

HKBWS

香港觀鳥會 The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society



bulletin

217

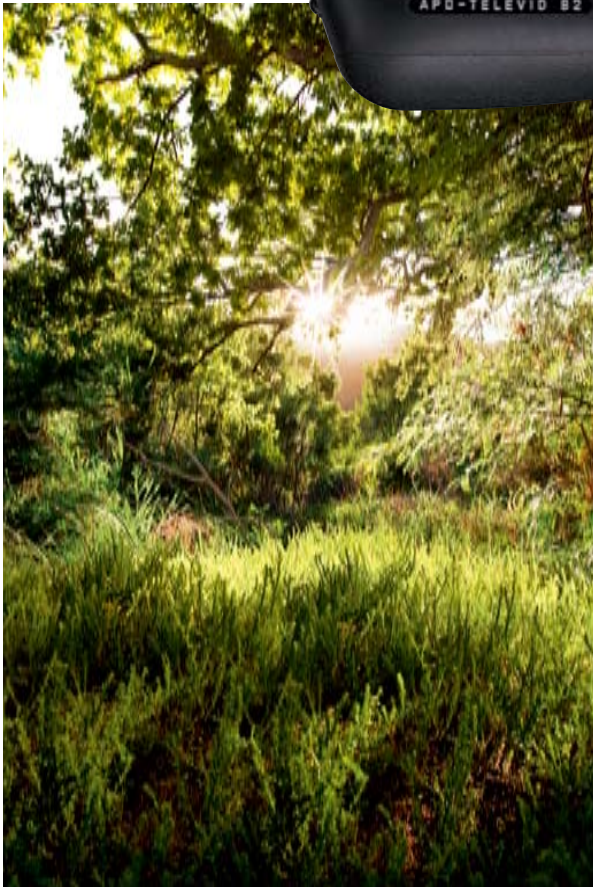
Autumn 2010 ~ 秋





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米埔

Black-tailed Gull
Andy Li
Mai Po

18.03.2010
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter



黑尾鷗
黃卓研
米埔

Black-tailed Gull
Cherry Wong
Mai Po

14.03.09
DSLR Camera, 500mm f/4 lens + 2x teleconverter



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。

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海鷗
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米埔

Mew Gull
Michelle & Peter Wong
Mai Po

10.01.2010
DSLR Camera, 800mm f/5.6 lens

海鷗
Allen
米埔

Mew Gull
Allen
Mai Po

19.03.2010
DSLR Camera, 500mm f/4 lens





細嘴鷗
Dreamcat
米埔

Slender-billed Gull
Dreamcat
Mai Po

06.03.2010
DSLR Camera, 800mm f/5.6 lens + 2x teleconverter



細嘴鷗
黃理沛 江敏兒
米埔

Slender-billed Gull
Michelle & Peter Wong
Mai Po

06.03.2010
DSLR Camera, 800mm f/5.6 lens



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Editor's Note

Your bulletin is printed with soy ink on recycled paper, but remember that any member who wants to "Save the Planet" and save the Society the costs of printing and postage is welcome to notify the society office that they would prefer a PDF (electronic) version. They will then be taken off the mailing list.

I would still welcome any articles about "Local Patch" birding. Meanwhile, many thanks to the contributors to this issue, writers and photographers alike.

John Holmes

Society

~ Lo Wai Yan

Members

Affairs

Elementary Bird Watching Course for Beginners

Date: 15 Nov – 13 Dec 2010

(More details can be found in the enclosed leaflet)

Hong Kong Bird Race 2010

Late acknowledgement:

So Lai Wah HK\$200.00

Crested Bulbul Club

Early Morning Bird Watchers at Kowloon Park & HK Park

No. of participants in Hong Kong Park from May – July 2010: 194

No. of participants in Kowloon Park from May – July 2010: 392

口袋裡的精彩

POCKET TRAVELER 同享難忘的一刻

施華洛世奇Pocket Traveler系列袋裝雙邊透鏡非常方便攜帶。折疊後寬度只有5.9厘米。鏡身採用輕質金屬製造，重量只有215克但非常堅固，是在任何天氣下都可以放心使用的防水型透鏡。隨時隨地伴您體驗難忘的一刻。

全天候使用

密封式設計，防塵防水，適合任何天氣下使用。

時尚點綴

配棕色旋轉眼杯，突出施華洛世奇時尚本色。

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Pocket Traveler 8 x 20 B
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時尚設計

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輕鬆對焦

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News and Projects

Special Offer to Members for buying binoculars (Until 31 Oct 2010)

We are pleased to have the support of "Victorinox Hong Kong Ltd" in offering "Steiner" binoculars at a special price. The company will also donate 10% of the purchase price to the Society. Details are as follows:

1. Models on offer are listed below;
2. The Special Offer only applies to members of the Society. Please send your order form and cheque to the Society office. Members are also required to collect the ordered equipment from our office;
3. Please attach the order form and a cheque payable to "The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society" and send to our office. You can also make an order at the office in person.
4. The below models could be tried in our office: SkyHawk Pro 8x42, SkyHawk Pro 10x32 & SkyHawk Pro 10x26

Bird Shop in HKBWS

Code	Sales Items	Member's price	Non-member's price
SOU0006	Cross Binocular Straps	HK\$60	HK\$80
B0001	Birdwatching in Forests (Bilingual)	HK\$30	HK\$38
B0002	Birdwatching in Farmlands & Open Fields (Bilingual)	HK\$30	HK\$38
B0003	Birdwatching in Wetlands (Bilingual)	HK\$30	HK\$38
B0009	Butterflies & Moths of Hong Kong	HK\$150	HK\$160
B0010	Birding South-east China	HK\$240	HK\$240
B0011	生機處處	HK\$46	HK\$58
B0012	上海水鳥 (Waterbirds of Shanghai) (Chinese only)	HK\$80	HK\$90

