley areas. Relatively low numbers in Deep Bay but good counts elsewhere.

First winter period: high count 201 in Deep Bay in the January WC with 198 there on 12 April and 58 at MPNR on 3 May, 22 at Kam Tin on 23 January and 170 in the Long Valley area on 5 April. Singles were at Chek Lap Kok on 11 March and 29 April, Pui O on 6 May and Po Toi on 11 May. Last record on 30 May.

Second winter period: earliest record on 30 June, peak count 386 in Deep Bay in the October WC with 64 at MPNR on 7 October, 141 in the Long Valley area on 17 October, 29 at San Tin on 25 October and 75 at Kam Tin on 19 December.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
283	406	762	227	327	474	597	699	512	433	382	386

Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes* 灰尾漂鷗 I

Passage migrant to rocky coastal and intertidal areas with occasional summer records; extreme dates 20 March to 26 November, highest count 554 on 16 May 1987.

All records from MPNR unless otherwise stated.

Spring: recorded from 2 April to 19 June, peak count 30 on 30 April. Singles on Po Toi on 13 April and at Pak Nai on 1 May with eight at Nai Chung on 11 May.

Autumn: recorded from 18 July to 30 September, high count ten on 1 September. One on Waglan Island on 24 July, two on Tung Ping Chau on 4 September and one at Tung Chung on 10 September.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
37	62	64	58	52	78	15	27	40	160	9	30

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* 翹嘴鷗 I

Passage migrant, mainly in spring, to intertidal areas with occasional summer records and very rare winter records; extreme dates 17 March to 26 November; highest count 590 on 24 April 2007.

All records from the Deep Bay area unless otherwise stated.

Spring: nine from the Mai Po boardwalk on 8 March (GJC) is a new earliest spring record. Thereafter from 28 March with the peak count 402 on 29 April. At least one over-summered.

Autumn: recorded to 22 November, high count 106 on 25 August. One at Shui Hau, Lantau on 2 September was the only record away from Mai Po.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
400	45	215	425	327	262	372	590	531	502	376	402

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* 磯鶉 I

Present all year, though few in summer; highest count 154 on 14 April 2002.

Recorded in all months, although with few records in June, from widespread sites in north and central NT and from islands.

First winter period: peak count 125 in the Deep Bay April WC, also 13 at Kam Tin on 23 January, nine at Nim Wan on 14 April, 25 at MPNR on 30 April and 28 at Pui O on 6 May.

Second winter period: high count 110 in the Deep Bay December WC, also 20 at Pak Nai on 23 October and 14 at Kam Tin on 27 November.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
127	92	154	90	85	76	100	95	86	92	116	125

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* 翻石鶉 I

Passage migrant, regular in spring, scarce in autumn and rare in winter, to intertidal areas; highest count 268 on 20 April 1994.

Numbers appear to be stabilizing at lower levels than those recorded from 1991 to 2004. All records from MPNR unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: one at the Mai Po boardwalk on 24 January and 6 February is a rare winter record. In spring, recorded from 27 March to 22 May, peak count 34 on 29 April. One on Po Toi on 20 April and 3 May.

Second winter period: singles on 14 August and 16 September. One at Shui Hau, Lantau on 2 September.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
64	102	76	86	80	39	34	100	46	40	30	34

Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* 大濱鶺 I VU

Passage migrant, mainly in spring, and scarce winter visitor to intertidal areas; highest count 560 on 8 April 2001.

All records from Deep Bay unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: three from the Mai Po boardwalk on 8 February. Then from 13 March, with the peak count 157 on 28 March. 49 migrating past Po Toi on 27 April. Last record on 13 June.

Second winter period: recorded from 31 July to 6 December, high count 51 on 8 November.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
250	560	91	161	201	231	41	340	127	372	301	157



Plate 14 Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* 大濱鶺
Mai Po NR, 18th April 2011 米埔 2011年4月18日
Peter and Michelle Wong 黃理沛 江敏兒

Red Knot *Calidris canutus* 紅腹濱鶺 I

Migrant, mainly in spring, scarce in winter, to intertidal areas of Deep Bay; highest count 200 on 6 May 1990.

All records from Deep Bay unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: one from the Mai Po boardwalk on 24 January. Then from 8 March, peak count 25 on 2 May. 20 past Po Toi on 14 April. Last record on 1 June. One over-summered.

Second winter period: recorded from 11 September to 6 December, high count nine on 11 September.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
138	31	94	65	120	16	16	144	52	19	26	25

Sanderling *Calidris alba* 三趾濱鷸 I

Scarce passage migrant, mainly in spring, to intertidal areas; extreme dates 19 March to 8 June and 3 August to 22 November, highest count 67 on 4 May 1993.

All records from Deep Bay unless otherwise stated.

Spring: recorded from 31 March to 31 May, peak count ten on 30 April. One past Po Toi on 6 April.

Autumn: one at Shui Hau, Lantau on 2 September was the only record.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
4	6	9	4	16	11	23	10	15	12	4	10

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis* 紅頸濱鷸 I

Common passage migrant to intertidal areas, mainly in spring; highest count 3,756 on 11 April 2010.

A poor year following two record years. All records from the Deep Bay area unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: winter high count ten on 24 January. Spring peak count 956 on 6 May. One off Po Toi on 11 May. Last record on 2 June.

Second winter period: recorded from 28 July, high count 32 in the November WC with one remaining until 24 December.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
1,100	540	2,575	2,302	2,239	1,909	1,478	2,239	741	2,700	3,756	956

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* 小濱鶉 I

Scarce spring passage migrant with two autumn and one winter record; extreme spring dates 24 March to 8 June, highest count six on 25 April 2004.

Singles recorded regularly at MPNR from 20 March to 6 May with two on 5 April.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* 青腳濱鶉 I

Winter visitor and passage migrant; extreme dates 27 August to 27 May, highest count 152 on 18 October 1997.

All records from the Deep Bay area unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: high count 31 in the January WC. Away from MPNR, recorded at Nim Wan, Kam Tin and San Tin. Last record on 17 April, an early date.

Second winter period: earliest record one at Kam Tin on 23 September, 19 at San Tin on 10 November and the peak count 41 in the December WC.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
48	24	35	36	15	16	43	37	16	30	58	41

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta* 長趾濱鶉 I

Passage migrant and winter visitor; extreme dates 28 July to 27 May, highest count 175 on 13 April 1993.

The highest peak count since *The Avifauna*. Most records from the Deep Bay area and Long Valley.

First winter period: first record on 31 March with two at San Tin. Then from 10 April to 16 May, high counts 26 at Long Valley on 22 April, 32 at San Tin on 27 April and the peak count of 84 at MPNR on 4 May. Away from the main areas, two at Nai Chung, Sai Kung on 24 April and one at Chek Lap Kok on 29 April. Last record on 16 May.

Autumn: recorded from 17 July to 30 September, high count four at San Tin on the last date.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
71	19	29	12	36	7	44	39	54	32	77	84

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* 斑胸濱鷸 I

Scarce passage migrant, primarily in spring; extreme dates 1 April to 23 May and 20 September to 21 October, highest count two on 21 October 1995.

One at MPNR on 1 May.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* 尖尾濱鷸 I

Passage migrant, mainly spring; extreme dates 22 March to 9 June and 27 July to 2 December, highest count 300 on 10 May 2004.

A much better year than the previous three. All records from the Deep Bay area unless otherwise stated.

Spring: recorded from 28 March to 1 June, peak count 130 on 4 May. Two at Long Valley on 3 May and one at Pui O on 6 May.

Autumn: recorded from 31 July to 17 October, high count four on 15 August.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
40	65	246	231	300	48	68	175	86	22	59	130

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* 彎嘴濱鷸 I

Passage migrant, primarily in spring, occasional in winter and summer; highest count 10,982 on 17 April 2007.

A return to lower numbers following four years of high peak counts. All records from Deep Bay unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: recorded from 6 February to 13 June, peak count 5,794 on 31 March. One at Long Valley on 30 April and one past Po Toi on 25 May.

Second winter period: recorded from 17 July to 4 October, high count 135 on 31 July.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
3,800	5,770	4,490	4,535	6,000	3,947	4,151	10,982	9,012	9,168	9,296	5,794

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* 黑腹濱鶉 I

Common winter visitor, rare in spring and autumn; extreme dates 9 August to 20 June, highest count 5,845 on 9 January 1995.

The highest peak count since *The Avifauna*. All records from the Deep Bay area unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: peak count 3,870 from the boardwalk on 24 January. One at Starling Inlet on 13 March. Last record on 25 April.

Second winter period: one in Deep Bay on 31 July is an earliest record (YYT). Then from 2 September, high count 1,520 in the November WC.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
2,980	3,100	1,430	2,430	2,303	222	701	174	2,000	3,036	2,500	3,870

Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus* 勺嘴鶉 I CE

Scarce spring migrant in Deep Bay, infrequently seen in autumn and winter; highest count 13 on 3 April 2005.

Spring: singles at the Mai Po boardwalk from 31 March to 21 April with two on 4, 5 and 12 April, probably four birds involved in total.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
3	2	1	2	5	13	1	5	2	1	1	2

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* 闊嘴鶉 I

Scarce passage migrant, mainly spring, with some winter records; highest count 320 on 16 April 1988.

A typical year. All records from MPNR.

First winter period: one on 6 February. Spring passage from 22 March to 24 May, peak count 95 on 6 May.

Second winter period: one on 17 July, then from 25 August to 30 September, high count 13 on 11 September. One on 8 November.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
85	140	60	123	81	116	39	78	137	94	55	95



Plate 15 Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* 流蘇鵲
 Mai Po NR, 6th April 2011 米埔 2011年4月6日
 Kinni Ho 何建業

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* 流蘇鵲 I

Migrant to intertidal areas of Deep Bay, rare in winter and one summer record; highest count 10 on 25 October 1999.

All records from the Deep Bay area in the first winter period.

First winter period: one in the January WC. Spring passage from 13 March to 6 May, peak count four on 29 March and 18 April.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
4	3	1	3	5	3	5	4	1	2	2	4



Plate 16 Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* 紅頸瓣蹼鵞
Long Valley, 5th October 2011 塱原 2011年10月5日
Vivian Cheung 張香妹

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* 紅頸瓣蹼鵞 I

Passage migrant and rare winter visitor to coastal waters and inland wetlands; highest count 1,572 on 3 October 1995.

A typical year with records from southern waters, MPNR and Long Valley.

Spring: recorded from 17 March to 8 May, peak count 610 from Po Toi on 6 April. One at MPNR on 6 July.

Autumn: recorded from 29 September to 10 October, high count four at Long Valley.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
150	70	367	120	250	1,000	952	939	102	360	128	610

Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum* 普通燕鴒 I

Migrant to lowland areas of NT, common in spring and scarce in autumn; highest count 530 on 5 October 1994.

Most records in spring from the Mai Po area, Long Valley and southern waters but with a rare peak count in autumn.

Spring: recorded in the Deep Bay area from 13 February to 3 June, mostly from MPNR, high count 40 in the April WC, at Long Valley from 19 March to 11 April, high count five on 5 April and over southern waters and Po Toi from 19 April to 26 May, high count 12 on 22 April. Ten at Shuen Wan landfill on 22 April.

Summer: at MPNR from 27 June to 11 July, high count two.

Autumn: 250 migrating south at MPNR on 19 September was an unusual record and the highest peak count since *The Avifauna*. One at MPNR on 10 October.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
23	20	15	10	32	9	71	22	32	21	70	250

Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* 三趾鷗 I

Rare spring passage migrant with some winter records; extreme dates 13 January to 22 May.

An adult in southern waters on 27 March (JAA *et al*) . A different adult at MPNR on 5 April (many observers).

Brown-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus* 棕頭鷗 I

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant to Deep Bay, extreme dates 21 October to 1 May; highest count three on 7 March 1992.

Up to two adults from the Mai Po boardwalk between 8 and 21 March. These are the first records since 2008.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* 紅嘴鷗 I

Abundant winter visitor and passage migrant to Deep Bay and coastal waters; highest count 20,629 on 13 January 1996.

All records from Deep Bay unless otherwise stated.

First winter period: peak count 9,160 in the January WC, last record on 16 May. Four south of Lantau on 8 January and 60 off Tai O on 13 March.

Second winter period: first record on 8 November, high count 2,282 in the December WC.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
12,582	13,500	13,000	12,601	9,322	8,985	14,016	11,978	11,600	5,643	10,575	9,160



Plate 17 Saunder's Gull *Chroicocephalus saundersi* 黑嘴鷗
Mai Po NR, 26th February 2011 米埔 2011年2月26日
Kinni Ho 何建業

Saunders's Gull *Chroicocephalus saundersi* 黑嘴鷗 I VU

Winter visitor and passage migrant to Deep Bay; extreme dates 23 October to 30 May, highest count 172 on 10 February 1994.

All records from Deep Bay.

First winter period: peak count 58 on 8 February, latest record on 18 May.

Second winter period: recorded from 8 November, high count 48 in the December WC.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
58	50	61	46	15	57	51	60	61	75	74	58

Relict Gull *Ichthyaetus relictus* 遺鷗 I VU

Five records, all first-winter birds in Deep Bay, between 21 November and 10 March.

A first-winter from the Mai Po boardwalk from 8 to 12 April (J&JH *et al.*), a latest record.

Black-tailed Gull *Larus crassirostris* 黑尾鷗 I

Winter visitor to intertidal areas of Deep Bay and coastal waters; extreme dates 30 August to 8 June with two summer records; highest count 293 on 22 February 2003.

First winter period: recorded from the Mai Po boardwalk from 14 January to 15 March with peak count of seven on the last date. Recorded in southern waters from 1 March to 4 May with a high count of five on 14 April.

Second winter period: one at Mai Po from 16 December.

Mew Gull *Larus canus* 海鷗 I

As the full characters for separation of *L.c. heinei* are uncertain, only *L.c. kamschatschensis* and *L.c. brachyrhynchus* (one accepted record) are on the HK List although birds showing characteristics of *L. c. heinei* have been recorded nine times.

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant to Deep Bay, almost all first-winters; extreme dates 14 January to 29 March, highest count two on 23 February 1992.

First-winter *kamschatschensis* from the Mai Po boardwalk on 23 January, a different first-winter from 11 to 13 February and the same or another from 8 to 10 March.

Vega Gull *Larus vegae* 織女銀鷗 I

Re-admitted to the Hong Kong List in 2010 based on records since at least 2008.

Winter visitor and passage migrant to Deep Bay; extreme dates yet to be established, highest count four on 9 March 2010.

All records from the Mai Po boardwalk.

First winter period: recorded from 23 January to 10 March, peak count three (two adults and one first-winter) on the first date.

Second winter period: two first-winters on 31 December.

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans* 蒙古銀鷗 I

Winter visitor and passage migrant to Deep Bay and coastal waters; extreme dates 28 November to 17 April, highest count 25 on 13 March 2000.

All records from the Deep Bay area.

First winter period: recorded from 11 February to 13 March, peak count five in the February WC.

Second winter period: one first-winter on 16 December.

Slaty-backed Gull *Larus schistisagus* 灰背鷗 I

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant to Deep Bay and coastal waters; extreme dates 26 November to 1 April, highest count seven on 25 January 2000.

A poor year. Two (one adult and one first-year) from the Mai Po boardwalk on 11 February and one first-year there on 6 March.

Heuglin's Gull *Larus fuscus* 烏灰銀鷗 I

Common winter visitor and passage migrant to Deep Bay and spring passage migrant to coastal waters; extreme dates 6 September to 30 April, highest count 865 on 28 January 2000.

Most records come from Deep Bay where it is a winter visitor, and Po Toi where it is a spring migrant through southern waters, mostly in March.

First winter period: a poor first winter period in Deep Bay by recent standards, peak count 276 in the February WC, last record on 22 March. Also relatively poor on Po Toi, migrants from 9 March to 20 April, high count 57 on 10 March and a total count of 187. Two in the June WC were on the Futian side of Deep Bay.

Second winter period: first record at MPNR on 28 October, high count 226 on 26 December. Four from the Tuen Mun – Tung Chung Ferry on 27 December.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
865	474	780	543	237	460	345	291	305	635	700	276

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* 鷗嘴噪鷗 I

Common spring migrant, scarce in autumn, some summer records; mainly recorded in the Deep Bay area; extreme dates 3 March to 20 October, highest count 731 on 19 April 2009.

All records from MPNR unless otherwise stated.

Spring: recorded from 21 March to 1 June, peak count 323 on 24 April. Eight off Po Toi on 12 April with three in southern waters on 16 April.

Summer: one at MPNR from 19 June to 1 July.

Autumn: up to two in the Mai Po area from 25 August to 14 October.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
341	415	67	255	172	266	100	600	311	731	465	323



Plate 18 Greater Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii* 大鳳頭燕鷗
Southern Waters, 1st May 2011 南部水域 2011年5月1日
Peter and Michelle Wong 黃理沛 江敏兒

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* 紅嘴巨鷗 I

Common spring migrant, scarce in winter and autumn. Most birds recorded in Deep Bay area, but small numbers occur offshore. Highest count 150 on 30 March 2004.

A high spring count. All reports from the Deep Bay area.

First winter period: one from 16 January to 13 February, then two to 21 March. Main passage from 26 March to 9 May, peak count 96 on 12 April.

Second winter period: one on 12 July. Then from 11 November to year end, high count six in the December WC.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
18	32	19	75	150	9	10	30	22	102	47	96

Greater Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii* 大鳳頭燕鷗 I

Scarce passage migrant through coastal waters, mostly in spring but with occasional summer and autumn records; extreme dates 1 April to 3 October, highest count 33 on 21 April 2010.

All records from southern waters.

Spring: recorded from 6 April to 26 May, peak count 19 off Po Toi on 21 April.

Autumn: three from the Aberdeen to Po Toi Ferry on 4 September.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
0	0	2	10	1	6	4	12	9	21	33	19

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons* 白額燕鷗 I

Passage migrant through coastal waters and Deep Bay, one summer record; extreme dates 4 March to 20 June and 2 August to 9 November; highest count 400 on 2 May 1999 (Typhoon Leo).

The lowest peak count since *The Avifauna*, but with a rare summer record.

Spring: recorded from 5 April to 9 May, with a peak count of just six from the Mai Po boardwalk on the first date. Singles from the Po Toi Ferry on 22 April and in southern waters on 9 May .

Summer: one at Mui Wo on 2 July is the second summer record after the first in 2009.

Autumn: one from the Mai Po Access Road and San Tin from 25 to 28 September.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
6	16	6	48	22	7	6	12	32	40	60	6

Aleutian Tern *Onychoprion aleuticus* 白腰燕鷗 I

Passage migrant through coastal waters, extreme dates 11 April to 7 June and 2 August to 9 November; highest count 865 on 2 May 1999 (Typhoon Leo).

A weak spring and autumn passage. All records from southern waters.

Spring: recorded from 21 April to 15 May, peak count 21 off Po Toi on the first date.

Autumn: seven off Po Toi on 1 September with one there on 7 September.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
45	0	2	70	2	20	130	112	44	200	430	21

Bridled Tern *Onychoprion anaethetus* 褐翅燕鷗 I

Summer breeder and passage migrant, extreme dates 12 April to 3 October; highest count 749 on 25 September 1993 (Typhoon Dot).

Recorded from 20 April to 4 September, high count 64 migrating north-east past Po Toi on 16 May and the peak count of 70 at Cheung Sha, Lantau on 23 July.

Surveys during the breeding season recorded 332 in Mirs Bay with a further 282 in eastern and southern waters (AFCD data).

Breeding season peak counts in Mirs Bay in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
396	525	451	528	650	450	244	201	400	369	375	332

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* 粉紅燕鷗 I

Summer breeder and passage migrant, extreme dates 29 April to 29 September; highest count 210 in summer 1996.

First record on 26 May from both Po Toi and Shek Lam Chau, Lantau. No autumn records.

Surveys during the breeding season recorded a peak count of 19 in Mirs Bay with a further 101 in eastern and southern waters (AFCD data).

Breeding season peak counts in Mirs Bay in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
72	15	8	50	69	5	3	0	91	42	69	19

Black-naped Tern *Sterna sumatrana* 黑枕燕鷗 I

Summer breeder and passage migrant, extreme dates 6 April to 16 October; highest count 226 in summer 1996.

Recorded from 20 April to 25 September, with 20 near the Soko Islands on 29 May .

Surveys during the breeding season recorded a peak count of 182 in Mirs Bay with a further 181 in eastern and southern waters (AFCD data).

Breeding season peak counts in Mirs Bay in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
119	153	107	202	274	139	32	45	81	86	120	182

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* 普通燕鷗 I

Passage migrant through coastal waters, extreme dates 22 March to 26 October; highest count 2,100 on 2 May 1999 (Typhoon Leo).

At least two taxa occur, *longipennis* and birds from the *thibetana/minussensis* group, with the former dominating.

All records from southern waters in spring.

Spring: recorded from 7 April to 16 May, peak count 27 off Po Toi on 4 May. Nine *longipennis* in southern waters on 13 June.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
3	1	50	70	0	20	330	48	56	25	38	27

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* 鬚浮鷗 I

Passage migrant, occasional summer and winter records; occurs at inland wetlands and coastal waters; extreme dates 8 August to 28 June, highest count 150 on 16 September 2003.

All records from the Deep Bay area and southern waters with most records in autumn.

Spring: recorded from 30 March to 30 May, high count 11 along the Mai Po Access Road on 7 May.

Autumn: recorded from 3 September to 28 December, almost all records from the Mai Po area with a peak count of 30 in the October WC.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
17	12	50	150	20	57	26	138	77	95	60	30

White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* 白翅浮鷗 I

Passage migrant with some summer records; occurs at inland wetlands and coastal waters, occasional large movements occur; extreme dates 3 April to 31 October, highest count 3,000 on 12 May 1986.

All records from the Deep Bay area and southern waters unless otherwise stated.

Spring: recorded from 29 April to 3 June, peak count 70 near the Soko Islands on 29 May with 65 off Po Toi on 4 May.

Autumn: only one record, one at San Tin on 30 September.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
93	84	31	42	5	8	500	750	280	111	700	70

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus* 中賊鷗 I

Spring migrant through offshore waters, occasional autumn records often typhoon related, extreme dates 10 February to 16 May and 26 September to 5 November; highest count 47 on 26 October 1998 (Typhoon Babs).

No records for the first time since 2004.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
0	0	0	0	0	2	9	10	3	5	7	0

Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus* 短尾賊鷗 I

Spring migrant through offshore waters, extreme dates 4 April to 19 June; highest count 16 on 2 May 1999 (Typhoon Leo).

Three in southern waters on 16 April, one off Po Toi on 21 April and one in southern waters on 1 May.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
0	0	0	0	0	5	10	2	4	4	6	3

Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus* 長尾賊鷗 I

Spring migrant through offshore waters, occasional autumn records often typhoon related, extreme dates 12 March to 19 May and 21 August to 5 November; highest count 69 on 5 April 2006.

A poor spring passage, the only records were singles off Po Toi on 20 and 21 April.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
0	0	0	0	0	20	69	24	40	8	8	1

Ancient Murrelet *Synthliboramphus antiquus* 扁嘴海雀 I

Winter visitor and spring passage migrant to coastal waters, extreme dates 22 November to 29 May; highest count nine on 19 February 2006.

Two flying northeast past Po Toi on 7 April, one there on 13 April and one again on 20 April.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
1	1	1	0	1	0	9	5	6	3	5	2

Domestic Pigeon *Columba livia* 原鴿 IIB

Common resident, especially in urban areas, commensal with man.

All records from MPNR and Long Valley systematic counts and KFBG recoveries. 19 at Long Valley on 13 May was the peak count.

Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis* 山斑鳩 I

Widespread winter visitor to most natural or semi-natural lowland habitats, almost certainly breeds in the Deep Bay area in some years; largest numbers present November to March, highest count 706 on 3 January 1996.

Recorded in all months except July with most records from the winter months November to February and from the northern NT, particularly the Deep Bay and Long Valley areas. Peak count a very low 19 at MPNR on 22 March. This is by far the lowest peak count since *The Avifauna* and possibly the lowest on record, but may result from under-recording of the species this year. Two at Ping Che on 21 June was the only summer record.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* 灰斑鳩 IIB

Local breeding resident in the northwest NT, highest count 30 on 19 January 2004.

Most records from the Deep Bay area, particularly from San Tin, with a peak count of 46 there on 14 October (BK), a new highest count. Singles at Pui O on 9 October and at Long Valley on 28 November.

Red Turtle Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica* 火斑鳩 I

Passage migrant and winter visitor to open country lowland habitats, especially in the Deep Bay area; extreme dates 14 August to 13 June, highest count 106 on 2 October 2006.

First winter period: recorded up to 26 May, high count five at MPNR on 25 May. Spring migration on Po Toi from 26 April to 26 May.

Second winter period: a male at Wing Kei Tsuen on 26 July (GJC) is a the first ever July record. Recorded again from 8 September with autumn records from more widespread locations than spring, including Long Valley and Lantau Island. Migration on Po Toi from 8 September to 2 November. Peak count 13 at San Tin on 23 November.

Spotted Dove *Spilopelia chinensis* 珠頸斑鳩 I

Very common resident in diverse habitats in urban and rural areas; highest count 138 on 5 February 2008.

Recorded in all months with most records coming from systematic surveys at MPNR, Long Valley and Nim Wan, and KFBG recoveries. Peak count 106 at MPNR on 6 January.



Plate 19 Red Turtle Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica* 火斑鳩
Long Valley, 13th November 2011 壟原 2011年11月13日
Peter and Michelle Wong 黃理沛 江敏兒

Common Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica* 綠翅金鳩 I

Widespread resident in closed-canopy shrubland and forest habitats; highest count seven on 11 July 1982.

Recorded in all months and from widespread locations in north and central NT, Kowloon, HK, Cheung Chau, Lamma and Lantau Islands. High count two in any single location with eight in the north-east NT on 2 July.

White-bellied Green Pigeon *Treron sieboldii* 紅翅綠鳩 I

Four records from 30 December to 23 April.

One at MPNR on 14 November (JAA *et al.*). This is the fifth Hong Kong record, and the earliest.

**Yellow-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua sulphurea* 小葵花鳳頭鸚鵡 IIB CE
(for native population)**

Common resident, mostly recorded in northern Hong Kong Island.

Recorded from many locations on HK Island, peak count 21 in HK Park on 14 October. Six on Stonecutter's Island on 11 October, a regular roosting site.

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* 紅領綠鸚鵡 IIB

Scarce feral resident, has declined considerably since 1980.

Regular records from HK Island. One at Long Valley on 29 August.

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis* 褐翅鴉鵂 I

Widespread and common resident in lowland shrubland areas; highest count 25 on 21 April 2008.

Recorded in all months with most records coming from regular surveys at MPNR, Long Valley, Nim Wan, Siu Lam, Ping Long and Po Toi. Peak count 20 at MPNR on 27 June.

Lesser Coucal *Centropus benghalensis* 小鴉鵂 I

Widespread and fairly common resident in areas of grassland or grassland/shrubland; highest count 13 on 16 April 2007.

Recorded in all months with widespread records from north and central NT, Lamma, Lantau and Po Toi Islands. Peak count seven on Po Toi on 23 March.

Chestnut-winged Cuckoo *Clamator coromandus* 紅翅鳳頭鴉 I

Spring migrant and summer visitor to closed-canopy shrubland and woodland, mainly April-June, also scarce autumn migrant; extreme dates 5 March to 19 November; highest count ten on 26 April 1997.

Recorded from 14 April to 2 October with most records from April to July, from north and central NT and HK Island. Peak count three at Kuk Po on 2 July. Three autumn records, all singles, at Mai Po on 27 August and 24 September and at Ping Long on 2 October.

Asian Koel *Eudynamys scolopaceus* 噪鴉 I

Recorded in all months from widespread urban and rural areas with trees, though infrequently during October-December; highest count 21 on 21 September 2008.

Recorded in all months and from widespread locations in north and central NT, Kowloon and HK, Cheung Chau, Lamma and Lantau Islands. Peak count 37 including 28 in a single tree at MPNR on 2 October (JAA) is a new highest count.

Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus* 八聲杜鵑 I

Recorded in open lowland areas in all months, mainly in spring and summer (when calling) and much more infrequently in autumn and early winter; the highest count, however, is in autumn: seven at Ho Sheung Heung on 24 September 1993.

Recorded from 2 March to 17 December, from north and central NT, HK, Lantau and Po Toi Islands with most records from Long Valley. Peak count three at Kam Tin on 17 July and at Long Valley on 26 September and 8 October.



Plate 20 Fork-tailed Drongo Cuckoo *Surniculus dicruroides* 烏鵲
Po Toi Island, 2nd October 2011 蒲台島 2011年10月2日
Peter and Michelle Wong 黃理沛 江敏兒

Fork-tailed Drongo Cuckoo *Surniculus dicruroides* 烏鶇 I

Rare passage migrant, with eight records; extreme dates 16 April to 9 May and 21 August to 21 September.

One on Po Toi from 1 to 15 October (many observers). This is a new latest record.

Large Hawk Cuckoo *Hierococcyx sparveroides* 大鷹鵯 I

Summer visitor and passage migrant to closed-canopy shrubland and woodland; extreme dates 8 February to 25 September; highest count ten on 22 March 2001.

Recorded from 14 March to 24 September, mostly singing birds in the period up to end June from the north and central NT, HK and Lantau Islands, with a peak count of three.

Hierococcyx cuckoo sp

A *Hierococcyx* cuckoo photographed at Tai Po Kau on 17 September (Website photograph) was probably a Northern Hawk Cuckoo *Hierococcyx hyperythrus* but could not be certainly identified.

Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo *Hierococcyx nisicolor* 霍氏鷹鵯 I

Scarce spring migrant and summer visitor to closed-canopy shrubland and woodland with extreme dates of 27 March to 2 September.

Almost all records from 10 April to 6 June, mainly from Tai Po Kau but also Ping Long, Pak Sha O and Yung Shue O, peak count three calling at Tai Po Kau on 7 May. Juveniles at Ho Pui on 6 August and Tai Po Kau on 21 August.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo up to the end of 2011 is given as Figure 6. Records of this species have increased since The Avifauna and especially since 2006.

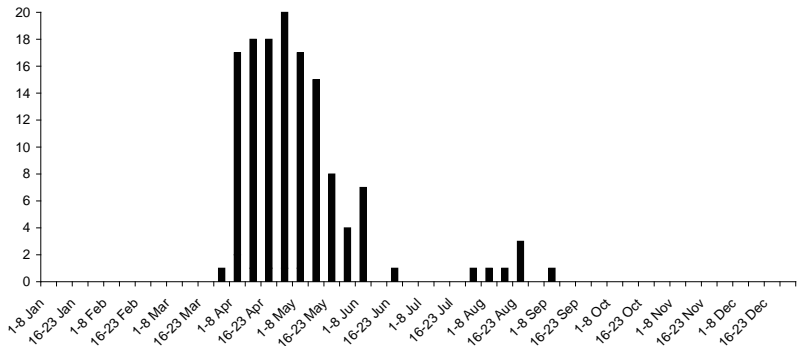


Figure 6. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo *Hierococcyx nisicolor* 霍氏鷹鵯

Lesser Cuckoo *Cuculus poliocephalus* 小杜鵑 I

Four records, extreme dates 17 September to 16 October.

One heard calling at Ping Long on 22 May (EMSK) is the first spring record. One on Po Toi from 3 to 11 September (CNM *et al*) is a new earliest autumn date. One at MPNR on 25 September (P&MW). These are the fifth, sixth and seventh Hong Kong records, and the first since 2006.



Plate 21 Lesser Cuckoo *Cuculus poliocephalus* 小杜鵑
Po Toi Island, 6th September 2011 蒲台島 2011年9月6日
Kinni Ho 何建業

Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus* 四聲杜鵑 I

Summer visitor and passage migrant to open woodland habitats, extreme dates 10 March to 10 August; highest count seven.

Recorded from 15 April to 1 August from north NT and Cheung Chau, Lamma, Lantau, Po Toi and the Soko Islands with a peak count of seven at MPNR on 3 May equalling the highest count.

Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus optatus* 東方中杜鵑 I

Passage migrant, extreme dates 26 March to 21 May and 28 August to 23 October; highest count five on 9 May 1999.

Spring: one at Ping Che on 28 April, one at MPNR and two on Po Toi on 30 April are the only records.

Autumn: one on Po Toi on 20 September with two there the next day, and singles at MPNR on 24 September and 1 and 2 October.

Collared Scops Owl *Otus lettia* 領角鴞 I

Widespread and common resident in lowland areas of closed-canopy shrubland and woodland; highest count 11 on 17 April 2001.

Recorded in all months except December, mostly calling birds or birds taken into care at KFBG. Regular locations for calling birds were Tai Po Kau including the Headland, north-east and east NT including Robin's Nest, and Siu Lam. Peak count six at Bride's Pool Road on 4 February. 17 were taken into care at KFBG during the year from various locations including HK Island.

Oriental Scops Owl *Otus sunia* 紅角鴞 I

Scarce migrant, mostly in autumn; extreme dates 11 April to 13 June and 1 October to 18 December.

One heard calling at Tai Po Kau on 5 May. Singles taken into care at KFBG from Ngau Tau Kok on 24 October and To Kwa Wan on 23 November.

Eurasian Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo* 鵞鴞 I

Widespread though locally-distributed and scarce resident in areas of hill slope grassland.

Recorded from Discovery Bay in June, August and October, peak count two on 18 June. Elsewhere, singles on the Yuen Long Highway near Lam Tei on 22 September, at Tsim Bei Tsui on 27 November and birds taken into care at KFBG from Yuen Long in May and Tung Chung in August.

Brown Fish Owl *Ketupa zeylonensis* 褐漁鴞 I

Widespread though locally-distributed and scarce resident at the interface of large freshwater streams and the coast or at reservoirs, both in areas of mature shrubland or woodland.

One at Cheung Chau in February and March, up to two at Tai Lam Chung Reservoir in March and May, one at Pui O in May and again in September.

Brown Wood Owl *Strix leptogrammica* 褐林鴞 I

Localised and recently-established resident species recorded mostly from Lam Tsuen and Tai Po Kau.

At least one heard and sometimes seen in Lam Tsuen valley from 19 January with a fledged juvenile there on 6 June. Up to two heard and seen at Tai Po Kau between 6 April and 12 August.

Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides* 斑頭鴞 I

Widespread though locally-distributed resident in forest and open-country areas; highest count six on 11 May 2001.

Recorded in all months, peak count four at Bride's Pool Road on 4 February with three at MPNR on 3 August. One at Yung Shue Ha, Lamma on 8 May was the only record away from north and central NT.

Northern Boobook *Ninox japonica* 鷹鴞 I

Scarce passage migrant, mainly in spring, to woodland and shrubland areas especially on offshore islands; extreme dates 24 March to 22 May and 18 October to 29 November, highest count five over southern waters on 5 May 2007.

Two at Lai Chi Kok Park on 21 April with one there until 2 May. One on Po Toi from 16 to 18 May, then two there on 26 May (GW), a new latest spring date. One taken into care at KFBG from Sheung Shui on 2 November.

Grey Nightjar *Caprimulgus jotaka* 普通夜鷹 I

Locally distributed summer visitor and passage migrant to areas of closed-canopy shrubland; extreme dates 1 February to 29 November; highest count five on 8 May 2001.

All records in autumn. Singles on Po Toi on 7 September and 8 October and at Lai Chi Kok Park from 12 to 19 November. One taken into care at KFBG from Kwai Chung on 27 September.

Savanna Nightjar *Caprimulgus affinis* 林夜鷹 I

Widespread though locally-distributed resident in areas of lowland grassland; highest count 22 on 8 October 2000.

Recorded in most months with most records from Sha Lo Tung, the Mai Po area, Lam Tsuen, Siu Lam and Discovery Bay, peak count eight in the Fanling area on 1 April. Breeding proven near Ma On Shan.



Plate 22 Savanna Nightjar *Caprimulgus affinis* 林夜鷹
Kam Tin, 16th July 2011 錦田 2011年7月16日
Kinni Ho 何建業

Himalayan Swiftlet *Aerodramus brevirostris* 短嘴金絲燕 I

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; extreme dates 29 August to 5 October and 10 December to 25 May.

Singles at Pak Tam Au on 23 November (PJL), on Po Toi on 1 December (GW) and at Tai Po Kau on 3 December (KPK) were the only records and extend the previous extreme dates.

Silver-backed Needletail *Hirundapus cochinchinensis* 灰喉針尾雨燕 I

Scarce passage migrant, mainly in spring, with two autumn and four summer records from 1989 to 1995; extreme dates 2 March to 11 May, 8 June to 21 July and 29 September to 8 October; highest count 150 on 2 April 1995.

One at Long Valley on 5 April was the only record.

Pacific Swift *Apus pacificus* 白腰雨燕 I

Passage migrant, mainly in spring, and summer visitor, with two taxa occurring, the nominate on passage and kurodae breeding (Leader 2011); highest count 3,000 on 4 April 1987.

No large early spring flocks of this species have been reported since *The Avifauna*.

A poor spring with few records and low numbers. Recorded from 15 March to 22 September, high count in the first half only 15 off Po Toi on 22 April, with 36 at Waglan Island on 3 July being the peak count for the year.



Plate 23 Pacific Swift *Apus pacificus* 白腰雨燕
Po Toi Island, 19th May 2011 蒲台島 2011年5月19日
John and Jemi Holmes 孔思義及黃亞萍

House Swift *Apus nipalensis* 小白腰雨燕 I

Spring migrant and resident; highest count 3,000 on 18 March 1985, 30 March 1991 and 26 February 1993.

Recorded in all months from widespread locations although most records from north NT, peak count 200 at San Tin on 2 March. Seven migrating over the sea at Po Toi on 9 March.

Oriental Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis* 三寶鳥 I

Passage migrant, mainly April-May and September-October, with one summer record; extreme dates 30 March to 5 June and 24 August to 28 November, highest count 16 on 21 April 1988.

Spring: a poor spring following a similar one in 2010 with only three records from 27 April to 29 May, high count of only two on Po Toi on 19 May.

Autumn: more widespread records from 4 September to 10 October with a peak count of nine at Siu Lam on 2 October.

White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis* 白胸翡翠 I

Present all year in wetland areas, with numbers much reduced in the period April to June (breeds away from water); highest count 46 on 15 October 2000 and 18 December 2005.

Recorded in all months, mainly from regular counts in the Deep Bay and Long Valley areas, at Nim Wan, Starling Inlet and Siu Lam but also from Kowloon Park, Pak Sha O and several locations on Lantau. In Deep Bay, the peak count was 26 in the August WC with eight at MPNR on 7 February and five at Nim Wan on 20 July. Breeding season records at Ho Sheung Heung, Kam Tin, MPNR, Nim Wan, Sha Po and Siu Lam.

Peak counts in the Deep Bay WC in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
46	31	44	35	39	46	36	33	43	32	24	26

Black-capped Kingfisher *Halcyon pileata* 藍翡翠 I

Passage migrant and winter visitor with occasional summer records in Deep Bay and relatively undisturbed coastal areas; highest count 20 on 19 October 1986.

Recorded up to 6 May and from 25 August, with a peak count a low five in Deep Bay on 16 January and 13 November with three at Starling Inlet on 18 December. Migrants on Po Toi on 19 April, 5 May and 21 September, at Nim Wan on 6 May and 21 September and Causeway Bay on 26 September. Also recorded on the Ham Tin River, Lantau on 28 March and at Yung Shue O on 30 October.

Peak counts in the Deep Bay WC in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
12	8	17	18	11	10	13	13	10	9	5	5

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* 普通翠鳥 I

Present all year in wetland areas but peak numbers occur on passage; highest count 70 on 10 September 2006.

Recorded throughout the year with summer records at MPNR and Long Valley. High counts in each half year in Deep Bay were 38 in the January WC and 68 in the December WC, the peak count for the year. Passage on Po Toi from 8 March to 26 April and 30 August to 1 November. Elsewhere, regular records came from Mui Shue Hang, Nim Wan and Siu Lam.

Peak counts in the Deep Bay WC in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
67	55	59	66	64	64	70	65	53	46	60	68



Plate 24 Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* 斑魚狗
Mai Po NR, 6th December 2011 米埔 2011年12月6日
Cheng Nok Ming 鄭諾銘

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* 斑魚狗 I

Resident in fishpond areas, especially Deep Bay; highest count 34 on 11 June 2006.

Recorded throughout the year with summer records at MPNR, Long Valley, Nim Wan and Kam Tin. Peak count in Deep Bay 22 in the August WC. Away from Deep Bay, also reported from Nam Chung and Siu Lam.

Peak counts in the Deep Bay WC in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
14	24	16	20	26	25	34	28	20	16	26	22

Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus* 栗喉蜂虎 I

Passage migrant, extreme dates 4 April to 22 May and 25 September to 1 November; highest count 121 on 5 October 2007.

Spring: recorded from 17 April to 18 May at MPNR, Long Valley and on Po Toi with a high count of seven from the Mai Po Access Road on 10 May.

Autumn: recorded from 7 to 28 October with all records from MPNR, peak count 20 from the Boardwalk on 8 October.

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops* 戴勝 I

Winter visitor, passage migrant and occasional summer visitor, with two breeding records.

First winter period: one at Victoria Park at the end of 2010 remained there until 2 February. Singles on Stonecutter's Island from 24 February to 11 March and on Po Toi from 15 March to 14 April.

Second winter period: singles in Lantau South CP on 1 September, on Po Toi on 14 and 15 September, at Lam Tsuen on 15 October, Tai Sang Wai on 20 October and one recorded regularly in the Long Valley area from 26 September to 3 December.

Great Barbet *Megalaima virens* 大擬啄木鳥 I

Resident in mature secondary broadleaf forest in central NT, mostly Tai Po Kau. Appears to be declining; highest count 14 on 21 May 1994.

Recorded in most months with all records except one from forest areas of central NT, mostly calling birds, peak count two in the Tai Po Kau area on several dates. One heard calling from above the Ho Chung valley on 7 July is an unusual location.

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* 蟻鴛 I

Passage migrant and winter visitor to lightly wooded areas; extreme dates 28 August to 23 April, highest count four on 1 April 1978.

First winter period: recorded up to 5 April from MPNR, Long Valley, Lam Tsuen and Wu Kau Tang, peak count two.

Second winter period: recorded from 29 August to year end, mostly at MPNR but also Long Valley, Nam Sang Wai and Nim Wan with a peak count of three at MPNR on 27 September and Nam Sang Wai on 20 October.

Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis* 黃嘴栗啄木鳥 I

Rare resident of mature broadleaf secondary forest. Possibly established in Tai Po Kau.

Up to two recorded from Tai Po Kau in several months, although fewer records than in the previous two years. Also one at Shing Mun on 13 March. One heard calling from above Ho Chung valley on 7 July is a new location.

Fairy Pitta *Pitta nympha* 仙八色鶇 I VU

Rare spring and autumn passage migrant; extreme dates 10 April to 6 May and 26 August to 29 September.

One heard calling on Po Toi on 5 May (GW). One taken into care at KFBG from Sham Shui Po on 22 September (AC).

Ashy Woodswallow *Artamus fuscus* 灰燕鷗 I

No records.

One at Heung Fan Liu, Lower Shing Mun Reservoir on 23 April (JL) is the first record for Hong Kong.

Black-winged Cuckooshrike *Coracina melaschistos* 暗灰鶇鶇 I

Passage migrant and scarce winter visitor to closed and open woodland; extreme dates 1 September to 21 May, highest count four on 3 October 1994.

First winter period: recorded from widespread locations in north and central NT, western HK and Po Toi Islands, peak count three at Po Shan Road on 9 February. One at Nim Wan on 26 May is a new latest spring date (MRL).

Second winter period: up to two recorded from 14 September at various locations with a similar distribution as the first winter period, but also from Lantau Island.

Swinhoe's Minivet *Pericrocotus cantonensis* 小灰山椒鳥 I

Scarce passage migrant to open woodland, extreme dates 30 March to 3 May and 1 to 10 October; highest count 13 on 8 October 1998.

Two on Po Toi from 16 to 27 April.

Ashy Minivet *Pericrocotus divaricatus* 灰山椒鳥 I

Passage migrant in spring and autumn to woodland areas, extreme dates 18 March to 21 May and 7 September to 27 November; highest count 50 on 8 April 1993.

Spring: recorded from 2 April to 9 May from Po Toi, MPNR, Tai Po Kau Headland and Shek Kong. Peak count 32 at MPNR on 6 April, with 25 at Tai Po Kau Headland on 10 April also a good count.

Autumn: recorded in singles only from 16 October, a late first date, to 23 November, on Po Toi, at Tai Po Kau and Sai Kung.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
4	0	1	25	50	5	17	21	16	18	40	32

Grey-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris* 灰喉山椒鳥 I

Common winter visitor and scarce breeding species in mature closed-canopy woodland; highest count 100 on 14 November 1992.

Recorded in most months from the central New Territories, mostly from Tai Po Kau, peak count 35 at Tai Po Kau on 18 September with 15 at Tai Lam CP on 6 August. Away from this area, one at Luk Keng on 10 May.

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus speciosus* 赤紅山椒鳥 I

Common resident in mature closed-canopy woodland and woodland edge, even adjoining urban areas; highest count 80 on 22 December 1984.

Recorded in all months with widespread reports from central and northeast NT, peak count of 13 at Tai Po Kau Headland on 24 September.



Plate 25 Tiger Shrike *Lanius tigrinus* 虎紋伯勞
Mai Po NR, 24th September 2011 米埔 2011年9月24日
Fung Wing Yi 馮穎儀

Tiger Shrike *Lanius tigrinus* 虎紋伯勞 I

Rare passage migrant in early autumn; extreme dates 29 August to 26 September .

