

香港觀鳥會 The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society



bulletin

會員通訊



190

Winter 2003 ~ 冬

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Redshank (Mai Po) – Daniel C K Chan



反咀鷗 (尖鼻咀) – 杜霄炯
Avocet (Tsim Bei Tsui) – Hendrix To



The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Limited

(Approved Charitable Institution of a Public Character)

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Obituary

Arthur St. G. Walton Founding Chairman of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

– Frank Walker

The Founding Chairman of the Society, Mr. Arthur St. G. Walton, passed away on 29 September 2003. He was the author of BIRD-WATCHING IN HONG KONG 1947-1957, published in The Hong Kong Bird Report 1967. At 95 years of age, he was still proud to wear the 45th anniversary badge sent to him with the Society bulletin. He never forgot the Society. In his will, Mr. Walton donated his collection of notes and publications on Hong Kong birds to the Society. – Editor

I first met Arthur St. G. Walton and his charming wife through the good offices of J. D. Romer, at that time of the University of Hong Kong, in the spring of 1956. Arthur organised from the island end, and I from the New Territories, a series of casual field outings in the Kam Tin - Ping Shan - Mai Po area. Such stalwarts as Lieutenant Jeremy Sergeant, Dickie Bird, J. L. Cranmer-Byng, Sergeant Toby Woodham and Maura Benham supported these field meetings.

When I was forecast home to the United Kingdom on or about the end of October 1957, Arthur and I suggested that it was time Hong Kong had its own ornithological society. I drafted a letter to that effect, which Arthur circulated amongst his colleagues on the Island and I concentrated on the New Territories. An inaugural meeting was set up by Arthur in the Reading Room of the British Council. The meeting was a success and the rest is history. Incidentally, I was presented with an ancient oriental painting, which I have beside me 46 years later.

Arthur was a delightful, charming, Edwardian gentleman, with time out to spare for new young coves at field meetings. He was always in control without appearing to be so.

It was with sadness that I learnt his first wife had passed on, and that Arthur had moved to southwest England. We did not communicate after his move.

Frank Walker
Hotel de Baleeira
8650-357 Vila de Sagres,
Portugal
13th November 2003


From the Chairman

Mr. Arthur St. G. Walton, the founding chairman of HKBWS, has passed away in his home land of England. He never forgot the Society, and I am deeply touched that, at 95, he still wore our 45th Anniversary badge with great pride.

I never met Mr. Walton, but through our common interest in bird-watching, I can sense his kindness in his love of Nature, and his passion for sharing his appreciation of Nature. His early efforts marked the origin of the present popularity of bird-watching in Hong Kong. Nearly half a century ago, a gentleman from a distant country planted a seed out of his love for nature. That seed has since flourished and is beginning to bear fruit in this land. It is such a wonder in the scheme of things.

By the time you receive this bulletin, the election for "My Favourite Hong Kong Bird" will have been closed. Over ten thousand votes have been received, which would have been beyond imagination just a few years ago. It is a clear sign that our years of promotion in the community have finally taken effect.

Birds used to receive little attention in Hong Kong, but now they are a recurring subject in the local press. Newspapers are posting eye-catching bird photographs on their pages, adding a touch of joy and warmth to their readers' lives. Reports on the rescue of injured birds also serve to foster a caring heart among the readers. Birds have indeed become a well-established "ecology" component for the media. To a city troubled by endless issues and worries, birds offer a welcome respite and bright spot in the day's news.

I urge all of you to spend more time telling friends about the benefits of bird-watching, so that more people may feel the joy in watching Life itself. 



– Jimmy Chim, Forrest Fong

2004 Membership Renewal

Please find the enclosed 2004 Membership renewal form. Remember, your support is vital to the development of the society, so please renew your membership as soon as possible.

Each applicant should submit one form. To facilitate data input, please fill in English in block letters as far as possible.

First Annual General Meeting 2003

The minutes of the meeting are included with this issue of Bulletin.

Hong Kong Bird Report 1999/2000

The bird report for 1999 and 2000 will be printed in a combined volume. The editor and volunteers have been working on the text. We will keep you updated on their progress.

Information Technology Group and New Webmaster


In view of the current operation and the further

development of the Society, HKBWS has set up an Information Technology Group (IT Group) in early December 2003 to:-

- 1) Assist the Webmaster in maintaining the Website
- 2) Advise the Society on IT issues
- 3) Provide technical support to the HKBWS and the Project Office as well as the various sub-committees
- 4) Recruit more IT birders to help the Society

Most of the IT Group Members are experts in IT field and all of them have been Society members for a long time. The Group members are Mr. Karl Ng, Mr. Lee Kwok Shing, Miss Sophia Wong, Dr. Beta Yip and Mr. Forrest Fong.

Mr. Lee has taken up the post as the new HKBWS Webmaster from October 2003. Karl is engaged in his agricultural fieldwork and therefore wanted to take a break after serving as the Webmaster for over 3 years. However, he has kindly agreed to continue to support the Society as an IT Group Member. I would like to thank Karl for contributions to the Society in the past few years and wish him well in his new work.

If you are interested and want to help the IT Group, please contact the Webmaster (webmaster@hkbws.org.hk) or Mr. Forrest FONG (forrest_fong@yahoo.com.hk). 

HKBWS PROJECTS

HKBWS PROJECTS

Press Release

Hong Kong Bird Watching Society announces result of "My Favourite Hong Kong Bird" Election

Community members join forces to promote awareness of birds and biodiversity in Hong Kong

29th January 2004. Hong Kong. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (HKBWS) today announces the results of the "My Favourite Hong Kong Bird" election, which was organized by the Society and sponsored by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust and with support from other organizations. The campaign is the first wildlife election in Hong Kong – some 25,000 people have voted for their favourite local bird species [1] [3].

Among the candidates in the election, Tree Sparrow comes first with 4,019 votes or 16% of the total. In addition to its lovely appearance, many Hong Kong citizens consider the bird an old neighbour because it is found almost everywhere. Some



people also admired its marvellous ability to survive in any environment - a quality that is most valued by the community these days. Finally, the Chinese name for sparrow "ma cheuk", which has the same pronunciation in Cantonese as the popular game "mahjong" makes it all the more familiar and endearing.

Runners up included Little Egret (2,063 votes, 10%), which many people mistakenly call "Crane", the highly photogenic Common Kingfisher (2,451 votes, 10%); the thumb-sized Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker, which wears a bright red stripe from crown to back (2,226 votes, 9%); Common Magpie (2,061, 8%), which symbolizes good luck; and Fork-tailed Sunbird (1,049 votes, 6%), a tiny creature that is often misidentified as a hummingbird. The fact that these birds are distributed in a wide range of habitats, including urban area, woodlands, coastal area, mangroves, fishponds, farmland, etc., highlights the rich diversity of Hong Kong's natural environment.

