



香港觀鳥會
THE HONG KONG BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY
GPO BOX 12460, HONG KONG. 香港郵政總局信箱12460號

BULLETIN NO. 149

SEPTEMBER 1993

Society News

Curry Lunch

The Curry Lunch will be held on **Sunday December 5th** after the annual Hok Tau outing at the **New Territories Depot, Fanling**. Payment can be made on the day. A cash bar will be available. Send off the booking form at the end of the Bulletin to reserve your place.

Membership List

A full list of members and telephone numbers is included with this Bulletin. Any changes in address or telephone number should be notified to **Janet Stott, 5A, Branksome, 3 Tregunter Path, Hong Kong**

Volunteers

After the plea in the last bulletin, **Helen Bennet** generously offered to help with the typing. The editor is extremely grateful as it makes putting the bulletin together so much easier. Any other offers of help would be most welcome to spread the load in busy months. Contact Liz Leven if you can help.

All contributions to the December Bulletin should be sent to Liz Leven, 1-3 Unicorn Gardens, 11 Shouson Hill Road East, Hong Kong by November 15th. Many Thanks.

The committee members are listed below. The next committee meeting will be in early October. If any member wishes a matter raised, please contact one of the committee members.

Richard Stott Chairman
David Carrier Secretary
Mike Chalmers Recorder
Liz Leven Bulletin Editor
(English)
Li Wai-ki Librarian
Ian Tyzzer Hide Project

C Y Lam Vice Chairman
Janet Stott Treasurer
David Melville WWF Liason
M M Chan Bulletin Editor
(Chinese)
Geoff Carey Annual Report
Ng Cho-nam Conservation

The Bird Hotline Number is

Paul Leader c/o McKenna and Co. 36/F Gloucester Tower, The Landmark, Central, Hong Kong.

Record cards should be sent to

Conservation Officer

The constitution was amended at the 1992 AGM to include, as one of the aims of the Society the promotion of "...the conservation of birds and their habitats in Hong Kong and Asia". The Committee has been searching for a suitable member to take up the task of promoting conservation, and **Ng Cho-nam has agreed to be the Society's Conservation Officer**. He is an active birdwatcher, and has many contacts both in Hong Kong and China. Ng Cho-nam has been co-opted onto the Committee, and should members have any comments or queries about conservation matters, please contact him on 5690755

Letter Campaign

At this year's AGM it was agreed that the Society should encourage a letter writing campaign on behalf of **Black-faced Spoonbill and Saunders' Gull**. At the back of this Bulletin there are three specimen letters, one regarding the proposed development of the Tsen Wen Estuary in Taiwan (where over 200 Black-faced Spoonbills winter), and two regarding the loss of breeding habitat of Saunders Gull in north east China. The letters are addressed, **all you have to do is sign and date them, write the envelopes and post them**. Very easy, and hopefully very effective!!

國際保護鳥類委員會香港分部

HONG KONG SECTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR BIRD PRESERVATION

PRINTED ON RE-CYCLED PAPER

Mai Po Update

Ramsar

At the fifth meeting of the Ramsar Convention in Kushiro, Japan this June, it was announced by the United Kingdom delegation that Mai Po and Deep Bay could be considered suitable for declaration as a Ramsar site, and that an internal Hong Kong Government committee has already been set up to look into the feasibility of this. This committee is chaired by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department, and will report by the end of this year. If successful, it is hoped that the declaration can be made before the end of 1994.

Members of the HKBWS and WWF Hong Kong have been pressing the Hong Kong Government for 14 years for Mai Po and Deep Bay to be formally recognized as a wetland of international importance, and will continue to help the Government with the Ramsar designation process whenever it is required.

WWF Members' Boardwalk Visits

The boardwalk will be busy for three days this autumn, when guided visits will be arranged for WWF members on the mornings of **31 October**, and **14 and 18 November**. WWF will try to give advance warning to the HKBWS of such visits so that the floating hide will not become too crowded.

Mangrove Workshop

There will be a lot of activity at Mai Po between the 5th and 18th September, when an international workshop will be held for some of the world's top mangrove ecologists and local academics and students. They will be working in the mangroves on either side of the floating boardwalk, and also at the back of the Education Centre. It is hoped that their results will help WWF Hong Kong in the future management of the Mai Po mangroves.

