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The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society



bulletin

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The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

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Bulletin 226

Contents

Editorial	– John Holmes	06
Society News & Projects		06
Mai Po Update	– John Allcock	10
Birding Anecdote	– Samson So	11
My Bird Watching Diary	– Wendy Yu	18
Hong Kong Bird News, Jul - Sep 2012		19
	– Richard Lewthwaite	
Coming activities & indoor meeting		23

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Note from the Editor

Great Cormorants are a big feature of the Hong Kong birding winter. But they are so noisy and numerous, most of us, I suspect, try to look around them at more delicate and rarer birds. In this issue Samson SO reminds us what interesting creatures they can be. 

John Holmes

Society News and Projects

Staff News

Mr Ivan Tse joined the Society as Assistant Research Officer in Nov 2012. He is mainly responsible for conducting bird surveys in projects that require them.

2013 Membership Renewal

Total number of valid member is over 1900. We would like to express our gratitude to all our members for their support. 2013 membership renewals under the new membership criteria are in progress; renewal letters will be posted about 2 months before memberships expire.



2012 Annual General Meeting

The 2012 AGM was held on Oct 24 evening and a total of 52 members attended. Major resolutions included appointment of two Honorary members, namely Mr. Gavin Cooper, former Chairman, and Mr. Mike Chalmers, former Recorder, in appreciation of their contributions to the Society and bird study in Hong Kong. In addition, two new members joined EXCO, these were Mr. HUNG Wai Ming and Ms. YU Sau Ling, Chairman and member of the Education and Publicity Committee respectively. A list of EXCO members may be found on the contents page of this bulletin.



Hong Kong Bird Report 1958-2006 Available Online NOW

Hong Kong Bird Report 1958 – 2006 were all uploaded to the HKBWS main website. You may download from this link: http://www.hkbws.org.hk/web/eng/bird_report_eng.htm

We are grateful to our birding forbears for leaving us such a valuable and precious heritage.

55th Anniversary Souvenir and Sales Item

We have re-ordered a limited quantity of these souvenir and sales item due to popular demand. Many thanks to Wendy Yu and Reiko Ngai again for allowing us to use their bird drawings for these souvenirs.

Product	Color	Size	Member HKD	Non-Member HKD
Swinhoe's Egret Polo Shirt	Grey	S to XXL	\$100	\$125
55th Anniversary Logo Windbreaker	Grey	S to XL	\$200	\$250
Swinhoe's Egret Embroidered Towel	Brown / Creamy white	--	\$20	\$25
Red-whiskered Bulbul Umbrella	Green	--	\$50	\$60



During the Reception



55th Anniversary Celebration Reception

A 55th Anniversary Celebration Reception was held on November 1, 2012 at the Scout Association of Hong Kong. We invited guests from various organizations including: our Guest of Honour Mr WONG Kam Sing, Secretary for the Environment, Mr. LEUNG Cheuk Fai Jimmy, JP, Director of Planning, Mr. CHAN Yiu Keung, Assistant Director (Conservation), AFCD and representatives from different green groups, Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE) and business partners in addition to our EXCO members and senior members. Thanks to the support of all the reception was a success !

Speech by Guest of Honour, Mr WONG Kam Sing, Secretary for the Environment

In memoriam

Dr. GAO Wai, ornithologist and educator, Dean of the School of Life Sciences of Northeast Normal University, passed away on 10th November 2012, at the age of 75. He was a pioneer of Chinese Ornithology and will be sadly missed, both in northeast China and further afield.



Overseas Bird Fairs

The HKBWS was invited to join Taipei's "13th International Bird Appreciation expo" at Guandu Nature Park. There were booths from many places, including HK, mainland China, Taiwan, Greece, New Zealand, USA, Malaysia, Thailand, and Japan. During the expo, local and overseas organisations gave talks and exchanged news of their activities in order to share regional conservation information. There was also a bird-crafting booth where the public could participate.

HKBWS displayed information on birds and crop conservation at Long Valley. The expo attracted many people and many of them visited our booth for information and sharing, including students on a school visit. Our Taipei hosts held a welcoming night party and Guandu nature park appreciation tour for all participants. We thank them very much for all that they did for us.

HKBWS representatives : WONG Chun Yu, HUNG Wai Ming



Also, Wendy YU and Vivian FU attended the "3rd Asian Bird Fair and 11th Thailand Bird Fair 2012" held in Bangkok from November 10 to 11, 2012.



14th Elementary Bird Watching Course for Beginners

The coming course will be held in late February 2013. Please refer to attachment for details.

