



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. 154 DECEMBER 1994

SOCIETY NEWS

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL. Please re-subscribe **NOW**. The Society's greatest annual expenditure is in December, when the Annual Report is printed, and prompt renewal will save financial embarrassment. It will probably be necessary to increase subscriptions next year to keep pace with inflation. The New Hide fund currently stands at \$76000, a significant proportion of the final estimated cost. Members who have not yet contributed may like to add to the fund when they renew their subscription. A corporate sponsor is still needed.

BIRDLINE OPERATOR NEEDED. Paul Leader has decided that he will be unable to operate this free service next year, so if you are keen to run the Birdline, please give him a call. The major advantage is that you get to hear of rare news first!

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

R Stott Chairman
T Woodward Secretary
J Webster Treasurer
M Chalmers Recorder &
 Breeding Birds
MM Chan Bulletin Editor
G Carey Annual Report
BIRDLINE HOTLINE

NEW SECRETARY REQUIRED Tim Woodward has indicated that he will step down at the next AGM, due to the pressure of work. The Society is very grateful for his voluntary efforts. Volunteers please contact Richard Stott. **Wendy Young** will be unable to organise field meetings in future, and C.Y.Lam has now taken over the job. Wendy has performed this thankless task for several years, and The Society is very grateful for her skills at motivating meeting leaders, sometimes at the very last minute! Thank You Wendy.

AN INDOOR MEETING will be held on Tuesday 14th March. Jeb Barzen will speak on the Conservation of Waterbirds in South China and Vietnam, a topic that will put Mai Po into a regional context. Venue to be HK City University, Yau Yat Chuen.

NEXT MEETING will be on Jan 14th

C Y Lam Vice Chair
D Melville WWF Liason
Ng Cho-nam Conservation &
 Slide Library
I Tyzzer Hide Project
H F Cheung Librarian
P Hopkin Editor
 Work Fax

BLACK KITE SURVEY 15-20 years ago a survey was conducted of Black Kites in the Territory as part of the work being done on the birdstrike hazard at Kai Tak. Work is currently in progress on the birdstrike problems that may arise at the new airport at Chek Lap Kok, and it is intended to do another survey to learn the current status of kites in Hong Kong. The coordinated survey will involve people at several sites recording the numbers and flight paths of kites going to roost on the evening of 15th and 29th January. It is hoped that as many Society members as possible will take part as it is easy to do and will not involve any travelling. If you are interested in taking part in the survey, please leave a message or fax your name, address and contact number to **GEOFF CAREY** on . He will contact you nearer the time and confirm the arrangements. The wider the spread of people in the territory, the more accurate a picture we can obtain of the present status of kites in Hong Kong.

RECORD CARDS All members are reminded that record cards for 1994 should be submitted before 31 January 1995. Records submitted after that date may not be included in next year's Report. Records of non-description species should be sent to Mike Leven, I-3 Unicorn Gardens, 11 Shouson Hill Road East, Hong Kong. Records of species for which descriptions are required should be sent to Paul Leader, Mai Po Nature Reserve, Yuen Long, N.T.

Chinese members submitting records of species requiring consideration by the Records Committee are reminded that descriptions in Chinese are welcome. However, other species for which descriptions are not required

should be submitted in English.

The Editor of the Bird Report would like to make a special appeal to all members to take pity on him and the compilers of the systematic list, and to submit records on time. It is progress on this part of the Report which determines the speed with which it can be completed.

This bulletin was delayed to ensure that it could be posted with the Annual Report. However, the printers let Geoff Carey down again and so the Annual Report will be posted to you in Mid-January. Apologies. The Annual Report will cost an extra 30% this year, so please re-subscribe promptly.

BULLETIN COMPUTER STILL NEEDED. I am still looking for a secondhand Laptop.

BULLETIN CONTRIBUTIONS are welcomed, especially from members who have not written before. The earlier the better, to allow time for translation and printing. **DEADLINE FOR MARCH BULLETIN** is Feb.20th

NEW MEMBERS are reminded that:

1 Membership of WWF is needed before they can use any of the hides at Mai Po.

2 A Boardwalk Permit is essential before you can use this hide. Next spring will be very popular as at least two Tour groups will be in the Territory (one based at Mai Po itself) and space is limited. I personally would recommend avoiding weekend high tides altogether.

3 Mai Po will be closed on 8th April for the Big Bird Race.

4 Tide Tables are on sale now at the Government Publication Office next to the Central Post Office, Star Ferry.

BINOCULARS WANTED. A member of the Yancheng Nature Reserve staff who is keen, knowledgeable and concerned about the conservation of intertidal mudflats and Saunders' Gull, for which he has done good work for WWF, has had his binoculars broken (by someone else's carelessness). He urgently requires a new pair and, if any member of the Society has a spare pair he/she is willing to donate, personally, it would be a valuable contribution to conservation, research and monitoring work at the Reserve. A member of the Society has already very generously offered to donate a telescope and it is hoped to combine the two into a tangible recognition of the work he has been doing at the Reserve. Any offers should be made to Geoff Carey, tel. and fax 6081281.

ASIAN WATERFOWL CENSUS 1987-1991

AWB/IWRB have summarised the results of five years of waterfowl census work in this comprehensive 372 page report. Distribution maps for 200 species are presented with key sites identified in terms of 0.5%, 1%, and 2% of the Asian wintering population based on 5 year means. A total of 96 wetlands of international importance are identified using the Ramsar criteria. Deep Bay qualifies for Dalmatian Pelican, Black-faced Spoonbill, Shelduck and Saunders' Gull. In addition, the following species exceeded 1% of the Asian totals: (figures in brackets are the mean of 5 years observations)

Cormorant	438
Grey Heron	363
Great Egret	291
Little Egret	643
Chinese Pond Heron	53
Night Heron	232
Avocet	170
Kentish Plover	606

Curlew 395

Spotted Redshank 55

Since 1991 numbers of many species have continued to increase and recent counts of the following have also exceeded 1% of the Asian totals:

Great Crested Grebe 70

Shoveller 3158

Grey Plover 256

Greenshank 211

Temminck's Stint 46

Dunlin 721

These results reinforce the importance of Mai Po and Deep Bay on a regional basis at a time when the area is under increasing development pressures and clearly demonstrates the significance of the reserve as a major wintering site for a wide range of species.

Copies of the report can be obtained at the concessionary rate of HK\$200 for AWC participants by sending a cheque to Mike Chalmers, 1 Fairview Villa, 52 Ma Lok Path, Kau To Shan, Shatin before 31 Dec 1994.

BREEDING BIRDS SURVEY 1994

This year is the second of three planned for the breeding bird survey of every 1Km square in the Territory. The total number of squares to be covered is 1238, a slightly different number than in 1993 due to the rationalisation of coastal squares. In 1993 a total of 663 squares were surveyed: 329 were done this year leaving 246 or 20% to be done in 1995. The coverage for 1994 was lower than expected but several late returns are still awaited. The remaining areas are scattered but include concentrations of squares at North Lantau, east Kowloon, north, north-east and south-east NT, and offshore islands. Diagrams and distribution maps will be presented in the next bulletin.

Noteworthy results include breeding Striated Yuhinas along the Kowloon

fitness Trail and Hobby in the northern NT, both firsts for Hong Kong. White Wagtails, Oriental Skylarks and Richard's Pipits continued to be found in widespread areas, and further checks are needed to solve the true status of Upland Pipit. In the woodlands, records included breeding Silver-eared Mesias near Shatin, Greater Necklaced Laughing Thrushes in many more areas than previously thought, and an unexpectedly large number of Rufous-necked Scimitar Babblers reports from a cluster of squares in the Tai Tam area of Hong Kong Island. Between now and March, observers will be selected for the final year to complete the survey, covering all outstanding squares, repeating selected areas not well covered before and investigating particular species such as Upland Pipit and Savanna Nightjar. Volunteers should contact Mike Chalmers at home on 605-7719.

LOCAL CONSERVATION NEWS

1 Objections are being gathered to oppose the next threat to Mai Po area at Fung Lok Wai.

2 "Exploring Migratory Birds" is the name of a Secondary School Waterfowl count that has been arranged for Saturday 21st January in the Deep Bay area. 10 Chinese speakers are required to help. Please contact Ng Cho Nam for more details.

INFORMATION ON BIRDS IN URBAN PARKS. Miss Fiona Lock, a Final Year student at the University of Hong Kong, is surveying the birds in the following locations: Kowloon Park, Hong Kong Park, King George V Memorial Park, Hollywood Park in Sheung Wan, Caine Road Park in Mid-Levels, and Harbour Road Park in Wanchai. Also Yau Yee Lane and Rose Lane Parks in Shek Tong Tsui,

Ship Street and Tai Wo Street in Wanchai. She has so far recorded about 30 species in the larger parks, but only 5 in the smaller ones. Her aim is to study the relationship between species and environment and to recommend ways to make urban parks more attractive to birds. Members are invited to help with her observations in these parks. Fiona may be reached by Fax at 517-6082 or phone at 569-2493 after 9pm.

THE NEW HIDE FUND is \$505 better off thanks to Richard Lewthwaite's winning bid at the Bird Report Auction. Thanks also to Ray Tipper for his slide presentation in November which raised \$1200 for the fund.

BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL. Richard Grimmett and John Eames recently gave a press conference in Hong Kong about the threats to Mai Po, and while they were here asked HKBWS to be the 'representative' of BI. The idea is to try and promote contacts between birdwatching societies within the region, for example with Taiwan or the Philippines.

ORIENTAL BIRD CLUB NEWS

The Oriental Bird Club has responded to the Society's suggestion that Mr Wang Hui should be awarded Honorary Membership. The OBC has awarded the whole of the Yancheng National Reserve staff Honorary Membership so that the bulletins and journal "Forktail" can be read by the whole reserve staff. Present Honorary members in China are as follows:

He Fen-Qi; Professor Zheng Guangmai; Lee Fu Gui; Dr. Lu Jian-Jian; Xing Lianlian; Pangquangou Nature Reserve; Wang Quishan; Professor Cheng Yao-Kuang Tan; Professor Cheng Tso-Hsin; Professor Hsu Weishu; Quan Yan Wen; Li

Xiaomin; Zhao Xinru; Yancheng National Reserve; Zhang Yin-Sun; Song Yu-Jun; Bao Lai Zheng; Professor Wu Zhikang.