At the ceremony announcing the election results, HKBWS Chairman Lam Chiu Ying, JP said, "The election raises the community's interest in local flora and fauna and adds a tinge of colour to our daily lives. It also shows that Hong Kong is truly a "City of Life" - among the major cities in Asia, perhaps only Hong Kong is blessed with such a rich variety of wildlife and natural habitats [2]. Mr Lam thanked The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust for sponsoring the event "The election was supported by many government departments, non-government organizations and commercial enterprises. This clearly demonstrates the commitment of the local community to nature conservation." he added.

Among those who have voted for the winning species, 10 were selected by lucky draw to receive a pair of crystal binoculars from Swarovski Hong Kong Limited. At the same time, HKBWS will also give out more than 500 souvenirs as an encouragement to other voters.

To improve people's understanding of birds and their habitats, students of the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems of The University of Hong Kong have helped to incorporate detailed information of birds, habitat and birdwatching sites at the voting website at <http://bird.csis.hku.hk/vote/>.

"The election has also encouraged citizens to appreciate the "richness" of the local environment and birds that live there. Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

ment is very glad to co-sponsor the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society in the election for "My Favourite Hong Kong Bird". Through this event, it helps to raise people's interest in nature conservation" said Mr J K Chan, Senior Wetland and Fauna Officer, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department.

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society is an organization run by volunteer members. It is committed to research, education and conservation related to birds and their habitats. The Society organizes long-term bird monitoring schemes, conducts education programmes and promotes appreciation of birds. Through birdwatching, the Society hopes that people will learn to enjoy nature and understand more about conservation, and eventually cultivate care and love for Hong Kong's priceless natural heritage.

Photographs of the birds and the announcement ceremony of "My Favourite Hong Kong Bird" Election are available at the following website: <http://www.hkbws.org.hk/fileServer/Projectofficer/election1.html>.

Notes for Editors

- [1] The final results of the election for "My Favourite Hong Kong Bird" are as follows:

Bird species	No. of votes (Percentage (%))	Rank
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	4,019 (16)	1
Little Egret	2,603 (10)	2
Common Kingfisher	2,451 (10)	3
Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	2,226 (9)	4
Magpie	2,061 (8)	5
Fork-tailed Sunbird	1,490 (6)	6
Long-tailed Shrike	1,456 (6)	7
Chinese Bulbul	1,442 (6)	8
Magpie Robin	1,183 (5)	9
Red-whiskered Bulbul	1,099 (4)	10
Black-capped Kingfisher	1,052 (4)	11
Black-eared Kite	934 (4)	12
White-bellied Sea Eagle	868 (4)	13

Black-faced Spoonbill	661 (3)	14
Scarlet Minivet	562 (2)	15
Blue Magpie	446 (2)	16
Others	268 (1)	-
Total	24,821 (100)	

[2] Despite its small size (only some 1,000 sq. kilometres), Hong Kong is well-known both as an international city and as an important site for migrating birds. Hong Kong has an extremely rich variety of habitats including wetlands, woodlands, streams, shrubland, grassland, hills, cultivated land, open country, coastal area, sea, urban parks, etc. Among the major cities in Asia, perhaps only Hong Kong is blessed with such a diverse in natural environment, which provide living space and food for numerous birds. Over 450 different species have been recorded in Hong Kong - about one-third of all the species found in China or one-twentieth of the global total.

[3] Participating organizations include:

Organiser:

- Hong Kong Bird Watching Society


Sponsor:

- The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust

Co-sponsors:

- Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
- Leisure and Cultural Services Department
- Ming Pao Newspapers Limited
- Swarovski Hong Kong Limited
- Hongkong Post
- Department of Computer Science and Information Systems, The University of Hong Kong
- Hong Kong Discovery Limited

Supporting organisations:

- Gold Award Holders' Association
- Hong Kong Award for Young People
- Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union
- Tai Po Environmental Association 



Conservation News

– Mike Kilburn,
Chairman, Conservation Committee

HK Government Announces Plans to Adopt

Convention on Biological Diversity by 2006

The Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (the department managing the Conservation Policy consultation) last month announced that Hong Kong has been given approval by the Chinese Government in Beijing to adopt the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), due for full implementation in 2006.

This announcement, which came as a great but very welcome surprise, is the most significant initiative the HKSAR government has made towards conservation. If properly implemented it may surpass the Spur Line decision, designation of Mai Po as a Ramsar site, and even the designation of the country parks in the 1970s.

Why?

CBD was introduced to the world as a result of the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. It provides a clear set of principles standards and guidelines for devising, drafting and implementing a national nature conservation policy. Over the last 10 years many countries have used CBD as the framework for devising their own conservation policies and strategies. One of the first countries to do so was China.

This is important because Hong Kong currently has no clearly articulated policy for conservation. The closest thing we have was written in 1993 in "The Hong Kong Environment: A Green Challenge for the Community, Second Review of the 1989 White Paper Pollution in Hong Kong - A Time to Act of November 1993,"

One extract of that paper was quoted on Page 6 of the recent policy review:

"Our conservation policy has evolved over many years. In simple terms it seeks to conserve and enhance our natural environment by protecting existing conservation areas and heritage features by identifying new areas for such conservation, and by compensating for areas which merit conservation but which are inevitably lost to essential development projects."

Sadly, very little contained in that document, including the above, has been addressed by the Government in the intervening 10 years. The examples given below paint a picture of the scale and rate of ecological degradation

HKBWS has noted the loss of Ha Tsuen (a site near Yuen long favoured by Painted Snipe and Pheasant Tailed Jacana), the continuing fragmentation and degradation of Kam Tin (home to Painted Snipe and Grey-headed Lapwing and other farmland and wetland dependent species), and Shuen Wan Marshes. Other sites of undisputed ecological value that remain unprotected include Sha Lo Tung, Long Valley and Luk Keng.

Other impacts which have not been adequately mitigated or compensated include the huge infrastructure projects such as the Au Tau Interchange (loss of tens of hectares of fishponds to highway development) and the growing number of threats to the Deep Bay wetlands, including those from infrastructure (Spur Line and drainage channel construction), and proposed private developments (Fung Lok Wai, San Tin).

CBD sets the standard for international best practice in establishment of conservation policies and strategies. It also sets great store on the process by which these are developed, with a heavy emphasis on sincere and wide-ranging consultation.