Crested Bulbul Club

Early Morning Bird Watchers

No. of participants in Hong Kong Park from Aug to Nov 2012: 302

No. of participants in Kowloon Park from Aug to Nov 2012: 388

Bird watching interpretation in Hong Kong Wetland Park

A total of 124 participants from Oct to Nov 2011.

Bird watching services and activities

A 2nd Nov 2012 guided tour was held as part of the Kowloon Park carnival

Fishpond Management Agreement Programme in Northwest New Territories

We have held 11 fishpond eco-tours at Tai Sang Wai in October and November for secondary students, guided by graduates of the Eco-tour Guide Training Course. With interpretation given by eco-guides and fishermen, as well as hands-on activity, secondary students



have learned more about fishpond operation, the history of local fish farming and the relationship between fishponds and birds.



2012-2015 Nature Conservation Management for Long Valley

The 2nd season of paddy rice was harvested in November. Some rice was left over for birds to provide them with more food during winter.



This Autumn has been a good migration season, and many interesting species have been found in Long Valley such as: Baillon's Crake, Watercock, Amur Falcon, Rosy Pipit, Red-backed Shrike, Rustic Bunting and Pallas's Reed Bunting. Many bird watchers and photographers have been visiting Long Valley. We would like to remind everyone to please do not feed wild birds, do not walk into farmland and be aware of crops planted on paths and bunds. For more important notes for birding in Long Valley, please visit: <http://www.hkbws.org.hk/BBS/viewthread.php?tid=17229&extra=page%3D1>

"The Big Bunting" event will finish by the end of November. So far this year, we have recorded 34 Yellow-breasted Bunting on 19 Nov which is also the highest count since the LV management agreement project began in 2005. We have also recorded 9 bunting species, including Black-faced, Black-headed, Chestnut, Chestnut-eared, Little, Pallas's Reed, Rustic, Yellow-breasted and Yellow-browed Bunting.




© Owen Chiang
Pallas's Reed Bunting - a first record in Long Valley

China Projects

Update of Spoon-billed Sandpiper Conservation Project

A total of 106 Spoon-billed Sandpipers were recorded by Tong Menxiu, Zhang Lin, Li Jing and foreign experts, Dr. Christoph Zöckler, Dr. Nigel Clark and Karin Eberhardt, in Rudong area, Jiangsu Province between 12th and 15th October. This is the highest number observed since conservation activities started in 2000.

The concluding event "Dreams Come True" of the Walt Disney Company funded project "Saving Spoony's Chinese Wetlands" was held in Rudong, Jiangsu and Minjiang Estuary, Fujian on 22nd September and 7th October respectively, meaning the two-year project has come to an end. Yet, it does not mean the conservation work for Spoon-billed Sandpiper in mainland China is finished. A survey for Spoon-billed Sandpiper in southern China is being carried out this winter. We hope to obtain more information about the bird's distribution during its non-breeding season. 



Blessing from the kids (Photo: Simba Chan)

Mai Po Update

~ John Allcock

Retirement of Canvas Tower Hide at Pond 20

The canvas tower hide at Pond 20 has been very popular in recent years with birdwatchers and, especially, photographers hoping to get good views of ducks and eagles. Rarities seen from the tower in recent years have included Black Scoter, Cotton Pygmy-goose and, earlier in 2012, Baer's Pochard.

Over the years, the structure of the tower has been gradually degrading as the metal scaffold supports for the tower have rusted and become weak. Essential repairs to the structure were urgently required during summer 2012 in order to continue operation of the tower during the winter of 2012/13. Increased use of the tower made this particularly important, since a collapse during a busy period would have the potential to seriously injure a number of visitors.

The passage of Severe Typhoon Vicente overnight on 24th July blew the tower hide off its base, leaving it leaning at a dangerous angle. This has forced a decision about the future of the tower, and whether to re-erect the tower or remove it from the site. The decision has factored in the structural strength of the tower, the popularity among visitors to the reserve and the quality of the birds which have been seen here in recent years. In the end, the safety of visitors to the reserve has to be considered a priority, and a decision has been made that the tower was no longer safe enough to continue operation.

I regret therefore that the tower will not be available for use during the coming winter. We hope to be able to provide alternative viewing facilities at this location, subject to the availability of funding. The nature of these has not yet been decided, and we would welcome suggestions from visitors to the reserve.



