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223

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The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

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Bulletin 223

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Editor's Note

Spring is here, and it's a great season to be a birdwatcher. But, as recent events on Po Toi have shown, we can take neither birds nor their habitats for granted.

So, please note the articles in this edition that demonstrate that your HKBWS is acting both locally and regionally to protect birds and their habitats. A Northwest New Territories Fishpond Management Plan aims to show how useful commercial fishponds can be for many local –and migrant – species. Regionally, as part of the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Programme, YU Yat-tung will represent us on the EAAP Seabird Working Group.

Closer to home, we have a variety of special interest groups where aspects of Hong Kong's birdlife are being explored by enthusiastic volunteers; WBSE, Black Kites, Swift and swallow surveys, etc..

Don't let anyone tell you birdwatching is a dull pastime! 

John Holmes

Society News and Projects

~ Lo Wai Yan

Members

Membership Renewal

Membership renewal this year was completed very smoothly. Thanks for the support and patience of our members and especially to the volunteers who helped out.

Membership Affairs Committee

Ms Lee Wai Chu, Ronley has been the Chairman of the Membership Affairs Committee for many years. However, due to her personal commitments, she will reluctantly stand down from this role. Ms Lee will be succeeded by Ms Au Chun Yan, Aukie. Our wholehearted thanks go to Ms Lee for her support and contribution to the development of Membership issues.

Affairs

Records 215 - HK Bird Watching Competition 2012

The Competition was held from April 8 to 9. The Society planned to raise funds for the following bird conservation projects in Mainland China:

1. The Conservation of "Blue-crowned Laughingthrush" at Wuyuan, Jiangxi
2. The Conservation of "Scaly-sided Merganser" in northeast China

Thank you for your participation and donations.



Oystersauce Catcher, Champion of Record 215

Hong Kong Bird Report 2007-08

HKBR 2007-08 was published and posted to full members at the end of February. We would like to express our gratitude to the Records Committee, and all volunteers who have been involved in the editing, publishing and even the mailing work, so that this thickest report of all Annual Reports could be published and distributed so smoothly.



Hong Kong Bird Report 2007-08-Cover

New member orientation at Mai Po on Feb 19



New Member Orientation 2012

2 sessions of new member orientation were held at Mai Po and Long Valley on Feb 18 & 19 respectively. A total of about 40 members attended. This orientation program aims to introduce to our new members the background of the Society, instill a code of conduct for bird watching & bird photography and to familiarize new birders with the habitat at selected birding sites.

Society News and Projects - (cont.)

Members
Affairs



Workshop on Enhancement of Waterbird Identification Skills

We are working hard to develop new types of bird watching class for our members. On Feb 18 & 25, we organized the captioned workshop on trial basis open to elementary bird watchers who had completed the Elementary Bird Watching Course. This workshop, taught by our experienced birder Wendy Yu, aimed to consolidate and enhance waterbird identification skills. Please stay tuned for new courses in the near future.

Welcome to HKBWS's New Staff

In order to launch the Fishpond Management Agreement Programme in Northwest NT, HKBWS has hired three full time staff, including Mr. Yu Yat Tung, to serve as Research Manager, as well as Mr. Johnson Chung and Ms. Helen Fong, to serve as Project Officers.

Education

1. Early Morning Bird Watchers
No. of participants in Hong Kong Park from Dec 2011 to Feb 2012: 207
No. of participants in Kowloon Park from Dec 2011 to Feb 2012: 412
2. Bird watching interpretation in Hong Kong Wetland Park
A total of 84 participants from Nov 2011 to Feb 2012.
3. Bird watching services and activities
28 Dec 2011 provided a guided visit to wetland park for the families served by The Society for Community Organisation
25 Feb 2012 provided a guided visit to Tai Po Kau for the members of The Hong Kong Blind Union

Crested Bulbul Club



2010-2012 Nature Conservation Management for Long Valley

~ Vicky Yeung

The annual Harvest Festival was held on 1 and 7 January 2012. On the first day of the event, we have invited the Deputy Director of Environmental Protection Department, Mr Benny Wong, and HKBWS Honorary President, Mr. Lam Chiu Ying to come and join the event. They were also invited to hold a special ribbon-cutting ceremony that the "ribbon" used in the ceremony was made by straw which is harvested in Long Valley. This year, the scale of the activity - as well as the number of participants - increased. Several new booths such as straw scarecrow design competition, straw art workshop and Long Valley exhibition were added. There were altogether 600 members of the general public participating in the 2-day event.



Special ribbon-cutting ceremony
© The Conservancy Association



Delighted to dig out a Water Chestnut!

Nature

Conservation Management for Long Valley was finished by the end of February 2012. We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to stakeholders, farmers, advisors, bird watchers, photographers and all the supporters of Long Valley. The Conservancy Association and HKBWS has received approval from Environment and Conservation Fund on the 3-year project "Nature Conservation Management for Long Valley 2012-2015", which will begin in March. Your support to the project and Long Valley is important!



Nature Conservation

~ Beetle Cheng, Conservation Officer

2011 Bird News Voting

There have been a number of incidents related to birds in the past year. The HKBWS organised a voting event on bird news in 2011, aiming to raise awareness among members and the public of the importance of bird conservation in Hong Kong. We have announced the results in March 2012. (The event was organised for Chinese readers only.)

Activities webpage: <http://bfs.hkbws.org.hk/vote>

Po Toi

Mr. Geoff Welch reported to HKBWS that there has been some clearance of scrub and possible development on Po Toi Island. HKBWS is concerned that further degradation of the site may have negative impacts on the biodiversity, and we have reported this to AFCD, Planning Department and Lands Department in January 2012. As Po Toi is not covered by any statutory planning control and it is not a part of Country Park, The incident was passed to the Lands Department for their follow-up.

The incident received a lot of attention from members and the public when a local newspaper reported this in mid-February. The Lands Department replied to the media that the site involves government land and private land.



Laying of Concrete squares and clearance of vegetation on Po Toi, but trees are retained. Photo by Geoff Welch

HKBWS has successfully urged the government to protect Po Toi by establishing Development Permission Area Plans for the island, so that development could be strictly controlled.

East Asia-Australasian Flyway Partnership - Seabird Working Group

~ Yu Yat-tung, Research Manager

The East Asia-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) is a platform to streamline and discuss avian conservation activities taking place in many countries of East Asia. Some governments in this flyway region (from Russia in the north to Australia in the south) have joined this partnerships as have some international NGOs such as BirdLife International and WWF. Inside the partnership, several working groups have been set up to initiate, discuss and conduct different activities in order to conserve different groups of birds and their habitats, including cranes, anatidae and shorebirds. The Seabird Working Group is being set up to start discussing seabird conservation activities planned in the region.

