

# HKBWS

香港觀鳥會 The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society



bulletin

215

Spring 2010 ~ 春





# Absolutely brilliant.

The Leica APO-Televid 82  
high-performance spotting scope.



Look forward to **pin-sharp and focused observation** – at extreme distances and deep into the twilight hours, too. This high-end spotting scope impresses with a wide field of view and sets new standards on the spotting-scope market.

- fluoride lenses for maximum color fidelity and contrast
- water- and dirt-repellent AquaDura™ coating
- precise focusing, thanks to the dual focus system with microfocusing
- extreme wide-angle eyepiece 25–50x WW ASPH.

Further information is available  
online at [www.leica-sportoptics.com](http://www.leica-sportoptics.com)



SCHMIDT MARKETING  
興華拓展

13/F., Chinachem Exchange Square,  
No.1 Hoi Wan Street, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong.  
T: 852-3650 0668 F: 852-2968 0682 W: [www.schmidtmarketing.com](http://www.schmidtmarketing.com)



黃胸鵪  
鄧玉蓮  
貝澳

Yellow-breasted Bunting  
Joyce Tang  
Pui O

23.11.2009  
DSLR Camera, 400mm f/5.6 lens

超卓光學技術  
完美時尚設計



APO HG 10x43 BR

打破一切距離及界限，將自然細微景物盡顯眼前

德國美樂時以超凡光學技術及工藝、加上人體工學設計，打造出多款專業單筒及雙筒望遠鏡、輕攜及口袋型望遠鏡。經專利多層鍍膜MINOTEC及M\*Coating技術，能提升最高透光率，使影像明亮清晰、顯現真實色彩及更具層次。

**Legendary Precision with Unique Innovation**

**Distant subjects become almost close enough to touch and getting close to Nature**

German-engineered Minox binoculars shows the many advantages of years of expertise in optical and precision engineering applied in a modern design.

MINOTEC and Multi M\* Coating technology optimizes the light transmission and color rendition, enable high contrast intensity as well as an enormous sharpness of details.



SCHMIDT MARKETING  
興華拓展

13/F., Chinachem Exchange Square, 1 Hoi Wan Street, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong.

Enquiry Hotline : (852) 3650 0668

Fax: (852) 2968 0682

Website: [www.schmidtmarketing.com](http://www.schmidtmarketing.com)



## Contents

<b>From the Editor – John Holmes</b>	<b>06</b>
<b>Society News &amp; Projects – Lo Wai Yan / Vicky Yeung</b>	<b>06</b>
<b>NENT Development Study</b>	
<b>Second Round Public Engagement – Mike Kilburn</b>	<b>08</b>
<b>The School Environmental Education Project in Wuyuan in 2009</b>	
– Fion Cheung	<b>10</b>
<b>Action for the Critically Endangered Chinese Crested Tern</b>	
– Fion Cheung	<b>12</b>
<b>Mai Po Update – Bena Smith</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>It's been the seventh time to hold the bird-watching class</b>	
– Alan Lam	<b>19</b>
<b>Birding Anecdotes -</b>	
<b>Hidden depths - my Spotted Dove experiences? – Samson So</b>	
<b>My Bird Watching Diary 20090303 – Wendy Yu</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Hong Kong Bird News (Oct-Dec 09) – Richard Lewthwaite</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Coming Activities</b>	<b>27</b>

*Publisher: The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Limited*

### Office Address :

14/E, Ruby Commercial Building,  
480 Nathan Road,  
Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon,  
Hong Kong

Telephone: (852) 2377 4387  
Facsimile: (852) 2314 3687  
email: hkbws@hkbws.org.hk

### Birdline :

(852) 2465 6690 (Chinese)  
(852) 2667 4537 (English)

### Website :

[www.hkbws.org.hk](http://www.hkbws.org.hk)

### Forum :

[www.hkbws.org.hk/BBS](http://www.hkbws.org.hk/BBS)



**Co-ordinator:** Ronley Lee (bulletin@hkbws.org.hk)

**English Editor:** John Holmes

**Chinese Editor:** Henry Lui

**Photo Editor:** Cherry Wong

### Contributors to this issue:

John Holmes, Lo Wai Yan, Vicky Yeung, Mike Kilburn,  
Fion Cheung, Bena Smith, Alan Lam, Samson So,  
Wendy Yu, Richard Lewthwaite

**Translator:** So Hiu Yan, Venus

### Photo:

Joyce Tang, Thomas Chan, Herman Ip Kee Kong,  
Allen, Ho Kam Wing, Peter Chan, Hoon Kwok Wai,  
Matthew Kwan, Tam Yiu Leung

**Front cover :** Chestnut Bunting - Jacky Chan

(Po Toi), 03.11.2009, DSLR Camera, 500mm f/4 lens +  
1.4 teleconverter

### Design & Printing:

Contemporary Development Company

*All content and photos in this publication are owned by Hong Kong Bird Watching Society and other individuals and cannot be reprinted or reproduced without our permission.*



This bulletin printed on 100% recycled paper with soy ink

Honorary President	Mr. Lam Chiu Ying
<b>Executive Committee</b>	
Chairman	Dr. Cheung Ho Fai
Vice-Chairman	Dr. Ng Cho Nam Mr. Mike Kilburn
Hon Secretary	Mr. Chan Hing Lun, Alan
Hon Treasurer	Ms. Chow Chee Leung, Ada
Hon Recorder	Mr. Richard Lewthwaite
Committee members	Ms. Lee Wai Chu, Ronley Mr. Fong Kin Wa, Forrest Ms. Au Chun Yan, Joanne Mr. Lau Wai Man, Apache Mr. So Ngai Hung, Samson Mr. John Allcock Mr. Bena Smith Mr. Choi Chung Pak (Chairman of Crested Bulbul Club)
<b>Representative in UK</b>	
Mr. Richard Stott	email: hkbwsuk@aol.com
<b>Hon. Auditor</b>	
Wong Lam Leung & Kwok CPA Ltd	
<b>Membership Affairs Committee</b>	
Chairman	Ms. Lee Wai Chu, Ronley
Committee members	Ms. Chow Chee Leung, Ada Mr. Chim Yuk Ming, Jimmy Mr. Chan Hing Lun, Alan
<b>Records Committee</b>	
Chairman	Mr. Geoff Carey
Committee members	Mr. Paul Leader Dr. Mike Leven Mr. Richard Lewthwaite Mr. Yu Yat Tung
<b>Bird Survey Committee</b>	
Chairman	Mr. John Allcock
Members	Dr. Cheung Ho Fai Mr. Yu Yat Tung
<b>Conservation Committee</b>	
Chairman	Mr. Mike Kilburn
Committee members	Dr. Ng Cho Nam Mr. Fong Kin Wa, Forrest Dr. Yip Chi Lap, Beta
<b>Education and Publicity Committee</b>	
Chairman	Mr. Lau Wai Man, Apache
Committee members	Mr. Lui Tak Hang, Henry Mr. Hung Wai Ming Mr. Choi Chung Pak Mr. Fung Po Kei, Robin Ms. Wong Hok Sze Mr. Alan Lam
<b>Crested Bulbul Club</b>	
Chairman	Mr. Choi Chung Pak
Vice-Chairman (Internal Affairs)	Mr. Wong Chiu Shu
Vice-Chairman (External Affairs)	Mr. Man Kuen Yat
Secretary	Mr. Cheng Kam Yuen
<b>HKBWS China Conservation Fund Committee</b>	
Chairman	Dr. Cheung Ho Fai
Committee members	Mr. Richard Lewthwaite Mr. Yu Yat Tung
<b>Annual Report Editor</b>	
Mr. Geoff Carey	
<b>Staff</b>	
China Project Officer	Ms. Cheung Ka Wing
Manager (Projects and Communication)	Mr. Lo Wai Yan
Project Officer	Ms. Yeung Lee Ki
Bird Surveyor	Mr. George W C Ho

## From the Editor

Members  
Affairs

### 2010 Membership Renewal

Thank you for your continuous support and please remember to renew your subscription. You may send the completed subscription form with crossed cheque to the society. Alternatively, you may directly credit 'The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Limited' account - Bank of China (Hong Kong) - account no. 012-878-1-076439-9] and return the pay-in slip and the completed subscription form to the society.

### Crested Bulbul Club

#### 1. Early Morning Bird Watchers at Kowloon Park & HK Park

No. of participants in Hong Kong Park  
from November 2009 - February 2010: 269  
No. of participants in Kowloon Park  
from November 2009 - February 2010: 481

#### 2. Bird watching interpretation in Hong Kong Wetland Park

A total of 69 participants in this service from Nov 09 to Feb 2010.

