



THE HONG KONG BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY

GPO BOX 12460, HONG KONG

BULLETIN NO. 134 DECEMBER 1989

SOCIETY NEWS

- i) Subscription renewals. Please return the enclosed form as soon as possible. Members are advised to retain their subscription receipt as the Agriculture and Fisheries Department sometimes require this before issuing annual Mai Po permits.
- ii) Steven Smith, who was Secretary of the Society for four years, has just left Hong Kong. His inimitable style will be much missed but Mount Davis's loss will be the UK's gain. Our best wishes to him and Deborah.
- iii) Brian Wilson, a long-time member now living in Australia, has generously donated 'An Atlas of Australian Birds' to the Society. Our thanks for this excellent book.
- iv) A big thank-you also to Miranda Hui who types and mails the bulletin each quarter - a task much appreciated by the Committee.
- v) Finally, our thanks must go to Nigel Croft for organising yet another excellent curry lunch at the PIU (and to John Holmes for his able assistance behind the bar).
- vi) As a result of talks given by C.Y. Lam, Peter Stevens and Clive Viney, a considerable number of people have joined the Society recently - we welcome these new members.
- vii) Change of address. The editor has moved again! All contributions for the bulletin and Report should be sent to Verity Picken at her new address: C22 Carolina Gardens, 30 Coombe Road, The Peak, Hong Kong. The phone number (5-8496985) remains the same.
- viii) The 1990 Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 27 March so mark your diaries accordingly.

The Chairman and Committee wish all members of the Society a very happy Christmas.

CHRISTMAS COUNT

The Christmas Count this year will take place on 31 December 1989 as scheduled. To make it easier for you to send in your returns, a checklist report form is enclosed with this bulletin. Mail the completed form to C.Y. Lam, c/o Royal Observatory, 134A Nathan Road, Kowloon, preferably by 15 January 1990 and include your guess of the total number of species seen on that day. If you are participating as a member of one of the teams led by the leaders listed below, ask your leader to submit your guess on your behalf. It may bring you a prize. See the September bulletin for details.

<u>Area</u>	<u>Leader</u>
1. Mai Po	John Edge
2. Tsim Bei Tsui/Mong Tseng	Simba Chan
	Mike Webster
	Richard Lewthwaite
3. Castle Peak (incl. Nim Wan, Pak Nai)	Mike Chalmers
4. Northern N.T. (incl. San Tin)	Peter Stevens
5. Sek Kong/Tai Mo Shan	David Melville
6. Shing Mun	Wendy & Andrew Young
7. Lam Tsuen Valley	Verity Picken
8. Northeast N.T. (incl. Fanling, Luk Keng, Plover Cove)	Margaret & Malcolm Goude
9. Tai Po Kau	Anthony Tse
10. Tai Long (incl. Tolo Harbour)	Li Wai Ki
11. Sai Kung/Ho Chung	Richard Stott
12. Kowloon	C.Y. Lam
13. Hong Kong Island	Stewart Smith
14. Lamma Island	Jeremy Pearse
15. Cheung Chau	Martin Williams
16. Lantau Island	Roger Costin

Special appeal to urban dwellers : do submit a return even if it covers only a few common birds. Everything counts.

Note to leaders: Please advise C.Y. Lam if you are unable to take up this task.

1989 RECORD CARDS

All members are invited to submit details of sightings in Hong Kong on HKBWS Record Cards. These are obtainable from the Recorder, Mike Chalmers, and stocks are also maintained at the WWF Head Office at 1 Battery Path and the Mai Po Education Centre. Please return completed cards for 1989 to Mike Chalmers, c/o SWK, 1720 OCEAN CENTRE, KOWLOON BEFORE THE END JANUARY OF 1989. Records which are submitted late may not be included in the annual Report. Species for which written records must be submitted are listed in the Report. Data on other species is welcome, particularly on high counts, interesting behaviour or early/late dates for migrants. Records which revise the information published in the Annotated Checklist (1987) should also be submitted on record cards highlighting the aspect concerned, e.g. new late date.

Members and visitors are also encouraged to submit by telephone or letter interesting records for inclusion in the quarterly bulletin. Please note that these are also used, together with the data on the record cards, to write the monthly summaries published in the annual Report. Whilst the bulletins are provisional and contain unconfirmed records for information, the annual Report is the Society's main publication each year and every attempt is made to check the accuracy of the published data. If errors (e.g. wrong dates, places or numbers) or omissions are detected in the bulletins, please contact Mike Chalmers and advise him of the corrections or additions so that the monthly summaries can be amended prior to publishing in the annual Report.

FISHNETS IN DEEP BAY

Members will have noticed that there are at present no fishnets or sampans in Deep Bay. The Society would like to thank the Agriculture and Fisheries Department, the Political Advisor's Office, District Office, Yuen Long, District Lands Office, Yuen Long and the Royal Hong Kong Police for their help in making sure that Deep Bay remains attractive to birds.

THE DESTRUCTION OF HO SHEUNG HEUNG (Gavin Cooper)

A few weeks ago I took a couple of Australian visitors to the wood at Ho Sheung Heung. I was a little mystified at first by not being able to find the path into the wood as this had never before been a problem. After battling our way in we suddenly came down onto a road which had been cut right through the wood from one side to the other, that is from by the temple to the far side.

The road was unpaved but lit. I just could not believe my eyes - I never thought I would find a 'fung shui' wood in Hong Kong treated in this manner. My enquiries so far have only revealed that the road was built by Government and probably at the demand of the village as part of their protection from the Vietnamese refugees being housed at Lo Wu camp. The road leading to the camp has been totally fenced off so that access into the whole area is now very restricted. But just how the building of a road, which makes access so much easier, can help defend the villages from the ravages of the refugees is quite beyond me.

So I fear that this once magnificent piece of woodland is now lost to us all, and may their fung shui suffer accordingly. There will be no more Asian Emerald Cuckoos, no more Scarlet and Ashy Minivets, no more flycatchers, no more thrushes, no more Japanese Night Heron, there will, in a word, be pretty well no more of anything. What a disaster, how could it happen? We have to address ourselves, as a Society, to this kind of situation before it happens again. Just think of the buildings creeping ever closer to She Shan wood!

BOOK REVIEWS

'BIRD-WATCHING' (in Chinese) by Yen Chung-wei (C.Y. Lam)

This book is intended for beginners in Taiwan. An introductory section

(about 40 pages) gives useful information about birds in general and bird-watching in particular. The rest of the book, some 110 pages, is devoted to an illustrated guide to the common birds of Taiwan. There is a slant towards shorebirds and waders, probably because they are more easily seen.