A first winter photographed at MPNR on 24 September (Website report) is the fifth record since *The Avifauna*.

Bull-headed Shrike *Lanius bucephalus* 牛頭伯勞 I

Scarce late autumn passage migrant and winter visitor to woodland edge; extreme dates 16 October to 27 March.

In a poor year after five good years for this species, one on Tai Om Shan on 13 March was the only record.

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus* 紅尾伯勞 I

L.c. lucionensis: common passage migrant and scarce winter visitor; L.c. cristatus: passage migrant, mainly in autumn. Both occur in open country habitats. Extreme spring dates 19 April to 7 June, highest count 89 on 21 May 2008. Earliest autumn record 25 July, passage occurring until late October.

The exact status of *cristatus* is unclear and observers are encouraged to ascribe all records to subspecies where possible.

A good year with winter records, a high spring peak count and widespread autumn records.

First winter period: wintering singles at Cheung Chau to 6 March and Pui O to 12 March. In spring from 27 April to 24 May, high counts of 29 on Po Toi on 5 May with a major fall on Po Toi from 16 to 19 May, peak count 75 on 17 May. Also reported from Lantau, MPNR, Lower Shing Mun, Lam Tsuen, Braemar Hill, Cheung Chau and Nim Wan, all *lucionensis* where recorded.

Second winter period: recorded from 30 August at widespread locations with many recorded as *cristatus*, high count seven on Po Toi on 14 September. Wintering singles at Pui O, Long Valley and on Po Toi.

Peak counts in recent years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
11	40	7	15	4	2	83	30	89	37	28	75

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach* 棕背伯勞 I

Common resident in open country habitats; highest count 19 on 24 July 2010.

Recorded throughout the year, mostly in regular surveys at MPNR, Long Valley and Nim Wan. The peak count was 18 at MPNR on 28 July, with 11 at Long Valley on 9 May and eight at Nim Wan on 4 August.



Plate 26 White-bellied Erpornis *Erpornis zantholeuca* 白腹鳳鵙
Tai Po Kau, 17th December 2011 大埔滘 2011年12月17日
Wallace Tse 謝鑑超

White-bellied Erpornis *Erpornis zantholeuca* 白腹鳳鵙 I

Locally-distributed resident in closed-canopy shrubland and woodland; highest count 15 on 2 September 1990.

Recorded throughout the year from Tai Po Kau, peak count two. Also recorded from Lam Tsuen, Lau Shui Heung and Kuk Po.

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis* 黑枕黃鸝 I

Migrant, mainly autumn, and scarce breeding species in open woodland areas; typically present April to November; highest count 30 on 21 September 1986.

First winter period: singles at Long Valley on 3 February and Lam Tsuen on 4 February are unusual winter records. In spring, singles at MPNR on 2 May, Po Toi on 4 May and two at Nim Wan on 18 May. No breeding season records.

Autumn: recorded from 28 August to 11 November, mostly at Mai Po and Po Toi, peak count ten on Po Toi on 20 September and at MPNR on 24 September. Also recorded from Braemar Hill, Long Valley, Lam Tsuen, Pok Fu Lam and Pui O.

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus* 黑卷尾 I

Common passage migrant, mainly autumn, locally-common breeder and winter visitor to open-country areas; highest count 1,000 on 12 October 2010.

Winter records of up to three at Ho Sheung Heung with an unusual record of three at Victoria Park on 11 February. High spring counts of 11 at MPNR on 29 April and ten on Po Toi on 11 May. Juveniles recorded from MPNR, Ho Sheung Heung, Nim Wan and Po Toi. Autumn passage from 22 August, peak count 27 at Nim Wan on 22 September. Winter records all from the Deep Bay area, high count four at Lut Chau on 16 December.

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus* 灰卷尾 I

Winter visitor to woodland areas; extreme dates 11 September to 27 April, highest count eight on 5 November 2008.

A good year for this species with widespread records of both *leucogenis* and *salangensis*

First winter period: recorded from Tai Po Kau, Tai Om Shan, Shek Kong, Shing Mun, Lower Shing Mun Reservoir, Lam Tsuen, Wonderland Villas and Kwai Chung to 25 April with a peak count four at Shing Mun on 4 February. Records include both *leucogenis* and *salangensis*. A *leucogenis* on Po Toi from 3 to 18 May (GW) is a latest spring and first May record.

Second winter period: recorded from 22 September, mostly at Tai Po Kau, Shing Mun and Lam Tsuen but also Wonderland Villas, Hong Kong and Po Toi Islands, high count three at Shing Mun on 29 December. As in the first winter period, records include both *leucogenis* and *salangensis*.



Plate 27 Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaea* 灰卷尾
Shing Mun Reservoir, 15th January 2011 城門水塘 2011年1月15日
Kinni Ho 何建業

Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus* 髮冠卷尾 I

Locally common resident in wooded areas; highest count 67 on 6 October 2007.

Widespread records from all months. Peak count 51 at Shek Kong on 3 April with 33 at Pok Fu Lam on 20 October, 30 at Lower Shing Mun Reservoir on 25 April and 20 at Siu Lam on 21 August. Juveniles and summer records from Ho Sheung Heung, Nim Wan, Siu Lam, Tai Po Kau Headland and Luk Keng.

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea* 黑枕王鶇 I

Winter visitor and passage migrant to woodland areas; extreme dates 19 September to 27 April; highest count three.

First winter period: recorded to 4 March with two at Shek Kong in January and February and one there to 4 March, and singles at Tsim Bei Tsui, Tai Mei Tuk and Pak Sha O.

Second winter period: in a good second winter period, a first year female trapped at MPNR on 17 September (HKBWS RG) is an earliest autumn record. Then one on Po Toi from 15 October with three there on 20 November and two to year end. Also recorded at Pak Tam Au, Ping Yeung (two), Pak Sha O (two), Shing Mun, Tai Po Kau and Yung Shue O.

Asian Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi* 綬帶 I

Passage migrant, mainly autumn, and rare winter visitor to woodland areas; extreme dates 29 March to 6 May and from 2 August; highest count four on 30 September 2004.

First winter period: no reports.

Second winter period: a good second winter period, as for the previous species. Recorded from 19 August, when one was in Tai Lam CP. Then regular records to 1 November, from Tai Po Kau, peak count three on 6 September, with up to two at Shing Mun and Braemar Hill and singles at Lantau South CP, Lau Shui Heung, Lung Fu Shan, MPNR, Ng Tung Chai and Wong Chuk Hang. Winter singles at MPNR on 20 November and Po Toi on 13 December.



Plate 28 Asian Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi* 綬帶
Po Toi Island, 16th October 2011 蒲台島 2011年10月16日
Allen Chan 陳志雄

Japanese Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone atrocaudata* 紫綬帶 I NT

Passage migrant, mainly spring, to woodland areas; extreme dates 28 March to 31 May and 20 August to 18 November, highest count six on 13 April 1992.

Spring: only one record, a male on Po Toi on 30 April.

Autumn: one photographed at Braemar Hill on 28 August (N&AW) is a new earliest autumn record. Then singles from 3 September to 3 November at Tai Po Kau, MPNR, Shing Mun, Po Toi, Tai Mo Shan and Ng Tung Chai.

Azure-winged Magpie *Cyanopica cyanus* 灰喜鵲 I

Localised breeding resident especially in the Mai Po area since 2003; highest count 47 on 20 August 2006.

Recorded throughout the year with most records from the Mai Po area, peak count 23 there on 19 July. Elsewhere singles reported from Lam Tsuen on 30 July and Long Valley in December with five at Stonecutter's Island in February and March.

Red-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythroryncha* 紅嘴藍鵲 I

Common resident of closed-canopy shrubland.

Recorded in all months from widespread locations with most records from north and central NT and HK, Lantau and Po Toi Islands. Peak count nine at Braemar Hill on 23 October.

Grey Treepie *Dendrocitta formosae* 灰樹鵲 I

Locally common resident of closed-canopy shrubland; previously recorded as an irruptive species with a highest count 80 on 27 November 1977; highest count since The Avifauna 13 on 4 July 2002.

Recorded throughout the year, mostly from the northeast NT although with more records from the central New Territories than usual. Peak count five at Lau Shui Heung on 21 February. Two at Harlech Road on 27 March was a rare record from HK Island, where the species was previously regular.

Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica* 喜鵲 I

Common resident of open country and urban edge habitats. Highest count 80 on 28 November 1999.

Recorded in every month of the year with most records from systematic surveys at MPNR, Long Valley and Nim Wan, peak count 39 at MPNR on 15 November with 20 at Lam Tsuen on 11 January.

House Crow *Corvus splendens* 家鴉 IIB

Localised breeding resident, mainly in the Cheung Sha Wan area; peak count 38 on 26 August 2010.

Only four records received, all from the main area in northern Kowloon, peak count 11 at Cheung Sha Wan on 11 October. Observers are encouraged to report all sightings of this species particularly away from Kowloon.

Collared Crow *Corvus torquatus* 白頸鴉 I NT

Locally common resident, mainly in coastal areas; highest count 141 on 10 November 2010.

A near-threatened species for which Hong Kong is a stronghold.

Recorded in all months, with most records from MPNR where the peak count was 143 on 3 June (KL), a new highest count. 71 at Shuen Wan Landfill Site on 29 April was a high count away from MPNR. Elsewhere recorded at Braemar Hill, Ho Pui Reservoir, Inner Port Shelter, Kau Lung Hang, Long Valley, Ma Liu Shui, Mui Shue Hang, Nam Chung, North Point, Stonecutter's Island, Tai Lam Chung Reservoir, Tai Po Kau Headland and Tung Ping Chau.

Peak counts at MPNR in recent years show that numbers there have been increasing steadily over the last ten years

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
40	45	31	72	74	81	77	99	100	112	141	143

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos* 大嘴烏鴉 I

Common resident of open rural and wooded urban edge habitats, highest count 200 on 20 January 2008.

Widespread reports in all months, peak count 200 at Tai Lam Chung Reservoir on 20 November equals the current highest count which was at the same location. 71 at Wong Chuk Hang on 17 August. Dispersing or migrant birds seen on Po Toi from 23 to 31 March.

Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis* 方尾鶺 I

Winter visitor to woodland areas; extreme dates 8 October to 20 April, highest count 11 on 11 February 2007.

First winter period: regular records up to 20 March, peak count three at Shing Mun on 2 January, all others from Tai Po Kau except one near Tsuen Wan on 17 February. One on Po Toi on 25 April (Website photograph) is a new latest spring date.

Second winter period: recorded from 21 October with regular records from Tai Po Kau, Tai Po Kau Headland, Shing Mun and Bride's Pool, peak count two.

Cinereous Tit *Parus cinereus* 蒼背山雀 I

Common resident in open and closed-canopy woodland, shrubland and parkland areas.

Almost all records come from MPNR, Ho Sheung Heung, Tai Po Kau Headland and Braemar Hill, peak count 15 at MPNR with ten at Braemar Hill.

Yellow-cheeked Tit *Parus sibilans* 黃頰山雀 IIA

Locally-common resident of mature woodland in central NT; highest count 15 on 2 September 1990.

Recorded from Tai Po Kau in most months, peak count four including two immatures on 4 September. Elsewhere one at Lai Chi Kok on 1 January and two at Ho Pui on 3 April.

Chinese Penduline Tit *Remiz consobrinus* 中華攀雀 I

Winter visitor and autumn migrant in reedmarshes; extreme dates 10 October to 23 May, highest count 90 on 23 November 1999.

Most records from MPNR including birds regularly trapped.

First winter period: recorded until 29 April, high count 52 at Nam Sang Wai on 25 February and 35 at MPNR on the final date. Records also from Long Valley and Sha Po.

Second winter period: recorded from 2 November, peak count 120 at MPNR on 14 November (PJL), a new highest count, also 12 at Long Valley on 6 November, eight at Nim Wan on 16 November and one at Kuk Po on 4 December, an unusual record away from the northwest NT.

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis* 雲雀 I

Autumn passage migrant and winter visitor with extreme dates of 9 October to 3 April; highest count 15 on 28 October 2010.

Another good year following the exceptional year in 2010, with high counts at several locations and records away from the northwest NT.

First winter period: three at Pui O on 20 March and two at Long Valley from 20 to 28 March.

Second winter period: two at MPNR on 9 October equals the earliest autumn date. Then from 15 October to 19 December, mostly at Long Valley, MPNR, San Tin and Lam Tsuen, peak count five at MPNR on 2 November with four at Lam Tsuen on 22 October. Also three at Fung Lok Wai on 15 October and at Pui O on 6 November, singles at Sham Chung on 29 October and Tsim Bei Tsui on 30 October

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Eurasian Skylark up to the end of 2011 is given as Figure 7.

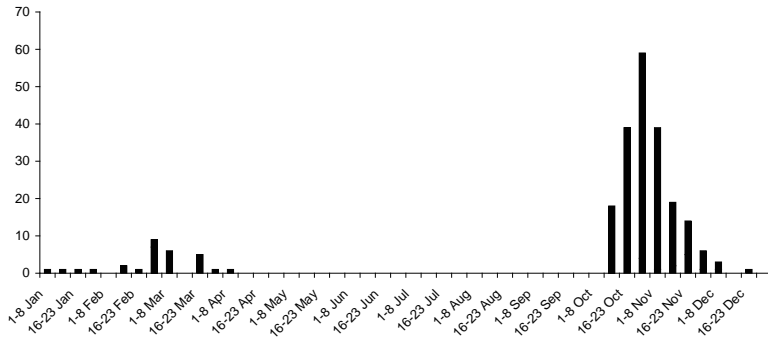


Figure 7. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis* 雲雀

Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula* 小雲雀 I

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, previously a localised resident; extreme dates 1 October to 22 April.

No records.

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus* 紅耳鶇 I

Abundant resident in most habitats except woodland interior; highest count 300 on 22 September 2008.

Widespread records with the peak count a relatively low 36 at Ho Sheung Heung on 7 November.

Chinese Bulbul *Pycnonotus sinensis* 白頭鶇 I

Abundant all year, with migrants and winter visitors occurring; present in nearly all habitats, the most abundant and widespread species in HK; highest count 5,000 on 30 March 2010.

High counts during systematic surveys were 304 at MPNR on 4 April and 109 at Long Valley on 17 October with 90 at Tai Po Kau Headland on 8 April. Largest migrant flocks were 310 on Po Toi on 2 November, the peak count for the year, and 172 at Nim Wan on 16 November.

Sooty-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster* 白喉紅臀鶇 I

Common resident in open country habitats away from urban and marshy areas; highest count 80 on 25 April 1987.

Widespread records in most months, peak count 26 at Long Valley on 26 April.



Plate 29 Mountain Bulbul *Ixos mcclllandii* 綠翅短腳鶇
Shing Mun, 16th January 2011 城門 2011年1月16日
Sam Chan 陳巨輝

Mountain Bulbul *Ixos mccllellandii* 綠翅短腳鶇 I

Localised resident in closed-canopy woodland, possibly increasing range and numbers; highest count 12 on 9 January 2008.

Recorded in all months except June to August. Most records from Tai Po Kau with up to four on several dates, with the peak count of 15, a new highest count, at Shing Mun on 24 September (SLT). Also recorded in the central NT from Kap Lung, Ng Tung Chai and Tai Mo Shan. The only record away from this area was two at Pak Sha O on 7 February, a first record for that location.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Mountain Bulbul up to the end of 2011 is given as Figure 8. All records of this species have occurred since *The Avifauna*.

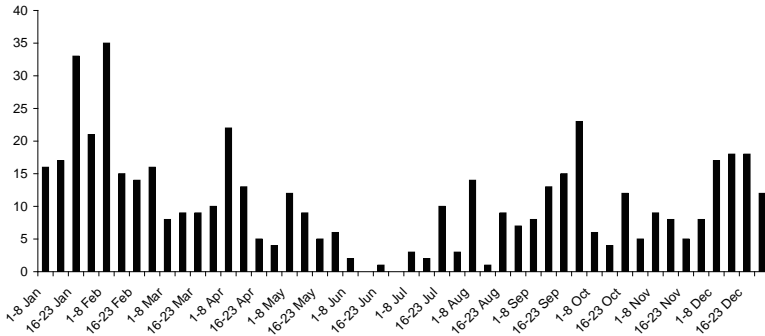


Figure 8. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Mountain Bulbul *Ixos mccllellandii* 綠翅短腳鶇

Chestnut Bulbul *Hemixos castanonotus* 栗背短腳鶇 I

Common resident and winter visitor in closed-canopy shrubland and woodland throughout HK; subject to periodic winter irruptions; highest count 264 on 11 April 2009.

Recorded in all months although most records from the first half year.

First winter period: widespread reports from the north, central and east NT, and HK, Lantau and Po Toi Islands and Tung Ping Chau. Peak count 466 at Tai Po Kau Headland on 7 April (R&KB), a new highest count, with 33 at Tung Ping Chau on 29 January, 20 at Discovery Bay on 14 March and 40 at CUHK campus on 28 March.

Summer: recorded from Tai Po Kau Headland including a juvenile on 30 June, at Tai Lam CP including a juvenile on 6 August and at Sai Kung West CP, Aberdeen CP, Wu Kau Tang and the Ho Cheung valley.

Second winter period: less widespread reports, fewer records and much smaller numbers than the first winter period; high count 26 at Tai Lam CP on 22 October, also recorded from Tai Po Kau, northeast NT and Sai Kung West CP.



Plate 30 Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus* 黑短腳鶇
Yuen Long Park, 26th February 2011 元朗公園 2011年2月26日
Peter and Michelle Wong 黃理沛 江敏兒

Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus* 黑短腳鶇 I

Irruptive winter visitor and scarce passage migrant to woodland areas; extreme dates 27 September to 3 June; highest count 200 on 16 February 1992.

All records from the first winter period with widespread reports from January to April from the north, central and east NT, and HK, Lantau and Po Toi Islands. High counts were 100 at Wonderland Villas on 15 January, 60 near Long Ke on 30 January, 55 at MPNR on 20 February with the peak count of 165 at Tai Po Kau Headland on 7 April, the highest count since *The Avifauna*. The last record was one at Tai Lam CP on 5 May and there were no records in the second winter period.

Pale Martin *Riparia diluta* 淡色沙燕 I

Uncommon passage migrant although occasionally in large numbers, and rare winter visitor to open country habitats, especially fish ponds and reedmarshes in the northwest NT; extreme dates 18 August to 10 June; highest count 3,000 on 3 May 2000.

All records from the Mai Po - Lok Ma Chau area unless otherwise stated.

Spring passage from 21 April to 7 May with one on Po Toi on the first date and a high count of 12 from the Mai Po access road on 6 May. In autumn, a juvenile at Lok Ma Chau on 8 August (PJL) is a new earliest date. Then recorded from 9 October to 23 November with a peak count of 35 at MPNR on 24 October.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* 家燕 I

Abundant passage migrant, especially in spring, common breeding species and uncommon winter visitor; highest count 5,500 on 4 April 1996.

Widespread records in all months but especially for spring migration.

First winter period: recorded from 27 January with high counts 166 at Long Valley on 28 March, 338 at Nim Wan on 6 April and 400 at Pak Long on the same date.

Summer: most records from regular counts at Long Valley, MPNR and Nim Wan with high counts of 70, 150 and 130 respectively.

Second winter period: recorded up to 12 December with the peak count of 750 at MPNR on 19 October.

Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus* 煙腹毛腳燕 I

Spring passage migrant, scarce in autumn and rare in winter; extreme dates 13 September to 24 May, highest count 400 on 4 April 1996.

A poor year with only two records, two at Hoo Hok Wai on 15 January and two at Nam Sang Wai on 17 February. No spring or autumn records.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* 金腰燕 I

Passage migrant and winter visitor, occasionally in quite large flocks, with a very small, recently-established localised breeding population; highest count 350 on 8 December 1982.

Recorded throughout the year, mostly from the Mai Po and Long Valley areas. In the first winter period, the high count of 20 was at Hoo Hok Wai on 15 January and spring passage was weak with one on Po Toi on 9 May the only notable record. Breeding occurred at Mai Po village. In the second winter period, the peak count was 50 at Hoo Hok Wai on 9 October with 40 at San Tin on 10 December. One on south Lamma on 16 October was the only record away from the northwest NT.

Pygmy Wren-babbler *Pnoepyga pusilla* 小鷦鷯 I

Locally common resident in closed-canopy shrubland and woodland, largely in central NT; highest count nine on 14 November 2007.

Recorded in most months from the central and northeast NT with the peak count of five at Tai Po Kau on 24 September and four at Sha Lo Tung on 12 February. Away from the main area, singles, mostly heard calling, at Lower Shing Mun Reservoir on 10 April, above Ho Cheung valley on 7 July and at Pak Sha O on 30 October.

Mountain Tailorbird *Phyllergates cuculatus* 金頭縫葉鶯 I

Locally common winter visitor and scarce breeding species in closed-canopy shrubland and woodland; highest count 12.

First half year: winter records from northeast NT, the Peak, Cheung Chau and Lantau Islands. Most records in the Tai Po Kau area, with a high count of eight at Kap Lung on 8 April.

Breeding season: recorded from Tai Po Kau, including at least one juvenile, Sai Kung West CP, Victoria Peak and the peak count of 14 at Ng Tung Chai on 6 June (R&KB), a new highest count.

Second half year: more widespread reports in autumn and winter, although most records were from Tai Po Kau where the high count was nine on 29 October. Also recorded at Kap Lung, Lam Tsuen valley, northeast NT and Hong Kong, Po Toi, Lamma, central Lantau and Cheung Chau Islands.

This species has expanded rapidly in Hong Kong since the first record in 1999. The number of locations from which it has been recorded in recent years is as follows

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
0	1	0	7	10	13	13	13	17	25	38	23

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Mountain Tailorbird up to the end of 2011 is given as Figure 9. This graph suggests Mountain Tailorbird is a passage migrant as well as resident, mostly in the central NT.

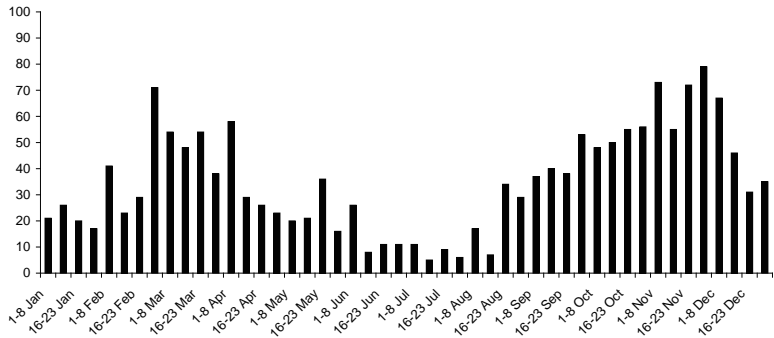


Figure 9. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Mountain Tailorbird *Phyllergates cuculatus* 金頭縫葉鶯

**Japanese Bush Warbler *Horornis diphone* 日本樹鶯 I and
Manchurian Bush Warbler *H. borealis* 遠東樹鶯 I**

The taxonomy of Japanese/Manchurian Bush Warbler has been revised. Two species are now accepted to occur in Hong Kong: Japanese Bush Warbler, *H. diphone* (ssp *canturians*) and Manchurian Bush Warbler *H. borealis*. Since reliable criteria for separation in the field remain to be established, records of these two species are combined and all records below refer to the combined species.

Scarce winter visitor and migrant to shrubland and lightly wooded areas; numbers appear to be declining; extreme dates 26 September to 8 May; highest count 40 on 15 November 1992.

Erratum: the previously recorded highest count of 49 on 21 November 2001 is now believed to be an error.

Recorded in singles and twos from MPNR, Long Valley, the northeast NT, Lam Tsuen, Nim Wan, Tai Po Kau, Wonderland Villas and HK, Lamma, Lantau, Po Toi, Cheung Chau and Tung Ping Chau Islands.

First winter period: recorded to 14 April, peak count three at Sha Lo Tung on 10 February.

Second winter period: recorded from 19 October, peak count three on Po Toi on 30 November.

Brown-flanked Bush Warbler *Horornis fortipes* 強腳樹鶯 I

Fairly common winter visitor to shrubland and woodland edge in increasing numbers, breeds in upland shrubland; highest count 29 on 25 February 2009.

Widespread winter records from the north and central NT and HK, Lantau, Po Toi, Cheung Chau and Tung Ping Chau Islands with breeding season records from Tai Mo Shan and high peaks in the northeast NT.

First winter period: regular widespread records to 29 March, high count eight at Tung Ping Chau on 29 January.

Breeding season: four at Wong Leng on 10 May and ten at Tai Mo Shan on 21 May with the peak count of 14 there including four juveniles on 1 August. One at Kowloon Peak on 7 July is a new breeding season location.

Second winter period: singles recorded from 23 November from Po Toi, Wu Kau Tang, Lau Shui Heung, southern Lantau and Tai Om Shan.

Asian Stubtail *Urosphena squameiceps* 鱗頭樹鶯 I

Common winter visitor to forest and closed-canopy shrubland; extreme dates 2 October to 12 April; highest count 20 on 27 November 1993.

Records from the north, central and eastern NT and HK, Lantau, Lamma, Cheung Chau, Tung Ping Chau and Po Toi islands.

First winter period: regular records to 24 March, high count three at Tai Po Kau, Lung Fu Shan, Mount Davis, northeast NT and Po Toi. One at Shek Kong on 12 April equals the latest spring record.

Second winter period: recorded from 22 October, peak count 11 in Aberdeen CP on 13 December with ten at Shek O CP on 25 November and ten also at Pokfulam CP on 29 November.



Plate 31 Asian Stubtail *Urosphena squameiceps* 鱗頭樹鶯
Hatton Road, 30th January 2011 克頓道 2011年1月30日
Allen Chan 陳志雄

Black-throated Tit *Aegithalos concinnus* 紅頭長尾山雀 IIA

Localised resident in small numbers now restricted to the Upper Shing Mun and Kowloon Hills.

This species has been re-assigned to Category IIA from Category III following several years of records of flocks and juveniles from Upper Shing Mun and Kowloon Hills, which indicate it has a small but self-sustaining population in those areas.

Eight at Lion Rock CP on 2 June and 15 at Lead Mine Pass on 17 September with at least five there on 22 October.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* 嘜喳柳鶯 I

Five records from 2 December to 16 March.

One at LMC on 19 October (PJL), the sixth Hong Kong record and the first in autumn.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* 褐柳鶯 I

Very common winter visitor and migrant to shrubland and open country areas; extreme dates 6 September to 17 May, highest count 100 on 20 October 1990.

Most records from the northern NT and islands.

First winter period: recorded up to 16 May, peak count 26 at MPNR on 7 February.

Second winter period: recorded from 19 September, peak count 43 at MPNR on 3 November with 30 at Long Valley on 14 November, 20 at Nim Wan on 16 November, 16 at Lam Tsuen on 30 October and 11 on Po Toi on 23 November.

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* 巨嘴柳鶯 I

Scarce autumn migrant and rare winter visitor to shrubland and open-country areas; extreme dates 8 October to 14 December excluding four winter records.

All records from the second winter period with singles trapped at MPNR on 2, 16 and 22 November, two at Wong Chuk Yeung, Sai Kung on 15 November and singles at Lung Fu Shan on 23 November, MPNR on 12 December and on Po Toi on 13 December .

Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* 黄腰柳鶯 I

Fairly common winter visitor and migrant to forest and closed-canopy shrubland, including mangrove on passage; extreme dates 24 October to 18 April, highest count 100 on 13 December 1996.

Low peak counts in both periods.

First winter period: widespread records to 14 April, high count ten at Tai Po Kau on 26 March. One at MPNR on 19 April (KL) is a new latest spring date.

Second winter period: recorded from 30 October, peak count 15 at Plover Cove CP on 4 December.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* 黄眉柳鶯 I

Very common and widespread winter visitor and migrant to wooded and open-country areas; extreme dates 8 September and 9 May, highest count 100 on 12 December 1993.

A less marked spring passage than usual but high counts in the second winter period.

First winter period: recorded to 30 April, high count ten at Mui Shue Hang on 14 February.

Second winter period: recorded from 14 September, peak count 52 at Aberdeen CP on 13 December is the highest one day count since *The Avifauna*. 37 at Plover Cove CP on 4 December and 30 on south Lantau on 27 December were also high counts.

Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei* 淡眉柳鶯 I

Eight records, seven in winter and one in spring; extreme dates 4 November to 5 February and 13 April.

One at Pak Sha O on 15 December (GJC).

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* 極北柳鶯 I and Japanese Leaf Warbler *P. xanthodryas* 日本柳鶯 I

The Arctic Warbler complex has been split into three species. Two of these have now been accepted to occur in Hong Kong: Arctic Warbler *P. borealis* and Japanese Leaf Warbler *P. xanthodryas*. The third, Kamchatka Leaf Warbler *P. examinandus*, may also occur but no records have yet been accepted.

Due to difficulties in field identification, all records of this species group are included under a single entry in this report.

Fairly common migrant, mainly in autumn, to lightly wooded areas; extreme dates 30 March to 27 May and 18 August to 4 December, highest count 60 on 18 September 1988.

As in previous years, all spring records occurred on islands, particularly Po Toi, whereas autumn records were much more widespread. Whether different species are involved in the two seasons has yet to be established, although it is possible that some spring records refer to *P. xanthodryas* and most autumn records refer to *P. borealis*.

Spring: recorded from 3 to 26 May, all records except two from Po Toi, the peak count of ten there on 17 May with one on Cheung Chau on 17 May and three at Braemar Hill on 21 May.

Autumn: more widespread records from 22 August to 29 November, high count five at Tai Po Kau on 3 September, a low number for autumn. Also recorded from Braemar Hill, Kap Lung, Lau Shui Hang, LMC, Long Valley, MPNR, Nam Sang Wai, Shek Kong, Shing Mun, Tai Om Shan and HK, Lamma, Lantau and Po Toi Islands.

A Japanese Leaf Warbler on Po Toi on 2 May 2010 (PJL) has been accepted as the first confirmed record of this species. One was also recorded at Kam Tin on 6 May 2011 (PJL).

Two-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus* 雙斑柳鶯 I

Scarce migrant, mostly in autumn, and winter visitor to shrubland and woodland areas; extreme dates 16 September to 24 April, highest count four on 27 December 2007.

First winter period: singles recorded up to 7 February at Tai Po Kau, Tai Om Shan and Bride’s Pool.

Second winter period: recorded from 20 October when three at Kam Tin was the peak count for the year. Then records through to year end with singles at MPNR, Shing Mun, Tai Po Kau and on Po Toi, Lamma and Cheung Chau Islands.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Two-barred Warbler up to the end of 2011 is given as Figure 10. Records of this species have increased substantially since 2005, probably due to improved understanding of its identification.

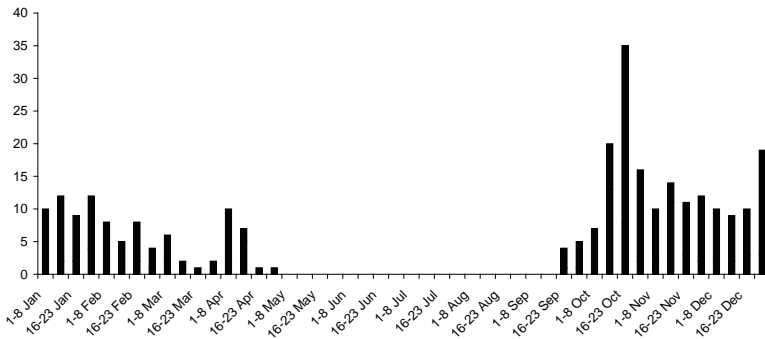


Figure 10. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Two-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus* 雙斑柳鶯

Pale-legged Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus tenellipes* 淡腳柳鶯 I and Sakhalin Leaf Warbler *P. borealoides* 庫頁島柳鶯 I

Since reliable criteria for separation in the field remain to be established, records of these two species are combined, unless birds are trapped, allowing for known differences in wing formula to be used for identification. All records refer to the combined species unless otherwise stated.

Fairly common migrant, mostly in autumn, and scarce winter visitor to lightly wooded areas; extreme dates 31 August to 5 May, highest count nine on 11 September 2005. Based on trapping records, tenellipes is more common than borealis in a ratio of 2:1, with this ratio being 3:1 in September and 1:1 in October. Only tenellipes has winter records, the latest date for borealis is 17 November.

First winter period: no spring records for the first time since 2002.

Second winter period: recorded from 1 September to 15 November from widespread locations with a peak count of three at Tai Po Kau on 24 September. December records from Pak Sha O, Tai Po Kau Headland and Yung Shue O.

Three Pale-legged Leaf Warblers trapped at Pak Sha O on 18 January. Single Pale-legged Leaf Warblers trapped at MPNR on 1 and 22 October.

Eastern Crowned Warbler *Phylloscopus coronatus* 冕柳鶯 I

Mainly autumn migrant, scarce in spring and rare in winter, to shrubland and woodland; extreme dates 7 August to 18 April, highest count ten on 6 September 1982.

First winter period: one at Tai Po Kau from 8 to 11 January is the fifth winter record since 2006. A typically brief spring passage with just two records, one at Ho Pui Reservoir on 29 March and two at Tai Po Kau on 2 April.

Second winter period: recorded from 21 August to 22 November, peak count three at Tai Po Kau on 2 September and Braemar Hill on 13 September. Also recorded from MPNR, Ng Tung Chai, Shek Kong, Shing Mun, Yung Shue O and HK, Lantau and Po Toi Islands.

Goodson's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus goodsoni* 古氏 [冠紋] 柳鶯 I

Mainly winter visitor to shrubland and woodland; extreme dates 5 September to 4 April, highest count ten on 12 November 1990.

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 birds with less extensive yellow are likely to refer to *P.g. fokiensis*, this is not proven, as *Phylloscopus claudiae* cannot be excluded. Observers are encouraged to submit records as *P.g. goodsoni* or *fokiensis/claudiae*, where appropriate.

All records from Tai Po Kau unless otherwise noted.

First winter period: recorded to 19 March with a peak count of four at Tai Po Kau on 3 February. Where recorded, most refer to *fokiensis/claudiae* but one *goodsoni* at Lau Shui Heung on 14 January. Singles also recorded from Chung Mei, Lung Fu Shan with two at Ng Tung Chai on 4 February.

Second winter period: recorded from 15 October, all *fokiensis/claudiae* where recorded, high count three at Shing Mun on 17 December with other records from Bride's Pool, Pak Tam Au, Po Toi and Lamma Islands as well as Tai Po Kau.

White-spectacled Warbler *Seicercus affinis* 白眶鵯鶯 I

Rare winter visitor to forest, extreme dates 17 November to 16 February.

One at Tai Po Kau from 9 to 23 January (KPK).

Alström's (Plain-tailed) Warbler *Seicercus soror* 純色尾鵯鶯 I

One record, 9 October 2004.

One on Po Toi on 16 October (AC). This is the second Hong Kong record.

Spectacled Warbler *Seicercus* sp. 眼眶鵯鶯

Rare winter visitor to forest, extreme dates 9 September to 1 April.

This title covers birds of the genus *Seicercus* not certainly identified to species level. Species involved may include White-spectacled Warbler, Bianchi's Warbler, Grey-crowned Warbler and Alström's Warbler.

Singles at Ng Tung Chai on 4 February and Tai Po Kau on 5 December.

Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Seicercus castaniceps* 栗頭鵯鶯 I

Rare winter visitor to forest; extreme dates 5 November to 25 March, highest count two on 22 November 2004.

One at Tai Po Kau from 1 to 9 January is presumably the same bird present in late December 2010.

Oriental Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis* 東方大葦鶯 I

Common migrant, especially in autumn, to reedmarsh, tall grassy vegetation and even urban edge parkland habitats, with occasional winter and summer records; typical extreme dates 16 March to 8 June and 24 August to 15 November, highest count 300 on 25 September 1997.

First winter period: one trapped at Mai Po on 14 January. Thereafter, recorded from 8 March to 28 May, high count six at MPNR on 19 April.

Second winter period: recorded from 27 August to 1 December, peak count 50 at MPNR on 27 September with 43 at San Tin on 14 October and eight at Long Valley on 10 October. Also recorded at Kam Tin, Lam Tsuen, LMC, Nam Sang Wai, Nim Wan, Pat Heung, Ping Yeung and on Po Toi with an unusual record at Tai Po Kau on 24 September.

Black-browed Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps* 黑眉葦鶯 I

Fairly common migrant and scarce winter visitor to reedmarsh and damp vegetated areas; extreme dates 25 August to 30 May, highest count 120 on 13 October 2001.

First winter period: singles at MPNR on 14 January and 8 March. Spring passage from 19 April to 25 May with all records from MPNR and Long Valley, high count three at MPNR on 29 April and Long Valley on 3 May.

Second winter period: recorded from 22 September to 22 December with most records from MPNR and Long Valley, peak count 28 at MPNR on 2 November with 15 at San Tin on 10 November and 14 at Nim Wan on 16 November. Also recorded from Kam Tin, Lam Tsuen, Shing Mun and unusual records of singles at Tsing Yi Park on 30 October and Cheung Chau on 4 November.



Plate 32 Black-browed Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps* 黑眉葦鶯
Long Valley, 31st October 2011 壟原 2011年10月31日
John and Jemi Holmes 孔思義及黃亞萍

Blunt-winged Warbler *Acrocephalus concinens* 鈍翅葦鶯 I

Nine records; extreme dates 6 September to 21 April.

One trapped at MPNR on 24 October, re-trapped on 2 and 22 November (JAA *et al.*) and another trapped at MPNR on 14 November (PJJ). One at Nam Sang Wai on 20 December (PJJ).

Manchurian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus tangorum* 遠東葦鶯 I VU

Scarce autumn passage migrant to reedmarsh and damp vegetated areas, two winter and two spring records; extreme dates in autumn 4 September to 2 November.

A very good year. Recorded between 6 September and 18 October, mostly at MPNR where eight individuals were trapped over this period. Also singles at Long Valley on 25 and 27 September with two there on 30 September and one at Kam Tin on 26 September. A total of at least 11 different birds were recorded over the autumn, a record annual count.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Manchurian Reed Warbler up to the end of 2011 is given as Figure 11. Records of this species have increased substantially since 2007.

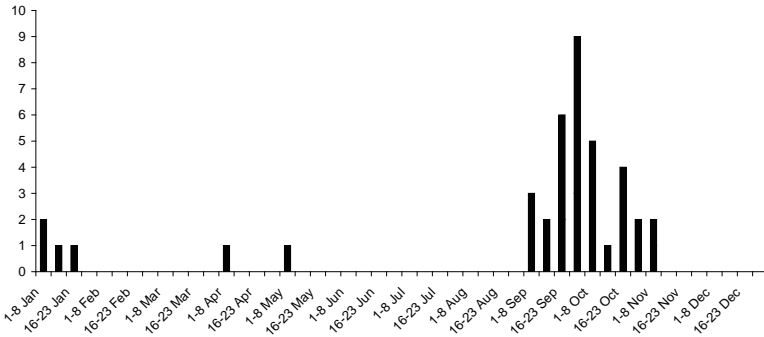


Figure 11. Weekly Occurrence Graph Manchurian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus tangorum* 遠東葦鶯

A similar graph showing the weekly occurrence of Manchurian Reed Warbler ringed at Mai Po NR appears within the paper 'Seasonality of *Acrocephalus* and *Locustella* warblers in the reedbeds at Mai Po Nature Reserve' on page 234 of this report.

Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola* 黑眉葦鶯 I

Rare winter visitor and migrant to reedmarsh and damp vegetated areas; nine records, extreme dates 6 October to 28 April.

One trapped at MPNR on 14 January, re-trapped on 3 February (JAA *et al.*).

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* 布氏葦鶯 I

Rare winter visitor and migrant to reedmarsh and damp vegetated areas; seven records; extreme dates 5 October to 30 March.

One photographed on Cheung Chau on 14 February (MDW) had probably been there since 29 January.

Thick-billed Warbler *Iduna aedon* 厚嘴葦鶯 I

Scarce autumn migrant to shrubland and reedmarsh-edge with five winter and spring records; most records between 29 August and 30 November.

One trapped at MPNR on 18 October.

Russet Bush Warbler *Locustella mandelli* 高山短翅鶯 I

Fairly common winter visitor and migrant to mixed grassland-shrubland; rare breeding species in highest areas; highest count nine on 10 November 2002.

First winter period: recorded up to 3 April, mostly calling birds, from Au Tau (near Yuen Long), Lam Tsuen, Nam Chung, Po Toi and Sha Lo Tung, peak count four at Sha Lo Tung with three at Au Tau.

Second winter period: recorded from 29 October from Kam Tin, Lam Tsuen, LMC, MPNR and Po Toi, high count three at Tai Om Shan.

Baikai Bush Warbler *Locustella davidi* 北短翅鶯 I

Five records; extreme dates 18 October to 30 January.

One trapped at MPNR on 6 September (PJL,JAA), a new earliest date, with another trapped there on 27 September (PJL,JAA).

Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata* 矛斑蝗鶯 I

Scarce autumn passage migrant with a few late winter and spring records; occurs in a variety of vegetated habitats, extreme dates 7 February to 22 May and 2 September to 12 December, highest count eleven on 22 October 2009.

In spring, one on Po Toi on 3 May. In autumn, recorded from 14 September to 24 November, mostly trapped at MPNR with a peak count of ten there on 24 and 28 October. Singles recorded from Lok Ma Chau on 21 September, Long Valley on 26 September with two on 10 October, and Kam Tin on 20 October. One taken into care at KFBG from Kowloon Tong on 27 October. One at Hoo Hok Wai on 18 December (GJC) is a new latest record.

Styan's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella pleskei* 史氏蝗鶯 I VU

Rare passage migrant and winter visitor to reedmarsh and mangroves at MPNR; extreme dates 9 September to 12 May.

One trapped at MPNR on 27 September.

Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella certhiola* 小蝗鶯 I

Fairly common autumn migrant and scarce winter visitor to damp grassland and reedmarsh areas, though occasionally found in urban parks and other open areas on migration; extreme dates 23 August to 17 May, highest count 55 on 13 September 1991.

Two records in the first winter period, singles at San Tin on 20 April and Po Toi on 18 May (GW), a new latest spring record. In the second winter period, recorded from 2 September to 13 November, mostly from Long Valley and MPNR where many were trapped, peak count 22 at MPNR on 14 September with six at Long Valley on 26 September. Also recorded from Kam Tin, Lam Tsuen, Po Toi and Shuen Wan with the last record on 13 November from Shap Long, Lantau.

Japanese Swamp Warbler *Locustella pryeri* 斑背大尾鶯 I NT

Three late autumn records, extreme dates 10 November to 14 December.

One at Sai Sha on 19 January (DJS, PJJ) is the fourth HK record and the first January record, as well as the first record not involving a bird trapped at MPNR.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* 棕扇尾鶯 I

Common winter visitor and migrant to grassy and reedmarsh areas, breeds in Deep Bay area and possibly elsewhere; highest count 100 on 5 December 1997.

A poor year with low counts in both seasons and few breeding season records.

First winter period: recorded up to 19 April, mostly from Long Valley, peak count 12 there on 8 February.

Breeding season: eight at Nim Wan on 18 May, singles at MPNR on 27 June and 28 July.

Second winter period: recorded from 10 September, high count 11 at Ping Yeung on 2 October.

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis* 金頭扇尾鶯 I

Localised but increasing winter visitor to grassland; extreme dates 19 August to 28 April, highest count ten on 25 November 1995.

First winter period: recorded up to 19 April, mostly from Long Valley, Lam Tsuen and the northeast NT, high count six at Ping Yeung on 12 January with five at She Shan on 1 January and five at Long Valley on 8 April.

Second winter period: recorded from 2 September, mostly from the northeast NT and Lam Tsuen with records also from Lamma, Lantau and Po Toi Islands. Peak count 23 at Ping Yeung on 2 October (JAA) is a new highest count; also ten at Kai Kung Leng

in Lam Tsuen CP on 12 November. Unexpectedly, there were no records from Long Valley in the second winter period.

This species has expanded rapidly in Hong Kong in recent years. The number of locations from which it has been recorded is as follows

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
4	4	1	2	10	14	8	10	21	19	20	24

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Golden-headed Cisticola up to the end of 2011 is given as Figure 12. Records from *The Avifauna* are shown in grey

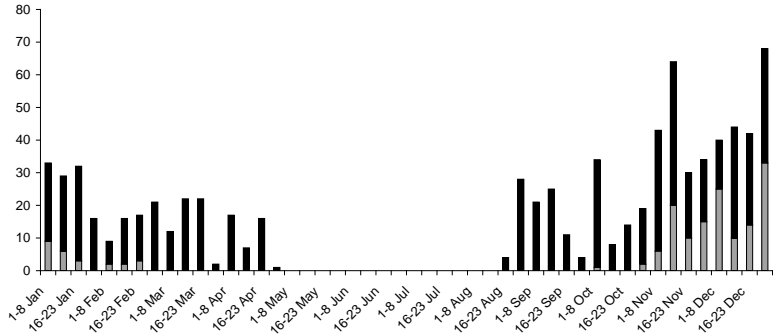


Figure 12. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis* 金頭扇尾鶯

Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris* 黃腹鷦鶯 I

Very common resident in a variety of non-woodland habitats.

Recorded throughout the year with most records from systematic surveys at MPNR, Long Valley and Nim Wan, peak count 75 at MPNR on 19 April with 64 at Nam Sang Wai on 27 May and 25 at Long Valley on 22 March.

Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata* 純色鷦鶯 I

Locally common resident in grassy and reed habitats.

