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227

Spring 2013 ~ 春





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Publisher: The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

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Front cover : Red-breasted Merganser -

Andy Li (Lut Chau), 17/12/2012, DSLR Camera, 600mm
f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter

Design & Printing:

Contemporary Development Company

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This bulletin printed on 100% recycled paper with soy ink

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Editor's Note

This bulletin comes out in April, the busiest month of the year for birders. Adverse weather may be greeted with dismay by most people, but we birders will have reasons to smile, knowing fluctuations in the weather can be great for finding rare birds.

As the poet Robert Browning so nearly wrote: "Oh, to be in Mai Po, now that April's there..."

Many thanks are due again to all contributing writers and photographers.



John Holmes

Society News and Projects

New office

Due to rapid development of membership and office projects, the current office can not accommodate all of our staff. Therefore, we are due to move to a new office in April. The new office is about 2000 ft² and has a multi-function room besides the staff area. We are planning to organise more member activities and services there in future. Details will be announced on HKBWS website forum. Address of the new office: 7C, V Ga Building, 532 Castle Peak Road, Lai Chi Kok, Kowloon.



Old Bulletins

Besides the Hong Kong Bird Report, we have also uploaded many old bulletins to the website. You are welcome to browse our collective history. If you have some old bulletins which are not among those already uploaded to the website, please contact us.

New letterhead

Thank you very much to Jean Siu for designing a new letterhead for the Society.



2013 Membership Renewal

The total number of valid members was over 2000 at the end of 2012. We would like to express our gratitude to all our members for their support. 2013 membership renewal under the new membership criteria is in progress. Renewal letters will be posted about 2 months before your membership expiry date.

Hong Kong Bird Report 2011

HKBR 2011 has just been published in both printed and digital versions. Details of the mailing schedule will be announced later. We would like to express our gratitude to the Records Committee, and all volunteers who have been involved in the translation, editing, publishing and even the mailing work, so that this report can be published and distributed so smoothly.

55th Anniversary Souvenir and Sales Item

At the end of 2012, the Society offered a small souvenir - a Common Kingfisher mobile phone cleaner, to all members to celebrate our 55th anniversary, and as a token of appreciation of continuous membership support. A limited quantity of these items are available for sale in our office. Many thanks to Wendy Yu again for allowing us to use her Common Kingfisher drawing for the mobile phone cleaner.



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
Common kingfisher Mobile Phone Cleaner	---	---	\$10	\$15

Overseas Bird Fair

Bonnie Chan and Sandy Lai, our staff and volunteer respectively, attended the Third Xishuangbanna – Swarovski Bird Fair held from 1st to 2nd January, 2013 at Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, Yunnan. They had also joined the pre- bird fair bird watching activity and witnessed the local impact of loss of habitat and hunting on bird numbers and behaviour.



Overseas Speaker for a Talk on Birding in Malaysia

In February the society invited Andrew Sebastian from the Malaysian Nature Society to host an indoor meeting to introduce and provide useful information on bird watching in Malaysia. Andrew's visit to Hong Kong was sponsored by the Malaysian Tourism Board.



Bird Watching Course

In addition to the Elementary Bird Watching Course for Beginners, the Society organizes specialized workshops regularly in order to promote bird watching education. Two "Raptor Identification Workshops" were organized in December & February respectively. A "Farmland Birds Identification Workshop" was held in January and a "Forest Birds Identification Workshop" in April. Around 65 members attended these workshops.

Records 232 -

HK Bird Watching Competition 2013

The Competition was held from 4pm 6th to 4pm 7th April, 2013. Please visit our discussion forum for details and result.



Crested Bulbul Club

New committee members were elected in March. The new member list is as follows:

Chairman : Man Kuen Yat, Bill

Vice-chairman(Internal): Wong Chiu Shu

Vice-chairman(External) : Cheng Yiu Wan

Secretary : Cheng Kam Yuen, Graham

Advisor : Choi Chung Pak, David

Committee members : Dominic Yip (Chief Editor);

Tang Wing Shing; Leung Ho Chi;

Yau Hon Kwong

Team Captains : Man Kuen Yat, Bill; David Choi;

Cheng Yiu Wan; Wong Chiu Shu;

Ng Yan Nar; Wong Shui Chi

Early Morning Bird Watchers

No. of participants in Hong Kong Park from Dec to Feb 2013: 207

No. of participants in Kowloon Park from Dec to Feb 2013: 597

Bird watching interpretation in Hong Kong Wetland Park

A total of 152 participants from Dec 2011 to Feb 2013.