The book has obviously given considerable thought to the needs of the beginner. Birds are grouped together not following the normal scientific order but rather according to their preferred habitat. This is a common sense approach which also makes things easier for beginners. Within each group, further sub-groups are identified and notes are given to differentiate between various species within each sub-group. The presentation is very systematic and 'decision trees' in diagrammatic form are given in the case of egrets and waders. This feature is very helpful to beginners who are further assisted by colour plates on some seventy pages. The colour plates are all of good quality, indeed surprisingly good considering that they are produced by an art student painting birds for the first time in his life!

I shall be quite happy to recommend this book to any Chinese-speaking beginners. But they must be forewarned that the names of the birds in this book are very different from those used in mainland China (and those appearing in Clive Viney's book which, by the way, is definitely not an authority on bird names in Chinese).

The listed price of the book is NT\$260. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the book may call C.Y. Lam at 3-7280534 before the end of January 1990. If sufficient interest is expressed, a bulk order may be organised.

BIRDS OF THE PHILIPPINES (Gavin Cooper)

There is a crying need for a fully comprehensive field guide to the avifauna of the Philippines but unfortunately this latest book does not come close to filling the bill. Du Pont's 'Philippine Birds', while comprehensive, is not suited for field work and is, in any case, too big and heavy to be toted around in that climate.

This new book, by Pedro Gonzales and Colin Rees, is the right size but covers too few birds. The authors accept some 557 species for the country but their book covers only 133. There is one bird illustration per page, with a descriptive caption so there is no attempt at scale. Too many common birds have been included rather than birds which would be difficult for the visitor to identify.

The birds are handily grouped under separate headings such as 'Marine and Shoreline Birds' and 'Grassland and Scrubland Birds' etc. There is also a section on the country's endangered species, one on the Haribon Foundation which holds the copyright, a short bibliography and a short list of locations for observing birds in the Philippines.

These six locations are well chosen as they are mostly easy to reach, however the inclusion of Mount Apo on Mindanao must be a trifle unfortunate as it is reported to be in rebel hands. Of the remaining five I have visited three and can recommend them while one of the remainder, the Candaba Swamp in Luzon is now, I understand, virtually destroyed.

From my point of view the best section in this book is a 'Checklist of the Birds of the Philippines' which divides the country into five main geographical areas i.e. Luzon, Mindanao, Palawan, the central islands and the Sulu Archipelago. The status of each species is given where it occurs in any of these areas. This is a most useful checklist for anyone birding in the Philippines although it will require constant up-dating, i.e. Sanderling is shown as not recorded from Palawan but I saw this species there in November 1988.

This book is expensive at US\$32 per softback copy but is possibly worth it for the checklist alone. If we have twenty or more orders then we can get a discount on a block purchase so anyone wanting a copy should telephone Janet Stott at 5-249938 and give their order.

MISS IDENTIFICATION

This long-awaited indoor meeting will finally take place on Tuesday, 27 February with Peter Stevens taking over the co-starring role. It will be held in the WWF Office, 1 Battery Path, Central at 1830h and the usual bar service will be provided. \$10 admission.

OVERSEAS BIRDING

Birding Bohol (Gavin Cooper)

During the dinner following this year's Big Bird Race I overheard Tim Fisher telling someone that he was planning a trip to Bohol with another old friend from Kuala Lumpur, Hugh Buck. I decided right away to get myself invited along and it was one of the best decisions I ever made.

The idea behind the visit was to find Steere's Pitta and if possible a Bleeding Heart Pigeon which had not previously been recorded from the island but, on a short visit the previous year, had been briefly glimpsed by Tim.

The trip was set for early May which is considered to be still in the 'dry' season, if there is such a thing in the Philippines. Bohol is a fairly small, round-shaped island set in the central Philippines just east of Cebu.

Using Dupont's 'Philippine Birds' I produced a list of all the birds shown to be recorded from Bohol at that time of year and this gave a list of over 150 species. Tim thought we would probably see something between 50 and 70 species. I flew down to Manila on the afternoon of Friday 5 May, was met by Tim and stayed at his home overnight.

We were up and out at 4 a.m. the next morning, drove to a small terminal near the domestic airport and met Hugh. We were flying down by a newly licenced domestic carrier. After weighing in our kit we had to weigh in ourselves. The scales handled me all right, sighed mightily when Tim stepped on and nearly broke down when Hugh got on! The plane was a small, twin-engined Beechcraft, one row of seats down either side of a central aisle, very comfortable but no toilets (so be warned). The flight left at 5.40 a.m.!

We arrived at Bohol (at Tagbilaran on the south-western corner) at about 7 a.m. and we were met by one of Hugh's men with a car and, after a quick breakfast of rice, pork adobo and San Mig., we set off for a little town in the centre of the island called Carmen. We checked into a small resort situated on the top of one of the 'Chocolate Hills' which dot the whole of the island's centre. These are usually small, about 100 plus feet high, and are so-called because for some unknown reason, while they are normally covered with long green grass, they turn brown in the afternoons.

We then back-tracked for about twenty minutes to arrive at the huge (8,000 hectares) reserve of Rajah Mitaluna. This was, until recently, thick with both NPA and the PPL army but both apparently have now left and the wardens are back in control. We signed the visitors book and the only recent name we recognised was that of David Bakewell who led the Stonechats to victory in the 1988 BBR.

We very quickly found the beautiful Winchell's Kingfisher on the road leading into the reserve. This road eventually passes through a tunnel into a large clearing from which paths lead into the forest. This had very steep sides and the paths were fairly overgrown so walking was not easy. The forest also has a reputation for being 'enchanted' so very few people go into it and therefore there is not much disturbance. We certainly found it to be a rather eerie place, especially at night and in the early mornings and a large white statue at one end only added to the strangeness of the place. We stayed in and around the forest until after dark seeing mostly fairly common birds but finishing off with a Long-tailed Nightjar as dusk fell. Owls were heard but not to be seen.

The next morning we were up at 4 a.m. and in the forest just before dawn which came very early. We claimed another nightjar, the Philippine Eared, and then Hugh found a Philippine Frogmouth which allowed us to get extremely close before moving off. We then had a long and rough walk into the forest but were first rewarded with many fine views of the normally shy Streaked Ground Babbler which came out into the open when Hugh unwittingly played its call. He had picked it up while trying to record something else. Thereafter we saw lots of them. We heard a woodpecker tapping and eventually there was a crashing through the branches and a White-bellied Black Woodpecker fell almost at our feet. It must have stunned itself and I was just wondering whether, under the circumstances, it was tickable, when it recovered and flew off. Later we were to see several of this species in one bare tree.