As for the previous species, recorded throughout the year with most records from systematic surveys at MPNR, Long Valley and Nim Wan. The peak count was 23 at Nam Sang Wai on 27 May with 15 at MPNR on 14 January and 12 at Long Valley on 31 January. Also recorded from Ping Yeung, Sam A Tsuen, Lam Tsuen and on Lamma and Po Toi Islands.

Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius* 長尾縫葉鶯 I

Widespread and common resident in diverse shrubland and wooded habitats.

Most records from systematic surveys at Braemar Hill, Long Valley, MPNR, Nim Wan, Tai Po Kau Headland and on Po Toi. These do not show any regular fluctuation in numbers over the course of the year in any location, indicating that this is truly a resident species.

Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficollis* 棕頸鈎嘴鵯 IIA

Widespread and locally common resident in closed-canopy shrubland and woodland; highest count 20 on 4 January 2003.

Recorded in all months with most records from the central and northeast NT, Tai Lam and Sai Kung West CP and HK Island. Peak count six at Tai Lam CP with four at Tai Po Kau Headland and Tai Mo Shan.

Rufous-capped Babbler *Stachyridopsis ruficeps* 紅頭穗鵯 IIA

Locally common resident in closed-canopy shrubland and woodland, mainly in the central NT; highest count 20.

Recorded in all months with most records from the central and northeast NT, Tai Lam and Sai Kung West CP. Peak count 14 from the Shek Kong Catchment Road on 3 April and at Plover Cove CP on 4 December.

Chinese Grassbird *Graminicola striatus* 大草鶯 I NT

Scarce and local resident of grassland above 200m in NT and on Lantau; highest count seven on 3 June 1995.

The split of this species from Indian Grassbird *Graminicola bengalensis* proposed by Leader *et al* (2010) has recently been adopted by IOC. The Hong Kong population may be important globally, and observers are encouraged to submit all records to help understand the status of this species.

Only two records submitted, both from Tai Mo Shan: one on 17 July and four on 1 August.

A systematic survey of eleven hill-top locations by AFCD staff in summer 2011 found this species in nine locations with highest one-day counts as follows; Sunset Peak - five, Tai Mo Shan - four, Lantau Peak - three, Robin's Nest - three, Kowloon Peak - two, Ma On Shan - two, Nei Lak Shan, Lantau Island - two, Pat Sin Leng - two and Tai To Yan - one (So *et al.* 2012).

Chinese Babax *Babax lanceolatus* 矛紋草鵬 IIC

Previously a rare resident of upland grassland, but the established population on Tai Mo Shan is believed to have died out; highest count 14 on 25 August 1984.

This species has been re-assigned to Category IIC since it is now no longer considered to have a self-sustaining feral population.

Up to three on Tai Mo Shan from 27 May to 1 August were all considered ex-captive. The last record of a bird attributed to the previous feral population was on 22 May 2005.



Plate 33 Chinese Hwamei *Garrulax canorus* 畫眉
Lamma Island, 11th January 2011 南丫島 2011年1月11日
Guy Miller

Chinese Hwamei *Garrulax canorus* 畫眉 I

Widespread and common resident in shrubland.

Recorded in all months from widespread locations including HK, Lamma and Lantau Islands, peak count 12 at Braemar Hill on 1 May. One singing from mangroves at MPNR on 17 July was an unusual record but may relate to an ex-captive individual.

Masked Laughingthrush *Garrulax perspicillatus* 黑臉噪鶇 I

Very common resident in diverse urban and rural lightly-wooded habitats.

Commonly recorded species; the peak count during systematic surveys was 55 at MPNR on 19 April with 36 at Long Valley on 28 November. There was no obvious seasonality in the records.

Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax pectoralis* 黑領噪鶇 IIA

Widespread and locally common resident in closed-canopy shrubland and woodland of NT and HK Island.

Recorded throughout the year and from widespread locations in northern, central and eastern NT, peak count 20 at Fung Yuen, Tai Po Kau and Wu Kau Tang. The only record away from NT was of two at Aberdeen CP on 2 May.

Black-throated Laughingthrush *Garrulax chinensis* 黑喉噪鶇 IIA

Widespread and locally common resident in closed-canopy shrubland and woodland, in NT and on HK Island (its previous stronghold).

Recorded throughout the year from widespread locations in northern, central and eastern NT and from HK Island, peak count four at Tai Po Kau Headland.

White-browed Laughingthrush *Garrulax sannio* 白頰噪鶇 IIA

Locally-distributed scarce resident of shrubland and shrubland edge.

Recorded from the Lam Tsuen valley in most months, high count six at Ping Long on 27 July. Also recorded from Ping Yeung, Tai Tam CP and Yuen Tuen Ha with the peak count of eight at Ho Sheung Heung on 7 November and five at Shek O on 25 November, both new locations.

Blue-winged Minla *Minla cyanouroptera* 藍翅希鶇 IIB

Locally common resident in closed-canopy shrubland and woodland of NT; highest count 50 on 8 September 1999.

Most records from the central NT with the peak count of 15 at Tai Po Kau on 24 March and 12 at Tai Po Kau Headland on 7 September. Records also from Tai Lam CP, northeast NT and Sai Kung West CP.

Silver-eared Mesia *Leiothrix argentauris* 銀耳相思鳥 IIB

Locally common resident in closed-canopy shrubland and woodland in NT and HK Island; highest count 42 on 4 February 2006.

Most records from the central NT with the peak count of 17 at Tai Po Kau on 11 January. Records also from Tai Lam CP and Po Shan Road.



Plate 34 Red-billed Leiothrix *Leiothrix lutea* 紅嘴相思鳥
Shing Mun Reservoir, 8th January 2011 城門水塘 2011年1月8日
Chan Ka Wa 陳家華

Red-billed Leiothrix *Leiothrix lutea* 紅嘴相思鳥 IIA

Localised resident in shrubland and woodland; highest count 20 on 28 January 2006.

This species seems to have declined in recent years and observers are encouraged to submit all records to establish the current status.

Almost all records from the central NT with the peak count of seven including one juvenile at Tai Mo Shan on 1 August. One near Victoria Peak on 17 September was probably ex-captive.

Vinous-throated Parrotbill *Sinosuthora webbiana* 棕頭鴉雀 IIA

Scarce and local resident of upland dwarf bamboo, grassland and shrubland edge, almost exclusively reported from Tai Mo Shan; highest count 20 on 9 September 2001.

All records from Tai Mo Shan between 27 May and 8 October, peak count 13 on the last date.



Plate 35 Vinous-throated Parrotbill *Sinosuthora webbiana* 棕頭鴉雀
Tai Mo Shan, 29th May 2011 大帽山 2011年5月29日
Peter and Michelle Wong 黃理沛 江敏兒

Chestnut-collared Yuhina *Yuhina castaniceps* 栗耳鳳鶯 I

Scarce, occasionally irruptive, winter visitor and migrant to wooded areas, with occasional summer records; highest count 84 on 26 November 2009.

First winter period: recorded to 1 March with all records from the central and northeast NT, peak count 33 at Lau Shui Heung on 11 February.

Breeding season: no records.

Second winter period: recorded from 4 December, all records from Tai Po Kau.

Chestnut-flanked White-eye *Zosterops erythropleurus* 紅脇繡眼鳥 I

Winter visitor to woodland areas; extreme dates 21 October to 8 April, highest count eight on 3 December 1995.

A more typical year than the previous two when there were widespread records and high counts.

In the first winter period, two at Tai Po Kau on 2 January and at Chung Mei on 3 February. In the second winter period, singles at Tai Po Kau on 26 December and Shing Mun on 29 December.

Japanese White-eye *Zosterops japonicus* 暗綠繡眼鳥 I

Abundant and widespread resident of urban and rural wooded habitats with increased numbers in winter; highest count 300 on 4 January 1997.

Recorded throughout the year with regular reports from Braemar Hill, Long Valley, MPNR, Nim Wan, Po Toi and Tai Po Kau Headland; high counts in those places were 50 at Braemar Hill, 85 on Po Toi, the peak count for the year on 11 January, 16 at Nim Wan, 71 at MPNR, 69 at Long Valley and 45 at Tai Po Kau Headland.

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis* 絨額鶯 IIB

Locally-common resident of mature woodland in central NT; highest count 20 on 4 January 2004.

Most records from Tai Po Kau with a peak count of eight there on 6 October. Also recorded from CUHK campus, Kap Lung, Lau Shui Heung, Lam Tsuen, Shek Kong and Tai Lam CP.

Crested Myna *Acridotheres cristatellus* 八哥 I

Very common resident of lowland habitats. Highest count 600 on 7 October 1997.

The peak count was 400 at Pui O on 26 November with 262 at Long Valley on 10 January.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* 家八哥 IIB

Locally established resident of open-country areas in the northwest NT; highest count 30 on 1 February 1994.

Recorded in all months from the Deep Bay area and Long Valley, with 30 including juveniles at San Tin on 7 September and the peak count of 41 at San Tin on 9 December (DJS), a new highest count. Recorded numbers of this species have been increasing in the San Tin area over the past few years.

Red-billed Starling *Spodiopsar sericeus* 絲光椋鳥 I

Winter visitor and migrant to open-country areas, mainly in northwest NT; recent years have seen summer records including breeding. Highest numbers occur from October to April, highest count 11,260 on 25 December 2006.

First winter period: widespread records, mostly from the northwest NT but also Lamma, Lantau, Po Toi and Stonecutter's Islands, high counts 359 at MPNR on 21 January with 124 at Long Valley on 24 March and 70 at Tai O on 23 March. Last record from Po Toi on 18 May.

Breeding season: records including juveniles from Nim Wan, MPNR and the Shenzhen River, high count 47 at Nim Wan on 28 June.

Second winter period: recorded from 21 September, peak count 3,500 at Mai Po on 7 December with 1,000 at Nam Sang Wai on 21 November and 300 at Pui O on 26 November.

White-cheeked Starling *Spodiopsar cineraceus* 灰椋鳥 I

Winter visitor to open-country areas, particularly Deep Bay, with recent breeding records; mainly present October to April, highest count 430 on 14 December 1996.

First winter period: most records from MPNR and Long Valley, peak count 147 at Long Valley on 10 January; elsewhere one on Stonecutter's Island on 24 February and four at Pui O on 6 May.

Breeding season: records including juveniles from San Tin and the Mai Po area.

Second winter period: recorded from 9 October from the Long Valley and Deep Bay areas, high count 70 at Hoo Hok Wai on 13 November.

Black-collared Starling *Gracupica nigricollis* 黑領椋鳥 I

Common resident of open-country, village edge and urban habitats; highest count 280 on 29 October 1996.

Widespread records, the peak count of 232 at Nam Sang Wai on 23 February with 115 at CUHK on 26 September. Systematic counts at MPNR usually peak in summer, this year with 94 on 26 August, and similar counts at Long Valley appear to peak in spring and autumn, this year with 78 on 8 March and 83 on 17 October.



Plate 36 White-cheeked Starling *Spodiopsar cineraceus* 灰椋鳥
Long Valley, 5th March 2011 塋原 2011年3月5日
Chan Chak Wing 陳澤榮

Daurian Starling *Agropsar sturninus* 北椋鳥 I

Autumn migrant to open-country areas, with a few spring and one winter records; extreme dates 12 April to 12 May and 4 September to 10 November. Highest count 50 on 26 September 2003.

Autumn: two at LMC on 21 September, one at MPNR on 22 September, two on Po Toi between 22 September and 5 October, ten at Long Valley on 25 September and one at Nam Sang Wai on 20 October.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Daurian Starling up to the end of 2011 is given as Figure 13.

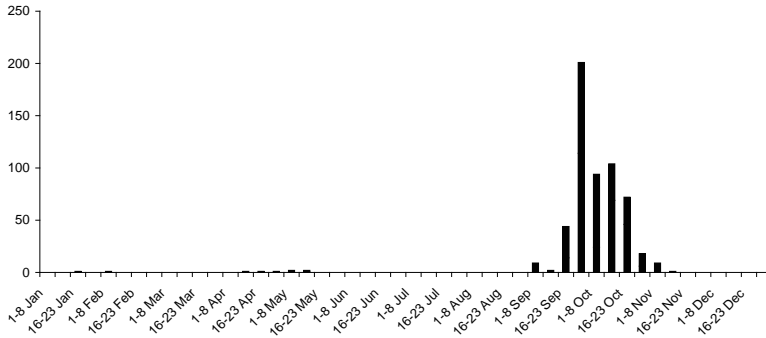


Figure 13. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Daurian Starling *Agropsar sturninus* 北椋鳥

Chestnut-cheeked Starling *Agropsar philippensis* 栗頰椋鳥 I

Scarce passage migrant, mainly in autumn, to open-country areas; extreme dates 28 March to 30 April and 26 September to 20 November, highest count four on 22 April 1989.

In spring, one at Pui O on 22 April. In autumn, one on Po Toi from 2 to 5 October.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Chestnut-cheeked Starling up to the end of 2011 is given as Figure 14.

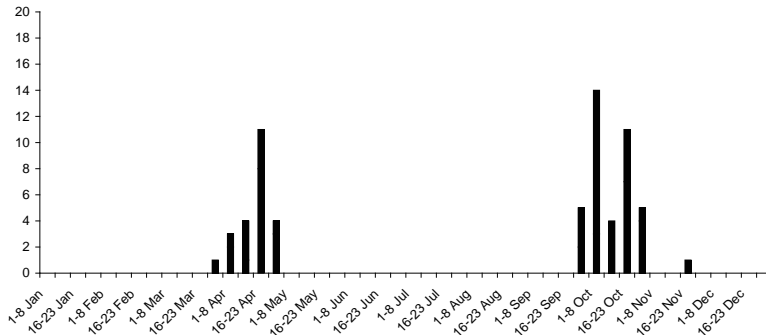


Figure 14. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Chestnut-cheeked Starling *Agropsar philippensis* 栗頰椋鳥

White-shouldered Starling *Sturnia sinensis* 灰背椋鳥 I

Locally common passage migrant and breeding species, and scarce winter visitor to open-country and village edge habitats mainly in the northwest NT; breeding population on increase as a result of use of nest boxes; highest count 120 on 23 September 2006.

First winter period: recorded from 12 February when 24 at Hoo Hok Wai was the high count for the whole first winter period. Most records to end May came from the northwest NT but numbers were low and 14 at Kam Tin on 6 April was the high count after February. Also recorded on Po Toi between 23 March and 19 May, high count ten on 19 April, with six at CUHK on 12 April and two over southern waters on 16 April.

Breeding season: recorded from the northwest NT, the peak year count of 90 was at San Tin on 12 July with 42 at Kam Tin on 28 July and 60 at MPNR on 30 July.

Second winter period: most records from 30 August to 8 November with high count 85 at Nam Sang Wai on 30 August, 40 on Po Toi on 18 September and 35 at Long Valley on 25 September. Last record one at Pak Tin Kong on 12 December.

Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnia malabaricus* 灰頭椋鳥 I

Rare winter visitor, with three previous records; extreme dates 12 January to 17 March. Birds that breed in Kowloon Park are considered to derive from ex-captive individuals.

Away from Kowloon Park, where up to two were present all year, one of unknown origin at MPNR on 1 July and probably the same individual at Nam Sang Wai on 17 July.

Rosy Starling *Pastor roseus* 粉紅椋鳥 I

Seven records; extreme dates 24 September to 28 April.

A juvenile at San Tin from 23 November to 6 December (JAA *et al.*).

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* 紫翅椋鳥 I

Scarce winter visitor and late autumn passage migrant to open country areas; extreme dates 16 October to 10 April, highest count 12 on 11 January 1987. Possibly declining.

First winter period: up to two on the Mai Po access road from 14 January to 12 February.

Second winter period: five photographed from the Mai Po boardwalk on 1 November is the highest day count since 2005. At least one remained in the Mai Po area until 26 November.

Blue Whistling Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus* 紫嘯鶇 I

Widespread and locally common resident in closed-canopy shrubland and woodland, often near streams.

No significant reports.

Orange-headed Thrush *Geokichla citrina* 橙頭地鶇 I

Scarce winter visitor and rare breeding species to forest and closed-canopy shrubland; highest count three on 21 August 2003.

First winter period: singles at Tai Po Kau Headland on 8 and 17 January, Lam Tsuen on 16 January and Chuen Lung from 30 January to 7 February.

Second winter period: singles at Tai Po Kau on 17 September and 7 December with three, two males and a female, at Kap Lung on 22 October.

Siberian Thrush *Geokichla sibirica* 白眉地鶇 I

Scarce migrant and winter visitor to wooded areas; extreme dates 16 September to 23 April, highest count four on 7 February 1996.

Singles at Tai Po Kau on 8 and 19 October and at Kap Lung on 22 October.

White's Thrush *Zoothera aurea* 懷氏地鶇 I

Fairly common winter visitor and migrant to woodland edge and open woodland; extreme dates 30 September to 8 May, highest count six on 11 February 2008.

First winter period: in a good first winter period, widespread records to 14 April, mostly singles or twos, with eight at Pak Sha O on 18 January, a new highest count, three at Nim Wan on 25 January and five at Tai Tong, Yuen Long on 29 January.

Second winter period: only two records, singles on Po Toi on 19 November and at Nim Wan on 1 December.

Grey-backed Thrush *Turdus hortulorum* 灰背鶇 I

Common winter visitor and migrant to lightly-wooded areas, shrubland and forest; extreme dates 2 November to 27 April, highest count 70 on 11 February 2008.

First winter period: a good first winter period, as for the previous species, with very widespread records to 13 April, peak count 30 at Tung Ping Chau on 29 January with at least 21 at Kwai Fung on 7 January.

Second winter period: in a poor autumn recorded from 12 November, high count only three at Ho Sheung Heung on 19 December.



Plate 37 Japanese Thrush *Turdus cardis* 烏灰鶇
Yuen Long, 5th February 2011 元朗 2011年2月5日
Kinni Ho 何建業

Japanese Thrush *Turdus cardis* 烏灰鶇 I

Fairly common winter visitor and migrant to wooded areas; extreme dates 25 October to 8 May, highest count 56 on 25 November 2009.

First winter period: recorded up to 9 April, high count six on Po Toi on 25 January with four at Kwai Chung Park on 21 January.

Second winter period: recorded from 15 November with the year peak count of nine on Po Toi on 23 November.

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula* 烏鶇 I

Fairly common winter visitor and migrant to lightly wooded areas, rare breeding species; typically present early October to March; highest count 170 on 22 November 1992.

First winter period: recorded up to 19 April, high count 12 at Tai Po Kau Headland on 7 February.

Breeding season: breeding for the fifth successive year near the MPNR car park. A juvenile at LMC on 10 August.

Second winter period: recorded from 11 October, peak count of 36 at Sai Sha on 25 November with 20 at Ping Long on 15 November and 21 at Long Valley on 5 December.

Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus* 白眉鶇 I

Fairly common migrant and scarce winter visitor to lightly wooded areas, extreme dates 13 October to 7 May, highest count 150 on 27 April 1988.

First winter period: one at Wonderland Villas on 14 January follows winter records in most recent years. In spring, singles only from 8 April to 16 May at Kap Lung and on Po Toi.

Second winter period: three at MPNR on 22 November, four on Po Toi on 29 November and at MPNR on 7 December. One at Tai Po Kau from 9 December to year end.

Pale Thrush *Turdus pallidus* 白腹鶇 I

Fairly common winter visitor and migrant to lightly wooded areas, extreme dates 4 November to 26 April, highest count 51 on 21 January 1992.

First winter period: widely recorded up to 2 April, peak count 12 on Po Toi on 25 January with ten at Tai Tong, Yuen Long on 29 January and on Cheung Chau on 6 February, and nine on south Lamma on 10 February.

Second winter period: only two records, one at Tai Po Kau on 3 December and two on Po Toi from 6 December.

Brown-headed Thrush *Turdus chrysolaus* 赤胸鶇 I

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant to lightly-wooded areas, extreme dates 20 November to 4 May.

One at Tai Po Kau on 21 January was the only record.

Dusky Thrush *Turdus eunomus* 斑鶇 I

Scarce winter visitor to open country areas. Extreme dates 31 October to 5 May. Highest count 100 on 18 February 1984 in the last irruption year.

All records in the first winter period, which was a good one with widespread records and high counts. Recorded up to 11 March with the peak count of ten at Nam Sang Wai on 28 January, the highest one-day count since *The Avifauna*, five there on 17 February, four at Long Valley on 1 February, two at Chek Lap Kok on 11 March and singles at CUHK, Long Ke, MPNR, Pak Tin Kong, Ping Long, Ping Yeung, Tai Po Kau, Lantau and Stonecutter's Islands. The best winter for this species since *The Avifauna*.



Plate 38 Pale Thrush *Turdus pallidus* 白腹鸫
Shing Mun, 22nd January 2011 城門 2011年1月22日
Wallace Tse 謝鑑超

Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophris* 白喉短翅鸚 I

Resident and winter visitor to closed-canopy shrubland and woodland, a recent colonist; highest count six.

Recorded in most months of the year in the Tai Po Kau area, peak count three at Tai Po Kau on 29 October with three at Pun Shan Chau on 12 November. Singles at Tai Mo Shan in August and Tai Om Shan in March, April and November with two including a juvenile at Ng Tung Chai on 11 September. Away from these areas, one singing at Lau Shui Heung on 17 December.

Observers are encouraged to submit all records of this species in order that its status and colonisation can be better understood. The peak count of three in 2011 is lower than those in the previous four years, when up to six have been recorded.



Plate 39 Japanese Robin *Erithacus akahige* 日本歌鸚
Po Shan Road, 3rd February 2011 寶珊道 2011年2月3日
Peter and Michelle Wong 黃理沛 江敏兒

Japanese Robin *Erithacus akahige* 日本歌鸚 I

Rare winter visitor to woodland; extreme dates 19 November to 29 March, highest count two on 4 February 1995.

A male at Po Shan Road from 30 January to 7 February.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* 藍喉歌鶇 I

Locally common winter visitor and scarce passage migrant to damp, lowland open country areas, including reedmarsh; extreme dates 27 September to 6 May, highest count 13 on 28 January 1994.

First winter period: recorded up to 26 April, mostly at Long Valley with the peak count of two there. Also singles at Fung Lok Wai, MPNR and Nam Sang Wai.

Second winter period: recorded from 31 October at Long Valley and MPNR, peak count two.



Plate 40 Siberian Rubythroat *Luscinia calliope* 紅喉歌鶇
Kam Tin, 18th January 2011 錦田 2011年1月18日
Andy Li 李偉仁

Siberian Rubythroat *Luscinia calliope* 紅喉歌鶇 I

Passage migrant and winter visitor to lowland shrubland, open country and reedmarsh; extreme dates 8 October to 10 May, highest count 59 on 27 November 1996.

First winter period: recorded until 8 May on Po Toi, a late spring date, high count five at Nam Sang Wai on 28 January.

Second winter period: recorded from 28 September, a new earliest date, when a first-winter male was trapped at MPNR (JAA). Then quite widespread reports from 18 October with the peak count of ten at MPNR and nine on Po Toi.

Siberian Blue Robin *Luscinia cyane* 藍歌鵲 I

Scarce passage migrant to shrubland and woodland, with four winter records; extreme passage dates 1 April to 29 April and 4 September to 4 October, highest count three on 25 September 2004.

No records in spring but a good autumn for the species. In autumn, an adult male at Ng Tung Chai on 4 September, a female trapped at MPNR on 8 September with another on 14 September, two first-winter females on Po Toi on 14 September, one staying to 21 September, and a male trapped at MPNR on 24 September. Finally, a first-winter female trapped at MPNR on 21 October (JAA) is a new latest date.

Rufous-tailed Robin *Luscinia sibilans* 紅尾歌鵲 I

Passage migrant and winter visitor to woodland and closed-canopy shrubland; extreme dates 16 October to 23 April, highest count 25 on 2 April 2010.

First winter period: widespread records from north and central NT and most islands with a peak count of seven on north Lantau on 15 January. Last record on 30 March.

Second winter period: recorded from 17 October, less widespread, mainly MPNR and Tai Po Kau, high count three.



Plate 41 Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* 紅脇藍尾鵲
Hong Lok Yuen, 23rd January 2011 康樂園 2011年1月23日
Martin Hale

Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* 紅脇藍尾鶇 I

Common winter visitor and passage migrant to shrubland and woodland, numbers variable each winter; extreme dates 23 October to 18 April, highest count 39 on 21 January 1992.

First winter period: very widespread records although the peak count of six at Tai Tong and Wonderland Villas is relatively low. Last record on 6 April.

Second winter period: by contrast a very poor autumn for the species. Recorded from 11 November at only three locations, Bride's Pool Road, Shing Mun and Po Toi, high count only two.



Plate 42 Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* 紅脇藍尾鶇
Shing Mun Reservoir, 15th January 2011 城門水塘 2011年1月15日
Lee Yat Ming 李逸明

Oriental Magpie Robin *Copsychus saularis* 鵲鶇 I

Abundant resident in urban and rural areas, including mangrove.

Almost all records from systematic counts at MPNR, which typically show peak counts from April to July, probably as a result of breeding activity, and at Long Valley, Nim Wan and Tai Po Kau Headland, which do not show any obvious fluctuations for this resident species .



Plate 43 Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* 赭紅尾鶇
Po Toi Island, 10th April 2011 蒲台島 2011年4月10日
Allen Chan 陳志雄

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* 赭紅尾鶇 I

One record, a first-summer male rufiventris on 23 April 1995.

A first-winter female *rufiventris* on Po Toi from 5 to 11 April (GW, CWS *et al.*). This is the second HK record and the first since 1995.

Daurian Redstart *Phoenicurus aureoreus* 北紅尾鶇 I

Common winter visitor to shrubland and open woodland; extreme dates 13 October to 2 May, highest count 30 on 5 February 1995.

First winter period: widespread records until 27 April, peak count nine at Pui O on 1 April.

Second winter period: recorded from 24 October, less widespread and a high count only three.

Plumbeous Water Redstart *Rhyacornis fuliginosa* 紅尾水鷓 I

Scarce winter visitor to rocky streams and water catchments; extreme dates 24 October to 19 April.

First winter period: a male at Chung Mei from 1 January to 12 February and a female near Sha Tin on 7 February.

Second winter period: a male at Chung Mei on 4 December.

Slaty-backed Forktail *Enicurus schistaceus* 灰背燕尾 I

Occasional visitor to streams in closed-canopy woodland and shrubland, at least one breeding record.

One at Shing Mun on 12 January.

Stejneger's Stonechat *Saxicola stejnegeri* 黑喉石鷓 I

Common passage migrant and winter visitor; extreme dates 25 August to 6 May, highest count 60 on 6 November 1993.

First winter period: recorded until 26 April, mostly at Long Valley where the high count was 18 on 31 January. Also from Lam Tsuen, MPNR, Nam Chung, Nim Wan and Shek Kong, high count three.

Second winter period: recorded from 29 August. Peak count at Long Valley was 21 on 24 October, also recorded from Kam Tin, Lam Tsuen, MPNR, Nim Wan, Ping Yeung, Tai Mo Shan and HK, Lamma and Lantau Islands, high count eight at Tai Mo Shan on 8 October and at Nim Wan on 20 October.

Grey Bush Chat *Saxicola ferreus* 灰林鷓 I

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant; extreme dates 14 September to 20 April, highest count four on 13 April 1955.

First winter period: a male at Shan Liu, near Sai Kung, from 4 to 12 February and another at Wu Kau Tang on 12 February.

Second winter period: no records .

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius* 藍磯鶇 I

Passage migrant and winter visitor mostly to rocky or coastal areas but sometimes village edge or farmland, with isolated summer records; typically present September to May, highest count 14. Two subspecies occur, philippensis and pandoo, with most records being philippensis.

First winter period: recorded until 16 May, peak count six on Po Toi on 18 January. Three at Chek Lap Kok on 17 June is an unusual summer record but follows one there in June 2009.

Second winter period: recorded from 1 September, high count four on Po Toi on 3 November.



Plate 44 Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush *Monticola rufiventris* 栗腹磯鶇
Kadoorie Farm Botanical Gardens, 3rd October 2011
嘉道理農場暨植物園 2011年10月3日
Wallace Tse 謝鑑超

Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush *Monticola rufiventris* 栗腹磯鶇 I

Rare winter visitor, mainly to KFBG; extreme dates 2 October to 2 April.

A female at KFBG from 6 to 10 March.

Grey-streaked Flycatcher *Muscicapa griseisticta* 灰紋鶇 I

Passage migrant to shrubland and open woodland; extreme dates 25 March to 26 May and 29 August to 25 November; highest count 50 on 8 May 1999 in the aftermath of Typhoon Leo.

Spring: recorded from 6 April to 26 May which equals the latest spring date. Widespread although most records from MPNR and Po Toi, peak count ten on Po Toi on 22 April with seven at MPNR on 30 April.

Autumn: recorded from 18 September to 10 November, fewer records and less widespread than spring, high count four on Po Toi on 16 October.

Dark-sided Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica* 烏鶇 I

Mainly autumn migrant to woodland areas, with four spring records; extreme dates 31 March to 8 May and 26 August to 26 December, highest count five on 19 September 2009.

As is typical, all records occurred in autumn from 1 September to 2 December, widespread although most records from Po Toi and Tai Po Kau, peak count just two at Lam Tsuen, Long Valley, Po Toi and Shing Mun.

Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica* 北灰鶇 I

Winter visitor and passage migrant to open and closed-canopy woodland areas; extreme dates 27 August to 26 May; highest count 40 on 18 October 1959.

2010: one at Po Shan Road on 12 June (BK) is a latest spring record.

2011: First winter period: widespread winter records with a high count of three at Shek Kong on 20 February. A weak spring migration from 6 April to 9 May with records from only three locations, Lower Shing Mun, MPNR and Po Toi, high count just three on Po Toi on 30 April.

Second winter period: a much stronger autumn passage with widespread records from 27 August (KPK), equaling the earliest date, to 7 November, peak count ten at Nam Sang Wai on 20 October with six on Po Toi on 18 September. December records of singles at Braemar Hill, Lam Tsuen, Tai Po Kau and Po Toi.

Brown-breasted Flycatcher *Muscicapa muttui* 褐胸鶇 I

Four records, extreme dates 13 September to 13 April.

One at Tsung Tsai Yuen, near Tai Po Kau village, on 2 September (Website photograph). This is the fifth HK record and the earliest.

Ferruginous Flycatcher *Muscicapa ferruginea* 棕尾褐鶇 I

Mainly spring migrant to shrubland and woodland with five autumn records; extreme dates 3 March to 2 May and 23 September to 8 November, highest count five on 1 April 1994.

A weak spring passage. One on Po Toi on 16 April with two there on 19 April and one again on 22 April and 1 May, probably just three birds involved. One at Lung Fu Shan on 18 April. In autumn, one at Tai Po Kau on 21 October is the sixth autumn record.

Yellow-rumped Flycatcher *Ficedula zanthopygia* 白眉姬鶇 I

Mainly autumn migrant to shrubland and woodland with four spring records; extreme dates 5 to 30 April and 17 August to 17 October, highest count ten on 9 September 2000.

All records in autumn, from 27 August to 13 October, at MPNR, Nam Sang Wai, Shek Kong, Tai Po Kau and on Po Toi and Lantau Islands, mostly singles but two on Po Toi from 6 to 11 September and at MPNR on 17 September.

Narcissus Flycatcher *Ficedula narcissina* 黃眉姬鶇 I

Spring migrant to woodland areas with three autumn records; extreme dates 19 March to 2 May and 7 October to 16 November, peak count five on 3 April 2004. Most records are of nominate *narcissina* but there have been records of *owstoni* in recent years.

2010: a first-summer male of the taxon *owstoni* at Victoria Peak on 26 March (Website photograph) is the fifth record of this taxon.

2011: recorded from 20 March to 22 April from MPNR, Po Shan Road, Lamma and Po Toi Islands, mostly singles except for two on Po Toi on 19 April. Males of the taxon *owstoni* were recorded at Yuen Long on 29 March (Website photograph) and at Shek Kong from 10 to 13 April (Website photograph). These are the sixth and seventh records of this taxon since the first in 2002. A male *narcissina* on Po Toi on 16 November and a female *narcissina* at Po Shan Road on 18 November are the sixth and seventh autumn records since the first in 2007.

Green-backed Flycatcher *Ficedula elisae* 綠背姬鶇

Two spring records, both males; extreme dates 29 March to 11 April.

A first-winter male at Po Shan Road on 21 October (BK,KKO) is the third accepted HK record and the first since 1997.



Plate 45 Green-backed Flycatcher *Ficedula elisae* 綠背姬鶯
Po Shan Road, 21st October 2011 寶珊道 2011年10月21日
Koel Ko 高偉琛

Female-type Narcissus Flycatcher *owstoni*/Green-backed Flycatcher *Ficedula narcissina owstoni*/*Ficedula elisae* 黃眉姬鶯/綠背姬鶯

After close examination of several records and of skins, the Records Committee have decided it is not possible to distinguish between female-type (female and some first-summer male) Narcissus Flycatchers of the taxon *owstoni* and female-type Green-backed Flycatchers *F. elisae*. This is of particular relevance given the increasing number of records of male *owstoni* in Hong Kong. Consequently, records of female-type birds of *owstoni* and *elisae* will be recorded as 'either/or' until better identification characteristics become available.

One on Po Toi on 13 November (Website photograph).

Mugimaki Flycatcher *Ficedula mugimaki* 鷓姬鶯 I

Fairly common autumn migrant and scarce winter visitor and spring migrant to woodland areas; extreme dates 10 October to 15 May, highest count 30 on 23 November 1969.

First winter period: one at Lower Shing Mun Reservoir on 9 January. One spring record, a female on Po Toi from 26 April to 3 May.

Second winter period: recorded from 15 October to 23 November at Po Shan Road, Shing Mun, Tai Po Kau and on Po Toi, peak count two there on 23 October. December records from Braemar Hill, Bride's Pool, Mount Davis and Pak Sha O.

Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophinata* 橙胸姬鶯 I

Rare winter visitor; extreme dates 28 November to 28 February.

A female on Lamma Island on 29 January, a male at Bride's Pool from 1 to 12 February and a female at Yuen Long from 4 to 12 February making a good winter for this species.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher up to the end of 2011 is given as Figure 15.

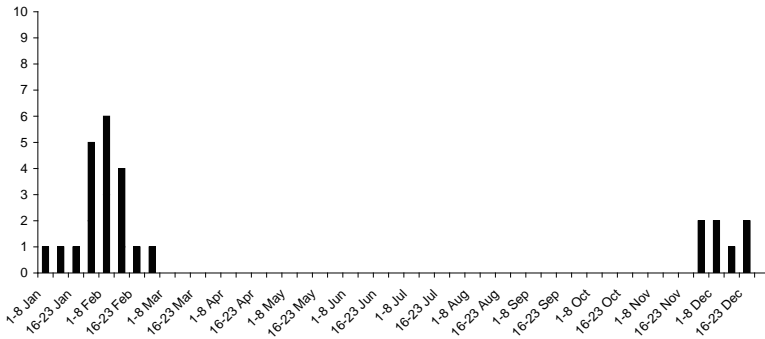


Figure 15. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophinata* 橙胸姬鶯

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* 紅胸姬鶯 I

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; extreme dates 26 October to 11 April.

One on Po Toi from 19 to 21 April. Singles at Lung Fu Shan on 3 November and Po Toi on 15 November with two there on 29 November. One trapped at MPNR on 3 December.

Red-throated Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla* 紅喉姬鶯 I

Common migrant and winter visitor to lightly wooded and open country habitats; extreme dates 13 September to 27 April, highest count 12 on 25 October 1981.

First winter period: winter records to 27 February from eleven different locations, an unusually high number, peak count three at Nam Sang Wai on 28 January. In spring, singles at MPNR on 2 April and Kap Lung on 8 April.

Second winter period: recorded from 9 October, again widespread, peak count three at Lam Tsuen on 15 November.

Blue-and-white Flycatcher *Cyanoptila cyanomelana* 白腹姬鶯 I

Passage migrant, mainly in spring, to woodland areas; extreme dates 25 February to 4 May and 29 August to 10 December, highest count 15 on 2 April 1983.

Spring: one at Tai Po Kau on 24 March, then all records on Po Toi, a male from 5 to 11 April, probably a different bird on 19 April and a third on 30 April.

Autumn: recorded from 11 September to 18 October, high count two on Po Toi on 18 September. Then an exceptional series of late autumn records on Po Toi following a low-pressure system in the northeast South China Sea, with six on 9 November and at least 12, probably 16, on 10 November (6 adult males, 4 females, 2 first-winter males) with numbers gradually falling until the last record of one on 29 November.

Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassina* 銅藍鶯 I

Winter visitor to woodland areas; extreme dates 9 September to 15 April, highest count four on 5 December 1970.

First winter period: recorded to 4 March with widespread singles, peak count two at Po Shan Road on 9 January.

Second winter period: recorded from 24 September with regular reports from Tai Po Kau and widespread reports of other singles, peak count two at Shing Mun and Pak Sha O.

Hainan Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis hainanus* 海南藍仙鶯 I

Summer visitor, passage migrant and rare winter visitor to closed-canopy shrubland and woodland habitats; approximate dates for peak numbers 24 March to 30 September, highest count of singing males ten at Tai Po Kau in summer.

All records except one in the period 26 March to 11 October. Summer records from the central NT, peak count ten at Shing Mun on 1 May with ten also at Sai Kung West CP on 6 June, five in the northeast NT on 2 July and two at Tai Lam CP on 6 August, with several juveniles noted. One on Lamma Island on 17 December was the only winter record.



Plate 46 Fujian Niltava *Niltava davidi* 棕腹大仙鶴
Tai Po Kau, 4th February 2011 大埔滘 2011年2月4日
Peter and Michelle Wong 黃理沛 江敏兒

Fujian Niltava *Niltava davidi* 棕腹大仙鶴 I

Rare winter visitor to woodland; extreme dates 22 October to 10 April.

An exceptional first winter period. A male at Tai Po Kau from 10 January is probably the same bird as that present at the end of 2010. A female at the same location on 31 January. A long-staying male at Lung Fu Shan from 11 January to 22 March and another at Tai Om on 15 January.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Fujian Niltava up to the end of 2011 is given as Figure 16.

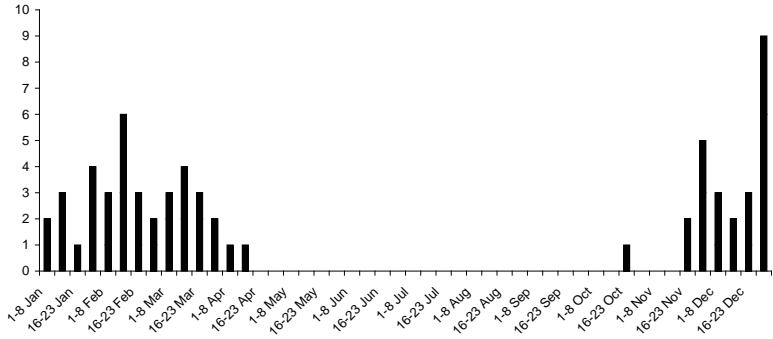


Figure 16. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Fujian Niltava *Niltava davidi* 棕腹大仙鶴

Small Niltava *Niltava macgrigoriae* 小仙鶴 I

Rare autumn and winter visitor to woodland; extreme dates 29 October to 8 February.

An exceptional first winter period. A male at Lung Fu Shan from 8 January to 8 February with a female also there from 15 January to 4 March (Website photograph), a new latest date. A male at Tai Po Kau from 17 to 20 February (Website photograph) is also later than the previous latest.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Small Niltava up to the end of 2011 is given as Figure 17.

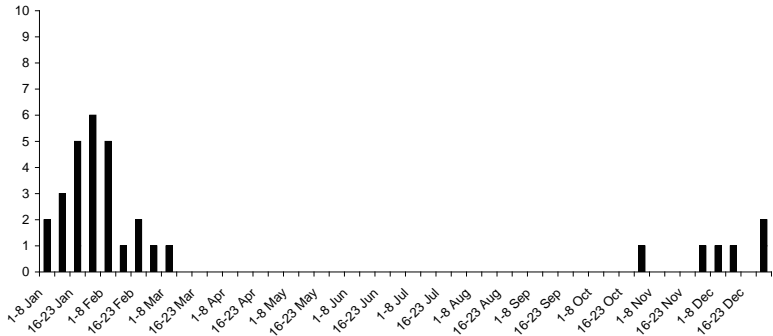


Figure 17. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Small Niltava *Niltava macgrigoriae* 小仙鶴

Previous mid-winter irruptions of the two Niltava species have occurred in similar spells of cold weather in 2004 (for Small Niltava) and 2008 (for both Fujian and Small Niltava).



Plate 47 Small Niltava *Niltava macgrigoriae* 小仙鶯
Lung Fu Shan, 16th January 2011 大埔滘 2011年1月16日
Peter and Michelle Wong 黃理沛 江敏兒

Orange-bellied Leafbird *Chloropsis hardwickii* 橙腹葉鶯 I

Scarce resident and winter visitor in closed-canopy woodland; highest count five on 4 October 1997.

Recorded in most months at Tai Po Kau, peak count four. One at Kap Lung on 4 February. The only other record was a pair at Chung Pui on 4 February.

Plain Flowerpecker *Dicaeum minullum* 純色啄花鳥 I

Status uncertain, possibly overlooked; The Avifauna records it as 'probably primarily a scarce winter visitor' with records from 1 October to 7 April; there have been no accepted records since 1997.

One at Tai Po Kau on 3 February (CKL) and one at Sham Chung on 30 October (JAA) are the first accepted records since 1997.

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus* 紅胸啄花鳥 I

Scarce winter visitor and rare breeding species in shrubland and woodland areas; highest count eight on 7 April 2002.

Recorded in small numbers up to 26 March and from 22 October, mostly from Tai Po Kau but also Mount Cameron, Nam Chung, Pak Sha O, Robin's Nest, Shek Kong, Shing Mun, Tai Lam CP and Wonderland Villas, peak count three at Tai Lam CP on 22 October.

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum* 朱背啄花鳥 I

Common resident of open woodland and village edge; highest count 17 on 2 January 2010.

Recorded throughout the year from widespread locations, peak count 16 in Sai Kung West CP on 30 October with 15 at Plover Cove CP, ten in the northeast NT, 13 at Tai Po Kau and seven at Shek Kong.

Fork-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga christinae* 叉尾太陽鳥 I

Widespread and common resident of woodland and shrubland; highest count 32 on 21 April 2008.

Widely reported with records in all months, peak count 24 at Shek Kong catchment road on 3 April.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* 樹麻雀 I

Very common resident of lowland habitats, commensal with man; influxes in fish pond areas and offshore islands in spring. Highest count 500 on 27 January 2009.

Records from some systematic counts show distinct fluctuations in abundance over the course of the year. At Long Valley, highest numbers in the period October to January with the peak count 310 on 5 December. On Po Toi, only recorded from 22 March to 1 December with a high count of 140 on 18 May and no winter records. .

White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata* 白腰文鳥 I

Common resident of lightly-wooded urban and village-edge habitats; highest count 350 on 25 July 2009.

High counts at Long Valley following the rice planting programme with the highest numbers between October and December, the peak count 131 on 17 October. Elsewhere, widespread but with counts below ten except 28 at Tai Po Kau on 24 September

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata* 斑文鳥 I

Common resident in open-country grassy habitats; highest count 580 on 29 August 1995.

Most records from MPNR and Long Valley systematic counts, the peak count 368 at Long Valley on 24 January with 103 at MPNR on 26 August.



Plate 48 Forest Wagtail *Dendronanthus indicus* 山鶴鴿
Shing Mun Reservoir, 8th January 2011 城門水塘 2011年1月8日
Chan Ka Wa 陳家華

Forest Wagtail *Dendronanthus indicus* 山鵲鶉 I

Scarce passage migrant, commoner in autumn, occasional in winter; occurs mainly in mature secondary broadleaf forest, but also a variety of other habitats; extreme dates 28 July to 1 May, highest count two.

One at Shing Mun from 2 to 12 January. No spring records. In a very good autumn, recorded from 28 August with singles at Clearwater Bay, Ho Sheung Heung, Luk Keng, MPNR (two), Po Toi (two), Sha Lo Tung, Shing Mun, Tai Po Kau and the last record at Mui Wo on 23 October.

Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis* 東黃鵲鶉 I

Observers are encouraged to record the taxon whenever possible.

M.t. taivana

Passage migrant and winter visitor; extreme dates 22 August to 6 May, highest count 1,000 on 12 February 1989.

Recorded up to 18 May (DJS), a new latest date, high count 96 at San Tin on 24 March, and from 26 August, peak count 142 at San Tin on 28 December.

M.t. macronyx

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; extreme dates 9 September to 20 May, highest count 50 on 7 October 1995.

In the first winter period, the peak count was five at MPNR on 28 January. Then recorded from 10 March to 29 April, high count three at MPNR on the last date. In the second winter period, singles only recorded from 8 October to year end.

M.t. tschutschensis

Passage migrant and scarce winter visitor; extreme dates 20 August to 25 May, highest count 3,840 on 4 May 1999.

In a poor year for numbers, recorded in spring from 24 March to 25 May, peak count 21 on 5 May and in autumn from 6 September to 8 October, high count six on 7 September. No winter records in either period.

Records unasccribed to taxon

Recorded up to 16 May and from 22 August, the peak count of 672 at MPNR on 29 April with 80 at MPNR on 21 October.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* 黃頭鶺鴒 I

Passage migrant and winter visitor; extreme dates 30 September to 10 May; highest count five on 17 April 2010.

