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The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society



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224

Summer 2012 ~ 夏





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Contents

Editorial	– John Holmes	06
Society News & Projects		06
Mai Po Update	– John Allcock	14
Birding Anecdote - Blue Whistling Thrush		
	– Samson So	15
Palawan Bird trip	– Stanley Chan	21
My Bird Watching Diary	– Wendy Yu	26
Hong Kong Bird News, Jan - Mar 2012		28
	– Richard Lewthwaite	
Coming Activities		31

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Editor's Note

Three more years of the Long Valley Management Programme is welcome news for all of us, and the keen participation of observers at other China sites in the Coastal Waterbird Census is good news too.

Also in this summer edition, Samson So extolls the glories of the easily taken-for-granted Blue Whistling Thrush, a denizen of shady places.

Whether Hong Kong seems too hot to bird or not, don't forget our regional neighbours. Your visit may support "green" initiatives in those places too. Stanley Chan here recounts such a trip to Palawan. 🐦

John Holmes

Society News and Projects ~ Lo Wai Yan

55th Anniversary Logo

2012 marks the 55th anniversary of the Society. A few celebration activities will be announced soon. We would like to express our gratitude to Jean Siu for designing such a dynamic logo.



Records 215 - HK Bird Watching Competition 2012

The Competition, held from April 8 to 9 this year raised a total of HK\$24,060 for the conservation of Blue-crowned Laughingthrush at Wuyuan, Jiangxi and Scaly-sided Merganser in northeast China.

We would like to express our utmost gratitude to race teams for their participation, donors for their generous support, Richard Lewthwaite for being our adjudicator, AFCDD & WWF for their assistance and Swarovski Hong Kong Ltd for sponsoring lucky draw presents.

"Records 215" President's Cup

Champion: Oystersauce Catcher (158)

1st Runner-up: Bioplasticity (157)

2nd Runner-up: Wild Birds 2012 (155)

Team	# of Birds Recorded
Crazy Buzzard	146
Eye Kit	136
Fat Lip's Birding Team	134
Lark	105
Agent Scott	154
Wader Team	136
熱血米走雞	112
Oystersauce Catcher	158 (Champion)
Bioplasticity	157 (1st Runner-up)
Swarovski Feather Volunteer	113
Black Kite 24	106
Your Are the Gerr of My Eye	111

Team	# of Birds Recorded
Happy Grosbeak	115
Queen Raptoria	142
睇到鳥	109
Nightjar	129
Stark Birds	117
I am Egret	141
Golden Latebird	95
The Falcons	97
Angry Bird	92
Wild Birds 2012	155 (2nd runner-up)
The Early Bird Lands	105

Society News and Projects ~ (cont.)

“Records 215” Best Record Award

Oystersauce Catcher – Brown Fish Owl

Team	Best Record
Crazy Buzzard	Narcissus Flycatcher
Eye Kit	Eurasian Wryneck
Fat Lip's Birding Team	Black-naped Monarch
Lark	Nordmann's Greenshank
Agent Scott	Yellow-streaked Warbler
Wader Team	Narcissus Flycatcher
熱血米走雞	Eurasian Hoopoe
Oystersauce Catcher	Brown Fish Owl
Bioplasticity	Ruddy-breasted Crake
Swarovski Feather Volunteer	Black-throated Laughingthrush
Black Kite 24	Lesser Frigatebird
Your Are the Gerr of My Eye	Tufted Duck

Team	Best Record
Happy Grosbeak	Narcissus Flycatcher
Queen Raptoria	Little Stint
睇到鳥	Asian Dowitcher
Nightjar	Black-naped Monarch
Stark Birds	Red-billed Leiothrix
I am Egret	Purple Heron
Golden Latebird	Lesser Shortwing
The Falcons	Purple Heron
Angry Bird	---
Wild Birds 2012	Black Drongo
The Early Bird Lands	Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher

Outstanding Team Awards

Record 215 Donations	Stark Birds (117)
Best Student Team	
Best Perseverance Team	熱血米走雞
Best Location Team - Mai Po	Agent Scott
Best Location Team – Long Valley	Stark Birds
Best Location Team – Tai Po Kau	The Early Bird Lands
Seen Record Team	Nightjar
Heard Record Team	Crazy Buzzard

Record 215 Donations

Donors	Amount (HK\$)
Tsang Ho Yee	500.00
Lam Chiu Ying	2,000.00
Geoffrey T. Welch	500.00
Olivia Mok	2,000.00
Ho Chun Wah	500.00
Yau Kan Yuen Kwan	500.00
Dr Yau Wing Ho	500.00
Chow Chee Leung Ada	1,000.00
Kwan Siu Chun	200.00
Chan Ming Ming	800.00
Swarovski Feather Volunteer	650.00
Holis Lam	100.00
Yvonne Lam	100.00
Vivi Chan	200.00
Che On Ping	50.00
Wong Hok Sze	100.00
Sam Cheung	200.00
Lam Kwok Ling	200.00
Bonnie Chan	900.00
Lau Wai Man	11,000.00
Li Mei Fung, Irene	500.00
Hung Wai Chung Nora	1,360.00
Ko Wing Hay	200.00
Total	\$24,060.00

Richard Lewthwaite ,
Adjudicator



Lucky draw
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Society News and Projects ~ (cont.)

“Records 215” Teams

Name of Teams

Team Members



◀ Your Are the Gerr of My Eye

Chan Ka Ho, Kong Chun Yan, Leung Hiu Ning,
Yang Yao, Chiu Ming Ho, Jocelyn, Ho Pui Lam

Queen Raptoria

Hung Tun Hei, Fong Hoi Ning,
Yiu Sze Wing, Or Ka Man,
Lo Pei Lai, So Lok Hin ▶



◀ Nightjar

Lo Kar Man, Anthony, Doris Chu, Tam Yiu Leung,
Ronley Lee, Simon Wong, Lee Wai To

I am Egret

Shum Ting Wing, Lau Sin Pang,
Law Man Suet, Mak Chi Fung,
Chau Ngan Lung ▶



◀ The Falcons

Chiu Wing Tung, Kwong Chi Yu,
Lau Yuen Yung, Xue Bine

Black Kite 24

Hincent Ng, Toby Tsang,
Tse Wai Lun ▶



◀ Happy Grosbeak

Chung Yun Tak, Hui Tin Yan, Ho Yuen Wa,
Du Zhen Nan, So Ying Kin

睇到鳥

Wong Ho Man, Chang Chi Wi,
Leung Teresa, Cindy Chui,
Hui Wun Fung ▶



Society News and Projects ~ (cont.)