The OBC Checklist of the birds of the Oriental Region will be published in 1995.

WILD SWANS BOOK The Society has received a letter from Ma Ming, the Co-ordinator of the China Swan Group, a Waterbird Specialist Group of the China Ornithological Society, about a newly published book titled "Wild Swans". It contains information about swan and waterbird research in the field, and is published in Chinese. Contact Mr. Ma Ming, Dept. of Zoology, Xinjiang Institute of Biology, Pedology and Desert Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 40 South Beijing Road, Urumqi 830011, Xinjiang, China.

Why the Bird Habitat has Gone?

Many of you may have experienced this: why the habitat of my favourite bird species has been turned into a dumping ground or a new village house?

Development pressure in the New Territories is tremendous. Unfortunately, planning control was only introduced in the NT in 1991. This is why large area of fish ponds or agricultural lands have been converted into scarp yard or open storage. Coupled to this is the soaring demand for building village houses by indigenous villagers.

Although around 40% area of Hong Kong is within the boundaries of Country Parks, planning control under the Town Planning Ordinance is the only effective legal device to control changes in land use in the remaining

area. Forget about land-lease conditions, they are very loose! However, as the lack of manpower is always used as the excuse by Government, many illegal developments still have been undertaken without Government's notice even though the sites are subject to statutory planning control. On top of this, some parts of the NT and the majority of the outlying islands is still not under planning control (See figure).

So, next time that your enjoyment of birdwatching is upset by any spoilage of the habitat, please take several photos of it and record its location on a map as accurately as possible. WWF HK is happy to check its status for you and make follow-up enquiries. You may also wish to report the information directly to Agriculture and Fisheries Department if it is in Country

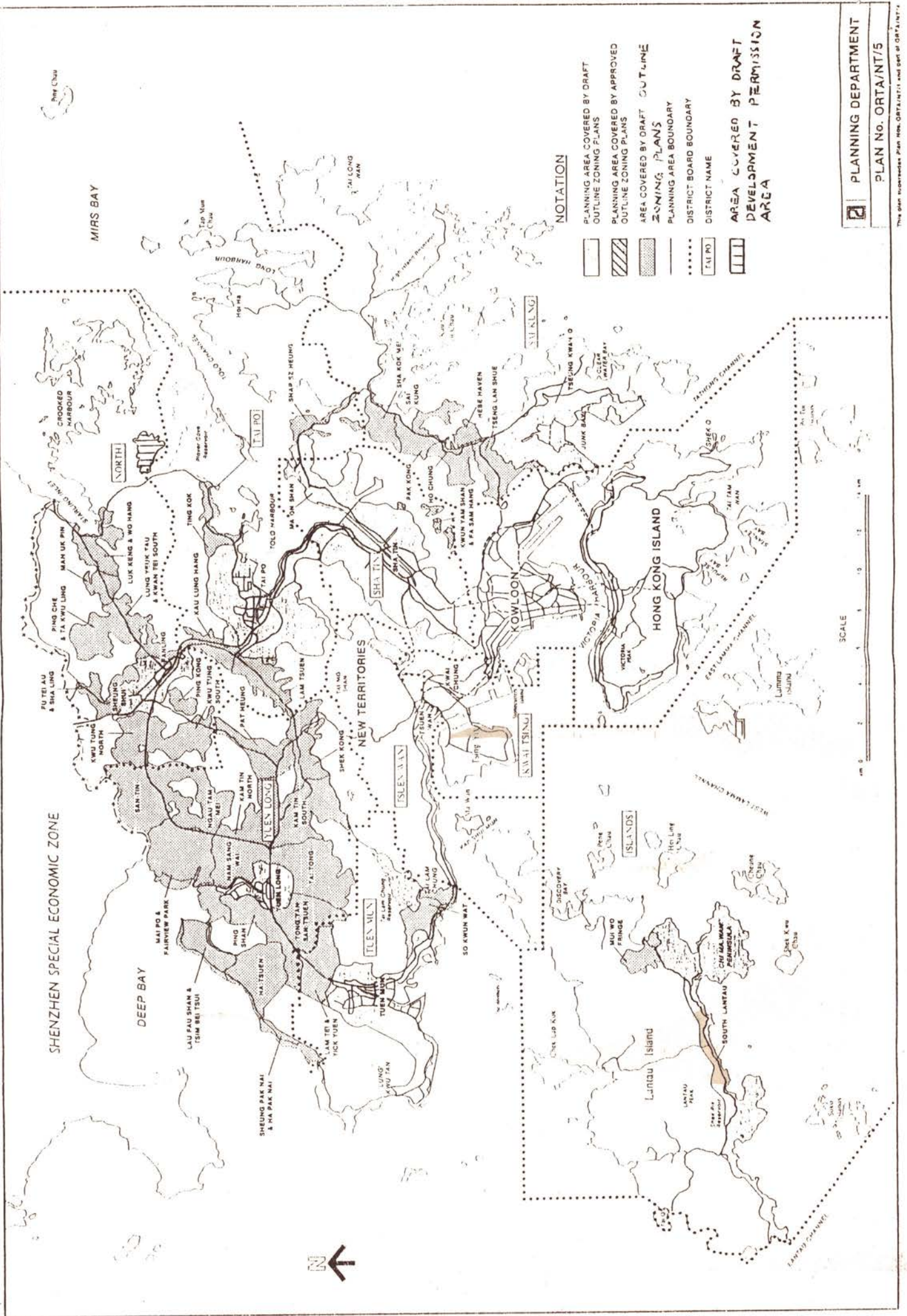
Park, otherwise write directly to:

Central Enforcement and Prosecution
Section
Planning Department
Level 10
Metroplaza Tower 1
223 Hing Fong Road
Kwai Fong, N.T.

(Contributed By Ken Chiu,
Conservation Officer at WWF)

MAI PO NEWS was received after the printing deadline, and long after the page layout was finalised. It can be found after John Edge's Thailand piece.

INDEX PLAN FOR RURAL & NEW TOWN STATUTORY PLANS



SOCIETY REPORTS

LUK KENG 10 Sept 1994

By Keith Wilson.

Never having been on a Society Luk Keng bash I was most intrigued to see what was around during the autumn migration. I had bashed across the marsh on a number of occasions during the summer in search of Dragonflies and had found the marsh to be quiet for breeding birds. The water level of the marsh was much higher than previous years due to the heavy July rainfall. Wellington boots were of no help as the water level reached mid-thigh in most of the area. The most appropriate kit was a cheap pair of slippers long socks and trousers to avoid cuts and grazes from the razor sharp marsh grasses.

Once the party had assembled, we explored the eastern corner of the marsh and found an Asian Paradise Flycatcher and a small party of Chinese Starlings. Not a bad start. After entering the marsh we immediately encountered many Pallas's Grasshopper Warblers, and we saw over 40 in the morning. The first sweep also yielded 2 Watercock, Yellow Bittern, Painted Snipe, and small numbers of Pintail, Swinhoe's and Common Snipe. At the far end of the marsh above Wong Uk village a flock of 12 Black Bazas was found; they had roosted in some pines and were making short sorties in the rapidly warming air. A small accipiter was chased off by the Bazas and judging by its extremely small size it was most likely a male Japanese Sparrowhawk.

By the end of the first sweep half of the party had had enough and opted to climb over the ridge to Nam Chung.

A very pleasant walk but few birds other than Arctic and Yellow-browed Warblers were encountered. Just before the meeting ended, a Water Rail put in a momentary appearance at the mangrove at Yeung Uk. After extensive searching it could not be found, but we returned after lunch and a beer at the Tai Wan noodle shop and managed to see it a second time.

Congratulations to the Society Outings organiser for choosing the date, which was spot on for migratory birds such as Watercock and Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler.

TSIM BEI TSUI 25 Sep 1994.

By John Burton.

1 The "gwaio" part of the bi-lingual outing comprised six members including Les Bull who had only just flown in from England.

2 The weather was fine and clear and much warmer than the Royal Observatory had predicted, so C.Y.Lam was suitably berated!

3 We started from the car park, and the incoming tide pushed only Egrets and Herons into easy range, so we set off down the road for a spot of paddy bashing instead.

4 John Andrew's reconnaissance had turned up a Grey-streaked Flycatcher but unfortunately this was to elude the rest of us who had to be content with 8 Brown Flycatchers located in a small area.

5 Also numerous were Arctic Warblers whilst one Pale-legged Leaf Warbler was well seen. Our sharp eyed English visitor pointed out the first of the day's Crested Goshawks being mobbed by drongos; later he also contributed an Osprey.

6 Keith Wilson found a nice Yellow-fronted Canary to add a little colour to

our list, but not all the party saw the Black-naped Orioles.

7 Chinese Starlings were almost as common as their Black-necked cousins. A brace of Lesser Coucal succeeded in disproving the initial exotic identification claimed for them by Bob Nicoll.

8 After two hours of hot paddy bashing the party returned to their transport and drove off to the end of the Fence, in the hope of turning up a Ruddy Crake. This was a wild goose chase but it did provide the undisputed Bird of the Day. This was a Black-shouldered Kite which was well seen by all.

9 A good list of waders included Swinhoe's Snipe and Black-winged Stilt. We also saw Purple Heron and overflying Whiskered Terns. The full list was 61 species.

10 A very successful and enjoyable outing which finished with an excellent curry lunch in Shek-kong.

TAI PO KAU 8 Oct. 1994.

By John Holmes.

It looked as though Tai Po Kau was the only spot in the New Territories being rained on, so it was only a select group of the Society's more determined birders and an over seas visitor who gathered at the foot of the hill. We found Velvet-fronted Nuthatches near the barrier, and heard Orange-bellied Leafbirds in the canopy nearby. The picnic area proved frustrating, with only a Brown Flycatcher showing itself out of a vocal and varied mixed flock. For most participants the avian highlight was a close encounter with the minivets. We all had the kind of binocular filling views that never seem to happen when you have a camera to hand. Other highlights were a dead Banded Krait and three very wild

piglets that scampered across the Red Walk. Bird species for the day? Er-not many.