#### 3. Bird watching services and activities

26 Feb 10 - a guided tour for a group of handicapped children  
in Kowloon Park  
28 Feb 10 - a game booth in the carnival organized by NT Region,  
HK Scout Association  
7 & 28 Mar 10 - a guided tour for the HK Museum of Coastal Defence

### "Meeting Point for Morning Bird-Watchers at the Hong Kong Park"

Jointly organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society and guided by the Crested Bulbul Club of the Society. Free of charge and no registration required.

Hong Kong Park – every Wednesday: 8:00 to 10:00 am

Gathering Point: Artificial Lake




Kowloon Park – every Friday: 7:30 to 09:30 am  
Gathering Point: Arcade

In the Society News section Vicky Yeung reports briefly on the conclusion of the five-year Conservation Management project at Long Valley. Congratulations are due to her as co-ordinator, and to everyone else involved in this very successful programme, which will continue for at least two more years.

Despite all this effort, Long Valley is STILL threatened by a Planning and Lands Department proposal to "re-zone" the area. The HKBWS objections to this proposal, prepared by Vice-Chairman Mike Kilburn, are reproduced in full in this edition.

Public and private development planning means that threats to Hong Kong's birdable habitats are going to continue.

There will be more about land planning issues in Bulletin 216. Watch this space. 

~ John Holmes

## Nature Conservation Management of Long Valley (Mar 08-Feb 2010)

~ Vicky Yeung

Nature Conservation Management for Long Valley was completed in Feb, 2010. Over 1.1 million square feet of farmland was managed and the project has cooperated with 25 stakeholders. During the project period, 11 bird species new to Long Valley and a Hong Kong first were recorded. Also, there is a slight increase in the total number of birds recorded. The globally endangered Black-faced Spoonbill was recorded in the fishpond in Long Valley for two consecutive years and nine BFS were recorded this year. These show the success of management practices.



▲ 9 Black-faced Spoonbills feeding in the fishpond.

◀ Over 200 participants joined the Harvesting Festival in late January.

New Species to Hong Kong	New Species to Long Valley
Willow Warbler	Chinese Egret, Eurasian Spoonbill, Black-faced Spoonbill, Black-tailed Godwit, Far Eastern Curlew, Grey-tailed Tattler, Yellow-crested Cockatoo, Rose-ringed Parakeet, Pale Martin, Black Bulbul, Paddyfield

The new project, "Nature Conservation Management for Long Valley 2010-12" funded by the Environment and Conservation Fund and co-organized by the HKBWS and The Conservancy Association got started on 1 March 2010.

We would like to take this opportunity to give our heartfelt thanks to stakeholders, farmers, advisors, bird watchers, photographers and all the supporters of Long Valley. We hope you can continue your support to the project and to Long Valley.

### Report of the International Black-faced Spoonbill 2010

The survey was conducted during 8-10 Jan. The total number of Black-faced Spoonbills counted increased from 2,041 last year to 2,346 this year, a 13% increase. Full details will be released in due course.





香港觀鳥會有限公司  
The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Limited  
認可公共性質慈善機構 Approved Charitable Institution of Public Character

## NENT Development Study Second Round Public Engagement

Submission of  
the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

31st December, 2009

## | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY |

### Objection:

Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (HKBWS) objects in the strongest terms to the proposed zoning of Long Valley, a site of acknowledged ecological value, with a zoning - Comprehensive Development Nature Conservation Enhancement Area (CDNCEA) - that creates a presumption of development, and makes conservation conditional upon development.

### Proposal:

HKBWS proposes that Long Valley should be given a zoning commensurate with its current status as an area of acknowledged ecological value. Conservation Area (CA), Nature Reserve (NR) or Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) would all be acceptable.

HKBWS further proposes that the HKSAR Government reinforces this protection by resuming Long Valley to ensure permanent protection of its outstanding ecological value against all present and future development threats.

Resumption is important not only to protect its ecological value, but to recognize Long Valley's importance for people - as a site where conservation has triumphed over development, where traditional farming practices that are beneficial to nature conservation continue, and as a site the public can visit for passive recreation.

## GROUNDS FOR OBJECTION & ALTERNATIVE APPROACH

### Recognized ecological value of Long Valley

Prior to the second round of this consultation, it has been the intention of the HKSAR Government since at least 19 November 1999, when it was mentioned by Bowen Leung, then Secretary for Planning Environment & Lands, to protect the ecological value of Long Valley by zoning it as a nature park as part of the redevelopment of Kwu Tung North New Town.

This recognition of the ecological value of Long Valley is not in dispute, as can be seen from the following public and private bodies that recognize this, including the proponents, consultants, and ecologists of the current study:

1. Hong Kong Government
  - a. Nature Conservation Policy (AFCD and Env Bureau)
  - b. Environment & Conservation Fund (three Management Agreements)
  - c. 1999 & 2009 NENT Development Studies (CEDD & Plan D)
  - d. Advisory Council on the Environment (various minutes 1999 - 2009)
  - e. Legislative Council papers (Spur Line funding approval)
  - f. Rejection of Lok Ma Chau Spur Line EIA on ecological grounds (EPD)
  - g. EIA Appeal Board (see judgment on EPD website)

2. BirdLife International - Inner Deep Bay & Shenzhen River Catchment IBA
3. The consultants and professional ecologists for both NENT studies
4. Hong Kong environmental NGOs
5. The Hong Kong press and public

### Why a conservation zoning is appropriate

There is no question that Long Valley merits a conservation zoning. Indeed the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society and World Wide Fund for Nature (Hong Kong) have an outstanding application to the Town Planning Board to zone Long Valley as Conservation Area. HKBWS would fully support the zoning of Long Valley as either CA, NR or SSSI.

Several hundred hectares of rural land in Hong Kong in private ownership are zoned with a conservation intention - SSSI, Conservation Area, Nature Reserve, Country Park, and Green Belt. There is no reason why one of these zonings cannot be applied to Long Valley. Indeed, to do so is clearly in the public interest. Indeed the long title of the Town Planning Ordinance explicitly states that town planning be carried out in the public interest. Since the NENT Study is being conducted under the aegis of the Planning Department, and is in fact a planning study, there is no question that the zonings proposed made must be



consistent with the broad intention and the specific direction of the Town Planning Ordinance – that is to zone areas of high ecological value with a zoning that reflects this current value in the public interest.

### Conservation conditional on development is compromised conservation

CDNCEA only allows conservation to happen as part of a larger plan that includes development. This is problematic for two reasons:

- 1) It creates a presumption in favour of development and opens the door for a range of dilutions of the conservation intention, including possible fragmentation from multiple development plans.
- 2) It makes conservation conditional on development, and probably the goodwill of private developers, for whom nature conservation is only ever a means to an end rather than an end in itself

Both of these issues show the relative weakness of a CDNCEA zoning when compared with one of purely conservation-oriented zonings listed above, and make CDNCEA unfit for the purpose of protecting a site of high ecological value. It would be irrational and perverse for PlanD to propose development for land that is so widely recognized as having high ecological value.

### Opposition to a conservation zoning

The only opposition to a purely conservation zoning comes from the development aspirations of private landowners. However these aspirations, sometimes referred to as “hope value”, have no basis in law. While it may be legitimate to hope, there is no basis for recognizing this hope as a legal right to development.

Landowners often hold a speculative hope that they be able to secure an upzoning that would permit more lucrative residential, recreational or industrial development. However, even when such an upzoning is achieved, developers must pay a premium that is calculated by the Lands Department to secure this right. Until that point, under normal circumstances, the true value of the land can only be measured in reference to its potential agricultural productivity.

The exception to this is when the Government resumes land for New Towns. There is a precedent for resuming land of high ecological value in New Town development. The land for the Wetland Park was resumed for the compensation for the loss of ecological function when wetlands were filled to build Tin Shui Wai New Town. The Wetland Park concept was only added subsequently as a Millennium Project.

Should the government wish to compensate landowners, the appropriate method is to resume the land and to offer compensation according to a set rate calculated by the Lands Department.

### Value for people as well as for wildlife

Long Valley has been recognized and indeed managed for conservation of nature, sustainable agriculture and education purposes over the last three years and is now as widely recognized as Mai Po, Kadoorie Farm and Hoi Ha as a site where Hong Kong people can receive guided visits to sites of high ecological value. Continuation of such activities is welcomed, although HKBWS believes a study should be conducted to assess the carrying capacity of the site as there is already a high level of disturbance and this may be compromising the ecological function of Long Valley.


Fortunately the topography of the site allows relatively disturbance-free access along the drainage channel access road, and while Long Valley is too small and the pathways too fragile for general public access to be advisable, careful planning will allow many people to enjoy the site without minimal disturbance.