“Records 215” Teams

Name of Teams

Team Members



Stark Birds

Lam Siu Ting , Poon Chun Ting, Leung Ho Nam,
Kit Tsz Ki, Lam Tsz Yau

Golden Latebird

Lee Tak Lun Andy, Lam Wai Ling,
Wan Tsz Lap, Wong Lok Yin,
Yuen Ho Yee



Angry Bird

Lam Sze Ki, Chu Kiu Kwan, Chan Ka Yan,
Chan On Tung Hilary, Lo Pik Ling

The Early Bird Lands

Wu King Hung, Kevin, Lo Oi Yan,
Mak Yuen Ling, Lai Sze Nga,
Chan WS Melanie



Crazy Buzzard

Yam Wing Yiu, Law King Wai, Leung Ka King,
Yeung Lee Ki, Chiang Wai On

Fat Lip's Birding Team

Philip Yip, Kelvin Ip, Flora Leung,
Beetle Cheng, Cindy Yuen



Agent Scott

Katherine Leung, Eva Cheuk, Meiling Lau,
John Allcock, Raymond Wong

熱血米走雞

Alan Lam, Yau Pak To,
Chow Ming Him, Fan Hung Sang



Society News and Projects ~ (cont.)

“Records 215” Teams

Name of Teams

Team Members



Bioplasticity

Vivian Fu, Wan Pak Ho, Pang Chun Chiu,
Lee Kwok Shing, Sung Yik Hei

Eye Kite

Chan Kai Wai, Chan Kin Tak,
Leung Man Ying, Eliza Hui



Lark

Li Wai Ki, Lam Chiu Ying, Ng Cho Nam,
Chan Ming Ming

Wader Team

Cheung Ho Fai, Angela Wong,
Sze Man Hon, Vivian Cheung,
Irene Wong



Oystersauce Catcher

Noira Chan, Cheung Mok Jose Alberto,
Wong Wai Tung, Tam Yip Shing, Yip Sze Man Cecily

Swarovski Feather Volunteer

曹劍駿、湯騰、李玉龍、
林銘堅、郭世軍、Bonnie Chan



Wild Bird 2012

Apache Lau, Forrest Fong, Yu Yat Tung



Workshop on Forest Birds Identification

The workshop was held from April 27 to May 20. Forest birds identification skills were improved after the workshop thanks to instructor George Ho's professional teaching. Please look out for similar workshops in the near future.

Education

Crested Bulbul Club

1. Early Morning Bird Watchers

No. of participants in Hong Kong Park from March to April 2012: 163

No. of participants in Kowloon Park from March to April 2012: 342

2. Bird watching interpretation in Hong Kong Wetland Park

A total of 61 participants from March to April 2012.

3. Bird watching services and activities

10 Mar 2012 - led a guided visit to Tai Po Kau for the members of The Hong Kong Blind Union

24 Mar & 15 Apr 2012 guided visits to HK Wetland Park for families served by The Society for Community Organisation

Fishpond Management Agreement Programme in Northwest New Territories

Certificate in Fishpond Eco-tour Guide Training and Practice

HKBWS is holding a Certificate course in Fishpond Eco-tour Guide Training and Practice. More than 30 potential eco-tour guides will be trained to guide public tours to fishponds in the Northwest New Territories from September to November. This should raise public awareness about fishery culture and the significance of the ecological value of fishponds. The course includes elements of fishpond habitat and fishery practices, interpretation skills, fieldtrips etc. The course is sponsored by the Government's Environment and Conservation Fund.

2012-2015 Nature Conservation Management for Long Valley

~ Vicky Yeung

The three-year project "Nature conservation Management for Long Valley 2012-2015" began in March this year. This is the 4th phase of the Long Valley project. During the transitional stage between the new and the old project, all farmland management practices were continued smoothly. We would like to thank all farmers for their support and trust in the management team. Moreover, we have successfully engaged and established management agreements with three new farmers which has further increased the managed area.

The breeding bird survey has begun. In order to collect as much data as we can, if you have found any bird showing breeding behaviour in Long Valley, please mark down some basic information (bird species, no. of individuals, breeding behaviour(s) observed) and report to us (yvicky@hkbws.org.hk). Please refer to the HKBWS forum for more details: <http://www.hkbws.org.hk/BBS/viewthread.php?tid=13905&extra=page%3D1>



A July harvest is anticipated for spring Paddy Rice



Nature Conservation

~ Cheng Nok Ming, Conservation Officer

HKBWS has launched a “支持蒲台郊野公園 Support Po Toi Country Park” facebook campaign and we received more than 500 “likes” and the support of various Green Groups. We have also submitted a detailed proposal to highlight the ecological value of Po Toi Island and recommended the designation of a “Site of Special Scientific Interest” and designation of Country Park on Po Toi Island. The Town Planning Board will discuss it soon but we haven’t received any comments from AFCD yet. We hope that members and birders continue to support our campaign by putting the “Support Po Toi Country Park” logo on the photos taken on Po Toi Island and send them to Town Planning Board and AFCD along with your personal comments.

We will post updates on our facebook page and the HKBWS forum. Link: <http://www.facebook.com/SupportPoToi>

Some environmental good news is that the Legislative Council has rejected the funding proposal of the Shek Kwu Chau Garbage Incinerator. The project has to be shelved at the moment.



China Projects

HKBWS China Conservation Fund 2012/13 ~ Vivian Fu, China Programme Officer

From 11 applications to the HKBWS China Conservation Fund 2012/13, three projects were selected as follows:

Successful applications for the China Conservation Fund 2012/13:

Province	Project title	Project leader	Organization
Xinjiang	Study of impact of falconry on raptor communities by different ethnic groups	Ma Ming	CAS Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (XIEG), Xinjiang BWS
Xinjiang	Study of population and status of Black-necked Crane in Xinjiang Province	Ma Ming	CAS Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (XIEG), Xinjiang BWS
Guizhou	Bird survey and promotion of bird-watching in Qianling Shan Park, Guizhou	Wu Chong-yong	Guiyang Qianling Shan Park Management Office

Successful applications for the China Conservation Fund – Scaly-sided Merganser 2012/13*:

Province	Project title	Project leader	Organization
North-east China	Monitoring and conservation promotion of SSM in North-east China	Yao Wen Zhi	Jian' Bird Watching Society

*This fund was supported by the sales of Scaly-sided Merganser ties.

For reports of projects funded in the past, please go to ChinaBirdNet website at: <http://www.chinabirdnet.org/>

China Coastal Waterbird Census Coordinators Meeting

The meeting for coordinators of the China Coastal Waterbird Census was held in Panjin, Liaoning Province during 2nd – 4th May 2012, sponsored by the Asian Waterbird Conservation Fund and organized by the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society and Panjin Bird Watching Society.