清晰、堅固、手感 鼎足而立 SLC 42 HD 完美升級

銳變后的SLC 42HD雙筒系列配備含氟化物HD 鏡片，保證影像銳利傳神，色彩真實鮮艷；更時尚美觀外型絲毫不減堅固耐用的特質；人體工學設計神奇地分散重量，舉重若輕，是陪你克服最惡劣環境的可靠伙伴。



體貼宜人

鋁鎂鏡身、堅固耐用
金屬鍍鏡身表以防滑橡膠，鏡筒內充入氮氣，可防塵、防霧并防水汽洩四米深。

易潔塗層 SWAROCLEAN

水滴不留痕，鏡面隨時保持最佳狀態
鏡面表面加上易潔塗層后，因水滴風乾殘留下水印、膠紋劑或樹脂等，輕輕一擦便無影無踪。

出眾光學表現

高清HD鏡片及優化鍍膜
加入含氟化物HD鏡片有效減低色散，大大提高亮度與銳度，使影像更清晰銳利，色彩更自然真實；優化鍍膜提高透視性，使畫面干淨舒適。

全新對焦系統

快捷、準確、可靠
輕松調焦：先進的齒輪機制，具有獨特對焦系統，最近對焦1.9米，使對焦特別順暢、自如。

人體工學設計

手感一流，分散重量
有效減輕“感覺”重量，長時間使用依然輕鬆自如。



可供選擇的規格
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SLC10 x42 WB HD

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Code	Sales Items	Member's price	Non-member's price
B0015	Hong Kong Birds for Kids by Tim & Thelma Woodward (Bilingual)	HK\$60	HK\$60
B0016	A Photographic Guide to the Birds of Hong Kong (2010 edition)	HK\$240	HK\$270
B0017	探索鳥類 呂德恒 陳燕明著	HK\$30	HK\$38
B0018	Ecology of the Birds of Hong Kong (published by KFBG)	HK\$200	HK\$200
B00019	Birds of Hong Kong and South China	HK\$135	HK\$158
AV0002	A Century of Birds DVD	HK\$66	HK\$88
SOU0001	HKBWS "Birds and People in Harmony - Nature Forever" First Day Cover	HK\$200	HK\$250
SOU0002	Hong Kong Migratory Birds First Day Cover (27 April 1997)	HK\$20	HK\$25
SOU0003	HKBWS Hat	HK\$20	HK\$30
SOU0005	Scaly-sided Merganser tie	HK\$200	HK\$300
B00020	天地變何處安心 林超英著 (New)	HK\$65	HK\$78
B00021	A Field Guide to the Birds of China (Chinese edition)	HK\$110	HK\$130
B00022	台灣的貓頭鷹 (New)	HK\$155	HK\$170

Survey, Research and Training

Revised Hong Kong Bird List

The Record Committee has just finished updating the Hong Kong bird list. This has been uploaded in our website discussion forum (in the HK List column). This list also includes the revised Chinese names and the former list for comparison.

Nature Conservation Management of Long Valley (2010-2012) ~ Vicky Yeung

In the past five years of management, we have planted different wetland plants and crops in Long Valley such as Water Chestnut, Chinese Arrowhead, Paddy Rice, Water Caltrop, Pygmy Waterlily, Water Bamboo etc. These plants attract birds successfully and Paddy Rice is the most effective among them. Besides waterbirds, rice attracts seed-eating birds such as munias and buntings. In addition, Paddy Rice also plays an important role in environmental education as well as connecting with local communities. Rice planting, harvesting, thrashing and hulling to produce unpolished rice provides great opportunities for

environmental education activities. These activities allow adults and children alike to experience the happiness and harshness of farming. Farmers and local residents have shared their valuable experience of growing rice and remembering past times when they worked on large areas of rice paddy. This opened the dialogue between the management team and local communities. Due to the multi-purpose of Paddy Rice, we will try our best to increase the area of paddy fields in the future. Also, we hope to attract those species which have disappeared or sharply declined with the loss of rice farming such as Crested Bunting, Yellow-breasted Bunting, breeding Cinnamon Bitterns etc. In July and August this year, we have scheduled several harvesting activities to prepare the next round of rice to coincide with autumn migration. There will be a variety of educational activities, so please keep an eye on the HKBWS forum.

Every stage of rice planting provides opportunities for environmental experience.

Ripened rice grains are golden in colour
© Owen

Munias feasting on paddy fields
© Owen

Mai Po Update

~ Bena Smith

Enhancement work at Pond #8a

At the time of writing the field team are busy landscaping the interior of Pond #8a with a backhoe and bulldozer. The aim is to enlarge the area of shallow water used by passage waders and wintering Black-faced Spoonbill, and to re-profile some of the islands to encourage Black-winged Stilt nesting. At the time you read this the works should be fully completed, and with a bit of luck the enhanced Pond is attracting good numbers and a variety of waterbirds.

In designing the new pond we received some very useful information from a local birdwatcher. The large stand of rushes at the seaward end had in recent years served as an evening pre-roost location for small flocks of Great Bittern. Based on this information we decided to retain those sedges closest to the Gei wai #8b reedbed (where the Bittern flock roost after leaving the sedge stand) and set-aside an area for further sedge establishment nearby.

A point I would like to make is that site users such as birdwatchers and photographers can make valuable contributions to the management decision-making process. So next time you see something you think might be of use, I would be grateful if you could pass on the information to a member of our management team.

Areas being restored to shallow water habitat

Credit WWF-HK



De-silting water channels in Gei wai #18

To ensure the Mai Po gei wai system continues to function appropriately and it's waterbird value is optimized, each year we restore at least one gei wai. This time it's the turn of Gei wai #18.

During the autumn a floating dredger will remove silt which has accumulated over the last 10-20 years inside the gei wai. The silt has not only reduced water volume, but created conditions that encouraged unwanted vegetation such as reed grass to choke the channels. The works will be completed by the end of October before the return of wintering waterbirds.

Silt is a significant threat to the Ramsar Site's wetland biodiversity and nothing short of a headache when it comes to management. Sediment traps are a novel approach being used overseas with varying degrees of success. Their suitability for the Mai Po gei wai system is something being considered.