Consequently, HKBWS fully supports the resumption of Long Valley up to and including the boundaries set out by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and published on its website at: [http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/conservation/con\\_nncp/con\\_nncp\\_list/files/long\\_valley\\_ho\\_sh\\_eung\\_heung.pdf](http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/conservation/con_nncp/con_nncp_list/files/long_valley_ho_sh_eung_heung.pdf)

## ALTERNATIVE OPTION

### Land Exchange

If the Government wants to gift landowners with development rights for land that carries no such value it is totally unacceptable that they should do so to the detriment of a public asset – land of outstanding ecological value. The method for doing this is to allocate land of very low or nil ecological value at another site in exchange. This is called non-in-situ land exchange.

Non in-situ land exchange is successfully used in many countries to resolve such issues. There is no reason why it should not be used in Hong Kong. Indeed it has been used in Hong Kong for other purposes (King Yin Lei Mansion is the most recent example). 

*Mike Kilburn*  
*Vice Chairman,*  
*Chairman, Conservation Committee*

# SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROJECT IN WUYUAN, JIANGXI PROVINCE

*School Environmental Education in Wuyuan: a Practical Handbook*



~ Fion CHEUNG



*Birdwatching talk by Dong Wenxiao  
(© Fion Cheung)*



*Food chain game  
(© Fion Cheung)*

Last year, HKBWS launched a school environmental education project in Wuyuan, Jiangxi Province funded by the "Preventing Extinctions" Programme of BirdLife International and the British Birdwatching Fair. The aim was to promote birdwatching and bird conservation in Wuyuan, especially the protection of the critically endangered Blue-crowned Laughingthrush (BCLT).

In late April, Dr. Cheung Ho Fai, Dong Wenxiao (contract staff) and I visited 3 primary and secondary schools in remote villages and 2 secondary schools in Wuyuan city. Besides organizing birdwatching talks, we also took students to watch birds. At the same time, the schools selected some students who were interested in birdwatching and set up birdwatching groups which would be responsible for recording birds near their schools in the following 2 months.

After Dr Cheung and I left Wuyuan, Dong Wenxiao stayed there to monitor the breeding BCLT in Wuyuan and check the progress of each birdwatching group.

## Some student thoughts:

"Watching birds can make me understand nature better. Now I know that birds also have their homes and feelings."

"Birdwatching can make people fall in love with birds and not hurt birds anymore. Birdwatching can also make people happy. Under this win-win situation, birds can have a safer and happier living environment."

"Birds are our friends so they should be protected. With more people interested in birds, the power of protection will then be strengthened."



*Students found that it was interesting to listen to the noise produced by a woodpecker while watching birds in Shimen  
(© Fion Cheung)*



Students were excited when they saw birds (© Fion Cheung)



Students from Yutan Primary School started recording birds (© Dong Wenxiao)



The school principal of Ziyang Secondary School also joined the activity (© Dong Wenxiao)



Professor He Fenqi from the Institute of Zoology of Chinese Academy of Science fully supported the School Environmental Education Project (© Zhang Yinquan)

Though the unstable weather reduced the time for birdwatching, the enthusiasm of students to watch birds was not affected. It was also encouraging to find that the school principal of Ziyang Secondary School supported the activity and became the leader of the birdwatching group.

In order to encourage the students to continue watching birds in the future, HKBWS held an awards ceremony on the campus of Ziyang Secondary School. Famous ornithologist Professor He Fenqi from the Institute of Zoology of Chinese Academy of Science, Deputy Chief of Wuyuan Forestry Department Mr. Wang, representatives from the Wuyuan Photography Society and school principals of the participating schools attended the ceremony. Besides presenting awards to the schools, teachers and students, the birdwatching groups also introduced their bird survey work. Many students said that they could learn about Nature in a different way through the project.

After the ceremony, we arranged another activity for the teachers and students: birdwatching at Shimen. Since they used to watch birds near their schools only, birdwatching in this remote place excited them all. Moreover, they eventually had a chance to watch the endemic BCLT!

During the project period, we came across a heartbreaking situation...two nests of BCLT in a school were destroyed by students. Carrying out school environmental education in this beautiful place is a long-term job. At the end of the project period, we summarized the experience of schools and produced School Environmental Education in Wuyuan: a Practical Handbook. We hope that the handbook can inspire other schools' interest in setting up birdwatching groups. At the moment, we are trying our best to get further funding so that we can visit Wuyuan in 2010 again and pass the message of bird conservation to more students.



"I have already fallen in love with birds since joining the project. There are still a lot to learn about birds so I will continue birdwatching."

"There are a lot of nice memories in the process of discovering the unknown in nature. Birdwatching can relax both the soul and body."



Chairman of HKBWS Dr. Cheung Ho Fai presented a souvenir to the Deputy Chief of Wuyuan Forestry Department Mr. Wang for his help (© Zhang Yinquan)



Certificates were presented to teachers and students (© Dong Wenxiao)



Student representatives from the birdwatching group of Tianyou Secondary School introduced their bird survey (© Dong Wenxiao)

Remarks: Blue-crowned Laughingthrush (*Garrulax courtoisi*) is endemic to China with the entire known population restricted to 5 or 6 fragmented sites in Wuyuan during the breeding season. It is a critically endangered species in the IUCN Red List with an estimated population of less than 250 individuals. (Information source: website of BirdLife International)

# Action for the Critically Endangered Chinese Crested Tern

~ Fion CHEUNG



Sightings of Chinese Crested Tern (CCT) are virtually restricted to two breeding islands off the coast of Fujian Province (Matsu) and Zhejiang Province (Jiushan), and a staging site at the Min Jiang Estuary, Fujian Province. This enigmatic species went unseen by science for sixty-five years until its' rediscovery in 2000.

In order to facilitate experts, related government departments and birdwatching societies to cooperate in terms of protection, research and raising public awareness, a Chinese Crested Tern (CCT) Conservation Meeting across the Taiwan Straits was organized by BirdLife International and Hong Kong Bird Watching Society with the help of the Fujian Bird Watching Society (FBWS) in Fuzhou city, Fujian Province, on 11th April 2009. The 20 participants included bird conservationists from mainland China, Taiwan, Matsu and Hong Kong and related government officials from Beijing, Zhejiang and Fujian.



*Chinese Crested Tern Conservation Meeting across the Taiwan Straits in April 2009  
(© Simba Chan)*



*Photo exhibition in the public library of Fujian  
(© Simba Chan)*



*Chinese Crested Tern expert Mr. Chang Zembua introduced the situation of terns in Matsu Islands (© Fion Cbeung)*

In the meeting, Mr. Simba Chan from BirdLife Asia Division talked about the history of CCT and the Action Plan. Experts from Matsu, Zhejiang and Fujian introduced the present situation of the tern in their regions. Coordinated conservation actions agreed included:

- i) synchronized surveys twice a month from June to August 2009 in the Matsu Islands and Min Jiang Estuary to confirm the total number of CCT off the coast of Fujian,
- ii) surveys for new breeding sites along the eastern coast of China mainland in the next few years,
- iii) investigation of CCT migration routes and basic training for staff of insular nature reserves and volunteers in 2010.

A resolution was written after the meeting to encourage the public to stop consuming seabird eggs and disturbing seabirds during their breeding seasons, and to support the conservation work of the related organizations.

To raise the public awareness about CCT, especially to curb the biggest threat to CCT - poaching of seabird eggs on islands in eastern China, a public seminar and photo exhibition was held in the public library of Fujian Province on 12th April. The meeting and public seminar attracted 17 news reports, including People Net and Wen Wei Po, which reflected more and more popular concern about this critically endangered species.



*One of the Voluntary CCT Conservation Groups set up in Lianjiang County (© Simba Chan)*



*With lots of people, this park was a suitable venue for promoting the protection of Chinese Crested Tern in Xiangshan County, Zhejiang, at weekends (© Fion Cheung)*



*Students playing the exciting Chinese Crested Tern Breeding Game (© Fan Zhongyong)*




*The Voluntary CCT Conservation Group established in Zhejiang (© Fan Zhongyong)*

As fishermen are those who collect seabird eggs on islands illegally, staff and volunteers from the Zhejiang Wild Bird Society and Fujian Bird Watching Society, Simba and I visited fishing villages and schools at the coastal areas where their children study.

At weekends in mid-October 2009 we held public talks, shared videos and distributed CCT wall calendars of 2010 and booklets in Xiangshan County, Zhejiang, which is the county nearest to Jiushan Islands. We also played a specially designed CCT Breeding Game with students from 2 schools and established Voluntary CCT Conservation Groups. The groups will help Zhejiang Wild Bird Society to promote the protection of CCT there. In Fujian, we visited 2 schools in Lianjiang County which is near to the Matsu Islands. Students there helped to introduce the tern to other classes and distributed the wall calendars and booklets.