Standard Chartered Donation

The Standard Chartered Equitor Trustees have generously donated HK\$300,000 to cover the costs of visits by disabled groups to Mai Po, and also for improving the facilities at the reserve to make their visits more pleasant. This will mainly involve repairing and widening the concrete footpath between the AFD Nature Warden's hut and the Education Centre, and building a new concrete footpath from the back of the Education

Centre to the landward end of gei wais 18 and 19, where it will join up with an existing footpath. We hope work will begin in late autumn.

Old Bins and Telescopes

WWF can make good use of your old optical equipment, either for rental at Mai Po or for researchers in China. Please hand them in at the **Mai Po Shop** or at the **WWF Offices**, 1 Tramway Path, Central

Mangrove Weeding

Volunteers are needed to help remove mangrove seedlings from in front of the boardwalk hide. Contact **Lew Young** on . If you **don't help don't complain when you can't see the birds for the mangroves!!!**

Winter Waterfowl Counts

This November will again see the beginning of monthly waterfowl counts in Deep Bay. With the proposal to dredge the Shenzhen River and the probable initiation in the near future of an environmental impact assessment on the effects of this work on the ecology of the Bay, the counts this year take on an added significance. Indeed, although counts will continue until March, they may well be extended for a whole year. Anyone who did not take part in last year's counts, but who would like to participate this winter, please contact **Geoff Carey**. It does not matter if you can only do one month, the more people involved, the more the task can be shared out.

Japanese Gull Guide

A few extra copies were ordered, so if you did not return the order form in the last Bulletin, but would like a copy of this book, contact **Janet Stott** now!

Christmas Count

The 1993 Christmas Count will be held on **Monday, December 27th**. **Ian Tyzzer** is again organising the count so if you want to get involved contact him on

Big Bird Race 1994

The Big Bird Race next year will be held on **15-16th April**, so keep these dates free!!

Breeding Birds Survey

The first summer's survey period is now over and all observers should send in their results to Mike Chalmers (address below) as soon as possible. If you have been responsible for one or more 5km squares, please copy your log sheets (2 sides) and send in the original whilst retaining the copy for your own reference. Please ensure all information is completed. To assist checking please cross out (X) all 1km squares which contain water and mark (O) those you have not surveyed at the head of first log sheet as follows:

A					B
X	2	3	4	5	1

Although the coverage appears to have been quite high this year, the survey will be continued next year to increase coverage. This will be done by allocating observers new squares as well as asking them to check/upgrade their squares for this year. Please indicate on your returned logs your first and second choice of new 5km squares, if you wish to continue, to assist reallocation.

It is hoped to publish sample results with the December Bulletin to whet appetites for next year, and to identify areas requiring further study. The squares with the highest number of species will also be identified, as will Hong Kong's most widespread species. What do you think they are? Apart from the two common bulbuls, it appears they could be Yellow-bellied Prinia and Long-tailed Tailorbird. On the rarities front the survey has revealed many species including Crested Kingfisher, Brown Fish Owl, Painted Snipe, Roseate, Black-naped and Bridled Terns. Other surprises have included widespread records of Black Bazas, White Wagtail and Richards (Chinese) Pipits, a scattering of Silver-eared Mesias and Rufous-necked Scimitar Babblers and a paucity of Upland Pipits and Crested Buntings.

Correction/Addendum The list of observers and 5km squares published in the last bulletin omitted the following:

29	Yuen Long	H F Cheung
30	Sek Kong	G C H Cooper
31	Lam Tsuen Valley	M L Chalmers

Address for return of logs **M L Chalmers, 1 Fairview Villa, 52 Ma Lok Path, Kau To Shan, Shatin, Hong Kong**

Colour-flagged Wader Sightings in Hong Kong Northbound Migration 1993- A Roundup

(Steve McChesney)

Hearty thanks go to the following birders for reporting a magnificent 92 sightings of leg-flagged waders during spring migration. Richard Lewthwaite, Martin Williams, Wendy Young, the mysterious DCC whose initials in the birdwatcher's book in the WWF carpark are his only calling card, Paul Leader, the once-and-future Peter Kennerley, the prolific Geoff Carey, George, Simba Chan, Lew Young, Verity Picken, Fox Wong, and even birders from the Netherlands Peter van Scheepen and Dick Meijer all contributed. **Remember to look out for leg flags this autumn.** Please phone

Steve McChesney if you have any sightings.