Common Redbanks and Curlew Sandpipers in shallow water

Credit Neil Fifer



Removal of Mangrove Seedlings from the Deep Bay Mudflats

Autumn is the time to remove mangrove seedlings from the 45 hectare inter-tidal mudflat area located directly in front of the bird-watching hides. The aim is to ensure an open area of mudflat is available to waterbirds for roosting and feeding, and also for visitors to enjoy unobstructed views of the mudflat.

This work, which will be completed by the end of October before wintering waterbirds arrive, has been carried out annually since the 1980s and we estimate it removes over 250,000 seedlings each year. At the same time AFCD will continue to remove the exotic mangrove species *Sonneratia* spp. from areas close to the Shenzhen River mouth. AFCD's work is vital to ensure the mangrove forests remain healthy and natural in the long-term.



Highways Department noise barriers – a serious hazard to birds

~ Photo/Essay: Alan Lam

Since November 2006, noise-screening barriers constructed by the Highways Department near my home along Shap Pat Heung Road (in southern Yuen Long Town between the Hang Heung Cake Factory and Tai Yuk Road) have been a serious hazard for birds. The barriers are made of a greenish transparent plastic and many birds fly straight into them, resulting in injury or death.

Since there are village houses, drains, fruit gardens, trees and shrubs on both sides on the road, urban birds and shrubland birds dominate the district.

Victims I have found there include White-rumped Munia, Japanese White-eye, Eurasian Tree Sparrow, Masked Laughingthrush, Chinese Bulbul, Common Koel and Common Kingfisher. Others include Siberian Rubythroat, Grey-backed Thrush, Yellow-browed Warbler, Dusky Warbler, Eastern Crowned Warbler, Grey-streaked Flycatcher and the very rare Siberian Blue Robin (only 3 or 4 records annually in Hong Kong) and Lanceolated Warbler (so lucky that it was not dead but just stunned). These cases proved that the above mentioned section was a major traffic route for urban birds and shrub birds, where they travelled near the ground (except Japanese White-eye).

Birds that have flown into the screens can be seen lying on the pavement with no obvious external injuries, but sometimes with blood at the beak caused by internal bleeding. Birds not killed immediately may lie stunned or injured on the pavement, unable to escape from predatory birds or cats.

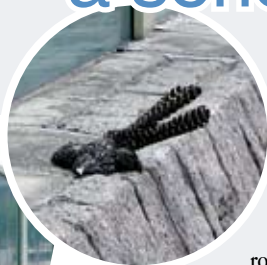
Up to July 2010, 64 birds (of 25 species) have been recorded as casualties caused by the noise barrier screens. Some dead birds might have been swept up by roadsweepers or have been eaten by other animals, so the actual numbers of dead and injured may be much higher than the observed number.

Accidents continue to happen, while the mass media and highways department keep on following up. Eventually, the highways department put stickers of birds of prey on their screens, in order to reduce bird collisions. However, this has not been a very effective way to help avoid all the accidents. There are still collision deaths reported, although the number of incidents are much less than before. By observation, more raptor silhouette stickers on the transparent noise barriers means that fewer birds fly into them.

In fact, similar accidents have also happened in To Shek Village (Sha Tin) and Kong Sham Western Highway (Tuen Mun). In a similar way, glass walls and windows in many places can be hazardous to birds. However, there is no systematic survey on these invisible killers in Hong Kong, and it is difficult to conduct quantitative research on the topic. Reports of bird deaths from members of the public can help to identify new bird collision blackspots.

An appeal -

If anyone finds dead birds and they suspect that they have collided with a man-made barrier or window, please record the time, date, bird species, etc (refer to relevant posts on the HKBWS's discussion forum) and post on the HKBWS website "Noise Barrier" thread. This may help to reduce bird collision casualties in the future.



Stickers of birds of prey could not prevent all the bird hits.



Glass walls reflect the sky, hard for birds to see.



Screening construction blocks noise for citizens but become bird hazard.



Victims could easily become prey of other animals.

Related Discussion:

A New Bird Killer - Noise Barrier

<http://www.hkbws.org.hk/BBS/viewthread.php?tid=405&extra=page%3D1>

Birds hit at Kong Sham Western Highway:

<http://www.hkbws.org.hk/BBS/viewthread.php?tid=11157&extra=page%3D1>

Please report birds hit:

<http://www.hkbws.org.hk/BBS/viewthread.php?tid=10179&extra=page%3D2>



灰翅鷗
鄭諾銘
米埔

Glaucous-winged Gull
Cheng Nok Ming
Mai Po

14.05.2009

DSLR Camera, 300mm f/4 lens+ 1.4x teleconverter



灰翅鷗
余柏維
米埔

Glaucous-winged Gull
Yue Pak Wai
Mai Po

16.04.2009

DSLR Camera, 100- 400mm lens





紅嘴鷗
莫志堅
南生圍

Black-headed Gull
Eric Mok
Nam Sang Wai

16.12.2009

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

遺鷗
吳敏
米埔

Relict Gull
Mike Kilburn
Mai Po

20.02.2010
Digiscoping



遺鷗
陳土飛
米埔

Relict Gull
Thomas Chan
Mai Po

03.02.2010

DSLR Camera, 800mm f/5.6 lens





漁鷗
陳士飛
米埔

Pallas's Gull
Thomas Chan
Mai Po


01.03.2009
DSLR Camera, 800mm f/5.6 lens



漁鷗
林卓源
米埔

Pallas's Gull
LAM C.Y.
Mai Po

22.03.2010
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens



灰背鷗
黃理沛 江敏兒
米埔

Slaty-backed Gull
Michelle & Peter Wong
Mai Po

20.02.2010
DSLR Camera, 800mm f/5.6 lens



黑嘴鷗
孔思義、黃亞萍
米埔

Saunders's Gull
John and Jemi Holmes
Mai Po

19.02.2010
DSLR Camera, 800mm f/5.6 lens



黑嘴鷗
施文漢
南生圍

Saunders's Gull
Sze Man Hon
Nam Sang Wai

31.01.2010
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens +
1.4x teleconverter