Participants included coordinators from Panjin and Dandong in Liaoning Province, Tianjin and Cangzhou in Hebei Province, Rudong in Jiangsu Province, Shanghai, Minjiang Estuary and Xiamen in Fujian Province, Haifeng and Shenzhen in Guangdong Province, and Hong Kong. We were happy to have Dr. Chung-Yu Chiang and Miss Yee-qian Lai from Taiwan Wader Study Group, Dr. Li Bin and Miss Gongqi Suen from Beijing Forestry University as well as Nick Murray from the University of Queensland to join as observers. We welcomed representatives of Panjin and Rudong to attend the coordinators' meeting as new stable survey sites ("stable survey sites" means data has been submitted regularly for over a year).

Over the past six years of development and training, the coordinators have gained experience and capacity has been built, therefore this meeting did not aim at

training but to evaluate and discuss the operation and the future of the team. Topics focused survey operations and improvement, work plans, and future development. We talked about how to promote our work and enhance cooperation between local and international organizations, and problems facing the team such as limited funding, recruitment and training. The discussion sessions were led by Dr. Cheung Ho Fai, Mr. Yu Yat Tung and Miss Li Jing. Though it takes dedication to remain committed to carry on the monthly surveys, we are gaining notice from national and foreign bodies, and the coordinators are all willing to continue this meaningful work!

In addition to the discussions, we were pleased to have invited Dr. David Melville, WWF Hong Kong's former Executive Director and the currently Banding Liaison Officer of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand to give us lectures on "Citizen science: Volunteers for waterbird census in Australian and New Zealand", "Moult and Ageing in waders" and "Counting waterbirds: The importance of consistency". All of us had benefited from the talks and were encouraged by Dr. Melville.

The newly opened blog of China Coastal Waterbird Census: <http://weibo.com/ccwct>



China Coastal Waterbird Census Co-ordinators in Panjin, Liaoning (Photo: Vivian Fu).



Mai Po Update

~ John Allcock

New Habitat and Monitoring Manager at Mai Po Nature Reserve

You will probably be familiar with Bena Smith, who has been the Habitat and Monitoring Manager at Mai Po since 2008. Bena has now changed his role at WWF-HK and will be concentrating more on waterbird conservation issues related to the East Asia-Australasia Flyway. Since the end of March I have taken over Bena's role as Manager of Habitat Management and Monitoring. I would like to thank Bena for the work he has done for habitat enhancement over the last few years, and I hope I can continue the good work.

Black-faced Spoonbill Habitat Restoration Project (Phase II)

You may remember that extensive re-profiling work was conducted last summer in Gei wai #6 and #7 (as reported in Bulletin 220). The aim of this work was to restore open water habitat into areas which had been colonised by terrestrial grasses and climbers. This work has been very successful at restoring open water into these gei wai, and the spoonbills have responded to the work; during the 2011-12 winter, the number of Black-faced Spoonbills roosting in these target gei wai during monitoring has increased compared to the preceding years.

This open water restoration work has been scheduled in two phases, and the second phase will take place over the course of this summer. As last year, this will be funded by money raised during the annual Big Bird Race. Phase II will involve the restoration of open water in the landward end of Gei wai #6 and throughout Gei wai #3 and #4. These three gei wai will remain drained for most of the summer while the diggers do their work, but work will be completed before the spoonbills return to Hong Kong in October.

Reedbed Management and Restoration of Pond #9

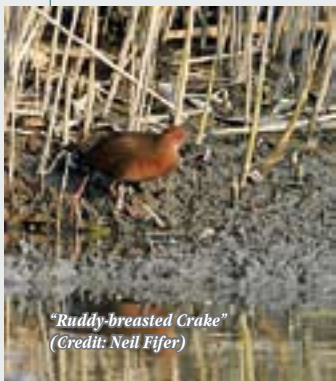
For a number of years WWF, in association with the Hong Kong Bird Ringing Group, has been conducting studies of reedbed management in the reserve. These studies have involved regular trapping and ringing of birds (under licence from AFCD) in the large reedbed block at Gei wai #8b, to allow an understanding of the use of reedbeds by species which are otherwise difficult to record (for example Acrocephalus and Locustella warblers). The study has confirmed the importance of the Mai Po reedbeds for migratory and wintering passerines. Among other findings, the trapping study has revealed the regular occurrence of globally-threatened Manchurian Reed Warbler during autumn.

wet reedbeds seem to hold a greater abundance and diversity of birds during autumn passage, and seem to be particular important for species such as Black-browed Reed Warbler. On the other hand, some species (for example Chinese Penduline Tit) prefer the dry reedbed, and some species (including Oriental Reed Warbler and Dusky Warbler) apparently show no preference for wet or dry reedbeds. Observations also suggest that the wet reedbeds may be more important for rails, crakes and bitterns.

The findings of this study are being put into action this summer in the small reedbed at Pond #9 (next to the Tower Hide). This reedbed will be excavated over the course of the summer to deepen the water so that it is more suitable for these wet reedbed species, and to connect the reedbed to Gei wai #8a to help control of water levels. A few open areas will be also created within the reedbed for viewing birds. This reedbed is easily viewed from the AFCD path or from the Tower Hide, and it is hoped that the enhancement works will provide visitors with more opportunity to view reedbed-associated birds during visits to Mai Po.



"Yellow Bittern - reedbed management should help this species at Mai Po"
(Credit: Neil Fifer)



"Ruddy-breasted Crake"
(Credit: Neil Fifer)

Blue Whistling Thrush

For thrush lovers in Hong Kong, summer is going to be long. The thrushes are not returning until autumn's gone and winter arrives. To stay away from the summer sun, many people like to hike in the shade of nature trails and feel the cool breeze near rapids and streams. It is during outings like this that one may run into a Blue Whistling Thrush – Hong Kong's resident thrush.

The first time I saw a Blue Whistling Thrush was in the beginning of 1994, less than a year after I started birding. Back then I was still studying at HKU, and when I went to the campus, I would often hear screechy bird calls near the East Gate (Bonham Road) entrance. At the time I could not afford to own a pair of binoculars, so I could only scan with my naked eyes. I searched near the drains in vain, then, pressed for time, I rushed off to class. One day, in the midst of 'rush hour traffic' heading to the early 8:30 class, drawn by a loud screech, my eyes turned to the East Gate sidewall and there it stood, a purplish blue bird with faint white speckles all over its body, the tail fanned rhythmically open and shut with the rise and fall of its screechy call. A Blue Whistling Thrush, the mysterious bird that I had been looking for! It was an interesting picture to see students streaming past a free and easy Blue Whistling Thrush, and it just stood nonchalantly while one among many of the students stopped to stare, risking being late for class. I can't recall whether I made it to class or not on that day, all I remember is how my first meeting with a Blue Whistling Thrush moved me.