First winter period: up to two regularly recorded at Long Valley from 22 January to 26 April with four there on 26 March. Elsewhere singles at Nam Sang Wai, MPNR, Tai Sang Wai and two at San Tin on 24 March.

Second winter period: recorded from 26 October with one at San Tin, two at Long Valley on 30 October, then one there until year end.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Citrine Wagtail up to the end of 2011 is given as Figure 18.

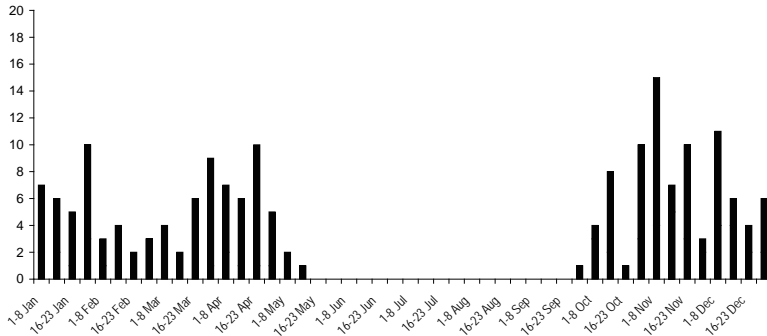


Figure 18. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* 黃頭鶺鴒

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* 灰鶺鴒 I

Common winter visitor and passage migrant to watercourses and lowland wetland areas; extreme dates 16 August to 31 May with occasional summer records, highest count 1,000 on 16 October 1991.

No large winter roost counts of this species have been reported in recent years.

First winter period: widespread records until 18 May, high count 12 on Po Toi on 4 May with 11 at Shek Kong on 23 January.

Second winter period: one at Keung Shan Catchwater on 22 July. Then recorded from 26 August, peak count 14 at Kam Tin on 6 November.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* 白鶺鴒 I

Observers are encouraged to record the taxon whenever possible, in particular, breeding season reports and records of *M.a. ocularis*.

M.a. leucopsis

Present all year, most common on spring passage and in winter, and breeds in lowland areas, including village and village-edge, parks and gardens, residential housing; highest count 200 on 18 February 1997.

First winter period: high count 65 at Wo Sang Wai on 10 January. Overwintering birds on Po Toi remained until 21 April.

Breeding season: records including juveniles from Braemar Hill, Chek Lap Kok, Long Valley, Mai Po village, Nim Wan, Tai Wai and Wo Shang Wai with a high count of 50 at San Tin on 27 July.

Second winter period: peak count 84 at San Tin on 28 December with 73 at Lut Chau on 16 December. Wintering birds returned to Po Toi on 6 September.

M.a. ocularis

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; extreme dates 24 September to 30 April; highest count 190 on 25 March 1997.

First winter period: recorded in good numbers, particularly from Nim Wan with the peak count there of 118 on 25 January. One on Po Toi on 17 May (GW) is a new latest date.

Second winter period: recorded from 23 October, high count 22 at Kam Tin on 27 November.

M.a. lugens

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; extreme dates 1 October to 12 April, highest count three on 20 March 1995.

Singles at Long Valley on 22 January, Kam Tin on 23 January, San Tin on 24 March, Kam Tin on 27 November, Lut Chau on 16 December and four at San Tin on 28 December (JAA), a new highest count.

M.a. personata

Three records; extreme dates 16 January to 8 April.

One at Tai Kong Po on 20 and 21 March (JAA). This is the fourth HK record.

Records unasccribed to taxon

Recorded in all months with a peak count of 373 at Kam Sheung Road MTR on 27 November.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi* 理氏鷓

Migratory taxa occur in low-lying open country areas, particularly agricultural land, and are common on passage, particularly autumn, and in winter; highest count 102 on 12 October 1979. Resident taxon A.r. sinensis breeds in grassy and open country areas, often upland; highest count 15 on 20 July 2003.

First winter period: widespread records up to 11 May with the peak count of 48 at Chek Lap Kok on 16 February.

Breeding season: two at Kam Tin on 29 July and one *sinensis* on Tai Mo Shan on 1 August. Low numbers are probably due to under-recording.

Second winter period: recorded from 29 August with relatively low high counts of 13 at Nim Wan on 4 October and Lut Chau on 16 December, ten migrants at MPNR on 28 October.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* 樹鷓 I

Common winter visitor and passage migrant to lightly wooded and open country areas, including village edge and parks; extreme dates 28 September to 15 May, highest count 150 on 9 January 1961.

First winter period: recorded until 4 May, peak count 49 at Long Valley on 24 January.

Second winter period: recorded from 10 October, high count 38 at Long Valley on 31 October.

Pechora Pipit *Anthus gustavi* 北鷓 I

Scarce passage migrant to damp, lowland areas with dense vegetation; extreme dates 9 April to 24 May and 3 September to 27 October, highest count 103 on 3 May 1999 (Typhoon Leo).

A very good year with high counts and latest records in both spring and autumn.

Spring: recorded at Long Valley from 30 April to 3 May, high count three, with two at MPNR on 4 May. Then a short gap before the peak count of ten over southern waters on 15 May and records on Po Toi from 15 to 25 May, high count six on 16 May. One at MPNR on 18 May and finally one at Long Valley on 29 May (Website photograph), a new latest spring record.

Autumn: all records from Long Valley and MPNR. At Long Valley, two on 25 September with one remaining until 5 October. At MPNR, seven on 27 September with declining numbers to 7 October. Finally, one at Long Valley from 28 October to 10 November (Website photograph), a new latest autumn date.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Pechora Pipit up to the end of 2011 is given as Figure 19. Data for 1999, when large numbers of Pechora Pipit were seen in early May following Typhoon Leo, appears in grey.

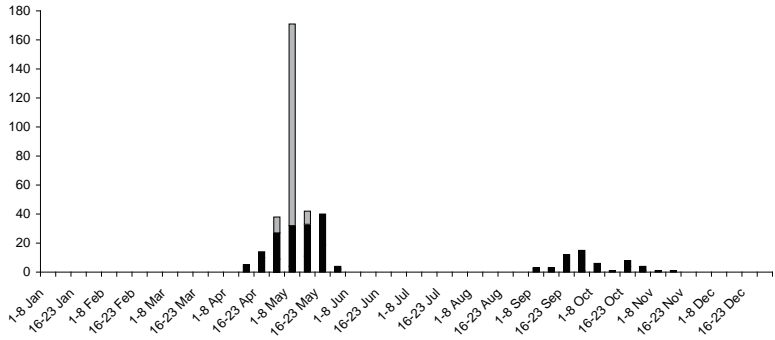


Figure 19. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Pechora Pipit *Anthus gustavi* 北鸚



Plate 49 Pechora Pipit *Anthus gustavi* 北鸚
 Long Valley, 2nd May 2011 壟原 2011年5月2日
 Kong Kok Chung 江覺忠

Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus* 粉紅胸鵯 I

One record, 14 to 16 May 2006.

One on Po Toi on 10 May (GW). This is the second HK record.



Plate 50 Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus* 粉紅胸鵯
Po Toi Island, 10th May 2011 蒲台島 2011年5月10日
Ng Lin Yau 吳璉有

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* 紅喉鵯 I

Common passage migrant and winter visitor to lowlands, usually in wet areas; extreme dates 16 September to 17 May, highest count 250 on 17 April 1992.

First winter period: recorded to 18 April, mostly from Long Valley and San Tin, peak count 71 at Long Valley on 14 March with 23 at San Tin on 19 January.

Second winter period: recorded from 28 September from more widespread locations in the north NT and on Po Toi and including migrants. High count 36 at Long Valley on 31 October with 30 flying south over MPNR on 28 October and 25 at Hoo Hok Wai on 18 December.

Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens* 黃腹鸚 I

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor to lowland wetland areas; extreme dates 18 October to 12 April, highest count 20.

First winter period: recorded to 14 March at Long Valley, MPNR, San Tin and the peak count 16 at Nam Sang Wai on 17 February.

Second winter period: recorded from 26 October at Long Valley, MPNR and San Tin high count two.

Upland Pipit *Anthus sylvanus* 山鸚 I

Widespread but scarce resident in upland grassland; highest count 20 in late August 1983.

Recorded from Kai Kung Leng, Kowloon Peak, Tai Mo Shan and Wong Leng in the northeast NT over the period 10 May to 12 November, peak count three at Tai Mo Shan. This species has been recorded from most of the high peaks of HK over the last three years.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* 燕雀 I

Rare passage migrant with one winter record; extreme dates 3 March to 28 April and 28 October to 29 November.

In spring, a male on Po Toi from 23 to 27 March, then four there on 11 April with one remaining until 14 April. One autumn record, a male at Long Valley on 18 November.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Brambling up to the end of 2011 is given as Figure 20.

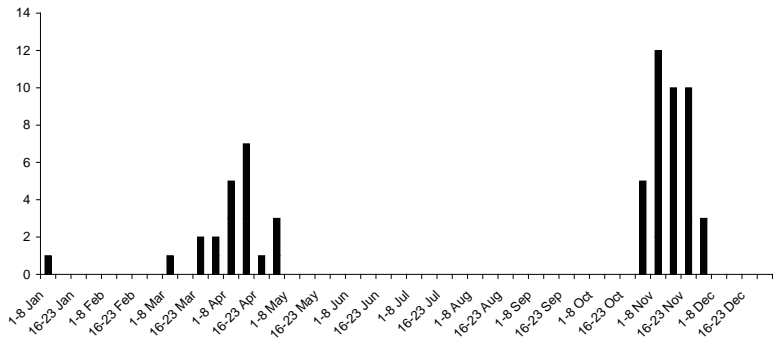


Figure 20. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* 燕雀

Grey-capped Greenfinch *Chloris sinica* 金翅雀 I

Scarce resident of open country and village edge; much reduced numbers since 1960s; highest count since 1999, 30 on 17 October 2010.

The resurgence in records and numbers for this species has continued, together with a confirmed breeding record.

First winter period: two at Siu Lam from 16 January to 25 February continues the annual series of reports from this location which started in 2006. Six at Lai Chi Wo on 5 February and one on Po Toi on 27 March.

Breeding season: three, two adults feeding a juvenile, at Tsing Yi on 3 July.

Second winter period: three at MPNR on 5 September with singles there on 28 October and 14 November. Five at at Lai Chi Wo on 3 December with one at Long Valley on the same day, followed by five at Kuk Po and 17 at Lai Chi Wo on 4 December.

Eurasian Siskin *Carduelis spinus* 黄雀 I

Rare winter visitor to woodland areas; extreme dates 26 October to 2 April, highest count 60 on 28 November 1990.

All records in a good first winter period. Recorded at Tai Po Kau from 1 January with the peak count of 25 on 22 January and the last single there on 12 February. A flock of over 20 at Lui Kung Tin on 12 February. One on Cheung Chau on 1 February with four there on 25 February and five on 6 March. Nine at Au Tau, Yuen Long on 4 April. Three on Po Toi on 17 May were considered probable ex-captives.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Eurasian Siskin up to the end of 2011 is given as Figure 21.

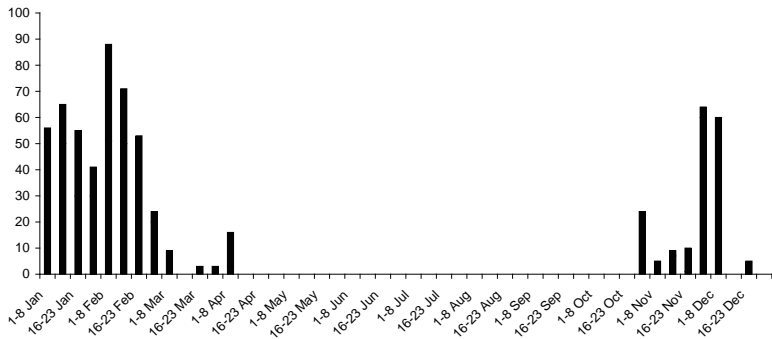


Figure 21. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Eurasian Siskin *Carduelis spinus* 黄雀

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* 普通朱雀 I

Scarce winter visitor and migrant to open-country areas; extreme dates 28 September to 3 May, highest count 33 on 13 January 1980.

First winter period: recorded at Shek Kong from 7 February to 9 March, high count five, three males and two females. Elsewhere, two at MPNR on 7 February, eleven at Au Tau, Yuen Long, on 17 February, three at Mount Davis on 19 February and one at Victoria Peak on 27 February.

Second winter period: singles at Ping Long on 15 November and 10 December, MPNR on 17 December and Tsim Bei Tsui on 18 December.



Plate 51 Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* 普通朱雀
Shek Kong, 26th December 2010 石崗 2010年12月26日
Sam Chan 陳巨輝

Chinese Grosbeak *Eophona migratoria* 黑尾蠟嘴雀 I

Locally common winter visitor and scarce breeding species in wooded, open-country habitats; mostly present November to mid-April, highest count 130 on 30 December 1988.

First winter period: highest numbers in the Lam Tsuen valley between 6 February and 13 March, peak count 50 on 11 February. Also recorded at MPNR from 6 January, high count 15 on 1 April, at Long Valley from 10 January to 10 February with eight on the first date, at Cheung Chau from 31 January with three on 20 March and three at Stonecutters Island on 11 March.

Breeding season: one at Cheung Chau on 31 May, then all records from the MPNR area with 14 including two juveniles on 30 July.

Second winter period: one on Po Toi on 24 September, then all records from the MPNR area and Ho Sheung Heung, high counts nine at MPNR on 26 November and eight at Ho Sheung Heung on 5 December.

Japanese Grosbeak *Eophona personata* 黑頭蠟嘴雀 I

Rare winter visitor; extreme dates 30 November to 28 April, highest count nine on 11 April 1997.

One at Shek Kong on 9 January and two in the Lam Tsuen valley from 1 February to 10 March often seen with the Chinese Grosbeak flock. One at Tai Po Kau Headland on 22 April.

The Weekly Occurrence Graph for Japanese Grosbeak up to the end of 2011 is given as Figure 22.

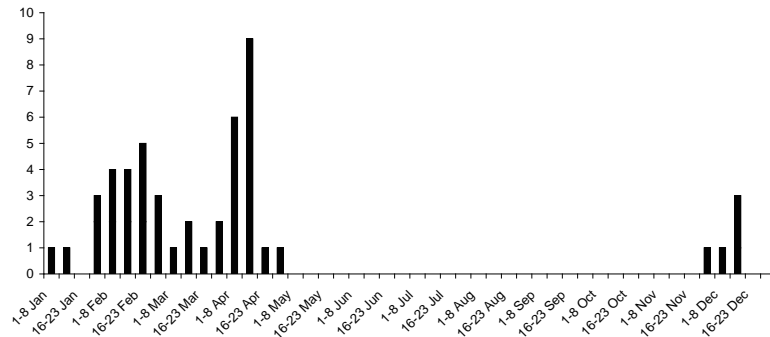


Figure 22. Weekly Occurrence Graph - Japanese Grosbeak *Eophona personata* 黑頭蠟嘴雀

Crested Bunting *Emberiza lathami* 鳳頭鵪 I

Once a common resident, now rare, with no records between 2000 and 2010.

One at Long Valley on 13 November (Website photograph). This follows the two records in 2010 which were the first records for ten years.



Plate 52 Tristram's Bunting *Emberiza tristrami* 白眉鵪
Po Toi Island, 27th October 2011 蒲台島 2011年10月27日
Allen Chan 陳志雄

Tristram's Bunting *Emberiza tristrami* 白眉鵪 I

Winter visitor to woodland and shrubland areas; extreme dates 20 October to 21 April. Highest count 21 on 22 January 1992.

First winter period: regular fairly widespread records from north and central NT until 6 March, high count three at Lau Shui Heung on 14 January. Then two on Po Toi on 7 April, one at Kap Lung on 8 April and two on Po Toi again on 1 May (BK), a new latest record.

Second winter period: two on Po Toi on 2 November with four there on 3 November and one on 16 November. Four at Lau Shui Heung on 22 December.



Plate 53 Chestnut-eared Bunting *Emberiza fucata* 栗耳鵪
Long Valley, 1st May 2011 塱原 2011年5月1日
Raymond Ko 高開榮

Chestnut-eared Bunting *Emberiza fucata* 栗耳鵪 I

Winter visitor and passage migrant to grassland and open country areas; extreme dates 6 October to 28 April, highest count 30 on 19 January 1967.

First winter period: one at Long Valley from 8 February to 3 April and one trapped at MPNR on 7 April.

Second winter period: recorded from 18 October with peak count four at MPNR on 2 November, three at Long Valley, two at She Shan and one at Lok Ma Chau and San Tin.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* 小鵪 I

Winter visitor and passage migrant in open country areas, especially inactive dry agriculture; extreme dates 24 September to 17 May, highest count 150 on 15 December 1985.

First winter period: recorded until 7 May, mostly at Ho Sheung Heung, Sha Lo Tung and on Po Toi, peak count 12 at Pat Heung on 17 January and Ho Sheung Heung on 8 March. One on Po Toi on 26 May (GW) is a new latest date.

Second winter period: recorded from 25 September, an early single on Po Toi, then from 6 October at widespread locations in the north NT, Braemar Hill, Lamma and Po Toi Islands, high count only nine at Ho Sheung Heung on 17 October.



Plate 54 Yellow-browed Bunting *Emberiza chrysophrys* 黃眉鵪
Long Valley, 23rd September 2011 壟原 2011年9月23日
Chan Ka Ming 陳家明

Yellow-browed Bunting *Emberiza chrysophrys* 黃眉鵪 I

Scarce migrant to open-country areas; extreme dates 8 March to 1 May and 1 October to 28 December; highest count five on 15 November 1992.

First winter period: one at Long Valley from 9 February (GW), the first winter record, to 20 March. Singles at MPNR on 7 April and Po Toi on 11 April.

Second winter period: one at Long Valley on 23 September (KMC) is a new earliest autumn record. Singles at Long Valley on 6 November and on Po Toi on 24 November.

Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola* 黃胸鵪 I VU

Previously a common migrant and scarce winter visitor to open-country areas, but with a recent decline in numbers; extreme dates 28 August to 23 May, highest count 3,000 on 19 October 1959, highest count since 1999, 150 on 10 October 2001.

First winter period: winter singles at Long Valley on 3 January, Nim Wan on 10 February and Hoo Hok Wai on 12 February. In spring, recorded from 23 April to 3 May, high count only four at Long Valley and San Tin.

Second winter period: recorded from 14 September, mostly at Long Valley and MPNR with the peak count of 20 at Long Valley on 6 November, also at Lok Ma Chau, Nim Wan, San Tin, She Shan, Tsim Bei Tsui and on Po Toi.

Chestnut Bunting *Emberiza rutila* 栗鵪 I

Scarce migrant and winter visitor to shrubland areas; extreme dates 28 September to 16 May, highest count 200 on 6 November 2000.

First winter period: no winter records. All spring records from Po Toi, from 7 April to 14 May, high count seven on 4 May.

Second winter period: reported from 22 October to 11 December at Kuk Po, MPNR, Sai Kung, Tai Lam CP, Lam Tsuen valley and on Po Toi, peak count 22 at Wong Chuk Yeung, Sai Kung on 15 November, the highest since 2000, with 20 at Ping Long on 11 December.

Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala* 黑頭鵪 I

Scarce autumn migrant and winter visitor to open-country habitats; extreme dates from 11 October to 14 February, highest count three.

Singles at Long Valley from 29 October to 11 November and at Wetland Park on 30 October.

Japanese Yellow Bunting *Emberiza sulphurata* 硫磺鵪 I VU

Spring passage migrant with a few recent autumn records, to open-country areas; spring numbers have declined in recent years; extreme dates 27 March to 8 May and 30 October to 28 November, highest count 17 on 6 April 1996.

Spring: one at MPNR on 27 March equaling the earliest date. Two at Long Valley on 28 March, three there on 5 April and one on 9 April with one on Po Toi on 7 April.

Autumn: one on Po Toi on 2 November, the fourth autumn record since the first in 2007.

Black-faced Bunting *Emberiza spodocephala* 灰頭鵯 I

Passage migrant and winter visitor to open-country areas; extreme dates 19 September to 29 May, highest count 200 on 24 March 1992.

First winter period: recorded up to 5 May with most records from Long Valley, MPNR, Nim Wan and Po Toi, peak count 12 on Po Toi on 7 April.

Second winter period: recorded from 24 October, mostly from Long Valley, MPNR, and Nim Wan, high count only five at Kuk Po on 4 December.

Pallas's Reed Bunting *Emberiza pallasi* 葦鵯 I

Rare autumn migrant; extreme dates 28 September to 14 December.

One trapped at MPNR on 22 November (PJL,JAA).

CATEGORY III

Species for which all published HK records are considered likely to relate to birds that have escaped or have been released from captivity.

Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria* III

Recorded at Kowloon Park throughout the year, peak count five. One at Nim Wan from 3 to 16 November.

Rosy-faced Lovebird *Agapornis roseicollis* III

One from the Mai Po access road on 17 August (DJS).

Fischer's Lovebird *Agapornis fischeri* III

One from the Mai Po access road on 6 September (DJS).

White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis* III

One at Ng Tung Chai on 4 February (EMSK).

Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus* III

One at Shek Kong on 9 February and the same bird at MPNR on 22 February (Website photographs).

Mongolian Lark *Melanocorypha mongolica* III

Singles at Tin Shui Wai Park on 6 August (VY) and Bride's Pool Road on 13 December (J&JW).

Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax monileger* III

One at Tai Po Kau on 1 and 11 January with three there on 12 March (KPK). One at Kap Lung on 18 April (Website photograph).

Purple Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis purpureus* III

One on Lamma Island on 31 July (JAA). This is the first record for HK.

Superb Starling *Lamprotornis superbus* III

One at Sai Sha on 23 September (DJS) and again on 20 November (VC). This is the first record for HK.

White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus* III

One at Kowloon Hills on 9 January (GH) and two at Lion Rock CP on 2 June (YTY).

White-tailed Robin *Myiomela leucura* **III**

A male at Tai Po Kau Headland on 17 December (RB).

Golden-fronted Leafbird *Chloropsis aurifrons* **III**

One at Au Tau, Yuen Long, on 15 March (DJS).

Russet Sparrow *Passer rutilans* **III**

This species has now been assigned to Cat III following a review of all historical records which concluded there were no definite records of wild birds.

Two at Long Valley from 27 October to 7 November and one at Tsim Bei Tsui on 29 October, all regarded as ex-captive.

White-headed Munia *Lonchura maja* **III**

Two at Long Valley on 10 January (Website photographs).

Yellow-fronted Canary *Serinus mozambicus* **III**

Recorded from January to April and September to November from MPNR, Mount Davis, Po Toi, Stonecutter's Island, Tai Wai and Tsim Bei Tsui.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* **III**

Two at Yuen Long from 21 to 23 February (KKoo). One at Ping Long from 24 February to 6 March (EMSK *et al.*).

Appendix II

Species no longer on the HK List due to taxonomic changes

'Grey-cheeked Fulvetta' *Alcippe* **sp.**

Research continues into which Alcippe species is present in Hong Kong.

Recorded throughout the year from Tai Po Kau, peak count 25 on 11 January and 25 November, the highest since 2001.

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Waterbird Count Data

The attached tables show the Waterbird Count Data in Deep Bay for each month from January to December 2011. Note the data includes counts at Futian NR on the Shenzhen side of Deep Bay.

2011 WC Data	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
date of count	16	13	13	17	8	19	17	14	11	9	13	18
Taiga Bean Goose	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gadwall	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Falcatid Duck	10	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Eurasian Wigeon	1,511	1,770	2,499	18	0	0	0	0	4	10	278	2,919
Chinese Spot-billed Duck	1	8	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Northern Shoveler	8,822	9,674	2,105	194	1	0	0	0	0	21	4,769	4,995
Northern Pintail	2,107	2,586	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	711	810
Garganey	28	55	18	5	1	0	0	0	36	27	8	48
Eurasian Teal	290	1,131	243	3	1	0	0	0	0	51	730	937
Common Pochard	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Tufted Duck	4,762	1,773	2,412	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	102	2,399
Greater Scaup	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Smew	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Duck sp.	8,310	3,837	2,600	300	0	0	0	0	0	1,484	7,200	10,339
Little Grebe	215	170	157	154	73	75	86	99	99	137	197	236
Great Crested Grebe	82	110	25	9	0	80	53	6	1	8	1	420
Eurasian Spoonbill	2	1	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Black-faced Spoonbill	441	314	225	96	52	3	4	0	0	0	292	488
Great Bittern	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Yellow Bittern	1	0	1	0	0	3	7	9	4	17	2	0

2011 WC Data		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
date of count		16	13	13	17	8	19	17	14	11	9	13	18
Cinnamon Bittern		0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Black-crowned Night Heron		14	21	0	56	17	46	98	154	189	73	24	26
Striated Heron		0	0	0	0	1	4	5	3	2	1	1	0
Chinese Pond Heron		116	67	112	99	84	123	194	249	226	267	246	203
Eastern Cattle Egret		28	13	39	101	81	44	60	66	114	117	22	30
Grey Heron		707	723	354	90	3	1	7	13	103	526	940	765
Purple Heron		1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	8	5	4
Great Egret		719	310	440	380	358	420	1,016	630	605	632	1,169	916
Intermediate Egret		13	11	15	31	15	9	7	3	13	25	52	21
Little Egret		705	504	507	841	677	666	1,661	798	963	1,019	753	928
Great Cormorant		9,309	10,023	4,576	3	1	1	1	0	2	889	5,738	9,431
White-breasted Waterhen		40	32	22	56	31	29	49	50	37	62	19	26
Ruddy-breasted Crane		1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Moorhen		166	129	75	141	50	23	16	22	26	16	70	157
Eurasian Coot		125	21	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8
Black-winged Stilt		471	542	701	469	150	60	85	37	227	483	573	298
Pied Avocet		9,771	10,944	10,068	5,142	1,355	0	0	0	0	66	2,530	11,693
Grey-headed Lapwing		0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pacific Golden Plover		782	0	91	133	26	0	0	1	150	410	320	234
Grey Plover		320	0	479	12	10	0	5	4	0	2	124	0
Little Ringed Plover		80	114	76	25	17	8	36	85	98	92	91	79
Kentish Plover		464	15	53	0	1	0	0	0	16	0	709	893
Lesser Sand Plover		1	0	0	8	14	0	0	7	1	0	0	0
Greater Sand Plover		0	0	0	51	58	0	11	34	67	3	0	0
Greater Painted-snipe		0	0	0	2	1	2	4	3	0	7	0	0
Pheasant-tailed Jacana		1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	1

2011 WC Data	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
date of count	16	13	13	17	8	19	17	14	11	9	13	18
Pintail/Swinhoe's Snipe	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	1	0	0
Common Snipe	5	25	9	4	0	0	0	0	4	17	3	5
Long-billed Dowitcher	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asian Dowitcher	0	0	0	12	4	0	0	4	1	0	0	0
Black-tailed Godwit	220	1,900	1,438	1,562	9	5	19	120	263	465	101	0
Bar-tailed Godwit	0	0	1	4	1	0	0	0	14	2	0	0
Whimbrel	18	0	0	1	14	26	23	84	49	2	1	0
Eurasian Curlew	1,602	1,244	614	287	36	26	43	83	74	98	158	1,128
Far Eastern Curlew	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0
Spotted Redshank	78	160	23	340	288	0	5	29	2	3	7	30
Common Redshank	90	18	33	953	78	0	345	324	437	116	429	213
Marsh Sandpiper	2,884	1,370	3,705	1,673	24	0	0	37	369	969	246	961
Common Greenshank	1,149	977	1,153	1,710	670	23	151	810	669	1,084	662	944
Nordmann's Greenshank	0	1	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Green Sandpiper	21	24	20	16	1	0	6	5	19	21	29	31
Wood Sandpiper	201	59	127	142	108	0	28	352	316	386	48	122
Grey-tailed Tattler	0	0	0	3	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Terek Sandpiper	0	0	0	9	6	0	1	44	5	0	3	0
Common Sandpiper	88	70	59	125	47	7	37	68	97	78	101	110
Ruddy Turnstone	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Great Knot	0	0	0	3	10	0	0	0	46	0	0	0
Red Knot	0	0	0	21	12	0	0	0	9	0	0	0
Sanderling	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red-necked Stint	0	0	0	162	322	0	0	0	8	1	32	0
Temminck's Stint	31	12	12	13	0	0	0	0	0	11	4	41
Long-toed Stint	0	0	0	32	59	0	1	0	1	0	0	0

2011 WC Data	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
date of count	16	13	13	17	8	19	17	14	11	9	13	18
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	0	0	0	5	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Curlew Sandpiper	0	0	106	1,195	610	0	3	0	1	0	0	0
Dunlin	1,470	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1,520	0
Broad-billed Sandpiper	0	0	0	1	32	0	1	0	13	0	0	0
Ruff	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oriental Pratincole	0	0	0	40	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Wader sp.	960	0	0	1,260	0	0	0	0	500	0	4,180	0
Black-headed Gull	9,160	4,705	1,679	537	14	0	0	0	0	0	1,231	2,282
Saunders's Gull	30	0	41	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	48
Black-tailed Gull	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Mew Gull	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yellow-legged Gull	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heuglin's Gull	202	276	95	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	56
Gull-billed Tern	0	0	0	199	7	1	0	0	2	0	0	0
Caspian Tern	1	1	0	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	6
Whiskered Tern	0	0	0	5	9	0	0	0	6	30	0	0
White-winged Tern	0	0	0	0	119	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White-throated Kingfisher	19	5	6	5	3	8	19	26	12	17	19	22
Black-capped Kingfisher	5	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	2	5	3
Common Kingfisher	38	24	13	16	10	6	21	24	44	54	38	68
Pied Kingfisher	12	5	5	9	11	18	10	22	16	21	18	15
Collared Crow	18	14	22	41	61	20	23	26	43	29	21	12
Red-billed Starling	1,865	2,364	329	0	0	9	0	0	3	10	241	1,358
Dunlin	1,470	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1,520	0
Spoon-billed Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Broad-billed Sandpiper	0	0	0	1	32	0	1	0	13	0	0	0

2011 WC Data	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	16	13	13	17	8	19	17	14	11	9	13	18
date of count	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruff	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red-necked Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oriental Pratincole	0	0	0	40	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Small wader spp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wader sp.	960	0	0	1,260	0	0	0	0	500	0	4,180	0
Brown-headed Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black-headed Gull	9,160	4,705	1,679	537	14	0	0	0	0	0	1,231	2,282
Saunders's Gull	30	0	41	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	48
Pallas's Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black-tailed Gull	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Mew Gull	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yellow-legged Gull	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slaty-backed Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heuglin's Gull	202	276	95	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	56
Large Gull sp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gull-billed Tern	0	0	0	199	7	1	0	0	2	0	0	0
Caspian Tern	1	1	0	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	6
Whiskered Tern	0	0	0	5	9	0	0	0	6	30	0	0
White-winged Tern	0	0	0	0	119	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White-throated Kingfisher	19	5	6	5	3	8	19	26	12	17	19	22
Black-capped Kingfisher	5	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	2	5	3
Common Kingfisher	38	24	13	16	10	6	21	24	44	54	38	68
Pied Kingfisher	12	5	5	9	11	18	10	22	16	21	18	15
Collared Crow	18	14	22	41	61	20	23	26	43	29	21	12
Red-billed Starling	1,865	2,364	329	0	0	9	0	0	3	10	241	1,358

Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii* found at Cheung Sha Wan

The first Hong Kong record

Carrie K.W. Ma

Wetland and Fauna Conservation Division, AFCD
303 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong

On 24th June 2011, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) received a report through the 1823 Call Centre that a debilitated seabird had been found adjacent to the football court bleachers of the Cheung Sha Wan Playground, Kowloon. The bird was subsequently identified as a Bulwer's Petrel (*Bulweria bulwerii* 褐燕鷗). The bird was delivered to the New Territories North Animal Management Centre, but later died on 27th June 2011 (Ma 2011).

External features of the petrel are shown in Plates 55 to 59. The petrel had a small head and short neck, with a slender body approximately 30 cm in length and a wing span of approximately 80 cm in length (Plate 55). The upperparts were blackish-brown. Its wings were long and thin, with pale bars across the median coverts. The tail was long, narrow and pointed (Plate 56). The underparts, under-wings and belly were also dark brown, but were paler than the upperparts (Plate 57). It had a dark brown head and dark brown iris and its bill was black, with a hooked tip (Plate 58). Its legs and inner webs of feet were dusky pink, with darker outer webs and toes (Plate 59).



Plate 55. Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii* 褐燕鷗
27th June 2011 2011年6月27日
Photograph courtesy of AFCD 照片由漁農自然護理署提供



Plate 56. Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii* 褐燕鷗
27th June 2011 2011年6月27日
Photograph courtesy of AFCD 照片由漁農自然護理署提供



Plate 57. Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii* 褐燕鷗
27th June 2011 2011年6月27日
Photograph courtesy of AFCD 照片由漁農自然護理署提供



Plate 58. Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii* 褐燕鷗
27th June 2011 2011年6月27日
Photograph courtesy of AFCD 照片由漁農自然護理署提供



Plate 59.
Bulwer's Petrel
Bulweria bulwerii 褐燕鷗
27th June 2011 2011年6月27日
Photograph courtesy of AFCD
照片由漁農自然護理署提供

The arrival of the Bulwer's Petrel in Hong Kong may have been related to the close passage of a tropical storm. According to the Hong Kong Observatory, Tropical Storm Haima (海馬) passed Hong Kong on 22nd June 2011 and made landfall over the coast of Guangdong on 23rd June 2011 (Figure 1).

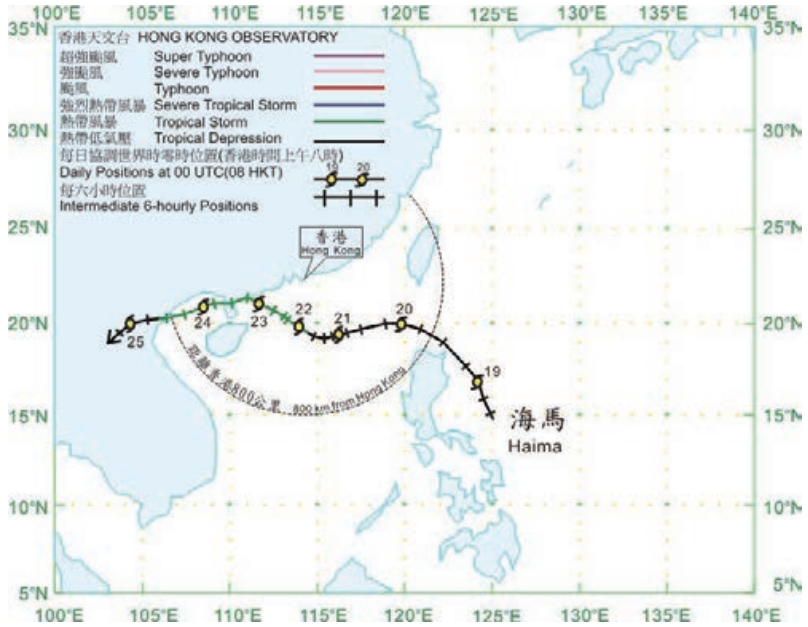


Figure 1. Track of Tropical Storm Haima, HKO website

Acknowledgements

The author acknowledges the Animal Health Division and Veterinary Laboratory Division of the AFCD for providing the pick-up information and photographs of the dead Bulwer's Petrel.

Records Committee Comment

A long-anticipated addition to the HK List, previous claims of this species have never quite been able to provide sufficient evidence based on field observations to convince the Records Committee. However, a specimen such as this is a different thing altogether, and given the weather conditions immediately prior were such as to strongly suggest it occurred naturally, rather than having been brought in captive on a boat, acceptance into Category I was straightforward.

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於長沙灣檢獲的褐燕鷗

香港首個紀錄

馬嘉慧

香港九龍長沙灣道303號長沙灣政府合署7樓

漁農自然護理署濕地及動物護理科

2011年6月24日，漁農自然護理署(漁護署)接獲1823電話中心的報告，指於九龍長沙灣遊樂場足球場看台旁邊發現一隻虛弱的海鳥。該鳥其後獲辨識為褐燕鷗 *Bulweria bulwerii*，送往新界北動物管理中心，後於6月27日死亡 (Ma 2011)。

該褐燕鷗的外型描述見圖55至圖59。該鳥頭部細小、頸短、身體修長，體長約30厘米，翼展約80厘米(圖55)；上體羽色為黑褐色。翼長而窄，中覆羽位置有一道淡翼斑。尾羽長、窄而尖(圖56)；下體、翼下及腹部顏色深褐，但較上體淡色(圖57)；該鳥頭部及虹膜均為深褐色，喙部黑色，嘴尖呈勾狀(圖58)；腳及內側趾蹼為灰粉紅色、外側趾蹼及腳趾顏色較深(圖59)。

該隻褐燕鷗抵港，可能與颱風迫近有關。根據香港天文台的資料，熱帶風暴海馬於2011年6月22日接近本港，並於6月23日於廣東沿岸登陸(詳見地圖1)。

鳴謝

本文作者感謝漁農自然護理署動物衛生科及獸醫化驗科提供該褐燕鷗的檢收資料及圖片。

紀錄委員會評註

這是期待已久的香港新紀錄。之前的褐燕鷗報告均未能提供足夠野外觀察證據，故未能說服紀錄委員會。然而，此紀錄當另作別論。鑒於此前的天氣狀況明顯顯示此鳥是自然出現，而非由船運抵，因此順理成章獲納入香港鳥類名錄的I類。

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Ma, C.K.W. 2011. A Short Note on a Rare Bird Record: Bulwer's Petrel (*Bulweria bulwerii*). *Hong Kong Biodiversity*, Issue 21 September 2011. Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Hong Kong SAR Government. Hong Kong.

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**Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*
at Mai Po Nature Reserve**

The first Hong Kong record

Peter Chan Kai Wai

c/o HKBWS, 14/F Ruby Commercial Building, 480 Nathan Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong

On 11th December 2011, I was leading a team of ten students on a field trip to Mai Po Nature Reserve as part of the HKBWS Elementary Bird Watching Course. We were observing Black-faced Spoonbills *Platalea minor* at Pond #3 when one of the students pointed out a Collared Crow *Corvus torquatus* attacking a large raptor. Through a telescope, I judged the raptor to be a Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* and took several photographs on a borrowed camera, which I uploaded to the HKBWS website later that evening (Plates 60 to 62). On seeing the photos, Matthew Kwan suggested bird was too large in comparison with the Collared Crow for a Eurasian Sparrowhawk, and may be a Northern Goshawk *A. gentilis*. Further examination of photographs taken at the time of observation confirmed structural and plumage features consistent with Northern Goshawk.



Plate 60.

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

蒼鷹

Mai Po NR, 11th December 2011

米埔 2011年12月11日

Peter Chan Kai Wai 陳佳瑋



Plate 61.

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*
(with Collared Crow *Corvus torquatus*)
蒼鷹 (及白頸鴉)

Mai Po NR, 11th December 2011

米埔 2011年12月11日

Peter Chan Kai Wai 陳佳瑋



Plate 62.

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*
(with Collared Crow *Corvus torquatus*)
蒼鷹 (及白頸鴉)

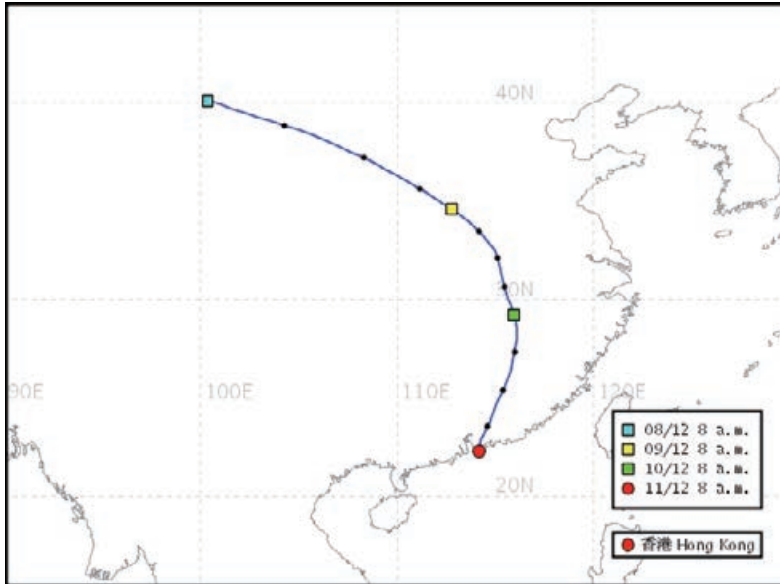
Mai Po NR, 11th December 2011

米埔 2011年12月11日

Peter Chan Kai Wai 陳佳瑋

The weather on 8th, 9th and 10th December included strong northerly winds following the passage of a cold front through Hong Kong on 8th December. The Backward Trajectory Map for 11th December is given in Figure 1. This cold weather may have been responsible for pushing the Northern Goshawk south of the usual wintering range for this species.

Figure 1. Backward Trajectory Map for 11th December 2011. HKO.



Records Committee Comment

Based on the combination of solid black mask, pronounced supercilium, finely barred underparts, comparatively short, broad and rounded wings with clearly bulging secondaries, and a long and rounded tail, this bird can be identified as Northern Goshawk. The well-marked head pattern, finely barred underparts, yellow iris and size relative to Collared Crow confirm that this is an adult male (Forsman 1999, Ferguson-Lees & Christie 2001).

*Northern Goshawk is rare in the coastal provinces of southeast China, with all records attributable to the subspecies *schvedowi* (Cheng 1987). There are two specimen records of *schvedowi* for Guangdong: an adult collected in the hills west of Swatow (Shantou) in January in the late 1880s (La Touche 1892), and one obtained at Gaoyao, near Dinghu Shan on 21 December 1959 (South China Institute of Endangered Animals skin collection). La Touche also reported a young female of this subspecies collected at Mengzi, southeast Yunnan, which lies at a similar latitude to HK, on 23 November 1920 (La Touche 1923-24, 1924-34). In Taiwan, where the subspecies *fuyijamae* accounts for all records, Northern Goshawk is a rare winter visitor with some spring records (Cheng 1987, Liu et al. 2010).*

The two previous HK records of this species accepted to species by the Records Committee, one at Mai Po on 20 April 1992 and one recovered from an urban area of Hong Kong Island on 20 November 2009, are both regarded as ex-captive. The December 2011 record was judged to be of natural occurrence due to the early winter date, which is considered to fit that of an over-shooting migrant, perhaps forced further south due to the surge of the northeast monsoon that arrived in HK around the same time.

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- 劉小如、丁宗蘇、方偉宏、林文宏、蔡牧起、顏重威。台灣鳥類誌(上)。行政院農業委員會林務局，台灣。

米埔自然護理區的蒼鷹

香港首個紀錄

陳佳璋

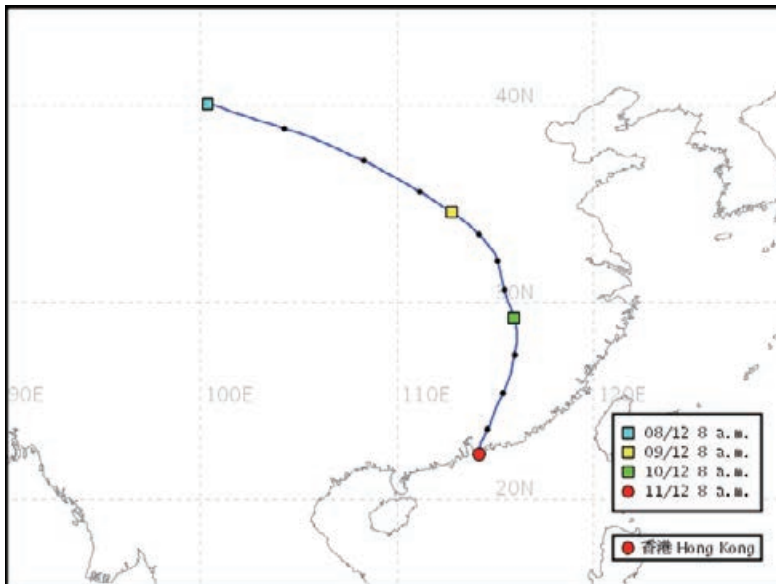
香港九龍彌敦道480號鴻寶商業大廈14樓 香港觀鳥會轉寄

2011年12月11日，是香港觀鳥會第十一屆「雀躍薈」觀鳥訓練證書課程基礎班到米埔作戶外考察的日子。我帶領著一隊約十人的學員，正在米埔三號池觀察黑臉琵鷺 *Platalea minor*。一名學員向我表示他看見一隻白頸鴉 *Corvus torquatus* 正在攻擊一隻猛禽。我拿起望遠鏡觀察，推斷那隻猛禽是雀鷹 *Accipiter nisus*。我借用學員的相機拍下幾張照片以作進一步辨識。我在當天傍晚把照片上傳到香港觀鳥會的網頁。（圖60-62）

關朗曦看過這些照片後，認為如果這鳥是雀鷹的話，牠的體形和白頸鴉比較起來未免過大了。他認為可能是蒼鷹 *A. gentilis*。我把照片作進一步檢視，通過這鳥的結構和全身羽毛，確認符合蒼鷹的特徵。

12月8日、9日和10日的有強烈北風隨著12月8日的一道冷鋒抵達香港。圖表1是12月11日的後向流跡路線圖。可能就是這個天氣系統把這隻蒼鷹帶至比正常度冬地更南的地方。

圖表 1. 2011年12月11日 後向流跡路線圖 香港天文台



紀錄委員會評注

基於這鳥有著完全黑色的面罩、明顯的眉、細緻條紋的下體，相對地短、闊而圓形的翼，清晰突出的次級飛羽和長而圓的尾部，這些特徵都能確認是蒼鷹。通過牠那顯著的頭型標誌、細緻條紋的下體、黃色的虹膜與體形大小（與白頸鴉比較之下）可確認牠是一隻成年雄鳥(Forsman 1999, Ferguson-Lees & Christie 2001)。

蒼鷹在中國東南沿海省份稀有，所有紀錄都屬於亞種 *schvedowi* (Cheng 1987)。廣東有兩個亞種 *schvedowi* 樣本紀錄：一個在1880年代後期1月在汕頭西部山區發現 (La Touche 1892)，一個在1959年12月21日在鼎湖山附近的高要獲得 (South China Institute of Endangered Animals skin collection)。La Touche 於1920年11月23日在雲南省東南部的蒙自發現一隻這個亞種的年輕雌鳥 (La Touche 1923-24, 1924-34)，此地與香港的緯度相若。在台灣，所有紀錄都屬於日本亞種 *fujiyamae*，在當時是罕見冬候鳥，並有小量春季紀錄(Cheng 1987, Liu et al. 2010)。

紀錄委員會曾接受過一個這個鳥種，牠是在1992年4月20日在米埔發現的，該鳥被視為曾被人餵養。至於2011年12月的這個紀錄則判定為在自然情況之下出現，是由於牠在初冬被發現，這可能是冬季遷徙時過分地飛越度冬地並被東北季候風帶至香港。

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Ashy Woodswallow *Artamus fuscus* at Heung Fan Liu

The first Hong Kong record

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On the 23rd April 2011 my partner Jane McGettigan and I were returning to our Tai Wai home from a stroll around the Lower Shing Mun Reservoir along the path through Heung Fan Liu village. It was about 15.30 on a drizzling overcast day. As we rounded a bend I noticed a swallow-like bird either alighting or readjusting its position on a single overhead electrical cable over the path about 10 metres in front of us. I immediately recognised the bird as an Ashy Woodswallow *Artamus fuscus*, being familiar with the species from Sri Lanka, Thailand and, most recently, India where I was able to observe a pair for a number of days consecutively in March 2010.