“Happy-go-lucky” birding

~ Photo/Essay by Samson So

Bird watching used to be a carefully planned and meticulously organized activity for me. Leaving home well before dawn I would take 3 or 4 modes of transport to get to my destination. Carrying my old-fashioned Japanese telescope bought with my savings from part-time jobs, I followed the routes of more experienced birders. Combing through the swamps at Mai Po, a place so familiar yet full of surprises, I learnt to identify different shorebirds and enjoyed myself thoroughly. When lectures finished early, I would pick some of the routes that I had hiked before and search for birds around Lung Fu Shan, Pokfulam or Tai Po Kau. Whenever I came across unfamiliar species I referred to my field guide, and this is how I slowly but gradually built my birding knowledge.

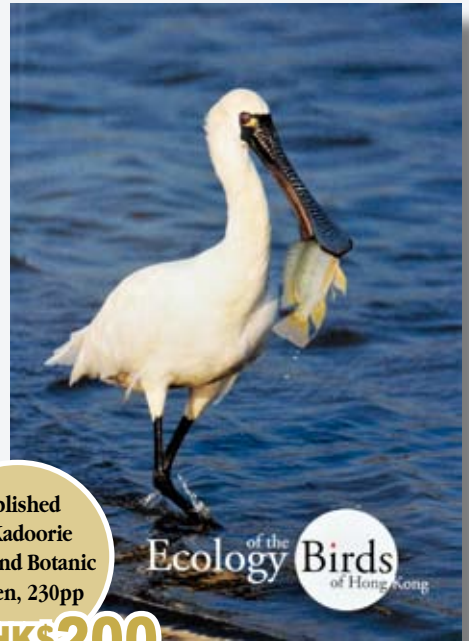
Back then, it was my wish to see as many species as possible in a day's birding, with rare species as a bonus and, better yet, see birds new to me. In order to pick out rarities, I looked very closely at each and every bird I saw. This helped me to focus on seeking out the birds and watching their behaviour. Under close observation, even the most common birds would become memorable: such as a flock of Sparrows sand bathing, a Koel spitting out pellets after eating figs, a Crested Goshawk mimicking the calls of a Blue Magpie, the Von Schrenck's Bittern and Cinnamon Bittern feeding together in the lily pond of our campus during spring migration, and so on. In a natural way I developed an attitude of observation and admiration, and species identification is not so important to me anymore. Birding is no longer an event that has to be done in a particular place, but has become part of life's experience, on the way to and from work, in the car or ferry, and even at home or at work.

In a bookstore, sometimes we just browse around different sections and read a few pages from here and there (a colloquial Cantonese term for this behavior is 'da shu dang' meaning 'nailing the book'), without any particular subject in mind, no pressure to finish reading the book, no need to write a book report or review, just relaxing and getting submerged totally in the pleasure of reading. This helps us to break free from the shackles we put on ourselves and to explore the areas outside our everyday boundary, and we may discover new attractions from essays that we might not usually read.

Likewise, casual “window shopping” can be absorbing, too. This kind of activity can be mirrored in a relaxed attitude to our birding. It doesn't matter whether the bird you see is common or a regional new record, as long as you put your whole heart into observing birds it will remain a lifelong pleasure. No wonder that to our Taiwanese fellow birders 'bird watching' is known as 'bird admiring'.



~ Samson So



published
by Kadoorie
Farm and Botanic
Garden, 230pp

HK\$200

A handy, well illustrated one-volume overview in English of many of the issues affecting birds and their habitats in a rapidly-changing Hong Kong. The ten chapters are all clearly written by well-known experts in their particular fields. The chapter titles and authors speak for themselves:-

1. Environmental History of HK - Richard Corlett
2. Seabirds - Captain Wong and Cheung Ho Fai
3. Rocky and Sandy Coasts - Geoff Carey
4. Coastal Wetlands - Captain Wong and Lew Young
5. Inland Wetlands - Paul Leader
6. Farmland Birds - John Allcock
7. Forest - Kwok Hon Kai
8. Shrubland and Grassland - Michael Leven
9. Urban Areas - Fiona Lock
10. Frugivory and Seed Dispersal by Birds - Richard Corlett
11. Climate Change and the Avifauna of HK - Richard Corlett
12. Conservation of Birds in Hong Kong - Mike Kilburn

The book makes great armchair reading and the sections can be dipped into again and again. However, it is a pity that there is as yet no Chinese version, which would make the contents readily accessible to a wider readership.

(Anyway, if you're serious about Hong Kong's birds and birding, then you should get this book. It is available from the HKBWS office, the shop at KFBG and from the Natural History Book Service -order online- in the United Kingdom. - Ed.)



Subic Bay – Reminiscences of a Birding Trip

~ Essay: S@L6TO Photo: Louis Cheung

'A mere forty-eight species. Surely I could make it up to fifty or more by the time we leave,' I promised myself.

I was alone in the hotel room, checking the ticks against the names on the bird list free from a birding website.

Curious, I walked across to count Louis's list. It was in the seventies. Not bad at all, I judged.

It was the fourth-day late afternoon. I was not fully recovered from the morning heat. So I wasn't going to go out for owls or other night birds. I found the decision easy, and natural. I had long become a non-ambitious birdwatcher. In other words, the length of the bird list was no longer my top concern.

Anyhow, I was not out to the Philippines just for the sake of an impressive bird list. But still there were things that impressed me, particularly one aspect of the trip that impressed me beyond imagination.

I mean trees.