At the moment, there are less than 50 CCTs in the world. Promoting the protection of CCT and their habitats and stopping the consumption of seabird eggs is very urgent. Otherwise, this "Bird of Legend" will become extinct again.

Thanks are due to the Ocean Park Conservation Foundation (Hong Kong), BirdLife International, British Birdwatching Fair and Japan Fund for Global Environment for their support in the conservation work. 



*After the talks and games held at a school in Lianjiang County, students spontaneously introduced the tern to other classes and distributed the wall calendars and booklets (© Simba Chan)*



*Students in Lianjiang County found the booklet interesting (© Simba Chan)*

*Winning students could get a CCT model produced by Wild Bird Society of Mazu (© Simba Chan)*



# Mai Po Update

~ Bena Smith

## Satellite Tracking Project – Part II

In December 2009 the second phase of a project to satellite track Hong Kong's ducks kicked off. The same team as last year successfully captured and then fitted satellite receivers to 23 ducks at Mai Po (Photo 1). These ducks are now flying around Deep Bay and their movements can be tracked using Google Earth, please refer to the HKBWS BBS for instructions. Within the current batch half were fitted with ARGOS transmitters the other half with GPS transmitters (Photo 2). The latter type provide locations to within 18 metres, so it is possible to see which ponds, gei wai, inter-tidal creeks or areas of the Bay the duck are utilising.



(Credit - WWF-HK)

Phase I concluded in late 2009. It provided some fantastic information and for the first time revealed northward migration routes for Eurasian Wigeon and Northern Pintail. After leaving Hong Kong over half of the ducks used Jiuduansha and Chongming Dongtan Nature Reserve at Shanghai as their first stop; both wetlands are Important Bird Areas and National Nature Reserves which support various endangered waterbird species along the Flyway, including Black-faced Spoonbill, Saunders' Gull, Spoon-billed Sandpiper and Nordmann's Greenshank. By summer the ducks were widely spread from the deserts of Inner Mongolia to the Sea of Okhotsk near Alaska, the latter being some 6,500 Km from Hong Kong. Unfortunately the transmitters did not work long enough to reveal the southward migration routes; we hope for better luck in phase 2.



(Credit - WWF-HK)

## Waterbird Usage of Summer draining gei wai

Winter drain-down of the Mai Po gei wai is known to attract and benefit piscivorous waterbirds in the Deep Bay area and is a regular management activity. Recent survey work recorded over 1,200 waterbirds feeding on a draining gei wai, including 288 Black-faced Spoonbill (winter 2006/07).

For some time now it has been thought that Summer drain-down might be a worthwhile management activity to benefit over-summering and locally breeding herons and egrets, so between July to August 2009 waterbird usage was studied on 3 different draining gei wai.

The results were most encouraging, with over 1,000 waterbirds recorded feeding together. High counts included 576 Little Egret, 547 Great Egret, 70 Black-crowned Night Heron and 35 Chinese Pond Heron. An example of how daily bird numbers and species changed during drain-down at gei wai #14 is shown in Figure 1. Interestingly, for all these species, summer drain-down attracted higher peak numbers than winter drain-down, something unexpected.

Based on the findings, summer draining will now become regular management at Mai Po and in consideration of the long heron and egret breeding season in Hong Kong, draining will span from late April till August to maximise benefits.

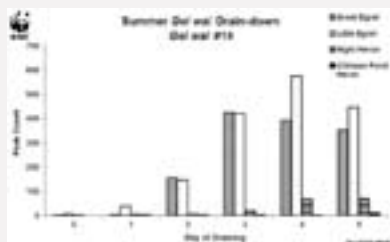


Figure 1. Waterbird species usage on draining gei wai #14.

## Collared Crow

Collared Crow is a fairly common bird in and around Deep Bay, encountered in all seasons on almost every birding trip to Mai Po. The Crow typically forages at drained gei wai/fish ponds during the day, and at night roosts in the inter-tidal mangrove. However outside Hong Kong such encounters are becoming rare and the species is clearly vanishing from former strongholds in China, Vietnam and Taiwan. Loss of food prey owing to agricultural intensification and over-use of pesticides and rodenticides is cited as the main reason. This prompted Birdlife International to recommend its listing as a species of conservation concern (Near Threatened), which IUCN did in 2008.

According to bird monitoring data from Mai Po, the winter roost population has gradually increased over the last 6 years and is now around 70 individuals. The summer population is fairly stable, around 100 individuals with a high count of 112 last year (21-Aug-09). As ordinary as such numbers might appear to Hong Kong birders, it is becoming apparent that these are among the highest for this species in recent times. If indeed this proves to be true and further declines are reported from Mainland China, then Deep Bay could become a global stronghold for Collared Crow, a prospect unimaginable 20 years ago.

For comments about the Mai Po works being carried out, please contact us by telephone (2471-6212) or by e-mail (bsmith@wwf.org.hk).



(Credit - Neil Fifer)



黑頭鵲  
陳士飛  
壟原

Black-headed Bunting  
Thomas Chan  
Long Valley

29.10.2009  
DSLR Camera, 800mm f/5.6 lens



栗耳鵲  
葉紀江  
壟原

Chestnut-eared Bunting  
Herman Ip Kee Kong  
Long Valley

07.10.2009  
DSLR Camera, 300mm/f/2.8 lens + 2x teleconverter

黃眉鷀  
陳土飛  
蒲台

Yellow-browed Bunting  
Thomas Chan  
Po Toi

11.10.2009  
DSLR Camera, 800mm f/5.6 lens



白眉鷀  
Allen  
蒲台

Tristram's Bunting  
Allen  
Po Toi

26.11.2009  
DSLR Camera, 500mm f/4 lens







小鷀  
Ho Kam Wing  
蒲台

Little Bunting  
Ho Kam Wing  
Po Toi

14.11.2009

DSLR Camera, 600mm lens + 1.7 teleconverter

田鷀  
陳佳瑋  
貝澳

Rustic Bunting  
Peter Chan  
Pui O

15.11.2009  
Digiscoping





灰頭鶉(雄鳥)  
葉紀江  
蒲台

Black-Faced Bunting (male)  
Herman Ip Kee Kong  
Po Toi

05.11.2009  
DSLR Camera, 300mmf/2.8 lens + 2x teleconverter



灰頭鶉(雌鳥)  
洪國偉  
山貝村

Black-faced Bunting (female)  
Hoon Kwok Wai  
Shan Pui Village

05.11.2009  
DSLR Camera, 500mm f/4 lens + 1.4 teleconverter



## Seventh bird-watching class

~ Alan LAM

During the seventh bird-watching course, I found I had grown from a student into an overall planner. This time as well, I consider myself an online bird-watching tutor, as it turns out that I have drawn in some experts in bird-watching as helping hands. I feel immensely grateful to all of them.

There were 41 students in the HKBWS class. Some of them already had several years of bird-watching experience, but they still were keen to participate. Evidently the bird-watching course was still very attractive to them.

For the final assessment in the last lesson, we brought up a bird identification question. (Here it is, see photo below.) Candidates who fail to answer the question correctly are welcome to join the next bird-watching class. Anyone who can get the answer right is welcome to tutor the next class!



The final challenge

# Hidden depths - my Spotted Dove experiences

~ Photo/article by Samson So



*The Spotted Dove, a perfect subject for observation both in the city and in the wild*



## Ever think that the Spotted Dove is dull-coloured and common?

If so, maybe you haven't really been looking. A body of pink feathers, a grey head, orange iris, bright red legs, white on black tail feathers, and the not-to-be-missed pearl spots around its neck mark its' distinct identity. If you take an even closer look, you can even find some faint scale-like patterns on its wings. The Spotted Dove is undoubtedly colourful.

When I was a primary student, the popular game amongst boys was playing with toy guns. Back then, you could get a bag of silver "bullets" for a dollar, but to save money, most of us would buy soy beans from the 'mai po' (not the wetland, but stores that sell unpacked rice). It was 50 cents for one big bag! I played gun battles with friends on rooftops, like scenes from the movie "Internal Affairs", a crime action thriller. We had so much fun. The day after our frantic exchange of fire with blind bullets flying everywhere, I would always see some pigeon-like birds picking up the soy beans left on the ground. We knew little about birds, and there wasn't any guide book to look up, so when we heard these birds calling like "gu gu, gu gu", we thought they were the zhe gu's (francolins) of zhe gu cai (a well-known traditional Chinese drug for children with parasitic worms in bowels. It wasn't until I became a grownup that I finally learned that zhe gu cai is not made with zhe gu, and the 'cai' is not a vegetable!)! Years later, I learnt from veteran bird watchers that the birds I saw on the rooftop were in fact Spotted Doves, and I am now lucky to be able to watch their many faces with binoculars. We have come a long way in our knowledge of birds, and can easily name a few such as the Common Kingfisher, Band-bellied Crake, Fork-tailed Sunbird, and the rarer ones such as Cotton Pygmy Goose, Scaly Thrush, Plumbeous Redstart, Asian Barred

Owlet and Great Crested Grebe. Whether you have a pair of binoculars or not, you are bound to know a list of rare bird species. It seems that Hong Kong people are making progress in knowledge of bird names.