Then the great moment: Hugh got a movement in the corner of his eye, turned around and in an extremely calm and steady voice announced 'Steere's Pitta', gave precise directions and there was this large and very lovely bird up in a tree about 30 feet off the ground. It stayed there long enough for us all to get our fill. It was really worth all the walking, stumbling, stinging plants, poisonous insects etc. etc. which we had been experiencing and even the very heavy downpour which now descended on us.

We struggled on though and before the next, heavier and more prolonged rain hit us we had cleaned up the Brown Tit Babbler, Blue Fantail,

Tarictic Hornbill, Black-headed Tailorbird etc. etc. We were literally soaked to the skin and decided that a visit to the sari sari store down the road for refreshment was definitely in order. While having our sandwiches the rain really bucketed down and at one stage I thought the car was going to float away. But once it stopped it stopped for good and we had no more rain during the rest of the trip.

We spent the remainder of the day on the edge of the forest seeing such birds as Everett's White-eye, Philippine Fairy Bluebird, several bulbuls, the Rufous-tailed Jungle Flycatcher, two sunbirds and four flowerpeckers. We also got a lucky view of the endangered Philippine Cockatoo and I saw this again the following day. This species is mentioned in the latest edition of World Bird Watch as being 'in extreme danger of extinction'. We also had long views of a Hooded Pitta which calmly hopped down the trail in front of us. And again we stayed out late but still didn't get the owls.

Next day, trying even harder, we got up at 3 a.m. and were in the forest long before dawn. Then, just as we thought we'd got it made with the owls, the recorder went on the blink and we got no further with them. However, there were plenty of other birds such as a fine male Philippine Trogon, Blue-headed Racket-tailed Parrot, Philippine Hanging Parrot and many others.

But better than all that was when we decided to try a newly-found path in an attempt to get closer to the spot where we could hear Wattled Broadbills calling, which we had so far failed to see. After a very steep and slippery climb we had virtually decided that it was useless going any further when I decided to try a few more yards along one small path branching off from the main one. And there, suddenly, was this amazing bird, about twenty yards in front of me. As I sank to the ground it hopped up on a rock, raised its wings and then slowly pirouetted a few times. This was repeated and allowed me magnificent views. It was a male Bleeding Heart Pigeon displaying. Hell, I thought, I know I'm sexy but this is crazy!

I slipped back down the path and collected the other two and there we were, three grown men, crawling along on our bellies in the mud and the sludge watching this strange gyrating apparition. It was a fascinating sight and a fabulous moment. It was, as far as we knew, the first described specimen for Bohol. I went back alone later that day and found it again still in the same spot and calling its head off. The call could be heard at quite a distance. (We never did see the Broadbills).

On a second visit to the wardens' quarters we were shown a frogmouth actually sitting on its nest and that is a very peculiar sight I can tell you: this strange-looking bird sitting on what appears to be an overgrown acorn cup, with its bill up in the air and all the while being very, very still. They also showed us a map of the whole reserve from which could be seen that we had covered only one small corner. So, after getting directions and buying more beer, we drove right round to the other side and when we couldn't drive any further walked for several miles. Here we had Crimson-backed Woodpecker, Hooded Pitta calling, Pompadour Green Pigeon, Van Hasselt's Sunbird, Golden-headed Fantail Warbler, and Rufous-capped Canegrass Warbler, amongst many others.

From there we drove back towards Tagbilaran to spend the night at the very comfortable Bohol Beach Club. We arrived after dark so could do no birding but I was up at first light to check for Malaysian Plovers on the beach. These were not to be found but I was surprised to find there was still one Turnstone and one Grey-rumped Sandpiper hanging on. Later that morning, while on the hard-standing and boarding the plane, a Small Skylark flew down a few feet away and that was the end of the Bohol list. Including a few species seen in Manila we finished up with a list of 88 species. Of these 27 were new for me, despite this being my fifth birding trip to the country. Hugh got eight and Tim three. We also recorded no less than six species which were not shown in Dupont as occurring on the island. Altogether a marvellous experience and one I would recommend to any member to emulate. Oh, one last thing, I finally found out what a dawn is!!

FRASER'S HILL, MALAYSIA (John Holmes and Nigel Croft)

From 2nd to 9th September we did a Malaysian Airways 'Fly-drive'. Two nights at Kuala Lumpur and five nights at Fraser's Hill, which is an easy 100 km from the capital. Maps of Fraser's Hill are obtainable from the Information Centre there.

Most of our best bird sightings were at or near the rubbish tip, which is halfway down the road to a locally popular waterfall/picnic area. Species included Malayan Whistling Thrush, Blue Nuthatch, Red-bearded Bee-eater, Slaty-backed Forktail, Greater Yellownape, Fire-tufted Barbet and Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike. Apart from White-throated Fantail Flycatcher there were Rufous-browed, Hill Blue and Grey-headed Flycatchers about. Good views were had of Black Laughing Thrush, Streaked Spiderhunter, Racket-tailed Drongo and Streaked Wren-babblers. Birds common elsewhere in mixed flocks included Mountain Fulvetta (most common), Golden Babbler, Striped Tit-babbler, Silver-eared Mesia and Dark-necked Tailor Bird.

The road from Fraser's Hill leads down eight kilometres to a hill pass known as the Gap. There we added Green Magpie and Black-browed Barbet, as well as a couple of bulbuls. Kerbcrawling along the road below the Gap we picked up more species, including a variety of malkohas. Best of a good bunch was Orange-bellied Flowerpecker.

The Gap Rest House itself is recommended for its cold beer and views from the verandah of Great Eared Nightjar and Great Hornbill.

Generally the birds were more numerous than in South China woodland, and certainly more confiding. We got around 100 'ticks' during the week. Although we were able to vary altitude we did not vary habitat much in the time available. Despite the occasional need to be vigilant for leeches it was enjoyable birding and highly recommended.

A SHORT TIME IN MACAU (Gavin Cooper)

Over the past four years I have made several short trips to Macau so that my list for the enclave had reached a staggering 40 species or thereabouts but it included no waders.

My last visit, from the evening of 1st September to noon of the 3rd, saw me staying in the President Hotel with a room overlooking the sea and some reclaimed land. The most obvious birds were the Little Egrets which numbered sometimes as many as fifty. A closer look produced both Little Ringed and Kentish Plovers, Common Sandpiper and three Greater Sand Plovers before darkness fell.

I was back on the shore line early next morning; the same birds were around but one of the sand plovers was dead or dying on the mud and the tide was on the flood. There was no way I could get to it as to try walking on that mud could have been fatal to me as well! A Green Sandpiper had now also appeared and numbers generally had risen with all the birds being close in.