The Australasian Wader Studies Group (AWSG) began colour-flagging waders with orange flags in Victoria in January, 1990. Yellow leg flags have been used on waders caught in Northwest Australia (Broome-Eighty Mile Beach- Port Hedland) only since August, 1992. Sightings of red flags in the flyway are confidently attributed to orange-flagged birds. Perhaps the flags "fade" to red with time?

Between 4 April and 22 May 1993, we collected 92 sightings of leg flagged birds in the Deep Bay area at WWF HK's Mai Po Marshes Nature Reserve or nearby. Eliminating possible duplicate records (i.e. the same species with the same colour flag on the same leg sighted within 7 days) makes a maximum of 46 separate leg-flagged birds possibly recorded at Mai Po during northbound migration 1993.

These 46 birds breakdown to species as follows:

	total	orange	yellow
Curlew Sandpiper	24	14	10
Red-necked Stint	17	14	3
Greater Sandplover	3	1	2
Broad-billed Sandpiper	1	-	1
Sanderling	1	1	-

Observations of which leg the bird is flagged on, whether the flag is red or orange or yellow (green (New Zealand) and white (Queensland)

are other colours being used), the presence and amount of breeding plumage, and the total number of birds present with the flagged bird are very useful. They help characterize the bird as an individual and allow statistical calculations.

These flag sightings indicate that small waders migrate through Hongkong from Australia, while the larger waders, e.g. Great Knot and Bar-tailed Godwit, migrate from Australia to their breeding grounds along different paths (see Tulp *et al.*, in preparation). Smaller waders are not able to overfly southeast Asia and south China. Larger waders are able to fly from Australia to Shanghai in a single flight. The small waders are particularly vulnerable to development and reclamation in this region, so watch them carefully.

A complete list of the sightings is available if anyone wants to use it. Thanks again, keep up the good reporting!

Finding Firsts For Hong Kong

Many claim that finding a first for HK is mainly down to luck, however a statistical analysis of the last 50 firsts for HK, (Cats A and D, up to end 1992) clearly shows that carefully choosing when and where you go, and what you look at when you get there, greatly enhances your chances of personal glory.

Where?

Of the firsts under consideration and the sites these occurred at (n=18), a staggering 40% occurred at Mai Po. Remarkably the next best sites recorded only 8% (viz. Pokfulam, and Tsim Bei Tsui). Tai Po Kau with only 6%, and Lantau, only 4%, are clearly not worth bothering with.

When?

November, with 22% of all firsts, and April with 18% are the best months. December (14%) and October and February (both 10%) are also worth considering. However the period May-August, with a monthly average of only 2%, ie. a pathetic total of four of the last fifty firsts, is best forgotten.

A closer look at the dates of occurrence shows some even more startling trends. Remarkably, 64% of firsts occurred after the 14th of each month, and 58% occurred on even-numbered dates. Clearly, it is only worth going out on alternate days in the second half of certain months.

That firsts occur only at weekends and Public Holidays is a myth that still needs dispelling (the flawed 'Weekend - Bias Theory' whereby rarities occur only on Saturdays and Sundays, has long been discredited): one observer has found three firsts for HK while on mid-week Sickies from work. 22% of firsts were trapped (no wonder they never let anyone go along) so starting ringing may well be advantageous.

What to look at?

The firsts fall into 24 families. Highest are warblers (20%), buntings (10%), and waders and raptors (both 6%). Ignoring all other families is therefore advised. However 64% were passerines. So perhaps you should just ignore non-passerines. 58% of all firsts were of Palearctic origin so also ignore all birds of Oriental origin (some observers already do this).

Postscript

Dipping: Only 52% of the firsts have occurred subsequently, so make sure you see (at the very least) every other first.