## Who says it's boring to watch the commonly seen birds?

Birdwatchers aiming to cumulate a high personal species "count" will easily neglect the more commonly seen birds, thus missing the opportunity of knowing the bird in depth. By knowing the Spotted Dove, we can also learn to identify the Oriental Turtle Dove, Red Collared Dove and Eurasian Collared Dove, and further on to various types of green pigeons. On the other hand, watching the Spotted Dove gives us an insight into the unique feeding and drinking habits of pigeons.

Apart from appearance and daily habits, you can also note the way the male Spotted Dove displays its passion during courtship, its flight when claiming territory, and the loud calls it makes. Look around your neighbourhood, maybe you'll be able to record their breeding period, or even the number of nests, the success rate of young birds leaving the nest, and so on. Try to get into the habit of recording your observations systematically instead of just watching.

There was a time when a pair of Spotted Doves built their nest by the window of the corridor in the dormitory where I stayed. Every day I would spend time watching them, and in the process I saw the stamina shown by the adults during incubation, how they sat in the nest for a long period of time protecting it. I also felt joy in the growth of the chicks, growing from helpless hatchlings into feathered juveniles. Soon they learned to fly, leaving an empty nest behind. Short as it was,



*The Spotted Dove's feathers have rich colours and many layers*



*A bathing Spotted Dove*

lasting only for a few weeks, I witnessed a life cycle in full swing, and this experience will stay with me for the rest of my life.

### **Who says the Spotted Dove has no value in wildlife study?**


When I see scattered feathers on the ground during my field trips, I always do a “CSI” check to reconstruct the case, because it seems that a certain bird has fallen victim to a certain predator, and has become food. In many cases, the feathers were those of Spotted Doves. I haven’t as yet witnessed the actual preying of a Spotted Dove by a raptor or an animal, but, based on the high frequency of feathers found in the field, we can assume that the Spotted Dove is in fact very important in maintaining the food chain.

In nature, life and death is simply a cyclical process, - dead organisms become food for other living organisms, providing necessary nutrients. But when man changes the natural environment, lives disappear without any meaning. When I was an ornithology graduate student, I went to Central one day to get the developed slide films from a shop in Stanley Street. Just when I was congratulating myself for the nice bird shots I managed to capture, a Spotted Dove fell right in front of me after I heard the sound of something crashing. I held the body of the bird in my hands, it was still warm and soft, but the beak was broken. Lying in my hands, its eyes slowly closed, I stood in the wave of crowds, lost and alone. The dove’s feathers were still lustrous, but life was gone forever. I’ve read reports of birds killed crashing into the glass walls in cities, I’ve found dead bodies of innocent birds killed in crashes, but that didn’t prepare me for the shock of seeing death with my naked eyes, I was totally distressed. In a city busy with traffic and crowds, the

sound of a crash went easily unnoticed, but the impact is still felt in my heart even till this day.

**Who says Spotted Dove is boring?** Their presence may be easily ignored because they can be seen almost everywhere, and birdwatchers are not interested in them because they are not shy at all. But to me, the Spotted Dove is a big feature of childhood memory. It made the perfect observation subject for me during my school days and in learning about the behavior and habits of birds. For people lost in city life, the dove also serves as a friendly ambassador connecting us with nature.

In 2005, I left my job with the nature reserve area to further my studies. During that time I found another job and transformed myself into a salary man, an “elite” going through the motions in Central. Behind the alluring glamour of the concrete jungle, I felt most uneasy during lunch hours. The endless stream of people lining up outside the fast food store and the mountain of garbage created by lunch boxes, all the more reminded me of the good old times that I missed so much, munching at my pack lunch by the mangrove while watching the beautiful birds around me. Then, one day when I was stressing myself in one of the daily races during rush hour to catch a bus, a ferry and a place in the queue, a familiar noise caught my attention, the sound of wings flapping from a tree on the sidewalk. The sight of that crimson body, the orange iris, and the pearl-like pattern around the neck brought me back to nature, and I was able to find my true self amidst the drowning city.

I like the Spotted Dove, it shares with me many unforgettable moments in my life. Often I see the somewhat-experienced bird watchers or photographers propagating their contempt for the “common birds” to people around them. Nowadays, seeking out the “rare birds” has become a trend for bird watchers, but maybe it’s time for us to rethink what’s behind bird watching. Is it simply a pursuit for a higher score in personal bird species (regardless of the ability to truly identify a species), or a process through which we can learn more about life, about nature and gain better insight? In the world of feathers, all is equal, every feather has its own charm, and the beauty of nature is especially for those who truly know how to appreciate it. 




# My Bird Watching Diary

~ Text and Illustrations: Wendy Yu



14 Mar 2009 ( Sat )

A cold front came to Hong Kong at midnight and the temperature dropped to 10C overnight. At six o'clock in the morning, I stand still at the edge of the forest, hoping to meet the blue bird again. Yesterday, I forgot my binoculars and I was afraid to frighten the bird by walking too close to it. Therefore, I am unable to identify the species. However, I wonder if it might be a kind of Blue Flycatcher. After half an hour, the bird finally re-appears in a nearby "Elephant's Ear" tree. It is actually a Blue-throated Flycatcher, with beautiful orange, blue and white plumage. 



~ Richard Lewthwaite

(These are unofficial records, - observers should remember to submit their records formally, either electronically or on paper forms)

## October

▶ This was a cool, mainly dry month and very good for birds, especially in the Deep Bay area in the last ten days of the month. Highlights were a **Red-headed Bunting**, a potential Hong Kong first which was seen at Lok Ma Chau on 23<sup>rd</sup> (PJL), a **Red-backed Shrike** trapped at Lok Ma Chau on 7<sup>th</sup> (PJL), a possible **Pale Blue Flycatcher** at Sai Kung on 31<sup>st</sup> (BK), both of which were potential second records, and a **Cotton Pygmy Goose** at Shan Pui (Nam Sang Wai) during 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> (SC), only the fourth for Hong Kong. In addition, two rare warblers were trapped at Mai Po, single **Baikal Bush Warblers** on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> and a **Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler** on 29<sup>th</sup> (PJL), and it was the best ever autumn for **Lanceolated Warblers** (including at least 12 at Mai Po on 22<sup>nd</sup>). **Black-headed Buntings** were sighted (up to three were noted at Mai Po, Lam Tsuen, Ma Tso Lung, Long Valley and Lut Chau from 7<sup>th</sup> to the end of the month). **Pheasant-tailed Jacanas** were also unusually common, with up to eight at Mai Po, Long Valley, Lok Ma Chau and Shan Pui during 15<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>.

▶ Apart from the birds listed above, best birds in Deep Bay in the first half of the month were a **Lesser Tree Duck** on 1<sup>st</sup>, a **Swinhoe's Minivet** on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 43 **Blue-tailed Bee-eaters** and a **Styan's Grasshopper Warbler** on 8<sup>th</sup>, all at Mai Po, and two **Mandarin Ducks** at Lok Ma Chau on 7<sup>th</sup>. Subsequent reports included single **Amur Falcons** during 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> (PJL, EMSK), a **Yellow-legged Buttonquail** at Ma Tso Lung on 21<sup>st</sup> (JAA), a possible **Steppe Eagle** at Lok Ma Chau on the same day, up to two **Manchurian Reed Warblers** on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, a **Yellow-streaked Warbler** on 26<sup>th</sup> and a **Thick-billed Warbler** on 30<sup>th</sup>, all at Mai Po (PJL). Five **Eurasian Woodcocks** were present near Fanling on 31<sup>st</sup> (KK).

▶ Unusually, though, both **Common Buzzards** and **Silky Starlings** arrived later than usual, neither being reported until about 21<sup>st</sup>.

▶ The ripening rice-fields and shallow pools at Long Valley hosted a wide range of migrants during the month, including up to 40 **Black-winged Stilts**, two **Marsh Sandpipers** and 55 **Little Ringed Plovers**. A **Buff-bellied Pipit** on 10<sup>th</sup> (EMSK), the earliest by 8 days, was followed by a **Baillon's Crake** on 22<sup>nd</sup>, a **Slaty-breasted Rail** on 27<sup>th</sup> and two **Citrine Wagtails**, as well as up to 30 **Yellow-breasted**, three **Black-headed** and two **Chestnut-eared Buntings** (mainly SYH, TH, MH).