When I studied biogeography at university, I was fascinated by the distribution of species and the geographical significance of endemic species. In 1997, I went birding for the first time in Yunnan with Dr. Cheung Ho Fai, who was a senior member of the HKBWS at that time, and Prof. Han Lian Xian of Southwest Forestry University. I learned a lot about the birds in Yunnan, and was lucky enough to see another Blue Whistling Thrush

~ By Samson So



Blue Whistling Thrush prefers streams, this one taken in HK.

(subspecies *eugenei* which has a southwestern distribution in China). Its' bright yellow bill stood out in contrast with the dark blue body, I was so impressed and felt acutely the uniqueness in characteristics due to geographical separation. The picture of the "Yellow-billed" Blue Whistling Thrush I took then was shared at slide shows during HKBWS indoor talks, and since then, I have paid special notice to this form of Blue Whistling Thrush every time I have been to Yunnan.

My second Blue Whistling Thrush species was seen in Wulai in 1998 when I went birding in Taiwan with a BWS senior (again Dr. Cheung Ho Fai). Taiwan Blue Whistling Thrush is one of Taiwan's endemic species. When we were birding in the river valley at Wulai, our birding buddy from Taipei BWS Mr. Shen Ming Shi, aka Cracker, pointed at a blue bird that was jumping around by the river and said "That's the Taiwan Blue Whistling Thrush!" I was finally able to see with my own eyes the bird that I had seen seven years earlier on a 1991 Taiwan stamp. Visiting Taiwan after 1998 I met this endemic species again several times, but I never had a chance to take a picture. It was only in 2011 when I led a bird watching and photography tour to Taiwan that I was able to get a record picture of this species.



Taiwan Blue Whistling Thrush, note the absence of white speckles on the body.

Bornean Whistling Thrush, "Record" photo at roadside inside Mt Kinabalu National Park.



In 2004, I worked as a nature tour leader for a trip to Borneo. At Mount Kinabalu National Park about 1500m above sea level, I caught a glimpse of what looked like a Blue Whistling Thrush along the stream, but because of the rain and fog, I was unable to confirm the identity of the bird through my binoculars, and could only say that it belong to the group similar to Blue Whistling Thrush. The guide book I used was "A Field Guide to the Birds of Borneo, Sumatra, Java and Bali" by John MacKinnon and Karen Phillipps (reprinted 2001), which listed only the Sunda Whistling Thrush (*Myopbonus glaucinus*) and the yellow-billed sub-species Blue Whistling Thrush (*M. caeruleus*). Observing no yellow bill I recorded it as a Sunda Whistling Thrush.

Last year I went to various conservation areas in Borneo five times for pre-trip preparation for guided tours. (I am proud to say that this shows my seriousness towards my work and the responsible attitude towards my tour participants, there is absolutely no substitute for thorough preparation.) In the beginning of the year, luckily I found a copy of "Phillipps' Field Guide to the Birds of Borneo" (2009) by Quentin Phillipps and Karen Phillipps, in the book, they adopted a new classification method and separated the Sunda Whistling Thrush that I saw back then at Mount Kinabalu as an independent new species that's endemic to Borneo, namely "Bornean Whistling Thrush" (*Myopbonus borneensis*). So the bird I had glimpsed in 2004 was unique to Borneo! In the tours that followed, in the same foggy Mount Kinabalu primary forest, through the telescope,

I shared the view of this Borneo endemic species with two groups of participants made up of Taiwanese, Malaysian and Hong Kong birders.

Now, having seen the Blue Whistling Thrush with my own eyes in various places including Hong Kong, Yunnan, Taiwan and Borneo, I have been able to get a better taste of the fun in studying biogeography, which involves many schools of studies such as Plate Tectonic Theory, Continental Drift Theory, Natural Selection Theory, Genetics and Island Biogeography Theory.

All these theories may look like nightmare material for students sitting examinations, being subjects too far-off and intangible, but a Chinese proverb says: "Better to walk ten thousand miles than to read ten thousand books" ... And so bird watching proves to be a good start in knowing nature. For nature lovers, there's no need to read tons of books in order to enjoy bird watching; and for those who study ecology, bird watching is a good way to combine various subjects and put their knowledge to good use.

Value well every encounter you have with any wild bird, because each of them will write a different line in your life story, adding colour to your personal experience and development. Memories of Asia's various Blue Whistling Thrushes have made this bird a treasure for me.





灰沙燕
葉紀江
米埔

Pale Martin
Herman Ip Kee Kong
Mai Po

09/04/2012
DSLR Camera, 300mm f/2.8 lens+ 1.4x teleconverter

煙腹毛脚燕
何建業
米埔

Asian House Martin
Kinni Ho Kin Yip
Mai Po

11/03/2012
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens





冠海雀
陳家強
香港南面水域

Japanese Murrelet
Isaac Chan
Southern Waters of Hong Kong

21/04/2012
DSLR Camera, 300mm f/2.8 lens+ 1.7x teleconverter



冠海雀
Brendan Klick
香港南面水域

Japanese Murrelet
Brendan Klick
Southern Waters of Hong Kong

21/04/2012
DSLR Camera, 400mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter



冠海雀
孔思義、黃亞萍
香港南面水域

Japanese Murrelet
John and Jemi Holmes
Southern Waters of Hong Kong

21/04/2012
DSLR Camera, 400mm f/5.6 lens



冠海雀
A. Bizid
香港南面水域

Japanese Murrelet
A. Bizid
Southern Waters of Hong Kong

21/04/2012
DSLR Camera, 500mm f/4 lens+ 1.4x teleconverter



扁嘴海雀
Brendan Klick
香港南面水域

Ancient Murrelet
Brendan Klick
Southern Waters of Hong Kong

21/04/2012
DSLR Camera, 400mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter



扁嘴海雀
陳家強
香港南面水域

Ancient Murrelet
Isaac Chan
Southern Waters of Hong Kong

21/04/2012
DSLR Camera, 300mm f/2.8 lens+ 1.7x teleconverter



扁嘴海雀
孔思義、黃亞萍
香港南面水域

Ancient Murrelet
John and Jemi Holmes
Southern Waters of Hong Kong

21/04/2012
DSLR Camera, 400mm f/5.6 lens



扁嘴海雀
Kitty Koo
香港南面水域

Ancient Murrelet
Kitty Koo
Southern Waters of Hong Kong

21/04/2012
DSLR Camera, 300mm f/2.8 lens+
2x teleconverter



煙腹毛脚燕
陳志鵬
米埔

Asian House Martin
Peter Chan
Mai Po

03/05/2012
DSLR Camera, 300mm f/4 lens



白喉針尾雨燕
陳芳玲
南丫島

White-throated Needletail
Bonnie Chan
Lamma Island

15/04/2012
DSLR Camera, 300mm f/4 lens



金腰燕
洪國偉
米埔

Red-rumped Swallow
Hoon Kwok Wai
Mai Po

13/03/2012
DSLR Camera, 500mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter

A woodpecker in Palawan – May 2012

~ Stanley Chan

This is the second time I have been back to Palawan, the first was two years ago. Puerto Princesa has little changed, the road condition remains the same, concrete surface and tar macadam intertwine on bumpy roads.