It is clear that if Hong Kong is to be a genuinely world class city it must seek to adopt the highest possible standards. CBD provides not only the principles, but also offers ten years of experience gathered from the work of many other countries in adopting the Convention.

This means that we would expect CBD to deliver a policy which:

- sets out a clear vision for conservation at habitat, species and genetic level
- covers all areas of significance to conservation, many of which have been excluded from the current

consultation,

- encourages participation of all stakeholders including environmental NGOs, landowners, villagers and Government at every stage in the planning, development and execution,
- requires cross-sectoral co-operation, particularly within Government,
- provides a legislative framework which makes enforcement easy and reduces the environment for willful destruction of ecologically important sites.

In the present climate it seems like a lot to ask for. However we believe that HKBWS can legitimately expect that the government will use CBD to deliver all of these things. We further believe that the quality of consultation and implementation of CBD will provide an accurate measure of the sincerity and commitment of the Government to conservation of Hong Kong's biological resources and to true sustainable development.

HK\$26 million pier reconstruction threatens White-bellied Sea Eagle Nest

The proposed reconstruction of Sham Chung Public Pier in Sai Kung North by the Civil Engineering Department (CED) appears to fly in the face of the Government's claims of fiscal responsibility. The project will cost an estimated HK\$26 million; for a pier that serves less than ten residents of Sham Chung Village!

In its project profile, CED completely ignored the White-bellied Sea Eagle (WBSE) nest located less than 300m from the proposed pier! This is a significant omission, as a WBSE nest is a recognised sensitive receiver (something or someone that is likely to suffer from disturbance) for development projects. As an example, the presence of a WBSE nest on Green Island was one of the main reasons that the proposed Green Island Reclamation was stopped a few years ago.

The nest is well known to AFCD and it is mentioned in their recent survey on WBSE published in a recent edition of their in-house biodiversity newsletter. The questions listed below were included in an objection placed earlier this month by HKBWS. While not a complete list, these objections are intended to indicate some of the considerations that project proponents in rural areas might consider on future small-scale projects.

HKBWS welcomes any dialogue with private and public developers and project owners seeking to





improve the ecological sustainability of their projects through early consultation. Though there is limited scope for required consultation within the current environmental impact assessment process, we hope to be able to work together with project owners to discuss the project outside the statutory framework. In this way, potentially sensitive sites or species can be identified and avoided in the early stages of the planning process.

In recent years a number of project managers have benefited from consulting with HKBWS and other groups in the feasibility and even pre-feasibility stages of projects in ecologically sensitive areas, helping to minimise the potential impact of their projects. Just as importantly, this approach also saves time and money and reduces the likelihood of objections at the later stages of the approval process.

Sham Chung Pier questions raised by HKBWS:

(1) The justification for this project is highly questionable.

- The project profile indicates the cost of building a new pier here at HK\$26million. Can this huge cost be justified when the Government is so short of money?
- The number of residents who stand to benefit is extremely low. How many people live in Sham Chung?
- Other nearby villages have their own road or pier access and would not use this pier.

(2) Report ignores a sensitive receiver - White-bellied Sea Eagle Nest less than 300m from the pier

- Active breeding has been noted by HKBWS, Kadoorie Farm and AFCD, and is published in the AFCD Biodiversity newsletter. Any activity that leads to abandonment of a long-established nesting site for White-Bellied Sea Eagle is unacceptable.
- Hong Kong is the stronghold for this species in China due to persistent persecution elsewhere. Therefore the Hong Kong population is of great national significance and must be accorded the highest level of protection.
- Why is this species not mentioned in the report?
- White-bellied Sea Eagle was noted as a sensitive receiver on Green Island and played a major role in the cancellation of

reclamation work there.

- Elsewhere in Hong Kong, White-bellied Sea Eagle breeding site at Penny's Bay is threatened by Disney project.
- In considering whether this construction should go ahead, the following questions must be addressed:

Habitat/ecological issues


1. Is the construction phase of this project likely cause abandonment of the nest?
2. What will be the major impacts that may cause disturbance during the construction phase?
3. Can these be mitigated or avoided?
4. For how long is the nest occupied during the breeding season?
5. When is the breeding season?
6. Is the site used by adult or juvenile birds outside the breeding season?

Economic viability

7. What influence will reducing harmful disturbance have on the budget of this project?
8. Is this project still economically viable in light of the increased costs?

Construction phase impacts

9. What will be the impact of oil/kerosene spillage during construction on the feeding areas of the WBSE?
10. What are the feeding areas of the WBSE?
11. What will the level of noise pollution be?
12. How far from the site are these disturbances likely to be "sensitive"?
13. What methodology will be used to determine the sensitivity of WBSE?

Since the project profile fails to answer these questions and therefore fails to ensure there will be no impact on the White-bellied Sea Eagle nest, it is essential that a full Environmental Impact Assessment is conducted according to the full requirements of the Technical Memorandum of the EIA Ordinance. 

Preamble

1. The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society welcomes this Hong Kong SAR Government's nature conservation policy review and public consultation. We believe that this is an important step forward for Hong Kong in improving its sustainability and competitive advantage and in realising the Chief Executive's vision of Hong Kong as "Asia's World City".
2. We note that the scope of the consultation is limited only to addressing the matter of sites of high ecological value on private land.
3. While we acknowledge that this is one of the thorniest issues to be confronted in addressing Hong Kong's conservation issues, we have to point out that a number of key considerations appear to have been entirely omitted in the present review. The conservation of biodiversity is one of them.
4. The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society is the established authority and record keeper in respect of birds in Hong Kong. Our principal concern is therefore in the specific matter of birds. We would offer the following views and recommendations in response to the Government's call for input to the consultation process.
 - Negative impacts on the original wild bird populations (especially in China mainland)
 - Negative impact on local wild birds (mainly through disease among poorly kept captive birds)
 - Human health hazard from poor regulation of bird shops and markets
 - Potential harm from exotic and invasive species
7. We urge the Administration to take the following steps to resolve the issue:
 - Bring Hong Kong legislation on bird importation in line with the current protected status of all wild birds in Hong Kong and the ban on bird netting in China mainland
 - Conduct regular inspections of bird markets and transshipment centres to monitor bird welfare and hygiene conditions and to search for species of conservation concern.
 - Work with NGOs to introduce religious groups to the hidden negative aspects of releasing birds and other fauna

Species-specific conservation plans

Biodiversity

5. We advocate that Hong Kong should adopt the Convention on Biological Diversity (to which China is a Party) as the framework for introducing a comprehensive conservation policy for Hong Kong.