OVERSEAS BIRDING

South China

10 Dec 1992 - 4 Jan 1993

Together with Terry Bassett, Richard Koepfel and Phil Rostron, I took part in the 1992 Kingbird South China Tour, which took in sites in four provinces in south China plus Hong Kong. In terms of the number and quality of birds recorded, it was highly successful. Altogether we recorded 297 species, and except for Cabot's Tragopan which we failed to find at Wuyi Shan, we achieved all the expected major target birds and managed to get one or two others as well.

Unfortunately Poyang Lake was a big disappointment. All the major lakes within the reserve had dried up by mid-winter. Counts of duck were never more than one or two hundred, and we failed to find any cranes at all except for birds flying over. However, despite the low water levels, we managed to get views of all the major expected waterbirds and also enjoyed some unexpected successes. On our first day, it was cool, damp and miserable with thick mist and periodic rain - conditions which had some of the Japanese Marsh Warblers sitting out on top of tall

grass stems and singing. We counted over 20 in one area near Bang Hu, including nine in a very small patch of uncut grass. On the next day when the mist had lifted, we covered a similar area around Sha Hu and counted another 10, though in the warmer, brighter weather our views were just of birds diving for cover. At one point while we were walking along the side of a small ditch close to the shoreline of Sha Hu, Phil put up an Asian Yellow Rail which flew low for a short distance then dropped into dense, shin-high dry grass. Fortunately for those of us who missed the brief initial flight, a feverish search caused it to be flushed a second time. These grassy areas also yielded 26 Great Bustards, four Japanese Reed Buntings and two Pallas's Reed Buntings.

The Poyang leg of the tour was combined with a day and a half at Guan Shan, where we saw two Elliot's and seven Silver Pheasants. The orchard area behind the Reserve accommodation produced several good birds for us, including a female Blue-fronted Redstart in immaculate condition, presumably a first for Jiangxi, while a flock of Japanese Grosbeaks were seen there by Jim Hackett the next day.

In almost total contrast to Poyang was the situation at Caohai Lake, Guizhou Province, where waterbirds were not only present in large numbers, but were also remarkably approachable. We were able to walk within 20 metres of feeding flocks of Bar-headed Geese and within 80 metres of Black-necked Cranes. It was wonderful to be out on the edge of the lake with flocks flying 20 or 30 feet over our heads and the only sounds being the trumpeting of cranes and the honking of wild geese. Among an estimated 50 - 100,000 waterbirds, there were over 100 and possibly up to 400 Black-necked Cranes, similar numbers of Common Cranes, several hundred Bar-headed Geese, up to 20 Greylags, a single Lesser White-fronted Goose, over 100 Ferruginous Ducks and unknown numbers of Red-crested Pochards in the great rafts of ducks out in the middle of the lake. We also recorded ten species of raptor around the lake - Black Kite, White-tailed Eagle, up to 6 Imperial Eagles daily, Common and Upland Buzzards, Northern Sparrowhawk, Northern Goshawk, Peregrine, Kestrel and Merlin.

During the five days we stayed at Caohai, we twice visited Tuoda Forest Farm. Apart from the expected Reeves's Pheasants (we found a total

of 12), other noteworthy birds were Collared Finchbill, Elliot's Laughing thrush, Ashy-throated Parrotbill, Black-browed Tit and Naga Nuthatch.

Back in Kunming, we learnt that the weekend crowds at the Western Hills are out and about from just after dawn. Despite the disturbance, most of the expected birds showed themselves. We also saw a pair of Crested Honey Buzzards, a single female Amherst's Pheasant, three Rufous-breasted Accentors, 24 Black-headed Sibilias and single White-throated and Yellow-bellied Fantails.

As part of the tour we spent four days in Hong Kong, recording over 150 species. More than 60 of these were not found again elsewhere on the tour - the big surprise being Pekin Robin. Other birds that were only seen in Hong Kong were Dalmation Pelican, Black Stork, Mandarin Duck, Baer's Pochard, Spotted Eagle, a whole host of shorebirds, Black-tailed Gull, Saunders Gull and several flycatchers and warblers.