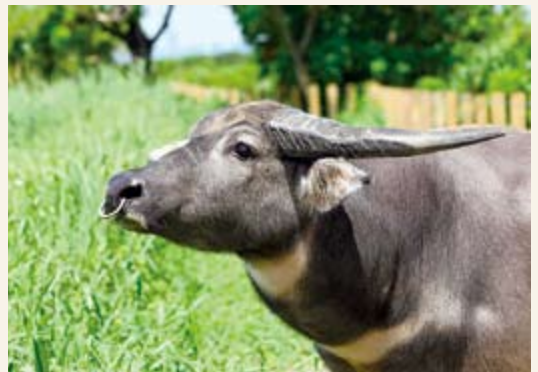
(Credit WWF-Hong Kong) – Caption “Canvas tower hide after the passage of Severe Typhoon Vicente”

Increase in area grazed by Water Buffalo

One of the major projects undertaken at Mai Po this summer has been the enlargement of the enclosure for Water Buffalo at the southern end of the reserve. The enclosure now includes all of Pond 24, and a second enclosure has been created at Pond 17b (close to the Education Centre) to increase the educational value for visitors.

Studies conducted previously on the grazed area (and reported on the WWF website) have shown that Water Buffalo are very effective at controlling vegetation height to create conditions suitable for waterbirds. The number of waterbirds inside the grazed enclosure while two buffalo were present was considerably higher than was recorded in adjacent areas managed by cutting grass or left unmanaged. It is hoped that increasing the grazed area should further increase the number of birds present.

Following the increase in the grazed area, the herd of buffalo has also increased in size. The two animals previously present were joined by a third in September 2012 and a fourth in October 2012. It is hoped that in future the herd will be further increased.



(Credit Tony Hing/WWF-Hong Kong) – Caption “The third Water Buffalo to arrive at Mai Po”

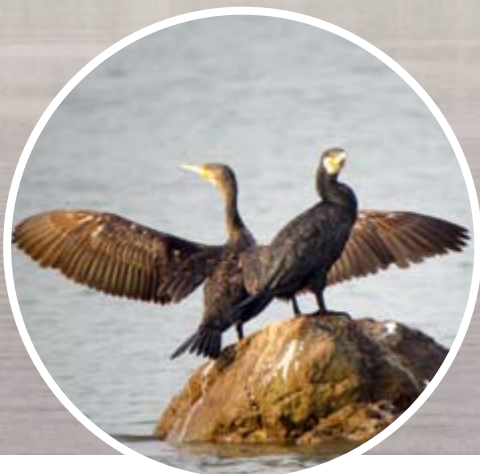
Fish Eagle, Dark Ghost, Old Water Crow, - the many faces of Great Cormorant

~ Samson So

In response to the passing footsteps of autumn, mother nature displays a new look with winter's palette. Birds also respond to the change and begin their long journey of migration. Hong Kong stands witness to the seasonal migration with a huge quantity of waterbirds visiting every year, and among the visitors, Cormorants are undoubtedly the most eye-catching species coming in big numbers.

Cormorants spend their winter in Hong Kong, arriving every year around mid September and stay until March the next year. They are mostly found along the coast such as the Starling Inlet of Northeastern New Territories and Deep Bay of Northwestern New Territories; they are also found inland at some reservoir areas. And they are most impressive when seen flying in flocks.

In primary school, we were taught to believe that “geese” fly in winter in formation of the Chinese character “人” (human). It wasn't until I went to university and started learning about bird watching and ecology did I realize that here in Hong Kong, those birds aren't geese, they are cormorants. Upon graduation, I started my work with a green group and spent more than 20 days out of a month in Mai Po Nature Reserve. Working and living in a wetland environment where water meets the sky, things such as summer vacation and the new school year were no longer in my mind, sometimes I even forgot what day of week it was. But when mid-September came (important for undergrads as it was the beginning of a new school year),



the arrival of cormorants in Deep Bay would remind me that autumn is here, and that it's time for observing the migratory birds. During those years, flocks of cormorants in the sky against the hazy orange sunset marked the symbol of a new season in bird migration, and another year of work experience.

Cormorants are natural fish catchers. When they hunt, the cormorants can hold their breath and dive into the water, and move swiftly with their feet as propellers. As birds do not have teeth, when the cormorant catches its prey, it will swallow down the entire fish, and the catch is usually of considerable size. Fishermen in China, for example in Hunan and Guangxi (in which Guilin is more well known), take advantage of the cormorant's feeding habit and domesticate the birds as fishing tools, so cormorants are also called “fish eagle” or “old water crow” by local fishermen. However, as more and more fishermen changed to motorized boats and fine-holed fishing nets, the more eco-friendly way of getting bigger fish with cormorants has dwindled and faded. Some of the trained cormorants continue to earn their keep as models in tourist areas. A way of life where man, birds and nature live together in harmony is gradually disappearing.

Cormorants have a unique appearance, if you look closely, you'll find that they are more than plain black! An adult cormorant is covered entirely with gleaming black feathers and forms a great contrast with the bright yellow skin on its face. Through the telescope, you can see its green eyes sparkle



in light, and the end of its beak curls up like a hook. Further down its body, closer to the tail, are a pair of fully webbed feet. During the breeding season when the adult changes to breeding plumage, the feathers on its head and both flanks turn white, easily visible in flight, and distinct from the juvenile which has a white belly.