BirdLife International have volunteered to act as an interim coordinator of the Seabird Working Group and the HKBWS has been invited to represent BirdLife International in this role. I have been nominated to represent both HKBWS and BirdLife International to attend the coming Meeting of Partners (MoP) of EAAFP, held at Palembang, Indonesia, in March 2012.

Many seabird conservation activities will be discussed during the meeting and some of these will be conservation projects relating to the Chinese Crested Tern. BirdLife International/The HKBWS China Programme is already involved in some conservation and public awareness projects relating to this Critically Endangered species (a population estimated at fewer than 50 individuals) in order to help save this species from extinction.



Fishpond Management Agreement Programme in Northwest NT

Fishpond Management Agreement Programme in Northwest New Territories is 13-month project launched on 1 Jan 2012. The project aims at enhancing the conservation value of commercial fishponds in the region, especially for avifauna, through the partnership between the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society and local fishpond operators, as well as full support from The Hong Kong New Territories Fish Culture Association.

The programme attempts to demonstrate by waterbird monitoring that fishponds are an important supplementary feeding habitat for wild birds, especially when the practice of pond draining is being carried out. A disturbance-free period during pond draining will be trialled as well to enhance the the feeding value of fishponds. The project will aim to show that humans and birds can co-exist in harmony. Public visits to fishpond areas will be held.

Currently, over one hundred fishpond operators have joined the project, which includes more than 600 fishponds located in the Northwest New Territories. We will keep in close contact with the operators to build co-operation and to agree a schedule of public visits to newly-drained ponds.



China Projects

Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden Bird Fair

~ Vivian Fu, China Programme Officer



My first two days of 2012 were spent in the southernmost part of Yunnan Province – Xishuangbanna, as HKBWS was invited to participate in the 2nd Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden • Swarovski Bird Fair. Xishuangbanna became a well-known birding hotspot among bird watchers in recent years due to some interesting birds found there, such as the newly-discovered Brown-throated Sunbird was recorded in Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden (XTBG) in 2009, the second Chinese record of Asian Openbill in 2010. Besides being rich in bird species, XTBG is also a national tourist attraction, making it a good place to promote environmental education.

The 2nd Bird Fair was aimed at raising public awareness to birds, bird watching and bird conservation. A total of 18 organizations from different regions of mainland China participated in the bird fair. Other than bird

watching societies, conservation institutes such as the International Fund for Animal Welfare and Jiangxi Poyang Lake National Nature Reserve also participated. In addition to showing guests birding hotspots and bird species at the booths, there were games like nature- and bird-related riddles, puzzles, drawing sessions and interactive games about migratory birds. XTBG also created a Wishing Tree for visitors to write down their wishes to birds and the environment. Handmade souvenirs produced by students and participating cultural and art groups also attracted the attention of many tourists.

The booths were set outside the XTBG museum, where most tourists would stop by, so there were over three thousand visitors in two days! In the museum, an exhibition of 67 photographs of birds in China taken by photographers from "BirdNet", allowed visitors to have a "close" look at the charming birds. To promote birds and conservation to local young people, the education division of XTBG arranged local school children to join the bird fair, and gave them an experience of bird watching in the garden.

Bird watching has become more popular and the force of bird conservation is growing in China. I really wish that the bird fair in XTBG will be continued and get better in the future.



2012

Black-faced Spoonbill

2012 International Black-faced Spoonbill Census - Results

~ Press Release



Photo by Charles Chow

The endangered Black-faced Spoonbill is endemic to East Asia. In the past decade, Black-faced Spoonbill's number has shown a steady increase from below 1,000 to more than 2,000 individuals. However there was an unpleasant surprise with the result of last year's census; - a drop in number from 2,347 individuals in 2010 to 1,839 individuals in 2011. The result of the 2012 census has resolved some of our worries because this census has resulted in a new high of 2,693 individuals, an increase of 15% from the previous peak figure in 2010.

Mr. Yu Yat-tung, Research Manager of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, pointed out that "More than 800 individual Black-faced Spoonbills "went missing" last year, which made us worried. However, this year's total exceeded 2,500 for the first time. This count has eased our worries and the higher counts mainly come from Taiwan and Mainland China. However, we still can not figure out exactly why the numbers fluctuated in the past two years."

Yu added: "Although the known population of Black-faced Spoonbills has increased, in Hong Kong the numbers of this species at Deep Bay has dropped in two consecutive years from 462 birds in 2010 to 411 birds in 2011, and further to 393 individuals in 2012. This is a 15% decrease in the past two years. The Deep Bay area is the second largest wintering congregation site in the world and so the decrease of the Black-faced Spoonbill's number is of significance internationally and locally. Higher numbers have been recorded at several coastal sites in China, and we speculate that some spoonbills may have chosen to stay in northern areas due to a warmer winter in 2011-12. Counts in other northern areas such as Japan and South Korea also revealed higher numbers than the previous year, but the Deep Bay area and Red River Delta of Vietnam saw some decreases in the BFS wintering total. "

Last winter, one satellite-tracked Black-faced Spoonbill was found to be wintering in Cambodia, a country with relatively few keen bird watchers and ornithologists. A survey may be needed to discover if there is a wintering BFS population in Cambodia.

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society has been organising the International Black-faced Spoonbill Census since 2003. The census has improved our understanding of the distribution of this globally endangered species. The 2012 census took place from 13 to 15 January and the full results are as follows:

- The census recorded a total of 2,693 spoonbills in 2012, which was 854 more spoonbills than that of the census in 2011. This is also a 46% and 15% increment, compared with 2011 and 2010 respectively.
- The largest wintering flock was again recorded in Taiwan, where there were a total of 1,562 individuals, representing 58% of the known wintering Black-faced Spoonbill population. This was an increase of 728 birds, or 22% more than the previous peak figure from 2010.
- The Deep Bay area - including both sides of Hong Kong and Shenzhen - produced a total of 393 individuals, which was a decrease of 18 (4%) and 69 (15%) from 2011 and 2010 respectively.
- Along the eastern coast of mainland China the total count of wintering Black-faced Spoonbill has increased by 66% to a figure of 328 birds, which also had an increase of 35% from the figure of 2010.

The HKBWS is grateful to all participating organisations and volunteers who helped in the census. We are also grateful to Schmidt Marketing Asia Limited for their financial support.