We spent four rather unproductive days in Fujian. While Wuyi Shan is a superb site in early summer, it couldn't be described as birdy in winter. On one six hour walk, we saw less than 30 birds in all and averaged 1 1/2 species an hour. We did manage Asian Black Eagle and Rusty Laughingthrush, though. An interesting find at Gu Shan (Drum Hill), Fuzhou was a single Hume's Yellow-browed Warbler. This was also the only site where we found Pale Thrush, with 11 seen.

Huizhou, Guangdong 28-30 August 1993

Huizhou is about 50 km NNE of Hong Kong. To get there we took a catamaran to Aotou (near Daya Bay to the East of Mirs Bay) and then buses North (beats Lo Wu any day). The main area of interest appeared to be hills about 20km North, at which hot springs are found (Tang-quan). However what looked promising on the Pearl Delta map seemed not so good on the ground. The foothills are reasonably wooded - we found Rufous-necked Scimitar Babbler but not a lot else. However higher up there is a valley with orchards. It may be possible to penetrate further into the hills but it's a long walk from the Hot Spring area where the bus/taxi stop is. Luo Fu Shan is more forested and less disturbed.

Huizhou itself was devoid of birds apart from a cowering Pekin Robin by the West Lake and lots of Red-rumped Swallows flying around our hotel. Red-rumped Swallows were also at Danshui - which is only 30km from Hong Kong. Of course these could be migrants but they were certainly pleasingly plentiful.

The area between Danshui and Aotou seems to be part of a grand scheme to create a huge moonscape - the ground is levelled red earth for hundreds of metres either side of the road. There

are no birds! The journey back from Aotou produced c.10 Common Terns (as far as I could tell in a speeding catamaran), 35 Red-necked Phalaropes plus a Bridled Tern - all in Chinese waters. The islands around Daya Bay - the Zhongyang and Tuoning groups - look peaceful and possible breeding sites for terns etc. The Dapeng Peninsula seems promising too.

In summary then, perhaps not as good as Luo Fu Shan but you get a boat-trip thrown in, and peering at the nuclear power plant must be worth something.

REPORT ON THE BIRDS

(these unchecked records include sightings of possible escapes)

June-July 1993

(Paul Leader)

Lesser Frigatebird One female /imm at Starling Inlet on 5 June (PJL,MRL). Also a frigatebird *sp.* was seen along the Eastern Island Corridor on 22 June (VBP).

Lesser Treeduck One at Fanling on 8 July (GAW). After a gap of some 17 years, this is the third record in less than a year.

Black-shouldered Kite One at in Shui Wai and Tsim Bei Tsui on 19 June (GJW, GS).

Asiatic Dowitcher Late and early twos were at Mai Po on 5 June (DAD) and 23 July (GJC).

Nordmann's Greenshank Six were at Mai Po on 5 June (DAD), and one on 27th June (GJC).

Grey Phalarope The Mai Po individual was present throughout the period.

Bridled Tern Two, one adult and one first-summer were seen near Waglan Island on 7 June (PJL *et al.*). Later, up to 8 adults were present among the breeding terns at the Ninepins, and an egg was found which constitutes the first breeding record of this species in Hong Kong (FW, PJL).

Roseate Tern On 7 June two adults were present near Cape D'Aguilar (PJL *et al.*), and ten pairs were present amongst the Black-naped Tern colony at the Ninepins (PJL,PRK *et al.*) Subsequently up to 40 were present there with successful breeding taking place.

Aleutian Tern An adult summer was present near Cape D'Aguilar on 7 June (PJL *et al.*)

Brown Fish Owl A large owl, first seen at Three Fathoms Cove, Sai Kung proved to be this species. (PRS *et al.*). By mid-month an adult and a dependant juvenile were showing well in the area. This is the first record since 1988.

Bay Woodpecker The Tai Po Kau bird was still present on 3 June (MH).

Brown Shrike An exceptionally early juvenile was trapped at Mai Po on 31 July (AGC, PRK).

Carrion Crow One was at Tsim Bei Tsui on 6 July (GJW).

SECRETARY WANTED - URGENTLY!!