The cormorants have another unique characteristic, when they rest after hunting and feeding, they adopt a special pose. Most waterbirds have a preen gland (known as uropygial gland) near the base of the tail that secretes a rich oil, and when the bird preens, this oil will be transferred to all parts of the body, helping to create a waterproofing effect. However the cormorants do not have waterproof feathers, so they can dive with minimal buoyancy resistance. That is why the cormorants need to spread out their wings and let them dry after diving for food, otherwise the feathers will lose their insulation effect and the bird will suffer from cold weather.

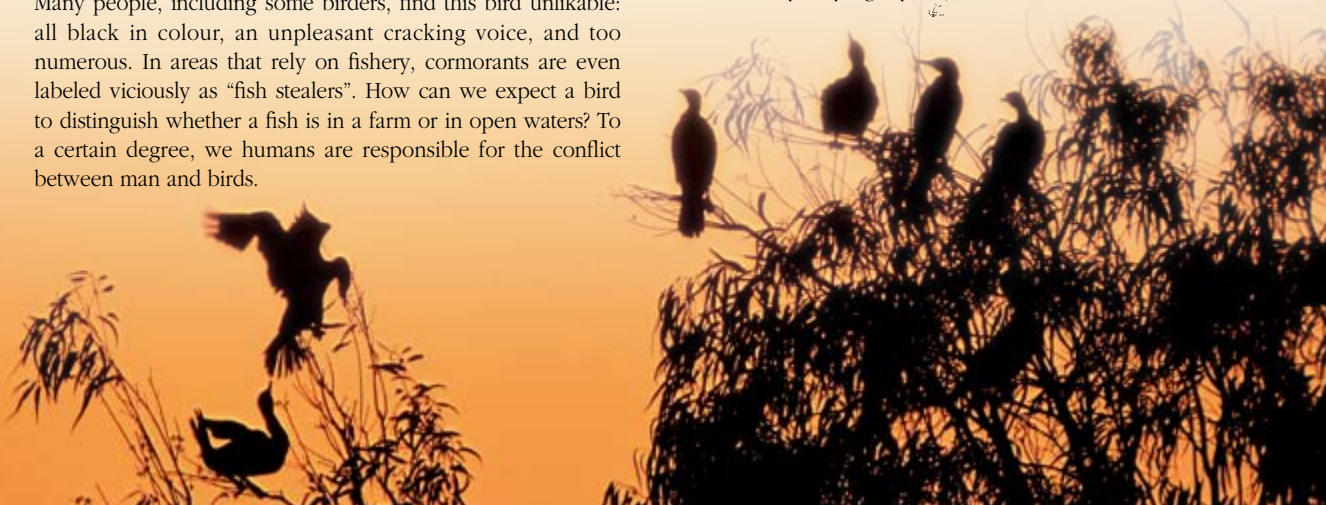
Flocks of cormorants go out feeding in the day time and return in the evening in their thousands, back to the roosting site where they will spend the night. The magical and slightly mysterious sight of numerous black silhouettes against a golden sunset is one of the wildlife spectacles we can enjoy in Hong Kong, standing as living proof of the achievement towards nature and wild life conservation efforts here. Cormorants are not only well known amongst fishermen in southern China, they are also given considerable attention in Hong Kong. There is a small island off the northeastern New Territories named after the cormorants called “Lo Chi (cormorant in Chinese) Pai”, and as an important roosting site for wintering cormorants, Chek Chau (or Port Island) located at Tolo Channel has been listed as one of Hong Kong’s “Sites of Special Scientific Interest”.

The beauty of the cormorant is not appreciated by everyone. Many people, including some birders, find this bird unlikable: all black in colour, an unpleasant cracking voice, and too numerous. In areas that rely on fishery, cormorants are even labeled viciously as “fish stealers”. How can we expect a bird to distinguish whether a fish is in a farm or in open waters? To a certain degree, we humans are responsible for the conflict between man and birds.



Cormorants mainly feed in areas of open water, but since the 1990’s, with the urbanization of the Deep Bay and Starling Inlet areas, a lot of wetlands have been lost, and in a much bigger region along the Pearl River Delta to Fujian coastal wetlands, urbanization is going on in an even greater scale. Having lost their winter feeding grounds in the south, birds migrating from the north can only gather at the remaining wetland, Mai Po and Deep Bay areas. These comparatively better conserved wetland areas have become the safe haven for birds robbed of wintering sites. This may also be the reason why the number of cormorants in Hong Kong and Deep Bay area has increased in the past 20 years, leading to conflicts between man and birds. In this case, both birds and fishermen are victims of unchecked urbanization.