When the driver from the hotel helped me to put the backpack on the back seat, both Chairman Rainier and Vice-chairman Rommel of the Bird Watching Society in Palawan arrived at almost at the same time on their motor bikes. We exchanged a short greeting and drove to the Sunlight Guest Hotel.



Palawan Peacock Pheasant

Palawan measures 452 miles from the north to the south, its greatest width is 40 miles with a coastline stretching 2000 miles; it is surrounded by over 1700 islands. Palawan's tropical climate alternates dry and wet seasons in a yearly cycle.

I met Rommel in the Hotel lobby at 7am the next day and only after getting into the vehicle did I know that we were heading towards the Underground River which had been just listed as one of the seven natural wonders of the world. The goal of this trip was to find the endemic Palawan Peacock Pheasant. We arrived at the ferry pier at Bhile around 8 am. Hardly anyone else was around. We rode on a speedboat with a peculiar shape and some wonderful colors and the trip started in no time.

The speedboat landed on the beach straight away. Right before getting off the boat, everyone hurried to remove their socks and shoes and roll up the trousers to try to act fast and land on the beach while the tide ebbed away; yet without doubt, no-one got it right as people got wet down from the waist when we got the foothold on the beach, luckily, we found the cameras and binoculars were alright.

Rommel was the first person to get into the bushes just behind the beach. We then all found ourselves in the dark and shady tropical forest in just less than 10 minutes. I was initially attracted by two bright blue lights, then hastily set ISO value of the camera to 800. Even this obviously was useless in this shadowy forest, I gave up and simply used binoculars to carefully admire two spirit-like Hooded Pittas. Had Rommel not reminded me, I would have neglected Palawan Peacock Pheasant right behind the Hooded Pitta. Palawan Peacock Pheasant is now listed as Critically



Tabon Scrubfowl



White-collared Kingfisher



White Vented Shama



Olive Backed Sunbird

Endangered with 200 of them left. At this exact moment, another Pitta, its belly just like the color of the rising sun, stood on the left of the forest with its back facing us; Rommel was sure that it was a Red-bellied Pitta and said that it was lucky to come across with two species of Pitta in this morning. When we got back to the traveler centre, we saw Tabon Scrubfowl walking on the ground nearby again, then Peacock Pheasant also got out of the forest and was bold enough to come closer to us; we, holding the 400 mm lens, I needed to retreat continuously until small scale automatic camera was enough to take photos.

It was already 11 am when we were on shore and the pier was already busy. We took a leisurely walk around the holiday campsite before having lunch which was also my breakfast. I recorded Spiderhunter, White-collared Kingfisher, White-vented Shama and Olive-backed Sunbird.

After lunch we planned to ride on the boat again to go to another small island to see Palawan Frogmouth, yet the boatman evaluated the windy condition and stormy waves was not advisable to do so now. We had no alternative and returned to the Wild Animal Rescue Centre; since the place keeps and breeds loads of crocodiles which are specific to Palawan, many local people nickname the place as the 'Crocodile Park'. We went through the centre and straight towards the forest in the back to avoid the noisy crocodile pavilion. A pair of Ashy-headed Babbblers on the ground was firstly located and they walked away at the exact moment I tried to picture them. Then came Blue Paradise Flycatcher, Palawan Flowerpecker and Ashy Drongo. We passed over a wooden bridge which was smeared with droppings and when we lifted our heads more than a dozen nests of Rufous-backed Heron could be seen in this giant tree; I was worrying how their bulky bodies moved on the thin branches. After two hours we had also added Pied Fantail and Olive-winged Bulbul to the triplist.

We arrived at another place called Eco Park at 3 pm. There is "the longest sling in Asia" which stretches for 1.5 miles long. Naturally I was eager to try this flying experience in the forest and put aside the binoculars for the time being. The sling is made up of three sections, the further you get the higher elevation it will be; you can either sit, or lie face upward or downward. To me it was easier to take a picture sitting up whereas lying flat would be more exciting.

Having had the bold attempt, we took a short break and set off along a broad pathway in the forest; new birds included Grey Wagtail, Lovely Sunbird, Drongo Cuckoo, Slender-billed Crow, Grey-streaked



Ashy Drongo



Paradise Flycatcher

Flycatcher, Crested Goshawk and Black-naped Oriole. We all heard the pounding sound of a woodpecker from the depth of the forest, yet regrettably we did not see one.

At night I had a supper with other members of the Palawan Bird Society and then found out that it had only six members in total as everybody gathered around for this occasion.

We assembled all the members again and embarked towards Simpocan at 7 am on 14th May. Rommel told me that it was a long trip and he planned to have a meeting with the local villagers to discuss problems of ecological conservation at noon. Simpocan is south-east of Puerto Princesa, it occupies some 30,000 square miles where mountains are over 1,000 meters in height and also the famous giant tree named “Mother” is found there. The beaches are tiny but elongated and the shore are packed up with rocks.

The local government officials are eager to focus the development on ecological travel that can help villagers to sustain their livelihoods without over-exploiting the forests or selling the land to developers.

Our vehicle entered the tranquil forest slowly, passing over a dozen creeks of different sizes. Sometimes the vehicle made it through in the river bed but could not make it to the bank, we all needed to get off from it to reduce the weight. Another time the engine gave up, the driver restarted it and its roaring sound was welcome, I would hate to get lost in this vast forest.

I stayed in the vehicle and watched for movement. Whenever any birds appeared, I shouted to the driver to stop the vehicle and again asked him to reverse a little bit as the vehicle usually moved a few meters ahead before coming to a complete halt. The bird might still stay if we were lucky. With previous experience everyone would point all their lenses and binoculars out of the windows instead of getting off the vehicle to avoid frightening the birds away.