PING YEUNG 29 Oct. 1994

By John Holmes.

The prospect of being ushered around by the suave and urbane Peter Stevens did not drag out the punters on a lovely sunny morning at Ping Yeung. Its a red PLB ride from Fanling folks! Perhaps everybody found out that the "B" team were doing the outing. Nigel Croft joined us and we bashed around the area between 07:45 and 09:30, rattling up forty species, including Silky and Grey Starlings, Red-breasted Flycatcher and three species of bunting: Little, Masked and Yellow-breasted. The Bright-capped Cisticolas were back, and could be heard bleating from bare, low bushes.

NEW SERIES

"Birds from My Window" gives members the chance to boast about the rare bird seen or heard in Unusual situations. The idea is that birds in Hong Kong are not just seen at Mai Po, and you should keep your eyes open wherever you are. Contributions are especially welcome from members who do not normally contribute to the Bulletin.

BIRD-WATCHING FROM A TUEN MUN FLAT

By Helen Bennett.

A tenth floor Tuen Mun window with a southern sea aspect is not the greatest vantage point for birdwatching in Hong Kong. However, even here a little perseverance will sometimes bring a reward.

Spotted and White-backed Munias frequently graze on the lawns of the bungalows below when the grass has remained uncut for a spell. Little Egrets visit the artificial rock seawall, sometimes even finding sustenance left behind by the myriad hopeful anglers.

Magpies and Collared Crows make sporadic visits to the shoreline, while Magpie Robins and a pair of Violet Thrushes are residents.

However, two notable sightings have made my year recently. First, while scanning the channel towards Lantau one evening I noticed a large raptor over the decimated remains of the Brothers. Under higher magnification this turned out to be a White Bellied Sea Eagle with the distinctive wedge shaped tail.

The highlight for me came only two days ago. I was using my telephone at the window overlooking the channel, when suddenly a male Peregrine Falcon swept into view only thirty feet away, reversed course, returned and soared straight up the face of the building, repeating this manoeuvre twice. Made my year.

SIU SAI WAN

By Jemi Wong.

Ever since my overnight Mai Po tour in December 1993, my eyes have been sensitised towards the presence of birds. I take pleasure in quietly watching birds flying freely in the sky. I also learn to search and monitor objects with binoculars, ICAC style. I imagine that if birds have a place to launch complaints, they would certainly raise objection to my intrusion into their privacy.

I live in Siu Sai Wan; my room is my birdwatching post. It is a simple matter to watch the hillslopes through the window and there are birds to be found. Although they are common birds and the number of species recorded in 1994 was less than twenty, I am glad to have them as my company, irrespective of whether they are migrants or neighbours, good singers or otherwise. Species recorded in 1994 included Greater Coucal, Black Drongo, Jungle Crow, White-backed Munia, White Wagtail, Magpie Robin, Magpie, Koel and Black-necked Starling.

On 30 October I walked towards the seawall at Siu Sai Wan with my fishing gear. I was hoping to see gulls or a Reef Egret, and so also carried my binoculars. In the drainage channel next to Henrietta College a strange sparrow turned out to be a Rufous-backed Shrike. The next twenty minutes gave me a happy day and also prompted me to wonder for the whole evening. I saw two Chinese Pond Herons, a White-breasted Kingfisher, a Common Kingfisher, and two Common Sandpipers. I had thought that these birds would only appear in the New Territories or other remote places. So why should they turn up at a soon to disappear drainage channel next to a construction site?

BOOK REVIEWS

Birding Hong Kong by David Diskin, with illustrations by Jeremy Pearse (available from the Author, 130pp, \$115) - Reviewed by Mike Turnbull

About a year ago, Geoff Carey produced his *Guide to Birdwatching in Hong Kong*, a booklet running to 30 pages and aimed very much at the

overseas visitor. As one would expect from Geoff, it is an excellent publication in every respect and extremely useful reading for visitors, as well as beginners and newly arrived residents. However, with no fewer than 150 information-packed pages, David Diskin's *Birding Hong Kong* is not only absolutely essential for those people, but actually offers an excellent read for anyone interested in Hong Kong and its birds. The site maps alone are invaluable, and there is a mass of information on what has been recorded at all of our major birding locations.

I am told that the flier distributed with the last bulletin did not mention whether public transport information was included in *Birding Hong Kong*. Do not fear - it most certainly is, along with everything else you wanted to know about birding in Hong Kong, but never asked, from A for advice (sound) on whether or not it is safe to visit Cape d'Aguilar in a typhoon (sometimes!), to at least Y for Mr Yeung, the Sai Kung boatman, his telephone number, and the fact that you'll probably need a bilingual friend to help.

In fact, all the advice in *Birding Hong Kong* is sound. The author is in the happy position of having been here long enough to have well and truly 'birded Hong Kong', but not so long that he cannot easily remember what it was like to be new, when, as he says himself in his Preface, he would have certainly welcomed such a guide.

Half a dozen or so delightfully appropriate line-drawings by Jeremy Pearse enliven *Birding Hong Kong*. Its sole fault, being a slightly high number of avoidable typographical

errors - the customary 'minor quibble', of course, with an excellent piece of work.

Perhaps the real problem with a guidebook such as this one is that quite a few of the sites mentioned may have very shortly been either reduced in size or degraded in quality, or may indeed have ceased to exist altogether. Yet, as the author points out, little more than twelve months ago such sites as Long Valley, Kam Tin, Kowloon Hills Catchwater and Cape d'Aguilar might possibly not even have been included, so who knows what the future holds. Such is the sadness and the excitement of birding in Hong Kong at a time when both birding and 'development' are booming.

From a practical point of view, for many of us, *Birding Hong Kong* really is the answer to all those enquiries from overseas birding acquaintances on where to stay, where to bird, how to get there etc, etc. Just send them a copy of this and they should gladly take you out for a meal and a few drinks in return! Even at \$115 a copy you should end up better off these days. As regards newly arrived residents, I can only echo David's 'if only this had been around when I arrived' and say, in all honesty, that I would have bought both this and Geoff Carey's book if they'd both been available back then. Geoff's guide does include some information not included in *Birding Hong Kong*, such as wise advice on buying optical equipment in Hong Kong, and very useful sketched street plans of Yuen Long and Sheung Shui, showing exactly where the all-important bus-stops and taxi-ranks are. However, in terms of sheer bird-finding detail and background information *Birding Hong*

Kong is quite unbeatable in its comprehensiveness.

Shorebirds of the Pacific Northwest

by D. Paulson, 1993. Univ. Washington Press, Seattle and London - Reviewed by Peter Kennerley, Block 5, #01-04, Regency Park, Nathan Road, Singapore 1024.

This book is an excellent introduction to North American shorebirds and presents the reader with a readily accessible source of information on this well studied group. For Asian readers it presents an interesting perspective on Asian shorebirds from a North American viewpoint. In many ways the shorebirds of the west coast of North America are complimentary to those which occur along the east Asian seaboard, including Hong Kong.

The book is primarily aimed at shorebird enthusiasts, but will appeal to anyone interested in the birds of the Pacific Northwest, beginners and experts alike. It is not intended to be just an identification guide; it is also a definitive reference for the status of shorebirds in a fascinating part of the world. It provides a wealth of data as well as many useful facts and interesting statistics that one always wants but can never readily find, whether in a general field guide or a specialist shorebird book.

The coverage is restricted to southern British Columbia in Canada and the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and western Montana in the USA. A total of 62 shorebird species are recorded from this region including several Asian species reported only occasionally or as vagrants and all are given equally detailed treatment. A further 16 potential vagrants to the

region, including Wilson's Plover, Purple Sandpiper and Eskimo Curlew are only given cursory reviews.

The introductory chapters take up the first 77 pages of the book. This generous treatment details various aspects of a shorebird, its environment and how it has evolved to optimise its chances of survival as well as shorebird anatomy, plumage, moult, coloration and patterning, size and structure, and vocalisations. Although much of what is said can be considered common sense - for example, don't expect to see juveniles in April - it is surprising that so few books, even field guides, make the effort to explain in detail what to look for and what to expect. Detailed treatment is also given to the shorebird year including migration, distribution, breeding and winter habitats as well as the pressure that shorebirds and their habitats face.

These introductory chapters can also be applied to many other bird families. I strongly recommend that all birders, no matter what their level of proficiency, experience or specialisation, read them. Even experienced birders and rarity-finders will benefit from the cautionary advice given. After all, how many of us have thought we have found a rarity, only to be proved wrong when a field mark of a much commoner species miraculously appears on our rarity?

The remainder of the text discusses the individual species accounts. In addition to summarising the identification and voice, these accounts also summarise the distribution and Northwest status, habitat, behaviour and where appropriate, separation of sub-species that occur in the region.

The author and artist have drawn upon the latest field identification criteria to separate the difficult species groups such as stints, dowitchers, tattlers and golden-plovers and it is these groups where the photographs have been used more profusely. Each significant plumage, ie. breeding, nonbreeding, juvenile and first-winter is discussed in detail.

In particular I found the section relating to stint identification to be detailed and thorough. It includes comments based on the author's first-hand experience, supplemented by the works of Jonsson and Grant (1984), Veit and Jonsson (1984) and Colston and Burton (1988). However I was surprised that the diagnostic scapular and covert patterns of juvenile stints were not individually illustrated. If a vagrant stint is suspected these feathers can be essential to the identification process, particularly in late autumn when the bird has moulted into first-winter plumage and perhaps retained only one or two juvenile feathers.

Some of the latest identification criteria relating to Asian vagrants have been overlooked. For example the differentiation of juvenile Semipalmated and Ringed Plovers does not discuss the position of the loreal line relative to the bill. North American species include the latest identification criteria.

I also came across a handful of inaccurate comments relating to Asian vagrants. In the case of juvenile Great Knot, the close-spotting on the breast and flanks does not form a well-defined pectoral band and appears very different from the finely streaked and sharply demarcated breast pattern of Pectoral Sandpiper.