I pointed the bird out to Jane and naively said something to the effect that this was a rare bird for Hong Kong, at the time not realising that there were no previous records of this species for the territory. Unfortunately we had neither a camera nor even a mobile phone – which would have been sufficient – with us and so could not take any photos. Thankfully the bird was quite confiding and allowed us to observe it from the front at close range through binoculars for some minutes.

The overall jizz was that of a woodswallow, due to its rather short body, long wings, and large cubical head with a relatively flat top. The overall dull greyish colouration, lacking any clear-cut markings or striations immediately indicated Ashy Woodswallow. The bill was blue, appearing to me quite bright for the overcast conditions, and was thick at the base and tapered to a sharp point, both upper and lower mandibles similar in size and shape. The head was a dull grey colour, darker than the chest. It had dark lores of dull black. This loreal stripe was as thick as the bill base and extended back just past the rear of the eye. The bird had its chest feathers fluffed up making it appear quite bulky and less streamlined than the usual woodswallow jizz one might see in a field guide diagram. The chest was off white.

From the underside the tips of wings appeared to project slightly beyond the tail. The tail was short and basically square-cut, though with a slight dent in the middle. The bird was slowly but consistently pumping the tail down. This pumping was neither as quick nor as repetitive as the wagging of a wagtail, as there was a pause between each pump. The legs appeared short as, from my angle, I could see nothing of the tarsus. I did not note the colour of the toes, which I assume were black or dark, as red, yellow or pale feet would have stood out.

As we moved toward the bird from its right to get a closer look, it made a single brief, raspy call and took off. In flight, it had short tapering wings, from tip to tip roughly as

long, or a little longer, as from bill to tail. The wings were held flat. Flight was a slow glide. It appeared to be moving away from my approach, but not tearing off in fright. Fortunately it landed on another electrical wire over an abandoned agricultural field next to the path only a short distance away, this time affording views from the back.

The wings were concolorous with the head toward the 'shoulder', but grew darker toward the tips, though only to a very dark grey, not a deep black. The rump was pale, about the same colour as the breast. I watched the bird for another few minutes, then walked on another few metres and had one more look, still from the back but more towards its left. It continued to pump its tail. After observing the bird for a good five minutes at close range with high quality binoculars, we moved on, leaving the bird on the wire.

On returning home I checked Viney *et al.* (2005) and discovered that Ashy Woodswallow is resident in Hainan and Guangxi, and so reported the bird to the Birdline service run by Richard Lewthwaite. Subsequent efforts made to relocate and photograph the bird by myself and many others that afternoon and the following days were to no avail.

Later investigations conducted by Richard Lewthwaite and myself found that the closest previous records of Ashy Woodswallow to Hong Kong were an unspecified number of specimens collected at Macau by W. Heine, the artist of the US Perry Expedition to Japan, in his stay there some time during 6th -28th April 1853 (Cassin 1856). Cassin emphasises that Heine collected all his specimens from the field and not from bird-sellers. Heine's field notes on the bird somewhat strangely describe it as a "bird of very solitary habits, occasionally met with about the little-visited rocky declivities in the vicinity of Macao" (p. 238). This description is at odds with modern authorities such as Robson (2000) who says it is a "gregarious" bird found in "open areas with scattered trees, cultivation, sometimes over forests" (p. 373), habitat similar to that at Heung Fan Liu. Heine's characterisation of the bird was soon viewed with scepticism, including by Blyth (1866) who exclaimed "I cannot understand it being termed 'a bird of solitary habits!'" (p. 370), and Swinhoe (1862) even doubted the provenance, stating "I think this species must have been labelled wrong. I question much whether it is found about Macao" (p. 306). However, the sighting at Heung Fan Liu was of a solitary bird. Furthermore, it was in April, the same month as Heine's visit to Macau. Jerdon (1862) noted that these birds only perch together "where numerous", which is not always the case, and even so behave "independently" (p. 442). Finally, and more significantly, a single skin of *A. fuscus* is held in the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington DC, labelled as collected by Heine in China while on the US Japan Expedition (USNM A 15880); this skin has since been checked and identified by Christopher M. Milensky in the Division of Birds at the Smithsonian NMNH (*pers. comm.*).

While the current evidence available suggests that perhaps Swinhoe's doubting of the original Macau record was a little hasty, he must have based his reservations on his own knowledge of the non-occurrence of *A. fuscus* in the vicinity of Macau during his extended time there, indicating that perhaps the species range only extends so far north rarely and/or under certain unknown conditions.

Records Committee Comments

At a time when photographs predominate in rarity submissions, it is refreshing to see one that is substantiated only by a thorough description. The structure is described well, and critical plumage features such as bill colour, rump pattern and the plainness of the upperparts are all provided. Given the previous and, up to 2009, sole Guangdong record in Macau and knowing that it is quite numerous in southern Guangxi, this species has long been anticipated. In 2009 there were a small number of records from southwest and north Guangdong, which anticipated the HK record and suggested an at least temporary expansion of its range.

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香粉寮的灰燕鷗

香港首個紀錄

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2011年4月23日，我和伴侶 Jane McGettigan 在下城門水塘散步後，正沿香粉寮村的小徑返回大圍的家。那日天陰有微雨，當時約為15時30分。當我們繞過彎位的時候，我留意到一隻像燕子的雀鳥，在小徑前方約10米的單一架空電纜上降落或轉換位置。我馬上認出那是一隻灰燕鷗 *Artamus fuscus*，這是因為我在斯里蘭卡和泰國的經歷令我對這鳥種十分熟悉，而最近在2010年3月我也曾在印度連續數日觀察一對灰燕鷗。

我向 Jane 指出該鳥，並無知地說了類似這是香港罕見雀鳥的話，毫不為意當時香港仍未有這鳥種的紀錄。不幸的是，我們當時沒有相機，也沒有手提電話（如果有的話也足夠），因此未能拍照。幸而，這雀鳥頗信任我們，容我們近距離以望遠鏡正面觀察數分鐘。

該鳥有着燕鷗的整體特徵——身體頗短小、翼長、頭大呈立方形而且頂部較平。整體呈暗灰色，沒有任何清晰的斑紋或條紋，憑這些可以立即識別為灰燕鷗。嘴部呈藍色，在陰天的情況下我覺得頗為鮮色；嘴基厚大，逐漸變得尖細；上下喙部的大小和形狀均相似。頭部暗灰色，顏色較胸部深。眼端呈暗黑色，眼端的條紋與嘴基一樣粗，並伸延至剛剛過了眼後。這雀鳥胸部的羽毛鬆起，令牠看來頗為肥胖，不如圖鑑中的燕鷗那麼流線形。胸部為暗白色。

從下面看，翅膀末端似乎稍為伸延至超出尾部。尾部短小，基本上呈方形，但中間輕微凹進去。該鳥慢慢但經常地向下擺動尾巴。這擺動不及鵲鵲擺動尾巴時那麼快和重複，因為牠每次擺動之間都有停頓。腳部看來短小，因為從我的角度並不能見到跗蹠。我未有留意腳趾的顏色，但我假定是黑色或深色，因為如果是紅、黃或淡色的話應該會很顯眼。

當我們從該鳥的右邊走近觀察時，牠發出了一聲短而刺耳的叫聲之後就飛走了。飛行時，可見牠那短而逐漸變得尖細的翅膀，由一末端到另一末端的長度大概與嘴部至尾部的長度一樣，或略長一點。翅膀平伸，飛行時慢慢地滑翔。牠似乎因我走近而離開，但並不是因驚怕而飛走。幸而，牠降落在小徑旁一荒廢農田的另一條電纜上，距離相近，這次可以從後面觀察。

翅膀至「肩部」一端與頭部同色，越近末端顏色越深，但只是變成很深的灰色，而非深黑色。腰部淡色，與胸部顏色相若。我再觀察了該鳥數分鐘，然後前行數米再看，仍是從後面觀察，但是在牠較左的方向。牠繼續擺動尾巴。以優質的望遠鏡近距離觀察該鳥五分鐘之後，我們繼續走，該鳥就留在電纜上。

回家之後，我翻查了Viney *et al.* (2005)，並發現灰燕鵡是海南及廣西的留鳥。因此，我向Richard Lewthwaite主持的雀鳥熱線報告。那天下午及接着多天，我和很多人都嘗試再去找這雀鳥及為牠拍照，但都找不着。

其後 Richard Lewthwaite 和本人的調查發現，最近香港的灰燕鵡紀錄是在澳門，由 W. Heine 搜集所得數目不明的標本。W. Heine 是美國海軍培理訪日團的美術家，他在1853年4月6至28日期間暫居澳門(Cassin 1856)。Cassin 強調，Heine 的所有標本都是從野外搜集，而非從鳥販得來。Heine有關這雀鳥的野外觀察筆記出奇地描述這雀鳥為「具備十分獨來獨往的習性，偶然會在澳門附近人跡罕至的岩石斜坡見到」(第238頁)。這個描述與現代權威如 Robson(2000)的描述不同——Robson 指出灰燕鵡屬「群居」雀鳥，可於「開闊及有零星樹木、耕作的地方找到，有時也會在樹林上空見到」(第373頁)；這個描述與香粉寮的生境地相似。Heine對灰燕鵡的描述很快就遭到質疑，當中包括Blyth(1866)。Blyth 驚嘆：「我無法理解此鳥為何會被說成『具備獨來獨往的習性』！」(第370頁)。Swinhoe(1862)甚至對其出處存疑：「我認為這標本一定是標籤錯了。我十分懷疑標本是否在澳門附近找到」(第306頁)。但是，在香粉寮見到的，確實是一隻單獨的雀鳥，而且是在4月，正是Heine到訪澳門的月份。Jerdon(1862)留意到這些雀鳥只會在「為數眾多的地方」才聚集一起，而且這並不常見，即使如此，也表現得「獨立」(第442頁)。最後，也更重要的是，在華盛頓的史密森自然歷史國家博物館保存了一塊 *A. fuscus* 的皮標本，標明是由 Heine 在美國訪日團期間從中國搜集回來的(USNM A 15880)。該塊皮標本已由史密森自然歷史國家博物館雀鳥科的 Christopher M. Milensky 檢查及識別(私人通訊)。

雖然現有的證據令人想到，也許 Swinhoe 對原來的澳門紀錄存疑是有點倉促，但他對該紀錄有保留，必定是以其所知為根據，即 *A. fuscus* 在其久居澳門期間沒有被發現，顯示這鳥種的分佈範圍或許只會在罕有及／或某些未知的情况下，才會向北延伸那麼遠。

紀錄委員會評註

在這個相片主導的年代，收到只以詳盡描述為證的罕見雀鳥報告，實在令人耳目一新。雀鳥的身體結構描述得很好，而關鍵的全身羽毛特徵，例如嘴的顏色、腰部紋理、上體的素色等資料全部齊備。鑑於之前以及截至2009年唯一在澳門錄得的廣東紀錄，以及知悉這鳥種在廣西南面數量頗多，這鳥種在香港有紀錄已早在預期之內。在2009年，廣東西南及北面有少數紀錄，較香港的為早，顯示這個鳥種至少暫時擴展了分佈範圍。

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The First Breeding Records, Ecology, Status, and Conservation of Brown Wood Owl *Strix leptogrammica ticehursti* in Hong Kong

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Plate 63. Juvenile Brown Wood Owl *Strix leptogrammica ticehursti* 褐林鴞幼鳥
Lam Tsuen, 5 June 2012 林村 2012年6月5日
Mike Kilburn 吳敏

The first sight record of Brown Wood Owl *Strix leptogrammica ticehursti* in Hong Kong was of an adult bird seen and photographed in the upper reaches of Shing Mun Country Park on 6th November 2007 (Wong 2011). This was not wholly unexpected as a large owl (later identified as Brown Wood Owl) had been heard calling at Tai Po Kau on three dates in March 2006 (P. & A. Crow *pers. comm.*), and a recording of the bird's diagnostic four-note call, a deep "hoo..hu.hu.hu", was made in Tai Po Kau on 20th March 2006 (R. & K. Barretto. *pers comm.*) (Figure 1).

Following these initial records a similar call, later confirmed to be Brown Wood Owl, was heard from *fung shui* woodland in the Lam Tsuen Valley twice in April 2008, three times in March 2009, once in September 2009 and then in every month between January 2010 and June 2011, except April 2011. The four-note call was also heard at Tai Po Kau in April 2009 and January 2010. Taken together these records strongly suggested that Brown Wood Owl had become established as a resident species in Hong Kong.

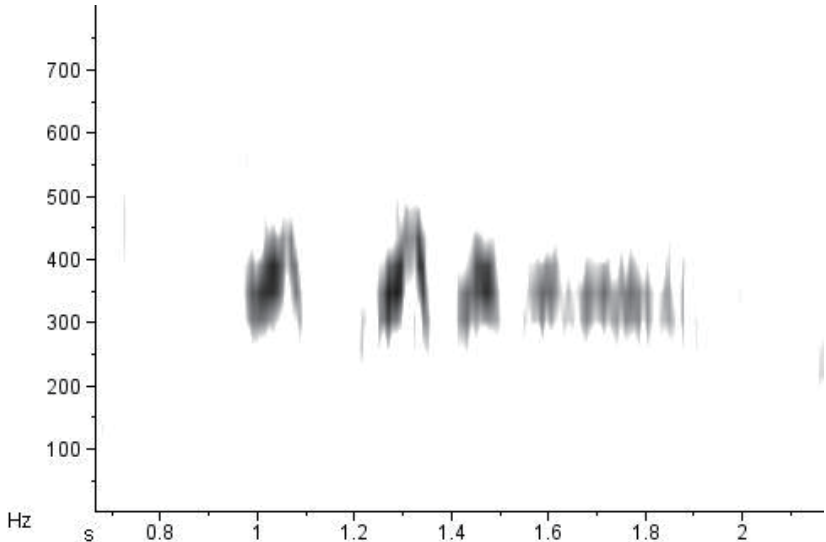


Figure 1. Sonogram of call of Brown Wood Owl, *Strix leptogrammica ticehursti* at Tai Po Kau. 20 March 2006. Recorded by R. & K. Barretto, sonogram by G. Carey

On 4th April 2009 a very young chick found abandoned on the ground and covered in ants in Tai Mo Shan Country Park provided the first evidence of breeding in Hong Kong. Unfortunately the precise location where the bird was found is not known. It was handed in to AFCD staff at the Kap Lung Management Centre, and subsequently to Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden (KFBG). It eventually fledged and moulted into adult plumage (Tan and Kendrick 2011), before being released back to the wild on 28th May 2010.

On 5th June 2010 a juvenile Brown Wood Owl (Plate 64) was found on a steep northwest-facing slope covered with mature *fung shui* woodland in the Lam Tsuen Valley at about 100m above sea level. The bird was well photographed and filmed, but was not searched for on subsequent days, and was not seen again.

On 5th June 2011 another juvenile, perhaps a week older than the 2010 bird (showing no downy feathers on the back), was found and again photographed in the very same tree as the 2010 bird! This bird was seen on two subsequent days, once on the same branch, and on the second day on another tree some 20-30m away. On the first day an adult bird was seen to fly off from a concealed perch within 30m of the juvenile.

On 3rd June 2012 another juvenile was discovered in the same location. Its plumage was at a similar stage of development and the bird was again filmed and photographed (Plate 63). On this occasion two adults flew off, again giving the briefest of flight views. The juvenile was seen again on 9th June, this time with one adult ghosting silently away.

In May 2011 two adult birds were heard, seen and superbly photographed over the course of two weeks in Tai Po Kau (Plate 65). A recording and sonogram made on 10 May 2011 can be found at: <http://www.xeno-canto.org/species/Strix-leptogrammica/LCHUNFAI/XC814482011-05-10>. While no direct evidence of breeding was found, the overlap in calling dates and times between the Tai Po Kau and Lam Tsuen birds suggested that at least two pairs of Brown Wood Owl were occupying territory on the northern slopes of the Tai Mo Shan massif in May 2011.

Although no nest has yet been found, the extensive records of calling birds in Lam Tsuen, the presence of young birds in four consecutive years from 2009 to 2012, and the records of birds at three different locations at Tai Mo Shan, Lam Tsuen, and Tai Po Kau demonstrate that Brown Wood Owl is an established, albeit rare, breeding species in Hong Kong.

Range and Taxonomy

Brown Wood Owl of the subspecies *ticehursti* is resident throughout southeast China, with previous Guangdong records coming from Hei Shi Ding (Lewthwaite 1996 and Lee *et al.* 2006) and Chebaling (Lewthwaite 1996). The current understanding of this taxon and its distribution in China is discussed more fully in Wong (2011). Given its distribution, the active reforestation of hilly areas in southern China, and the availability of suitable habitat in Hong Kong, this discovery, should not perhaps be wholly surprising.

The taxonomy of Brown Wood Owl is complex and not fully understood. Although currently considered conspecific by some authors (Rasmussen and Anderton 2006), Lin *et al.* 2008, König *et al.* 1999 and König & Wieck 2008 split the races that occur in Greater China, northern Indochina and the Himalayas, including *ticehursti*, as a different species, *Strix newarensis* (confusingly referred to as Himalayan Wood Owl in König *et al.* 1999 but Mountain Wood Owl in König & Wieck 2008), from races occurring further south.



Plate 64. Juvenile Brown Wood Owl *Strix leptogrammica ticehursti* 褐林鴞幼鳥
Lam Tsuen, 5 June 2010 林村 2010年6月5日
Martin Hale



Plate 65. Adult Brown Wood Owl *Strix leptogrammica ticehursti* 褐林鴞成鳥
Tai Po Kau, 11 May 2011 大埔滘 2011年5月11日
Chui Kai Yuen 崔啓元

Breeding ecology

There are two studies on the breeding ecology of Brown Wood Owl which can help to provide a context for the Hong Kong records. Lin *et al.* (2008) detail the breeding ecology of three pairs of the slightly larger Taiwanese race *S. l. caligata*, as summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Summary of data on breeding ecology of three pairs of Brown Wood Owl *Strix leptogrammica caligata* from Taiwan

Year	1996	2003	2004
Site	Nantou (Cuifeng)	Taichung (Snowy Mts)	Taipei (Pinglin)
Elevation	2,350m	2,650m	918m
Nesting tree: species	<i>Cyclobalanopsis stenopylloides</i>	<i>Chaemaecyparis formosensis</i>	<i>Machilus japonica</i> var. <i>Kusanoi</i> (Hayata) Liao
height	18m	25m	21m
diameter	55 cm	71cm	52cm
nest type	Bird's nest fern	Hole 40 cm × 35 cm × 70 cm deep	Bird's nest fern
height	13 m	12 m	8m
No. of eggs laid	One	One	Two (one hatched)
Egg dimensions & weight	-	-	53 × 45 mm, 53 g
Hatching date	10 April	21 Mar	2 April
Chicks leave nest	5 May (26 days)	18 Apr (28 days)	25 April (23 days)
Female on nest	9-15 days after hatching		
Female on guard outside nest	18-21 days after hatching		
Female first brings food	13-17 days after hatching		
Observation of juvenile bird	87-145 days		

Despite the differences of habitat and climate, a pair of the race *ochrogenys* in Sri Lanka followed a rather similar pattern. (Samarawickrama *et al.* 2006). One or, more usually, two eggs (considerably smaller than the Taiwanese birds at 48.8 × 43.2mm) were laid in a hole in a large tree in a garden and incubated for 25-30 days. The chicks stayed in the nest for at least 34 days and emerged a few days apart. Juveniles remained wholly dependent on the adults for some two months after hatching.

Two fledglings photographed at Wuyuan, northeastern Jiangxi on 1st June 2006, and a report of two chicks brought to a rescue centre in Anhui in June 2012 (Anon., June 2012) show that *S.l.ticehursti* may also produce two chicks, even though no more than one has yet been found in Hong Kong.

Vocalisations

Between March 2006 and June 2012 Brown Wood Owl was heard calling in Hong Kong on over seventy occasions in all months of the year. Figure 2 summarises the records in Lam Tsuen, for which the most complete data is available. The month with most records is March - the only month in which the call has been heard in four out of five years. A second peak noted in September 2010 may represent the end of the breeding cycle as fully-fledged young birds are forced off their parents' territory.

**Number of vocalizations per month of Brown Wood Owl,
Lam Tsuen, January 2008 - December 2012.**

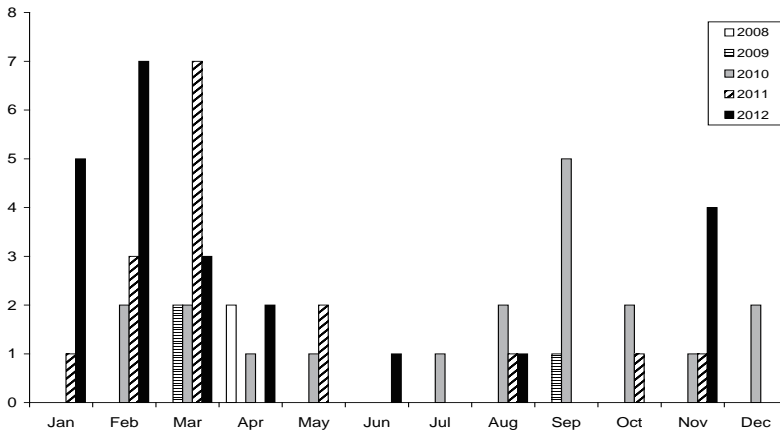


Figure 2. Number of vocalizations per month of Brown Wood Owl, Lam Tsuen, January 2008 - December 2012.

A preliminary study in Lam Tsuen (D Thomas *pers. comm.*) indicates that Brown Wood Owl calls approximately four times per minute for no more than ten minutes consecutively. Calls have been heard at all times of the night, from shortly after dusk to shortly after dawn, with extreme times recorded being 1815 and 0820. Calls are rarely heard from the same location two nights running. No strong preference is shown either for a specific phase of the moon or clear or overcast nights. Data collected from January to March 2012 in Lam Tsuen suggests that drizzly evenings were favoured, but further research is required to confirm this pattern.

Another distinctive vocalization, undescribed for any of the races of the putative *Strix newarensis* was heard in Lam Tsuen on four evenings in March 2011. This call differed from the familiar four-note call in being just three distinct, but closely-spaced notes: "hoo.hoo-hoo". Females of the Sri Lankan race *ochrogenys* are reported to give a similar call prior to breeding (Samarawickrama *pers. comm.*)

Plumages of *S. l. ticehursti*

The rescued Tai Mo Shan chick was photographed at various stages of its growth by KFBG staff. These photographs, along with those of the Lam Tsuen juveniles and the adult birds from Tai Po Kau in 2011, comprise a near complete record of the plumage development of this taxon (Plate 66). This is the first known documentation of the plumage development of *S.l. ticehursti*. Lin et al. (2008) depicts all the plumages of *S.l.caligata* after it leaves the nest, providing a useful source for comparison of these two closely related, and perhaps synonymous, subspecies.

Chick

On hatching (early April) the chick is covered in pure white down with the first hint of a dark facial disk beginning to show by mid-April. The unfeathered toes are bluish white with black claws, becoming slightly pinker on the uppersides close to the leg. The eyes are black and the bill is a pale bluish grey.

Fledgling

At the time of fledging in the first week of June the feathers inside the facial disk have become more tawny brown, except for a white band separating these feathers from the black edge of the facial disk. The facial disk is incomplete above the eyes, such that the downy white head feathers extend to the base of the upper mandible. The bill is surrounded by very fine black feathers, and the nostrils are uncovered. The outer eyelid is black and the inner eyelid, which closes diagonally across the eye from the lower outer corner, is greyish-pink.

The head, breast and upperparts retain the mostly downy plumage. The rectrices and remiges are dark chocolate brown tipped white, with widely spaced and narrow pale cream bars. The wing coverts are mostly replaced by ginger-brown feathers with pale cream bars and a broad white tip. The back and mantle are initially covered with the same plumage as the coverts, but begin to lose these in June, revealing the dark brown back of adult plumage.

Juvenile

By mid-August the breast is completely covered with narrow grey and white horizontal barring of even width. The downy white head feathers are retained, giving the appearance of a soft white hood. By May of the following year the KFBG bird was in a plumage closely resembling the adult, but the time at which the white hood was moulted was not recorded, and there are no photos of first year *ticehursti* birds between August and May. Lin *et al.* (2008) found that *caligata* adopts an adult-like plumage within four months of hatching.

Adult

The face of the adult bird from Tai Po Kau shows a broad and deep white "V" which extends from the base of the upper mandible to the top of the eye. The rest of the facial disc on this bird is dark chocolate brown, noticeably darker than the tawny orange facial disk of the juvenile from KFBG. The remainder of the head is a dark chocolate brown that continues onto the back and mantle. There is a narrow tramline of paler broad-banded dark brown and white feathers along the lower edge of the scapulars.

A narrow white band separates the lower border of the facial disc from the finely barred breast. The remainder of the underparts, including the underwing coverts and the upper toes, are evenly barred with gray and a pale orange-brown except for some black smudging on the sides of the breast. The underside of the tail is darker, with broadly spaced narrow cream bars, while the rectrices show broad, evenly spaced pale and dark bands. As with young birds the eyes are completely black and the bill

is light horn in colour. The bare skin on the toes is white. The claws are pale with extensive dark tips. It should also be noted that the feathers of the crown and neck can be raised, making the head look almost completely circular, contrasting sharply with the more angular structure marked by the facial disc when these feathers are not raised.

Breeding cycle

Information in the papers about breeding ecology (Samarawickrama *et al.* 2006, Lin *et al.* 2008), combined with observations of birds in Hong Kong and information gathered about vocalizations, allow a timeline for the breeding cycle of *S.l.ticehursti* in Hong Kong to be proposed.

Lin *et al.* (2008) depict the different stages of plumage development. The bird identified as “one month after fledging” is at an identical stage to the Lam Tsuen juveniles (first adult feathers appearing on the breast sides). Assuming *ticehursti* and *caligata* follow a similar rate of development, the Lam Tsuen birds hatch around the second week of April, although the Tai Mo Shan Bird certainly hatched on or before 4th April. This is similar to, but slightly later than, the timing reported in Taiwan (hatching recorded between 21st March and 10th April). Taking the 25-30 days Samarawickrama *et al.* (2006) notes for incubation in *ochrogenys* as an indicative figure, eggs would be laid in Hong Kong in the second or third week in March.

Males begin calling in January, presumably to claim a territory, and continue through to March, when the three-note call of females is also heard and the eggs are laid. The eggs hatch in early to mid-April, and the fledgling emerges some three to four weeks later in early May. It remains close to the nesting tree and is wholly dependent on the adult into at least the second week in June.

The white hood, which is lost after mid-August, is thought to be the mark of a dependent juvenile. The replacement of the hood with brown adult-type feathers denotes the final stage of progression to competing adult. An increased rate of calling was noted in September 2010; the timing coincides with this loss of the white hood and may mark the end of the breeding cycle as and the adult birds drive the young bird off their territory.



Plate 66. Plumage development of Brown Wood Owl *Strix leptogrammica ticehursti* at KFBC.
褐林鴞羽毛的演變
KFBC, 16 April 2009, 21 May 2009, 13 August 2009, 13 May 2010
嘉道理農場暨植物園 2009年4月16日, 2009年5月21日, 2009年8月13日, 2010年5月13日

Habitat preference and ecological niche

All the birds found in Hong Kong have been recorded in mature *fung shui* and secondary woodland between 100 - 400m above sea level (Plate 67). This is substantially lower than either published English sources or Lin *et al.* (2008), which state that birds from the *newarensis* group are found between 1,000 and 4,000 metres asl.

The Lam Tsuen birds occur in *fung shui* woodland, and birds photographed in Wuyuan, Jiangxi, were also in this habitat. Tai Po Kau and the area around the Tai Mo Shan Customer Service Centre, however, are characterized by mature secondary woodland, with some introduced plantation species. The photograph of adult birds from Tai Po Kau also shows *Melaleuca quinquenervia*, an alien plantation species, suggesting that the maturity of the woodland may be a more important habitat characteristic than the specific assemblage of tree species.



Plate 67. Brown Wood Owl *Strix leptogrammica ticehursti* in typical habitat (mixed *fung shui* and secondary woodland with large trees).

褐林鴞於其典型的生境 (多大樹的風水林及次生林)

Lam Tsuen, 5 June 2010 林村 2010年6月5日

Mike Kilburn 吳敏

Fung shui woodland comprise natural broad-leaved forest and introduced trees and shrubs that were planted close to villages to provide shelter, food, traditional medicine and other products useful to rural communities. They also have spiritual significance - many in Lam Tsuen include burial grounds and shrines. Due to this long history, *fung shui* woodlands hold many of the oldest and largest trees in Hong Kong.

Mature woodland is expanding in both area and connectivity throughout Hong Kong through natural succession. Four other breeding bird species typical of forests in southern China - Mountain Bulbul *Ixos mccllellandii*, Pygmy Wren-babbler *Pnoepyga pusilla*, Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophrys* and Mountain Tailorbird *Phyllergates cuculatus*, have successfully colonized this habitat in the last decade. In addition, Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis* has become more regular, and the fortunes of Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo *Hierococcyx nisicolor* - a brood parasite on the forest-dependent Hainan Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis hainanus* - have risen with its host. This increasing avian diversity suggests that the progressive maturity of woodland habitats is leading to the re-opening of ecological niches lost through forest clearance that dates back to at least the seventeenth century (Dudgeon & Corlett 2004).

The diet of Brown Wood Owl in Hong Kong remains unknown as no prey items have yet been recorded or regurgitated pellets found. Elsewhere, large rodents such as flying squirrels (which are of similar size and weight to Brown Wood Owl) and partridges constitute a major part of the diet, but a wide range of smaller mammals, frogs, birds (including small owls) and even insects are also taken (Samarawickrama *et al.* 2006, Lin *et al.* 2008, König and Wieck 2008).

The fact that mature woodland in Hong Kong now supports a specialist apex predator that hunts exclusively under the canopy (unlike Besra *Accipiter virgatus*, Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*, and Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela*, which feed in a wider range of habitats) suggests that Hong Kong's woodland may be approaching the structural climax status of the original primary forest cover.

A key difference between *fung shui* and mature secondary woodland is the presence in the former of trees that are large enough to provide nesting holes (R. Corlett, *pers. comm.*) The more mature woodlands (particularly *fung shui*) may also provide more food, thereby increasing the potential for successfully raising chicks to maturity. Much of Hong Kong's secondary woodland is comprised of trees of the genus *Machilus* - first generation pioneers in the succession from shrubland to forest (*ibid.*). While these may provide cover and connectivity between richer habitats, they are still several tree generations away from the floristic climax of *fung shui* woodland (*ibid.*).

Further evidence of the habitat preferences of Brown Wood Owl in Hong Kong was provided by a KFBG radio tracking study on the bird received as a chick from Tai Mo Shan (Figure 3).

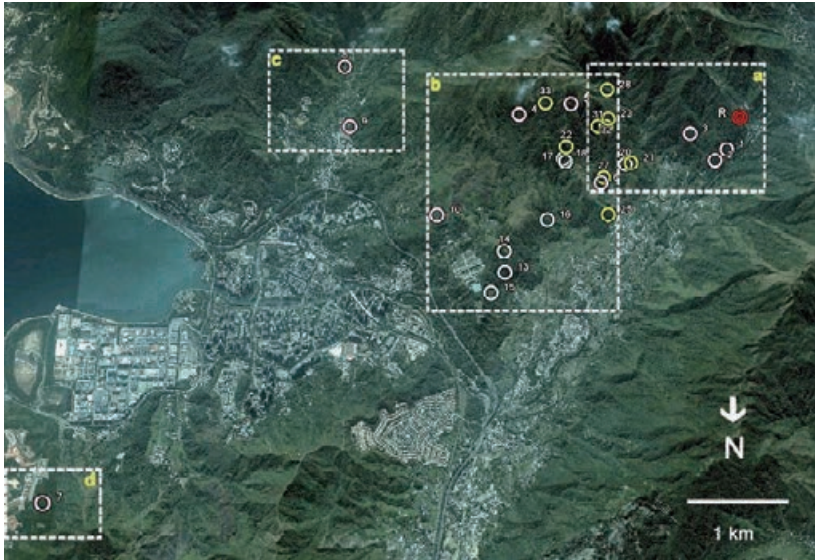


Figure 3. Locations of released Brown Wood Owl recorded by radio tracking (KFBG data).

The bird was released at KFBG on 28 May 2010 and tracked for 33 days. During this time it occupied locations below 300m that are characterized by either *fung shui* or secondary woodland, on the lower northern slopes of Tai Mo Shan between Lead Mine Pass and KFBG (with the exception of a single spurious detection away from the study area). The great majority of detections came from the southeastern slopes of the Lam Tsuen Valley, which supports a contiguous strip of mature secondary and *fung shui* woodland. This study also showed movements of less than one kilometre between roosts, and that the bird crossed neither roads nor open areas. Such breaks in habitat may act as a barrier slowing the wider colonization of apparently suitable habitats in Hong Kong (although the fact that the species has colonized Hong Kong indicates that it may occasionally cross these more open habitats).

Sensitivity to disturbance and recommendations for conservation

Brown Wood Owl is listed as “Least Concern” by Birdlife International (2012), but is considered by most authorities to be declining throughout its range, principally due to habitat destruction. Several of the radio tracking returns and all of the vocalizations of Brown Wood Owl heard in Lam Tsuen occurred in *fung shui* woodland in close proximity to villages. These are typically subject to noise disturbance from domestic activity and vehicular noise, and sometimes also from construction of new houses and firecrackers during festivals. The productivity of the Lam Tsuen birds for several years suggests that this pair at least is rather tolerant of noise. The woodland where these birds have bred is, however, subject to very little direct human disturbance, which may be a factor in the successful breeding of the species at this location. Adults at the site are shy, having never given any but the most fleeting views.

Although the maturing secondary woodland in Country Parks is well protected, some of the most mature woodland patches in Hong Kong, particularly *fung shui* woodland, are under threat from felling trees to facilitate village house development and burial plots. The spiritual significance of *fung shui* woodlands and the connection of large trees with the prosperity of the village has been a key factor in preserving this important remnant of Hong Kong's original forest habitats (Yip *et al.* 2004). Many of Hong Kong's 116 *fung shui* woods are correspondingly protected by land use zonings that prohibit development, such as Site of Special Scientific Interest or Country Park. The shrinking supply of developable land for rural housing, especially under the Small House Policy (Hopkinson & Lao 2003), and an escalating demand for burial plots are leading to *fung shui* woods being thinned and cleared, often illegally. The disappearance of these *fung shui* woodlands is perhaps the greatest threat to the small Hong Kong population of Brown Wood Owls. It is recommended that *fung shui* woodland known to support breeding and foraging habitat for Brown Wood Owls should be protected by application and active enforcement of appropriate land use zonings.

Other disturbance comes from poachers of incense trees *Aquilaria sinensis* and other medicinal and ornamental plants and animals, and the increasing numbers of visitors to woodland areas for recreation. The Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) prohibits the hunting, capture, keeping, trading and disturbance of all birds and their eggs and nests in Hong Kong. In order to minimize potential risks to breeding birds from bird watchers, photographers or other visitors eager to see and photograph charismatic species such as owls, it is recommended that the exact location of any known breeding sites should remain undisclosed.

Acknowledgements

Dylan Thomas collected and collated most of the records of calls from Lam Tsuen.

Richard Lewthwaite provided useful references, information on the status of Brown Wood Owl in China and, along with Mike Leven, Richard Corlett and Dylan Thomas, generated stimulating discussion and useful comments on early drafts of this paper.

Ruy and Karen Barretto provided their recordings of the call, which Geoff Carey converted into a sonogram.

The fine photographs that illustrate this paper were provided by Billy Chui, Martin Hale and Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden, who also provided the image illustrating the radio tracking returns.

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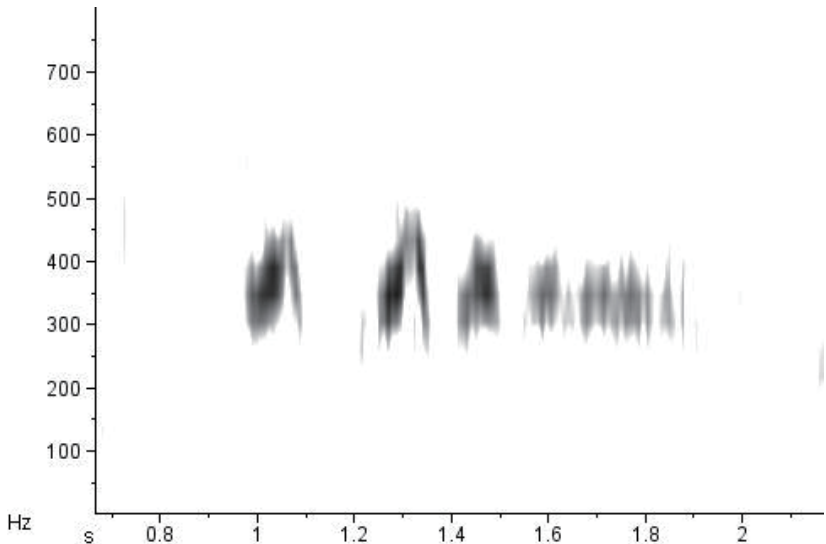
褐林鴉 *Strix leptogrammica ticehursti* 在香港的第一個繁殖紀錄及其生態和保育狀況

吳敏

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香港第一個褐林鴉 *Strix leptogrammica ticehursti* 的紀錄是隻成鳥，於2007年11月6日在城門郊野公園的高地上錄得並拍攝到 (Wong 2011)。這並非完全是意料之外，因為在2006年3月曾經有人分別在3個不同的日子在大埔滘聽到一隻大型貓頭鷹（後確定為褐林鴉）在鳴叫 (P& A Crow 私人通訊)，以及在2006年3月20日有一段深沉的4音調鳥鳴 “hoo...hu.hu.hu” 的錄音紀錄 (R&K. Barretto 私人通訊) (圖表一)

有了這些初步的紀錄，之後在大埔林村谷的風水林聽到類似的鳴叫聲(後來證實為褐林鴉)，2008年4月聽到2次，2009年3月聽到3次，2009年9月聽到1次 及2010年1月至2011年4月間每月一次(2011年4月除外)。2009年4月和2010年1月在大埔滘亦聽到這種4音調的鳴叫。綜合這些紀錄強烈顯示褐林鴉已成為香港的留鳥。



圖表一 2006年3月20日在大埔滘錄得的褐林鴉 *Strix leptogrammica ticehursti* 鳴叫聲的聲像圖
(錄音：R&K Barretto / 聲像圖：G. Carey)

2009年4月4日，有人發現一隻剛出生不久的雛鳥被遺棄在大帽山郊野公園並且被螞蟻覆蓋，這是香港首個繁殖紀錄的證據。很可惜這鳥被發現的確實位置不詳，後來牠被送往甲龍管理中心的漁護署人員手上，其後被送往嘉道理農場暨植物園 (KFBG)。最終

牠成功換羽到成鳥羽毛 (Tan & Kendrick 2011)，2010年5月28日被釋放到野外。

2010年6月5日一隻年幼的褐林鴉 (插圖 63) 在林村谷的風水林被發現一個面向西北海拔約100米的陡峭斜坡上。這鳥被成功拍攝和錄影，但在隨後的日子並沒有人再尋找牠，之後鳥蹤杳然。

2011年6月5日有另一隻幼鳥，也許比2010年的幼鳥大一星期 (背面沒有毛茸茸的羽毛)，被發現並拍攝到站在去年的幼鳥的同一棵樹上！這鳥其後兩天都被看到，一次在同一條樹枝上，當時有人看到一隻成鳥從一隱蔽暗處飛出，距離那幼鳥只有30米，另一次在20-30米外的另一棵樹上。

2012年6月3日，另一隻幼鳥在相同的位置被發現。牠的羽毛跟去年那隻差不多，已被拍攝到 (插圖 62)。當天有人驚鴻一瞥看到兩隻成鳥急切地飛走。這隻幼鳥於6月9日再被發現，當時有一成鳥在附近靜悄悄地看守著。

2011年5月在大埔滘發現兩隻成鳥，其後兩個星期都被拍攝到非常清晰的相片 (插圖 64)。2011年5月10日的錄音及聲像圖可以在這裡找到：http://www.xeno-canto.org/species/Strix-leptogrammica_LCHUNFAI_XC814482011-05-10。雖然我們沒有確實的繁殖證據，但根據在大埔滘及林村所錄得的鳥鳴聲，中間有些日期是重疊的，這顯示在2011年5月應該最少有兩對褐林鴉在大帽山北部的山丘上繁殖。

雖然至今尚未找到褐林鴉的巢，但根據在林村錄得的大量鳴叫聲，及在2009至2012年連續四年間發現的幼鳥紀錄，以及在三個不同的位置包括大帽山、大埔滘和林村的紀錄，都一一表明了褐林鴉(雖然罕見)是有在香港繁殖的。

分佈範圍和分類方法

褐林鴉的亞種 *ticehursti* 是留鳥並在中國整個東南沿海廣泛分佈，以往曾有過廣東省黑石頂 (Lewthwaite 1996 and Lee 2006) 和車八嶺 (Lewthwaite 1996) 的紀錄。這個類群及其分佈在 Wong (2011) 有更充分的討論。由於牠們分佈在中國南部的丘陵地帶，加上近年中國南部積極植樹造林，以及在香港有合適的棲息地，這個在香港的發現並不令人驚訝。

褐林鴉的分類是複雜及難以令人完全理解。雖然目前一些作者認為牠們是同種 (Rasmussen and Anderton 2006)，但是 Lin *et al.* 2008, König *et al.* 1999 及 König and Wieck 2008 把在大中華區、印度支那北部和喜馬拉雅山發現的褐林鴉，包括 *ticehursti* 分種為 *Strix newarensis* (König *et al.* 1999 把牠簡稱為喜馬拉雅林鴉, König & Wieck 2008 更混淆地稱牠為山林鴉)。

繁殖生態

有兩個褐林鴉的繁殖生態研究或許可以為香港的紀錄提供一些背景資料。Lin *et al.* (2008) 曾為三對體積稍大的台灣種褐林鴉 *S. leptogrammica caligata* 的繁殖生態作出詳細的分析，總結見於表一。

表一：三對台灣褐林鴉 *Strix leptogrammica caligata* 的繁殖生態資料摘要

年份	1996	2003	2004
地點	南投 (翠峰)	台中 (大雪山)	台北 (坪林)
海拔	2,350米	2,650米	918米
營巢樹種	狹葉櫟 <i>Cyclobalanopsis stenophylloides</i>	台灣紅檜 <i>Chaemaecyparis formosensis</i>	大葉楠 <i>Machilus japonica</i> var. <i>Kusanoi (Hayata) Liao</i>
高度	18米	25米	21米
直徑	55 厘米	71厘米	52厘米
巢種	雀巢芒	樹洞 40 厘米 × 35厘米 × 70厘米深	雀巢芒
高度	13 米	12 米	8米
鳥蛋數量	1	1	2 (1隻孵化)
鳥蛋尺寸及重量	-	-	53 × 45毫米, 53克
孵化日期	4月10 日	3月21日	4月2日
雛鳥離巢日期	5月5日 (26 日)	4月18日 (28 日)	4月25日 (23 日)
雌鳥坐巢日期	孵化後9-15 日		
雌鳥在附近守護 鳥巢日子	孵化後18-21 日		
雌鳥捕捉食物	孵化後13-17 日		
看管幼鳥日期	87-145 日		