'See how tall they are.' I was talking both to myself and to Louis by my side. Simply amazing, that was the feeling that I found about the trees around me. We agreed that the tallest on my right soared to a height of roughly fifteen storeys. I was setting my only standard available in memory- the White Jade Orchid tree (*Michelia alba*) at the lower entrance gate of the Zoological and Botanical Gardens (ZBG) in Central. It is a tree I can't refrain from stopping to admire every time I go that way - the most recent time being when I was walking up to Mike Turnbull's school on Borrett Road to borrow his copy of 'A Guide to the Birds of the Philippines'. It was a stiff walk in midsummer.

The ZBG *Michelia* tree is some seven floors high - the tallest I have so far found in Hong Kong - and yet it is a mere toddler in comparison with the mammoths near Subic Bay, whose lower branches would tower well above it - they are simply "Unforgettable".

Now to an account of the birds.

In this remnant of equatorial rainforest, a hornbill - in this case the endemic Luzon hornbill - came as no surprise.

Are they noisy? Almost always while in flight, I assure you, but not when they are perching or feeding. First there was a glimpse when a bird flew past. I was disappointed, but not for long. Next I saw enough of the head to identify one. And then I saw the tails. Finally whole birds revealed themselves after one or two days. Eventually, we saw them daily, adults of both sexes and sub-adult ones. Anyhow Louis has got them in photos.

Then there were Blue-throated bee-eaters - common in Subic Bay at quite a number of locations, including wires along a road, and near a breeding place - a kind of man-made slope on the perimeter of a residential garden. I felt very satisfied, but I kept reminding myself that in Hong Kong I once saw three of their kind quite distant and silent on Po Toi. Not only was this a much better view, but they were calling loudly.

Mature trees and woodpeckers should go hand in hand. This was a lesson I learned from birding in China. Initially there was the Sooty Woodpecker, another endemic. As often the case during the trip, it was Louis who led the way in seeing the first one. Very soon, it would be my turn, I kept promising myself. Next morning my wish came true and a Sooty Woodpecker came into view for us both. It had a yellowish bill, black body, the dull red facial mask of a male, and white eyes. Funnily enough, one of them was seen slipping down a tree trunk while feeding upright, down, down, down, very slowly but noticeably. To us it was both a surprise and another life experience.

Daily we saw at least three species of woodpecker-the Sooty, the White-bellied (biggest of them all), and the Greater Flameback.

Pygmy Woodpeckers are just five and a half inches long and usually silent, but as they were seen on bare branches they were easy to spot. No wonder I got them first before Louis. The horizontal stripes on the upper body of the male also helped. There was one more thing I found about the woodpeckers which stood out in my memory. It was the Greater Flameback. The folded wings are not bright red as the first half of the word flameback suggests. They are dull red - the dullest red possible, somewhat like the colour of a burning coke on the verge of dying out. But I had misunderstood "flameback" which really refers to the back under the folded wings. Revelation dawned upon me when a bird opened its wings to fly. There was just a flash of brilliant red, brightest red possible in the whole range of Subic rainforest, redder than the flowers of the giant Flame-of-the-Forests found everywhere in the region.

Coppersmith Barbets have a loveliness all their own, and I saw my first after we had finished our lunch and decided to start a stroll around Crown Peak, a place where we took up residence for four days. It was the female who kept on uttering two-note low-pitched soft calls which directed our attention to her. Then we found a male nearby. Soon there were four or five of them in total. Not difficult to find at all. Check the fir or fir-like trees along the roads and open your ears.

There are scores of other birds which were noteworthy. But one must be mentioned here. It was not our late-wintering Streaked Flycatcher found at the end of a forest trail, tentatively suggested as "Bird of the Trip" by Louis. Nor was it the rufous phase Philippine Frogmouth that we saw on our first night of birding.

We settled on Great Eared Nightjar as "Bird of the Trip". Why? There were two birds we found before dawn one morning, in rapid flight before us at short distance. Then one settled and perched flat and prominently on top of a thick wooden pole, with its pale neck collar clearly visible, ears shooting straight out rabbit-like from the head, as both yelped out their distinctive calls. Then, all of a sudden, when the first gleam of sunlight cast aside the darkness, they were gone, never to reappear.




My Bird Watching Diary

~ Text and Illustrations: Wendy Yu

巢的出入口



23 Apr 2009 (Thu)

A pair of Crested Mynas have built their nest outside the wall of a building. Beside the nest, there is a sheltering tree. The mynas are very cautious about the surroundings, and always first stop at the tree before approaching the nest. Actually, there were mynas nestbuilding at the same spot last year, but I don't know if these are the same pair or not. Recently, they have gone out more frequently to catch food. It seems that their chicks have hatched. 

~ Richard Lewthwaite

(These are unchecked reports and members are reminded of the importance of submitting all records, either electronically or on paper – Ed.)