A novelty of this book are the pertinent questions posed by the author at the end of each species account. While much has learned about shorebirds in recent years, there remains much to discover and it is refreshing to come across a book that asks these questions and provides guidance to observers who may otherwise consider their observations of little importance.

This is a book that belongs in the libraries of experts and beginners alike. The attractive design and editorial organisation ensure that one will return to it time and time again. Hopefully its clear, factual presentation will give renewed enthusiasm to old hands and encourage those who fear this supposedly difficult-to-identify group to pick up their scopes and set out for their local ponds and mudflats.

BOOK PROMOTION

Short of Christmas present ideas this year? Maybe **"THE GREEN DRAGON, Hong Kong's Living Environment"** will solve your problem. It is the most sumptuous collection of HK wildlife photographs ever assembled in one volume, the main contributors being Martin Williams and Michael Pitts. Other society members with photographs include Sue Earle, John Holmes, Lam Mei-sheung, Ray Tipper, Keith Wilson, and Wong Tin-wa. 143 pages include chapters on Hong Kong Through the Seasons, Streams, Hills, Rural Landscapes, Mai Po, Hong Kong's Green Future. The book has been sponsored by Sino Land and endorsed by WWF. It costs \$295, and will be reviewed next year.

CHINESE BIRDING HOLIDAYS

BA BAO SHAN. 9-13 October 1993
Richard Lewthwaite

No-one from Hong Kong had been able to visit Ba Bao Shan for a couple of years, but eventually Nigel Croft was able to make contact with the right office in Guangzhou. The result was a really pleasant weekend at Ba Bao Shan, which is locally known as Ru Yang Nature Reserve. It was the first visit by Hong Kong birders in autumn, and the first time for most of the 12 participants - Paul Aston, Elme Balasan, Karen and Ruy Barretto, Kelly Chan, Kathy Hayward, Richard Lewthwaite, Mo-yung Yuk Lin, Cully Wolcoxon, Martin Williams, Keith Wilson and Wendy Young. A week later, Nigel Croft and Ron Clibborn-Dyer also visited the area.

Most people confined their attentions to the core area and surrounds of Ru Yang town, but first Martin and Wendy, then Nigel and Ron made new discoveries in the primary forest above the Gate.

We recorded a total of 101 species, including 21 species new to the Ba Bao Shan list. Many of these were migrants recorded for the first time simply because of the timing of the visit, but four sedentary species were added - Moustached Laughingthrush and Varied Tit found by Martin, and Rickett's Hill Partridge and Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush found by Wendy. The latter three species were also found above the Gate the following May. The Varied Tit records were most unexpected. De Shauensee, for example, gives its range as north-east China, Korea,

Japan and Taiwan. Possibly then, these sightings indicate a previously undiscovered population in the hill forests of south-east China. Also intriguing was the possibility that two medium-sized brownish hawks seen soaring above the Gate with the jizz of Black Baza were Jerdon's Baza, though none of us were familiar with this species.

Our visit coincided with a surge of the NE monsoon and we saw good numbers of certain migrants that are uncommon or, as yet, unrecorded in Hong Kong in autumn. Most notable of these was the abundance of Blue-and-white Flycatcher, which has recently averaged about three birds per autumn in Hong Kong. A total of 12 were seen on one day and an amazing 40 by Keith on another day, giving rise to speculation that Ba Bao Shan may act as a staging post for this species. Surprisingly, apart from a total of four Sooty Flycatchers, few other migrant flycatchers were found. There were no Brown, Yellow-rumped, Narcissus or Paradise Flycatchers and only one Grey-streaked. Among other scarce HK migrants found in the area were a single Northern Goshawk, a single White-vented Noddy (in a mixed flock of over 800 Pacific and House Swifts), single Swinhoe's Minivets on two days, flocks of 30 and 14 Ashy Minivets, a single female/immature White-throated Rock-Thrush, four Siberian Thrushes and a single Radde's Warbler. A week later, Nigel saw a flock of 50 Black Bazas.

We were also interested in the resident and breeding birds at Ba Bao Shan. Highlights of these were

Mountain Hawk Eagle (up to three daily), Brown Hawk Owl, Red-headed Trogon (seen on two days), Crested Kingfisher, Little- and Spotted Forktails, Hill Prinia and Crow-billed Drongo. We also saw five species of woodpecker, Collared Finchbill (only two), most of the usual babblers (but not Golden-breasted Fulvetta or Golden Parrotbill), and heard up to three singing Russett Bush Warblers. Of the four endangered breeding species at Ba Bao Shan, we heard a single Brown-chested Flycatcher, and dipped on Cabbott's Tragopan. Presumably, Fairy Pitta and Silver Oriole had already moved out.

The arrangements went well. Our group of 12 took the early morning through-train from Shenzhen to Shaoguan. We then just about squeezed into the minibus arranged by our hosts and were driven to Ru Yang town where our accommodation was the Ru Yang guest house. Each morning the minibus took us into the reserve and picked us up later at a pre-arranged point. We ate breakfast of eggs and buns in the minibus while driving up the hill, took our own packed lunches and had dinner near the guest house. The cost was USD 45 per person per day (or part of day) and included transport to and from Shaoguan, transport within the reserve and all food and accommodation. Though the cost was the same for small groups, eg. Nigel and Ron, no transport within the reserve was provided. Future visitors should be aware that the return train to Shenzhen arrives at the border only about 20 minutes before Immigration on the Chinese side closes.

YAO SHAN MOUNTAINS, GUANGXI PROVINCE. 8-15 June 1994.

Geoff Carey

A visit was made to Da Yao Shan Nature Reserve during 8-15 June 1994 by R. and K. Barretto, G.J. Carey, P.J. Leader, M.R. and E. Leven, R.W. Lewthwaite and V.B. Picken. The aim of the trip was primarily to record birds in one of the few areas in China for which exist historical records of the avifauna. These records indicated that there were potentially rich forests in an area which, situated roughly at a mid-point between Yunnan and Guangdong, could prove very interesting to explore. In addition however, two members of the group (the Barrettos) were primarily interested in the vegetation.

We departed Hong Kong on 8 June, flying Dragonair to Guilin, and returned on 15th. It would have been better to have flown to Nanning but the timing of flights around the public holiday made this difficult. As a result we paid substantially more for the drive to the reserve than we might otherwise have done (the vehicle was hired in Nanning and had first to be driven to Guilin). Varying degrees of rain on every day of our stay made observation very difficult and undoubtedly affected the number of species recorded.

The Reserve itself and the area surrounding is primarily an agricultural area. To our eyes, there was very little undisturbed primary forest and those areas of primary or apparently primary forest were very restricted and confined to the inaccessible areas at the tops of mountains. The altitude visited was confined to 500-1400m and, above 800m, primarily

involved sub-tropical, secondary forest. Most of the more mature areas of natural forest consisted of trees apparently about 20-30 years in age, presumably as a result of logging during the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution. Trees of much greater age and more than 30m in height, were occasionally observed, standing in mute testament to the forest that once clothed the hills in the area. Clear-felling had evidently taken place followed either by natural regrowth or planting. Freshly cut plantation pines seen at the edge of the reserve were 17-20 years old.

Apart from the immediate vicinity of the road and a few small pockets of agricultural land, the areas visited within the reserve were well-covered with fairly young, mixed, broad-leaved, secondary forest, interspersed with and, in some places, replaced by pine and fir plantations.

Due to past deforestation and the rather limited areas of mature secondary forest, finding good areas for birds was difficult. Much of what appeared to be the best forest was inaccessible, (i.e. the mountain top forest), and most of the birdwatching in good forest was done from the roadside and a circular tourist trail. A total of 77 species was recorded in the Reserve during the course of the visit.

Even when good forest was accessed, the numbers of birds and the diversity of species was rather low, lower even than other areas of South China. At least part of the explanation for this seemed to be hunting as very few medium to large-sized birds were seen and spent cartridges and gunshots were noted at more than one area. It may also be the case that widespread

clear-felling and the fragmentation of forest blocks has caused local extinctions of sedentary species which have not been able to recolonise.

This tale of post-Liberation deforestation combined with uncontrolled hunting is familiar throughout China; visiting Yao Shan, especially in the knowledge of what had been recorded in the area in the past, provided a very obvious and depressing example of the results of this process.

Noteworthy species include a few sightings of Grey-faced Buzzard *Butastur indicus* which is thought to breed primarily in northeast China from Heilongjiang to southeast Liaoning and Hebei. If this species breeds at Yao Shan, it would be a range extension of a few thousand kilometres. Also notable were the numbers of White-vented Needletail *Hirundapus cochinchinensis* which is stated by de Schauensee to have been recorded only from Hainan, though probably occurring in Yunnan also. However, it is known to be a fairly common passage migrant through Hong Kong in spring and has been recorded in small numbers elsewhere in South China.

Although the weather made observation difficult, it does very much seem that, in terms of breeding birds, the Yao Shan Mountains are not what they once were. However, it may be that the area would prove interesting in winter and a visit at that time is certainly something to be considered.

ANY BIRDS IN BEIJING?

by C.Y.Lam.

Beijing has always struck me as being birdless. However things seem to be changing for the better. I visited the city in early October 1994 and for the first time in fifteen years I noted the presence of birds in the city.

I lived near Zizhuyuan or Purple Bamboo Park where I managed to spend a few hours. Hundreds of very active Azure-winged Magpies flew about, accompanied by occasional Magpies and Jungle Crows. In the lakes and waterways, small groups of Mallard were seen, and the occasional flash of Common Kingfisher. Flocks of Pallas's Warblers and Coal tits were found among the trees. In more secluded parts of the park, Red-flanked Bluetail, Daurian Redstart and Red-breasted Flycatchers were also encountered. Counting Tree Sparrow and Feral Doves, the species total was 12- not too bad for a heavily used park in an urban setting. I also saw several freshly caught Japanese Grosbeaks just outside the park.