I then went over to Coloane Island and found a kind of nature trail in the centre near a place where there is a public aviary and a restaurant called, I believe the '1999', neither of which was open. It was a very hot morning but there were still plenty of birds about. Interestingly, a pair of White Wagtails were present and perhaps they breed there as they certainly do a little further north in Chung Shan county.

While there were good numbers of Crested and Red-vented Bulbuls I saw no Chinese. Also absent were Black-faced Laughing-thrushes although it was ideal territory for them. I later found one flock of these at Hac Sha where there is a good patch of rough ground behind the sports complex. There is also a very good restaurant here called 'Fernando's'. It is a MUST for any visitor to the island. Altogether I recorded almost 35 species with the best one being a Red-winged Crested Cuckoo. But that one appeared at about noon after I'd been in the sun awhile without a hat!

BEIDAIHE (Martin Williams)

With Professor Hsu Weishu, of Beijing Natural History Museum, and Geoff Carey, I co-lead a second Earthwatch expedition to Beidaihe this autumn. Geoff and I were at the town from 7 October to 16 November; over 30 birders of six nationalities came for varying periods during this time.

The Earthwatch survey was mostly concerned with passing migrants such as cranes, geese and Great Bustards. Our totals include 630 Red-crowned Cranes - the best yet in a season - and over one-third of the known world population 1,113 Oriental White Storks, 3,693 Common Cranes, 115 Hooded Cranes, 181 Siberian Cranes and 308 Great Bustards. Less impressive to watch were migrating Rooks, but with a total of 1,195 and the unidentified Rooks or Carrion Crows totalling 16,793, it again appears this species is far less abundant than in the 1940s, when 'cloud-like flocks of 10,000 or more' were a regular feature of late autumn.

Seven British birders - five staying four weeks, two staying five weeks - boosted records of birds present in the area. There were some impressive 'falls' (arrivals of songbirds): numbers included 68 Red-flanked Bluetails, 45 Dusky Warblers, 18 Raddes' Warblers and 395 Pallas's Warblers on 13 October; 210 Red-flanked Bluetails and 285 Pallas's Reed Buntings on 24 October; and 80 Red-flanked Bluetails, 148 Dusky Thrushes, 302 Rustic Buntings and 290 Yellow-throated Buntings on

27 October. Whether a fall, or winter birds arriving, at least 250 Mongolian Larks (irruption; not recorded at the town since 1940s) with 200 Eurasian Skylarks and 100 Lapland Buntings in fields south of town on our last day were great to watch.

In all, 226 species were recorded during the six weeks we spent at Beidaihe. New for the town list were Black-throated/Pacific Diver, Black-legged Kittiwake, Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo and Snowy-browed Nuthatch.

Michael Ounsted, Head of Developments of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, came for three days, during which he drafted and improved a plan for the proposed reserve and education centre, and gave a presentation on the plan and the work of the trust to local officials. Members of the Beidiahe Birdwatching Society standing council toured the proposed reserve area, and agreed to recommend that it be designated as a reserve: there should be few problems, apparently. The standing council also discussed ideas for holding 'Love the Birds Week' in Beidaihe: two weeks were proposed, one in May to coincide with the peak of spring migration and be suitable to schools, the other in August, when there are tens of thousands of tourists and autumn migration, especially of shorebirds, is getting underway.

A 20-page report on the survey, including annotated systematic list, is available from me, for HK\$20 including postage in Hong Kong (my address: 1/F 15 Siu Kwai Wan, Cheung Chau Island; tel. 5-9813523).

OUTING REPORTS

PING YEUNG - 10 September 1989 (Stewart Smith)

Ping Yeung is a winter place, and this was really too early, although I had some hope of flycatchers. Seven of us managed to flush out 37 species in three hours from 7 a.m. until the heat beat us. It was pretty much all commoner resident paddy species, but we did manage to find Hobby, Plaintive Cuckoo, Great Reed and Arctic Warblers and Black-naped Oriole and to finish with a Tricolour Flycatcher as our bird of the day. This last persuaded some that a bird we had had earlier was the same species. Richard Lewthwaite reported a possible Locustella sp. but failed to stamp on it, so it didn't count. Try again in December.

TAI PO KAU - 16 September 1989 (Richard Stott)

The weather was dull, with occasional glimpses of sun and with little wind. Six of us set out at 0705h from the old Tai Po Road to make our way around the Red Walk at Tai Po Kau. Having set off with high hopes, we found the first hour to be very, very quiet. Even the orange orchard could only manage a few bulbuls.

We scanned the skies from the dam area and were rewarded by the sight of a swirling mixed flock of minivets, with, as ever, their attendant Ashy Drongo. This splendid sight served to raise our spirits somewhat. Indeed, this was to be the pattern of the morning - long periods without the sight of a bird at all and then a frantic five minutes as a

small mixed species flock passed through. We saw about five such flocks during the morning, each with its own selection of attractive birds.

We walked from the dam to the picnic area (nothing) and on across the rustic bridge and up the slope on the other side. Turning left as we joined the Blue Walk, and a few hundred metres on we located Pekin Robin and Hwamei moving through long grass. We returned, listening for every movement. Suddenly a young cuckoo (Cuculus sp.) passed swiftly by, far too quickly to identify, but enough to get the adrenalin going.

Soon after there was another mixed flock - Yellow-browed Warblers, Yellow-cheeked Tits, Chinese Bulbuls and Long-tailed Tailorbirds. The Yellow-cheeked Tits were making their buzzing call and afforded good views.

There followed another lull. Then another flock, Great Tits and a Brown Flycatcher were the first birds seen. This was soon followed by excellent views of two Velvet-fronted Nuthatches, clearly identifiable by their red bills. Their upperparts were much brighter blue than the European Nuthatch and the underparts cleaner white. The Chestnut Bulbuls accompanying them were merely noted!

Not long before we got back to the Agriculture and Fisheries Department buildings, one more small flock. This one comprised Arctic Warbler and Asian Paradise Flycatcher as new species for the day. The final excitement, on the road back down to the cars was a White-bellied Yuhina as well as more Yellow-cheeked Tits and Arctic Warblers. Another cuckoo flashed across the road, but was largely obscured from view by nearby trees and so remained an enigma.

Finally it turned out to be an exciting morning, although had anyone been asked about our chances at 0830h a gloomy response would have been received. The total species count for the five hours we were there, was 27.

LAM TSUEN VALLEY - 24 September 1989 (Wendy Young)

Eleven of us assembled at the Chung Uk Tsuen car park at the allotted time only to have the police contingent called away on official business. However, we set off along the road and into the scrub and although it was quite a slow start we managed to clock up a respectable 47 species during the course of the day.