HKBWS's Black-faced Spoonbill Recording System

In order to collect and promote information of home range and migration of the Black-faced Spoonbill, the HKBWS has established a web-based record system to keep tracking sightings of colour-ringed Black-faced Spoonbills. This should lead us to have a better understanding of the life cycle of the Black-faced Spoonbill. We also aim to encourage more members of the general public to take part in some of these observations and to submit sightings of ringed individuals. HK Traveler.com Limited has generously supported the establishment of this record system.

Mr Yu said: "We hope that, with the establishment of this system, there is a platform for not only the general public and amateur birdwatchers, but also professional researchers to join this scientific research. Through the interactive function of the system, users of the system can have a better understanding of the home range, movement and lifespan of the Black-faced Spoonbill. We also aim to promote the use of this system in other countries because the Black-faced Spoonbill is a long-distance migrant. To protect this globally endangered species international cooperation is essential."

2012

Black-faced Spoonbill

After carefully recording colour and position of different rings on the Black-faced Spoonbill's legs, observers submit this information into the system and then many people in the world can track the movements of individual Black-faced Spoonbills on the internet. This also helps arouse the interest of the general public to the conservation of the Black-faced Spoonbill. This updated information is very important for studying migration routes, home range and longevity and will help us to plan a better conservation strategy to safeguard this species.

Website of Black-faced Spoonbills Recording System: <http://bfs.hkbws.org.hk/>

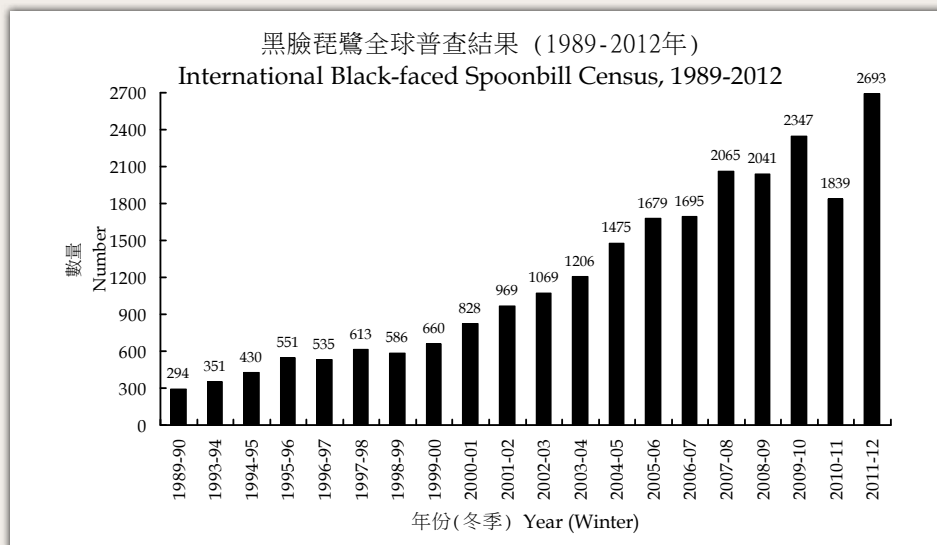


Annex 1: Census Result of 2012

地區 Place	Total No. in 2010 (% of total)	Total No. in 2011 (% of total)	Total No. in 2012 (% of total)	Trend (compare to 2011)
台灣 Taiwan	1,280 (55%)	834 (46%)	1,562 (58%)	↑ 728 (87%)
香港和深圳 (后海灣) Hong Kong & Shenzhen (Deep Bay)	462 (20%)	411 (22%)	393 (15%)	↓ 18 (4%)
中國大陸 Mainland China (福建省、廣東省、海南省、上海市)	234 (10%)	198 (10%)	328 (12%)	↑ 130 (66%)
日本 Japan	258 (11%)	270 (15%)	284 (11%)	↑ 14 (5%)
澳門 Macao	39 (2%)	49 (2.7%)	51 (1.9%)	↑ 2
越南 Vietnam	46 (2%)	49 (2.7%)	35 (1.3%)	↓ 14
韓國 Republic of Korea	27 (1%)	26 (1.4%)	40 (1.5%)	↑ 14
泰國 Thailand	1 (0.04%)	1 (0.05%)	0*	- - -
柬埔寨 Cambodia	0	1 (0.05%)	0*	- - -
總數 Total	2,347	1,839	2,693	↑ 854 (46%)

*outside the census period, 2 Black-faced Spoonbills have been seen in Thailand and Cambodia, which have not been counted.

Annex 2: Statistic



The City Singer - Oriental Magpie Robin

~ Photo/text Samson So

When spring comes, I always wake up to the song of the Oriental Magpie Robin.

The first time I had a really good look at the familiar Magpie Robin was in December 1994. I went all the way from HKU to Tsim Bei Tsui for birding, taking the bus to the MTR station, then got the train and two minibuses. When I finally alighted at Sha Kiu Village, a pungent smell came up my nostrils, one that could only be labeled as “countryside” in Hong Kong: the stench of pig manure. Most people would find the waste of pigs and cows smelly. In my case, in fact, the smell reminds me of a Hong Kong countryside that’s more lush and green.

Close to the pig farm, I found a male Magpie Robin in a small tree, with its feathers fluffed up against the wind. It held a gallant posture on a cold winter day. On another small tree about 20 metres away from this male, I heard a female making low calls “ja~~ja~~”. With the smell of the pigs nearby, it dawned on me why this bird is commonly known as “Chu-Zee Ja” which literally means “pig-poooh bird”.

Looked at closely, the Magpie Robin has more to it than simple black and white. The male’s head, back, chest and tail are all glossy black that comes in great contrast with the white on the belly and wing band, making it very eye-catching and easy to identify. If we look more closely, we will also see the slightly hooked bill, indicating that it mainly preys on insects and other small invertebrates. The female can be differentiated from the male by its grey and white colour, and the juvenile by the scaly patches on its chest.

Spring is the best time for observing Oriental Magpie Robins. With the return of warm weather, the male Oriental Magpie Robin turns into a city singer. Performing at urban parks, countryside, on a branch in the canopy, on the railing of a man-made structure, anywhere can become a stage for it. The Oriental Magpie Robin’s songs are melodious with many syllables and styles. Sometimes it whispers soft moody sighs, sometimes noise and passion. I get real enjoyment listening to the performance of these urban singers. Though a dedicated singer, the Oriental Magpie Robin does not sing so as to please passers-by, nor does it sing to attract birdwatchers. It sings to hold territory and drive away other males of the same species. Another purpose of the song is to attract females for mating so it can pass on its genes.