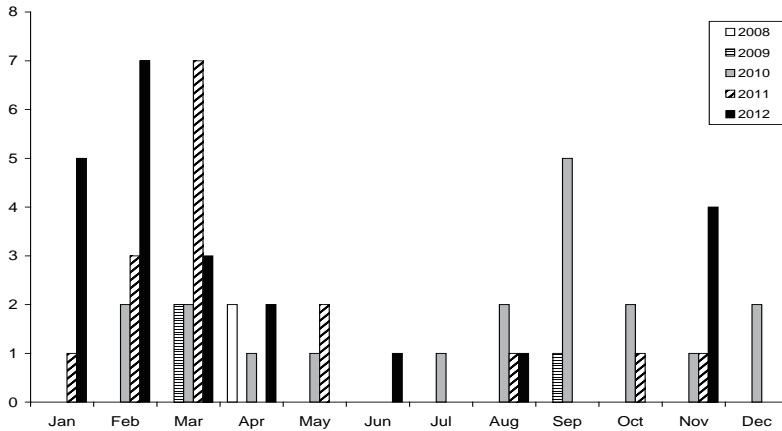
儘管有棲息地和氣候的差異，斯里蘭卡的 *ochrogenys* 種卻有著相當類似的模式 (Samarawickrama *et al.*2006)。牠們生下一個，或者更通常是兩個鳥蛋在花園大樹的洞內 (鳥蛋大小約48.8 x43.2毫米，比台灣的鳥蛋稍微細小)，並在25至30天後孵化。雛鳥會留在巢內最少34天，然後會稍微離開鳥巢。幼鳥在孵化後的兩個月仍然完全依賴成鳥。

2006年6月1日在江西婺源拍攝到兩隻幼鳥，2012年6月有兩隻幼鳥被送到安徽的救援中心 (匿名，2012年6月)，這顯示了 *S. leptogrammica ticehursti* 是會生兩隻雛鳥的，即使在香港的發現暫時只有一隻雛鳥。

鳴聲

2006年3月至2012年6月在香港每一個月份聽到不下70次褐林鴉的鳴叫聲。圖表二總結在林村的紀錄，這算是最完整的數據。3月是錄得最多鳴叫聲的月份 - 五年之中有四年錄得。第二個高峰在2010年9月錄得，這可能代表繁殖週期的結束，羽翼漸豐的幼鳥被父母迫著離開自己的領地。

圖表二：林村的褐林鴞每月鳴叫紀錄 (2008年1月至2012年12月)



林村的初步研究顯示(D Thomas 私人通訊)，褐林鴞通常每分鐘會鳴叫4次，但每次都不會連續超過10分鐘。鳴叫聲在晚上任何時候都可能聽到，即從黃昏後不久到天亮前，而最極端的时间紀錄為1815和0820。在同一位置很少會有連續兩晚聽到鳴叫聲。沒有任何紀錄顯示牠們在月圓或陰天的夜晚鳴叫。根據2012年1月到3月在林村收集的數據，牠們喜在濛濛的夜晚鳴叫，但需要進一步研究確認這種模式。

另一種獨特的鳴叫聲，並沒有記載在大家普遍認為的種類 *Strix newarrensis* 上，於2011年3月的四個晚上在林村聽到。這個叫聲跟我們熟悉的四音調截然不同，它只有三個音調緊密間隔的叫聲：“hoo..hoo-hoo”。據說斯里蘭卡種 *ochrogenys* 的雌鳥在繁殖期前有著類似的叫聲(Samarawickrama 私人通訊)。

S. leptogrammica ticehursti 的羽毛

在大帽山的雛鳥獲救後，由嘉道理農場職員拍照記錄牠不同的成長階段。這些照片連同林村幼鳥的照片，還有2011年大埔潛成鳥的照片，組成了有關這一分類羽毛演變的接近完整的紀錄(插圖65)，這是首批已知的關於 *S. leptogrammica ticehursti* 羽毛演變的文檔。Lin *et al.* (2008) 全面描述了 *S. leptogrammica caligata* 離巢後不同階段的羽毛狀況，為比較這兩個關係密切、甚或異名同種的亞種提供了有用的資料。

雛鳥

雛鳥在孵化時(4月初)全身覆蓋純白絨毛，4月中初現深色臉盤，沒有羽毛的腳趾呈青白色，爪為黑色，腳趾上部接近足部的位置略呈粉紅，眼黑色，喙呈淡藍灰色。

剛長羽毛的雛鳥

6月第一星期學習飛行時，臉盤內的羽毛漸呈茶褐色，其中一條白帶把這些羽毛跟臉盤的黑色邊緣分開。眼上的臉盤尚未完整，以致頭部的白絨毛延生至上喙基部。喙部周圍

是非常幼細的黑色羽毛，鼻孔外露。外眼皮黑色，內眼皮從眼下外角向眼睛對角合上，呈灰粉紅色。

頭部、胸部和上體保留大部分絨毛。尾羽和飛羽呈深棕褐色，末端白色，上有間距頗寬的淡奶油色窄長橫帶。翼覆羽大部份換成薑棕色羽毛，上有淡奶油色橫帶及闊大的白色末端。背部和上背的羽毛原本跟翼覆羽相同，到了6月則開始掉下，露出如成鳥般的深棕色背部。

幼鳥

8月中，胸部由羽毛完全覆蓋，呈灰色和白色寬度相等的窄長橫紋。頭部保留白色絨羽，狀似柔軟的白兜帽。翌年5月，這隻由嘉道理農場跟進的鳥兒已經長成恰如成鳥的羽毛，惟頭上的白兜帽何時脫下則未有紀錄，在8月至5月期間也沒有出生首年的 *ticehursti* 的照片。Lin *et al.* (2008) 發現，*caligata* 在孵出後四個月內會換上成鳥般的羽毛。

成鳥

大埔滘成鳥的臉部呈闊而深的白色「V」字形，由上喙基部延展至眼部上端。臉盤其餘部分為深棕褐色，較嘉道理農場幼鳥的褐橘色臉盤明顯深色。頭部其餘部分深棕褐色，並一直伸延至背部和上背。肩羽下緣是較淡的闊帶狀深棕色和白色羽毛，形成一道窄長電車軌的形狀。

插圖65 褐林鴉羽毛的演變

一條窄長的白帶，把臉盤下緣與佈滿細緻橫紋的胸部分開。下體其餘部分均有灰色和淡橘褐色均勻相間的條紋，包括翼下覆羽和上趾，除了胸旁兩邊有黑斑。尾部底面較深色，有間距寬闊的奶油色窄長橫帶，尾羽則呈闊闊的、間距均勻的深色和淺色橫帶。像幼鳥一樣，眼全黑，喙呈淺牛角色。趾上裸露白色皮膚，爪色淡，有闊大的深色爪尖。值得注意的是頭冠和頸部羽毛可以提舉，使頭部看起來幾近圓形，與這些羽毛沒有提舉時由臉盤標示的角狀結構形成強烈對比。

繁殖周期

參考有關繁殖生態的研究資料 (Samarawickrama *et al.* 2006, Lin *et al.* 2008)，結合在香港的觀察紀錄和所收集的鳴聲資料，可以嘗試為 *S. leptogrammica ticehursti* 在香港的繁殖周期勾劃出時間線。

Lin *et al.* (2008) 描述了羽毛演變的不同階段，其中「離巢後一個月」的鳥兒與林村幼鳥處於相同的發展階段（胸側首現成鳥羽毛）。假定 *ticehursti* 和 *caligata* 的成長速度相若，林村鳥兒約於4月第二星期孵出，大帽山雛鳥則肯定於4月4日或以前孵出，這較台灣報告的時間（3月21日至4月10日期間孵出）稍晚但相若。根據 Samarawickrama *et al.* (2006) 的筆記，*ochrogenys* 的孵化期為25-30天，以此數字為比較，香港的鳥約於3月第二或第三星期產卵。

雄鳥於1月開始鳴叫，很可能在宣示領土，並一直延續至3月，這時也能聽見雌鳥的三音節鳴聲，並已產卵。鳥卵於4月初至4月中旬孵出，剛長羽毛的雛鳥則見於三、四星期後的5月初。雛鳥總是待在巢址附近，並且完全依賴成鳥，至少到6月第二星期為止。

頭部的白色兜帽可視為幼鳥自立的標記，這兜帽於8月中以後消失，換上成鳥般的棕色羽毛，標示着發育為成鳥的最後階段。2010年9月，鳴叫速度增加，這與兜帽脫下的時間吻合，可視為繁殖周期終結的標記，成鳥會把年輕鳥兒驅離領地。

生境偏好和生態棲位

所有在香港紀錄的鳥兒均見於成熟的風水林和海拔100-400米的次生林（插圖66）。已發表的英語資料及 Lin *et al.* (2008) 都指出，*newarensis* 種群見於海拔1,000-4,000米，與此相比，在香港出現的位置較低很多。

在林村風水林出現的鳥兒，以及在江西婺源拍攝的鳥兒，同樣見於這樣的生境。然而，大埔滘以及大帽山郊野公園遊客中心一帶是成熟的次生林，也有外來引進的人工種植樹種。大埔滘成鳥的照片中有外來的人工種植樹種白千層 *Melaleuca quinquenervia*，由此顯示，相較特定的樹種組合，成熟的樹林也許是更重要的生境特徵。

風水林包含天然的闊葉林，也有種植於農村附近的引進樹木和灌木，為鄉郊社群提供林蔭、食物、傳統草藥和其他有用的產物。風水木也有其精神意義—林村不少風水林有墓地和祠堂。在香港，這些歷史悠久的風水林保留了很多古老的參天大樹。

隨着自然演替，香港的成熟樹林正在擴大其面積和連接。四種典型的華南森林繁殖鳥種，包括綠翅短腳鵝 *Ixos mccllellandii*、小鸚鵡 *Pnoepyga pusilla*、白喉短翅鵝 *Brachypteryx leucophrys* 和金頭縫葉鶯 *Phyllergates cuculatus*，於過去十年成功在香港的生境形成種群。此外，黃嘴栗啄木鳥 *Blythipicus pyrrhotis* 更為常見，而托卵寄生於海南藍仙鶴 *Cyornis hainanus* 的霍氏鷹鵝 *Hierococcyx nasicolor* 也與牠的寄主一同有較大的成功繁殖機會。鳥類多樣性的增長揭示，樹林生境持續成熟，其發展正朝向重新發展出至少自十七世紀以來因森林砍伐而消失的生態環境 (Dudgeon & Corlett 2004)。

由於沒有捕食獵物的紀錄，也沒有找到食糞，香港褐林鴉的捕食習性至今未明。其他地方的資料顯示，褐林鴉的主要食物是大型齧齒動物如鼯鼠（體積和體重均與褐林鴉相若）和鸚鵡，此外也會捕食多種較小型的哺乳動物、蛙類、鳥類（包括小鴉）甚至昆蟲 (Samarawickrama *et al.* 2006, Lin *et al.* 2008, König and Wieck 2008)。

香港的成熟樹林正為某類專門於林冠下捕食的頂級專業捕獵者提供資源（這有別於可在較多不同生境覓食的松雀鷹 *Accipiter virgatus*、鳳頭鷹 *Accipiter trivirgatus* 和蛇鵝 *Spilornis cheela*），由此可見，香港的樹林也許正由最初的原生森林覆蓋發展至結構上的極盛狀態。

風水林和成熟次生林的關鍵差別在於，前者擁有足以提供巢穴的大樹 (R. Corlett, *pers. comm.*)。愈成熟的樹林（尤其風水林）愈能提供食物，因而愈能讓雛鳥成功長大。香

港大部分次生林由潤楠屬 *Machilus* 樹種構成，這是由灌木林演替為森林的第一代開拓林 (*ibid.*)。儘管這樣能夠為生境提供更豐富的覆蓋和連接，但與風水林的植物極盛狀況相比，還相差好幾代的樹木生成 (*ibid.*)。

嘉道理農場對來自大帽山的雛鳥進行了無線電追蹤研究 (圖表三)，為褐林鴉在香港的生境偏好找到更多證據。

圖表三 由無線電追蹤的野放褐林鴉位置 (嘉道理農場數據)



該鳥於2010年5月28日在嘉道理農場野放追蹤33天，其間棲於鉛礦坳與嘉道理農場之間的大帽山北坡下層各處 (除了一次在研究範圍以外的虛假偵測)，地點俱為300米以下的風水林或次生林。大部分偵測均來自林村谷地東南坡，這兒是一片相連狹長的成熟次生林和風水林。研究顯示，該鳥於棲地之間的行動均在1千米內，也不會越過道路或空曠地方。這樣的棲地分隔也許會構成障礙，延緩褐林鴉在香港這似乎合宜的生境形成更大的種群 (雖然這鳥種已在香港形成種群，顯示牠也許偶爾會越過這些較開揚的生境)。

對外界干擾的警覺及保育建議

褐林鴉在 *Birdlife International* (2012) 中列為「無危」類別，但大多數組織均認為，其於分佈區內的數目正在下降，這主要由於生境受到破壞。多個從無線電偵得的結果和所有在林村聽到的褐林鴉鳴聲，均在農村鄰近的風水林錄得，這典型是因為鳥兒受到人們日常活動和交通產生的噪音干擾，有時也受到房地建築和節日鞭炮的噪音干擾。從幾年來的繁殖情況看，這對林村鳥兒至少可算頗能容忍噪音。然而，這些鳥兒繁殖的地點是極少直接受人打擾的樹林，這也許是鳥兒能在這裏成功繁殖的原因之一。這裏的成鳥非常害羞，從不露面，往往只能驚鴻一瞥。

儘管郊野公園的成熟次生林受保護，香港好些非常成熟的林地尤其風水林卻正面臨威脅，樹木給砍掉，以發展村屋和墳地。風水林的精神意義，以及參天大樹作為農村昌盛的命脈，成為保育這些僅存而重要的香港原生森林生境的關鍵因素（Yip *et al.* 2004）。香港的116片風水林中，很多都受相關的土地用途分區管制保護而禁止發展，例如「具特殊科學價值地點」和郊野公園。然而，農村房地供應收縮，尤其在小型屋宇政策（丁屋政策）下（Hopkinson & Lao 2003），加上墳地需求增加，導致風水林給砍伐、剷除，這些往往是非法行為。風水林的消失，也許是褐林鴉在香港的小種群面對的最大威脅。建議透過申請和積極執行合適的土地用途管制，保護已知能為褐林鴉提供繁殖和覓食生境的風水林。

其他干擾來自偷竊沉香樹 *Aquilaria sinensis* 和其他藥用、觀賞用植物和動物，以及到林區遊玩的訪客有所增加。《野生動物保護條例》（第170章）嚴禁狩獵、捕捉、管有、買賣及干擾所有在香港的雀鳥、鳥蛋和鳥巢。觀鳥者、攝影人士及其他訪客總熱切渴望見到、拍攝到如褐林鴉般魅力非凡的鳥種，為減少這些行為對繁殖鳥構成的潛在威脅，建議必須把所有繁殖地點資料保密。

鳴謝

Dylan Thomas收集和整理大部分林村鳴聲的紀錄。

Richard Lewthwaite提供非常有用的參考資料，包括褐林鴉在中國的狀況，還有利偉文、高力行、Dylan Thomas提出富啟發性的討論，並就本文初稿給予有用的評語。

Ruy and Karen Barretto提供他們錄得的鳴聲紀錄，賈知行把這些紀錄轉為聲象圖。

此文精美照片分別由崔啓元、Martin Hale和嘉道理農場提供，嘉道理農場也提供了無線電偵測結果的圖片。

以上謹此鳴謝。

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Seasonality of *Acrocephalus* and *Locustella* warblers in the reedbeds at Mai Po Nature Reserve.

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Members of the genera *Acrocephalus* and *Locustella* are generally secretive species inhabiting densely vegetated habitats, which can often be extremely difficult to monitor in the field. Identification under field conditions often relies upon familiarity with vocalizations and recognition of important plumage features on brief views. On breeding grounds birds may be easily detected by song but on migration or at wintering sites, it is likely that many individuals of both genera are undetected in the field. These difficulties of observation and identification are likely to cloud the true status of species away from the breeding grounds.

Trapping of birds by mist-nets, however, provides an opportunity to systematically study the occurrence of these species which would not be possible through relying upon field observation. Reedbed habitat is important for most of the *Acrocephalus* and *Locustella* warblers occurring in Hong Kong, and regular mist-netting conducted since 2001 at the reedbeds inside *Gei wai* #8 at Mai Po Nature Reserve since 2001 provides an ideal opportunity to study these species locally. This trapping forms part of a long-term study into the management of reedbeds on the reserve, to maximise the ecological value of the reedbed, especially for migratory bird species.

Under current IOC taxonomy, the Hong Kong list includes six species of *Acrocephalus*. There are eight species of *Locustella* on the Hong Kong list, including three species formerly recognized as *Bradypterus*. Thick-billed Warbler is also included within this summary because it was until recently also classified as *Acrocephalus*, although it has now been moved into *Iduna*; another species of *Iduna*, Sykes's Warbler *I. rama*, has been recorded previously in Hong Kong but has not been trapped at Mai Po and is not included in this review. Of these 15 species (six *Acrocephalus*, eight *Locustella* and one *Iduna*), 14 have been trapped in the reedbed at *Gei wai* #8 since 2001, and the other has been trapped during the same period on a bund in nearby *Gei wai* #7. Within this are three globally threatened species; Manchurian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus tangorum*, Styan's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella pleskei* and Japanese Swamp Warbler *Locustella pryeri*.

Seasonal graphs of occurrence for the commoner species of *Acrocephalus* and *Locustella* are provided in Carey *et al.* (2001). Where present, these graphs are reliant upon field observations and/or trapping in other habitats. The trapping data from the reedbed at Mai Po provides an opportunity to review the seasonality of these species based upon a more standardized survey methodology within one of the most important habitats for these species, allowing for a clearer picture of the seasonal variation in abundance. It also provides an opportunity to provide an update of the seasonal status of species which had been rarely recorded at the time of Carey *et al.* (2001), and therefore lacked

seasonal graphs, or which have been first recorded since publication.

Photographs are provided for all seven *Acrocephalus/Iduna* species featured in this paper: photographs for *Locustella* species will appear in a future edition of the HKBR.

Trapping Methodology

Mist-netting is carried out each year between September and May in the large reedbed block in *Gei wai* #8. The total area of reedbed in *Gei wai* #8 is approximately 7.6ha, although trapping has been carried out in only 6.0ha of this. The exact set-up of nets (including total length of net and frequency of trapping) has varied slightly over the years as the aims of the study have changed.

In the first years of the study, one area of reedbed (approximately 1.2ha each year) was cut each year during January on a rotation, so that different sections of reedbed were of different ages. Reeds regrew rapidly following cutting so that by the spring migration period the reeds had fully recovered. The impacts of reed age on vegetation structure, bird community and invertebrate community was studied and is reported by WWF-IHK & HKBRG (2008).

One part of the reedbed (approximately 2.1ha) was excavated in 2006 to lower the floor of the reedbed by 20cm, creating wet conditions. The reedbed took longer to recover from this activity, and no trapping was carried out in the excavated reedbed until September 2008. A study comparing the vegetation, bird community and invertebrate community of the wet and dry areas of reedbed is currently under way.

Details of the trapping effort in each season are detailed in Table 1, with details also of changes in reedbed management over this period.

Trapping is generally conducted every 7-10 days, depending upon weather, but is usually more frequent during autumn, when more birds are present; since 2010, trapping has been carried out twice per week in autumn. Mist nets are opened at sunrise on the day of trapping, and trapping lasts for a period of 3 hours (unless changes in weather during that period make conditions unsafe for birds caught in nets). Birds are removed from nets regularly over that period (typically at intervals of 30-45 minutes), and are taken back to the processing station where they are fitted with individually-identifiable aluminium rings and biometric measurements are taken before the bird is released back into the reedbed.

All trapping and ringing of birds is carried out by the Hong Kong Bird Ringing Group, under licence from Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD). Management of the site is provided by WWF-Hong Kong as part of the management of Mai Po Nature Reserve, including occasional cutting of reeds as required and maintenance of the boardwalk to access the site.

Table 1: Trapping activity in the period 2001-2011

Season	Length of nets operated (m)	Management notes
Jan.-May 2001	300	Trapping started in January 2001
Sept. 2001 - May 2002	300	One area of reedbed (c. 1.2ha) cut in January 2002
Sept. 2002 - May 2003	300	One area of reedbed (c. 1.2ha) cut in January 2003
Sept. 2003 - May 2004	300	One area of reedbed (c. 1.2ha) cut in January 2004
Sept. 2004 - May 2005	300	One area of reedbed (c. 1.2ha) cut in January 2005
Sept. 2005 - January 2006	300	No trapping January-May 2006.
Sept. 2006 - May 2007	120	Excavation of 2.1ha of reedbed during 2006, with no trapping in excavated area
Sept. 2007 - May 2008	120	No trapping in area excavated in 2006
Sept. 2008 - May 2009	192	
Sept. 2009 - May 2010	192	Part of reedbed cut in January 2010
Sept. 2010 - May 2011	192	Part of reedbed cut in January 2011
Sept. - Dec. 2011	192	

Results

This study reports on the number of trapping events for each species. This includes birds trapped for the first time, as well as retraps of individuals ringed during a previous trapping session. Recaptures of individuals previously trapped on the same day are not included. This use of trapping events allows the results to be related to the likelihood of encountering a particular species in the field, and is similar to the concept of 'bird-days' in which individuals are not individually recognizable.

Relative abundance has been calculated for this study as the number of individuals trapped per 100m of net operated on that date. The total number of trapping events (including retraps) for each species, the total number of individuals trapped between 2001 and 2011 and the mean relative abundance over the course of the year are included in Table 2.

Table 2: Total number of trapping events, number of individuals trapped and overall mean abundance of each species.

Species	Total number of trapping events 2001-2011 (no. of individuals / no. of retraps)	Overall mean relative abundance per 100m of nets
Oriental Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus orientalis</i>	2416 (2127 / 289)	3.616
Black-browed Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus bistrigiceps</i>	1728 (1504 / 224)	2.877
Blunt-winged Warbler <i>Acrocephalus concinens</i>	17 (11 / 6)	0.025
Manchurian Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus tangorum</i>	41 (29 / 12)	0.068
Paddyfield Warbler <i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>	12 (8 / 4)	0.023
Blyth's Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	1 (1 / 0)	0.002
Thick-billed Warbler <i>Iduna aedon</i>	4 (4 / 0)	0.007
Russet Bush Warbler * <i>Locustella mandellii</i>	0	-
Baikal Bush Warbler <i>Locustella davidi</i>	8 (7 / 1)	0.013
Brown Bush Warbler <i>Locustella luteoventris</i>	1 (1 / 0)	0.002
Lanceolated Warbler <i>Locustella lanceolata</i>	128 (127 / 1)	0.234
Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella ochotensis</i>	1 (1 / 0)	0.002
Styan's Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella pleskei</i>	6 (6 / 0)	0.009
Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella certhiola</i>	383 (352 / 31)	0.704
Japanese Swamp Warbler <i>Locustella pryeri</i>	5 (3 / 2)	0.011

* Russet Bush Warbler was not trapped in the reedbed as part of this study, but has been trapped on an adjacent bund in Gei wai #7 during the study period.

Seasonal charts are included for all species trapped more than once in the study. Where trapping has been conducted on the same date in different years, the value included for that date in the seasonal chart is the mean of the abundance calculated for each of those trapping days.

Oriental Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis*

With a total of 2,416 trapping events of Oriental Reed Warbler at *Gei wai* #8 between 2001 and 2011, this is the most abundant of the warbler species covered here. It occurs throughout the trapping period from late August until late May but the peak occurs during autumn. Autumn passage peaks in late September, with similarly high numbers remaining into mid-October. The peak number trapped during a single morning is 106 on 30th September 2005. Numbers rapidly drop from the second half of October, and the species is relatively scarce from mid-November. A small number

of individuals have been trapped during winter, but the species remains relatively rare until spring passage starts during March. Spring migrants occur throughout April and May, but numbers are considerably reduced compared to autumn, with the peak frequency less than 10% of the peak during autumn. Autumn birds linger in the reedbed for up to two months, and retrap rates are relatively high (over 10%). Year-on-year retrap rates are also relatively high, with the oldest bird having been trapped eight years after ringing.

The seasonal graph for this species presented in Carey *et al.* (2001) is also based on trapping data at Mai Po, but is clearly different from the reedbed trapping data. The autumn passage is similar in the two graphs, but there is a pronounced spring passage shown in Carey *et al.* (2001), which is not apparent in the recent data. This may indicate a change in the abundance of this species on spring passage in recent years or may indicate a difference in habitat preference between the two seasons; data in Carey *et al.* (2001) includes birds trapped along bunds and in other habitats at Mai Po, as well as reedbed. It may be relevant that the wing length of birds trapped in Hong Kong in spring is significantly longer than those trapped in autumn, suggesting that different populations are present in each season (Kennerley & Pearson 2010).

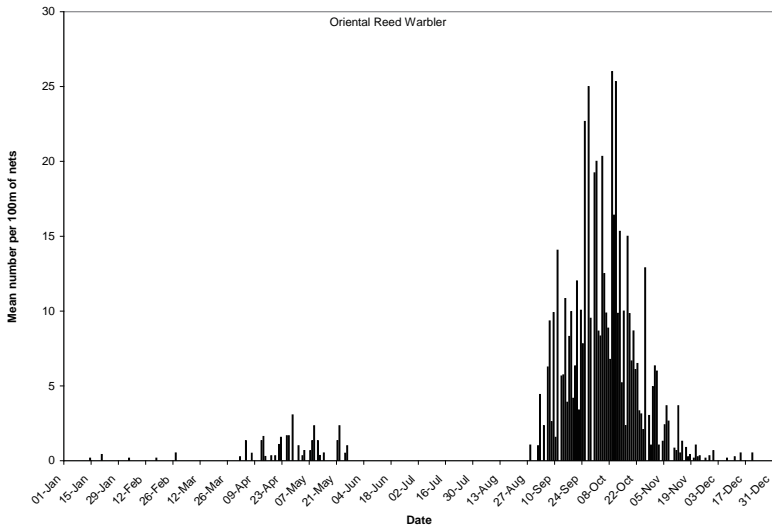


Figure 1. Relative seasonal abundance of Oriental Reed Warbler in reedbeds at Mai Po Nature Reserve



Plate 68 Oriental Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis* 東方大葦鶯
Mai Po NR, 1st November 2010 米埔 2010年11月1日
Paul Leader 利雅德



Plate 69 Black-browed Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps* 黑眉葦鶯
Mai Po NR, 17th October 2005 米埔 2005年10月17日
Paul Leader 利雅德

Black-browed Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*

Black-browed Reed Warbler is one of the most abundant species trapped in the reedbed at *Gei wai* #8 during autumn, with a total of 1728 trapping events between 2001 and 2011. Up to 61 individuals have been trapped in a single morning (on 17th October 2005) which exceeds the peak count of 50 for this species (Carey *et al.* 2001). The peak week is 7th-13th October, but high numbers remain throughout October and into early November and small numbers remain through the winter. Retrap rates for Black-browed Reed Warbler are relatively high (15%), and involve some birds trapped in autumn which have subsequently overwintered. Spring passage occurs in late April and May, but numbers are much reduced compared to autumn passage. Extreme dates of birds trapped in *Gei wai* #8 are 4th September and 26th May.

The seasonality of trapped birds clearly differs from that presented in Carey *et al.* (2001), where the spring and autumn peaks in abundance are similar in magnitude. The peak autumn passage is more prolonged in the reedbed trapping data, with high numbers remaining into November and December, suggesting that the change in abundance may be related to an increase in the number recorded in autumn rather than lower numbers in spring. It is not clear whether this indicates a change in migration routes, different habitat preference in the two seasons or an observer bias towards spring records, perhaps because birds are more easily recorded when singing in spring but are easily overlooked in autumn. Interestingly, the seasonal abundance chart in Carey *et al.* (2001) includes a slight peak in abundance in early September, before the main autumn passage; it is possible that this results in part from misidentification of Manchurian Reed Warbler.

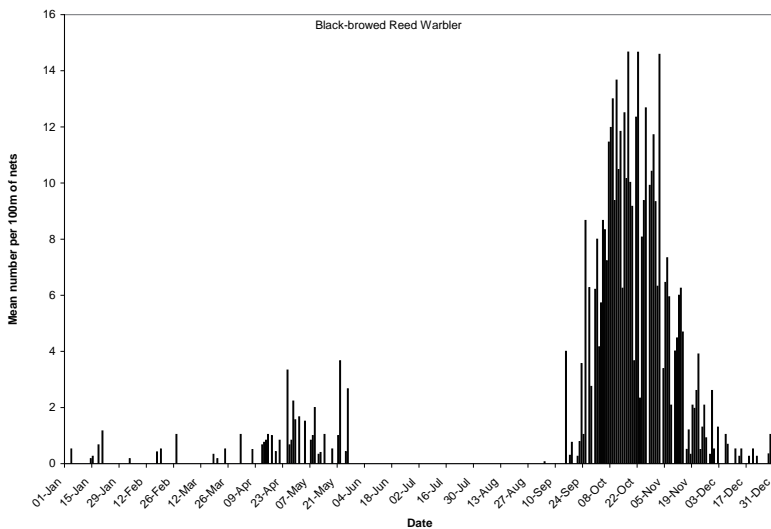


Figure 2. Relative seasonal abundance of Black-browed Reed Warbler in reedbeds at Mai Po Nature Reserve

Blunt-winged Warbler *Acrocephalus concinens*

Blunt-winged Warbler has been trapped 17 times in the reedbed, involving 11 individuals (some of which have been retrapped), this compares to a total of three records prior to 1999 (Carey *et al.* 2001). Most records have occurred in autumn, with a peak in early December. The earliest record occurred on 6th September (although this individual remained until 17th October), more than one month earlier than the next earliest record (also on 17th October). Five records have been in winter and spring (the latest on 14th April), three of which concern an individual that remained in the reedbed from February until April.

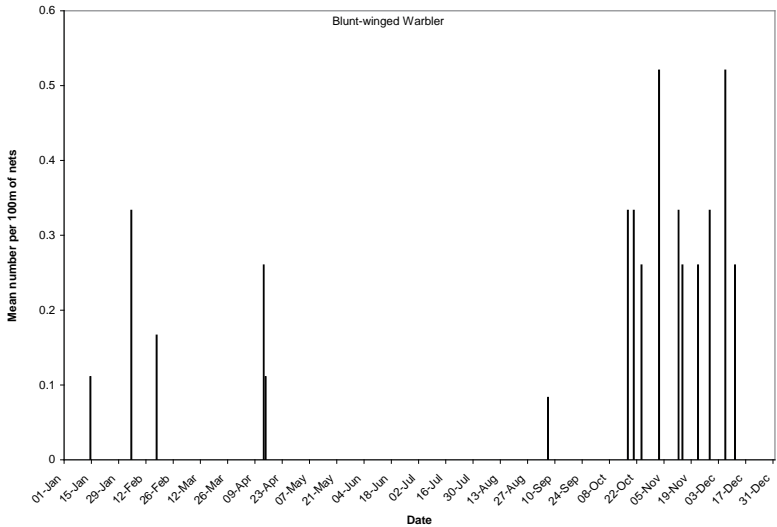


Figure 3. Relative seasonal abundance of Blunt-winged Warbler in reedbeds at Mai Po Nature Reserve



Plate 70 Blunt-winged Warbler *Acrocephalus concinens* 鈍翅葦鶯
Mai Po NR, 14th January 2006 米埔 2006年1月14日
Paul Leader 利雅德



Plate 71 Manchurian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus tangorum* 遠東葦鶯
Mai Po NR, 6th December 2012 米埔 2012年12月6日
Paul Leader 利雅德

Manchurian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus tangorum*

Formerly considered a rare visitor to Hong Kong with seven records up to 1999 (Carey *et al.* 2001), trapping in the reedbeds at *Gei wai* #8 has revealed that Manchurian Reed Warbler occurs annually at Mai Po, particularly in autumn. Birds have been trapped every year except 2002, with the best year being 2011, when eight individuals were trapped. There were 41 trapping events at the site between 2001 and 2011, involving 29 individuals. Autumn records have occurred between 4th September and 26th October, and peak earlier than the main passage of Black-browed Reed Warbler, with the peak week being the last week of September. There is one mid-winter record on 4th January 2010, involving a retrap of a bird first trapped in late October of the previous year. Spring passage has been recorded between 6th April and 7th May, but numbers are much reduced compared to autumn. Three of the five spring records relate to the same individual, trapped in three successive springs from 2001-2003. The global population of Manchurian Reed Warbler is considered by BirdLife International (2012) to be Vulnerable, and the reedbeds at Mai Po appear to be a globally-important stopover site for this species.

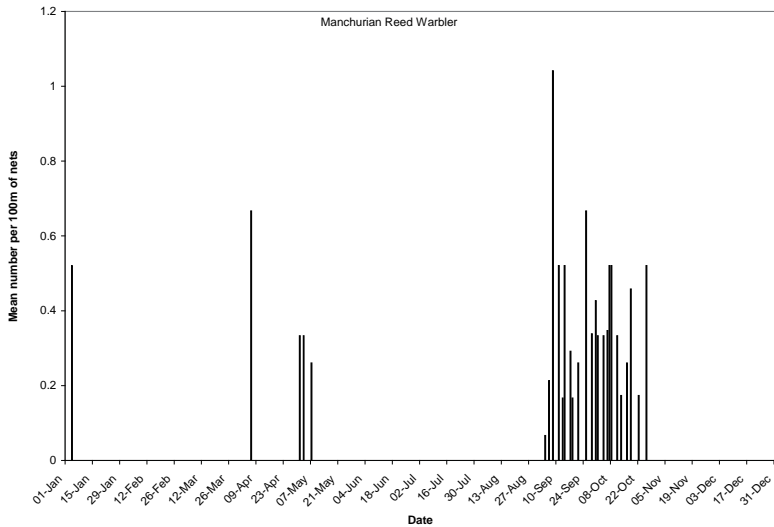


Figure 4. Relative seasonal abundance of Manchurian Reed Warbler in reedbeds at Mai Po Nature Reserve

Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola*

Paddyfield Warbler occurs in the Mai Po reedbed as a rare winter visitor, usually in the second half of the winter. The species has been trapped in the *Gei wai* #8 reedbed on twelve occasions, involving eight individuals (four of which have been retrapped on later dates) which compares with a total of four records prior to 1999 (Carey *et al.* 2001) The species has been trapped only twice in autumn (on 6th October and 6th November), with all other records between 14th January and 28th April and a peak in occurrence in early March. Of the autumn birds, the individual trapped in October was retrapped the following March suggesting it may have wintered locally or may have occurred on passage.

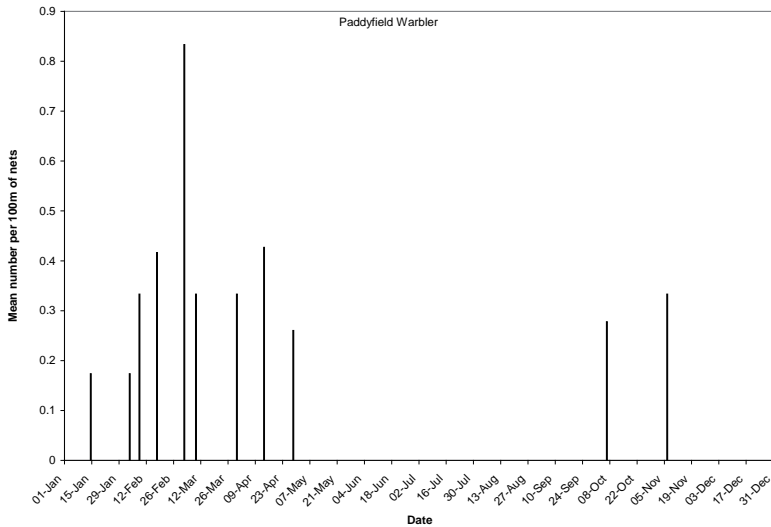


Figure 5. Relative seasonal abundance of Paddyfield Warbler in reedbeds at Mai Po Nature Reserve

Blyth’s Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

One individual has been trapped in the reedbed trapping site, on 19th November 2010. This is a very rare species in Hong Kong with less than ten records and is not a reedbed associated species (Kennerley & Pearson 2010) and as such it is unsurprising that it has been trapped so rarely.



Plate 72 Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola* 稻田葦鶯
Mai Po NR, 14th January 2011 米埔 2011年1月14日
Paul Leader 利雅德



Plate 73 Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* 布氏葦鶯
Mai Po NR, 19th November 2010 米埔 2010年11月19日
Paul Leader 利雅德



Plate 74 Thick-billed Warbler *Iduna aedon* 厚嘴葦鶯
Mai Po NR, 1st November 2010 米埔 2010年11月1日
Paul Leader 利雅德

Thick-billed Warbler *Iduna aedon*

Thick-billed Warbler is a regular autumn passage migrant through Hong Kong, but occurs mostly in shrubland habitats. Only four individuals have been trapped in the reedbed, between 3rd and 30th October.

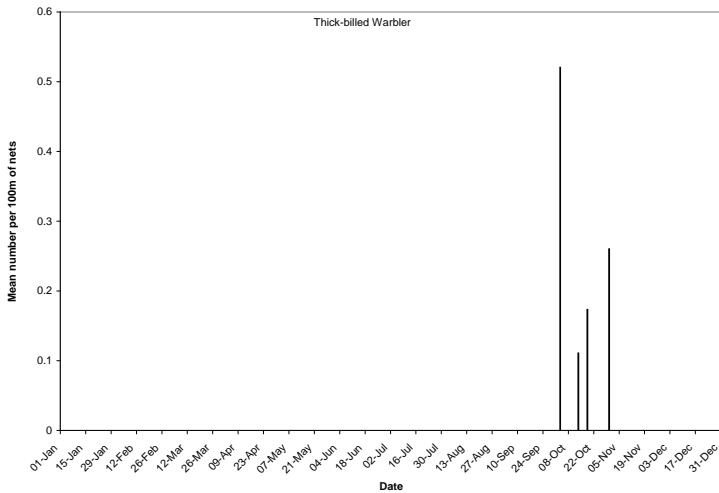


Figure 6. Relative seasonal abundance of Thick-billed Warbler in reedbeds at Mai Po Nature Reserve

Russet Bush Warbler *Locustella mandellii*

Despite being a regular winter visitor to Hong Kong, this species occurs mostly in hillside shrubland or at the fringes of wetland habitats, including at Mai Po, but avoids purely wetland habitats and as such has never been trapped in the reedbed ringing site at Mai Po. It has, however, been trapped on a nearby bund on 14th December 2010.

Baikal Bush Warbler *Locustella davidi*

The first Hong Kong record of Baikal Bush Warbler involved an individual trapped on 30th January 2004 which was later retrapped on 28th April (Leader 2009), apparently having overwintered at Mai Po. All six subsequent records at *Gei wai* #8 have occurred during autumn, between 6th September and 6th November.

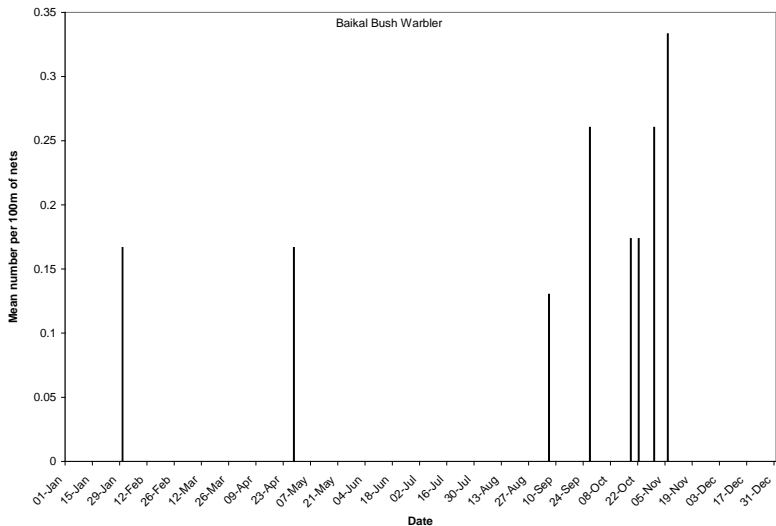


Figure 7. Relative seasonal abundance of Baikal Bush Warbler in reedbeds at Mai Po Nature Reserve

Brown Bush Warbler *Locustella luteoventris*

Only one individual has been trapped at Mai Po, on 15th January 2010. Most records of this species in Hong Kong have occurred on hillside grassland, and it is a species which avoids purely wetland habitats; this is the only record for Mai Po.

Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata*

Lanceolated Warbler occurs almost exclusively as an autumn migrant, but the peak occurrence is notably later than Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler. The earliest migrant trapped occurred on 2nd September, but very few have occurred before October. Numbers peak in the last ten days of October, when up to ten individuals have been

trapped in a single morning (on 22nd October 2009 and 28th October 2011). These exceed the highest count of six noted in Carey *et al.* (2001). This species appears to move very quickly through Hong Kong on migration; of 128 birds ringed, only one individual has subsequently been retrapped. The latest record of an apparent autumn migrant was on 24th November. Between 2001 and 2011 there has been a single record of a wintering bird on 11th January 2003 and a single spring migrant on 1st May 2002. The seasonal pattern of occurrence is similar to that presented in Carey *et al.* (2001).

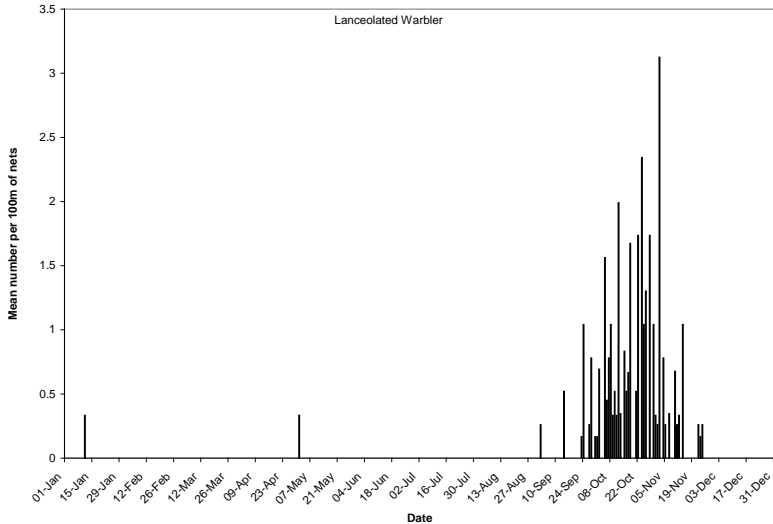


Figure 8. Relative seasonal abundance of Lanceolated Warbler in reedbeds at Mai Po Nature Reserve

Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella ochotensis*

Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler has been trapped only once at *Gei wai* #8, on 29th October 2009. This was the second record for Hong Kong following one seen in February 1993 (Carey *et al.* 2001), suggesting that the species is a very rare visitor to Hong Kong.

Styan's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella pleskei*

Although Styan's Grasshopper Warbler is believed to winter in the intertidal mangroves in Deep Bay (Carey *et al.* 2001), all six records from the reedbed at *Gei wai* #8 have in fact occurred in autumn, between 23rd September and 23rd November, with a peak in mid-October. These possibly relate to passage birds moving through Hong Kong to wintering sites elsewhere. This difference may be due to a preference of overwintering birds for mangrove habitats rather than pure reedbeds, but given that birds trapped in autumn differ morphologically from those trapped in winter, there is also a possibility that these represent different populations or even different taxa

(Kennerley & Pearson 2010). Styan's Grasshopper Warbler is listed as Vulnerable by BirdLife International (2012), and Deep Bay may be a globally-important migration and wintering site for this poorly-known species.

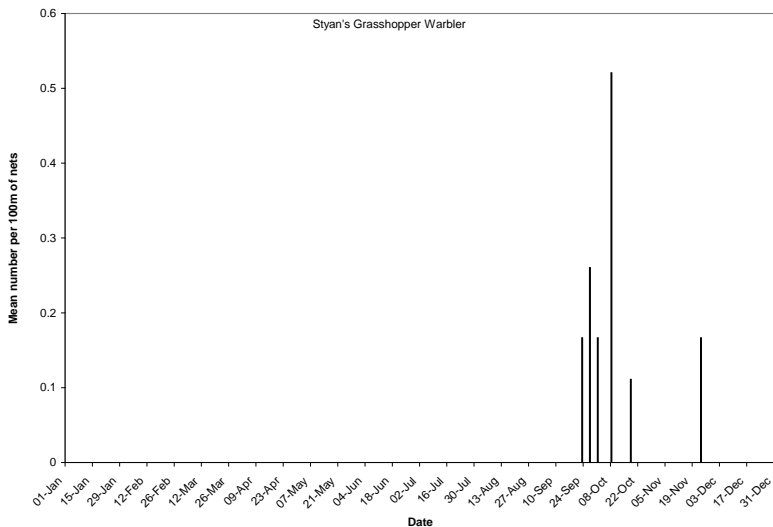


Figure 9. Relative seasonal abundance of Styan's Grasshopper in reedbeds at Mai Po Nature Reserve

Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella certhiola*

Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler is a regular early autumn migrant through the reedbed. Following the earliest record on 28th August, numbers peak during September, during which month 84% of all trapping records have occurred. The largest number trapped in a single day is 33 individuals on 13th September 2009. Smaller numbers are present through October and the first half of November, and there are two December records. There are no mid-winter records and only three spring records between 26th April and 8th May. The overall pattern of occurrence is similar to that presented in Carey *et al.* (2001), but with more records in November/December, and with a slightly clearer spring passage period.