▶ Elsewhere, Tai Po Kau was rather quiet, apart from an **Oriental Scops Owl** on 1<sup>st</sup> (KPK) and the two **Bay Woodpeckers**, which now seem well-settled. Another **Oriental Scops Owl** was at Cloudy Hill on 22<sup>nd</sup> (J+JH).

▶ It was another good month for flycatchers at Po Toi. Among eleven or twelve flycatcher species reported were a **Brown-chested Flycatcher** on 8<sup>th</sup>, both male and female **Narcissus Flycatchers** during 10<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> and a **Small Niltava** on 29<sup>th</sup> (GW). Also seen were two **Orange-headed Ground Thrushes** on 13<sup>th</sup> and an **Amur Falcon** on 21<sup>st</sup> (GW).

## November

▶ With heavy snow coming early to North China, this was the coldest November in Hong Kong in over 20 years and one of the very best for birds.

▶ A memorable influx of **Yellow-throated Buntings** occurred from 5<sup>th</sup> and there were potential Hong Kong first records of the following: a **Dark-throated Thrush**, thought to be a hybrid **Black-throated x Red-throated** or **Black-throated x Naumann's**, photographed at Pui O on 7<sup>th</sup> (VC), an apparently "pure" female **Red-throated Thrush** photographed at Po Toi on 19<sup>th</sup> (EL), a **Northern House Martin** at Lok Ma Chau on the same day (PJL), with further sightings of single birds there and at Lut Chau, Tsim Bei Tsui and Pui O (GHO, MLC, WKC) over the next three days and also one at Haifeng, eastern Guangdong on 18<sup>th</sup> (XC), pre-dating the Lok Ma Chau record by one day, and a *Phylloscopus* warbler at Ng Tung Chai on 25<sup>th</sup> thought to be an **Emei Leaf Warbler** (GHO). Another **Dark-throated Thrush** was reported at Lung Fu Shan, Hong Kong Island on 26<sup>th</sup> (BSh).

擴闊你的視野

創新25-50xW超廣角變焦目鏡

以70毫米長度及295克重量成為市場之最。採用非球面鏡片大幅修正色差及變形等問題，使影像從中心至視野邊緣一樣銳利無比，色彩飽和，絕對讓你開闊視野之余驚喜不斷。



30-60x5



25-50xW

于相同倍率給你25%額外視野，看得更闊，收獲更多。



NEW

淨重只有295克，成為市場之最。光學表現更是無出其右。

100%適用於所有施華洛世奇單筒，不需更換機身造成浪費。

25-50xW

SEE THE UNSEEN

WWW.5W-OPTIK.COM.CN  
 施華洛世奇香港有限公司  
 香港英皇道1063號富通中心9樓  
 Tel:+852 2969 6197 Fax:+852 2250 7307  
 Market@5w-optik.com.cn

SWAROVSKI  
 OPTIK



▶ The month opened with a **Lesser Frigatebird** at Sham Wat (WHS) and a **Common Starling** at Po Toi (CT), both on 1<sup>st</sup>, and a **Citrine Wagtail** at Long Valley on 2<sup>nd</sup> (CKF). Five **Yellow-browed Buntings** at Po Toi on 3<sup>rd</sup> (GW) were the first of a fine series. Subsequently, there were reports of up to three at Po Toi until 24<sup>th</sup> (PW, MK), up to four at Kam Tin during 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> (JAA) and up to two at Mai Po during 5<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> (PJL, SYH).

▶ A count of nine **Daurian Redstarts** at Pui O on 4<sup>th</sup> (ML) was an early sign that this locality was going to attract good numbers of migrants, and 60 **Chinese Penduline Tits** were noted at Mai Po the next day (PJL).

▶ Following a **Water Rail** at Long Valley (SYH), single **Chestnut-eared Buntings** at Tsim Bei Tsui and Kam Tin (CT, JAA) and five **Greater Painted Snipe** at Sai Sha (PJL), the first record from this part of the NT, all on 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, an arrival occurred, with the **Dark-throated Thrush** at Pui O (VC), two **Yellow-throated Buntings** at Po Toi (PW, MK), a **Sulphur-breasted Warbler** at Tai Po Kau (GJC, KPK) and a **Radde's Warbler** at Nam Sang Wai (EMSK) all noted on 7<sup>th</sup>.

▶ In an unprecedented series of records, **Yellow-throated Buntings** were regularly seen at Po Toi during 7<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> with a peak count of eight on 16<sup>th</sup> (GW), whilst elsewhere one was at Tai Po Kau Headland on 15<sup>th</sup> (KB) and at least four were at two separate localities on south Lamma on 14<sup>th</sup> (JAA).

▶ **Radde's Warblers** were commoner than usual. Following the Nam Sang Wai bird on 7<sup>th</sup>, there were reports of up to two at Po Toi during 8<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> (GHO, PW, MK) and one at Mai Po on 15<sup>th</sup> (Andiona), after which singles were noted in the second half of the month at Tai Po Kau Park on 21<sup>st</sup> (Beetle), Mong Tseng on 22<sup>nd</sup> (MLC), Cheung Chau and Ma Tso Lung on 23<sup>rd</sup> (MDW, SYH), Ho Sheung Heung and Shui Hang on 24<sup>th</sup> (PCC, PA), and Sha Tin Pass on 26<sup>th</sup> (YWH).

▶ A **Yellow-legged Buttonquail** and a **Common Starling** were found at Kam Tin on 8<sup>th</sup> (JAA), and the first **Brambling** of the autumn was at Po Toi the same day (GHO). Subsequently, up to two were seen on the island on 11<sup>th</sup> (GW) and between 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> (RB, EMSK). The two **Bay Woodpeckers** were also seen again in Tai Po Kau on 8<sup>th</sup> (KPK).

▶ On 10<sup>th</sup>, a **Black-headed Bunting** was at Long Valley (SYH) and a **Buff-bellied Pipit** at Ho Sheung Heung (PCC), and the next day a large number of **Chestnut Buntings** were found at Po Toi (GW). A flock of 51 **Chinese Blackbirds** were seen at Ta Kwu Ling on 13<sup>th</sup> (PCC).



▶ In addition to **Yellow-throated Buntings**, a visit to south Lamma on 14<sup>th</sup> (JAA) led to sightings of a **Mountain Tailorbird**, a **Hainan Blue Flycatcher**, a **Grey-headed Flycatcher**, all possibly new records for Lamma, as well as a **Japanese Paradise Flycatcher**, the latest in autumn by 11 days. This was a good day elsewhere, with a **Lesser Shortwing** and **Black-browed Reed Warbler** at Po Toi (PW, MK), a **Sulphur-breasted Warbler** and **Brown-breasted Flycatcher** at Tai Po Kau (GJC) and a **Ruddy Crane** at Kam Tin (JAA).

▶ In what was already an excellent month for buntings, a **Rustic Bunting** found at Pui O on 15<sup>th</sup> (MK, PTH) was only the fourth or fifth for Hong Kong.

▶ Meanwhile, as high tides in Deep Bay on 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> pushed shorebirds close to the boardwalk hides, large **Kentish Plover** and **Dunlin** flocks were counted (MRL, MLC, YYT), a **Nordmann's Greenshank** and a **Spoon-billed Sandpiper** were found (RWL), and possibly record numbers of **Northern Shovelers** were present (YYT).

▶ Despite the weather being cold, thrushes were at this point very scarce, single **Eyebrowed and Brown-headed Thrushes** at Po Toi on 16<sup>th</sup> (GW) being of note.

▶ An influx of swallows and martins during 17<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> included 100 **Asian House Martins** at Nam Chung on 17<sup>th</sup> (RWL), the **Northern House Martins** already mentioned, 60 **Pale Martins** at Lok Ma Chau on 20<sup>th</sup> and 20 **Red-rumped Swallows** at Nam Chung on 21<sup>st</sup> (MLC).

▶ Among other birds found during this period were a **Bianchi's Warbler** at Po Toi on 17<sup>th</sup> (GW), still present on 29<sup>th</sup> (PM, MK), a **Chestnut-eared Bunting** at Long Valley from 18<sup>th</sup> (TH), two rather late **Sooty Flycatchers** at Tai Po Kau from 19<sup>th</sup> (MDW), a **Japanese Robin** at Po Toi on 19<sup>th</sup> (GW), the earliest record by a day, three **Black Bulbuls** at Tai Po Kau Headland (KB), a **Dusky Thrush** at Lam Tsuen (DT), a **Yellow-legged Buttonquail** at Lok Ma Cha (GJC), all on 20<sup>th</sup>, a **Bull-headed Shrike** at Shek Kong, a **Black-headed Bunting** at Long Valley (EMSK) and a **Chinese Penduline Tit** at Nam Chung (MLC), a very rare record away from Deep Bay, all on 21<sup>st</sup>, and a **Grey Bushchat** at Mong Tseng (MLC) and a **Rufous-faced Warbler** at Mui Tse Lam (Cyrus), both on 22<sup>nd</sup>. The latter is only the fifth or sixth for Hong Kong and the earliest on record.