This behaviour is not particular to Oriental Magpie Robins alone. In fact, many other birds use songs and calls during breeding season for territorial declaration to minimize competition. For birds, singing uses up a lot of energy, and at the same time reduces the time available for feeding. Worse still, this territorial behavior exposes the bird’s hiding place and increases the risk of attracting a predator. Yet birds are willing to take their chances to gain better chances of procreation. In order to lure some birds out from



hiding, sometimes people will play recordings of bird calls. In trying to drive this 'virtual intruder' away the bird will waste precious energy that can otherwise be used for reproduction and survival. And the limited time it has looking for food and resting will be spent dealing with a recorder, further reducing the chances for feeding, increasing the risk of predation and illness, and may, in a way, lead to its death. This is something true bird lovers and nature lovers should bear in mind. It is also something that we can share and discuss with friends, so more people will be aware of the real price to be paid for such acts.

Being such a great singer with smart looks and a strong will, the male Oriental Magpie Robin is well admired by true nature lovers. Unfortunately, they also draw attention from possessive 'bird lovers', and many chicks are stolen from their nests and kept in cages for the rest of their lives. The young birds lost their rights to be free and were forced to be toys. In a 1993 RTHK weekly program "Hong Kong Connection" the difference between watching birds in their natural habitat versus keeping birds was discussed in length. This episode rippled deep amongst bird lovers. As reference for interested fellow birders, the program can be found in library archives.

In the 90's when I was still a post-graduate student, one of my seniors worked on nest boxes to evaluate their effectiveness as conservation tool. It was part of her PhD. Nest boxes were placed in the campus and the usage by various species was recorded and followed. To our excitement, we discovered one of the nest boxes near Lotus Pond was used by a pair of Oriental Magpie Robins, and seeing that the adults were bringing food back, we deduced that there must be chicks inside the box. So whenever I passed that place, I would



look through my binoculars, quietly giving my support to the Oriental Magpie Robins for their hard work at parenting, sending my best wishes for the chicks in the box. This small family occupied just a small corner in the vast campus, but they certainly occupied a great spot in that stage of my life. Sadly, good things don't seem to last. One day a caretaker climbed up a ladder to check on some facilities near to the tree, and the next day, the entire Oriental Magpie Robin family disappeared, what used to be a busy and energetic corner in the campus was left with a lifeless empty box. Did the administration remove the birds to avoid avian flu? Did the birds move due to disturbance? Did someone steal the chicks for some selfish purpose? What happened? Why? I was never able to find out.

The trend for keeping caged birds is gradually dying out (but the demand for other wild animals as pets is booming), and thus fewer people are trying to catch young chicks for profit. With the promotion of bird watching activities in the past 20 years, people are learning to love birds and the threat from humans has greatly reduced. As a result birds in Hong Kong have become less wary of humans. In urban parks man and birds can now share the environment together in harmony.

If we fix our gaze only on the rare and beautiful, we may miss out on the wonderful tiny details so abundant in nature. Oriental Magpie Robin is a common resident in Hong Kong, so common that birdwatchers and photographers tend to ignore it. Perhaps if we can let go of our pursuit of "life ticks" and try to observe and record the birds close to us, we may be able to enjoy bird watching from a different perspective.





草鷺
李振強
米埔

Purple Heron
Lee Chun Keung Riccardo
Mai Po

22/10/2011
DSLR Camera, 500mm f/4 lens



大麻鵞
CY LAM
米埔

Great Bittern
CY LAM
Mai Po

05/11/2011
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter



遊隼
何建業
米埔

Peregrine Falcon
Kinni Ho Kin Yip
Mai Po

19/11/2011
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter



白肩鵟
李偉仁
米埔

Imperial Eagle
Andy Li
Mai Po

28/11/2011
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens +
1.4x teleconverter



鳳頭蜂鷹
Vivian Cheung
林村

Crested Honey Buzzard
Vivian Cheung
Lam Tsuen

04/02/2012
DSLR Camera, 300mm f/2.8 lens +
1.4x teleconverter



鵲鵠
余柏維
米埔

Pied Harrier
Yue Pak Wai
Mai Po

25/09/2011
DSLR Camera, 500mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter



白肩鵟(左)及烏鵟(右)
何家偉
米埔

Imperial Eagle (left) and Greater Spotted Eagle (right)
Ho Ka Wai
Mai Po

25/11/2011
DSLR Camera, 800mm f/5.6 lens

北極鷗
余柏維
米埔

Glaucous Gull
Yue Pak Wai
Mai Po

14/02/2012
DSLR Camera, 500mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter



綠頭鴨
余柏維
米埔

Mallard
Yue Pak Wai
Mai Po

14/11/2011
DSLR Camera, 500mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter



劍鴉
鄭諾銘
米埔

Common Ringed Plover
Cheng Nok Ming
Mai Po

29/01/2012
Digiscoping

Mai Po Update

~ Bena Smith

Boardwalk to the HKBWS floating hide

The deteriorating condition of the boardwalk section close to the HKBWS floating hide has been fairly noticeable these last few years. The wooden structure has certainly done a great job to provide access to the mudflat for us all since its construction in the 1990s, however the level of maintenance required to keep it in safe working order is increasing and now reached the point where it makes economic sense to replace it all.

Its replacement is scheduled for mid-2013. So please bear with us and we kindly ask you to put up with the boardwalk for at least one more year!

Recreational Cyclists in Mai Po

Cycling is becoming a popular activity in Hong Kong and the past 12-months has seen an increase in the volume of recreational cyclists using the Tam Kon Chau Road, the road leading to Mai Po.

Sometimes these cyclists stray into the Mai Po restricted area by cycling along the Frontier Closed Area (FCA) road despite clear signage requesting them not to do so. Aside from illegally entering the Reserve, unfortunately these cyclists often behave inappropriately such as being excessively noisy, or can disturb wildlife by wearing brightly coloured clothes. Of particular concern is the potential impact this has on Black-faced Spoonbill roosting in the northern Mai Po gei wai alongside the FCA road.

AFCD recently prosecuted a number of these cyclists which is good news because it sends out a strong message to the cycling community. WWF will continue to work with AFCD and the Border Police to find a long-term solution to the problem particularly as the situation could worsen following the official opening up of the FCA sections near Mai Po in spring 2012, and the construction of a new cycle track close to Mai Po in a few years' time.