Every species has its own place in nature, each doing its part so the ecosystem can work healthily and properly. Birds that are commonly seen are in fact more effective targets for researchers to collect data. Years of accumulated data can better represent and reflect the changes in the quality of the environment, serving as valuable reference for nature conservation work. In recent years, the number of cormorants in Deep Bay has increased significantly, this may be indicative to changes in the surrounding environment. Perhaps we should pay more attention to the common species around us, and what they may signify.





鵞鵝
李偉仁
米埔

Pied Harrier
Andy Li
Mai Po

01/10/2012
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter



鵪鶉
李啓康
望原

Japanese Quail
oLDcaR Lee
Long Valley

13/10/2012

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

山鵪鶉
葉紀江
蒲台

Forest Wagtail
Herman Ip Kee Kong
Po Toi

04/10/2012

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



灰胸秧雞
沈冠宇
壟原

Slaty-breasted Rail
KY Shum
Long Valley

21/10/2012
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter





燕隼
陳巨輝
壟原

Eurasian Hobby
Sam Chan
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17/10/2012
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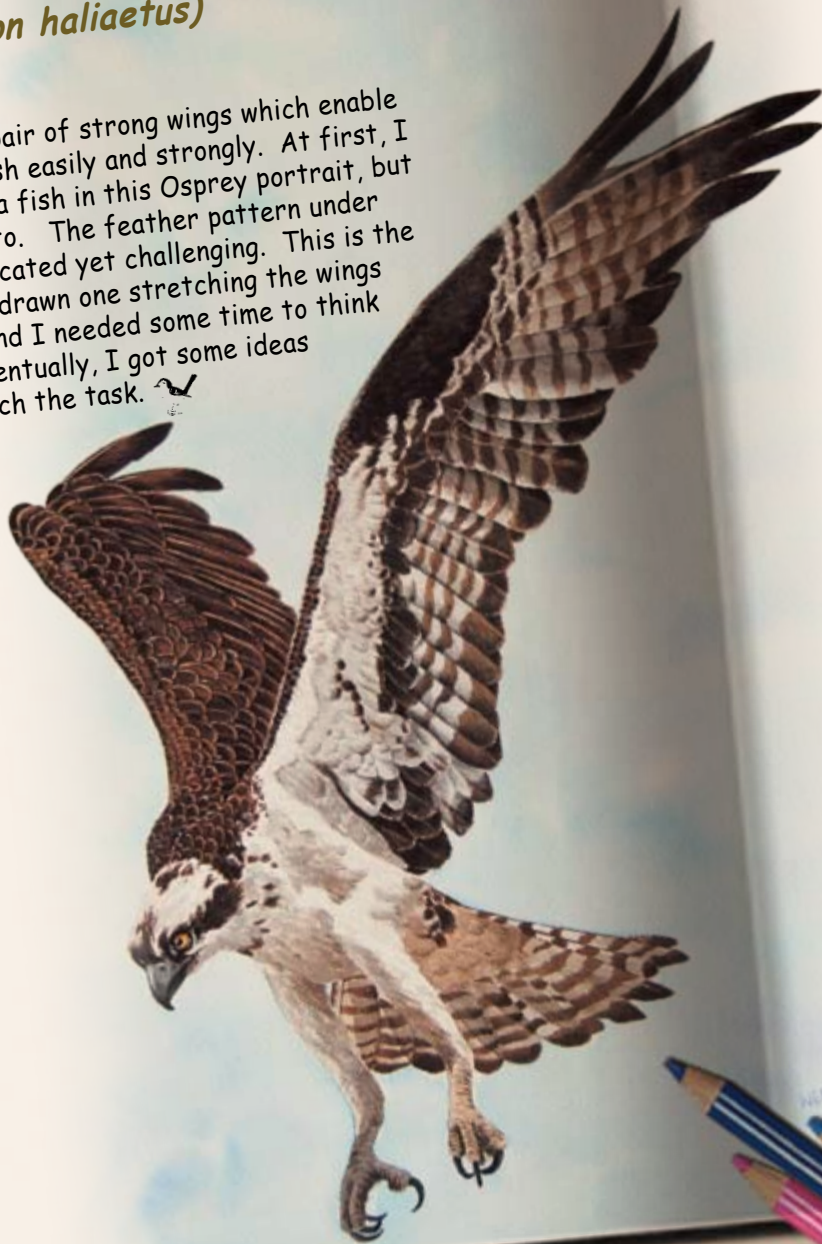
My Bird Watching Diary


~ Text and Illustrations: Wendy Yu

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

12th August 2012

The Osprey has a pair of strong wings which enable it to lift caught fish easily and strongly. At first, I wanted to include a fish in this Osprey portrait, but then decided not to. The feather pattern under its wings is complicated yet challenging. This is the first time I have drawn one stretching the wings as wide as this, and I needed some time to think how to start. Eventually, I got some ideas on how to approach the task. 