Bird watching services and activities


8 & 15 Dec 2012 Hong Kong Park Green Hunt

22-27 Dec 2012 North District Flower, Birds, Insect and Fish Show

2 Dec 2012 Birding tour at Disneyland for visually handicapped people

23 Jan 2013 Birding tour in Long Valley and Nam Sang Wai for mentally handicapped youngsters

Fishpond Management Agreement Programme in Northwest New Territories

The pilot scheme of this programme was completed in February. The HKBWS would like to express gratitude to all participating fishermen, as well as the Environment and Conservation Fund for funding and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for their support. The follow-on programme 2013-2015 will be officially launched in March. Apart from the habitat management and the bird monitoring, it will include baseline studies of various taxa (Herpetofauna, Odonata and fish). More activities will be held, including the Fishpond Festival and theme workshops, to promote bird conservation and local aquaculture. News updates will be announced on the BBS. 

2012-2015 Nature Conservation Management for Long Valley



Kai, a 6-year old Japanese boy, told us his story of planting rice in Long Valley.

The 7th "Harvest Fest" was held on 1 & 6 Jan 2013. There were about 800 participants joining the two-day activity. Regular activities included Water Chestnut and Chinese Arrowhead harvest, traditional oven cooking, and "straw art". New events like origami, garbage enzyme workshop and a ukulele music section were added this year. The event ended with joy and happiness. We look forward to the next "Harvest Fest" with more new events and seeing more participants to get in touch with farmland. Activity highlight:

<http://www.hkbws.org.hk/BBS/viewthread.php?tid=17575&page=1#pid54996>

Feel great when sitting on farmland listening to ukulele music.



Swarovski Hong Kong Ltd. has generously supported our project, named "Fishpond Management Agreement Programme in Northwest New Territories" in 2012 by giving us a special discount for buying 2 telescopes. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to her kindness.



Mai Po Update

~ John Allcock

Upgrading the fixed boardwalk to the southern floating hide

WWF will be undertaking a major project this summer on the fixed section of boardwalk leading to the southernmost floating hide (often referred to as the 'Bird Watching Society Hide') overlooking the mudflats at Mai Po. This boardwalk is now several years old, and has been affected by the weather and the tide. Sections have rotted away and now require regular repair by WWF staff.

The work to be conducted this summer will involve the removal of the old boardwalk and the construction of a new boardwalk along the same route. The new boardwalk will match the design of the existing fixed boardwalks to the other floating hides. Wood for the boardwalk will be provided by funds raised during the annual Big Bird Race in February 2013. All wood will be from environmentally-friendly sources certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

During the period of works the hide will be closed to visitor access, but the other three floating hides will remain open as usual. To minimise the disruption to our visitors we will be starting the works in June, after the spring shorebird migration period has finished, and we anticipate that works will be completed during August. I would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused during these essential works.

Enhancement of reedbeds at Mai Po



(Credit: John Allcock / WWF-Hong Kong) – "Degraded reedbed in Gei wai #8b, dominated by terrestrial climbers"




(Credit: John Allcock / WWF-Hong Kong) – "High quality wet reedbed in Gei wai #8b"

Over recent years, many of the reedbeds around the reserve have been colonised by a variety of other plants, especially mangroves, mangrove fern (*Acrostichum aureum*) and various terrestrial trees and climbers. This has led to a loss in area of reedbed, but has particularly caused a loss in the value for reedbed-dependent bird and invertebrate species. This loss of value has been particularly obvious in some of the larger reedbed blocks in Gei wai #8, #10 and #11.

Over the next few years, WWF aims to restore the value of most of the remaining areas of reedbed across the reserve. This will be achieved largely by removal of the top layer of sediment and dead material so that the reedbed can be flooded to create wet conditions. Roots and underground stems of the reeds will allow them to regrow, but the terrestrial vegetation will not survive in the wet conditions.