Meantime, HKBWS members can help by contacting the AFCD warden post (see details on the BBS) should they encounter such cyclists inside Mai Po. The warden will then intercept those people and prosecute if found to be an illegal entry case. Please remember a handful of birdwatchers are permitted to use bicycles along the FCA under the WWF registration system, so please don't mistake them for recreational cyclists. The difference is quite obvious.

Expansion of the grazed freshwater habitat at Mai Po

Following the success of back-to-back buffalo habitat management trials on the Mai Po freshwater ponds, we will now substantially expand the grazing area and bring 3 more buffalo to the Reserve this summer. To me this is fantastic news as it has been a long 6-year process to prove buffalo can benefit freshwater habitats at Mai Po and at the same time save management resources. Once built, there will be two enclosures on the Reserve, the larger being 13.8 hectares located at Pond #24, the other being much smaller (1.8 ha) at Pond #17b in close proximity to the Education Centre.



(© Bena Smith) – "Buffalo and Cattle Egret at Mai Po"

My Black-eared Kite Diary (3)

~ Peter Chan

1st January 2012. A new year has begun! I didn't join any countdown activities yesterday and went to bed very early as hectic work made me so tired. On the first day of the year, I took my camera to Sai Kung to observe my friends – Black-eared Kites in the “Kite Paradise”. Quite a number of photographers had already gathered at the dockside to picture the kites in the afternoon. I was told by one of the photographers that he had pictured a Black-eared Kite with no claws on its right foot.



Serious damage to the right tail



Loss of claws on the right foot

A bird of prey relies on its claws to grip food. I guessed the one who lost the claws may not be able to hunt and died of hunger already.

Suddenly a friend of mine found it somewhere and I was searching for it through the telescope. What I can say is that it can fly even better than any of the other kites. From the colour of its feathers I can infer it is an immature bird. I can't imagine how it lost its claws as it is still so young. From how its foot was amputated and the degree of wear and tear of its tail, its injuries might be caused by an animal trap. Where was that animal trap from? Hong Kong? Or mainland China? Could any other birds have been injured by that animal trap? Fortunately, apart from that injured kite all the other kites look quite normal. One Taiwanese birder once said that hunters like to put the animal trap inside the nest to catch or even kill the birds. Is this bird the lucky one who is able to escape?


How can this kite without foot to survive? I have observed how it flew and its hunting skill. It can fly even faster than anyone of its friends though its flight was quite unstable. The way how it hunted was exactly like the normal ones. It swung its legs forward and I can see its injured right foot clearly. It failed to hunt but it tried repeatedly. Finally it was able to get a small piece of meat. I think that might be good enough for this poor bird to fill its stomach. As long as it can hunt by its speed, I think it can survive.

I have previously seen two Black-eared Kites in different locations which had lost their tails. Obviously they were not injured by the animal traps. There are many ways to lose a tail. It could be caused by an attack by other kites, or it could be due to sickness and even abnormal molting. The function of the tail is for steering, balancing and take-off/landing. Its function is like the horizontal stabilizer of an airplane. The lack of the horizontal stabilizer would cause the plane



Black-eared Kite without a tail

to lose balance and sometimes not fly. However, a bird can still fly even after losing its' tail as its wings could perform all the functions of the tail. It can fly as normally as the other birds and can escape the attack of its fellows.

By natural selection, only the fittest can survive. The will power of these injured kites is really great as they are surviving well without any problem. 



It can hunt with only one claw

In November 2011, some members of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (HKBWS) organized a birding and cultural visit to Cambodia in liaison with Birdlife Cambodia. At the last minute I was able to join them for this memorable trip.

21-30 November 2011

Day 1 (November 21) Monday

As Dragon Air Flight KA206 began its descent to Phnom Penh we had good aerial views of the mighty Mekong and Tonle Sap Rivers. Immigration was surprisingly simple and quick for those who already had visas. There was no worry on buying a SIM card on arrival here because there were at least five such booths on the way out to the greetings area. We found that US money was commonly used, but the small change came back in 'Riel'.

We stopped for a quick local lunch on the outskirts of Phnom Penh. Afterwards Mr Bou Vorsak (Cambodia Programme Manager) introduced the other Birdlife staff and drivers. We

learned that the Bengal Florican quest had to be cancelled due to recent high water levels. Our jeeps all looked quite new, in good condition and clean; the drivers were nice and careful. It was a real comfort to find that all drinks (bottled water, soft drinks, Angkor beer) were supplied cold and unlimited at all times.

Although the highway and roads were well kept it was a long and uneventful drive to the resort town of Stung Treng. We arrived at our Mekong riverside hotel well after dark, but White-throated Kingfisher, Asian Palm Swift, Black-shouldered Kite and over 220 Eastern Cattle Egrets were recorded along the way.



Lesser Adjutant
by KC Lee

Giant Ibis & White-shouldered Ibis by KC Lee

White-shouldered Ibis
by KC Lee

by Feiniu

by Feiniu

by Feiniu

White-Bellied Woodpecker by Feiniu

Day 2 (November 22) Tuesday

Dawn was just breaking at 05:30 when we descended the jetty steps to the Mekong River and our longish motor boat. It could hold 20 people easily, although exposed in the front and back ends it had an awning in the middle section; Lee Kam Cheong (KC) and Chiang Ming Liang (CML) took up positions with their gigantic cameras at the front. By 07:00 Mekong Wagtails were appearing along the riverbank, among the clumps of driftwood.

Some other birds that were seen early in the day were Oriental Pied Hornbill, Stork-billed Kingfisher, Green-billed Malkoha, River Lapwing, Red-wattled Lapwing, Black Baza, Lesser Adjutant. An immature Pallas's Fish Eagle flew over. A short break on a pebble bank produced Kentish Plovers and Chestnut-headed Bee-eaters. After several hours in the boat we arrived at the town of Siem Pang. The Thearny Guest House – our home for the next four nights – was just a few yards from the landing stage.

After a short break we were driven to an area of open, flat grassland with scattered trees. Mr. Mem Moi, the local bird guide, quickly showed us two Black-headed Woodpeckers, several Small Minivets and a flying White-shouldered Ibis. CML photographed a nice Paddyfield Pipit. We were led to a "stakeout" for a Spotted Wood Owl. The owl was quite relaxed, forty feet above us in dense foliage. Some other birds seen were Black-browed Barbet, Vernal Hanging-Parrot, Little Green and Chestnut-headed Bee-eaters, ten Pompadour Green Pigeons, Rufous-winged Buzzard, two Changeable Hawk-Eagles and Blue-winged Leafbird.