At Simpocan village close to noon. The local chief and government officials came out of the hut to welcome us. Having spent several hours on the bumpy vehicle, I felt bit dizzy and, after shaking hands and exchanging greetings with everyone, I walked towards the sounds of waves. Beyond some coconut trees and a small blue house, I found myself stood on a beach with shining sands. I looked around as far as possible but there was no single person for miles, just swaying coconut trees. This extreme beauty made me uneasy and frightened. I just retreated to the stilted house in a panic and sat in silence until calm came back.

Lunch seemed to be simple but all the ingredients were coming from nearby waters; the uniqueness of natural and fresh foods stands out which requires little sophisticated handling.

The district chief made a brief introduction on Simpocan. People can start riding horse right here, then continue with walking on foot into the mountain, the whole trip roughly takes 3 days to complete; the place is unvisited wilderness. I asked what type of birds could possibly be seen, Rommel replied in a grin that we needed to walk around more. Rommel and Rainier exchanged conversation in Filipino language; I on the other hand could pay my full attention to eating and driving flies away which gathered around the everyone's



Palawan Cockatoo

plates. My hosts seemed unimpressed by my diligence in this respect, so I gave up.

We entered a hall in the village after lunch, over ten village representatives also arrived one after another. Some villagers stared at me, a stranger, in an odd way. Rommel asked me to sit tight and not to go around outside, he thought villagers were having scarce knowledge on the so-called ecological travel and would like me to explain it in relation to my experience in Hong Kong. Despite my reluctance I felt duty-bound to try to explain this.

Rainier made the speech first, then came Rommel. The meeting was in Filipino language. I maintained a proper etiquette to sit well and always wore a smile on the face. The discussion of the meeting remained indifferent even over an hour later, the atmosphere was sort of stagnant.

Rommel used simple English and Filipino language to introduce me in the beginning. I stood up to speak after villagers hand-clapped sporadically here and there. I explained that Hong Kong people in general including myself had only heard of “hot” travel spots like Cebu only. But this trip astonished me that there were well-preserved primary forests free of destruction in the Philippines. And the so-called ecological travel had gradually conserved land, it could also make local people some professional tour guides or job-engaged in related career of selling souvenirs to sustain their livelihood. As long as villagers fully cooperated to ensure the environment with good protection, once the infrastructure facilities were in place here, I definitely was able to introduce and recommend Hong Kong people to come join the ecological travel here. The district chief sitting in the middle of the hall started the applause; finally I saw the smiles on the faces of the villagers after giving this verbal promise, I finally felt relieved. Some villagers immediately took out a map to discuss routes, scenery, birds and so on. The room was flooded with conversation. Rommel was busy to do translation for me, to reiterate that only if we have had the confidence, Palawan Bird Watching Society and I would surely help training up the villagers as some

qualified ecological tour guides. We walked out of the hall under the escort of all villagers and to the sound of their applause. We then had a group photo taken. Some of them tapped my shoulders and held my hand. A villager asked me in rough English that if I returned he would let me ride on a horse to get to the mountain. I raised my head to see a White-bellied Sea Eagle hovering around the clear blue-sky in its unique v-shape posture.

The formal bird watch training class started on the third day and for three consecutive days it was held at the penthouse conference room located at the top of the Sunlight Hotel. It was said that the majority of the 60 participants were local tour guides. They were planning to learn some ecological or bird watching knowledge to prepare for the future. I naturally became the VIP and was given the seat in the front. With luck I had prepared well and brought my laptop computer, cameras and other accessories from the hotel room to have my mobile office set up here. I had to make sure to stay awake with this special task in the summer heat.

Rainier started with explaining the importance of biological diversity, after that was Rommel who described the bird evolution, then it was bird identification and taxonomy. With this 4-hour intensive training on Filipino language listening skill, I had the illusion that I was fully equipped with this foreign language.

There was a journalist conference around noon, I attended it and replied to some simple questions. After the buffet lunch, followed with the talk on bird watching equipment, code of conduct and so on, later was on the introduction on Palawan birds. I on the other hand



*Common Flameback
Woodpecker*

tidied up the pictures I had taken in the previous couple of days. I made preparation for the talk I planned for the following day on the topic of bird photography and elementary photo correction skills in Photoshop.

At 9 o'clock the next day, Rommel spoke about bird watching in the wild and Rainier discussed the importance of bird ecology. I had the talk from 10 am until the noon without a recess in the middle. I would have preferred to have completed it as soon as possible as all of us could then have our first birdwatching outing at the Eco Park in Irawan at 4 pm that day.

None of the attendees had previous experience with Photoshop, it turned out.

Two hours of talk went faster than I expected, with regret I had to stop.

We had a buffet lunch at the same hotel and in addition to that we played an American film on bird watching called "The Big Year", where the three central characters compete to see the most bird species in a year.

Our 3 vehicles entered Eco Park almost at 4 pm, we still had 2 more hours to watch birds before sunset. We quickly divided into 4 groups after getting off and spread along the trails of the forests, many of people did bird watching for the first time, showing some seriousness and tension.

I switched and joined the team led by Rainier. Rommel took his team to the opposite direction of ours; not long afterwards we heard the unique pounding sound of the woodpecker on trees behind us, I was just wondering if we had again missed the chance to see it today? Three Black-naped Orioles made a stop on a tree with sparse leaves, then came Hill Myna. Rainier told us that this tree was a famous bird watching spot. Just a second later two birds with a fiery-like red bun took a rest on the left hand twig, "Common Flameback Woodpecker !" Rainier exclaimed in excitement to call the attention of the team, while I pushed the camera shutter as many as 40 to 50 times!

Back to the gathering place the clock was 6:30 pm, our team were exhilarated to discuss the encounter with the woodpeckers. I recorded Ruddy Kingfisher, Plain-throated Sunbird, Thick-billed Green Pigeon, Asian Fairy Bluebird, Rufous-tailed Tailorbird, Blue-naped Parrot, Chestnut Munia, Dollarbird, Yellow-throated Leafbird, Pacific Swift and Slender-billed Crow among others.

We returned to the hotel around 9 pm, I made an immediate retreat back to my room to clean off the dust of the day. Whereas the other people went straight to the meeting room to continue the agenda of the last day, I absolutely respected their dedication and perseverance.

I had stayed up to prepare the material for the talks the previous 2 nights and worked till 1 am in the morning. This night I could get to bed around 11 pm, but in a tight schedule we still made an early start at 4 am the next day..

Currently there are 576 types of bird species recorded in Palawan, 195 of them, accounting for around 30%, are endemic ones. I believe that the number will surely increase when bird watching members increase. The surface area of the island is 250,000 sq km, forest coverage rate is over 70%. The main city, Puerto Princesa has been called "the city in the forest". I mainly made my way through the southern districts in this trip, and did not go to the north. I totally recorded over 50 types of bird species which is less than 10% of the total number. The local officials also hope to proactively develop the tourist industry with the theme set on natural ecological tours.