~ Richard Lewthwaite

*(This is not an "official" record,
and Members are reminded of the importance of submitting all records to the Records Committee, - Ed.)*

July

- ▶ An unprecedented series of rarities and unusual summer sightings were reported in this hot and usually uninspiring month.
- ▶ Coverage of Mai Po in the first days of the month brought reports of a **Red-necked Phalarope** on 1st, a summer rarity, a **Blue Whistling Thrush** on 2nd, presumably the first for Mai Po, and 104 **Terek Sandpipers** and an **Oriental Pratincole** on 3rd (WWF).
- ▶ On 12th, an **Oriental Stork** was found at Mai Po (WWF), the first ever summer record of this magnificent waterbird and the first record since the winter of 2003/04. Though there is a published record of one remaining in the Paracel (Xisha) Islands from April to September 2004, a summer record at Mai Po still came as a big surprise. The bird took up residence at Mai Po and was still there at the end of August. Its discovery led to a memorable 10-day period in July when reports included a juvenile **Brown-breasted Flycatcher** at Tai Po Kau on 13th (Ken), the first potential Hong Kong breeding record, up to ten **Grey-capped Greenfinches** including juveniles at Mai Po on 13th and 15th (WWF), a **Ferruginous Duck** there on 15th (KK), the first ever summer record if accepted as wild, a **Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo** at Tai Po Kau (BK) the same day, a juvenile **Orange-headed Thrush** fed by an adult at Tai Po Kau Headland also on 15th (RB), a male **Black-naped Monarch** at Fung Yuen on 16th (GHO), the first ever summer record, seven **Indian Spot-billed Ducks** at Mai Po on 19th (JAA), representing a sudden influx, and a **Greylag Goose** there on 20th-21st (WWF), the latter possibly the ex-captive individual seen in the Deep Bay area at the end of 2011.
- ▶ Superb photographs of these birds were posted on the HKBWS website, including the stork grabbing and pursuing a cobra (GC) and the goose reacting to an overhead **Black Kite** (KH).
- ▶ Among other notable reports, as the month progressed, were two **Little Terns** at Lut Chau on 22nd (WWF), 106 **Greater Sand Plovers**, two **Gull-billed Terns** and a **Pale Martin** on 24th (WWF), the latter the first ever in July, and 185 **Eastern Cattle Egrets** on 27th (WWF).



July

- ▶ With regard to resident birds, **Collared Crows** were again noted in good numbers at Mai Po, with 116 counted on 11th (WWF).

August

- ▶ As the **Oriental Stork** continued its residence at Mai Po, other contenders for bird of the month were a **Tiger Shrike** at Tai Po Kau on 19th (KPK), a rare August record and the earliest in autumn by 10 days, and a **Pectoral Sandpiper** at Mai Po on 28th (JAA).
- ▶ Numbers and also diversity of shorebirds at Mai Po were good for the time of year. In addition to the **Pectoral Sandpiper**, there were reports of three '*atrifrons*' group **Lesser Sand Plovers** on 2nd, a **Nordmann's Greenshank** from 7th, 482 **Greater Sand Plovers** on 8th, a good autumn count, two **Asian Dowitchers** from 18th, a juvenile **Eastern Curlew** and up to six **Sharp-tailed Sandpipers** from 20th, a **Grey-headed Lapwing** on 22nd and 346 **Black-tailed Godwits** on 31st (JAA, WWF, RWL, JGH). Among other reports from Mai Po were four **Eurasian Wigeon** on 11th and 127 **Collared Crows** on 14th.
- ▶ The month brought earliest ever autumn reports of three flycatcher species: **Yellow-rumped**, two on 2nd (JAA), the earliest by 15 days, and **Dark-sided** and **Asian Brown Flycatchers**, both at Po Toi on 26th (BK), the earliest by 2 and 3 days, respectively. Except for **Asian Paradise Flycatchers** which were fairly widespread from 8th, passage of landbirds otherwise appeared to be rather light throughout the month.
- ▶ The only raptor reports of note concerned three **Black Bazas** at Chau Tau on 19th (KJ) and a **Eurasian Hobby** at Mai Po on 31st (WWF).
- ▶ Coverage of Tai Po Kau led to yet another puzzling series of late summer/early autumn reports of **Chinese Blue Flycatcher**, a species whose known native range lies a long way to the west of Hong Kong. Reports were as follows: a male thought to be of the subspecies *klossi* on 18th (KPK), two males on 19th (KPK), a male and a female on 21st (FC), and a male on 25th (BK). In addition, Tai Po Kau brought reports of two flycatcher species which have previously been recorded in winter, but never before at this time of year: a female **Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher** on 18th (KPK) and a possible **Small Niltava** on 26th (JL, AB).



August

- ▶ A **Brown Fish Owl** was photographed at Tai Po Kau on 23rd (HKBWS website), a new locality for this infrequently seen owl.
- ▶ Birds seen at sea off Po Toi or from the Po Toi ferry included three **Greater Crested Terns** and 34 **Red-necked Phalaropes** on 26th (BK) and two **Aleutian Terns** on 30th (GW).

September

- ▶ In a good month, the bird which generated most interest was an adult **Varied Tit**, a Hong Kong first whose category is as yet undecided, which was found at Po Toi on 16th (PM) and remained into early October. Photos show the bird to be in very good condition and to have plumage features matching the nominate subspecies of Northeast China, Korea and Japan, which, although previously thought to be almost entirely sedentary, is occasionally subject to large movements according to website postings. The discovery of the Po Toi bird coincided with reports of up to eight birds on an island off the coast of Zhejiang some 30 km from Shanghai, one in a city park in Qingdao and hundreds moving westward in South Korea and Japan. Hopefully, new evidence will emerge to clarify the situation so that assessment of category, which is tricky given the great distance of Hong Kong from these places and the fact that Varied Tit is a popular cagebird, can easily be resolved.
- ▶ Two potential 3rd records for Hong Kong were reported: a **Red-backed Shrike** at Long Valley on 30th (Inca) and an **Alstrom's Warbler** (formerly known as Plain-tailed Warbler) at Tai Po Kau on 31st (PW, MK, WT).
- ▶ Earliest-ever autumn dates (by surprisingly large margins) were reported for three species: **Saunders's Gull**, an adult-winter in front of the Mai Po boardwalk on 5th (RWL, JGH), the earliest by 48 days, **Olive-backed Pipit**, two at Lam Tsuen on 15th (EMSK), the earliest by 13 days, and **Siberian Rubythroat**, one at Mai Po on 24th (PJJ), the earliest by 14 days.

September

- ▶ Coverage of Mai Po led to reports of single birds of the following species, all less than annual in autumn: **Black Bittern** and **Pechora Pipit** on 6th (WWF HK), **Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler** and **Thick-billed Warbler** on 11th (PJL), **Chestnut-winged Cuckoo** on 13th (WWF HK) and **Tiger Shrike** on 17th (JAA). In addition, the **Oriental Stork** remained throughout the month (WWF HK), an occasional **Pheasant-tailed Jacana** and **Watercock** turned up (WWF HK) and there were reports of single **Manchurian Reed Warblers** on 11th and 24th and 20 **Pallas's Grasshopper Warblers** on 24th (PJL). Though no rarities were reported, shorebird numbers and diversity at Mai Po were again good for the time of year.
- ▶ The Varied Tit excepted, the best bird at Po Toi was a **Fairy Pitta** on 12th (GW). As usual, the island hosted a wide variety of landbirds throughout the month, including a **Chinese Sparrowhawk** on 9th (GW) and 12 'flycatcher' species (**Asian Brown**, **Grey-streaked**, **Dark-sided**, **Yellow-rumped**, **Red-throated**, **Hainan Blue**, **Blue-and-white**, **Verditer**, **Black-naped Monarch**, **Asian Paradise** and **Japanese Paradise**). One or two **Black-tailed Gulls** were noted off the island or from the ferry on 12th and 16th (GW, BK).
- ▶ It was a relatively good month throughout Hong Kong for **Oriental Dollarbirds**, the peak count being eight at Po Toi on 18th (GW) and **Eastern Crowned Warblers**, peak of eight at Tai Po Kau on 16th (CC). Whilst **Forest Wagtails** were more widespread than usual, **Siberian Blue Robins** were scarcer than expected, the only reports being of one at Po Toi on 13th and 15th (GW, LCF), two at Tai Po Kau on 22nd (CC) and one at Mai Po on the same day (WWF HK).
- ▶ Other reports of interest included two **Orange-headed Thrushes** at Cheung Sheung on 2nd (JAA) and one at Po Toi on 29th and 30th (BK), a **Bay Woodpecker** and four **Mountain Bulbuls** at Ng Tung Chai on 16th (DT), two **Bay Woodpeckers** at Tai Po Kau on 22nd (CC), a **Ruddy-breasted Crake** and **Little Curlew** at Long Valley on 26th (DAD), a **Slaty-breasted Rail** (rare away from Deep Bay mangroves) and a **Pechora Pipit** there on 29th (KJ), and a **Radde's Warbler** at Ng Tung Chai on 30th (DT). 