Supper was Cambodian style; we sat on a floor covered with large mats, the floor was the 'table'. Food was rice and several dishes of fish, vegetable, chicken, tofu, soup. After supper, Mr.Phearun, the Project Assistant, gave an interesting talk and slide show on the importance of the **Western Siem Pang Proposed Protected Forest** in conserving their "Big Five" – Giant Ibis, White-shouldered Ibis, Slender-billed Vulture, Red-headed Vulture and White-rumped Vulture (all critically endangered).

Day 3 (November 23) Wednesday

We headed out at 05:00 by jeep to Trapaeng Boeung and Trapaeng Chouk, forest pools where ibises frequently come to feed at dawn. We were extremely lucky, before sunrise we were looking through the trees at four Giant Ibises (three adults, one juvenile) about one hundred metres away, wading and feeding in one end of the pond. We took turns 'scoping' the birds. The Giant Ibises were obviously larger than the Grey Heron present, and double the size of White-shouldered Ibis. Noticing we humans as it got brighter the birds flew off. KC had a good video clip of two Giant Ibises together. There were also White-shouldered Ibises, Lesser Adjutant and Woolly-necked Storks in the area.

Later, in the woods Moi found three White-rumped Falcons, another sought-after species. We watched a pair in one tree, and the immature some distance away, calling to each other.

Happy with early success we now headed for a stick-and-thatch hide overlooking a "Vulture Restaurant". A calf had been slaughtered two days earlier and left out to feed the vultures. (Since the 1990s

most Asian vultures (especially in India) have been killed off by the presence in domestic cattle carcasses of an anti-inflammatory chemical called diclofenac. So the vultures that survive in southeast Asia – including Cambodia – are an important but small and Critically Endangered population.) The “Vulture Restaurant” site was part of a programme of controlled vulture feeding.

Several White-rumped Vultures were feeding on the carcass about 60 metres in front of us, joined by several Slender-billed and two Red-headed Vultures. Conditions were good for taking photos. Eventually we returned to the Guest House at noon for lunch and a popular “siesta” ! Despite late afternoon rain, we went out again and viewed a total of 42 White-shouldered Ibis at various roost trees, as well as two Asian Barred Owlets and two Chestnut-bellied Nuthatches.

Day 4 (November 24) Thursday

At 05:00 we left for a two hour drive to Veal Kreal, a special trapaeng for Giant Ibis with good surrounding habitat for forest species as well. En route we saw Black-headed Woodpecker, Common Flameback, Streak-throated Woodpecker, Common Iora, and a flock of eight Vinous-breasted Starlings in the middle of the road.

The drive turned out to be quite adventurous, the 4WD convoy had to halt at a steep gully until a hoe was produced and some “landscaping” made the track passable. Near Trapaeng Ktum we saw a perched Lesser Adjutant. Birding the nearby woods we came across two very cute Spotted Owlets, another male White-rumped Falcon, and four Yellow-crowned Woodpeckers. Crested Treeswifts circled overhead.

Shortly after reaching the hide at Veal Kreal a Black-necked Stork flew over, and a Pheasant-tailed Jacana flew out from the reeds. Near the hide a Burmese Shrike and Siberian Stonechat were hanging around; a few House Sparrows too, *spp.indicus*, now a locally common resident in most of Indochina. With little bird activity near the hide, a mid-afternoon walk in the woods produced two Scaly-breasted Partridges, a Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker, 13 Great Slaty Woodpeckers, Yellow-footed Green Pigeon, Racket-tailed Treepie, Indochinese Cuckooshrike, Indochinese Bushlark and other species.

On the way back to Siem Pang Town we saw a nicely perched Grey-headed Fish Eagle and a Rufous Woodpecker.



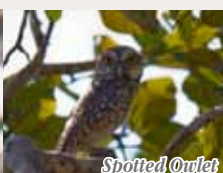
Large-tailed Nighthawk
by KC Lee



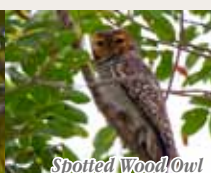
Mekong Wagtail
by Feiniu



Yellow-crowned
Woodpecker
by KC Lee



Spotted Owllet
by KC Lee



Spotted Wood Owl
by KC Lee



Vultures by KC Lee

Day 5 (November 25) Friday

A third day in the Proposed Protected Forest produced two Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpeckers foraging around the small red flowers of a tree. We also had a Rufous Treepie, Blue-winged Leafbird, White-browed Fantail, and eight Black-headed Woodpeckers on a single tree. But the highlight was a single White-bellied Woodpecker. Breakfast was a Cambodian treat – a leaf-wrapped roasted plaintain. Later we came across a perched Besra holding onto a Magpie Robin in its claws.

Out again in late afternoon, there was the familiar call of Chinese Francolins. Returning to the site we had visited on our first morning we saw Giant Ibises again at dusk.

At supper Aukie AU presented copies of the HKBWS 2012 calendar to Birdlife Cambodia as souvenirs. In return, Vorsak presented us all a copy of the booklet ‘Western Siem Pang – Natural Wonder of the Kingdom of Cambodia’. Considering that Birdlife in Cambodia was set up less than three years ago, its accomplishments are impressive and significant. As sightings of the Giant Ibis become better known and monitored, the area might become a reliable location for birders to see Giant Ibis.

After Siem Pang we went to Siem Reap, to explore the temples of Angkor Wat, but that’s another story...

Afterword

Although the trip total for the group was 154 species, it was rated pleasant and successful, with, naturally, Giant Ibis the Bird of the Trip. Culturally we had the rare opportunity to visit the far NE corner of Cambodia with its’ still unspoilt nature, and vast ideal woodpecker habitat. We experienced a little of Cambodian ways of rural and traditional living, and to admire the national treasure of the Angkor Temples. I felt good views of birds were limited without a scope. However, there were few mosquitoes, and no leeches or snakes. In addition, Vorsak and his staff were always doing their best to make us comfortable, cold drinks were never lacking.

Team members were Ada Chow, Chiang Ming Liang, Jason Au, Jemi and John Holmes, Joanne Au (Coordinator), Lee Kam Cheong (Recorder), Lee Yuk Ying, May Lam, Ronley and Ronnie Sham (Treasurer), Winnie Poon, and Wong Tin Wa.