I have to thank for the great guide hosted by the Palawan Bird Watching members in these 2 trips, I am also fully endowed with the hope to try my limited influence to help them to work for the target of developing ecological tourism in Palawan.

For more information please contact
email: stanleychan2@hotmail.com



My Bird Watching Diary

~ Text and Illustrations: Wendy Yu

Black-winged Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*)

4th February 2012

This portrait took me longer to complete than I expected. While I enjoyed painting it, I needed more time to accurately represent the grey feathering. Also, it took me more time to paint the area with lighter colours in order to show the detail and the contrast. The strong eyes were another challenge.

Although Black-winged Kite is a small raptor, it has a proud appearance, due to its deep red eyes. So, I needed to paint it carefully and chose to depict an alert posture. Thanks to the character of my subject, I have learned a lot - about painting and about birds - in the completion of this portrait.



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鏡筒內灌入氮氣，
可防塵、防霧並防水
達四米深。

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後，
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所以影像可以從中心一直清晰到邊緣。



SWAROVSKI
OPTIK



~ Richard Lewthwaite

(This is not an official record, and observers are reminded of the importance of submitting all their records (preferably electronically) to the Records Committee. Contact Geoff Welch <geoffwelch46@yahoo.co.uk> for details – Ed.)

January

- ▶ Although a lengthy spell of cold weather set in for most of this month and the next, common wintering species (with the exception of waterbirds in Deep Bay) seemed to be present in much smaller numbers than usual. **Oriental Turtle Doves**, for example, were hard to find away from Deep Bay, and thrushes, bluetails and rarities in general were all in short supply.
- ▶ The most widely appreciated bird of the month was a first-winter **Glaucous Gull** first found off Tsim Bei Tsui on 21st (BK) and which subsequently showed very well in front of the Mai Po boardwalk hides on many days.
- ▶ Among other notable reports in the first half of the month were three **Ruddy-breasted Crakes** and two **Eastern Water Rails** at Mai Po on 2nd (WWF), a **Eurasian Skylark** at Long Valley on 3rd (KJ), a **Ferruginous Duck** and a **Pheasant-tailed Jacana** at Lok Ma Chau on 4th (MRL), a **Chestnut-eared Bunting** at Long Valley on 8th (BK), a **Crested Honey Buzzard** at Lam Tsuen on the same day (EMSK), a **Brown Wood Owl** calling at Lam Tsuen on 11th (DT) and a **Ruddy Turnstone** at the boardwalk on 15th (BK).
- ▶ The second half of the month brought reports of the following birds: a **Lesser Frigatebird** at Mai Po (HKBWS website), a **Rufous-faced Warbler** at Shing Mun (SLT) and a **Citrine Wagtail** at Long Valley (MH), all on 17th, two **Ancient Murrelets** in the East Lamma Channel on 18th (KJ), and the **Crested Honey Buzzard** again at Lam Tsuen on 21st (EMSK). A **Common Ringed Plover** was in front of the boardwalk hides on the 21st (JAA), and a **Vega Gull** there on 25th and 26th (SLT, GJC). A **Radde's Warbler** was at Po Toi on 29th (BK) and a first-winter **Pied Harrier** beside the Mai Po access road on 31st (DAD).

February

- ▶ The weather continued to be relatively cold through the month. Highlights were a **Japanese Cormorant** at Long Ke, Sai Kung on 5th (KJ) and a **Baer's Pochard** seen intermittently at Mai Po from 5th (BK) and into March. This diving duck has massively declined throughout its winter range and is now very rare in Hong Kong. Also, what was thought to be a vulpinus **Common Buzzard**, a potential first for Hong Kong, was seen at Wonderland Villas, Kwai Chung on 4th and 19th (TJW).



February

- ▶ 172 **Black-tailed Gulls** on passage south of Po Toi on 26th (BK) was one of the highest counts on record. Six **Verditer Flycatchers** at Lead Mine Pass the same day (AB) was a record Hong Kong count.
- ▶ Among birds reported the previous month and still present in February were the **Crested Honey Buzzard** at Lam Tsuen (photographed on 4th and also seen on 26th, VC, DT), the **Glaucous Gull** and **Common Ringed Plover** in Deep Bay and the **Chestnut-eared Buntings** at Long Valley (two from 4th, EMSK), all of which remained throughout the month and into March. In addition, the Deep Bay **Lesser Frigatebird** showed again, this time at Lok Ma Chau on 1st (GJC), and the Pak Sha O **Hume's Leaf Warbler** first reported back in December was noted again on 19th (GJC).
- ▶ Other birds of note found in the Deep Bay area included 61 **Saunders's Gulls** on 3rd (RWL), two **Nordmann's Greenshanks** on 3rd and 25th (RWL, BK), up to 12 **Falcated Duck** from 3rd (KL, RWL), a **Long-billed Dowitcher** from 8th (DAD), two **Vega Gulls**, two **Slaty-backed Gulls**, a **Kamchatka Gull** and a **Brown-headed Gull** on 12th-13th (GJC), 350 **Heuglin's Gulls** on 16th (RWL) and 34 **Great Knot** on 25th (BK).
- ▶ Elsewhere, there were reports of an **Orange-headed Thrush** at Tai Po Kau on 4th (JAA), two **Brown Fish Owls** at Hoi Ha, Sai Kung on 6th (RWL, KB, RB), a **Eurasian Hoopoe** at Pui O on 9th (DC), single **Brown Wood Owls** at Lam Tsuen and Ho Chung (a new site for this magnificent owl) on 10th-11th (DT, TJW) and a **Bull-headed Shrike** at Ng Tung Chai on the 11th.
- ▶ An indicator of the winter's poor numbers of passerines was that 12 **Japanese Thrushes** at Po Toi on 19th (BK) was by far the largest number of any thrush species reported up to the end of February. The only report of **Black Bulbuls** involved two birds at Tai Po Kau on 26th (AB).

March

- ▶ A month of mixed weather brought two potential Hong Kong first records: a **Red-crested Pochard** at Mai Po on 9th (BK) and a **Brown-backed Needletail** *Hirundapus giganteus* at Po Toi on 24th (LCY). Whilst the pochard, if accepted as genuinely wild, will be a long-expected addition to the main Hong Kong list, the needletail has come as a total surprise and stands to be a China first as well. Photographs posted on the HKBWS website show its dark face and throat with highly contrasting white lores, which indicate the SE Asian subspecies indicus.