Highlights of the morning were a flock of seven Black Baza seen way up high over the ridge of Tai To Yau soaring in typical baza style, a Serpent Eagle, again at quite a distance, and later an excellent view of a Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike spotted by Mark Nunns (to the astonishment of the Chairman). We also had good views of several Treepies and, after much dodging about, most of us managed to get onto both Brown and Tricolour Flycatchers.

The biggest surprise of the day was when we all turned down a beer at the beer stall and opted for lemon tea instead! Apart from that it was a pleasant day made more exciting by the fact that the Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike was a new bird for me.

TAI MEI TUK/TING KOK - 30 September 1989 (John Burton)

The advance publicity for this expedition notified a waiting world that John 'the Hunk' (Hulk ?) Holmes was to lead this outing but duty commitments dictated a last minute substitution and it was the Local Squire Nigel Croft who undertook to pilot the five other members who turned up at 0730h in the morning.

The weather was not promising. Very blustery, the overture to Severe Tropical Storm Brian, which eventually succeeded in ruining everyone's weekend.

The Ting Kok area offers an almost unrivalled mix of habitat and birds - on a good day. On an off day it can be a bit of a disaster particularly if to add to - or should I say illustrate - the bad omens, the following catalogue of woes is considered:

- a) The tide was up - cancel the shore birds
- b) The grass had grown - short-cuts gone for a Croft
- c) Workmen were digging up the road, the fields, the foreshore and anything else a jack-hammer could destroy so cancel everything except the maniacs on rented bikes
- d) The recorder's recorder recorded not

But, dear readers, all was not total doom and gloom. Despite the malevolent conspiracy of events, Croft's little band not only did not throttle Croft we got our advanced level jungle hacking-cum-survival badge. We also saw some birds.

In keeping with the auspices of the day, our first twitch prompted squire Croft to intone 'sounds like a sunbird'. And sure enough C.Y. Lam located and pointed it out to the rest of us - cunningly disguised as a Brown Flycatcher! - first of the season for us all.

The common and widespread IBJs popped up in the course of the circuit. There were some unexpected absentees including all the local specials that had prompted the choice of venue in the first place. In all 33 species were on parade, including the bird of the day, a solitary Black Baza patiently perched for a good 30 minutes, albeit a good way off.

The lesson to be learned is that this area is best visited to coincide with an early morning low tide and when the weather is more settled. Poor old Nigel didn't have a chance of pointing out the very good numbers of birds that this varied mix of habitats produces - especially since we spent half of our trip up to our ears in secondary jungle.

TSIM BEI TSUI - 1 October 1989 (John Holmes)

Having 'swapped' outing leadership duties for the weekend with Nigel Croft I drove to the Fence with some trepidation. My first outing as 'leader'. Would I be questioned on little brown jobs and my ignorance thus exposed?

I had checked the area three times earlier in the week (being stationed at Yuen Long has some advantages) but seen very few waders. Arriving

early for the 0900h rendezvous I drove to the end of the Fence to look for drained ponds the birds might be driven on to. There were none!

Marsh Harriers and Black-capped Kingfishers had arrived for the winter. An Osprey took a fish from the pond at the end of the Fence. Returning to the car park I passed A.N. Other who had set off by himself down the road, obviously hastened by the already high tide.

By 0845 hours I was ready to greet members of the Nigel Croft Fan Club. I waited for forty-five minutes - but no-one showed up.

TAI PO KAU - 21 October 1989 (John Burton)

This was the very first time that I had been called upon to lead a Society outing and very mixed feelings I had about it. I scouted the ground the previous week and enlisted the support of Peter Stevens, an acknowledged TPK expert, to help out. On the day I had hoped that a small group of enthusiastic new members might turn up for my debut, enabling me to bluff my way along if the birds failed to appear. In the event a party of nine, all Tai Po Kau experts turned up. We were also honoured by the attendance of Bruce the nutty Weimararner.

Nothing of note in the car park and not too much activity on the lower stretches of the road. The forest living up to its reputation. The first real highlight was an immature Orange-bellied Leafbird which obligingly sat still for at least ten minutes and treated us to a whole repertoire of faultless imitations including the call of the Crested Goshawk which had the whole party scanning the valley before the penny dropped.

The combined effects of Bruce and other canines and of a stream of traffic, hurried us up the road to the picnic area. Here the group split, half taking the Red Walk, half the Brown and the rest the Blue. A mixed flock of minivets was eventually diagnosed as containing the Scarlet, Grey-throated and Ashy varieties. Is this a first-time record of all three together? An Ashy Dongo hawked insects from the top of a Monkey-puzzle tree, well seen by all. Flycatcher alley failed to live up to its reputation, but the picnic area gave the Red Walk group magnificent views of Yellow-cheeked Tits, and for one of our number, Wendy Young, a brief but confident view of the White-bellied Yuhina. The upper part of the Red Walk yielded almost nothing save some unidentified bunting squeaks, a flight call that could have been a Serpent Eagle (anyway we did see a small snake just about that time!) and one or two small groups of White-eyes and bulbuls. All very quiet.

Towards the end of the morning down a side track near some houses, we found ourselves in the midst of a mixed flock which contained at least three Yellow-browed Warblers and the bird of the day, an Asian Paradise Flycatcher. A splinter group, now including Richard Lewthwaite, were directed onto this flock which had by now been joined by Yellow-bellied Tits, a life tick for John Holmes. The outing ended by drinking dry the beer stock in the store by the car park and it was perhaps the liquid refreshments which explain the final species count 'agreed' on - 35 in all.

LEADERLESS IN LUK KENG - 28 October 1989 (P.R. Stevens)

The bulletin said 'Luk Keng, 0730 hours, Paul Leader - Paddy Bash'. So

I turned up with my wellies and shillelagh (shill-ay-lee for the non-Gaelic speakers out there) looking for an Irishman to thump, and what did I find? - nothing. Am I in the right place? Is Paul Leader Irish? Has Gavin taken over the trip? Any of which could explain why nobody else was there.

I headed off up the road anyway and was shortly joined by a couple of others who had also read the bulletin, neither of whom was called Paul Leader. We quickly decided that a sweep line of three abreast at Luk Keng was somewhat optimistic, so decided to do the normal circuit, across the paddy via the path, up through the fung shui woods at the back of Luk Keng, over to Nam Chung and back along the road. Our first sighting was of a very active Red-breasted Flycatcher, churring away in the bottom of a bush. Our second was of a very flustered Chairman, also churring away in the bottom of a bush, doing his Livingstone/Stanley imitations and muttering something like 'There used to be a path here' as he tried to catch up with us. We then had a pleasant walk around Nam Chung, didn't see anything of particular interest, and retired to Luk Keng for the customary beer and noodles.