Due to the departure of David Carrier to the UK the Society urgently requires a new Secretary.

The job entails:

- calling committee meetings (8 per year) and AGM
- taking minutes and circulating to committee
- emptying the box and dealing with general correspondence
- organising Mai Po passes
- organising printing and distribution of bulletin

Access to a word processor is highly desirable as most of the correspondence is done by standard letter.

This is a good way to get to know other members of the Society and get to eat the occasional curry in good company!

GENERAL HELP REQUIRED

Your Committee is always looking for helpers who are willing to take on small tasks to ease the load, working in small sub committees.

If you can spare some time, please call or fax - WE NEED YOU!

PLEASE CALL RICHARD OR JANET STOTT ON

FUTURE MEETINGS

Please contact the leader several days beforehand to confirm attendance, otherwise you may miss out on any changes in timing, venue etc.

18 September **INDOOR MEETING**
 Saturday Well known British Naturalist **Tony Soper** will be talking about **18.15**
ANTARCTICA. The cost is \$70 (including beer and soft drinks) in
 aid of WWF and the new hide fund.
Gazetted Police Officers' Mess, Police Headquarters, Arsenal St
 If you have not yet booked contact **Janet Stott** to check for spare places

DATE	LEADER	VENUE	TIME
19 September Sunday	Mike Leven	Luk Keng Swamp Bash Wear rubber boots/long trousers Phone leader to confirm attendance	07.00
26 September Sunday	Nigel Croft	Mai Po Meet in Car Park	07.00
3 October Sunday	John Holmes Ng Cho-nam	Mai Po *++ Bilingual	09.00-15.00 note one hour earlier than usual
17 October Sunday	CY Lam	Kowloon Park Beginners Trip Meet at stairs between mosque and MTR exit	07.30-09.30
24 October Sunday	John Edge Li Wai-ki	Tai Long Wan Meet on Ferry, Ma Liu Shui Pier, near University KCR station	08.15-18.30 approx.
31 October Sunday	Mike Chalmers Chan Ming-ming	Tsim Bei Tsui ++ Bilingual	09.00-15.00 note one hour earlier than usual
6 November Saturday	John Burton	Ping Yeung Meet at RCP in Ping Yeung Village	7.30
7 November Sunday	CY Lam Roger Costin	Mai Po * Bilingual	09.00-15.00 one hour earlier than usual
14 November Sunday	HF Cheung Paul Aston	Tsim Bei Tsui Bilingual	09.00-15.00 one hour earlier than usual
20 November Saturday	Ian Tyzzer	Lam Tsuen Valley Meet Chung Uk Tsuen Car Park	07.30
28 November Sunday	Jim Hackett	Ho Chung Valley Meet on Ho Chung Rd (1st 100m) Point P2 on map, see June Bulletin	07.30
5 December Sunday	Mike Turnbull	Hok Tau Reservoir Meet car park off Sha Tau Kok Road	07.30

Followed by the Curry Lunch, New Territories Depot, Fanling

12 December Sunday	MM Chan Tim Woodward	Mai Po* Bilingual	09.00-15.00
27 December Monday		CHRISTMAS COUNT Contact Ian Tyzzer for details	
1994 8 January Sunday	Li Wai-ki	Tai Po Kau Meet at Car Park	07.30

* The maximum number of members who can attend a Mai Po meeting is 50, as set by the AFD permit. In future this number will not be exceeded. It is essential therefore that members inform the leader that they will be attending, before the trip date. Failure to do so may result in members being refused access to Mai Po! Members using the coach need not inform the leader, as they will have already confirmed their attendance by returning the coach booking slip.

|| A coach will collect members from Kowloon Tong KCR one hour before assembly time and will return there at the end of the outing. Please return the form at the end of this bulletin with a cheque for \$35 (\$15 for students) made out to the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society if you wish to use the coach. Please bring drink and a packed lunch.

++ If any member wishes to use the coach, leaving Kowloon Tong one hour before assembly time and returning there after the outing, but did not send off the form in the last Bulletin, please phone CY Lam to see if any seats are still available. Please bring packed lunch and drink.

Leaders are requested to find a substitute leader if they are unable to take an outing.