April

- ▶ After a fairly birdy first half of the month which did not produce any major rarities, the second half was rather quiet, apart from a record influx of **Chinese Goshawks** and a strong passage of **Greater Crested Terns**.
- ▶ Following a strong surge of the northeast monsoon, 1440 **Chinese Goshawks** were counted moving quite low through Po Toi harbour in a two hour period on 15th (GW). This is the first four-figure count for Hong Kong and almost double the previous highest count. Counts on subsequent days included 445 at Mai Po village on 16th (WWF), 105 at Tsim Bei Tsui, 47 at Braemar Hill and 31 on the southwest Lantau coast on 17th (MDW, DS, JAA) and 240 at Lau Fau Shan, 100 at the Mai Po access road, 120 at Lung Fu Shan and 64 at Sai Kung on 18th (MH, DT, BK, AH). The month produced record counts for a further six species: at least 4000 **Chinese Bulbuls** heading northeast along Tolo Channel (MDW) on 2nd, 17 **Rufous-tailed Robins**, all in song (prior to migrating), at Dong Ping Chau also on 2nd (EMSK), 826 **Black-winged Stilts** at Mai Po on 3rd (YYT), 100 **White-shouldered Starlings** at San Tin on 8th (PJL), 3700 **Red-necked Stints** in front of the Mai Po boardwalk on 11th (YYT) and 33 **Greater Crested Terns** off Po Toi on 21st followed by 27 there the next day (GW). In addition, a count of 8800 **Curlew Sandpipers** from the boardwalk on 11th (YYT) was the second highest on record.
- ▶ Both Mai Po NR and the Mai Po boardwalk were out of bounds to all but a handful of people during the peak passage period in the first three weeks of the month, having been closed on government orders in response to a bird flu scare. Despite very limited coverage, a number of birds of interest were reported during this period, including the **Philippine Duck**, which had originally been found early in the previous month, a **Yellow-browed Bunting** on 10th (KJ), up to 13 **Blue-tailed Bee-eaters** during 10th-18th (WWF), a **Baillon's Crake**, a **Paddyfield Warbler** and a **Blunt-winged Warbler**, all on 13th (PJL), single **Spoon-billed Sandpipers** on 16th and 18th and 51 **Asian Dowitchers** on 17th (WWF). Among birds reported after the reserve re-opened were two **Little Stints** and 76 **Asian Dowitchers** on 23rd (RWL), a **Swinhoe's Egret** and a **Pheasant-tailed Jacana** during 26th-29th (WWF) and 50 **Chinese Goshawks**, obviously a new influx, six **Blue-tailed Bee-eaters** and seven **Grey-streaked Flycatchers** on 30th (JGH).
- ▶ During the period of closure of Mai Po NR, other sites in the Deep Bay area received extra coverage by birdwatchers, notably the fishponds beside the Mai Po access road (where the dead Barn Swallow that led to the bird flu scare was found). Birds reported here included two **Oriental Plovers** on 4th-5th (MY), 290 **Gull-billed Terns** on 7th (JGH), and 40 **Pale Martins** and a **Chestnut-eared Bunting** on 8th (PJL, GJC). A well-defined passage of Oriental Pratincoles also took place at these fishponds, with numbers rising from 11 on 4th to a peak of 102 on 19th (JAA) before falling to just three on 28th (WWF). Elsewhere in the Deep Bay area there were reports in the first half of the month of 40 **Ashy Minivets** at Mong Tseng on 3rd (RWL, EMSK), the over-wintering **Pheasant-tailed Jacana** at Sha Po on 5th (JGH) and a **Japanese Yellow Bunting** at Lok Ma Chau on 8th (PJL).
- ▶ Po Toi was once again well covered, leading to regular reports of flycatchers and other spring migrants in the first half of the month, though none were mega-rarities. Passage of **Yellow-throated Buntings**, which had been noted at the end of the previous month, continued up to 11th, the peak count being four during 2nd-4th (GW, PW, MK). Among other migrants found were single **Bramblings** on 1st and 10th (GW, CC), single **Brown Boobooks** on 4th and 14th (MT, GW), up to three **Swinhoe's Minivets** during 4th-10th (MH, CC), two **Two-barred Warblers** and a **Japanese Yellow Bunting** on 8th (GW, SYH, PCC), up to two **Tristram's** and **Yellow-browed Buntings** during 10th-13th (GW), a **Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo** on 13th (GW) and a **Himalayan Swiftlet** on 14th. There were also regular sightings of **Grey-faced Buzzards** at this time including 34 on 8th (GW). Apart from the exceptional numbers of **Chinese Goshawks**, Po Toi like other sites was very much quieter in the second half of the month, highlights being four **Japanese Yellow Bunting** on 24th (PCC), a **Daurian Starling** on 25th (GW, GJC) and a very late **Ferruginous Flycatcher** during 27th-30th (GW).



▶ Notable reports from other sites in the first half of the month included a **Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo** at Pak Sha O on 2nd-3rd (PJL), a **Mallard** at Deepwater Bay on 3rd (KK), a very rare Hong Kong Island record, a **Eurasian Skylark** at Lamma on the same day (JAA), presumably the first record for the island, 25 **Ashy Minivets** at Fung Yuen on 6th (RWL), a **White-throated Needletail** and two **Silver-backed Needletails** at Sek Kong Catchment (RWL), 12 **Ashy Minivets** and four **Ashy Drongos** at Leadmine Pass (SLT), a **Black Drongo** at Cheung Chau (MDW), the first obvious migrant of the species in this spring, a **Citrine Wagtail** at Long Valley (SYH) and a **Siberian Thrush** at Tai Mo Shan (RWL), all on 7th, 12 **Grey-faced Buzzards**, five **Silver-backed Needletails** and two **Large Grass Warblers** at Robin's Nest on 9th (GJC), a **Brown-headed Thrush** at Dong Ping Chau on 11th (JAA), a **Tristram's Bunting** at Cheung Chau on 12th (MDW), the first for the island, and finally a possible **Common Cuckoo** at Lam Tsuen on 14th (EMSK).

▶ In the days around the record influx of **Chinese Goshawks** of 15th-17th, significant reports included a **Little Curlew** and 22 **Long-toed Stints** at Long Valley (DAD) and a late **Daurian Redstart**, a possible **Green-backed Flycatcher**, a **Tristram's Bunting** and an **Orange-bellied Leafbird** at Cheung Chau (MDW), the latter possibly the first record for an offshore island), all on 16th, a **Siberian Thrush** at Wanchai Gap, Hong Kong Island on 17th (CR), and ten **Grey-faced Buzzards** at Lung Fu Shan (BK) and two **Japanese Yellow Buntings** at Lok Ma Chau (PJL) on 18th.

▶ Birds of interest at Cheung Chau during 19th-25th included a **Brown Fish Owl**, two **Blue-tailed Bee-eaters** (on 23rd, thought to be the first records for the island) and a singing **Black-naped Oriole** at a traditional site (MDW).

▶ On 24th, there were sightings of the **Pheasant-tailed Jacana** again at Sha Po, the same flock of nine **Blue-tailed Bee-eaters** first at Mong Tseng and then at Tsim Bei Tsui, four **Yellow Bitterns** behaving territorially at Fung Lok Wai and a late **Common Buzzard** at Shan Pui (EMSK, RWL).