My Bird Watching Diary

~ Text and Illustrations: Wendy Yu

Brown Wood Owl

13th September 2011



Brown Wood Owl is a mysterious species which can stir odd feelings in people. They might be scared if they ran into one without warning. Its big eyes are surrounded by dark brown feathers, which look like exaggerated eye shadow. Outside the dark brown feathers lies a circle of white feathering, making the big eyes look masked and even larger. A close look reveals a symmetry of dark and light coloured stripes. Noting this kind of detail is part of what makes bird drawing and bird watching so interesting.

~ Richard Lewthwaite

(These are unchecked records and observers are reminded of the importance of submitting all bird records on cards or electronically- Ed.)

October


- ▶ The rarest bird of the month was a **Plain-tailed Warbler**, a potential 2nd record for Hong Kong. This was photographed at Po Toi on 16th (AC) Other rarities reported were a long-staying **Fork-tailed Drongo Cuckoo** (↔Square-tailed Drongo Cuckoo) at Po Toi from 1st to 16th (GC, MT, GW et al) and subsequently one at Mai Po on 20th (BS), a **Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler** at Long Valley on 4th (KJ), a **Styan's Grasshopper Warbler** at Mai Po on 11th (PJL), a **Common Ringed Plover** in Deep Bay on 15th (JAA), a **Common Chiffchaff** (Eurasian Chiffchaff) at Lok Ma Chau on 19th (PJL) and a **Green-backed Flycatcher** at Lung Fu Shan on 21st (BK). A long-staying **Pechora Pipit** remained at Long Valley throughout the month and into November.
- ▶ Whilst numbers of **Blue-tailed Bee-eaters** were down compared to previous years, the peak count being 20 at Mai Po on 8th (EMSK, RWL), it was a good month for **Eurasian Skylarks**, which were reported from fairly widespread areas from 9th, including Long Valley, Mai Po, Fung Lok Wai, Lam Tsuen, Lok Ma Chau, Lut Chau and Kam Tin, and also for **Amur Falcons**, 32 of which were reported during 7th-29th, including 14 at Mai Po on 23rd (MH).
- ▶ A new high count was reported for **Golden-headed Cisticola** (Bright-capped Cisticola), with 20 present at Ping Yeung on 2nd (JAA). Single **Black Bitterns** at Po Toi on 9th (BK) and Yung Shue O on 30th (JAA) are the latest autumn dates on record, by 22 days for the latter bird. Two **Eurasian Skylarks** at Mai Po on 9th (JAA) are the earliest in autumn by 6 days. Single **Grey-backed Thrushes** at Sha Lo Wan on 5th (HKBWS web-site) and Tai Po Kau Headland on 18th (RB) are the earliest autumn dates, the former by 4 weeks. In addition, a **White-throated Rock Thrush** at Chuen Lung on 16th (LWK) was by 1 day on the earliest autumn date.
- ▶ In addition to the birds already mentioned, notable reports in the first half of the month concerned two **Bay Woodpeckers** at Tai Po Kau and two **Pechora Pipits** at Mai Po on 1st (JAA), a **Baillon's Crake** at Lok Ma Chau (PJL), a **Chestnut-winged Cuckoo** at Lam Tsuen (EMSK), a **Chestnut-cheeked Starling** at Po Toi (MT) and a total of 16 **Black-naped Orioles** at Lam Tsuen, Mai Po and Po Toi (EMSK, JAA, MY), all on 2nd, 11 **Black Bazas** at Long Valley (HKBWS website) and 15 **Aleutians Terns** at Po Toi (GW) on 4th, 10 **Black-naped Orioles** at Po Toi on 5th (MK), a juvenile **Eurasian Sparrowhawk** at Long Valley on 7th (MH), a female **Siberian Thrush** at Tai Po Kau (KPK) and a **Northern Boobook** (Brown Hawk Owl) at Po Toi (PW, MK) on 8th, a **Lesser Frigatebird** by the Shenzhen River on 9th (JAA), four **Pheasant-tailed Jacanas** at Lok Ma Chau on 11th (PJL), a **Brown Wood Owl** calling at Lam Tsuen on 13th (DT) and 10 **Purple Herons** at Mai Po on 15th (JAA).
- ▶ Notable reports in the second half of the month included a **Thick-billed Warbler** at Mai Po on 18th (PJL), an **Orange-headed Thrush** and **Mountain Bulbul** at Ho Chung on 20th (MT), a **Ferruginous Flycatcher**, rare in autumn, at Tai Po Kau on 21st (KPK), a **Siberian Thrush** and three **Orange-headed Thrushes** at Kap Lung on 22nd (JAA), six **Pheasant-tailed Jacanas** at Mai Po on 28th (DAD), two **Black-headed Buntings** at Long Valley from 28th (MH), a **Ruddy-breasted Crake** (Ruddy Crake) at Long Valley (BK) and two **Orange-headed Thrushes** at Shing Mun (KJ) on 29th, and a **Brown Crake** at Tsim Bei Tsui (BK), two **Citrine Wagtails** at Ho Sheung Heung (JL) and a **Plain Flowerpecker** at Sham Chung (JAA), all on 30th.
- ▶ At least two male and two female **Russet Sparrows** were present at Long Valley during the month and into November. Close scrutiny of photographs suggests that at least one, and possibly two, of these was cage damaged (MRL).



November

- ▶ An unusually warm month brought passage of flycatchers on some days to Po Toi and Lung Fu Shan (Hong Kong Island) and the odd rarity but was otherwise generally disappointing. A **Spotted Bush Warbler** heard singing in Lam Tsuen on 27th (EMSK) was a potential first for Hong Kong. Rarities were a **Rosy Pipit** at Po Toi on 17th (GW), the second of the year there following one in May, three **swans** in Deep Bay on 21st (KL) which unfortunately were too distant to identify, and a **Rosy Starling** at San Tin fishponds from 23rd (JAA).
- ▶ A **Red-breasted Flycatcher** at Lung Fu Shan on 3rd (LH) was the earliest yet recorded in autumn, and a **Pechora Pipit** at Long Valley on 10th (BK) and single **Amur Falcons** at Long Valley (BK) and Sandy Bay on 14th were on new late autumn dates.
- ▶ Among at least eleven species of flycatcher reported at Po Toi during the month (mostly GW) were up to 12 **Blue-and-whites** from about 9th to at least 29th, an unusual autumn influx, a female **Narcissus** on 13th, a male of the same species on 17th and 20th, a **Green-backed/Ryukyu** on 14th and one **Red-breasted** on 14th followed by two on 29th. A **Green-backed/Ryukyu Flycatcher** (Aquagras) was also reported at Lung Fu Shan on 18th and 24th (BK) and a rather late **Japanese Paradise Flycatcher** was there on 12th (BK).
- ▶ Other notable reports included a **Citrine Wagtail** and **Chestnut-eared Bunting** at Long Valley on 1st (KJ), a **Black Stork** at Nam Sang Wai (BT) and a **Japanese Yellow Bunting** (GW) at Po Toi on 2nd, a **Black-headed Bunting** at Long Valley on 6th (CNM), a rather late **Terek Sandpiper** in Deep Bay on 8th (RWL), 18 **Northern Lapwings** at Mai Po (BK) and a **Bull-headed Shrike** at Hok Tau on 12th (HKBWS website), a **Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler** and **Crested Bunting** at Long Valley on 13th (MK), two **Eurasian Sparrowhawks**, a fly-over **White-bellied Green Pigeon** and a **Blunt-winged Warbler**, all at Mai Po on 14th (PJL) and 80 **Chinese Penduline Tits** there on 22nd (PJL).
- ▶ A cage-damaged **Greylag Goose** found at Long Valley was seen on various dates throughout the month at Nam Sang Wai and in Deep Bay.