TSIM BEI TSUI - 29 October 1989 (Stewart Smith)

This could get a bit metaphysical. I prefer birding alone; Donald and Shirley Lee, visiting HKU for six months, weren't keen on an outing either and took a lift with me as a convenient means of getting to Deep Bay. No one else turned up, so an arguable case can be made that there was no outing at all. (I was later told that the previous day's Luk Keng outing had been postponed a day: I hope they got all the trippers).

I'd insisted that we'd be far better off starting at 0700h rather than the advertised 0800h and so it proved. We had a jolly hour with much regular stuff and, to add spice, a Peregrine as almost our first bird. Buzzard and Bonelli's Eagle gave us five raptors by the time the others didn't appear. With three Marsh Harriers later this was six for the day - I tried to conjure a juvenile Imperial Eagle out of unlikely material (I won't say what) but evening reflection told me I was being silly. Donald had picked up both the Peregrine and the Buzzard, and Shirley compounded my inadequacies by finding a small party of nine Black-tailed Hawfinches as well.

Quite a lot of Teal and small numbers of other duck but very few waders - 10 species, only about 40 birds - with more out over the bay, where I at least can't see. A small party of Black-headed Gulls (assumed rather than 100% identified) contained three terns sp. Lingering Von Schrenck's Reed Warbler and the first Olive-backed Pipits of the winter for me. A drained pond just beyond the new bridge had Chinese Greenfinch on the wires and what was, to the great astonishment of my companions, a Hong Kong tick for me - three European Starlings.

Back at the car park I reported 'nothing much' to Malcolm and Margaret Goude, who clearly lie long abed on Sundays, but in fact it had been one of those most enjoyable mornings to take Hong Kong newcomers along Deep Bay. 67 species plus two ?s.

(P.S. We got lost on the way back)

TAI LONG WAN - 4 November 1989 (John Edge and Gavin Cooper)

Nine people turned up for this outing, on an unseasonably humid day. Two other Society members, who made their own way, were also on the ferry, but for completeness their sightings are included in the day's total. The group scattered pretty quickly on arrival at Chek Keng and a lot of ground was therefore covered.

Fifty-six species were recorded on an unremarkable but pleasant day, plus one cuckoo sp. and, if one is really trying to push up the numbers, a Feral Pigeon! Noteworthy birds were Northern Sparrowhawk, Crested Goshawk, at least two splendid White-bellied Sea Eagles, a male Daurian Redstart, Red-breasted Flycatcher and two Jays. A Spotted Scrub Warbler Bradypterus thoracicus, new for the area, was heard calling on the slopes of Tai Mun Shan near the 'saddle', where a Kestrel was seen persistently mobbing a Black Kite.

We felt the total was reasonable for an autumn outing, and were not expecting to see that much, the autumn passage being virtually over and it being a little early for some winter visitors. The outing was planned with cool weather in mind; we got the sun in due course, but it was very humid. Sensible people went swimming!

For me the star of the day was a butterfly, Precis orythia or Blue Pansy (oh dear) which was a superb combination of cream, black and ultramarine with two vivid purple 'eyes' in the wings.

MAI PO - 12 November 1989 (Mike Chalmers)

A leisurely stroll in fine weather along the fence past the Rocky Outcrop produced a wide selection of Mai-Po's winter visitors including 39 Black-faced Spoonbills, two Spotted Eagles and five Tufted Duck. An Australian Curlew was also seen in flight. A patient wait in the boardwalk hide for the tide to recede did not result in seeing the Spoon-billed Sandpiper which had been there the day before. However, excellent views were obtained of Ospreys, Saunders' Gulls and other small waders. A new record was also set for the maximum number of people in the boardwalk hide at the same time!

TAI PO KAU - 18 November 1989 (P.R. Stevens)

Surprisingly only four of us started out from the car park on a lovely morning. We were shortly joined by the Chairman (GC) who looked as if he had just flown in from frolicking in Phuket (I think that's how it's spelt!), being resplendent in red bad-taste shorts and brilliant white T-shirt. Just the thing for attracting thrushes.

We also met a UK visitor who joined us at the dam who, despite being exposed to our normal repartee, chose to join us for the rest of the morning. He turned out to be an excellent birder who runs his own birding holiday business from the UK and was here checking on hotels and sites for a trip next year. With the help of his recorder we pulled out the originator of the soft 'cheeps' that we had been hearing all morning - it turned out to be a Red-tailed Robin. There must have been up to a dozen or so heard during the morning.

We did the Red Walk and some of the Blue, in two groups, and met at the picnic area at about 11 a.m., at which time somebody mentioned a certain cold, amber liquid and GCHC, myself, Owen and Andrew Young sprinted for the stall at the car park. Wendy, however, hung back with the visitor. Just as we had decided that it must be the dimensions of his telescope that interested her, they arrived flushed with success. Andrew looked decidedly troubled until Wendy told him that she'd just had a Blyth's. Knowing that our visitor was called Dave, this came as a great relief!

We then retired to Chez Stevens for cold beer and home-made pizza - look what you all missed!

HOK TAU - 3 December 1989 (Gavin Cooper and John Edge)

At least 40 people turned up at the starting-point, an amazingly large number even allowing for the curry lunch at the Police Tactical Unit to follow. It was just as well that there were two leaders - Gavin had earlier warned me that he might not be able to turn up, owing to the late finish of his night-shift, but I am glad he materialised.

It was impossible for so many people to troop single-file around the Sha Lo Tung circuit and hope to see many birds, so at least two groups formed, much the larger one led by Gavin and the smaller one by me. Walking in opposite directions around the circuit, we met up again at Cheung Uk, where many people had fine views of a Barred Owlet in the wood behind the village; this bird is now regularly seen in the area.

With so many people in the field, the only way to collate all the records was to pin people down before or during lunch. The following were the most interesting species of the 54 recorded from Hok Tau: Bonelli's Eagle (1), Crested Goshawk (1), Chestnut Bulbul, Greater Necklaced Laughing Thrush, many Red-flanked Bluetails, Verditer, Grey-headed and Robin Flycatchers, Fire-breasted Flowerpecker (superb views of this one), several Treepies, four species of bunting, including Chestnut and Yellow-breasted, Red-tailed Robin and Short-tailed Bush Warbler. Mountain Bush Warblers Cettia fortipes were well seen by some and views were also obtained of the famous 'zeebit' bird, Bradypterus sp.; this bird did not have a streaked throat, which casts doubt on our previous identifications of Spotted Scrub Warbler Bradypterus thoracicus - watch this space.

A posse of police broke off early on to scour the Ping Yeung area and they reported Richard's Pipit, Bluethroat and a Hoopoe; this last bird had apparently been there for a week. The only addition during lunch was a nice one - a Peregrine Falcon. The lunch was, as in the last two years, a great success and our thanks are due to all involved in setting it up; it is a shame that the venue will not be available next year. The weather was perfect and the scenery splendid - altogether a successful outing.

REPORT ON THE BIRDS (Mike Chalmers)
1 September to 30 November 1989

September

Wader netting at Mai Po on 1st/2nd produced a female Ruff (the first caught at Mai Po) and a control of a Grey-rumped Sandpiper first ringed in northwest Australia in March 1988 (DSM). On 3rd at least one Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, an Eastern Crowned Warbler, a pair of Hainan Blue Flycatchers and four Yellow-cheeked Tits were located at Tai Po Kau whilst an early Black-tailed Hawfinch and 33 Grey-rumped Sandpipers were reported at Mai Po (PRK). On 5th one Tricolour and up to six Asian Paradise Flycatchers were recorded at Tai Po Kau. Passage of flycatchers (Tricolour, Brown, Grey-streaked, Asian Paradise and Japanese Paradise) and warblers (Arctic and Pale-legged) continued throughout the month and into early October with widespread sightings. Particularly high numbers of Arctic Warblers were noted at Mount Davis on 23rd when up to 40 were reported (PRK). On 10th many of the Arctic Warblers at Tai Po Kau were considered to be of race xanthodryas (Swinhoe's Warbler) (PRK). One Yellow-cheeked Tit and up to ten White-bellied Yuhinas were also seen there the same day (CAV). There were several other records of Eastern Crowned Warblers including single birds at Mount Nicholson on 6th (CAV), Tai Po Kau on 15th, the Chinese University on 16th (MT, RWL) and Mount Butler on 22nd (TRC).

On 9th two Sooty Flycatchers were recorded at Mount Nicholson (CAV) and a Brown Shrike was reported at Mount Davis (PRK). The next day two Red-necked Phalaropes were seen at Shelter Cove (ARL). On 13th a Red-tailed Minla (Category D/E) and a Yellow-cheeked Tit were found at Mount Nicholson (CAV) while on 14th a Forest Wagtail was sighted at Tai Po Kau and on 16th up to three Velvet-fronted Nuthatches were estimated to be present there (RDES). The same day a Northern Sparrowhawk was recorded at Mount Davis and on 17th six Black-throated Laughing Thrushes were seen there (PRK). Single Sooty Flycatchers were reported from Tai Po Kau on 15th and 18th (MT, RWL) and around this time two Red-headed Tits were also located there (NJGC). Waders at Mai Po on 17th included six Broad-billed Sandpipers and a Red-necked Phalarope (PRK). An adult Brahminy Kite was also present on the marshes (ARL). On 19th a roosting flock of 21 Black Bazas was observed at Sek Kong Catchwater (GCHC) followed on 22nd by a flock of 30 Black Bazas at Brides' Pool (RWL). A Hoopoe was reported at Pokfulam on the same day (JB). The next day a Horsfield's Goshawk was reported at Mount Nicholson (CAV) and another Hoopoe was reported at Mong Tseng (RWL, MT). The rarity of the month was found at Pokfulam on 24th - an immature Pied Wheater - the first for Hong Kong (SPS et al.). This bird was also seen the next day in the same locality. Also on 24th a Wryneck was recorded at Mount Nicholson (CAV) and four Vinous-throated Parrotbills were located at Tai Mo Shan (RWL). On 26th a Yellow-legged Button Quail was reported at Tai Mo Shan and up to two Broad-billed Rollers were seen on Route Twisk in the last week of the month and into early November (GCHC). On 30th two Ashy Drongos, four Silver-eared Mesias and a Black-winged Cuckoo Shrike were recorded at Mount Davis (PRK) and a Black Baza was seen at Ting Kok (NC).

October

On 1st three Purple-backed Starlings and an Imperial Eagle were noted at Mai Po (PRK) and a Red-headed Tit and Tricolour Flycatcher were observed at Cheung Chau (MDW). On 3rd a Broad-billed Roller was seen at Tai Po Kau (NSG) and the next day 16 Black-naped Orioles were recorded on Tai Mo Shan (JH). On 5th two Ashy Minivets were reported at Pak Nai (WY), at least eight Purple-backed Starlings at Mai Po (WY, SO'B), single Forest Wagtails at Sek Kong and Lam Tsuen (RWL), and a Hobby, Black-winged Cuckoo Shrike, Brown Shrike, Wryneck and at least 12 Black-naped Orioles at Mount Davis (PRK). Heavy passage of Arctic Warblers and Black Drongos occurred at this time, with about 150 of the latter at Mount Davis on 5th. On 6th a leaf warbler trapped at Kadoorie Farm was identified as a Two-barred Greenish Warbler (PL). The first of several Japanese Sparrowhawks was reported on 6th, a Woodcock was found in Tai Po Kau (NSG) and over 14 Silver-eared Mesias were noted on the Peak (WY, SO'B). Another Hoopoe appeared on 7th, this time at Sai Kung, and one Chestnut and nine Yellow-breasted Buntings were recorded at Mai Po. Numbers of ducks and Cormorants increased sharply around this time and large numbers of other winter visitors such as Stonechats, Rubythroats, White Wagtails and Dusky Warblers arrived in early October. Around mid-month a Hoopoe (again) and a Northern Goshawk were recorded at Mai Po at the new Captive Waterfowl Collection (ML). This new facility has proved very popular with wild duck who are attracted by the presence of the pinioned stock. Three Ashy Minivets were seen at Sek Kong Catchment on 12th (GCHC). All three regular snipe species were noted at Lok Ma Chau on 20th and two Japanese Quail were observed near Lau Fau Shan the same day (RWL). Interesting reports from Sek Kong Catchwater during the month included at least two Japanese Sparrowhawks, up to two Grey-headed Flycatchers, a Black-naped Monarch Flycatcher and up to five Greater-necklaced Laughing Thrushes (GCHC). Three Common Rosefinches were also seen there on 13th (GCHC). On 21st a mixed flock of about 60 minivets (Scarlet, Grey-throated and two Ashy) was seen at Tai Po Kau as well as two Yellow-cheeked Tits, three Yellow-bellied Tits and a probable Mountain Hawk Eagle (PRS, RWL). On 22nd Mount Davis produced another first for Hong Kong - a Pallas's Rosefinch (RWL, MT). Discussions continue on the status of this bird, which remained in the area for several days. On 26th four Blue-tailed Bee-eaters were observed at Mai Po, a Northern Goshawk and Eastern Crowned Warbler were seen at Tai Po Kau (RWL) and a Grey-headed Flycatcher was noted in the ZBG (NSG). On the same day a dead Barred Button Quail was found at the bottom of Mount Stenhouse on Lamma Island. On 27th a female Bull-headed Shrike was seen near the Chinese University and was still there the next day (RWL). Also on 28th a Japanese Nightjar and two Black-naped Monarch Flycatchers were found at Tai Mei Tuk (MB, DT, RWL), a Verditer Flycatcher was seen at Pak Nai (RWL) and three European Starlings were present at Tsim Bei Tsui (SPS).