I spent one Sunday travelling to Huaiyou Reservoir, about 50 km north-east of Beijing, and the Ming Tombs. Little Buntings were abundant and more than 100 Blue Magpies were seen on the way. There were some 2000 Coot on the western half of the reservoir, a rather rare sight according to my companion from the institute of Zoology. Mallard, Yellow Nib Duck, and Common Pochard were found among the Coot, as well as tens of Little Grebe. Common Pheasant were heard, and Buzzard flew over. Near a stream beyond the reservoir, a pair of Crested Kingfisher and a family of six Mandarin Duck

were found, an exceptional sighting for Beijing. In the trees nearby bird waves contained Great Tit, Long-tailed Tits and Pallas's Warblers. A few Yellow-throated Buntings were also seen among the Little Buntings. A Great Spotted Woodpecker added some colour to the bird scene. Apart from Jackdaws, my expert companion also heard Red Billed Chough but they evaded visual detection.

The afternoon was very quiet and Tai Ling, the Tai Tomb, which we hoped to visit, was missed because of a new complex road system which confused even Beijing Locals. On the northern edge of the city, we visited a piece of woodland near Yuanmingyuan. In the fading light, Magpies only were seen but the site seemed very promising, having a mixture of ponds, reeds, shrubs and trees.

From this visit, I gained the impression that economic advancement has diverted people's attention away from the old habit of catching all birds on sight. Birds are therefore given the opportunity to live, multiply, and perhaps adapt to the higher degree of urbanisation in Beijing. Perhaps "development" is not necessarily always bad for bird life.

MYSTERY BIRD. Identify it.

Answer Next Month.



XISHUANBANA, YUNNAN.

30 Oct. to 13 Nov. 1994

H.F. Cheung

Last month, CY Lam, WK Li, CN Ng, WY Lo, TW Wong, P Lau, W Jetter and I went to southern Yunnan for a birding trip. We have been together for a few trips and we get on together very well. My major target was to practice identifying warblers. In this report we followed the English names used in Phil Round's "Birds of Thailand".

In 30-Oct we arrived at Kunming and went to a forest park just opposite Jin Dian (Golden Temple) for birds. We were delighted to see a large flock of Chestnut-flanked White-Eyes. We also saw Hill Prinia; Buff-throated Warbler and Streak-throated Fulvetta were present too. The latter two species were often seen in this trip.

31-Oct, we went as far as Mojiang. Dead Lady-Amhurst Pheasant were being sold on the roadside. Black-shouldered Kite seemed to be common in the farmland just outside Kunming and Citrine Wagtails were present in wet fields in a large valley. Otherwise it was rather dry for a long distance.

1-Nov, we went down to the Simao area. There were few birds on the road but we still ticked Upland Buzzard, Spot-breasted Parrotbill, Yellow-streaked Warbler, Grey Bushchat and a possible White-tailed Rubythroat. Grey Bushchat were common on this trip. We stayed at the Caiyanghe Reserve. The headquarters were rather deep inside the reserve but there were some new facilities for tourists. The manager told us that we were the first foreign group to visit the reserve.

We found out on the next day (2-Nov) that this was a great place for birds. Good forest held Mountain Hawk-Eagle, Hoopoe, Blue-throated Barbet, Grey-capped Woodpecker, Crested Treeswift, Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike, Large Cuckoo-Shrike, Black-crested Bulbul, Puff-throated Bulbul, Maroon Oriole, Striped Tit-Babbler, White-browed Shrike-Babbler, Grey-headed Parrotbill, Golden-spectacled Warbler, Chestnut-crowned Warbler, Blyth's/White-tailed Leaf-Warbler, Yellow-bellied Fantail and Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush. Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike and Maroon Oriole were common in the forest south of Simao. We stayed until late afternoon and went on to Mengyang. This was our first stop in Xishuanbana, which is a big area including five reserves.

3-Nov, we went to the nearby Sanchahe Reserve. Again the reserve was developing into a tourist site, featuring butterflies and wild elephants. This site was one of the few lower elevation sites on our trip. On this day we saw Pin-tailed Pigeon, Thick-billed Pigeon, Silver-breasted Broadbill, Asian Palm-Swift, Bronzed Drongo, Lesser Racket-Tailed Drongo, Black-eared Shrike-Babbler, Yellow-bellied Warbler, Snowy-browed Flycatcher, White-throated Fantail, Black-naped Monarch and Streaked Spiderhunter. On the way to Menglun we saw Plain Flowerpecker. Later in the day in Menglun's Xishuanbana Tropical Botanical Garden we saw Little Spiderhunter and Great-eared Nightjar. Of these birds Asian Palm-Swift and Plain Flowerpecker were very common in Xishuanbana.

4-Nov, we explored a limestone area near Menglun. This seems to be a very mature forest, with generally

very tall trees and some very old ones. This low altitude reserve produced Green Magpie and Pied Falconet. Otherwise it was rather quiet, probably because we were too close to the farms nearby. Driving towards Mengla we passed the slopes of Nangongshan (Nangong Mountain). A two-hour stop allowed us to tick Himalayan Swiftlet, Golden-fronted Leafbird, White-throated Bulbul, Ashy Bulbul and Black Bulbul.

The next day we walked up Nangongshan, which lived up to our expectation as a good birding place. With only six hours we could not reach the peak, but we still saw Red Junglefowl, Little Cuckoo-Dove, Blue-bearded Bee-Eater, Speckled Piculet, Rufous-bellied Woodpecker, White-throated Needletail, Flavescent Bulbul, Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch, and Long-tailed Sibia. We went back to Mengyang that evening.

6-Nov, we birded the Sanchahe reserve again. This time we added Greater Yellowthroat, Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, Asian Fairy Bluebird, Puff-throated Babbler, Brown-cheeked Fulvetta and Black-throated Sunbird. That evening we arrived at Pu'er which is famous for its tea. We soon found that there was also a big composite-board manufacturing company run by the Forestry Bureau.

We spent most of the next day going the extra miles to Jingdong. The idea was that we could have three full days for the next two reserves. Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler, Indian Roller and Brown Dipper were ticked among the other more familiar birds.

8-Nov, the first day in Jingdong we visited the Wuliangshan (Wuliang

Mountain) Reserve to the west. Birding was done at the edge of primeval forest. Altitude was about 2200 m. Our photographer managed to get Woodcock on film. We also saw Red-turtle Dove, Brown-breasted Bulbul, Mountain Bulbul, Chestnut-vented Nuthatch, Whiskered Yuhina, Rufous-vented Yuhina, White-collared Yuhina, Black-headed Sibia, Lesser Rufous-headed Parrotbill, Ashy-throated Warbler, Tickell's Leaf Warbler, a possible Pale-footed Bush Warbler, Green-tailed Sunbird, Black-headed Greenfinch, Crested Bunting, Yellow-throated Bunting and Brambling.

We spent the second day visiting the Ailaoshan (Ailao Mountain) Reserve to the east of Jingdong. The area was cultivated up close to the peak, but some very old forest remains at the very top. We only went a short distance into the forest and spent most of the time along its edge. Interesting birds included Bay Woodpecker, Crimson-breasted Woodpecker, Short-billed Minivet, Crested Finchbill, Rufous-throated Fulvetta, Chestnut-tailed Minla, Black-faced Warbler, Rufescent Prinia, Siberian Blue Robin, Dark-breasted Rosefinch, and Rock Bunting.

10-Nov, we were forced to leave one day early because the road to Chuxiong was blocked. We went around Wuliangshan and stopped for birds on the way. The fields around Jingdong produced a flying Great Bittern, Buff-bellied Pipit, Rosy Minivet and House Sparrow. Later on the road a Wallcreeper posed for our photographer. An area with forest and a stream just above farmland was very productive. We found Blue-winged Minla, Orange-barred Leaf Warbler, Grey-breasted Prinia, Spotted

and Slaty-backed Forktail. That evening we stayed at a little town called Manwan, famous for its hydro-electric power. Nevertheless facilities were excellent.

11-Nov, we skipped Midou and went on to Chuxiong directly. This was a long driving day. A brief stop produced some excitement as we seemed to hit a very active spot. We ticked Striated Bulbul, Rufous-fronted Babbler and Scaly Thrush. At the same time our photographer got Bay Woodpecker and sunbirds posed for pictures. On this day we ticked our first Tree Sparrow of the trip. There were "more Woodpeckers than Tree Sparrows".

12-Nov, we visited the Zixi Forest Park near Chuxiong. This was a tourist development site with some new facilities. The forest consisted mostly of replanted pines, and did not hold many birds. However there is a small patch of more mixed forest down the stream. Some good birds were present. Carrion Crow, Giant Nuthatch, Red-tailed Minla, Goldcrest and Long-tailed Thrush were new ticks for the trip. A new tolled highway from Chuxiong to Kunming had just been opened.

13-Nov, birding day in Xishan (Western Hills) produced Dusky Crag Martin, Chestnut-capped Babbler, Brown-capped Fulvetta, Maroon-backed Accentor and a possible owl.

We booked our trip with a tourist company formed by the Forestry Bureau. Permits to reserves and forest parks were easily obtained. The other nice thing was that we stayed inside the reserve whenever tourist facility existed. We were therefore closer to the action than on

other trips. Facilities were quite reasonable. Hot/warm water was provided except for one night. We had public bathroom most nights. The only problems were caused because this company were not used to birding trips. They would arrange tourist trails for us in the reserve, and watching us all the way to make sure that we stayed on the trail and not collect specimens. In some ways they interfered with our birding.

The Xishuanbana area still had some of the best forest in Yunnan. From what we saw, the forest in the reserve did get some protection. Houses had been moved out of the core area. Birds seemed to be somewhat relaxed and were present in good numbers. However the cultivated areas outside the reserves were almost completely deprived of birds. We found that in areas where hunting were absent and food was available, birds were plentiful. Some sort of "oasis effect" existed from Kunming to Xishuanbana. Is the protection sufficient? I wish I knew. The future of birds in China is still highly uncertain.

In this trip we introduced a new recording system. We estimated the degree of certainty that a species were correctly identified. Our list included 198 species identified with 100% certainty (according to a member), and 29 species with 90% certainty. Birds that we did very well with were Swallow/Swift (10 species), Bulbul (13), Drongo (6), Fulvetta (5), Yuhina/Minla (7), Leaf-Warbler (9) and Prinia (4). We did very badly with Egrets, birds of prey, Kingfishers, Laughing-thrushes and Starlings. I was perfectly happy with the experience with identifying warblers.