▶ Pui O hosted a fine variety of birds in the same period, including a **Pheasant-tailed Jacana**, two **Ruddy Crakes**, a **Hoopoe**, a **Red-breasted Flycatcher** and 19 **Daurian Starlings**, all on 21<sup>st</sup> (PA). Also noted on Lantau were a fall of **Red-flanked Bluetails** at Ngong Ping on 24<sup>th</sup> and another **Red-breasted Flycatcher** at Shui Hang the same day (PA).

## THE NEW EL 42 視覺新體驗

施華洛世奇以革命性科技 "SWAROVISION TECHNOLOGY" 創制全新 EL 42 雙筒望遠鏡系列，為您帶來前所未有的光學體驗。結合全新光學系統、視場平整鏡片及優化镀膜，使影像真實無比，色彩準確鮮艷，畫面更顯清晰，透視像更修正比例好。是您不二之選。



可供選擇的規格  
EL 8.5 x 42WB  
EL 10 x 42WB  
原廠保修30年

SWAROVISION  
SWAROCLEAN  
SWAROBRIGHT

### 全新對焦系統

快速、準確、可靠

精細調焦：先進的單焦機制，具有獨特對焦系統，最近對焦 1.5 米 (為市面上最近對焦距離)，使對焦特別容易、自如。

### 體貼宜人

結構輕身，堅固耐用

金屬結構機身配以防沖性膠，鏡筒內充入氮氣，可防潮、防霧并防水達四米深。

### 驚人視場

寬大的視野範圍

出瞳距離增長至 20 毫米，為市面最長，同時視野範圍增加至 133 米 (8.5 倍) 及 112 米 (10 倍)。



### 出眾光學表現

全新視場平整鏡片及優化镀膜

加入含氟化合物的鏡片有效減低色散，使影像更清晰銳利。加入視場平整鏡片，使透鏡變形影子看不出來，所以影像可以從中心一直清晰到底部。

### 易潔塗層 SWAROCLEAN

水漬不留痕，鏡頭隨時保持最佳狀態

鏡面表面加上易潔塗層，因水漬及干殘留下的水印、指紋則成弱點等，輕輕一擦便無影無踪。

SEE THE UNSEEN

WWW.SW-OPTIK.COM.CN

施華洛世奇香港有限公司


香港英皇道1063號富通中心9樓

Tel: +852 2969 6197 Fax: +852 2250 7307

Market@sw-optik.com.cn



SWAROVSKI  
OPTIK

- 
- ▶ Another **Chinese Penduline Tit** turned up away from Deep Bay, this time at Cheung Chau on 23<sup>rd</sup> (MDW), and a **Paddyfield Warbler** was found at Long Valley on 24<sup>th</sup> (SYH).
  - ▶ An arrival of thrushes was noted during 25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, with 56 **Japanese Thrushes** at Po Toi on 25<sup>th</sup> (GW), a record count, an **Orange-headed Ground Thrush** at Tai Po Kau the next day (SYH), a male **Siberian Thrush** at Lung Fu Shan on 28<sup>th</sup> (BK), and a **Brown-headed Thrush** and **Pale Thrush** at Po Toi on 29<sup>th</sup> (PW, MK). **Grey Bushchats** were found at Mai Po on 25<sup>th</sup> and Po Toi on 28<sup>th</sup> (SYH, PW, MK), and an **Arctic Warbler** at Po Toi on the same date (PW, MK) was the latest of several in the latter half of the month.
  - ▶ The star bird at the end of the month was a stunning adult male **Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher** at Po Toi on 28<sup>th</sup> (HK, OC, et al), the earliest record by five days. A young male was also found at Po Toi the next day (PW, MK).

## December

- ▶ Expectations were very high after a cold November which had been excellent for birds in Hong Kong and with a big freeze still affecting North China. However, there were to be no great influxes into Hong Kong and rarities were few, the rarest bird being a **Japanese Marsh Warbler** trapped at Mai Po on 11<sup>th</sup> (PJL), only the second for Hong Kong following one trapped at the same locality on 10 November 2007. Also of interest was a **Bearded Reedling** at Mai Po on 18<sup>th</sup>, the latest in a small series of winter records. Could these be wild birds?
- ▶ Rarest birds in the first part of the month were a **White-spectacled Warbler** at Po Toi on 5<sup>th</sup> (PW, MK), a **Brown Bush Warbler** at Tai Om Shan (Lam Tsuen) on 6<sup>th</sup> (EMSK) and a **Chestnut-crowned Warbler** at Leadmine Pass on 10<sup>th</sup> (SLT).
- ▶ Birds remaining from November included the late **Sooty Flycatcher** at Tai Po Kau, seen again on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> (KPK, SLT), and a **Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher** at Po Toi, seen again on 10<sup>th</sup> (GW). The long-staying **Ruddy Crake** at Pui O and up to two **Citrine Wagtails** at Long Valley were also reported throughout the month.
- ▶ Other birds of note in the first part of the month included a **Plumbeous Redstart** at Po Toi on 2<sup>nd</sup> (GW), the first for the island, a **Watercock** at Long Valley on the same day (SYH), two **Common Rosefinches** at Po Toi on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> (GW, SLT), a male **Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush** at Kadoorie FBG from 4<sup>th</sup>, a **Mountain Tailorbird**, two **Mountain Bush Warblers** and a **Black-browed Reed Warbler** at Cheung Chau during 4<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, all first records for the island (MDW), nine **Northern Lapwings** at Mai Po on 5<sup>th</sup> and, in a generally poor winter for thrushes, six **White's Thrushes** at Tai Lam CP on 6<sup>th</sup> (JAA).
- ▶ A single **Damatian Pelican** first found on 10<sup>th</sup> (WWF HK) remained in Deep Bay throughout the month.
- ▶ Among notable reports in mid-month, following the **Japanese Marsh Warbler** on 11<sup>th</sup>, were a **Grey Bushchat** at Lam Tsuen on 12<sup>th</sup>, a **Ruff** at Tin Shui Wai on the same day, three **Black-faced Spoonbills** at Long Valley (local rarity), single **Plumbeous Redstarts** at Lam Tsuen and Tung Chung, a male **Bull-headed Shrike** at Long Valley on 13<sup>th</sup> (TH), the second of the winter after November's Shek Kong bird, a **Nordmann's Greenshank** at Nam Sang Wai on 15<sup>th</sup>, a **Buff-bellied Pipit** and a total of 11 **Great Bitterns** at Mai Po on 18<sup>th</sup>, a **Chestnut-flanked White-eye** at Leadmine Pass on 19<sup>th</sup> and three **Common Rosefinches** at Lam Tsuen the same day.
- ▶ Further **Bull-headed Shrikes** were found at Hok Tau and Lam Tsuen on 20<sup>th</sup> (CLY, DT, EMSK) and at Shing Mun Reservoir on 21<sup>st</sup> (CWC), whilst a **Red-breasted Flycatcher** was claimed at Airfield Road on 20<sup>th</sup> and a **Black-necked Grebe** noted at Tsim Bei Tsui the same day.
- ▶ A Black-headed Bunting at Po Toi on 24<sup>th</sup> (GW), a **Eurasian Sparrowhawk** at Lam Tsuen on 27<sup>th</sup> (KPK), possibly the first for this locality, up to two **Greater Scaups** at Mai Po NR during 25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> and a **Chestnut-crowned Warbler** at Tai Po Kau on 29<sup>th</sup> (KPK) were the final significant reports of the month and year.