▶ Seabird sightings included a **Pomarine Skua** and a **Greater Crested Tern** from the Po Toi ferry on 1st (GW), a **Pomarine Skua** in Tolo Channel on 3rd (MDW), eight **Long-tailed**, six **Arctic** and six **Pomarine Skuas** and five **Greater Crested Terns** in southern waters on 4th (HKBWS), a possible **Sooty Shearwater** off Po Toi on 19th (GW), a **Streaked Shearwater**, two **Short-tailed Shearwaters**, one **Long-tailed**, five **Arctic** and two **Pomarine Skuas** and an **Ancient Murrelet** off Po Toi on 20th (GW), a total of 82 **Greater Crested Terns** off Po Toi during 20th-22nd (GW), a **Lesser Frigatebird** near Lamma (HKBWS) on 25th and an **Ancient Murrelet** from the Po Toi ferry on the same day (GW, GJC).

May

▶ As an overall rather quiet spring came to an end, the highlight of May was a **Blue-throated Bee-eater** at Long Valley on 29th-30th (GHO), about the 6th or 7th record and also the latest in spring by 10 days.

▶ The month produced six other latest ever spring reports: a **Ferruginous Flycatcher**, found at Po Toi in late April and remaining until 2 May (CC), the latest by 9 days, a **Common Rosefinch** at Pui O on 3rd (HL), the latest by 3 days, a **Fairy Pitta** at Mai Po on 6th (LKY), the latest by 7 days, a **Yellow-browed Warbler** at Po Toi on 13th (GW), the latest by 5 days, a **Great Crested Grebe** at Mai Po from 4th-25th (WWF), the latest by 13 days, and an **Asian House Martin** at Po Toi on 24th (GW), the latest by 24 days.

▶ These apart, notable reports in the first half of the month included single **Ancient Murrelets** in the West Lamma Channel and in southern waters on 1st-2nd, three **Short-tailed Shearwaters**, three **Arctic Skuas**, 20 **Aleutian**, 10 **Common**, seven **Black-naped**, five **Bridled** and five **White-winged Terns**, all in southern waters on 2nd, the **Philippine Duck** at Mai Po up to at least 16th, two **Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoos** at Tai Po Kau on 1st and 9th, an **Ashy Minivet** at Po Toi on 2nd, eight **Arctic Warblers** and two **Black-naped Orioles** at Cheung Chau the same day, a **Swinhoe's Egret** at Mai Po from 2nd to 8th, a **Black Baza** at Pui O on 3rd, a **Eurasian Hobby** at Long Valley on 4th, ten **Pechora Pipits** at Mai Po on 6th, a **Malayan Night Heron** at Po Toi from 7th to 13th, a **Blue-tailed Bee-eater** at Mai Po, six **Dollarbirds** at Lam Tsuen, 10 **Black-naped** and 50 **White-winged Terns** off Cheung Chau, all on 8th, 300 **White-winged Terns** off Po Toi and a **Malayan Night Heron** at Tai Po Kau on 9th (SLT), the first at this locality, 25 **Brown Shrikes** and five **Grey-streaked Flycatchers** at Po Toi on 11th, a **Little Curlew** and five rather late **Chinese Penduline Tits** at Mai Po on 14th, a **Brown Boobok** at Po Toi the same day and a **Streaked Shearwater** off Po Toi and single **Pheasant-tailed Jacanas** at Mai Po and Long Valley, all on 15th.

▶ As passage of marsh terns continued in mid month, the ponds beside the Mai Po access road held at least 60 **Whiskered** and **White-winged Terns**, and a flock of 200 **White-winged Terns** were noted at Mui Wo at this time.

▶ Following on from a rather weak passage in April, a heartening second wave of **Nordmann's Greenshanks** was noted at Mai Po from 15th, with numbers peaking at seven on 29th.

▶ Among other reports from Mai Po at this time were a **Long-billed Dowitcher** on 21st, a **Black Bittern** on 23rd and 25th and two **Eurasian Wigeons**, a **Chinese Spotbill** and a **Tufted Duck** on 27th. **Black-winged Stilts** again bred successfully, with 17 chicks present on the scrape on 28th, and a pair of **Pied Avocets** attempted to breed.

▶ Elsewhere, there were sightings of 13 **Streaked Shearwaters** and an **Arctic Skua** off Po Toi on 19th, single **Black Bitterns** at Long Valley on 23rd and 30th and a **Swinhoe's Egret** at Sha Lo Wan, Lantau on 29th.

June

▶ Undoubted highlight of the month was a photogenic **Red-footed Booby** in Tolo Harbour on 18th-19th (Yau, GT, P&MW).

▶ Other notable reports in what is traditionally a very quiet month include a **Himalayan Swiftlet** at Long Valley on 1st (KJ), by about 3 weeks the latest ever in spring, a **Von Schrenck's Bittern** at Po Toi on 3rd (GW), a **Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo** and **Brown Fish Owl** at Chung Mei on 4th (KJ), a **Chinese Goshawk** at Po Toi on 6th (FS), the latest in spring by 10 days, a **Greater Crested Tern** at sea on the same day (DY), an **Asian Brown Flycatcher** at Lung Fu Shan on 12th (BK), the latest in spring by 17 days, an extremely late and presumably over-summering **Great Crested Grebe** at Tsim Bei Tsui on 19th (MH), two **Orange-headed Thrushes** at Kap Lung on 19th (TJW) and a **Eurasian Hobby** at Mai Po on 25th (JGH).

▶ Among over-summering birds reported at Mai Po during 8th-10th (WWF) were 15 **Black-faced Spoonbills**, two **Oriental Pratincoles**, six **Eastern Curlews** and two **Caspian Terns**.

▶ Up to 15 **White-cheeked Starlings** including juveniles were noted at Mai Po and Long Valley during 1st-8th (KJ, JAA, WWF). **Silky Starlings** were again present at Cheung Chau (MDW) and in the Ting Kok area (RWL).