Many birds caught in the later part of the autumn are recaptures of birds originally ringed earlier in the autumn, and it seems that some birds remain in the reedbed to moult; recaptures include some individuals which have remained at the site for over two months. Retrapping of individuals in subsequent seasons is rare, however, with only two individuals trapped in more than one year. Differences in plumage and biometrics suggest that several subspecies, with different periods of peak occurrence, occur at Mai Po (Leader in prep.).

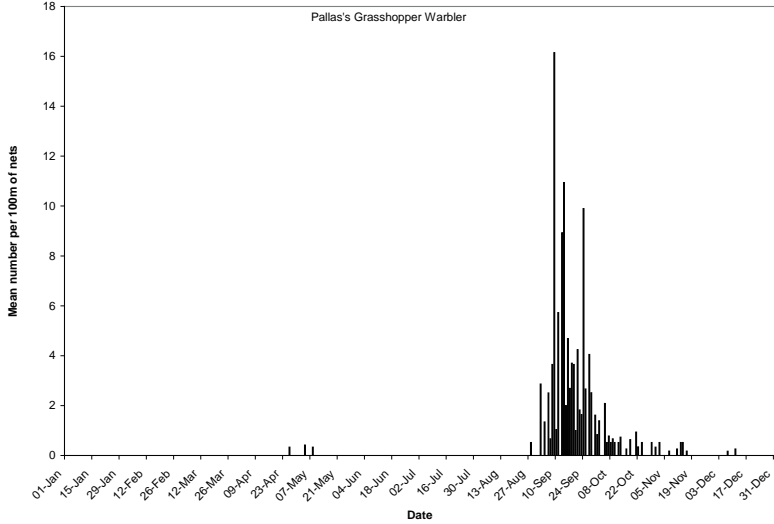


Figure 10. Relative seasonal abundance of Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler in reedbeds at Mai Po Nature Reserve

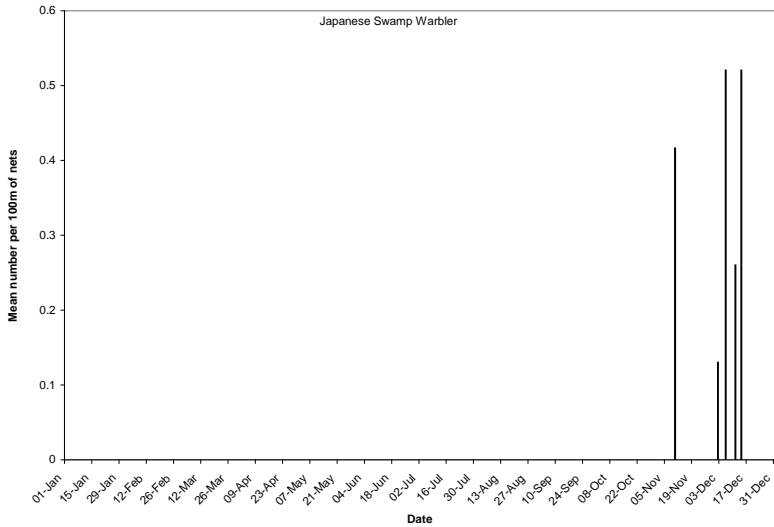


Figure 11. Relative seasonal abundance of Japanese Swamp Warbler in reedbeds at Mai Po Nature Reserve

Japanese Swamp Warbler *Locustella pryeri*

The first Hong Kong record of Japanese Swamp Warbler was a bird trapped in the *Gei wai* #8 reedbed on 10th November 2007 (Leader *et al.* 2011). Two individuals have subsequently been trapped, on 11th December 2009 and from 2nd-14th December 2010. These suggest that Japanese Swamp Warbler may be a rare visitor to reedbeds in early winter. Japanese Swamp Warbler is listed by BirdLife International (2012) as Vulnerable, but probably does not occur in globally-important numbers in Hong Kong.

Discussion.

Many scarce species have been recorded in *Gei wai* #8 in numbers which would have been considered exceptional at the start of the study, especially when compared to the number of individuals reported in Carey *et al.* (2001). Another two species (Baikal Bush Warbler and Japanese Swamp Warbler) were first recorded in Hong Kong as part of this study, but have since been recorded on several occasions. For some species (especially Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler and Lanceolated Warbler), the number of individuals present and the high level of turnover were unexpected, revealing that the reedbeds at Mai Po may be more important than has previously been supposed.

Three globally-threatened species (BirdLife International 2012) have been recorded during the study: Manchurian Reed Warbler, Styan's Grasshopper Warbler and Japanese Swamp Warbler. Manchurian Reed Warbler has proven to be a regular passage migrant through Mai Po in autumn, which had not previously been suspected at the time of Carey *et al.* (2001). Given that the area of reedbed included in this study (approximately 6.0ha) is only 10% of the total area of reedbed present at Mai Po (62.5ha), it seems likely that the reedbeds at Mai Po are of international significance for this species during migration. Styan's Grasshopper Warbler has also been recorded on a number of occasions, but the presence of this species in the reedbed primarily as an autumn migrant is in contrast to previous Hong Kong records, and may indicate that Mai Po is more important for the species than the number of winter records would suggest. To date, only three Japanese Swamp Warbler individuals have been trapped and it is so far unclear whether this species will also prove to be regular at Mai Po.

This study is ongoing and it is hoped that in the future it will provide valuable information on long term trends of a number of the more cryptic species which utilise the reedbeds at Mai Po, as well as recommendations for the management of reedbeds for the benefit of these species.

Acknowledgements

Trapping was assisted by Shirley Lam, Ying Hak King, Cheung Mok Jose Alberto, Cheung Ho-fai, and Yu Yat Tung. Management of the reedbed, including construction of the boardwalk providing access into the reedbed and all vegetation management, was conducted by WWF-Hong Kong staff at the Mai Po Nature Reserve. The project was partly funded by AEC Ltd. All trapping was conducted under licence issued by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department of the Hong Kong SAR Government.

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米埔自然護理區蘆葦叢葦鶯 *Acrocephalus* 及 蝗鶯 *Locustella* 的季節出現情況

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香港鳥類環誌協會

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葦鶯 *Acrocephalus* 及蝗鶯 *Locustella* 屬成員通常棲息於茂密植被，行蹤隱秘，一般難以在野外監察，在野外也要靠熟悉其鳴聲及在瞬間辨認其重要的羽毛特徵來辨識。在其繁殖地，還容易憑鳴聲發現牠們，但在遷徙或度冬地，很可能兩個屬的不少個體都沒能被偵察到。觀察及辨認上的困難，很可能掩蓋了這些鳥種在繁殖地以外的真實情況。

因未能依靠野外觀察，以霧網捕捉是在香港較為有系統地研究這些鳥種的重要方法。蘆葦叢生境對大部分在香港出現的葦鶯及蝗鶯均甚為重要。自2001年起，米埔自然護理區8號基圍的蘆葦叢定期會設置霧網，為這些鳥種的本地研究造就理想機會。網捕方法乃自然護理區蘆葦叢管理長期研究的一部分，該研究旨在提高蘆葦叢的生態價值，特別是對遷徙鳥種而言。

根據國際鳥類學議會現行的分類學，在香港鳥類名錄中共有六種葦鶯 *Acrocephalus* 及八種蝗鶯 *Locustella*，其中三種之前曾被辨認為短翅鶯 *Bradypterus*。本文也包括厚嘴葦鶯 (Thick-billed Warbler)，因為牠最近才由葦鶯重新分類為 *Iduna*。至於另一種 *Iduna* 賽氏籬鶯 (Sykes's Warbler) *I. rama*，雖然之前曾在本港錄得紀錄，但因未曾在米埔捕獲，所以並沒有包括在本文內。自2001年起，在這15個鳥種(六種葦鶯、八種蝗鶯及一種 *Iduna*)之中，14種曾在8號基圍的蘆葦叢被網中，其餘一種在同期於附近7號基圍的堤岸捕獲。在牠們之中，有三種屬全球瀕危物種：遠東葦鶯 (Manchurian Reed Warbler) *Acrocephalus tangorum*、史氏蝗鶯 (Styan's Grasshopper Warbler) *Locustella pleskei* 及斑背大尾鶯 (Japanese Swamp Warbler) *Locustella pryeri*。

Carey *et al.* (2001) 列載了常見的葦鶯及蝗鶯鳥種的季節出現圖表，其數據來自野外觀察及/或在其他生境捕捉雀鳥。米埔蘆葦叢的網捕資料，為檢視這些鳥種在其主要生境的季節分布，提供了更標準的調查方法，從而呈現出更清晰的季節數量差異。此外，在 Carey *et al.* (2001) 發表研究時，甚少紀錄這些鳥種的季節情況，以致缺乏季節圖表。米埔蘆葦叢的網捕資料正好為一些罕見的雀鳥和及後首次紀錄的鳥種提供更新資料。

網捕調查方法

在每年9月至翌年5月期間，在8號基圍的大型蘆葦區內會設置霧網。8號基圍蘆葦叢共佔地約7.6公頃，網捕調查只在其中6.0公頃進行。研究期間的霧網設置方法(包括整體長度及頻率)曾按研究目的調整作少量變化。

在研究的頭數年，一部分的蘆葦叢(每年約佔1.2公頃) 會在每年1月輪流被修剪，讓不同部分蘆葦叢的生長年份有所不同。蘆葦在修剪後會快速重生，所以在春季遷徙時，蘆葦已經完全復原。WWF-HK & HKBRG (2008) 研究及報告了蘆葦生長年份對植被架構、鳥類族群及無脊椎族群的影響。

在2006年挖掘了一部分的蘆葦叢(約2.1公頃)，把蘆葦叢地面降低20厘米，從而製造潮濕環境。這部分蘆葦叢需要較長時間恢復，所以在2008年9月前並無在該處捕鳥。現時，正在進行一項比較蘆葦叢乾濕區域的植被、鳥類族群及無脊椎動物族群情況的研究。

表1：每季的捕捉詳情，包括蘆葦叢在該段期間的管理情況。

季節	網的長度(米)	管理摘要
2001年1月- 5月	300	2001年1月起設網捕捉
2001年9月 - 2002年5月	300	2002年1月修剪一部分的蘆葦叢(1.2公頃)
2002年9月- 2003年5月	300	2003年1月修剪一部分的蘆葦叢(1.2公頃)
2003年9月- 2004年5月	300	2004年1月修剪一部分的蘆葦叢(1.2公頃)
2004年9月- 2005年5月	300	2005年1月修剪一部分的蘆葦叢(1.2公頃)
2005年9月- 2006年1月	300	於2006年1月-5月並無捕捉
2006年9月- 2007年5月	120	於2006年挖掘了2.1公頃的蘆葦叢，在該處並無進行捕捉
2007年9月- 2008年5月	120	並無於2006年挖掘的蘆葦叢進行捕捉
2008年9月- 2009年5月	192	
2009年9月- 2010年5月	192	2010年1月修剪部分蘆葦叢
2010年9月- 2011年5月	192	2011年1月修剪部分蘆葦叢
2011年9月-12月	192	

視乎天氣狀況，一般每隔七至十天會進行網捕。在秋季雀鳥較多的時候通常設網會較為頻密。自2010年起，每逢秋季均會一星期進行兩次網捕。霧網會在捕捉當日的日出時分張開，並設置三小時(除非天氣轉變，以致雀鳥在網內會不安全)。在這段期間，會定時(通常每隔30至45分鐘)把雀鳥移離霧網。牠們會被帶返處理站，加上個體識別的鋁質腳環及進行生物學量度，然後放回蘆葦叢。

香港鳥類環誌協會在漁農自然護理署(漁護署)的牌照許可下進行所有捕捉及環誌雀鳥工作，而場地管理則是由世界自然基金會香港分會負責，作為管理米埔自然護理區工作一部分，包括間中按需要修剪蘆葦及維修木板路以保持通路暢順。

研究結果

是項研究報告每個鳥種的網捕事件數目，包括首次網捕紀錄，以及在之前的網捕時段已環誌而重複網捕的個別雀鳥。同一天內重複網中的個別雀鳥並沒有包括在內。以網捕事件作為計算方法，所得結果會與在野外遇上該種雀鳥的或然率產生關聯，類似「鳥日」的概念，意即雀鳥個體並不能個別辨認出來。

本研究的相對豐富度以當日每100米網內所網捕雀鳥數目計算。每個鳥種的網捕(包括重複網捕)總數、在2001年至2011年期間個別雀鳥被網捕的總數，以及在這些年間的平均相對數量詳見表1。

表2：每個鳥種的網捕事件總數、個別雀鳥網捕數目，以及整體平均相對豐富度

鳥種	2001年 - 2011年網捕總數 (個別雀鳥數目/重複網捕數目)	每100米網的整體 平均相對數量
東方大葦鶯 <i>Acrocephalus orientalis</i>	2416 (2127 / 289)	3.616
黑眉葦鶯 <i>Acrocephalus bistrigiceps</i>	1728 (1504 / 224)	2.877
鈍翅葦鶯 <i>Acrocephalus concinens</i>	17 (11 / 6)	0.025
遠東葦鶯 <i>Acrocephalus tangorum</i>	41 (29 / 12)	0.068
稻田葦鶯 <i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>	12 (8 / 4)	0.023
布氏葦鶯 <i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	1 (1 / 0)	0.002
厚嘴葦鶯 <i>Iduna aedon</i>	4 (4 / 0)	0.007
高山短翅鶯* <i>Locustella mandellii</i>	0	-
北短翅鶯 <i>Locustella davidi</i>	8 (7 / 1)	0.013
棕褐短翅鶯 <i>Locustella luteoventris</i>	1 (1 / 0)	0.002
矛斑蝗鶯 <i>Locustella lanceolata</i>	128 (127 / 1)	0.234
北蝗鶯 <i>Locustella ochotensis</i>	1 (1 / 0)	0.002
史氏蝗鶯 <i>Locustella pleskei</i>	6 (6 / 0)	0.009
小蝗鶯 <i>Locustella certhiola</i>	383 (352 / 31)	0.704
斑背大尾鶯 <i>Locustella pryeri</i>	5 (3 / 2)	0.011

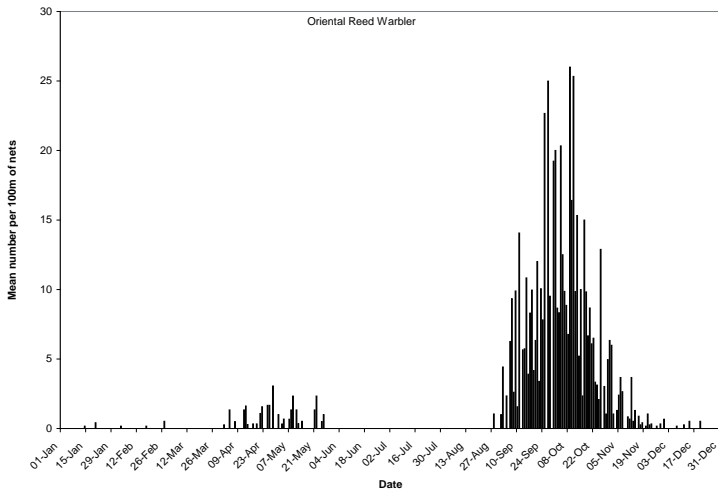
*高山短翅鶯並未於這次研究的蘆葦叢內網到，卻在研究期間在鄰近7號基圍的堤岸捕獲。

此次研究中所有被網捕超過一次的鳥種也列載於季度圖表。當網捕是在不同年份的同一天進行，該日子在季度圖表的值是每個網捕日的平均相對豐富度。

東方大葦鶯 (Oriental Reed Warbler) *Acrocephalus orientalis*

在2001年至2011年間，在8號基圍的蘆葦叢共錄得2,416宗東方大葦鶯網捕事件。這是此次研究錄得數量最多的鳥種。此鳥種在8月尾至5月尾的網捕期間均有紀錄，高峰期在秋季。秋季過境的高峰是在9月尾，至10月中仍維持類似的高數量。在單一早上的最高網捕數量為2005年9月30日的106隻。自10月中起數量急劇下降，11月中旬已經比較稀少。小量個體在冬天被網中，但直至3月開始的春季過境為止，此鳥種仍屬少見。春季過境鳥在4月至5月期間均有出現，但數量較秋季明顯下降，數目最高也只有秋季高峰期的不到百分之十。秋季鳥在蘆葦叢逗留長達兩個月，重複網中率也較高(超過百分之十)。按年比較的重複網中率也較高，其中年紀最大的鳥在環誌後八年再被網中。

在Carey *et al.* (2001)中，這鳥種的季度圖表也是建基於米埔的捕捉數據，但明顯與蘆葦叢的網捕數據有異。兩份圖表的秋季過境數據相近，但在Carey *et al.* (2001)中春季過境的數量甚高，最近收集的數據卻不明顯。這或顯示這鳥種春季過境的數目在近年有所改變，或此鳥種在春秋兩季的生境喜好有所不同。Carey *et al.* (2001)的數據包括在米埔堤岸、其他生境及蘆葦叢捕捉的雀鳥數目。在本港春季捕到的東方大葦鶯，翅膀較秋季捕到的明顯較長，這可能顯示在春秋兩季出現的是不同種群(Kennerley & Pearson 2010)。

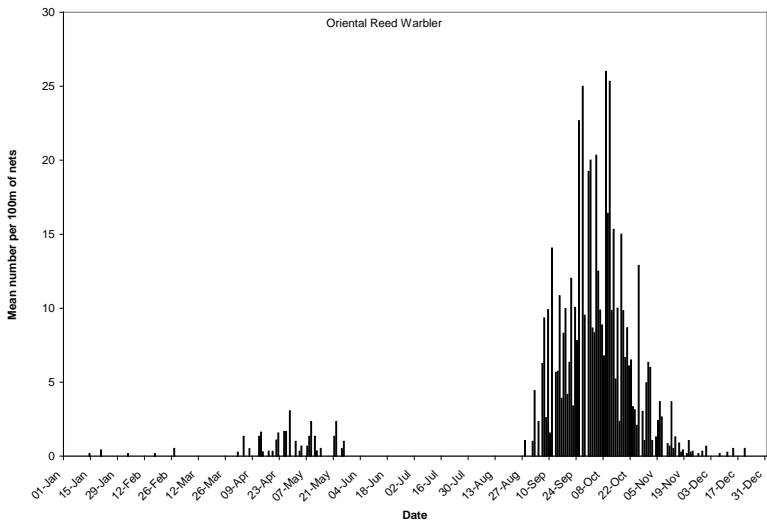


圖表一：東方大葦鶯於米埔自然護理區蘆葦叢的相對豐富度

黑眉葦鶯 (Black-browed Reed Warbler) *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*

黑眉葦鶯是秋季在8號蘆葦叢網捕得最多的鳥種之一。在2001年至2011年，共有1,728宗網捕紀錄。在一個早上(2005年10月17日)最多網中61隻，超越此鳥種50隻的最高紀錄(Carey et al. 2001)。高峰期是10月7日至13日這個星期，於10月至11月初依然錄得高數目，在冬季仍有小量紀錄。黑眉葦鶯的重複網中率頗高(15%)，包括部分於秋季網中並在港度冬的雀鳥。春季遷徙於4月尾至5月出現，但數量遠較秋季過境為低。於8號基圍網中此鳥數目的極端日子是9月4日及5月26日。

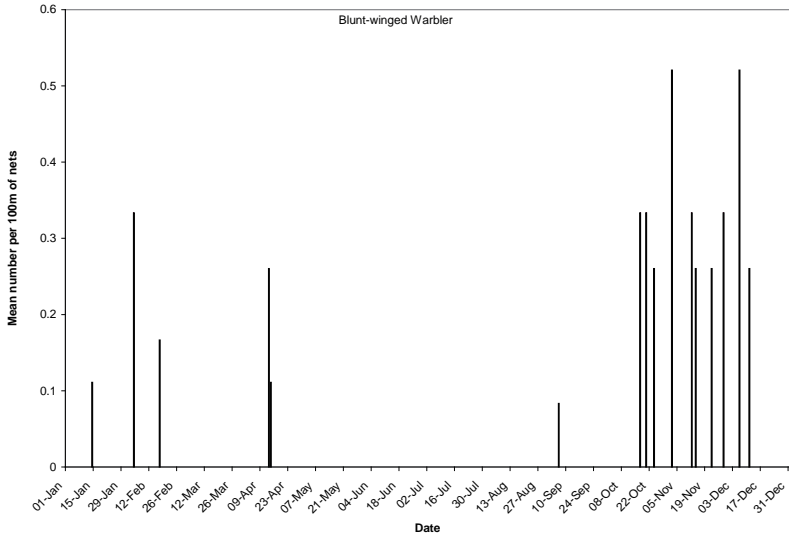
此鳥中網的季節差異明顯與Carey et al (2001)不同，但春秋兩季的高峰數量相約。在蘆葦叢網捕數據中，秋季遷徙的高峰期較長，直至11月及12月仍有高數目。這顯示數量的轉變可能只是秋季的紀錄數目上升，而非春季數目較少。至於這是否代表過境路線改變、兩個季節的生境選擇有別、或是觀察者對春季紀錄的偏見，就不甚清楚。或許在春季因雀鳥鳴唱而較易記錄，而在秋季則較易忽略。有趣的是，在Carey et al. (2001)中，季節雀鳥數量圖顯示在秋季主要過境前，即9月初有一個小高峰，這可能是因為把遠東葦鶯誤認為黑眉葦鶯所致。



圖表二：黑眉葦鶯於米埔自然護理區蘆葦叢的相對豐富度

鈍翅葦鶯 (Blunt-winged Warbler) *Acrocephalus concinens*

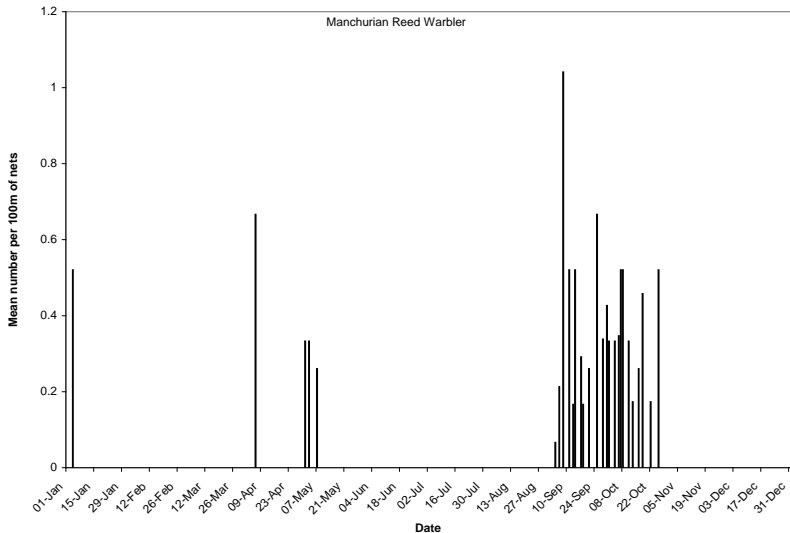
蘆葦叢內共有11隻鈍翅葦鶯被網中17次（部分個體曾被重複網中），比較起1999年之前，只有三個紀錄（Carey *et al*, 2001）。大部分紀錄均於秋天錄得，其中12月初為高峰。最早的紀錄於9月6日錄得（儘管此一個體停留至10月17日），比下一個早到的紀錄早了一個多月（同樣於10月17日錄得）。在冬天及春天錄得五個紀錄（最遲的紀錄是在4月14日），其中三個紀錄為同一隻鳥，牠在蘆葦叢由2月停留至4月。



圖表三：鈍翅葦鶯於米埔自然護理區蘆葦叢的相對豐富度

遠東葦鶯 (Manchurian Reed Warbler) *Acrocephalus tangorum*

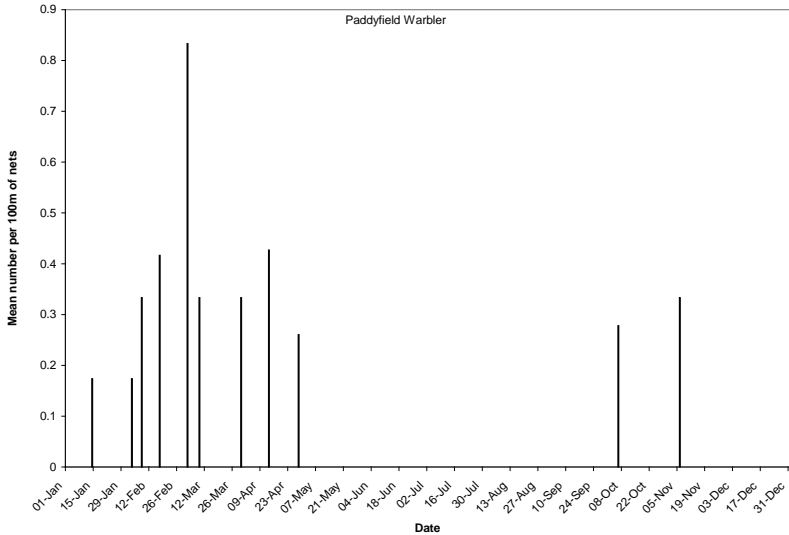
此鳥以前被認為是本港罕見候鳥，直至1999年只有七個紀錄 (Carey *et al.* 2001)。8號基圍蘆葦叢的網捕發現此鳥種每年均在米埔出現，特別在秋季。除了2002年，此鳥種每年均被網中，其中紀錄最好的一年為2011年，共有八隻個體被網中。由2001年至2011年，共有包括29隻個體的41個中網紀錄。秋季的紀錄於9月4日至10月26日出現，高峰為9月最後一周，較黑眉葦鶯過境高峰為早。2010年1月4日有一隆冬重複網中紀錄，乃一隻在前一年10月尾首次被網中的個體。春季過境鳥在4月6日至5月7日期間錄得，但數目比秋季紀錄大幅減少。五個春季紀錄的其中三個為同一個體，於2001年至2003年連續三個春季被網中。國際鳥盟 (2012) 把全球遠冬葦鶯的種群數目評為「易危」，故米埔的蘆葦叢應是此鳥種於全球一個重要的中途補給站。



圖表四：遠東葦鶯於米埔自然護理區蘆葦叢的相對豐富度

稻田葦鶯 (Paddyfield Warbler) *Acrocephalus agricola*

稻田葦鶯於米埔蘆葦叢乃一罕見的冬候鳥，多見於冬季的後半段。此鳥種的八隻個體於8號基圍共被網中12次（其中四隻個體於往後時間重複被網中），比較起來1999年之前只有四個紀錄（Carey *et al.* 2001）。此鳥於秋季只被網中兩次（於10月6日及11月6日），其他紀錄均於1月14日至4月28日期間錄得，高峰期出現於3月初。在秋季紀錄中，一隻於10月被網中的個體重複於3月被網中，代表其可能於本地度冬。



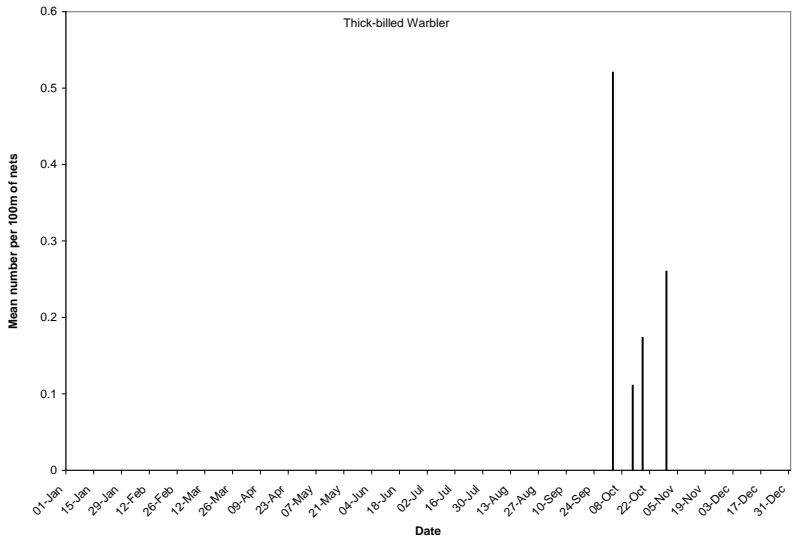
圖表五：稻田葦鶯於米埔自然護理區蘆葦叢的相對豐富度

布氏葦鶯 (Blyth's Reed Warbler) *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

一隻個體於2010年11月19日在蘆葦叢放網位置被網中。這是本港十分罕見的鳥種，只有不足十個紀錄，且不是於蘆葦叢生活的鳥種(Kennerley & Pearson 2010)，故此即使極少被網中也並不出奇。

厚嘴葦鶯 (Thick-billed Warbler) *Iduna aedon*

厚嘴葦鶯乃一種於本港慣常出現的秋季過境遷徙鳥，但多於灌木林生境出現。由10月3日至30日，只有四隻個體於蘆葦叢被網中。



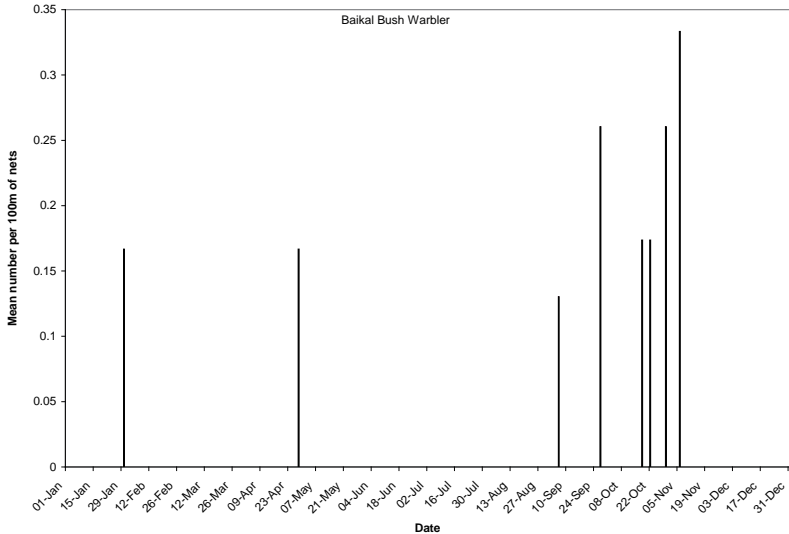
圖表六：厚嘴葦鶯於米埔自然護理區蘆葦叢的相對豐富度

高山短翅鶯 (Russet Bush Warbler) *Locustella mandellii*

儘管此鳥種乃本港慣常出現的冬候鳥，但多於山坡灌林或米埔等濕地邊緣出現，不會於純濕地生境出現，故此從未在米埔的蘆葦叢放網位置被網中。但牠於2010年12月14日在附近的隄岸曾被捕獲。

北短翅鶯 (Baikal Bush Warbler) *Locustella davidi*

香港首個北短翅鶯紀錄於2004年1月30日被網中，並於4月28日重複中網（Leader 2009），估計牠應該在米埔度冬。其後於8號基圍的六個紀錄均在秋季錄得，時間為9月6日至11月6日。



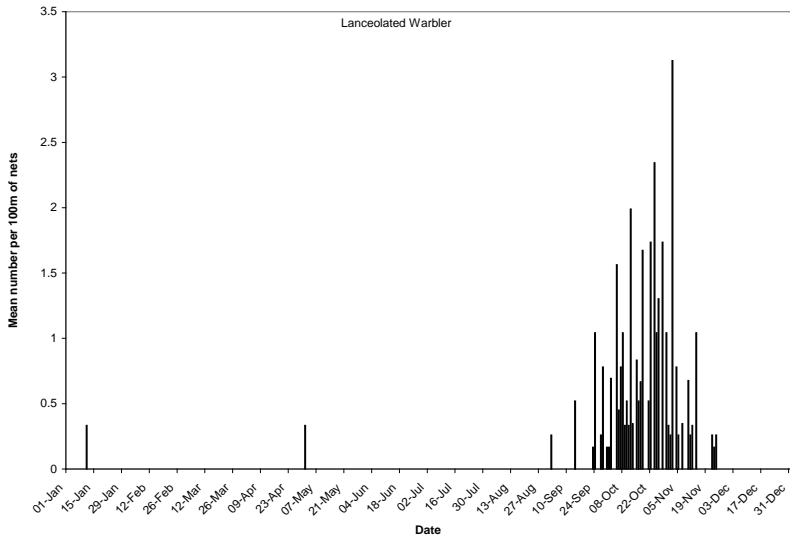
圖表七：北短翅鶯於米埔自然護理區蘆葦叢的相對豐富度

棕褐短翅鶯 (Brown Bush Warbler) *Locustella luteoventris*

只有一個紀錄於2010年1月15日在米埔網中。此鳥種於本港大部分紀錄均在山坡草地錄得，並不出現於純濕地，故此紀錄為米埔之唯一紀錄。

矛紋斑鶯 (Lanceolated Warbler) *Locustella lanceolata*

矛紋斑鶯幾乎只在秋季過境遷徙出現，但出現的高峰期明顯比小蝗鶯遲。雖然最早的過境個體是在9月2日網中，但在10月前只有少數個體出現。高峰期於10月最後十天錄得，其中於2009年10月22日及2011年10月28日早上分別有十隻個體被網中，遠超Carey *et al.* 於2001年報告最高數目為六隻的紀錄。此鳥種似乎很快遷離香港；在128隻被環誌的個體中，只有一隻被重複網中。秋季過境遷徙的最遲紀錄出現於11月24日。在2001年至2011年間，只在2003年1月11日有一個度冬個體紀錄，以及於2002年5月1日有一個春季過境遷徙的紀錄。其出現的季節性規律和Carey *et al.* (2001) 描述的相似。



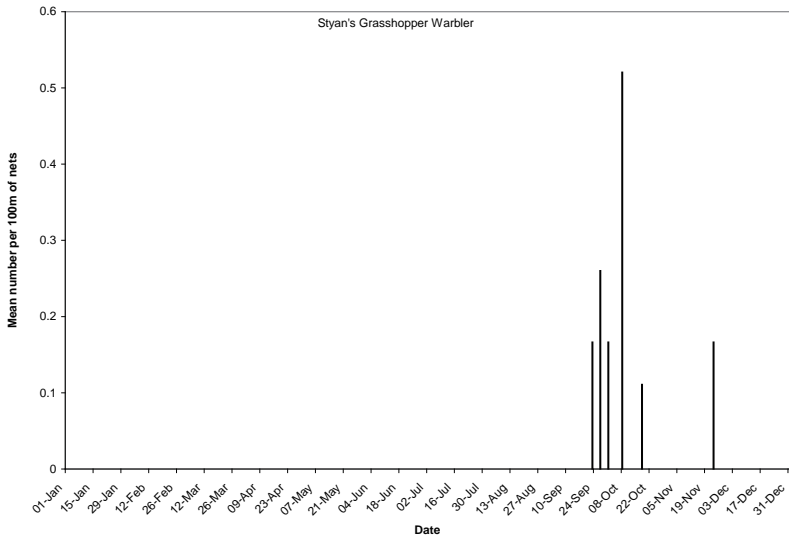
圖表八：矛紋斑鶯於米埔自然護理區蘆葦叢的相對豐富度

北蝗鶯 (Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler) *Locustella ochotensis*

北蝗鶯只於2009年10月29日在8號基圍被網中一次。這是自1993年2月 (Carey *et al.* 2001) 以來香港的第二個紀錄，顯示此鳥種是香港十分罕見的候鳥。

史氏蝗鶯 (Styan's Grasshopper Warbler) *Locustella pleskei*

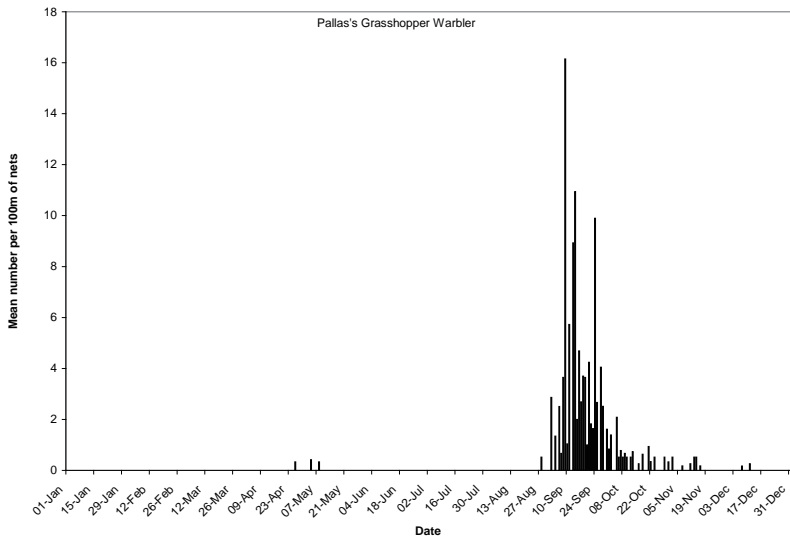
儘管一般認為史氏蝗鶯在後海灣潮間帶的紅樹林度冬 (Carey *et al.* 2001)，但8號基圍蘆葦叢的六個紀錄均出現在9月23日至11月23日秋季期間，而且最高數目乃是在十月中旬。這似乎表示過境鳥途經香港前往其他度冬地點。此一分別可能由於過冬鳥類偏好紅樹林生境多於純蘆葦叢，但基於在秋季和在冬季被捕獲的個體在外形上有所不同，牠們亦有可能來自不同種群，甚至不同的分類單元 (Kennerley & Pearson 2010)。史氏蝗鶯被國際鳥盟列為「易危」，故此後海灣可能是這個所知不多的鳥種在全球一個重要的遷徙及度冬地點。



圖表九：史氏蝗鶯於米埔自然護理區蘆葦叢的相對豐富度

小蝗鶯 (Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler) *Locustella certhiola*

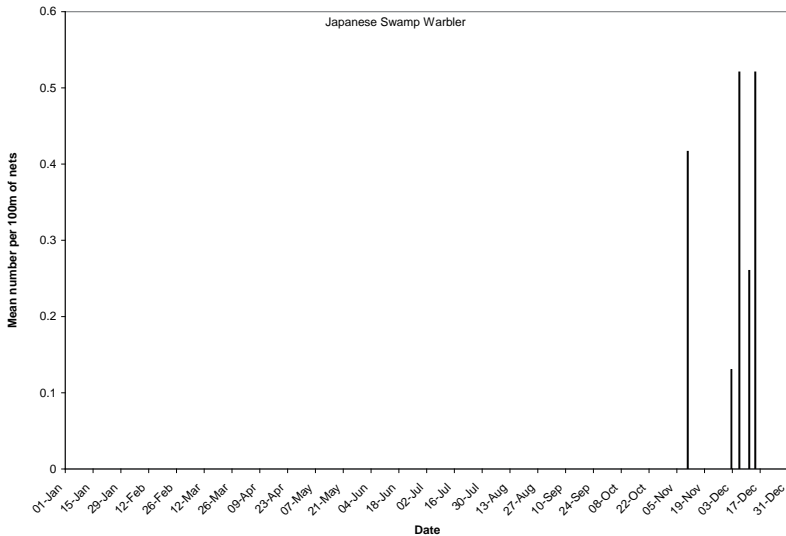
小蝗鶯乃慣常於早秋蘆葦叢出現的過境遷徙鳥。最早的紀錄在8月28日，數目於9月期間達至高峰，所有捕獲紀錄有84%均於此月份錄得。2009年9月13日錄得單日網中最多個體數目33隻。10月及11月上旬錄得較低的數目，12月則有兩個紀錄。隆冬並沒有紀錄，而春季只有4月26日至5月8日期間的三個紀錄。整體出現的規律和Carey *et al.* (2001)描述的相似，但11及12月的紀錄較多，以及有稍為清楚的春季過境時段。很多在秋季早段被環誌的鳥在秋季後期被重捕，部分個體似乎停留在蘆葦叢換羽。重複網中的包括一些在該地停留了超過兩個月的個體。秋季以後，重捕情況少有發生，在一年多期間，只有兩隻個體被重捕。羽毛及生物特徵的差異顯示米埔有數個於不同時間出現高峰數目的亞種 (Leader 準備中)。



圖表十：小蝗鶯於米埔自然護理區蘆葦叢的相對豐富度

斑背大尾鶯 (Japanese Swamp Warbler) *Locustella pryeri*

本港首個紀錄乃於2007年11月10日在8號基圍蘆葦叢被網中(Leader *et al.* 2011)。其後於2009年12月11日及2010年12月2日至14日也分別有兩隻個體被網中，顯示斑背大尾鶯於初冬的罕見過境鳥。斑背大尾鶯被鳥盟國際（2012）列為「易危」，但在香港的數量在全球來說應該不算重要。



圖表十一：斑背大尾鶯於米埔自然護理區蘆葦叢的相對豐富度

討論

8號基圍記錄了不少罕有鳥種，而且數目之多在研究初期不免令人吃驚，特別當與Carey *et al.* (2001) 報告的個體數目相比。兩個鳥種（北短翅鶯和斑背大尾鶯）乃本計劃在港錄得的首個紀錄，此後亦錄得數個紀錄。部分鳥種（特別是小蝗鶯和矛紋斑鶯）的個體數目及高流動率乃始料不及，顯示米埔蘆葦叢的重要性要較以前估計的為高。

研究錄得三個在全球受威脅的鳥種（國際鳥盟2012）：遠東葦鶯、史氏蝗鶯及斑背大尾鶯。遠東葦鶯已證實為慣常經過米埔的秋季遷徙鳥，這在Carey *et al.* (2001) 的報告中未有提及。若考慮到研究所在的蘆葦叢的面積（約六公頃）只佔米埔蘆葦叢總面積（62.5公頃）的百分之十，這表示米埔的蘆葦叢對此鳥種的遷徙具有國際上的重要意義。史氏蝗鶯亦有數個紀錄，然而蘆葦叢的紀錄主要為秋季過境鳥，與以往香港的冬季紀錄有所不同，似乎表示米埔對此鳥種的重要性，實超出其冬季紀錄數目的含義。至目前為止，只有三隻斑背大尾鶯被網中，故此仍未清楚此鳥種是否慣常於米埔出現。

是項研究仍在進行中，期望可為米埔蘆葦叢的隱秘鳥種種群數目提供長期走勢數據，並有利於蘆葦叢管理建議。

鳴謝

網捕乃得林鳳兒、英克勁、張振國、張浩輝和余日東的協助。蘆葦叢管理工作(包括興建通往蘆葦叢的木板路以及植被管理)由世界自然基金會香港分會於米埔自然護理區的職員負責。是項計劃部分由AEC Ltd資助。所有網捕活動均獲香港特別行政區政府漁農自然護理署發牌許可進行。

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Observations on Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* and Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis* roosting in reedbeds at Mai Po Nature Reserve in 2007

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Introduction

The extensive reedbeds within the Mai Po Nature Reserve (MPNR) are known to support a high diversity of invertebrates and provide an important habitat for birds, especially passage migrants and over-wintering passerines (WWF-HK & HKBRG 2008). They also provide good quality roosting habitat for several non-waterbird species. In particular, large numbers of Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* and Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis* are known to use the MPNR reedbeds as a night roost (Lee 1997, Carey *et al.* 2001, Wong *et al.* 2009).

Although Barn Swallows are known to roost regularly in the MPNR reedbeds, there are only a few documented records of the numbers involved, the highest published roost count being 1,800 individuals (including Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*) recorded on 12 October 2004 (HKBWS 2009). Anecdotal observations in late 2005 and 2006 showed between 100 and 500 birds roosting in the reedbeds at *Gei wai* #7, #8b, #10 and Pond #24 (Table 1).

Table 1: Historical Records of Barn Swallow roosting in the MPNR reedbeds.

Date	No. of Roosting Birds	Comments	Reference/Observer
08-Oct-04	800	Roost location unknown.	HKBWS 2009
12-Oct-04	1,800	Roost location unknown	HKBWS 2009
29-Oct-05	195	Roost at <i>Gei wai</i> #8b reedbed.	Bena Smith
09-Nov-05	105	Roost at <i>Gei wai</i> #10 reedbed.	Katherine Leung
19-Oct-06	310	Roost at Pond #24 reedbed.	Bena Smith
31-Oct-06	500	Roost at <i>Gei wai</i> #7 reedbed.	John Allcock

All three races of Eastern Yellow Wagtail occurring in Hong Kong (*taivana*, *tschutschensis* and *macronyx*) are known to use the *Gei wai* #8b reedbed as night roost (Hong Kong Bird Ringing Group ringing data). More than 3,000 individuals were recorded roosting at MPNR in May 1999 and November 2002, and during an academic study in 1995-97 roosting was observed at *Gei wai* #3, #8b and #14 (Lee 1997). High counts include single flocks of 1,500 individuals reported flying out of *Gei wai* #8b at first light on 12 November 2005 (Paul J. Leader pers. comm.) and 920 on 11 November 2006 (Bena Smith pers. obs.). Other observations in late 2005 noted 500 roosting inside *Gei wai* #14 (Bena Smith pers. obs.) (Table 2).

Table 2: Historical Records of Eastern Yellow Wagtail roosting in the MPNR reedbeds.