Bird Trade

6. It has been estimated that wild bird trade involves up to 40,000 birds per month arriving in Hong Kong from China. We believe that this more or less unregulated trade has a number of important impacts both inside and outside Hong Kong.

8. No conservation policy is complete without a component of species specific conservation. That it is not mentioned in the consultation document is a significant deficiency.
9. We urge the Administration to co-operate with relevant experts in the public, private and NGO sectors to develop species action plans for birds of global, regional and local conservation concern. To do this we propose:
 - Continuous monitoring of bird populations, their habitats and threats
 - Government facilitating free exchange of relevant data among NGOs, academics, and government departments

- Collections of skins and genetic material of Hong Kong birds
- Establishment of properly constituted consultation group to discuss and oversee the execution conservation plans for specific species or groups of birds¹
- Issues of conservation concern currently include:
 - a) Wiring of fishponds and the impact on Ardeid populations
 - b) Status of:
 - Red-billed Starling,
 - Black-faced Spoonbill,
 - locally breeding terns,
 - Decline in numbers of Falcated Duck, Yellow-breasted Bunting and Collared Crow²

Habitat preservation and restoration

10. We are concerned in particular about the importance of freshwater and brackish wetlands and note that more than 77% of all such habitat in Hong Kong lies outside the protected area system³. Key habitat types include:
 - Wet agricultural land
 - Freshwater marshes
 - Fishponds
 - Mangroves outside the Deep Bay area
 - Unchannelised riverine habitat.
11. We note that much of this habitat has been lost or remains threatened either by infrastructure or property development projects, river channelisation or small-scale rural improvement schemes and a range of unauthorised activities.
12. In light of this issue we welcome the Administration's proposal for management agreements between landowners and NGOs, with


the Administration playing a facilitating role. However we believe that while the principle is sound, certain matters must be addressed or clarified before the proposal can offer any chance of a successful outcome:

- The incentive for landowners and NGOs to participate
- Capacity building for habitat managers in both the NGO sector and the Administration
- The type of NGOs that may apply for support in this scheme

Country Parks

13. The designation of 40% of Hong Kong's land area as country parks is the pride of Hong Kong and is the hallmark of Government's commitment to conservation. The country parks constitute a great asset in support of conservation.
14. We urge the Administration:
 - to defend relentlessly against any attrition of the country park system
 - to actively manage the country parks with an explicit biodiversity objective, that is, to maintain and create habitats to protect and enrich the diversity of local flora and fauna in country parks

(18 October 2003)

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1. **Wild Animals to Watch: Terrestrial and Freshwater Fauna of Conservation Concern in Hong Kong** Fellowes *et al.* Memoirs of the Hong Kong Natural History Society No 25, pp 123 - 161. June 2002
 2. **The Avifauna of Hong Kong** Carey *et al.* 2001 Hong Kong Bird Watching Society
 3. **Conserving Biodiversity in Protected Areas: Recommendations for the expansion of Protected Areas in Hong Kong.** Jackie Yin Yip. Department of Ecology and Biodiversity, University of Hong Kong. June 2000. 
-

Earthmoving in gei wai 16/17

It was mentioned in the last Mai Po Update, that the floor of gei wai 16/17 has been silting up over the past decades because of silt brought into the pond each month when water exchange takes place. In particular, the floor of the pond in front of Birdwatching Hide #3 has risen and is now not only difficult to cover with water but is also easily invaded by grasses, so that waterbirds find it difficult to roost there.

As a result, gei wai 16/17 was drained from September to November 2003 so that earthmoving works could be carried out to lower this part of the pond floor. A bulldozer and backhoe was used to carry out the works and the silt that was removed was placed along the side of the pond. To quicken the work, a second tip-up truck was purchased to take the mud off site. As a result, the work was completed earlier than expected and the pond was refilled at the end of November so that it could be used by wintering waterbirds that were beginning to return.

Maintenance of the channels in gei wai 7

The problem of siltation is occurring in all the Mai Po gei wai. Even before WWF Hong Kong took over management of gei wai 7 in 1995, the perimeter channels of the pond were becoming badly silted up due to mud brought into the pond during water exchange. The channels then slowly became more and more shallow, and were invaded by reeds.

In the past, the original gei wai fishermen at Mai Po would hire a dredger on a pontoon to dredge out the silt in the channels once every ten years or so. WWF Hong Kong now has their own dredger and this past summer, the dredger has been busy de-silting one of the two long channels in gei wai 7. A greater number of herons, egrets and other waterbirds are feeding in this channel, now that it has been cleared.

Dredging work has now stopped in order to minimise disturbance to the wintering birds but will begin again on the other long channel in May 2004.

Mai Po update


- Lew Young

December 2003

Management works in gei wai 3

Every winter since the late 1990s, there has been a programme to buy fish of lower commercial value (mainly Tilapia) from the local pond-fish farmers, to stock gei wai 3. The reason for this was in response to the fish farmers' concern that many of the Cormorants that winter in Deep Bay were taking fish from their ponds, thereby affecting their income. As a result, the stocking of low value fish into Mai Po is to provide an alternative feeding site for these Cormorants, to attract them away from the commercial ponds.

From November 03 until March 04, fish farmers will be delivering two trucks of fish (approximately 1,500 catties each), every Monday and Thursday for stocking into gei wai 3.

This stocking programme has been attracting up to 1,000 Cormorants into gei wai 3, along with hundreds of herons and egrets. To allow visitors a chance to photograph and appreciate this view, one of the old huts by the sluice gate of gei wai 3 has been repaired, and is now opened for use as a birdwatching hide. 

Fiji Find

A team from BirdLife International has discovered a small Fijian songbird believed to have become extinct more than a century ago.



12 pairs of long-legged warblers have been recorded so far with two of the pairs seen with recently-fledged young birds. Only four specimens had previously been collected, with the last confirmed sighting coming in 1894.

The birds were found in remote, dense forest after one of the researchers heard its distinctive and haunting call in a mountain valley. The warbler is known also as the long-legged thicketbird, in recognition of its preference for living in dense undergrowth. Researcher Guy Dutson said: "The long-legged warbler is a very secretive species but now we know its song, we can find it and make our first assessment of its conservation needs. We must now work to ensure this bird does not disappear after managing to hide from us for so long"

Mongoose have caused the extinction of all of the ground-nesting birds on the main Fijian islands.

Summertime Blues

Britain's hot summer contributed to a disastrous breeding season for birds, with numbers of young down by around one-third for some species. A shortage of caterpillars caused huge losses for long-tailed tits, chiffchaff and great tits, while a paucity of slugs, snails and worms adversely affected song thrushes. Bullfinches, wrens, reed warblers and blackbirds were among other species that also suffered this summer.

A cold, wet spell at the end of spring combined with a very dry summer to produce conditions that were particularly hard on the early breeders.

– Steve Burrows

Parents were not able to find the food needed for their young.

The weather did suit some species, however. Seed-eaters enjoyed a baby boom, with greenfinches, willow warblers, treecreepers and chaffinches showing healthy increases in 2003.


Wrong Tern

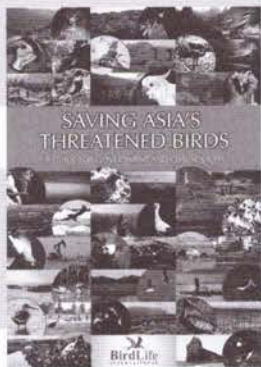
In what must surely be one of the longest ever migration attempts, an Arctic tern found dead in southern New Zealand had flown over 25,000 kilometres. The tern was tagged in June in the northern Swedish province of Haelsingland and was found dead Dec. 1 on Stewart Island in



New Zealand. Though the distance between the two locations is "only" 17,500 kilometres, this bird had flown southward along Africa's west coast, passing South Africa, before it turned eastwards to New Zealand.



Sweden's Arctic Terns usually spend the winter in Antarctica, and it is not known what caused this bird to wander so severely from the normal migration route. 



Book Review :

“Saving Asia’s threatened birds: a guide for government and civil society”

BirdLife International 2003

– Reviewed by Mike Kilburn

Saving Asia's threatened birds: a guide for government and civil society is wonderful, especially if you're not an ornithologist. BirdLife International has realised that a great number of the people working to conserve birds in Asia are not highly trained scientists, but come from all walks of life. In particular this book is aimed at government officials in a whole host of departments who have no direct knowledge of birds but who so often make the decisions that profoundly influence Asia's birds and their habitats. It will also interest birders with a real interest in understanding the key regional conservation issues.

It provides the perfect companion volume to the rather forbidding *Threatened birds of Asia: the BirdLife International Red Data Book*. (BirdLife International 2001), which is clearly written by ornithologists, for ornithologists, and other very serious people who probably frown and worry a lot. Even the dark black and red cover of the two-volume work proclaims “This is serious” (and rightly so).

In all seriousness, however, *Saving Asia's Threatened Birds* would not exist without the foundation of dedicated scholarship laid down by *Threatened birds of Asia*, and just about all the information it presents is derived directly from it (so ornithologists can also read the new book without feeling too guilty).

In short, *Saving Asia's Threatened Birds* presents expert information in a manner that the layman can easily understand and enjoy. Starting from the bright, lively cover which showcases some of Asia's most exciting and well-loved birds and the habitats they depend on, to the colour-coded chapters on each habitat, *Saving Asia's threatened birds* immediately conveys the message “I'm not scary - use me!”

And “use me” is the key - it is a reference book that is designed to present the main conclusions of the Red Data Book to decision-makers in a clear and highly visual form, with many maps and photographs of Asia's threatened birds, their habitats and important conservation issues. Habitat loss is by far the most important threat to Asia's birds, and *Saving Asia's threatened birds* places a particular focus on habitat conservation.

The layout of the book reflects this - presenting each habitat in the above-mentioned colour-coded chapters and including

information on the current status of these natural habitats, a list of threatened birds which are dependent on that habitat, the main conservation issues, and proposed solutions to address these issues. Hong Kong, for example, is covered as a part of the China Sea Coast in Chapter W10 (pp182-186) along with eight other important sites ranging from Sone Tidal flats in southwest Japan to Xuan Thuy National Park in Vietnam. This has the benefit of showing the importance of Hong Kong for our endangered wintering birds in the context of the other sites which support major populations. Eleven out of sixteen endangered species occur here (all at Mai Po) and they include Black-faced Spoonbill, Saunders's Gull, Dalmatian Pelican, Styan's Grasshopper Warbler and Spoon-billed Sandpiper.

Before the habitat chapters, *Saving Asia's threatened birds* sets the scene for conservation in a number of informative chapters in three sections. The first of these, “Asia: birds, habitats and people”, presents a country-by-country introduction, listing the number of vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered species. The next section, “Asia's Threatened Birds and their habitats”, offers an introduction to BirdLife International's Threatened Species program, introduces *Threatened Birds of Asia*; and includes several maps depicting the key habitats for threatened species. The final section on “Conservation Issues and Strategic Solutions” includes a section on “Policy approaches to biodiversity conservation,” focusing on the principal threats to birds and habitats, and a review of the role of international conventions. It closes by summarising priorities to prevent extinctions.

In summary, *Saving Asia's threatened birds* is a wonderful tool for conservation education: well articulated, well

presented and not intimidating. The issues it addresses are of great concern, but the full colour showcase format reminds us that birds and the places they live in are a source of pleasure for millions of people and that conserving them is not just the responsibility of frowning academics, but of all of us.

BirdLife International also intend to publish the book on

CD-ROM within the coming few months. *Saving Asia's threatened birds: a guide for government and civil society* is available at a retail price of= £19.00, plus postage and packing. People who wish to order the book should contact the distributor, at the following address:

NHBS Ltd, 2-3 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 5XN, UK
Tel: +44 (0)1803 865913 : Fax: +44 (0)1803 865280
Email: nhbs@nhbs.co.uk  www.nhbs.com

I visited Wu Liang Su Hai while bird-watching in Inner Mongolia in September 2003. This is the only place with water in an extensive arid area. Thus it nurtures a big flock of waterbirds and offers an extremely pleasing sight to visitors. However, on the other side of the lake, the poor water quality brought about by mindless damming of the lake has wrought havoc on the birds, with the sick and the dead littered all around the place.

In Wu Liang Su Hai, we met Zhang Changlong, the local guardian of swans. He used to be a fisherman-cum-hunter for years until he built up a spiritual relationship with the birds and started to protect them. Owing to the shortage of fund-ing, he rented a piece of water, fishing for living and at the same time pro-



Guardian of Swans at Wu Liang Su Hai

– Lam Chiu Ying

vided protection for the birds. He actively stopped illegal hunting and egg collecting. Water pollution of the lake led to intestinal infections and the massive death of the waterfowl. Zhang together with his fishing partners used a net to enclose a rescue area for the sick ducks. They bought medication with their own money and fed the ducks. The ducks were left in the rescue area and allowed to leave freely when they recovered.


The Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*) is Zhang's favourite bird. Zhang has contributed a great deal to the protection of the swans, maintaining surveillance through frequent visits. With this increased security, the population of the swans has grown year after year. According to Prof. Xing Lianlian from Inner Mongolia University, swans from Wu Liang Su Hai have increased from two pairs in 1986 to some 400 pairs in recent years, this success being

almost entirely attributable to Zhang's volunteer work.

Zhang grew up in Wu Liang Su Hai and has observed and recorded many incidences of bird behaviour which are little known. Because of this, he has helped researchers and TV programmes in the study and the promotion of birds and their habitat protection. He has, for example, given support to the documentary "The Story of Swan" filmed by CCTV.

Unfortunately, due to the environmental changes in the last few years, the fish yield, and therefore Zhang's income, is much lower than before. He is hard pressed to fend for his own life, not to mention his caring for the swans. I feel very

sorry to see a bird-loving friend in such difficulties. I think if we could offer him some financial subsidy, he would be able to focus on his bird-protecting role. I would like to invite birders to donate some money to enable the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society to support Zhang in protecting the swans. This will not only show our appreciation for his efforts, but will also contribute to protecting the habitat of the swans and other waterbirds.

Our initial fund raising target is HK\$10,000. If you are willing to support us, please send a cheque payable to "Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Limited" and mark "China Conservation Fund- Swan Protection" on the back. Also let us know your name and address, so that we can send the receipt to you for tax exemption purposes. (Thanks to Professor Xing Lianlian for supplying information for this article.) 

Fan Lau

– Nov 2, 2003 – Cheung Ho Fai




A recent Fan Lau outing attracted 31 participants in all. It was a mostly fine, slightly hot, and very hazy day. Besides birds, the trip was also memorable in terms of seeing other wildlife: insect-eating plants ("Chu Lung Cho"), gigantic mushrooms, wild red beans, butterfly/moth cocoons and a lizard.

Raptors were the main bird group seen. We started with a Kestrel and Pied Harrier at Tung Chung, and noted Japanese sparrowhawk, and Crested Goshawk on the way to Fan Lau. At Fan Lau we saw Peregrine Falcon and Besra, and on the way to Tai O we also picked up Oriental Honey Buzzard. Black Kite was seen intermittently on the way, too.

Chats were also present in some numbers. At least 7 Rubythroat were heard during the trip. Daurian Redstart was also heard at two different places and we saw some Grey-throated Minivets and a female Chestnut Bunting near Tai Long Wan Village. Blue Magpies were noted at Fan Lau and also at Yi O. Lastly, at the large reedbed at Tai O, a Black-browed Reed Warbler was heard.

An additional bonus was a flock of 34 Silky Starlings and 2 White-cheeked Starlings on the lawn inside the sports field at Tai O.

I would like to thank the many experienced birdwatchers who helped to lead the outing. They include: Mr. TP Luk and Mrs. Luk, TP Chu, Jemi Wong, Alan Chan, Wong Chap Cheung, Tam Yiu Leung, and Ada Chow among others. 

[Note: These are unchecked records. Members are reminded of the importance of submitting all records on cards or electronically.]

September

Tern passage was the main feature of the first week of the month. In the aftermath of Typhoon Dujuan on 3rd, there were reports of 10 Great Crested, 70 Aleutian and 300 Common, all at Cape d'Aguilar. A tern survey of waters from Tap Mun to Lamma on 6th logged one Great Crested, 14 Aleutian, 70 Common (all seen well were showing the black legs characteristic of the subspecies *longipennis*), 23 Bridled and 32 Whiskered.

Among other reports received in the first half of the month were five Asian Dowitchers at Mai Po on 7th, six Crested Serpent Eagles at Ng Tung Chai on 12th, two Siberian Blue Robins at Tai Po Kau on 9th (the first of about seven during the month), and single Black Bitterns and Manchurian Reed Warblers at Mai Po on 13th.

Two Pygmy Wren Babblers were at Kap Lung on 18th, the first of a fine series during the autumn, but elsewhere few birds of interest were reported until 22nd-23rd when a Rose-coloured Starling was found at Sha Po and a Little Curlew at Mai Po.

Reports in the final week of the month included up to seven Black-naped Orioles at Lamma, six Blue-tailed Bee-eaters, a Baillon's Crake, a Yellow-legged Buttonquail, two Black-winged Kites and a Pied Harrier at Mai Po, 50 Daurian Starlings at Long Valley, a Golden Spectacled Warbler-type at Tai Po Kau, and finally on the last day of the month an Amur Falcon over Hong Lok Yuen.

October

Once again, October was a very good month.

Following a Great Crested Tern in Mirs Bay on 1st and a total of 13 Black-naped Orioles at Lamma the next day, reports on 4th included a Manchurian Reed Warbler (the second of three in the autumn) trapped at Mai Po and a Crested Honey Buzzard seen at Tai Po Kau.

On 7th, a flock of 20 Rufous-capped Babblers (presumably the highest ever single-site count) were reported at Ng Tung Chai, which received frequent coverage during the autumn, and three Oriental Plovers were logged at Chek Lap Kok.

Two Black-winged Kite were again noted at Mai Po on 12th, and also the first Pheasant-tailed Jacana of the autumn, whilst on the same day a Citrine Wagtail was found at Long Valley. During the period around the middle of the month, an area of managed fishponds at Lok Ma Chau attracted up to nine Pheasant-tailed Jacanas and a Pectoral Sandpiper.

On 16th, no fewer than five Amur Falcons passed over Mai Po in early morning. A further 10, including two adult males, were reported at Mai Po, Wu Kau Tang, Lok Ma Chau and Kadoorie Farm over the next week and a half, suggesting that this raptor is a regularly occurring autumn migrant in Hong Kong.

Raptors were very much in evidence during 17th-19th, with at least 13 species logged at Mai Po, a Grey-faced Buzzard and three Eurasian Hobbies at Lamma, up to nine Black Bazas at Kam Tin and Fung Lok Wai, and five Crested Honey Buzzards at Kadoorie FBG. Among other birds noted during 17th-19th were a Black Stork, nine Blue-tailed Bee-eaters, a Styan's Grasshopper Warbler, a Manchurian Reed Warbler, at least 10 Asian Brown and five Red-throated Flycatchers, and a Daurian Jackdaw, all at Mai Po, and single Daurian, Chestnut-cheeked and Common Starlings at Kam Tin.

The first Long-billed Dowitcher and Black-faced Spoonbills of the autumn were reported at Mai Po on

21st, when there was also a Little Curlew.

Grey-headed Lapwings continued to be noted throughout the autumn at Kam Tin, where the peak count was 14 on 31st. There were also occasional reports elsewhere.

Larks, principally Oriental and Eurasian Skylarks, were regularly reported from mid month into early November at Sha Po, Kam Tin, Long Valley and on the scrape at Mai Po, which earth-works had temporarily converted into an expanse of dry mud and short grass. The latter area also attracted up to three Japanese Skylarks and a Mongolian Lark (Cat E).

Outside of Deep Bay, there were reports of a Lesser Shortwing and a Mountain Tailorbird at Ng Tung Chai during 21st-22nd, up to two Radde's Warblers at Sha Lo Tung and Mount Austin during 24th-28th, and an Oriental Scops Owl, found exhausted, at Magazine Gap on 30th.

November

A crocodile found in a polluted creek near Nam Sang Wai was one of the biggest news stories of the year and probably kept other wildlife stories out of the newspapers.

A story that would otherwise have had more coverage and debate was the discovery in urban Kowloon of at least two large roosts of a non-native species, House Crow. This is a species whose native range is centred on the Indian Subcontinent, but which with the assistance of ships has colonised ports from East Africa to Malaysia, where it now occurs locally in immense numbers to the detriment of native bird species (apparently with the sole exception of Common Koel, which brood-parasitises it).

The month opened with three Japanese Skylarks and eight Oriental Skylarks on the Mai Po scrape, a Mountain Tailorbird at Tai Po Kau Headland (still


present in December) and an unusually late Oriental Cuckoo at Beas River, all on 1st. Three days later, an Oriental Stork was at Mai Po (superb photos of this bird can be viewed at the Photo Gallery of the HKBWS web-site Bulletin Board), and also two Nordmann's Greenshank and an Asian Dowitcher, whilst six Common Starlings and a Dusky Thrush were at Kam Tin.

Among other reports at Mai Po were a Black-necked Grebe at Pond 20 (remaining into December), two Daurian Jackdaws, and a Styan's Grasshopper Warbler, all during 6th-8th, a Greater Scaup on 14th, 317 Pacific Golden Plover (a new winter high count) on 22nd and a Carrion Crow on 23rd.





Elsewhere, up to two Mountain Tailorbirds, two Lesser Shortwings and three Pygmy Wren Babblers were regularly reported throughout the month at both Ng Tung Chai and Tai Po Kau.

Also found at Tai Po Kau were a Siberian Thrush on 18th and single White-spectacled and Chestnut-crowned Warblers on 30th, whilst at Ng Tung Chai there were two Mountain Bulbuls, a Slaty-backed Forktail and a White-throated Fantail at Ng Tung Chai, all on 28th-29th.

During the final week of the month, two Eastern Grass Owl chicks were found by the police near Tai Long Wan, a rehabilitated Brown Fish Owl was released by Kadoorie FBG staff in the Sai Kung area, and there were reports of a Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush at Mount Austin, and a Large Grass Warbler and Bright-capped Cisticola at Sha Lo Tung.

Birds reported from unusual localities in this month included Chestnut Bulbuls at Lamma and Cheung Chau, Silky Starlings at Mui Wo, Kai Tak, Lamma and Stonecutter's, and Azure-winged Magpies at Shek Kong Catchment, Lamma and a barbecue area at Tai Mei Tuk. 

Coming Activities

Date	Leader / Speaker	Activity / Gathering location	Time	Difficulty
6 Mar 2004 (Sat)	Choi Chong Pak / Tsang Wa (Crested Bulbul Club Leader)	Hong Kong Zoological & Botanical Garden ** 08:30 The Kiosk	08:30 – 11:00	X
7 Mar 2004 (Sun)	Cheung Ho Fai Wong Chun Yu	Bird Watching Class (Tai Po Kau, Long Valley) 08:00 Kowloon Tong KCR Station (Kent Road exit) 16:00 Back to Kowloon Tong (full)	08:00 – 16:00	XXX
14 Mar 2004 (Sun)	Cheung Ho Fai Ada Chow Alan Chan	Bird Watching Class (Mai Po) 08:00 Kowloon Tong KCR Station (Kent Road exit) or 09:00 Mai Po carpark coach leaves at 15:00 and back to Kowloon Tong at 16:00 (full)	09:00 – 15:00	XX
	Chen Chi Po Hon So (Crested Bulbul Club Leader)	Kam Tin ** 08:00 CityBus #968 bus stop (HongkongBank Headquarter, Central)	08:00 – 13:00	XXX
21 Mar 2004 (Sun)	Ho Man Fai Tam Yiu Leung	Tai Mo Shan 08:00 Tsuen Wan MTR Station Hang Seng Bank	08:00 – 13:00	XXX
28 Mar 2004 (Sun)	Luk Tsun Pun Stanley Ng Shirley Lam	Mai Po 08:00 Kowloon Tong KCR Station (Kent Road exit) or 09:00 Mai Po carpark coach leaves at 15:00 and back to Kowloon Tong at 16:00  	09:00 – 15:00	XX
31 Mar 2004 (Wed)	Cheung Ho Fai	Indoor meeting <Spring Migration> Room 1113, Hong Kong Scout Centre, Scout Path, Austin Rd, Kowloon (Member \$10, Non-member \$30)	19:00 – 20:30	X
11 April 2004 (Sun)	Mike Turnbull Au Chun Yan	Boat Trip: Lamma Channel 08:00 Aberdeen Public Pier (near Ocean Court) 16:00 back to Aberdeen Public Pier (Member \$150, Non-member \$200)  	08:00 – 16:00	XXX
	Wong Chiu Shui Ng Yan Lai (Crested Bulbul Club Leader)	Tsim Bei Tsui & San Pui Ho ** 08:00 CityBus #969 bus stop (HongkongBank Headquarter, Central)	08:00 – 16:00	XX

**** Crested Bulbul Club Activity –**







These activities are led by elderly nature interpreters, members are welcome to join with elderly members of their families.