March

- ▶ A **Spoon-billed Sandpiper** showed in front of the boardwalk on 8th-12th and the same or another individual was present on 21st-22nd (AF, AL, RWL, JGH, WAP).
- ▶ Among birds from earlier in the winter which were reported in March were the **Baer's Pochard** at Mai Po on 11th (VC), the **Rosy Starling** at Lok Ma Chau/San Tin on 14th (MRL), the **Crested Honey Buzzard** at Lam Tsuen on 18th (EMSK) and the **Glaucous Gull**, one or two **Slaty-backed and Kamchatka Gulls**, a **Long-billed Dowitcher** and up to three **Nordmann's Greenshank**, all of which remained in the Deep Bay area throughout the month.
- ▶ Following a **Pallas's Gull** in Deep Bay on 1st (BK), a **Brown Wood Owl** at Lam Tsuen the same day (DT) and a **Grey-capped Greenfinch** at Po Toi on 11th (BK), there were signs of passage in the third week of the month with six **Eyebrowed Thrushes** and eight singing **Rufous-tailed Robins** at Ngong Ping on 16th (DAD). 30 **Great Bitterns**, one of the highest counts on record, were at Mai Po on 17th (JAA), 15 **Silver-backed Needletails** at Lantau on 17th (AB), a **Rustic Bunting** at Long Valley the same day (KF) and a **Black-naped Oriole** at Shing Mun on 20th (SLT). In addition, a **Eurasian Eagle Owl** was seen at Mai Po on 21st (DS), possibly the first for the reserve, and a **Pied Harrier** was noted there on 23rd (WWF).
- ▶ Flycatcher passage was evident in the last week of the month, though this was far from strong. A male **Blue-and-white Flycatcher** at Po Toi on 24th (LCY) was followed by single **Ferruginous Flycatchers** at Po Toi from 25th (GW) and at Lam Tsuen and Ng Tung Chai on 31st (MH, EMSK). Other landbirds in this period included a **Northern Boobook** at Po Toi on 25th (HKBWS website), a **Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo** at Lam Tsuen on 26th (MH), a **Japanese Yellow Bunting** at Sai Kung on 29th and a **Grey-faced Buzzard** at Po Toi on 29th. Also, an **Oriental Plover** was found at at Mai Po on 27th.
- ▶ Seabirds seen off Po Toi or from the Po Toi ferry during the month included eight rather early **Streaked Shearwaters** on 8th (GW), up to three **Ancient Murrelets** on 8th, 14th, 22nd and 28th (GW), single **Black-legged Kittiwakes** on 11th (BK) and 28th (GW) and an **Aleutian Tern** on 21st (GW), the earliest by 15 days.



The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Bird Watching Tours Oct - Dec 2012

Outings				
Date	Duration	Time and site	Difficulties (1...3)	Target species
6/10/2012 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Aberdeen Reservoir (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Hang Seng Bank near Exit B, Central MTR Station)	★	Forest birds
14/10/2012 (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
21/10/2012 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	Po Toi Island (08:00 Aberdeen Pier (Ferry Pier to Po Toi Island)) Note: Participants have to pay for their own ferry fee. The returning time is not fixed, participants can decide their own returning time.	★★	Migrants
3/11/2012 (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
4/11/2012 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Wild Card Day (Details will be announced on 2 Nov on Discussion Forum)	★★	Migrants
11/11/2012 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	Po Toi Island (08:00 Aberdeen Pier (Pier to Po Toi Island)) Note: Participants have to pay for their own ferry fee. The returning time is not fixed, participants can decide their own returning time.	★★	Migrants
18/11/2012 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Tai Po Kau (08:00 Tai Po Kau carpark)	★★★	Forest birds
25/11/2012 (Sun)	0800 - 1400	Mai Po Nature Reserve (will not visit floating boardwalks) (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
1/12/2012 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Long Valley (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Maxims, Sheung Shui Rail Station)	★★	Farmland & waterbirds
9/12/2012 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Pui O (08:00 Exit B, Tung Chung MTR Station)	★	Wintering forest and farmland birds
16/12/2012 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Wild Card Day (Details will be announced on 14 Dec on Discussion Forum)	★★	Wintering birds
23/12/2012 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Tai Po Kau (08:00 Tai Po Kau carpark)	★★★	Forest 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)

Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Activity Booking Slip

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

Mai Po Outing [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.)

14 Oct, 2012

25 Nov, 2012

Participants below age of 12yrs will not be accepted for Mai Po Outing visiting floating boardwalks.

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.

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

Information of Participant(s)

Date	Outing	Name (First one will be considered contact person)	Membership No.	Mobile Phone	Fare*	Mai Po Outing Meeting Place <small>Kln MTR or MP</small>

* Activities are processed individually, please use separate cheque.

Enclosed please find a Cheque of HK\$ _____ Contact person's email : _____

(Payable to The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society)

Applicant : _____ 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.



日本樹鶯
陳家華
米埔
Japanese Bush Warbler
Jacky Chan
Mai Po

09/04/2012
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter



白喉斑秧雞
葉紀江
小西灣

Slaty-legged Crake
Herman Ip Kee Kong
Siu Sai Wan

01/03/2012
DSLR Camera, 100-400mm lens



長嘴半蹼鶺
孔思義、黃亞萍
米埔

Long-billed Dowitcher
John and Jemi Holmes
Mai Po

18/04/2012
DSLR Camera, 800mm f/5.6 lens

彩鶺
Arshad KHANZADA
塱原

Greater Painted Snipe
Arshad KHANZADA
Long Valley

01/04/2012
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens



鳳頭鸕鶿
陳志達
米埔

Great Crested Grebe
Chan Chi Tat
Mai Po

13/04/2012
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter





Nikon D700 + EDG 單筒望遠鏡 + FSA-L2
© Mauro Bachs


數碼觀測攝獵完美動靜

藝康 EDG 單筒望遠鏡系列，除讓你進行一般觀察外，更能接連數碼相機作數碼觀測，完美捕捉遠距影像。嶄新尖端的光學技術，配以設計精巧的鏡筒及無瑕對焦準確度，締造每個絲毫畢現的銳利畫面。如此絕倫，唯有藝康，唯獨 EDG。

數碼單鏡反光相機連接器
FSA-L2



EDG
THE CUTTING EDGE IN SPORT OPTICS

A Great Barbet bird is perched on a dark, textured tree branch. The bird has a blue head, a yellow and black beak, and a body with green, blue, and red plumage. The background is a soft-focus green forest.

大擬鴛
何家偉
城門

Great Barbet
Pasha Ho
Shing Mun

30/01/2012
DSLR Camera, 800mm f/5.6 lens