Date	No. of Roosting Birds	Comments	Reference/Observer
30-Jan-88	1,000	Roost location unknown.	Carey <i>et al.</i> 2001
12-Feb-89	1,000	Roost location unknown.	Carey <i>et al.</i> 2001
1995-97	2,733	Roosting at <i>Gei wai</i> #3 reedbed.	Lee 1997
1995-97	Unknown	Roosting at <i>Gei wai</i> #8b reedbed.	Lee 1997
1995-97	Unknown	Roosting at <i>Gei wai</i> #14 reedbed.	Lee 1997
03-Apr-98	500	Leaving <i>Gei wai</i> #8b reedbed at dawn.	HKBWS 2002
03-May-99	3,500	Roost location unknown.	Paul Leader
04-May-99	3,840	Roost location unknown. Highest count for Hong Kong.	Paul Leader
21-Feb-02	500	Roost location unknown.	HKBWS 2007
23-Nov-02	3,000	Roosting at <i>Gei wai</i> #8b reedbed.	HKBWS 2007
08-Oct-04	600	Roost location unknown.	HKBWS 2009
12-Oct-04	500	Roost location unknown.	HKBWS 2009
25-Oct-05	536	Roosting at eastern side of <i>Gei wai</i> #14 reedbed.	Bena Smith and Katherine Leung
03-Nov-05	485	Roosting at eastern side of <i>Gei wai</i> #14 reedbed.	Katherine Leung
19-Oct-05	303	Roosting at <i>Gei wai</i> #8b reedbed.	Katherine Leung
12-Nov-05	1,500	Leaving <i>Gei wai</i> #8b reedbed at dawn.	Paul Leader
11-Nov-06	920	Leaving <i>Gei wai</i> #8b reedbed at dawn.	Bena Smith

A series of surveys was carried out in 2007 to better understand the number of birds of these two species roosting at MPNR, to determine the key roosting areas and to observe their roosting behaviour.

Methods

As the pre-roosting behaviour was different between Barn Swallow and Eastern Yellow Wagtail, different survey methods were used for each species.

Barn Swallow

Counts were carried out twice every month (once each in the first half and second half of the month) from January to December. Counts started approximately one hour before sunset; during the hour before roosting, swallows usually gather in a single flock and fly in a flock over the roost site and nearby areas. The gathering flock was first located by observation along the Frontier Closed Area (FCA) road (Fig 1) and was then followed as they descended to circulate around a reedbed at a particular *gei wai*/pond. Regular counts were carried out on the circulating flock to estimate the number of birds present before they finally settled in a reedbed. The final roosting location

was recorded. For surveys where the gathering flock was observed but the final roost location was undeterminable or was outside the MPNR boundary, the maximum flock size was recorded.



Figure 1: Map showing counting locations.

Eastern Yellow Wagtail

Counts on Eastern Yellow Wagtail were carried out twice a month (once each in the first half and second half of the month) from January to May and from September to December. The species is absent from Hong Kong in June, July and most of August,

so no surveys were conducted in those three months. Counts commenced one hour before sunset. Wagtails usually come to roost in flocks which circle high above the reedbed for a short period of time before diving into roost, and were most effectively surveyed by a surveyor stationed next to the reedbed to count arriving flocks. Reedbeds at *Gei wai* #8b and #14 were selected for surveys, based on preliminary observations made in 2006 (Table 2). Surveys were conducted on each reedbed at fixed counting locations (Fig 1) on the bund between *Gei wai* #8b and *Gei wai* #10 and from the Education Centre access track. Individual birds/flocks entering or leaving the reedbed were tallied to determine the total number of birds roosting. When birds were seen heading towards roosts away from these two locations (either elsewhere within MPNR or outside the reserve), the maximum number of birds observed was recorded.

Results

Barn Swallow

Twenty-four scheduled counts were completed and five additional observations were made. Roosting within MPNR was recorded on 13 surveys (54.2% of the counts), while on a further nine occasions gathering flocks were recorded but the roosting locations were either undetermined or outside MPNR (37.5% of the counts). No birds were observed within MPNR during the two surveys in January (8.3% of the counts) (Appendix 1). The highest number of Barn Swallow was observed in summer, the peak count being on 20 July 2007 when 2,500 individuals roosted in *Gei wai* #3. In spring the number roosting varied between 203 and 385 individuals, while in autumn numbers between 433 and 520 individuals were recorded.

Barn Swallow was observed using four reedbeds within MPNR as night roosts in 2007 (Fig 2), including reedbeds at both the northern and southern part of MPNR. All four reedbeds selected by Barn Swallows were wet (lower part submerged in water), and were surrounded by open water. Brackish water reedbeds (*Gei wai* #3, #8b and #10) were used eight times (61.5% of the 13 roosting occasions) and freshwater reedbed (Pond #24a) five times (38.4% of the 13 roosting occasions).

On nine occasions when flocks chose not to roost inside MPNR, pre-roost congregations were observed with flock size varying between 23 and 600 individuals. On different occasions, the flock were observed either flying north or south of the MPNR boundary. This suggests suitable roost sites might exist elsewhere in the Deep Bay area.

Before roosting, Barn Swallow were typically observed congregating and circulating around MPNR at a height of approximately 20 metres. The flock size slowly increased over this time. Close to roosting time, usually after sunset, flocks descended over a *gei wai*/pond and then remained on the wing constantly circling just above the surface of the water or vegetation until eventually the birds perched and roosted at the top of reed stems.

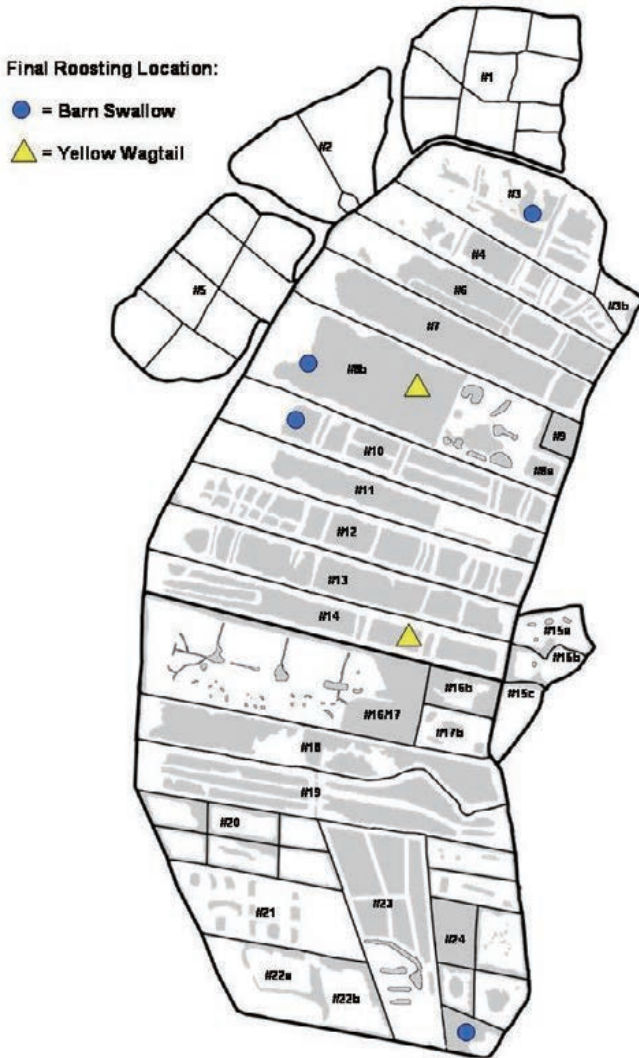


Figure 2: Final roost locations of Barn Swallow and Eastern Yellow Wagtail.

The roosting time (when all birds had settled into the roost) was recorded on all 13 occasions when birds roosted at MPNR. On 12 of the 13 occasions (92.3%) birds settled on roost after sunset; the exception being on 6 March, when poor light condition was recorded and birds roosted three minutes before sunset. On 3 April, birds also roosted comparatively early when windy and rainy conditions were recorded. Other than these two exceptional occasions, birds settled into the roost 22 minutes after sunset on

average. This closely follows the time of civil twilight (Hong Kong Observatory data), suggesting that light level could be a determining factor of the final roosting time (Fig 3).

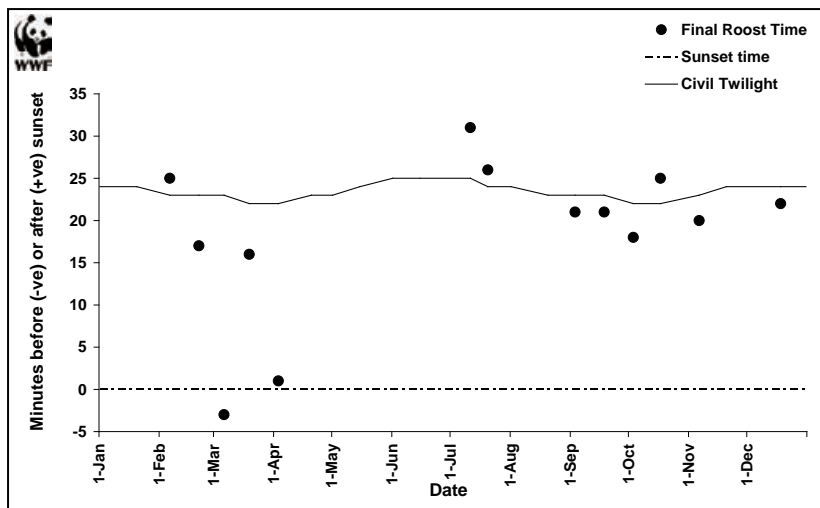


Figure 3: Graph showing roosting time of Barn Swallow relative to sunset time.

Eastern Yellow Wagtail

Eighteen scheduled counts were completed at both *Gei wai* #8b and #14, with four additional observations at *Gei wai* #8b (Appendices 2 and 3).

Roosting at *Gei wai* #8b was recorded on 10 of the 18 counts (55.6% of the counts). Roosting was recorded in February, April and May, and then continuously from October to December, which coincided with the main migration periods. Higher numbers were recorded from mid-October to early December and the peak count of 612 individuals was observed on 20 November 2007. A casual observation on 28 October 2007 recorded more than 800 individuals leaving the reedbed at dawn. On eight occasions flocks were observed flying over without roosting; up to 186 individuals were recorded flying southwards on 5 September with no birds roosting in the reedbed.

At *Gei wai* #14 reedbed, roosting was only recorded on five occasions (27.8% of the counts) from late September to mid-December. On four of these occasions less than five individuals were recorded roosting. The highest count occurred on 15 October, with 108 individuals recorded.

Before roosting, wagtails often gathered into small flocks away from the roost site, for example on the islands in *Gei wai* #16/17 or on fishpond bunds outside the MPNR (pers. obs.). These small flocks then headed to the roost, circled high above the reedbed and

eventually dived into the roost. On occasion some birds exited and then re-entered the reedbed several times before finally settling.

Four detailed counts on the number and time (minutes before or after sunset) of birds entering the roost were made on 03 May, 06 November, 03 December and 18 December at *Gei wai* #8b. The first bird entered the roost between 22 and 39 minutes before sunset, and the last bird between 0 and 9 minutes after sunset. The period of roost entry (time between the first and last bird entering the roost) ranged between 31 and 42 minutes (Fig. 4). Most birds (94%) entered the roost before sunset, with the peak number entering the roost 5-15 minutes before sunset (87.1%) (Fig. 5).

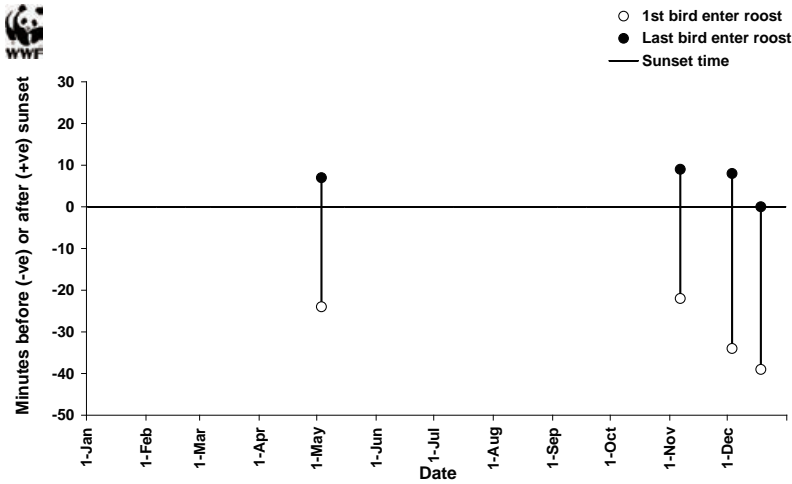


Figure 4: Graph showing roosting time and duration of roost entry of Eastern Yellow Wagtails at *Gei wai* #8b relative to sunset.

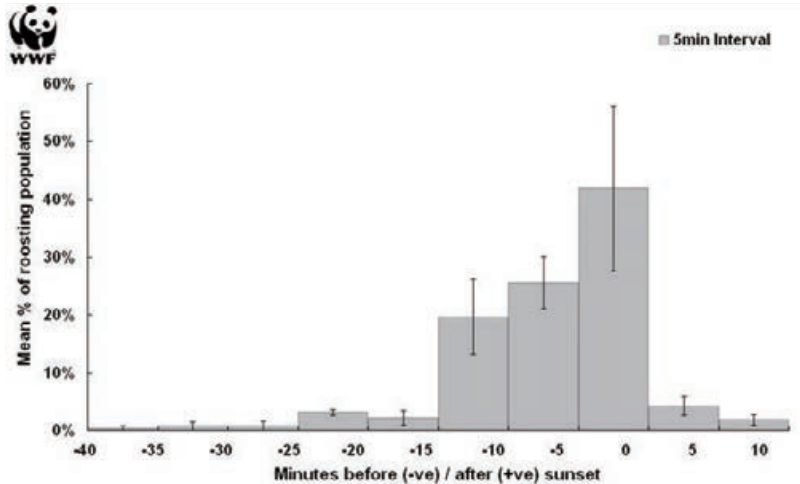


Figure 5: Graph showing the number of Eastern Yellow Wagtails entering the roost at *Gei wai* #8b in each five-minute period before and after sunset.

Conclusions

Barn Swallow

This study demonstrates that the Barn Swallow population in Deep Bay regularly utilises MPNR as a pre-roost gathering site, and that the reedbeds in the MPNR are regularly used as roosting site. The study also shows that Barn Swallow have a clear preference towards wet reedbeds (lower part submerged in water), regardless of whether the water is fresh or brackish. Thus, the wet reedbed within MPNR would appear to be of local importance for Barn Swallow. It is recommended therefore that habitat management work should be conducted to maintain wet reedbed in the MPNR to support the roosting population. Observations during the study also suggest that other roosting sites might exist, probably other wet reedbeds in Deep Bay, although these are possibly used less regularly than the reedbeds within MPNR.

Eastern Yellow Wagtail

Being a wetland-dependent species, the populations of Eastern Yellow Wagtail wintering in or passing through Hong Kong are strongly reliant on the Deep Bay wetlands. Based on this study and historical observations, the reedbed roosts within MPNR, especially at *Gei wai* #8b, appear to be locally important for passage and wintering Eastern Yellow Wagtail. Habitat management work to maintain and enhance the reedbed roosting sites should therefore be carried out to support the local population of this species. Observations of wagtails flying over the known roosts at *Gei wai* #8b and #14 without coming to roost also indicate that other roosting sites exist within MPNR or elsewhere in the Deep Bay area, but further study is needed to determine the location of these other potential roosts.

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Appendix 1: Summary on Barn Swallow Roosting Count 2007.

Count Date	Weather condition	No. of Roosting Birds	Final Roosting time	Final Roost Location	Comments
4-Jan-07	Overcast	0	-	-	None seen inside the Reserve.
18-Jan-07	Overcast	0	-	-	None seen inside the Reserve.
6-Feb-07	Overcast	203	18:40	Pond #24a freshwater reedbed.	
21-Feb-07	Rainy	280	18:40	Pond #24a freshwater reedbed.	Birds circulated around Pond #24, Lut Chau and Fairview Park.
6-Mar-07	Poor light condition	385	18:26	Pond #24a freshwater reedbed.	Birds circulated around Pond #24 and Lut Chau.
19-Mar-07	Windy	16	18:50	Pond #24a freshwater reedbed.	Another flock of 304 birds observed flying to Lut Chau between 18:30-18:45, these birds roosted outside MPNR.
3-Apr-07	Very windy with light shower	14	18:40	Pond #24a freshwater reedbed.	Another flock of 7 birds observed flying to Lut Chau between 18:15-18:40, these birds roosted outside MPNR.
17-Apr-07	Windy	0	-	Unknown	Flock of 93 birds observed flying to Lut Chau between 18:20-18:45.
4-May-07	Very cloudy with showers	0	-	Unknown	Flock of 74 birds observed flying to Lut Chau between 18:20-19:00.
22-May-07	Clear and humid	0	-	Unknown	Flock of 170 birds observed flying around MPNR.
4-Jun-07	Clear and humid	0	-	Unknown	Flock of 120 birds observed feeding along the seaward end of <i>Gei wai</i> between #8b and #23 between 18:34-19:21.
18-Jun-07	Clear	0	-	Unknown	Over 600 birds feeding around MPNR between 18:39-19:23. Most flocks disappeared over the FCA mangroves and towards Lut Chau.
11-Jul-07	Clear and humid	300	19:41	<i>Gei wai</i> #8b brackish water reedbed near FCA road.	Single flock of over 500 birds feeding around MPNR which flew off towards Fairview Park direction.
20-Jul-07	Clear	2,500	19:35	<i>Gei wai</i> #3 (eastern side) brackish water reedbed.	
2-Aug-07	Clear	0	-	Unknown	Single flock of 60 birds observed flying Northward away from MPNR. A big flock observed flying North near Tam Kon Chau egretty.

Count Date	Weather condition	No. of Roosting Birds	Final Roosting time	Final Roost Location	Comments
14-Aug-07	Humid and hazy	0	-	Unknown	Single flock of over 460 birds observed circulating above <i>Gei wai</i> #3 at 19:00.
3-Sep-07	Humid and hazy	433	19:00	<i>Gei wai</i> #8b brackish water reedbed near FCA road.	Birds circulated around <i>Gei wai</i> #8b and #10 before roosting.
18-Sep-07	Overcast and humid	65	18:45	<i>Gei wai</i> #8b brackish water reedbed near FCA road.	Birds circulated around <i>Gei wai</i> #8b and #10 before roosting.
3-Oct-07	Overcast and humid	119	18:28	<i>Gei wai</i> #8 brackish water reedbed near FCA road.	Birds circulated around <i>Gei wai</i> #8b and #10 before roosting.
17-Oct-07	Overcast	520	18:22	<i>Gei wai</i> #10 brackish water reedbed near FCA road.	Birds circulated above <i>Gei wai</i> #8b and #10.
6-Nov-07	Clear	430	18:04	<i>Gei wai</i> #8b brackish water reedbed near FCA road.	Birds circulated around <i>Gei wai</i> #8b before roosting.
19-Nov-07	Clear	0	-	Unknown	Single flock of 23 birds observed flying north.
3-Dec-07	Clear	0	-	Unknown	Single flock of 160 birds observed circulating very high above northern MPNR at 17:50.
18-Dec-07	Clear	110	18:05	<i>Gei wai</i> #8b brackish water reedbed near FCA road.	Birds circulated around <i>Gei wai</i> #8b and #10 before roosting.
*15-Jan-07	Overcast	55	18:21	<i>Gei wai</i> #23 or Pond #24a-g.	
*20-Sep-07	Overcast	246	18:40	<i>Gei wai</i> #10.	
*12-Oct-07	Overcast	420	18:28	<i>Gei wai</i> #10 brackish water reedbed near FCA road.	Birds circulated around <i>Gei wai</i> #8b and #10 before roosting, roosted at 18:28.
*20-Nov-07	Clear	0	-	-	Single flock of 210 birds observed circulating above <i>Gei wai</i> i#8b between 17:50-18:00.
*4-Dec-07	Clear	0	-	-	Single flock of 60 birds observed flying to northern MPNR at 17:45.

* - Casual/Additional Observations

Appendix 2: Summary on Eastern Yellow Wagtail Roosting Count 2007 - Reedbed at *Gei wai #8b*.

<i>Gei wai #8b</i>			
Count Date	Weather Condition	No. of Roosting Birds	Comments
06-Jan-07	Clear	0	None observed roosting.
19-Jan-07	Overcast	0	None observed roosting.
06-Feb-07	Clear	33	
22-Feb-07	Clear	0	None observed roosting. Flock of 22 birds seen flying northward over the reedbed.
05-Mar-07	Heavy cloud	0	None observed roosting.
20-Mar-07	Clear	0	None observed roosting. Flock of 7 birds seen flying northward over the reedbed.
10-Apr-07	Heavy cloud	305	
20-Apr-07	Heavy cloud	2	1 other bird flew over. <i>Gei wai</i> 70% drained.
03-May-07	Clear	282	Some birds observed flying towards southern MP before roosting. <i>Gei wai</i> 70% drained.
17-May-07	Hazy	0	None observed roosting. Flock of 52 birds observed flying to southern MP. 16 flew north and left MPNR.
05-Sep-07	Heavy cloud	0	None observed roosting. Flock of 186 birds flew over, flying South.
20-Sep-07	Overcast	0	None observed roosting.
02-Oct-07	Windy	16	13 other birds flew over in north-west direction and 4 flew south.
15-Oct-07	Hazy and Breezy	323	
06-Nov-07	Clear	418	
20-Nov-07	Clear with light breeze	612	
03-Dec-07	Clear	370	
18-Dec-07	Overcast	81	2 other birds observed flying over the reedbed.
*10-Oct-07	Overcast	23	Birds observed leaving roost at dawn.
*13-Oct-07	Clear	>80	Birds observed leaving roost at dawn.
*19-Oct-07	Clear	666	Birds observed leaving roost at dawn.
*28-Oct-07	Hazy	>800	Birds observed leaving roost at dawn.

* - Casual/Additional Observations

Appendix 3: Summary on Eastern Yellow Wagtail Roosting Count 2007 – Reedbed at *Gei wai* #14.

<i>Gei wai</i> #14			
Count Date	Weather Condition	No. of Roosting Birds	Comments
05-Jan-07	Clear	0	None observed roosting.
23-Jan-07	Overcast	0	None observed roosting.
13-Feb-07	Overcast	0	None observed roosting.
21-Feb-07	Heavily Overcast	0	None observed roosting.
02-Mar-07	Clear with light breeze	0	None observed roosting. 3 birds flew over towards northern MP.
20-Mar-07	Clear with light breeze	0	None observed roosting. 34 birds flew over towards northern MP.
04-Apr-07	Heavily Overcast	0	None observed roosting.
19-Apr-07	Overcast	0	None observed roosting. 7 birds flew over towards northern MP.
04-May-07	Clear	0	None observed roosting. At least 40 birds observed flying towards northern MP.
17-May-07	Hazy	0	None observed roosting. 44 birds flew over towards southern MP.
03-Sep-07	Overcast	0	None observed roosting. One bird flew over towards northern MP.
20-Sep-07	Overcast	4	A flock of 32 birds flew towards northern MP.
02-Oct-07	Heavy cloud and windy	0	None observed roosting. 11 birds flew over towards northern MP.
15-Oct-07	Hazy and breezy	108	Other flocks of 239 birds flew over towards northern MP. Most small flocks gathered (pre-roost) on Island 3 in <i>Gei wai</i> #16/17 and circulated above <i>Gei wai</i> #14 before heading north.
08-Nov-07	Breezy	3	Other flocks totaling 211 birds flew over towards northern MP.
20-Nov-07	Clear with light breeze	4	Other flocks totaling 258 birds flew over towards northern MP.
03-Dec-07	Clear	0	None observed roosting. 93 birds flew over towards northern MP.
19-Dec-07	Very poor light condition	4	At least 19 birds flew over towards northern MP. Poor light condition.
*10-Oct-07	Overcast	23	Birds observed leaving roost at dawn.
*13-Oct-07	Clear	>80	Birds observed leaving roost at dawn.
*19-Oct-07	Clear	666	Birds observed leaving roost at dawn.
*28-Oct-07	Hazy	>800	Birds observed leaving roost at dawn.

* - Casual/Additional Observations

在2007年對米埔自然護理區蘆葦叢棲息的家燕 *Hirundo rustica* 和東黃鵲鴿 *Motacilla tschutschensis* 的觀察

梁嘉善及施伯納

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引言

米埔自然護理區內面積廣泛的蘆葦叢扶養多種無脊椎動物，同時亦是鳥類（尤其是各種過境和越冬的鳥類）的重要棲息地 (WWF-HK & HKBRG 2008)。蘆葦叢更為數種非水鳥提供高質素的棲息地，例如家燕 *Hirundo rustica* 和東黃鵲鴿 *Motacilla tschutschensis* 晚上均集體在蘆葦叢棲息 (Lee 1997, Carey *et al.* 2001, Wong *et al.* 2009)。

雖然根據過往的紀錄發現家燕定期使用米埔自然護理區的蘆葦叢作棲息地點，實際記錄棲息數量的文獻並不多，最高數量為2004年10月12日所錄得的1,800隻（當中包括金腰燕 *Cecropis daurica*）(HKBWS 2009)。2005及2006年的非正式調查錄得100至500隻家燕在7號、8b號和10號基圍，以及24號淡水塘棲息 (表1)。

表1: 家燕於米埔自然護理區蘆葦叢棲息的過往紀錄

日期	棲息數量	說明	參考文獻/觀察者
2004年10月8日	800	棲息地點不明。	HKBWS, 2009
2004年10月12日	1,800	棲息地點不明。	HKBWS, 2009
2005年10月29日	195	於8b號基圍的蘆葦叢棲息。	施伯納
2005年11月9日	105	於10號基圍的蘆葦叢棲息。	梁嘉善
2006年10月19日	310	於24號淡水塘的蘆葦叢棲息。	施伯納
2006年10月31日	500	於7號基圍的蘆葦叢棲息。	柯祖毅

根據過往紀錄，於香港出現的三個東黃鵲鴿亞種 (*taivana*, *tschutschensis* 及 *macronyx*) 均會使用8b號基圍的蘆葦叢作晚上的棲息地點 (香港鳥類環誌協會數據)。1999年5月及2002年11月的也曾錄得逾3,000隻在米埔自然護理區蘆葦叢棲息。1995-97年的一個學術研究期間觀察到東黃鵲鴿使用3號、8b號及14號基圍的蘆葦叢 (Lee 1997)。錄得高數量的紀錄包括：2005年11月12日錄得1,500隻於清晨飛離8b號基圍的蘆葦叢 (利雅德的個人觀察)；以及2006年11月11日錄得的920隻 (施伯納的個人觀察)。而2005年底亦曾錄得500隻在14號基圍的蘆葦叢棲息 (施伯納的個人觀察) (表2)。

表2: 東黃鸛鴿於米埔自然護理區蘆葦叢棲息的過往紀錄

日期	棲息數量	說明	參考文獻/觀察者
1988年1月30日	1,000	棲息地點不明。	Carey, et al. 2001
1989年2月12日	1,000	棲息地點不明。	Carey, et al. 2001
1995至1997年	2,733	於3號基圍的蘆葦叢棲息。	Lee, 1997
1995至1997年	不明	於8b號基圍的蘆葦叢棲息。	Lee, 1997
1995至1997年	不明	於14號基圍的蘆葦叢棲息。	Lee, 1997
1998年4月3日	500	飛離8b號基圍的蘆葦叢。	HKBWS, 2002
1999年5月3日	3,500	棲息地點不明。	利雅德
1999年5月4日	3,840	棲息地點不明。香港最高數量記錄。	利雅德
2002年2月21日	500	棲息地點不明。	HKBWS, 2007
2002年11月23日	3,000	於8b號基圍的蘆葦叢棲息。	HKBWS, 2007
2004年10月8日	600	棲息地點不明。	HKBWS, 2009
2004年10月12日	500	棲息地點不明。	HKBWS, 2009
2005年10月25日	536	於14號基圍的東面蘆葦叢棲息。	梁嘉善及施伯納
2005年11月3日	485	於14號基圍的東面蘆葦叢棲息。	梁嘉善
2005年10月19日	303	於8b號基圍的蘆葦叢棲息。	梁嘉善
2005年11月12日	1,500	於清晨飛離8b號基圍的蘆葦叢。	利雅德
2006年11月11日	920	於清晨飛離8b號基圍的蘆葦叢。	施伯納

WWF在2007年進行了一系列調查，以了解在米埔自然護理區棲息的家燕和東黃鸛鴿數量，找出這兩個鳥種主要使用的棲息地點，以及觀察其棲息行為特性。

方法

由於家燕和東黃鸛鴿棲息前集結的行為不同，因此採用了不同的調查方法。

家燕

調查由一月至十二月進行，每月兩次，一次在該月上旬，另一次在下旬，開始的時間為日落前的一小時。在棲息前的一小時，家燕會集結成群在棲息地點及附近上空盤旋。調查員先在近邊境禁區鐵絲網的路上觀察並鎖定家燕群的位置（圖1），及至燕群下降至棲息地點，則前往靠近該基圍/淡水塘蘆葦叢的路段。調查員會定期點算燕群的個體數量，直至牠們停歇在蘆葦叢棲息，並記錄燕群最後停棲的地點。如調查時錄得燕群集結，但未能確定最後停棲的地點，或是棲息地點位於護理區外，則只記錄點算到的最高個體數量。



圖表1：調查地點示意圖

東黃鵯

調查由一月至五月以及九月至十二月進行，每月兩次，一次在該月上旬，另一次在下旬。由於東黃鵯在六、七月不會在港出現，而八月份亦只有小量記錄，所以不在這三個月份進行調查。調查於日落前一小時開始。東黃鵯一般會集結成小群飛往棲息地點，並在蘆葦叢上空高處盤旋一段時間，然後俯衝飛進棲息的蘆葦叢。因此，調查員會在蘆葦叢旁作定點調查，以更有效點算到達棲息地點的個體數量。根據2006年初步觀察的結果(表2)，是次調查地點定於8b號及14號基圍，並在該處蘆葦叢旁指定的位置進行點算(圖1)，即8b號與10號基圍之間的塘壘(8b號基圍蘆葦叢)，以及位於14號與16/17號基圍之間前往教育中心的車路(14號基圍蘆葦叢)。調查員會點算進入和離開蘆葦叢的東黃鵯數量，以得出棲息族群的總數。如觀察到東黃鵯飛越這兩個棲息點，前往護理區其他地點或飛離護理區，則只記錄點算到的最高個體數量。

結果

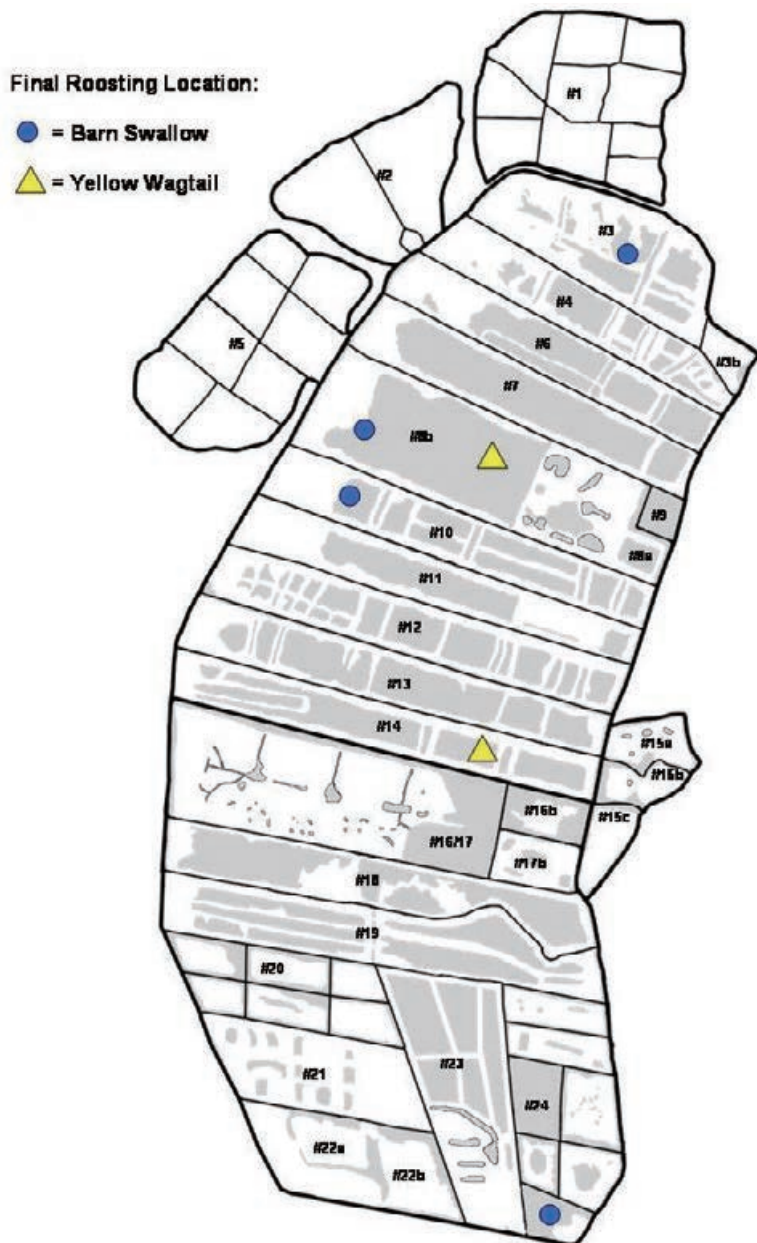
家燕

根據計劃，是次共完成了24次調查，另外亦進行了五次額外的觀察。在24次調查中，13次(54.2%)錄得家燕在米埔自然護理區內棲息，九次(37.5%)錄得家燕群集結而未能確定棲息地點/棲息地點於護理區以外地區。一月份的兩次調查(8.3%)皆沒有錄得任何個體(附表1)。夏季的家燕數量較高，2007年7月20日更錄得2,500隻在3號基圍蘆葦叢棲息。春季的數量介乎203至385隻；秋季則在433至520隻之間。

2007年觀察到家燕使用米埔自然護理區內的四個蘆葦叢，分布於護理區北部和南部(圖2)。四個蘆葦叢均是底部被水淹浸的「濕蘆葦叢」，而蘆葦叢周圍則是開闊水面。家燕有八次使用鹹淡水的「濕蘆葦叢」(3號、8b號及10號基圍)，佔家燕在護理區13次棲息紀錄的61.5%；而淡水的「濕蘆葦叢」(24a號淡水塘)則錄得五次棲息紀錄(38.4%)。

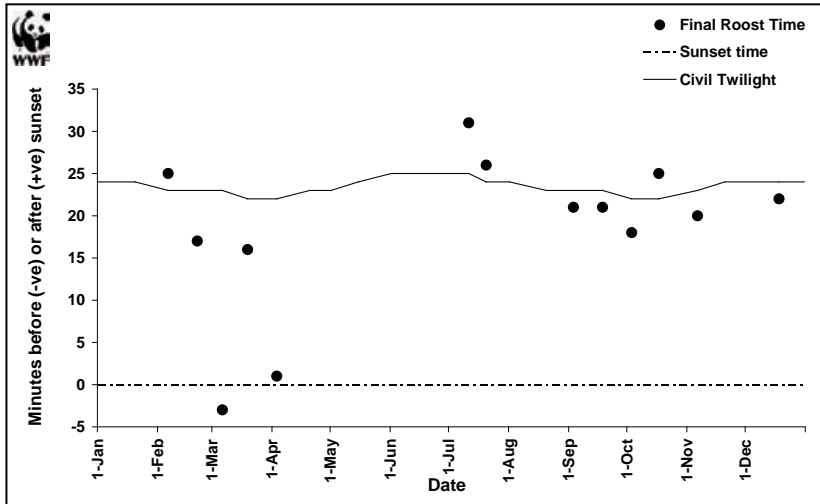
其中九次調查發現燕群沒有於護理區內棲息，但仍然於護理區上空集結，數量由23至600隻。觀察發現燕群往北方或南方飛離護理區，顯示后海灣一帶可能有其他合適的棲息地點。

家燕一般在棲息之前會在護理區集結成群，並在上空約20米高度盤旋，而加入燕群的個體數量會逐漸增加。到棲息的時間(通常在日落後一段時間)，燕群會下降至一個基圍/淡水塘的水面或植被之上持續盤旋，然後逐步停棲在蘆葦叢的枝葉頂部。



圖表2：家燕及東黃鶺鴒的最後棲息地點

13次錄得家燕在護理區棲息的調查中，均記錄了燕群最後停棲的時間，其中12次(92.3%) 家燕在日落後才停棲，只在光線不佳的2007年3月6日錄得家燕在日落前三分鐘停棲，而在大風及下雨的4月3日，燕群亦相對較早停棲。除這兩次例外，家燕最後停棲的時間平均在日落後22分鐘，與民用日落時間相若 (香港天文台資料)，顯示光線的亮度可能是影響最後停棲時間的主因 (圖3)。



圖表3：家燕最後停棲時間 (相對日落時間)

東黃鵲鴿

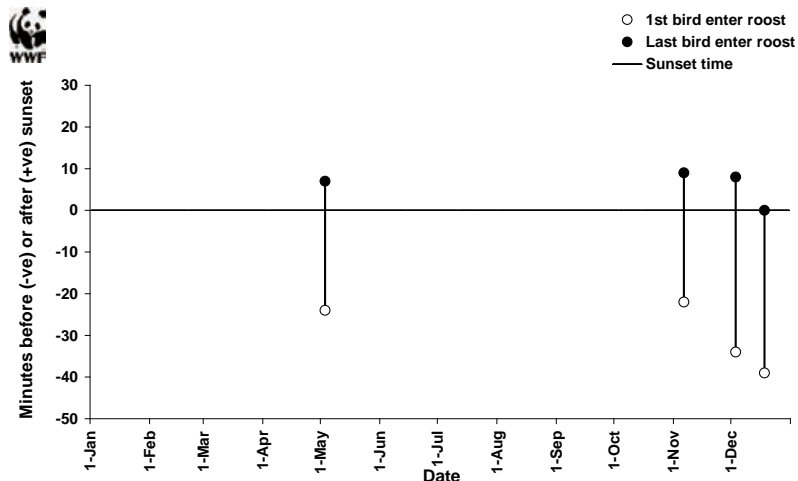
根據計劃，是次在8b號及14號基圍各完成了18次調查，另外亦在8b號基圍進行了四次額外的觀察 (附表2及3)。

於8b號基圍的18次調查中，有10次 (55.6%) 記錄到東黃鵲鴿棲息。在二月、四月、五月，以及十至十二月均錄得東黃鵲鴿棲息，與東黃鵲鴿遷徙的月份相符，當中十月下旬至十二月上旬錄得的數量較高，並於2007年11月20日錄得612隻的最高棲息數量。另外於2007年10月28日清晨觀察到800隻東黃鵲鴿離開蘆葦叢。在其中八次調查錄得東黃鵲鴿在棲息點上空飛越而未有停棲，2007年9月5日記錄到186隻東黃鵲鴿往南面飛而沒有在蘆葦叢棲息。

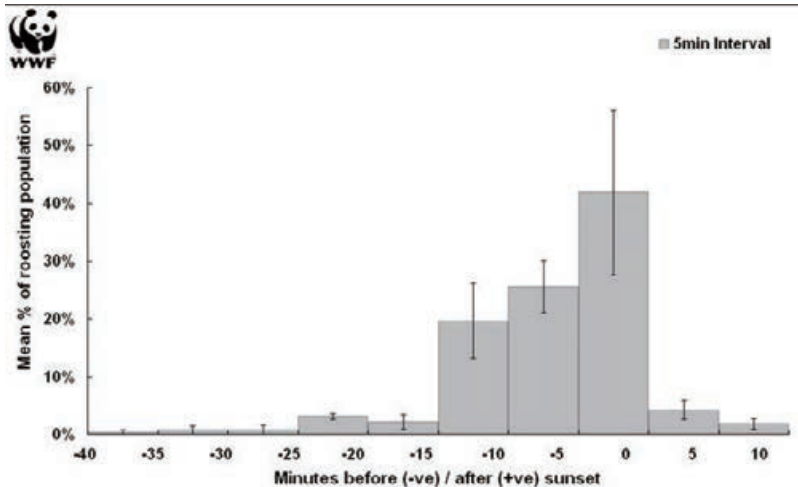
於14號基圍的蘆葦叢只有五次調查 (27.8%) 錄得東黃鵲鴿棲息，均在九月下旬至十二月月上旬，其中四次只錄得少於五隻棲息，最高紀錄是在2007年10月15日的108隻。

東黃鵲鴿在棲息前會先在其他地方集結成小群，如16/17號基圍的小島及護理區外的魚塘塘壘 (個人觀察)，然後一同飛往棲息點的上空盤旋，繼而俯衝飛進棲息的蘆葦叢。偶爾部份個體會再次飛離蘆葦叢，在上空盤旋一段時間，然後再回到蘆葦叢，並重覆數次，直至最後停棲的時間。

其中四次在8b號基圍的調查中 (5月3日, 11月6日, 12月3日和12月18日) 仔細記錄了東黃鵯小群分別進入蘆葦叢棲息的個體數量, 以及時間 (相對日落時間)。第一隻/群在日落前22至39分鐘進入蘆葦叢, 最後一隻/群則在日落後0至9分鐘。而整個棲息過程 (即第一隻/群直至最後一隻/群進入蘆葦叢之間的時間相距) 歷時31至42分鐘 (圖4)。棲息族群中約94%的東黃鵯會在日落前進入蘆葦叢棲息, 而87.1%的東黃鵯會在日落前5至15分鐘的高峰期進入蘆葦叢棲息 (圖5)。



圖表4：東黃鵯進入8b號基圍蘆葦叢棲息的時間 (相對日落時間)



圖表5：以每5分鐘計算進入8b號基圍蘆葦叢棲息的東黃鵯個體數量 (相對日落時間)

結論

家燕

是次調查顯示米埔自然護理區是后海灣的家燕棲息前聚集的地點，而護理區內的蘆葦叢更是家燕經常使用的棲息地點。另外，調查亦發現家燕喜愛使用底部被水淹浸的「濕蘆葦叢」（不論是淡或鹹淡水）作棲息地，故此護理區內的「濕蘆葦叢」對該區的家燕極具重要性，所以應施行生境管理，以維持其對棲息家燕的生態價值。調查其間亦觀察到家燕間中會使用后海灣內其他的「濕蘆葦叢」作棲息地點。

東黃鸛鴿

東黃鸛鴿是依賴濕地存活的鳥種，於香港過境或度冬的族群更強烈依賴后海灣濕地。是次調查與過往的觀察紀錄都證實，米埔自然護理區8b號基圍的蘆葦叢對過境或度冬的東黃鸛鴿具地區性的生態價值。因此應施行生境管理以維持或提升該蘆葦叢生境，繼續扶養香港的東黃鸛鴿。觀察到東黃鸛鴿在已知棲息點上空飛越而未有停棲，顯示護理區內或后海灣存在其他棲息點，建議再作進一步調查。

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Guidelines for the Submission of Records

HKBWS Records Committee

Recording and record submission

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 the Society and other researchers can draw conclusions about 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 species that are common and widespread in appropriate habitat. In particular, we welcome records of all but the most common migrants and winter visitors, of scarce residents or records of common residents occurring in unusual numbers or habitat. If in doubt, it is best to submit the record.

The Society prefers to receive records entered into a simple Excel spreadsheet as this facilitates 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, date, place, number of birds, notes and observer name. Observations can then be entered, using one row for each record. A sample and blank copy of the Excel file is given on the HKBWS website.

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. Further, field identification techniques for some species still require refinement. 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 those of rarities. The list of species for which substantiation is required is given on the HKBWS website. Adequate substantiation in the form of a written description, photograph, video, audio recording or some combination of these is required if the record is to be considered valid and published. A standard recording form for unusual records (URF) is available from the HKBWS website.

Ideally, field notes of 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 projections, 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.

If you are able to take reasonable notes of a bird but still cannot identify it, send in the description as it may be possible for the Committee to identify it for you. 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.

長春社

成立於一九六八年，是香港歷史最悠久的民間環保團體。我們積極倡導可持續發展的理念，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、推動環境教育和帶領實踐公眾參與，為完成使命全力以赴。

自然保育

推行生態可持續環境管理計劃，關注香港樹木保育情況。



環境教育

在學校、社區等舉行多方面的環境教育工作，向市民宣揚環保。



政策監察

監察政府環保政策和推行保育運動；定期舉辦研討會，鼓勵決策者之間的對話。



資源管理

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分析香港的能源政策，探討及推動社區內的節能減碳項目。



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Mai Po Nature Reserve, a birdwatcher's paradise

Located in the northwestern corner of Hong Kong, Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay has been a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention since 1995. The Mai Po Nature Reserve forms part of the site and is renowned as a birdwatcher's paradise.

In autumn, winter and spring, thousands of migratory birds come to Mai Po, including over 75% of the total Hong Kong

bird species, among which are globally endangered species such as Saunders' Gull and around 15% of the world's population of the Black-faced Spoonbill. A visit to Mai Po between October to April will reward you with the spectacle of tens of thousands of migratory waterbirds.

Join **WWF** as a member to help protect the wetland and conserve a better environment for the present and future generations.

For visiting Mai Po and using the facilities such as birdwatching hides and the Floating Boardwalk, please visit our website at wwf.org.hk



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Notes for applications to visit Mai Po Marshes Nature Reserve

Members should note that entry to the Mai Po Nature Reserve is restricted in order to minimize disturbance to the wildlife. Applications for permits to enter the restricted area will not normally be entertained unless the applicants are experienced bird watchers, scientists conducting research or on official duty to 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
Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices
303 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong

You should send photocopies of the following together with your application letter:

- HKID card or Passport
- Hong Kong Bird Watching Society membership fees receipt
- WWF(Hong Kong) 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. Furthermore, it is a requirement of WWF-HK, who manages the Reserve, that users of its facilities are members of that organization. Relevant applicant forms for HKBWS and WWF-HK could be obtained from the following websites:

www.hkbws.org.hk/BBS/

<https://apps.wwf.org.hk/eng/membership.php>

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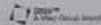


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