A long-term study into the comparative value of wet and dry reedbeds at Mai Po is ongoing. Preliminary results suggest that, as well as allowing easier control of non-reed vegetation, wet reedbed is of greater value to many reedbed-associated bird species. Species benefiting from the wet conditions include Black-browed and Oriental Reed Warblers, Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler, Yellow and Eurasian Bitterns, and Ruddy-breasted Crake. Globally-threatened Manchurian Reed Warblers are also now regularly recorded at Mai Po, and similarly show a significant preference for the wet reedbeds.

The first stage of the long-term plan to enhance reedbeds will take place in summer 2013. This will include the enhancement of Pond #9 (work reported in Bulletin 224 but postponed from 2012) and an area of reedbed in Gei wai #11. Works in Gei wai #11 will be funded by the Big Bird Race. 

Birding as a Parent-child activity

~ Samson So



In today's world of technology, children can have access to every kind of new information even after school hours. Nature-themed materials are abundant on documentaries as well as information shared on the internet. Getting information is one way for children to learn about nature, but the best way is for them to go out and learn through personal experience. Birdwatching can be a good start. Perhaps in many people's minds, birdwatching can only be done in far away nature reserves, but when I watch birds with children, the most visited spots are big urban parks, and a section of the road on the way to school every day.

Don't under rate the charm of common birds. Because they're so common, our kids can get to know them as neighbours easily, and we get to know the beauty of nature that we've neglected all over again. There we have the Tree Sparrow with brown, black and white stripes, pink feet, black cheek and throat, often seen hopping around on grass in small groups looking for food, their triangular beaks built for opening grass seeds. The one strolling under the tree, with the body shaped like a pigeon and scaly pattern on the wings, pink feet and bright orange eyes, and a characteristic black band with white dots on the neck, is a Spotted Dove. Unlike other birds, this bird uses its beak like a straw and doesn't need to raise its' head from time to time when drinking. There is also the Red-whiskered Bulbul, feeding on insects and fruits on the trees, easily identified by the red spots on its cheeks and vent, white chest, dark brown back, white tail tip, and a trendy high crown hair-do. Then we have the black and white Oriental Magpie Robin, standing proudly on a branch, loudly singing its melodious tune.

Apart from birds on land, we will also be pleasantly surprised by what we can find at riversides and ponds in parks within the city. Notice the all white feathers, long legs, long neck and long bill of the ever-feeding Little Egret. Look more often and you'll see it displaying different summer and winter plumages. In summer the adult birds will show two long feathers from

the back of their head, signalling to their potential mates they're ready for nesting and breeding. In contrast to the busy Common Kingfisher hunting for small fish and shrimps by the water, the Black-crowned Night Heron can often be seen resting lazily in trees in day time. This is because the Night Heron feeds at night time and rests during the day.

If we're willing to pay attention to what's around us, we'll see that there are indeed many birds in the city. Children are curious about almost anything, "what's this?" and "why", are their most frequent questions. This curiosity leads us to rediscover and admire the beautiful things in nature that we have taken for granted in our daily life, and rekindle the passion we once had as newcomers. When children begin birdwatching, optical instruments are not important. When my son was about two years old, he didn't know how to use binoculars, so we just observed together with our naked eyes and listened with our ears, that's as good as it can be. My son is now three years old. He has learned to use binoculars and is able to observe more bird species.

Hong Kong has recorded over 500 species of birds. Even experts can't claim to have seen them all, so there's no need

for parents to feel anxious. Common species are good for parent-child birdwatching. For our children, birdwatching is not a pursuit of species identification, or a race for rare species. It is a subtle learning process for children to know about other living things, and at the same time is a process which benefits both parent and children.

We all hope that the next generation will live a better life than ours, but the richness of life doesn't lie in material comforts, it lies in the inspiration we gain from nature. The joy we feel in every journey of exploration is not something that can be valued with cash. I think my son and the students nowadays are luckier than I was when I was their age because they enjoy good guidance from parents and teachers. They are given the opportunity to learn about the birds around them, and are exposed to all kinds of interesting things in nature at an early age. Well, I also consider myself a lucky father, not only do I get to go birdwatching with my son; I also get to re-live the passion from when I first started birdwatching many years ago, and to thoroughly enjoy the excitement at every encounter with these feathered little wonders.