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Bird Watching Tours Apr - Jun 2013

Outings

Date	Duration	Time and site	Difficulties (1...3)	Target species
6/4/2013 (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
6-7/4/2013 (Sat-Sun)		Records 232 - Hong Kong Bird Watching Competition 2013 (Details will be announced later)		
14/4/2013 (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
21/4/2013 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Tai Mo Shan (08:00 Exit B near Hang Seng Bank, Tsuen Wan MTR Station)	☆☆☆	Grassland birds
27/4/2013 (Sat)	0800 - 1200	Wild Card Day (Details will be announced on Apr 25 on Discussion Forum)		
4/5/2013 (Sat)	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
4/5/2013 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Aberdeen Reservoir (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Hang Seng Bank near Exit B, Central MTR Station)	☆	Forest birds
12/5/2013 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	Po Toi and HK South Waters (08:00 Hang Seng Bank, Sai Wan Ho MTR Station) 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
19/5/2013 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Wild Card Day (Details will be announced on May 17 on Discussion Forum)		
26/5/2013 (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
1/6/2013 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Shing Mun (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:30 Kiosk at Pineapple Dam, Shing Mun Reservoir)	☆	Forest birds
2/6/2013 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Nam Chung and Luk Keng (08:30 Pavilion at junction of Nam Chung Rd & Luk Keng Rd)	☆☆	Forest birds & Waterbirds

<input type="checkbox"/> Member: Free of Charge	Non-member: Free of Charge	(registration not required)
<input type="checkbox"/> Member: Free of Charge	Non-member: HK\$30 (HK\$10 for age under 19 student)	(registration not required)
<input type="checkbox"/> Member: HK\$40 (Student Member: HK\$20)	Non-member: HK\$70	(registration required)
<input type="checkbox"/> Member: HK\$160	Non-member: HK\$200	(registration required)

Indoor Meetings

Date	Time	Topic	Speakers	Venue
21/2/2013 (Thu)	1900 - 2100	Heaven & Hell ~ Birding in Cuba & West Papua (Cantonese with bilingual powerpoint)	Mr. Felix Ng	Rm. 1105, Scout Assn of HK, Austin Road, Kowloon
20/3/2013 (Wed)	1900 - 2100	Shorebird Leg - flagging in Hong Kong (English with English powerpoint)	Mr. John Allcock	TBC

Fee: Member: HK\$10

Non-member: HK\$30

No registration required

Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Outing Booking Slip

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

Po Toi and South Waters Outing : 4 May, 2013 12 May, 2013

Mai Po Outing : 14 Apr, 2013 26 May, 2013

Mai Po Outing Fee	Meeting Point at Mai Po	Meeting Point at Kowloon Tong
Member	HK\$30-	HK\$60-
Student Member	HK\$15-	HK\$30-
Non-Member	HK\$120-	

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 Kln MTR or MP

* 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, registration 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 ("the HKBWS") assumes no responsibility, liability or obligations, whether financial or otherwise, for losses, injuries, death, damages, whether to the person or property, arising or occurring in the course or as a result from the activities, outings or training courses ("the Activities") organized by the HKBWS. Persons who participate in the Activities must ensure that they are medically fit to do so. If in doubt, they should consult qualified medical practitioners before participating. Participants are recommended to purchase relevant insurance for their own protection. By participating in the Activities, the participants impliedly agree that they will not hold the HKBWS, its Executive Committee members, other committee members, its officers, employees, volunteers, agents or subcontractors responsible or liable for any losses, injuries, death damages arising or occurring in the course or as a result from the Activities.



燕雀
陳土飛
蒲台

Brambling
Thomas Chan
Po Toi

21/10/2012
DSLR Camera, 500mm lens + 1.4x teleconverter



虎紋伯勞
Andrew Hardacre
米埔

Tiger Shrike
Andrew Hardacre
Mai Po

17/09/2012

DSLR Camera, 800mm f/5.6 lens + 1.4x teleconverter



Nikon D700 + EDG 單筒望遠鏡 + FSA-L2
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數碼觀測攝獵完美動靜

尼康 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繩度，締造每個絲毫畢現的銳利畫面。如此絕倫，唯有尼康，唯獨 EDG。

數碼單鏡反光相機連接器
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EDG
THE CUTTING EDGE IN SPORT OPTICS



黄雀
崔啟元
蒲台

Eurasian Siskin
Billy Chui
Po Toi

13/10/2012
DSLR Camera, 500mm f/4.5 lens