Transportation arrangement



Please fill in the booking slip and return

Date	Leader / Speaker	Activity / Gathering location	Time	Difficulty
18 April 2004 (Sun)	Ying Hak King Lo Kar Man	Long Valley 08:00 Yin Kong carpark	08:00 – 13:00	X
25 April 2004 (Sun)	Yu Yat Tung Forrest Fong Ho Man Fai	Mai Po (afternoon) 10:30 Kowloon Tong KCR Station (Kent Road exit) or 11:30 Mai Po carpark coach leaves at 17:30 and back to Kowloon Tong at 18:30  	11:30 – 17:30	XX
9 May 2004 (Sun)	Cheung Ho Fai Marcus Ho	Boat Trip: Po Toi, Wanglan Island 08:00 Aberdeen Public Pier (near Ocean Court) 16:00 back to Aberdeen Public Pier (Member \$150, Non-member \$200)  	08:00 – 16:00	XXX
16 May 2004 (Sun)	Alan Chan Shirley Lam	Tap Mun Tern Survey 08:15 Ma Liu Shiu Pier	08:15 – 14:00	XXX
23 May 2004 (Sun)	Luk Tsun Pun Tai Sheung Lai	Mai Po (afternoon) 10:30 Kowloon Tong KCR Station (Kent Road exit) or 11:30 Mai Po carpark coach leaves at 17:30 and back to Kowloon Tong at 18:30  	11:30 – 17:30	XX
29 & 30 May (Sat & Sun)	Wong Tin Wa Ronley Lee	Lamma Island (overnight) 14:45 Central Ferry Pier No.5 (to Sok Kwu Wan) Return at 13:00 Sunday (Member \$120, Non-member \$150)* * Includes a Camping fee, BBQ dinner & breakfast only.	14:45 – 13:00 (the next day)	XX
6 Jun (Sun)	Peter Wong Michelle Kong	Tai Mo Shan 08:00 Tsuen Wan MTR Station Hang Seng Bank Return at 13:00	08:00 – 13:00	XX
20 Jun (Sun)	Man Chup Ming	Hong Kong Park Aviary 09:00 Aviary entrance	09:00 – 12:30	X
7 Jul (Wed)	Mike Leven	Indoor meeting <House Crow in HK> Room 1113, Hong Kong Scout Centre, Scout Path, Austin Rd, Kowloon (Member \$10, Non-member \$30)	19:00 – 20:30	X
18 Jul (Wed)	Yu Yat Tung	Indoor meeting <China/Overseas Trip Report> Room 1113, Hong Kong Scout Centre, Scout Path, Austin Rd, Kowloon (Member \$10, Non-member \$30)	19:00 – 20:30	X

Note! Priority is given to members of the Society. Please contact the leader several days before the meeting to confirm attendance, otherwise you may miss out on changes in timing. The 'X' rating conveys the degree of difficulty in each outing in terms of seeing the birds; Members are of course more than welcome to attend any event. **Please wear your membership badge when joining the activities.**

* Members who use the Society coach to Mai Po must confirm their attendance by returning the booking slip with payment. Those using own transport please also notify Ms. Ada Chow, the Mai Po tour coordinator - this is important because the maximum number of members who can attend the outing is 50, as set by the AFCD permit. Failure to do so may result in being refused access to the reserve.

* Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by phone or by e-mail at least one week before the outing. If you wish to check your booking, please contact Ms. Ada Chow at 2580 6472.

Non-members joining Mai Po trips will have to pay the coach fare irrespective of whether they make use of the coach.

Payment to the Society may be made in two ways:

- (1) by returning the attendance slip with a cheque in English made out to the "Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Ltd" OR
- (2) by depositing the fee into the A/C no. 534-361423-838 of Hongkong Bank in favour of "Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Ltd". Please send the booking slip in as well to confirm your payment and attendance.



Transportation arrangement



Please fill in the booking slip and return

For all outdoor activities please bring drink and food, appropriate clothing for the location, and sun cream and mosquito lotion if needed!

Activity Booking Slip

► Mai Po Trip

I wish to reserve places for _____ members and _____ non-members for the following Mai Po tour :

- * 28 Mar (Sun) 25 Apr (Sun pm) 23 May (Sun pm)

The number of person(s) using the coach is _____.

- * Coach fare: _____ x HK\$40/Member _____ x HK\$20/Student member
 _____ x HK\$60/Guest #

Non-members joining Mai Po trips will have to pay the coach fare irrespective of whether they make use of the coach. Members not using the coach do not need to pay coach fare.

► Boat Trip

I wish to reserve places for _____ members and _____ non-members for the following boat trip :

- * 11 Apr : Po Toi, Lamma Channel (HK\$150/member, HK\$200/non-members)
 9 May : Po Toi, Wanglan Island (HK\$150/member, HK\$200/non-members)
 16 May : Tap Mun (HK\$150/member, HK\$200/non-members)

► Camping

I wish to reserve places for _____ members and _____ non-members for the Lamma Island overnight camp on 29 and 30 May 04 (HK\$120/member, HK\$150/non-members)

Cheque for HK\$ _____ (In English. Payable to The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Ltd)

Name : _____ Contact No. : _____

Address: _____

Date : _____ Signature : _____

Note: Please send this application together with crossed cheque by mail to The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Ltd, G.P.O. Box 12460, Hong Kong (member activity)

Application should be made at least two weeks before the date of the outing. Late application will only be accepted if places are available.

* Please as appropriate

今頁睇真D：

戴勝

Take a Closer Look:

Eurasian Hoopoe

— 文：張浩輝，圖：李玉瑩

Text : Cheung Ho Fai, Illustration : Lee Yuk Ying



戴勝有趣緻的外表，牠擁有長嘴，是啄木鳥及翠鳥的近親。戴勝的名字聽來有如「大勝」，因此觀鳥者第一次讀到牠的名字就留下深刻的印象。

戴勝的分佈很廣，由亞洲至非洲，由開闊草原至田地都有牠的蹤影。牠的叫聲為 phom phom phom，跟中杜鵑很相似。我曾看過一部紀錄片報導戴勝的幼鳥以一種強烈的氣味驅逐到牠巢內獵食的蛇。

戴勝於青海及新疆的草原十分普遍，亦常見於西藏的布達拉宮。在香港，最易的找到牠的地點是在錦田及盛屋村。

The Hoopoe has an attractive, if bizarre, appearance. It has a long bill that makes them close relatives to Woodpecker and Kingfisher, though the Hoopoe's "phom phom phom" call is very close to that of the Oriental Cuckoo. It has been reported that juvenile Hoopoes use a very

strong smell to drive away predatory snakes that may come to their nest.

The Hoopoe is very widely distributed from Asia to Africa. It occurs in open grassland and farmland and is very common in grassland of Qinghai and Xinjiang. Hoopoes are also common at the Potala

Palace in Tibet. In Hong Kong the best places to find them are Kam Tin and Shing Uk Tsuen.

The Chinese name for Hoopoe sounds like "Winning big", so the Hoopoe is a bird that makes a strong impression on bird-watchers who read about it for the first time.



白腹海鵟 (尖鼻咀)

– 李鶴飛

White-bellied Sea-Eagle (Tsim Bei Tsui)

– Lee Hok Fei



鳳頭鷹 (香港公園)

– 陳家強

Crested Goshawk (Hong Kong Park)

– Isaac Chan