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Naumann's Thrush
Koel Ko
Chek Lap Kok Airport

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陳志達
元朗大棠

Eye-browed Thrush
Chan Chi Tat
Tai Tong, Yuen Long

22/12/2012
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter



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Clement F.
石崗

Brown-headed Thrush
Clement F.
Shek Kong

16/12/2012
DSLR Camera, 800mm f/5.6 lens



葦鷀
深藍
塋原

Pallas's Reed Bunting
Owen
Long Valley

12/11/2012
DSLR Camera, 500mm lens + 1.4x teleconverter



My Bird Watching Diary

~ Text and Illustrations: Wendy Yu

Collared Scops Owl (*Otus lettia*)

7th October, 2012

Collared Scops Owl is a very cute owl. I remember that the first time I met it was on Lantau Island. On a winter morning, I was doing meditation, and the Collared Scops Owl was calling with a "Hoo Hoo" sound. After the meditation lesson, I found a torch and went for a walk by myself. I was surprised to find a pair, leaning towards each other. Since I didn't have my binoculars, I just stayed there, observing them quietly before I left them in peace. 🦉





My Black Kite Story (4B)

~ Peter Chan



newborn

Several baby kites have just hatched and their legs can barely move. In the first few days of their lives, all they can do is to lie in the nest. Flight feathers seem a world away when they are born with whitish down yet still cannot endure the chilly weather. Their mother will stay throughout the night in the nest to keep them warm without leaving for a moment. Meanwhile their father is busy hunting in the surrounding area. The kite parents will bring a great variety of prey to their newborn. Almost everything the parents catch will be brought back to the nest for feeding.



2 weeks old

The beaks of the little kites are too weak to tear off any meat and they rely on the parents to do it for them. If there are a lot of siblings in a nest, the parent kites will not show favouritism to the oldest and most vocal, instead the food will be evenly distributed. At the same time, the siblings will not fight among themselves to grab the food from their parents' mouths. While feeding the little kites, the parent birds will stealthily consume a small amount of the food as well. After the meal, they will discard bones and other leftovers either inside or outside the nest. Whenever the little kites discharge waste, they lean their tiny bodies against the edge of the nest and pull up all the efforts to eject the faeces out to ensure their living place is clean and tidy.

At four-weeks old the juvenile kites will have those feathers grown that can keep them warm and let them fly. The feathers are a sharp difference from the whitish down of the past few weeks. In this period, they start to work on their flying muscles and practice flapping in the nest. As the little kites now have feathers to keep warm, their mother gradually spends more time in the nearby area and less time in the nest. The juveniles have to be independent enough to get through the night in the nest until their parents get back with breakfast the next morning.



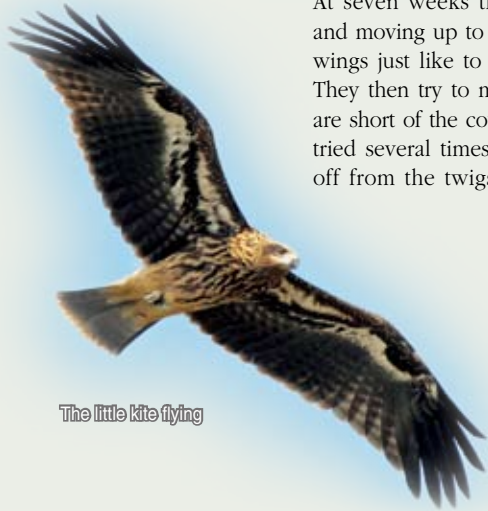
4 weeks old



work on their flying muscles



feeding



The little kite flying

At seven weeks they begin grasping at the nest and moving up to the tree top to stretch their little wings just like to feel the air current underneath. They then try to make a few jumps. Yet the young are short of the courage to make a first flight. Having tried several times, they jump high in the air and lift off from the twigs until their un-coordinated flapping

brings them back down to the nearby branches. The little kites do not give up and climb back to the tree top repeatedly to try again and again. After a week, they get accustomed to their wings and fly to the nearby branches and attempt to glide in the air to feel for the invisible hot current offering “free” rising power. Their flight feathers, underwing coverts and tail feathers are not yet fully grown, the flight feathers are shorter than their parent birds’ while the whitish down is still on the top of their underwing coverts. After the play period, they will return to the nest for rest at night.