November

A Woodcock was picked up injured at Jubilee Sports Centre on 3rd (UD). The next day at least three Velvet-fronted Nuthatches and an Ashy Minivet were still present at Sai Po Kau (MT) while on 5th five Red-breasted Flycatchers and a Wryneck were found at Lam Tsuen (JEB, PRS). Rufous-necked Scimitar Babblers were heard from Carolina Gardens (the Peak) around this time (VBP, WY). On 11th a Spoon-billed Sandpiper was seen at close quarters from the boardwalk hide at Mai Po

(MT) - this was a new late date for this species which is very scarce in autumn. Other records at Mai Po the same day included a Ruff, a Great Knot, 12 Broad-billed Sandpipers, ten Saunders' Gulls, two Tufted Duck, 43 Black-faced Spoonbills and a Pheasant-tailed Jacana (MT, DSM). The next day a Red-necked Stint, Australian Curlew and five Tufted Duck were seen there (MLC) and the first of scattered Robin Flycatchers was reported from Lam Tsuen (VBP). On 8th two Water Pipits were noted at Lok Ma Chau (WY) and three Grey Bushchats were found at Junk Bay on 9th (DSM). On 12th several 'zeebit' Bradypterus warblers were heard and a Yellow-bellied Tit seen at Hok Tau (CAV). On 18th a Blyth's Leaf Warbler was found at Tai Po Kau (WY), a Pheasant-tailed Jacana at Lok Mau Chau (MT) and two more 'zeebits' at Chek Keng/Tai Long (NJGC). A Short-tailed Bush Warbler was netted at the unusual location of Mai Po on 19th (DSM). On 24th several Eye-browed Thrushes and a Northern Goshawk were reported at Tai Po Kau (MT). On 25th the Spoon-billed Sandpiper and the Ruff were seen again at Mai Po while numbers of Saunders' Gulls and Tufted Duck had risen to over 20 and 17 respectively. Two flocks of thrushes were heard migrating over Mai Po on the night of 25th (DSM, PL). Two Great Crested Grebes were seen at Tsim Bei Tsui on 26th. A Peregrine, which had resided in the Causeway Bay area since August, was seen to have taken a budgerigar (JSRE). Two Hoopoes were reported from Lamma (JP) and one from Ping Yeung (off the Shau Tau Kok Road) (NJGC). A wild Mandarin Duck and Scaup appeared with the captive birds at Mai Po (ML). The month ended with a report of a Ringed Plover from North Lantau on 30th (RH).

STOP PRESS

Several Mountain Bush Warblers and Robin Flycatchers and many Red-flanked Bluetails seen on 2nd/3rd December. One Yellow-eyed Flycatcher Warbler at Tai Po Kau on 2nd (SPS) and one Yellow-browed Warbler of central Asian race humei (first for Hong Kong) ringed at Kadoorie Farm the same day (PL).

Also one Bohemian Waxwing (second for Hong Kong) was found with a large flock of Grey-backed, Grey and Pale Thrushes at Mount Davis on 3rd (PRK).

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LEADER</u>	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
31 December Sunday	CHRISTMAS COUNT		
6 January Saturday	Roger Costin	Tai Po Kau Meet: car park	0730
7 January Sunday	Richard Stott C.Y. Lam	Mai Po Meet: car park Bi-lingual	1400
26 January Friday	Nigel Croft)	Ting Kok Road Meet : Tai Mei Tuk Visitors' Centre	0730

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LEADER</u>	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
4 February Sunday	Li Wai-ki Gavin Cooper	Tsim Bei Tsui* COMPLETE ENCLOSED FORM Bi-lingual	1400 - 1800
10 February Saturday	John Edge	Tai Po Kau Meet: car park	0730
24 February Saturday	Gavin Cooper	Sek Kong Catchment Meet: Sek Kong village hall	0730
27 February Tuesday	MISS IDENTIFICATION - WWF OFFICE (talk by Gavin Cooper and Peter Stevens)		1830
4 March Sunday	Mike Chalmers	Mai Po Meet: car park	1400
11 March Sunday	Anthony Tse Peter Stevens	Lam Tsuen Valley Meet: Chung Uk Tsuen car park Bi-lingual	0700
18 March Sunday	Richard Stott	Mai Po Meet: car park	1100
24 March Saturday	Mike Bishop	Luk Keng/Nam Chung# Meet: Luk Keng car park	0730
27 March Tuesday	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING		
15 April Sunday	C.Y. Lam	Mai Po* COMPLETE ENCLOSED FORM Bi-lingual	0930-1700

* A coach will collect members from Kowloon Tong KCR one hour before assembly time and will return them there at the end of the outing. Please return the form at the end of this bulletin with a cheque for \$30 made out to the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society if you wish to use the coach.

Wellington boots and/or long trousers are recommended for swamp wading.



THE HONG KONG BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY

Please reply to:— P. O. Box 12460,
G. P. O.,
Hong Kong.

December 1989

Dear Member,

1990 SUBSCRIPTIONS

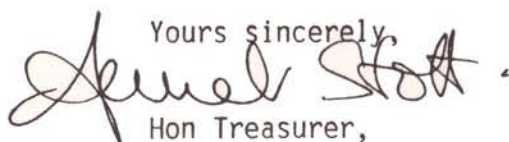
Subscriptions for 1989 fall due on 1 January and the Society would appreciate prompt payment. Revised rates, as approved at the Society's AGM on 4 April 1989, are as follows:

Ordinary/Family Member	HK\$150
Corporate Member	HK\$250
Student Member (under 21)	HK\$ 25
Overseas Member	US\$ 20 or HK\$160

Surcharge for those requiring English AND Chinese bulletins	HK\$ 20
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Those who have already paid, or who joined the Society since 30 September 1989 and paid the revised subscription rates, may of course disregard this request.

Please make your remittances payable to the Society and send them to the above address as soon as possible, using the slip below. Please note it is illegal to send cash through the mail.

Yours sincerely,

Hon Treasurer,
HKBWS

I/We enclose my/our remittance for HK\$/US\$ _____ in payment of my/our
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Telephone: Home: _____ Office: _____ ID No: _____

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Signed: _____