OVERSEAS BIRDWATCHING

SOUTHERN THAILAND 5 - 13
February 1994 - by John Edge

I took advantage of the Chinese New Year holiday to visit Khao Pra-Bang Khram Non-Hunting Area (KP-BK), near Krabi, best known for Gurney's Pitta *Pitta gurneyi*, together with the mangroves at Krabi. My interest had been stimulated by Clive Viney's visit to the area a year earlier. Access was via Phuket; if I had got myself organised earlier, I could have flown direct to Phuket, but instead I changed planes in Bangkok, where I bumped into the HKBWS Chiang Mai contingent. I stayed one night at Patong before driving to Ao Nang, near Krabi, the following afternoon; the trip took three hours. I hired a Suzuki jeep - essential, as it turned out, for KP-BK - from Avis at the Regal Meridien, Patong, though not without hassle - they had no trace of my booking, and I was lucky that my vehicle was returned early by a previous hirer.

Patong had little to offer birdwise, though four Red-breasted Parakeets *Psittacula alexandri* in the casuarinas lining the beach apparently should not have been there. En route to Krabi, there was some fine scenery and one or two Black-shouldered Kites *Elanus caeruleus*. It would be worth allowing more birding time on this route. At Ao Nang, about 15 km. from Krabi town, I stayed at the delightful Phra-Nang Inn, right on the beach; it is run by Preecha and his wife, friends of Philip Round's, who sympathises with birders and gave me lots of useful information.

The following morning Preecha guided me to Krabi town, where I parked

near Mrs. Lee's travel agency, on the main street facing the tidal creek. There I met the legendary Mr. Dai, who guided his long-tailed boat expertly, and mostly silently, for 4½ hours through the narrow channels in the mangroves. He knows his birds and is a good mimic. That morning we heard as much as we saw; 'heards' included several Mangrove Pittas *P. megarhyncha* and one Mangrove Whistler *Pacycephala grisola*. We had good views of up to four massive Brown-winged Kingfishers *Halcyon amauroptera* amongst the other commoner kingfisher species, a Common Flameback *Dinopium javanense*, a superb male Masked Finfoot *Heliopais personata*, a Chestnut-bellied Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus sumatranus* and a variety of *Phylloscopus* warblers and tailorbirds. Flocks of swallows, martins and swifts, including Dusky Crag Martin *Hirundo concolor*, wheeled around the impressive limestone outcrops.

Hot and thirsty after a long morning, I spent the next hour trying to find Rong's cafe, referred to in Mark Cocker's article in the Oriental Bird Club Bulletin No. 14 and known as a birders' haunt. There was no sign of it whatever and no-one had even heard of it; I found out days later that it had closed at least two years previously. I headed instead for Khao Phanem Bencha National Park, a fine, isolated hilly patch of primary forest 20 km. due north of Krabi; by mid-afternoon it was birdless (I saw only a few Ochraceous Bulbuls *Criniger ochraceus* and one probable juvenile Rufous-bellied Eagle *Hieraaetus kienerii*) but the area looked well worth further study.

The next day and a half were spent at KP-BK, about two hours' drive southeast of Ao Nang, with one night spent at Pitta Bungalows, run by Mrs. Koh. Four meals, accommodation, a Gurney's Pitta t-shirt and several large bottles of cold Singha (the world's best beer) cost all of 570 baht! The drawback was that washing facilities were virtually non-existent; otherwise I would have been tempted to stay longer. For the first day I had Yothin, another friend of Philip's, as a guide; the morning was spent on the Thung Tiew (Tina Jelliffe) Nature Trail, in the forest proper, and the afternoon further east in the rather more open Phaen Din Samur area. Star bird of the morning session had to be a superb male Gurney's Pitta, but we also saw Thick-billed Pigeon *Treron curvirostra*, Emerald Dove *Calchophaps indica*, Vernal Hanging Parrot *Loriculus vernalis*, Chestnut-breasted Malkoha *P. curvirostris*, Orange-headed Thrush *Zoothera citrina*, Tickell's Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis tickelliae* and an assortment of barbets, minivets, bulbuls, flowerpeckers and sunbirds. Again, we heard rather more than we saw, including Banded Kingfisher *Lacedo pulchella*.

The afternoon produced more goodies, including both Blyth's *Spizaetus alboniger* and Wallace's *S. nanus* Hawk-Eagles, Bushy-crested *Anorrhinus galeritus* and Wreathed *Rhyticeros undulatus* Hornbills, Scaly-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron cinereum* and Fulvous-chested Flycatcher *Rhinomyias olivacea*. Yothin also had a Chestnut-naped Forktail *Enicurus ruficapillus* while my back was turned - this remains one of my principal bogey-birds. While returning to H.Q., we had good views of Great-eared Nighthawk *Eurostopodus*

macrotis; after a lot of walking that day and a couple of beers and a chat with Yothin and the Kohs, I quite happily passed up the chance of Spotted Wood Owl *Strix seloputo*, Buffy Fish Owl *Ketupa ketupu* and Javan Frogmouth *Batrachostomus hodgsoni*, all of which can be found nearby.

The following morning I started out on the Thung Tiew trail but then took a steep path up towards the Ton Tiew waterfall. Having briefly watched an Orange-breasted Trogon *Harpactes oreskios* on its nest, I later found my bird of the trip up on a ridge - the bulbul-sized Sultan Tit *Melanochloa sultanea*, a wonderful black-and-yellow creature. I also saw Raffles' Malkoha *P. chlorophaeus* and Streak-breasted Woodpecker *Picus viridanus* there.

After returning to the delights of the Phra Nang Inn, I did several day or half-day trips, including a return to the mangroves with Mr. Dai, who later took me to the mouth of the creek where there were many waders, including Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*, roosting on poles at high tide, alongside Great *Sterna bergii* and Lesser *S. bengalensis* Crested Terns. There were between 75 and 100 of the latter, said to be very rare visitors to southern Thailand. An enjoyable boat trip to Ko Phi Phi did not produce many birds but the scenery was splendid and I had a wonderful hour's snorkelling; we passed a flock of 30 Lesser Frigatebirds *Fregata ariel* on the return leg. A half-day was also spent on Ko Pa Da, a 20-minute boat-ride away from Ao Nang, where Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris* and Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus* were conspicuous. Forest Wagtail *Dendronanthus indicus* was a

nice addition there. Pleasant-looking accommodation is available on the island, which must worth an overnight stop.

Altogether an enjoyable trip, though I was surprised not to see any other birders. I could have seen more birds if I had worked harder, but it was a holiday, after all! Yothin told me that the local people at KP-BK are not sympathetic to the plight of Gurney's Pitta; I hope the areas's future is assured. I only needed one book - Lekagul and Round's 'Guide to the Birds of Thailand'. If anyone would like any further information please contact me.

STOP PRESS!!!!

MAI PO UPDATE by L.Young & D. Melville

More land under WWF management

On the 19 December, the District Lands Office in Yuen Long will be handing over additional gei wais in the southern half of the reserve for WWF Hong Kong to manage. At the time of writing, DLO-YL has confirmed that gei wais #21, 23 and 24 will be handed over, but they are trying to seek additional funds for gei wais #20 and 22 to be handed over as well. If so, this will mean that WWF Hong Kong will then have complete management control of all the land within the FCA Border Fence in the reserve. A management plan has been produced for the whole reserve, and HKBWS members are welcome to borrow copies for comment.

Cormorants

Members will no doubt be aware of the complaints by local fish pond operators about the alleged large numbers of Cormorants taking fish from their ponds, so seriously affecting their livelihood. The Agriculture and Fisheries Department (AFD) has organized several joint meetings between themselves, the fish pond

operators union and WWF Hong Kong to try and resolve the problem, but these meetings have been frustrated by a seeming unwillingness by the fishermen to try different methods to stop Cormorants land and feed in their ponds. Discussions are still continuing but as a temporary measure, the fishermen have been allowed to put up nets in their ponds with large a mesh size and with brightly streamers tied on in order to frighten away the birds.

WWF Hong Kong are obviously concerned that these nets will accidentally trap birds, and has therefore written to AFD to suggesting guidelines on exactly what types of nets will temporarily be allowed. If members do see nets in the coming months, please continue to inform AFD, who can then check if they followed the guidelines. If not, then AFD Nature Wardens will take them down.

Save the Mai Po Wetlands Campaign

The Hong Kong "Green Groups" have joined together in a campaign to conserve the fish ponds around the Mai Po Marshes and have been collecting signatures of support from the public as part of this campaign. Our aim is that the signatures will be presented to the Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands just before the opening of the Town Planning Appeal Board hearing for the proposed residential development at 'Fung Lok Wai', Tsim Bei Tsui.

HKBWS members should have received the signature forms already and for those who have filled them in and returned them to us, thank you very much. It is only by showing your support, will we persuade Government to urgently;

1. come up with an comprehensive wetland conservation strategy for the Deep Bay wetlands,
2. designate the wetlands around Deep Bay and Mai Po as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.

For those who have not yet filled in the signature forms, can I urge you to do so as soon as possible and show your support. **There are no WWF member visits to the floating boardwalk in the coming months.**

FUTURE MEETINGS

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

DATE	LEADER	VENUE	TIME
8 January Saturday	Li Wai Ki	Tai Po Kau Meet at Car Park	07:30-12:00
22 January Sunday	Richard Stott Chan Ming Ming	Mai Po Coach leaves Kowloon Tong at 08:00	09:00-15:00
8 February Saturday	Gathering for NEW MEMBERS AND BEGINNERS Conference Hall at Royal Observatory Nathan Road entrance. Call C.Y.Lam to register		18:30
12 February Sunday	C.Y.Lam	Kowloon Park MTR exit near Mosque.	08:00-11:00
19 February Sunday	Tim Woodward Lo Wai-yan	Mai Po Coach leaves Kowloon Tong at 08:00	09:00-15:00
5 March Sunday	John Edge Cheung Ho Fai	Tsim Bei Tsui Coach leaves Kowloon Tong at 08:00	09:00-15:00
14 March Tuesday	Jeb Barzen	"THE CONSERVATION OF WATERBIRDS IN S.CHINA & S.VIETNAM." Hong Kong City University, Yau Yat Chuen.	18:30
19 March Sunday	Jim Hackett Ng Cho Nam	Mai Po Coach leaves Kowloon Tong at 08:00	09:00-15:00
26 March Sunday	C.Y.Lam	Hong Kong Park Meet at top of escalator from Admiralty MTR. Good for Beginners and families.	08:00-11:00
29 March Wednesday		ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Auxiliary Police Officers Mess, 3rd Floor, Beaconsfield House Queen's Road, Central. Cash Bar, Snacks.	18:00
Followed by	Mike Chalmers	"A Siberian Experience" Slide show	
7/8 April		BIG BIRD RACE	
14 April Sunday	Chan Ming Ming.	Mai Po. Coach leaves Kowloon Tong at 08:00.	