Please complete these forms and make out your cheque in English

Mai Po - Sunday 7th November 1993

I wish to reserve ___ places on the coach (\$35 for ordinary member,
\$15 for student member)

I enclose a cheque for \$ _____ (make cheque payable to Hong Kong Birdwatching Society)

Please return to: **CY Lam, Royal Observatory, 134 Nathan Road, Kowloon by 21st Oct. 1993**

NAME

TELEPHONE NO.

Tsim Bei Tsui - Sunday 14th November 1993

I wish to reserve ___ places on the coach (\$35 for ordinary member,
\$15 for student member)

I enclose a cheque for \$ _____ (make cheque payable to Hong Kong Birdwatching Society)

Please return to: **CY Lam, Royal Observatory, 134 Nathan Road, Kowloon by 29th Oct. 1993**

NAME

TELEPHONE NO.

Mai Po - Sunday 12th December 1993

I wish to reserve ___ places on the coach (\$35 for ordinary member,
\$15 for student member)

I enclose a cheque for \$ _____ (make cheque payable to Hong Kong Birdwatching Society)

Please return to: **CY Lam, Royal Observatory, 134 Nathan Road, Kowloon by 26th Nov. 1993**

NAME

TELEPHONE NO.

Curry Lunch - Sunday 5th December 1993

I wish to reserve ___ places at the Curry Lunch, at the New Territories Depot, Fanling. Payment for the lunch should be made on the day and there will be a cash bar.

Please return to: **Ian Tyzzer, Flat 39, Mt. Nicholson Gap, 6/F 103 Mt. Nicholson Road, Hong Kong by 26th November 1993**

NAME

TELEPHONE NO.



香港觀鳥會
THE HONG KONG BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY
GPO BOX 12460, HONG KONG. 香港郵政總局信箱12460號

The Director
The Department of Wildlife Conservation
Ministry of Forestry
18 Hepingli Dongjie
BEIJING 100714
China

Dear Sir,

Protection of Saunders' Gull

I am a member of the Hong Kong Birdwatching Society, and I am writing to express my concern about the severe threats facing Saunders' Gull.

In Hong Kong we are very fortunate in that up to 150 individuals winter at Mai Po Marshes Nature Reserve every year. The birds breed in coastal salt marshes in eastern China. Unfortunately these areas are rapidly being destroyed for development, and Saunders' Gulls may soon be extinct.

The species could be saved by: listing it as a schedule 1 Protected species; strong protection of its coastal salt marsh breeding areas, including setting aside existing breeding areas as reserves; and ensuring that development plans are amended to save existing breeding areas.

As some of the existing colonies are already under serious threat, I hope the Ministry of Forestry will be able to act swiftly to save this beautiful bird from extinction.

Yours faithfully

中國北京100714
和平里東街18號
林業部資源司

尊敬的司長：

黑咀鷗的保護

我是香港觀鳥會會員，對於黑咀鷗面對的嚴重威脅，甚表關注。

香港的米埔自然保護區每年都有黑咀鷗越冬，數目少於150隻，可算十分幸運。這些鳥都在華東沿岸的沼澤地繁殖，可惜這些地區在經濟發展的過程中正迅速消失，黑咀鷗亦可能很快便全体滅絕。

要保護這個品種有賴多方配合：列為一級保護品種，以強而有力的措施保護沿海沼澤的繁殖地（包括於現有繁殖地建立保護區），以及修訂經濟建設計劃以求保留現有繁殖地。

部份現有繁殖地已經嚴重地受到威脅，我們感到非常擔憂。願望國家環境保護局盡快採取措施，拯救這個漂亮品種，脫離滅絕的厄運。

謹致敬意。

一九九三年 月 日

國際保護鳥類委員會香港分部

HONG KONG SECTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR BIRD PRESERVATION

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香港觀鳥會
THE HONG KONG BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY
GPO BOX 12460, HONG KONG. 香港郵政總局信箱12460號

Mr Lien Chan
President of Executive Yuan
1 Chung-Hsiao E. Road Sec 1
Taipei
Taiwan, ROC
Dear Mr Lien Chan

Black-faced Spoonbill and the Tsen Wen River Estuary.