December

- ▶ Following a very warm November, this was another rather poor month with an almost total absence of thrushes and bluetails. The highlight was a **Northern Goshawk** photographed at Mai Po on 11th (PC) during an outing of novice birdwatchers, a record which may well lead to it being promoted from the list of escapees to the main Hong Kong list. Another species which could make the same transition is **White-tailed Robin**, one of which was briefly seen at Tai Po Kau Headland on 17th (RB). Two other rarities were reported: a **Eurasian Oystercatcher** of the subspecies *osculans* in Deep Bay on 6th (RWL), a potential 4th record, and a **Hume's Leaf Warbler** at Pak Sha O on 15th (GJC), a potential 6th record, whilst four **White Wagtails** lugens at San Tin fishponds on 28th (JAA) is possibly a record count of this taxon.
- ▶ Among other notable reports were a **Himalayan Swiftlet** at Po Toi on 1st (GW), a **White Wagtail** *baicalensis* at Long Valley on 2nd (JAA), a **Speckled Piculet** at Tai Po Kau (KPK), a **Sulphur-breasted Warbler** at Shing Mun (SLT) and a total of 22 **Oriental Greenfinches** in the Lai Chi Wo-Kuk Po area on 4th (JAA), an unidentified **Spectacled Warbler** at Tai Po Kau on 5th, the **Rosy Starling** still at San Tin fishponds on 6th (JAA), an **Orange-headed Thrush** at Tai Po on 7th (KF), 40 **Red-rumped Swallows** at San Tin fishponds (BK) and a **Common Rosefinch** at Lam Tsuen (EMSK) on 10th, an over-wintering **Crested Honey Buzzard** seen at Lam Tsuen on 11th and 31st (EMSK), 20 **Chestnut Buntings** there on 11th (EMSK), a **Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler**, **Lanceolated Warbler** and **Common Rosefinch**, all at Lin Ma Hang on 18th (GJC), a **Blunt-winged Warbler** at Mai Po (PJL) and an **Orange-headed Thrush** at Mount Austin (JNP) on 20th, single **Chestnut-flanked White-eyes** at Leadmine Pass on 27th and 29th (KPK, SLT), a **Ferruginous Duck** at Nam Sang Wai on 30th (JAA) and a **White-throated Rock Thrush** at Tai Po Kau on 31st (KPK). 

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Bird Watching Tours Jul - Sep 2012

Outings

Date	Duration	Time and site	Difficulties (1...3)	Target species
15/7/2012 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	Mirs Bay and Eastern Waters (Details will be announced later) 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)
19/8/2012 (Sun)	0800 - 1400	Mai Po Nature Reserve (08:00 Kowloon Tong MTR Station (Kent Road exit), OR 09:00 Mai Po carpark, end 13:00 Mai Po, 14:00 Kowloon Tong)	☆☆	Waterbirds
1/9/2012 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Tai Po Kau (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Tai Po Kau carpark)	☆☆	Forest birds
9/9/2012 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Shing Mun (08:00 Exit B near Hang Seng Bank, Tsuen Wan MTR Station)	☆☆	Forest birds
16/9/2012 (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
23/9/2012 (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
30/9/2012 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Long Valley (08:00 Pavilion beside public toilet at Yin Kong Village)	☆☆	Farmland and water birds

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)

Member: HK\$240

Non-member: HK\$280 (registration required)

Indoor Meetings

Date	Time	Topic	Speakers	Venue
13/4/2012 (Fri)	1900 - 2100	Identification of Sea birds (Cantonese with bilingual powerpoint)	Mr. Yu Yat Tung	Rm. 1107, Scout Assn of HK, Austin Road, Kowloon
9/5/2012 (Wed)	1900 - 2100	Classification of Birds (Cantonese with bilingual powerpoint)	Dr. Cheung Ho Fai	Rm. 1107, Scout Assn 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)

Mirs Bay and Eastern Waters [Boat Fare: Member: HK\$240 Non-member: HK\$280]

15 Jul 2012 (Sun) (_____ member(s), _____ non-member(s)) Total no. of participant: _____)

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.)

19 Aug 2012 (Sun) (_____ member(s), _____ non-member(s)) No. of person(s) using the coach is _____)

16 Sep 2012 (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]

23 Sep 2012 (Sun) (_____ member(s), _____ non-member(s)) Total no. of participant: _____)

**** 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.**

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)

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 :

- HKBWS members have a high priority to join four weeks before the activity. Thereafter, application will be made on first come first serve basis.
- 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.

橙頭地鵯
馮漢城
大埔滘

Orange-headed Thrush
Ken Fung
Tai Po Kau

07/12/2011
DSLR Camera, 400mm f/5.6 lens



白眉地鵯
蘇志偉
大埔滘

Siberian Thrush
So Chi Wai
Tai Po Kau

19/10/2011
DSLR Camera, 500mm f/4 lens





鳳頭麥雞
何建業
米埔

Northern Lapwing
Kinni Ho Kin Yip
Mai Po

11/12/2011

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



灰頭麥雞
何碧霞
錦田河

Grey-headed Lapwing
Irene Ho
Kam Tin River

18/02/2012

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

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SWAROVSKI
OPTIK

水雉
李振強
米埔

Pheasant-tailed Jacana
Lee Chun Keung Riccardo
Mai Po

05/11/2011
DSLR Camera, 500mm f/4 lens



水雉
李啟康
米埔

Pheasant-tailed Jacana
oLDcaR Lee
Mai Po

20/10/2011
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter