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 therefore essential that members inform the leader whether they will attend in advance. Failure to do so will result in other members being refused access to Mai Po. Members who use the coach must confirm their attendance by using the booking slip.

A coach will collect members from Kowloon Tong KCR one hour before assembly time and return there after the meeting. Please return the form given at the end of this bulletin with a cheque in **English** (note the prices for guests) made out to the **Hong Kong Birdwatching Society** if you wish to use the coach. Please bring drink and food, and appropriate clothing (e.g. Wellington Boots for Swamp Bash) Payment can also be made by Electronic Transfer to Account No 004-567-899661-001 Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank in favour of **The Hong Kong Birdwatching Society**. Please send the attendance slip to C.Y.Lam to confirm a place.

Leaders are requested to find a substitute leader and contact C.Y.Lam if they are unable to attend.

Telephone Numbers are on the front of the Bulletin except for:

Li Wai Ki

Lo Wai-yan

Jim Hackett

BIRD NEWS...BIRD NEWS....BIRD NEWS....BIRD NEWS

Schrenck's Bittern One at the Mai Po Landfill 28 Sep (GW), and another at Long Valley 9 Oct (CHF et al). **Black Bittern** One at Mui Wo, Lantau on 1 Sep (PH). **Swinhoes Egret** Two at Mai Po on 22 Oct (RWL). Autumn records are exceptional. **Besra** One trapped at Mai Po on 17 Sep (PJL et al.), and another trapped at KARC on 30 Oct (PJL, PRK, MRL). **Northern Sparrowhawk** One at Tsim Bei Tsui on 9 Oct (RWL). **Black-shouldered Kite** One at Tsim Bei Tsui on 25 Sep (JB), 1 Oct (DAD), 12 Oct (RWL), 17 Oct (JH), 24 Oct (GW), 4 Oct (PJL et al.). One at Mai Po on 26 Oct and 4 Nov (PJL). One at Long Valley 25 Nov (PJL). **Crested Honey Buzzard** One at Tin Shui Wai 1 Oct (DAD), another there on 4 Oct (WLY et al.). One at Mai Po 22 Oct (PRK,PJL), and two on the same date at Mt. Austin (MT). **Mountain Hawk Eagle** One at Wang Chuk Hang on 4 Nov (MT). If accepted only the second record for Hong Kong. **Pied Harrier** An immature male from the Boardwalk Hide on 23 Oct (PJL, PRK, GJC et al.) **Amur Falcon** A juvenile on East Ping Chau on 8 Oct (PJL). **Ruddy Crake** Singles at Long Valley on 13 Sep (SES). **Baillon's Crake** Singles at Long Valley on 28-29 Sep (PJL et al.), 17-19 Oct (PJL et al.) and 5-6 Nov (MH, JAH et al) **Pheasant-tailed Jacana** Five at Tsim Bei Tsui on 8 Oct (MK et al.) is the highest count for many years. **Painted Snipe** Recorded from Long Valley, Kam Tin and Lok Ma Chau with high counts being 30+, a new high, at Kam Tin on 23 Oct (CHF). **Ringed Plover** One present in front of the Boardwalk Hide from 21 Oct (PJL et al.). **Bridled Tern** Three from Cape D'Aguilar on 12 Sep (RWL) **Aleutian Tern** Eighty-five seen in western waters on 1 Sep (VBP et al). Twelve from Cape D'Aguilar on 12 Sep (RWL). **Grey Nightjar** One at Discovery Bay on 22 Oct (JBr) **Crested Kingfisher** One at Yi O, Lantau, 15 Nov (JB). **Blue-tailed Bee-eater** 14 at Tsim Bei Tsui on 5 and 9 October (RWL). One there on 13 Oct (MRL et al.). **Bay Woodpecker** One Tai Lam CP. on 10 Sep (JAH), and Tai Po Kau on 13 Oct. **Chinese Pitta** One along the Kap Lung Forest Trail 29 Sep. (PS) **Northern Skylark** Two at Tsim Bei Tsui on 25 Oct (PJL), one over Deep Bay 27 Oct (PJL). Two at Tsim Bei Tsui 28 Oct (PJL, PRK et al.). One at Kam Tin on 7 Nov (RWL). One at Mai Po on 12, 19, and 26 Nov (PJL) **Pechora Pipit** One at Ting Kau (PAN), only the second autumn record.

Black-backed Wagtail Two at Kam Tin on 25 Sep (PA) and three on East Ping Chau 5 Nov (MK). **Citrine Wagtail** One first-winter at Tsim Bei Tsui on 4 Oct (PJL, VBP, WLY), an adult female at Long Valley from 28 Oct (PJL, PRK), a first-winter also at Long Valley from 29 Oct (PJL, PRK, MRL et al.). One at Kam Tin on?? (DAD et al.). Prior to this autumn there had been only one autumn record, as long ago as 1973. **Grey Bushchat** A male at Mai Po on 26 Sep (PJL), a female there on 2 Oct. Two at Mt. Austin on 1 Oct (JB, MT) **Siberian Thrush** A female at Mt Austin 9 Oct (IT). **Slaty-backed Forktail** One at Tsuen Wan on 27 Nov (CHF). **Pale-footed Bush Warbler** One trapped at Mai Po on 15 Oct (PJL, MRL, CHF), the first record away from KARC. **Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler** An excellent autumn for this species, with the highest counts being 40 at Luk Keng on 17 Sep (KW et al.) and 45 at Long Valley on 28 Sep (PJL). Also reported from Mui Wo (PJH), Kam Tin (MK), Sheun Wan Landfill (RWL), Mai Po Landfill (GW), Tin Shui Wai Landfill (DAD), Mai Po (PJL), Ha Wan Tsuen (PJL), Lok Ma Chau (PJL) **Lanceolated Warbler** Two Mai Po Landfill 28 Sep (GW), and one at Long Valley the same day (PJL). One at Tin Shui Wai 1 Oct (DAD), followed by three there on 4 Oct (PJL et al.). One at Police HQ in Wanchai 11 Oct (JB). One at Shui Hau Wan, Lantau 16 Oct (PJH). One killed by lorry, Tsing-Yi bridge site, Ma Wan 21 Oct. (PJH). Another at Tin Shui Wai on 24 Oct (GW). One at Tsim Bei Tsui on 28 Oct (PJL), and another on the same day at Long Valley (PJL, PRK). **One on Ma Wan 1 Nov (PJH)** **Styan's Grasshopper Warbler** One trapped at Mai Po on 26 Nov (PJL, PRK, MRL et al.) **Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata*** One along the Fence between Mai Po and Lok Ma Chau 30 Sep-1 Oct (PJL et al), was considered to an adult of the race rama treated by some as a separate species Syke's Warbler. If accepted, the first record for Hong Kong. **Thick-billed Warbler** One seen at Mai Po on 14 Sep (PJL) was the only record. **Two-barred Greenish Warbler** One trapped at KARC on 16 Oct (PJL, MRL et al.). One in Lam Tsuen Valley on 22 Nov (MDW) **Radde's Warbler** One at Ho Chung 8 Oct (JAH), two at Mt Austin 22 Oct (MT), one at Mai Po on 26 Oct (PJL), further singles at Mt. Austin on 29 Oct (MT), 3 Nov (VBP), and 5 Nov (MT). One at KARC on 30 Oct (PJL). One heard in Tai Po Kau on 5 Nov (MLC) and one trapped at KARC the next day (PJL, MRL, GJC) **Yellow-streaked Warbler *Phloscopus armandii*** One trapped at KARC on 16 Oct (PJL, MRL, CHF et al) which if accepted will be the first record for Hong Kong. Remarkably further birds came on 30 Oct at Mt Austin (VBP et al.), followed by a further individual there on 6 Nov (MT), and another trapped at Mai Po on 26 Nov (PJL, MRL, PRK et al.) **Vivid Niltava** A female niltava trapped at KARC on 30 Oct showed the characters of this species (PJL, PRK, MRL). If after further research this proves to be correct this is a potential addition to the Hong Kong list. **Blue-throated Flycatcher** A late report is of a first-winter male found dead at Kadoorie Farm in April. **Sooty Flycatcher** singles in Tai Po Kau on 7 Sep (RWL), and at Mai Po on 14 Sep (PJL). **Siberian Blue Robin** One at Mai Po n 21 Sep (PJL). Two at Mt. Austin 25 September, **Orange-headed Ground Thrush** One in Tai Po Kau on 14 September (RWL). **Bull-headed Shrike** Singles at Mai Po on 28 Oct (PJL), Ho Chung from 1 Nov (JAH, MH), Wu Kau Tang on 6 Nov (DAD) and Mui Wo 10 Nov (DAD). **Daurian Starling** Five at Mai Po on 21 Sep (PJL), five there on 26 Sep (PJL). One at Tsim Bei Tsui on 2 Oct (JAH), and four at Mai Po the same day. Two near Lok Ma Chau on 5 Oct (PJL) **European Starling** One at Tsim Bei Tsui on 24 Oct (GW) and Kam Tin 7 Nov (RWL) **Chestnut-tailed Starling** One near Mai Po on 5-6 Nov (DAD et al.) **Ruddy Sparrow** At Sheun Wan Landfill a male was present on 24 Sep (RWL et al) and a female on 3 Oct (RWL) **Chinese Greenfinch** One at Mai Po on 29 Oct (PJL) and three at Mong Tseng (RWL) the following day. **Brambling** One at Mt Austin on 5 Nov (MT) **Hawfinch** One at Mui Wo on 17 Nov (PJH) **Siskin** Up to 50 at Chung Lung on 6 and 13 Nov (NG) **Japanese Yellow Bunting** One at Ho Chung on 10 Nov (JAH). Only the second autumn record. **Yellow-browed Bunting** One in the Lam Tseun Valley on 16 Oct **Black-headed Bunting** An adult female at Mong Tseng on 21 Oct (PJL, JAH). If accepted the first for Hong Kong. **Black/Red-headed Bunting** A female/immature at Tsim Bei Tsui from 13 to 28 Oct (RWL et al.)