▶ A one-year old **Brown Wood Owl** which had been found as a chick on Tai Mo Shan in 2009 and cared for by KFBG for over 12 months, was released at the end May 2010 and radio-tracked, but unfortunately was found dead in early July. The radio-tracking showed that the owl was very mobile throughout June, rarely spending two consecutive days in the same place. The flanks and foothills of Tai Mo Shan formed the main part of its range, but it also wandered to the Pat Sin Leng foothills. The cause of its death is at present unknown.



The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Bird Watching Tours (Jan - Mar 2011)

Outings

Date	Duration	Time and site	Difficulties (1...3)	Target species
1/1/2011 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Tsim Bei Tsui (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Tin Chak Estate Shopping Centre Exit near Tin Yat Light Rail Station, Tin Shui Wai)	★	Waterbirds
2/1/2011 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Long Valley (08:00 Exit C near Taxi Station, Sheung Shui MTR Station)	★★	Farmland birds & waterbirds
9/1/2011 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Tai Po Kau (08:00 Tai Po Kau carpark)	★★★	Forest birds
16/1/2011 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Tai Lam Chung Reservoir (08:00 Intersection of Siu Lam Road)	★★	Forest birds
23/1/2011 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	Mai Po Nature Reserve (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
30/1/2011 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Shek Kong (08:00 Exit C, Kam Sheung Road West Rail Station)	★★	Forest & farmland birds
5/2/2011 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Nam Sang Wai (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Happiness Restaurant, Exit G2, Yuen Long West Rail Station)	★	Waterbirds
6/2/2011 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Shing Mun (08:00 Exit B near Hang Seng Bank, Tsuen Wan MTR Station)	★★	Forest birds
20/2/2011 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Wild Card Day (Details will be announced on 18 Feb on Discussion Forum) (08:00 Kowloon Tong MTR Station (Kent Road exit))	★★	Wintering birds & migrants
27/2/2011 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Luk Keng (08:00 Fanling Town Centre Access Exit, Fanling MTR Station, Exit C)	★	Waterbirds
5/3/2011 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Nam Sang Wai (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Happiness Restaurant, Exit G2, Yuen Long West Rail Station)	★	Waterbirds
6/3/2011 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Tai Po Kau (08:00 Tai Po Kau carpark)	★★★	Forest birds
13/3/2011 (Sun)	0900 - 1700	Mai Po Nature Reserve (09:00 Kowloon Tong MTR Station (Kent Road exit), OR 10:00 Mai Po carpark, end 16:00 Mai Po, 17:00 Kowloon Tong)	★★	Waterbirds
27/3/2011 (Sun)	0730 - 1600	Po Toi and HK South Waters (07:30 Aberdeen public pier, near Ocean Court) Note: This will be a long trip on open waters. The ride could be quite rough and some people may be seasick.	★★★	Seabirds and migrants

Member: Free of Charge

Non-member: Free of Charge (registration not 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
15/12/2010 (Wed)	1900 - 2100	The study Hong Kong Landbirds (Cantonese, Free of Charge)	Mr. George Ho	Rm. 901, Scout Asso of HK, Austin Road, Kowloon
20/1/2011 (Thur)	1900 - 2100	Birding Trip to Shannan Region, Tibet	Mr. Wong Tin Wa Mr. Lee Kam Cheong	Rm. 901, Scout Asso of HK, Austin Road, Kowloon
2/3/2011 (Wed)	1900 - 2100	Identification of Flycatchers	Dr. Cheung Ho Fai [Tentative]	Rm. 924, Scout Asso of HK, Austin Road, Kowloon
3/2011 (to be confirmed)	1900 - 2100	Waterbird Monitoring Programme Public Lecture AND HKBWS Research Groups Report (Cantonese, Free of Charge)	Mr. Yu Yat Tung Bird Research Groups	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.)

23 Jan 2011 (Sun) (_____ member(s), _____ non-member(s)) No. of person(s) using the coach is _____)

13 Mar 2011 (Sun) (_____ member(s), _____ non-member(s)) No. of person(s) using the coach is _____)

Po Toi and Hong Kong South waters [Boat Fare: Member: HK\$160 Non-member: HK\$200]

27 Mar 2011 (Sun) (_____ member(s), _____ non-member(s)) No. of person(s) is _____)

** We will confirm the participants whether their application is accepted or not about 1 week 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.

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.

Information of Participant(s)

Date	Destination	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: **14/F, Ruby Commercial Bldg, 480 Nathan Road, Kln**

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.



烏灰銀鷗
張冠南
南生圍

Heuglin's Gull
K.N.Cheung
Nam Sang Wai

12.01.2009
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter

烏灰銀鷗
陳志光
米埔

Heuglin's Gull
Daniel CK Chan
Mai Po

20.03.2010
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter





黃腳銀鷗
施文漢
南生圍

Yellow-legged Gull
Sze Man Hon
Nam Sang Wai

17.11.2009
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens +
1.4x teleconverter

黃腳銀鷗
鄭諾銘
米埔

Cheng Nok Ming
Yellow-legged Gull
Mai Po

05.02.2010
DSLR Camera, 300mm f/4 lens+ 1.4x teleconverter





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Black-winged Stilt (Juvenile)
Ka Hung Sang
Wetland Park

16.6.2010
DSLR Camera, 500mm f/6.3 lens, ISO200



Purple Heron
Man Kuen Yat, Bill
Wetland Park

14.10.2007
DSLR Camera, 300mm lens + 1.7 x teleconverter

Siberian Stonechat
Ka Hung Sang
Wetland Park

3.3.2010
DSLR Camera, 500mm f/6.3 lens, ISO200





西伯利亞銀鷗
Andrew Hardacre
米埔

Vega Gull
Andrew Hardacre
Mai Po

30.03.2010
DSLR Camera, 800mm f/5.6 lens



西伯利亞銀鷗
Andrew Hardacre
米埔

Vega Gull
Andrew Hardacre
Mai Po

30.03.2010
DSLR Camera, 800mm f/5.6 lens