I am a member of the Hong Kong Birdwatching Society, and I am writing to express my concern at the plans for the development of the Tsen Wen River Estuary in south-west Taiwan.

In Hong Kong we are lucky in that up to 70 Black-faced Spoonbills winter at Mai Po Marshes Nature Reserve. At the Tsen Wen estuary, however, you are fortunate enough to play host to over 200 Black-faced Spoonbills every winter. The estuary is the most important wintering site in the world for this species, which is thought to have a total population of about 350 birds. The Tsen Wen Estuary supports almost 60% of the world population.

The destruction of the estuary could result in the extinction of this beautiful bird, since so few are left. I very much hope that the development plans will be reconsidered, and that the Tsen Wan estuary will be protected as a wetland of international importance, for the Black-faced Spoonbill and the other waterbirds which live there.

Yours faithfully

中國台北忠孝東路一段一號
行政院
連戰院長

尊敬的院長：

曾文河口和黑臉琵鷺

我是香港觀鳥會會員，得聞台灣西南部曾文河口的發展計劃，謹致函 閣下表示關注。

香港的米埔自然保護區每年都有黑臉琵鷺越冬，數目少於七十，已算十分幸運。然而，曾文河口每年冬季都有二百隻以上棲息，更屬難能可貴。根據最新估計，全球黑臉琵鷺僅存約三百五十隻，曾文河口作為牠們的冬季棲息地，供養了全球種群的百分之六十。

改變曾文河口的自然狀況，對掙扎求存的黑臉琵鷺是致命一擊，恐怕難逃種群覆滅的厄運。我們殷切祈望 閣下檢討發展計劃的內容，並請考慮規劃曾文河口為國際重要地位的濕地保護區，以維黑臉琵鷺及其他水鳥的生計。自然美景長存，實乃國民福祉所繫，懇請垂注。敬祝
政安

一九九三年 月 日

國際保護鳥類委員會香港分部

HONG KONG SECTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR BIRD PRESERVATION

PRINTED ON RE-CYCLED PAPER



香 港 觀 鳥 會
THE HONG KONG BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY
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Mr Qu Geping, Administrator
National Environmental Protection Agency
115 Xizhimennei Nanxiaojie
BEIJING 10035
China

Dear Sir,

Protection of Saunders' Gull

I am a member of the Hong Kong Birdwatching Society, and I am writing to express my concern about the severe threats facing Saunders' Gull.

In Hong Kong we are very fortunate in that up to 150 individuals winter at Mai Po Marshes Nature Reserve every year. The birds breed in coastal salt marshes in eastern China. Unfortunately these areas are rapidly being destroyed for development, and Saunders' Gulls may soon be extinct.

The species could be saved by: listing it as a schedule 1 Protected species; strong protection of its coastal salt marsh breeding areas, including setting aside existing breeding areas as reserves; and ensuring that development plans are amended to save existing breeding areas.

As some of the existing colonies are already under serious threat, I hope the National Environmental Protection Agency will be able to act swiftly to save this beautiful bird from extinction.

Yours faithfully

中國北京100035
西直門內南小街115號
國家環境保護局
曲格平局長

尊敬的局長：

黑咀鷗的保護

我是香港觀鳥會會員，對於黑咀鷗面對的嚴重威脅，甚表關注。

香港的米埔自然保護區每年都有黑咀鷗越冬，數目少於150隻，可算十分幸運。這些鳥都在華東沿岸的沼澤地繁殖，可惜這些地區在經濟發展的過程中正迅速消失，黑咀鷗亦可能很快便全体滅絕。

要保護這個品種有賴多方配合：列為一級保護品種，以強而有力的措施保護沿海沼澤的繁殖地（包括於現有繁殖地建立保護區），以及修訂經濟建設計劃以求保留現有繁殖地。

部份現有繁殖地已經嚴重地受到威脅，我們感到非常擔憂。願望國家環境保護局盡快採取措施，拯救這個漂亮品種，脫離滅絕的厄運。

謹致敬意。

一九九三年 月 日

國際保護鳥類委員會香港分部

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