CHRISTMAS COUNT 1994

By now all members should have received a notice urging participation in the 1994 Christmas Count to be held on 27 December 1994. The list of area leaders is given below. Obviously the leader cannot cover all the area himself and help from members will be greatly appreciated. Please make an effort to assist in the count and contact a leader to offer your services. Even if you do not do this, but observe from your balcony for example, please complete a proforma and send it to Ian Tyzzer anyway. Many thanks in advance for your help!

Area Leaders

<u>MAI PO</u>	Mike Chalmers	
<u>TSIM BEI TSUI/MONG TSENG</u>	LI Wai-ki	
<u>CASTLE PEAK including NIM WAN</u>	CHEUNG Ho-fai	
<u>NORTHERN NT including Pak Nai, San Tin</u>	C.Y. LAM	
<u>SHEKKONG, TAI MO SHAN, KAM TIN</u>	NICK Grimshaw	
<u>SHING MUN/KOWLOON HILLS</u>	PAUL ASTON	//DAVID DISKIN
<u>LAM TSUEN VALLEY</u>	Verity PICKEN	
<u>NORTH EAST NT including LUK KENG, PLOVER COVE</u>	Richard Stott	
<u>TAI PO KAU</u>	Geoff Carey	
<u>TAI LONG including TOLO HARBOUR</u>	Mike Kilburn	
<u>HO CHUNG, SAI KUNG, MA ON SHAN</u>	Martin Hale	
<u>KOWLOON</u>	YU Yat-tung	
<u>STONECUTTERS ISLAND</u>	Jim Ades	
<u>HONG KONG ISLAND</u>	John Burton	
<u>LAMMA ISLAND</u>	Lew YOUNG	
<u>CHEUNG CHAU ISLAND</u>	Martin Williams	
<u>LANTAU ISLAND</u>	Ian Tyzzer	

Christmas Count, December 199

Observer(s) :

Places visited :

Remarks

My/our guess : Total number of species seen in Hong Kong

= _____.

(When reporting, please give approximate numbers of birds seen in each area - see map. Avoid phrases like 'several', 'a few hundred', etc.; use numbers e.g. 4, 70, 300, 6000.)

001 Little Grebe	041 Falcated Teal	074 Spotted Eagle
002 Great Crested Grebe	042 Gadwall	075 Imperial Eagle
006 Cormorant	043 Baikal Teal	076 Bonelli's Eagle
007 Dalmatian Pelican	044 Teal	077 Osprey
009 Lesser Frigatebird (Sp)	045 Mallard	079 Kestrel
010 Bittern	046 Yellow-rump Duck	083 Peregrine Falcon
013 Chestnut Bittern	047 Pintail	084 Chinese Francolin
016 Night Heron	048 Garganey	085 Japanese Quail
017 Little Green Heron	049 Shoveler	088 Slaty-legged Crane
018 Chinese Pond Heron	050 Common Pochard	090 Banded Rail
019 Cattle Egret	051 Baer's Pochard	095 White-breasted Waterhen
021 Reef Egret	052 Tufted Duck	096 Moorhen
022 Little Egret	053 Scaup	097 Watercock
023 Intermediate Egret	056 Red-breasted Merganser	098 Coot
024 Great Egret	Snaw	101 Painted Snipe
025 Grey Heron	059 Black-shouldered Kite	103 Black-winged Stilt
026 Purple Heron	060 Black Kite	104 Avocet
027 Black Stork	061 White-bellied Sea Eagle	106 Little Ringed Plover
028 White Stork	062 Black Vulture	107 Ringed Plover
030 White Ibis	063 Serpent Eagle	108 Kentish Plover
031 European Spoonbill	064 Marsh Harrier	109 Lesser Sand Plover
032 Black-faced Spoonbill	068 Japanese Sparrowhawk	110 Greater Sand Plover
036 Ruddy Shelduck	069 Sparrowhawk (Sp)	112 Asiatic Golden Plover
037 Shelduck	070 Crested Goshawk	113 Grey Plover
039 Mandarin	073 Buzzard	114 Grey-headed Lapwing
040 Wigeon		

115 Lapwing	160 Black-tailed Gull	228 Red-rumped Swallow
116 Great Knot	162 Herring Gull	230 Richard's Pipit
117 Knot	163 Slaty-backed Gull	231 Upland Pipit
119 Red-necked Stint	168 Caspian Tern	232 Olive-backed Pipit
120 Temminck's Stint	179 Red Turtle Dove	234 Red-throated Pipit
121 Long-toed Stint	180 Rufous Turtle Dove	235 Water Pipit
124 Dunlin	181 Spotted Dove	237 Yellow Wagtail
129 Fantail Snipe	183 Emerald Dove	239 Grey Wagtail
130 Pintail Snipe	189 Plain-tive Quail	240 White Wagtail
135 Woodcock	193 Koel	242 Black-winged Quail Shrike
136 Black-tailed Godwit	194 Greater Coucal	245 Grey-throated Minivet
139 Whimbrel	195 Lesser Coucal	246 Scarlet Minivet
140 Curlew	196 Collared Scops Owl	247 Crested Bulbul
142 Spotted Redshank	200 Barred Owl	248 Chinese Bulbul
143 Redshank	208 Pacific Swift	249 Red-vented Bulbul
144 Marsh Sandpiper	209 House Swift	250 Chestnut Bulbul
145 Greenshank	210 White-breasted Kingfisher	251 Black Bulbul
147 Green Sandpiper	211 Black-capped Kingfisher	251.1 Orange-bellied Leafbird
148 Wood Sandpiper	212 Common Kingfisher	255 Red-tailed Robin
150 Common Sandpiper	213 Pied Kingfisher	256 Rubythroat
153 Red-neck Phalarope	217 Hoopoe	257 Bluethroat
156.1 Relict Gull	218 Great Barbets	259 Red-flanked Bluetail
157 Saunders' Gull	219 Wryneck	260 Daurian Redstart
158 Black-headed Gull	225 Oriental Skylark	261 Plumbeous Water Redstart
159 Brown-headed Gull	227 Swallow	262 Magpie Robin

263 Stonechat	294 Rufous-faced Flycatcher Warbler	325 Humei
264 Grey Bushchat	295 Large Grass Warbler	326 White-cheeked Laughing Thrush
265.1 White-throated Rock Thrush	296 Long-tailed Tailor Bird	327 Black-faced Laughing Thrush
267 Blue Rock Thrush	297 Sulphur-breasted Warbler	328 Pekin Robin
268 Violet Whistling Thrush	298 Blyth's Leaf Warbler	330 White-bellied Yuhina
269 Orange-headed Ground Thrush	299 Eastern Crowned Warbler	331 Red-headed Tit
270 White's Thrush	300 Pale-legged Leaf Warbler	332 Yellow-bellied Tit
272 Grey Thrush	300.2 Two-banded Greenish Warbler	333 Great Tit
273 Blackbird	301 Arctic Warbler	333.1 Yellow-cheeked Tit
274 Brown Thrush	302 Pallas's Warbler	334 Penduline Tit
275 Grey-backed Thrush	303 Yellow-browed Warbler	335 Fork-tailed Sunbird
276 Pale Thrush	304 Radde's Warbler	336 Fire-breasted Flowerpecker
277 Bye-browed Thrush	305 Dusky Warbler	337 Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker
278 Dusky Thrush	306 Rukien Niltava	339 White-eye
280 Short-tailed Bush Warbler	309 Verditer Flycatcher	342 Brown Shrike
281 Chinese Bush Warbler	313 Brown Flycatcher	343 Rufous-backed Shrike
282 Mountain Bush Warbler	314 Red-breasted Flycatcher	345 Black Drongo
282.5 Russet Bush Warbler	315 Mugimaki Flycatcher	346 Ashy Drongo
283 Fantail Warbler	318 Grey-headed Flycatcher	347 Hair-crested Drongo
283.1 Bright-capped Cisticola	319 Asian Paradise Flycatcher	348 Jay
284 Plain Prinia	321 Black-naped Monarch Flycatcher	349 Blue Magpie
285 Yellow-bellied Prinia	321.2 Rufous-necked Scimitar Babbler	350 Treepie
290 Great Reed Warbler	321.5 Vinous-throated Parrotbill	351 Magpie
292 Yellow-eyed Flycatcher Warbler	323 Greater Necklaced Laughing Thrush	352 Jungle Crow
293 Chestnut Crowned Warbler	324 Black-throated Laughing Thrush	353 Collared Crow

354 Silky Starling	812 Golden Fronted Leafbird
357 Chinese Starling	816 Silver-eared Mesia
358 European Starling	822 Indian Grackle
360 Grey Starling	831 Yellow-fronted Canary
361 Black-necked Starling	
362 Crested Mynah	
363 Tree Sparrow	
364 White-backed Munia	
365 Spotted Munia	
367 Chinese Greenfinch	
369 Common Rosefinch	
370 Black-tailed Hawfinch	
371 Black-faced Bunting	
373 Grey-headed Bunting	
374 Tristram's Bunting	
376 Little Bunting	
601 Peral Pigeon	
602 Rainbow Lorikeet	
603 Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	
604 Rose-ringed Parakeet	
605 Common Mynah	
606 Azure-winged Magpie	
712 Grey-cheeked Rulvetta	
712.1 Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	
715 Hawfinch	