# The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Bird Watching Tours (Jun - Aug 2010)

## Outings

Date	Duration	Time and site	Difficulties (1...3)	Target species
5/6/2010 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	<b>Shing Mun</b> (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Exit B near Hang Seng Bank, Tsuen Wan MTR Station)	★	Forest birds
6/6/2010 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	<b>Nam Chung and Luk Keng</b> (08:00 Fanling Town Centre Access Exit, Fanling MTR, i.e. MTR exit near minibus terminal station)	★	Forest birds
20/6/2010 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	<b>Mirs Bay and Eastern Waters</b> (08:15 Start at Ma Liu Shiu Pier, one hour at Tap Mun for lunch; 16:00 finish at Sai Kung Pier) Note: This will be a long trip on open waters. The ride could be quite rough and some people may be seasick. Those who want to leave at lunchtime may take the ferry (departing hourly) at Tap Mun for Wong Shek Pier. The fare is non-refundable irrespective of early departure at Tap Mun.	★★★	Seabirds (Terns)
3/7/2010 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	<b>Tai Po Kau</b> (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Tai Po Kau carpark)	★★	Forest birds
11/7/2010 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	<b>Mirs Bay and Eastern Waters</b> (08:15 Start at Ma Liu Shiu Pier, one hour at Tap Mun for lunch; 16:00 finish at Sai Kung Pier) Note: This will be a long trip on open waters. The ride could be quite rough and some people may be seasick. Those who want to leave at lunchtime may take the ferry (departing hourly) at Tap Mun for Wong Shek Pier. The fare is non-refundable irrespective of early departure at Tap Mun.	★★★	Seabirds (Terns)
7/8/2010 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	<b>Shing Mun</b> (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Exit B near Hang Seng Bank, Tsuen Wan MTR Station)	★★	Forest birds
29/8/2010 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	<b>Mai Po Nature Reserve</b> (08:00 Kowloon Tong MTR Station (Kent Road exit), OR 09:00 Mai Po carpark, end 15:00 Mai Po, 16:00 Kowloon Tong)	★★	Waterbirds

- Member: Free of Charge Non-member: Free of Charge (no registration required)  
 Member: Free of Charge Non-member: HK\$30 (HK\$10 for age under 19 student) (registration not required)  
 Member: HK\$40 (Student Member: HK\$20) Non-member: HK\$70 (registration required)  
 Member: HK\$160 Non-member: HK\$200 (registration required)

## Indoor Meetings

Date	Time	Topic	Speakers	Venue
8/4/2010 (Thu)	1900 - 2100	<b>Birds of East Asia (English)</b>	Dr. Mark Brazil	Rm.1107, Scout Asso of HK, Austin Road, Kowloon
27/5/2010 (Thur)	1900 - 2100	<b>Trip to Sulawesi and Sri Lanka</b>	Mr. Felix Ng	Rm.1107, Scout Asso of HK, Austin Road, Kowloon
15/7/2010 (Thur)	1900 - 2100	<b>Bird watching and reflections (Chinese)</b>	Mr. Lam Chiu Ying	Rm.1030, Scout Asso of HK, Austin Road, Kowloon
18/8/2010 (Wed)	1900 - 2100	<b>Identification of Pipits and Buntings</b>	Dr. Cheung Ho Fai	Rm.901, Scout Asso of HK, Austin Road, Kowloon

# Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Activity Booking Slip

I would like to register the following HKBWS activities: (Please  as appropriate)

**Mai Po Outings** [Coach Fare: Member: HK\$40 Student Member: HK\$20 Non-member: HK\$70]

(Members not using the coach do not need to pay. Non-members will have to pay the coach fare of HK\$70 disregard of whether they make use of the coach.)

29 Aug 2010 (Sun) ( \_\_\_\_\_ member(s), \_\_\_\_\_ non-member(s)) No. of person(s) using the coach is \_\_\_\_\_ )

According to the requirement of the Hong Kong Police and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, participants entering Mai Po should provide their full name and Hong Kong ID Number (passport number for oversea visitors) that day in order to access to the Frontier Closed Area and Mai Po Marshes.

**Mirs Bay and Eastern Water** [Boat Fare: Member: HK\$160 Non-member: HK\$200]

20 Jun 2010 (Sun) ( \_\_\_\_\_ member(s), \_\_\_\_\_ non-member(s)) No. of person(s) is \_\_\_\_\_ )

11 Jul 2010 (Sun) ( \_\_\_\_\_ member(s), \_\_\_\_\_ non-member(s)) No. of person(s) is \_\_\_\_\_ )

\*\* We will confirm the participants whether their application is accepted or not about 5 days before the outing. Once confirmed, no refund will be made no matter they can attend the outing or not. Refund will be made only if the outing is cancelled officially due to inclement weather or special reason.

## Information of Participant(s)

Date	Activity	Name	Membership No.	Mobile Phone	Email Address	Fare*

\* Activities are processed individually, please use separate cheque.

Enclosed please find a Cheque of HK\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Payable to **The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Limited**)

Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Membership no: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone No. : \_\_\_\_\_ Date : \_\_\_\_\_ Signature : \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this slip together with a crossed cheque to:

**Floor 14, Ruby Commercial Building, 480 Nathan Road, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon**

**Notes :**

- Application should be made at least two weeks before the date of the outing and on the first come first served basis. HKBWS Members have a high priority to participate the activities.
- Any changes of the activities will be announced in our website: (<http://www.hkbws.org.hk/BBS>).
- Arrangement during bad weather: When Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No.3 or above or Rainstorm Warnings Red or Black are hoisted by the Hong Kong Observatory at 7:00 am on the event day, the activity will be cancelled. If Thunderstorm Warning is announced during the activity, Team Leader will decide if the activity should be continued or cancelled. You can call the team leader at 9457 3196 during the event day if you have any query about the weather.

**Disclaimer**

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society shall have no responsibility, financial or otherwise, for expenditure or other liabilities arising from the activities. Participants are recommended to purchase relevant insurance.

香港觀鳥會

# 香港觀鳥大賽2010

## 暨籌款活動



參賽隊伍須在24小時內尋找及  
辨認本港境內出現的野生雀鳥



目的：1. 宣揚香港擁有眾多的鳥類品種；  
2. 推廣觀鳥的好處及樂趣，並呼籲市民  
一起保育這些珍貴的大自然資源。

比賽日期：2010年4月3日(星期六)至4月4日(星期日)  
比賽時間：下午3:30至翌日3:30 (共24小時)

### 參賽組別：

公開組 — 歡迎會員及市民參加  
家庭組 (拖華洛世奇盃) — 隊伍中有兩人具直系親屬關係即可參加  
學校組 — 小學或中學生均可組隊參加 (歡迎老師或家長隨隊)

隊伍人數：每隊最少三人、最多六人

### 獎項：

隊伍籌款最高 (一名)  
個人籌款最高 (一名)  
香港觀鳥大賽會長盃 (每組設冠亞季軍各一名)  
香港觀鳥大賽最佳紀錄 (每組一名)

### 報名費用：

公開組 — 港幣\$500  
家庭組 — 港幣\$300  
學校組 — 港幣\$300

模擬活動：為了讓未有比賽經驗的參賽者了解比賽規則及掌握比賽竅門，本會將會舉辦一次模擬活動，歡迎參賽者出席。  
交通安排：正式比賽當日，參賽隊伍需自行安排交通工具或乘搭公共交通工具。

截止日期：2010年3月24日 查詢：2377 4387 電郵：hkbws@hkbws.org.hk

網址：[www.hkbws.org/BBS](http://www.hkbws.org/BBS)

會址：香港九龍油蔴地彌敦道480號鴻實商業大廈14樓

主辦：



卷羽眼鏡贊助機構：

SWAROVSKI  
OPTIK

傳媒贊助：



黃喉鵯(雄鳥)  
關朗曦  
蒲台

Yellow-throated Bunting (male)  
Matthew Kwan  
Po Toi

07.11.2009  
DSLR Camera, 100-400mm f/5.6 lens



# PhotoScope 85 T\* FL

## 蔡司數位遠攝望遠鏡



鎂合金機身包覆  
橡膠裝甲具有防水功能

### FL物鏡與三倍變焦鏡頭



高性能疊石鏡頭，影像永遠清晰明亮，遠距離拍攝具有等同於焦距鏡頭 600mm\* 至超長焦距鏡頭 1,800mm\*，畫面永遠銳利清晰。

### 明亮且高對比的OLED顯示幕



高亮度 7.2cm可摺疊OLED超大顯示幕，是拍照功能及攝影參數的控制中心，取景時可視需要上下轉動以調整到最適當的位置。



### 鏡頭防護LotuTec蓮花鍍膜

### 絕佳的視野



視野範圍較傳統單筒望遠鏡大 60% 並有錄影功能，清晰的影像，有如觀賞電影般身歷其境的視覺體驗。

### 相機光學輔助對焦



特殊的對焦輔助功能，支援手動對焦，即使輕微的對焦誤差，畫面仍然清晰銳利。

### 700萬像素照相感光元件



專為自然攝影設計的相機防震電子元件及信號處理。

*(Member of The Zeiss Group)*

Cezet Optical Company Limited 致尚光學有限公司  
Room 1101, 11/F., Fourseas Building, 208-212 Nathan Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong.  
Tel: (852) 2377 4803 Fax: (852) 2377 4808

ZEISS

We make it visible.



黃喉鷦 (雌鳥)  
譚耀良  
蒲台

Yellow-throated Bunting (female)  
Tam Yiu Leung  
Po Toi

07.11.2009  
DSLR Camera, 500mm f/4 lens