Even though the juveniles are able to leave the nest now, the parent birds will continue to take good care of them for a period of time. The adults demonstrate flying skills and launch imitation attacks on the young in the air. A late reaction will induce an outright strike by their parents. The parent birds will also teach the little kites to catch prey. In the beginning, the little kites do not know how to make use of air currents and are unaware of the influences of wind speed and wind direction on their flight, they abruptly fly low and try to catch the prey directly. The result is that they overshoot and fail to catch anything. And once the juveniles are able to fly and leave the nest, it signifies the end of the breeding season. Both the parent birds and the little kites will no longer return to the nest, rather they all fly to the nearest communal kite roosting site. Things inside the nest are just left in place. Normally the parent birds will re-use the nest in the next breeding season unless one partner dies or the nest gets destroyed or collapses because of natural or external factors.

Finally, how to identify the newly-fledged kites leaving the nest? Adult kites moult their new feathers at the beginning of April, whereas the just-fledged ones will have all brand new feathers.. Should you encounter Black Kites with tidy and beautiful feathers in April, they should be those young birds.



~ Richard Lewthwaite

(These are unofficial records,
observers are still encouraged to submit formal records of their sightings – Ed.)

October

- ▶ In what was shaping to be a memorable autumn, highlights of the month were the **Varied Tit** again on Po Toi on 1st-2nd and 21st, a series of **Alstrom's Warblers** and **White-throated Rock Thrushes** in mid month, an apparently wild **Russet Sparrow** trapped at Mai Po on 16th (PJL) and a flock of 14 at Long Valley on 27th (web), a series of **Manchurian Reed Warblers**, including one at Lam Tsuen on 21st (BK), and a **Rosy Pipit** at Long Valley from 28th (YWH). Passage of **Chestnut Buntings** was also good, with up to 50 at Po Toi on 20th (BK).
- ▶ The **Alstrom's Warblers**, potentially 4th-7th records for Hong Kong, were found at four localities in four days – single birds Po Toi on 9th (GW), Mai Po on 9th-11th (BS), Tai Po Kau on 13th and 17th (KPK, KJ) and the north side of Lam Tsuen on 13th (MH) – and the **White-throated Rock Thrushes** singly at four localities in 10 days, at Lam Tsuen on 11th (MH), Kap Lung on 13th (TJW), Mount Davis on 19th (BK) and Wonderland Villas, Kwai Chung on 21st (TJW). The first of these was by 5 days the earliest ever in autumn. Two finch species were also reported on earliest-ever autumn dates, both at Po Toi - a **Eurasian Siskin** on 13th (GW), the earliest by 13 days, and two **Bramblings** from 21st, the earliest by 7 days.
- ▶ In the first half of the month, other notable reports included a **Rosy Starling** at Po Toi on 1st-2nd (LCF), up to five **Yellow-browed Buntings** there from 1st (GW), a **Speckled Piculet** at Tai Po Kau on 2nd and 7th (BK, KPK), three **White Wagtails** *baicalensis* on south Lantau on 6th (JAA), a **Bonelli's Eagle** predating a **Cattle Egret** at Mai Po on 7th (KH), 60 **Blue-tailed Bee-eaters** there on 9th (PJL), an **Asian Lesser Cuckoo** and a **Swinhoe's Minivet** at Po Toi on 11th (GW), a **Eurasian Jay** (now very rare) at Tsim Bei Tsui on 10th (AL) and a **Black-browed Reed Warbler** at Tai Po Kau on 14th (web), an apparent mismatch of species and habitat.
- ▶ Among reports in the second half of the month were two **Bay Woodpeckers** at Tai Po Kau on 17th (KJ), a **Greater Painted Snipe** at Po Toi on 18th (BK), another species and habitat mismatch. A **Black-headed Bunting** was at Long Valley Oct 18th (GC), a **Blyth's Reed Warbler** was at Chek Lap Kok on 19th (EMSK), 70 **Black Kites** at a roost at Dong Ping Chau on 20th (MDW) and a **Thick-billed Warbler** was at Lam Tsuen on 23rd (EMSK).
- ▶ In addition, the **Oriental Stork** continued its residence at Mai Po (WWF) and single **Radde's Warblers** were reported at Lok Ma Chau, Cheung Chau, Lam Tsuen and Po Toi (PJL, MDW, EMSK, GW).

November

- ▶ An excellent month, the end of which was marked by a prolonged spell of wet weather. The month brought at least one first record for Hong Kong (**Eurasian Hawfinch**) as well as a wide range of landbirds, including record numbers of **Radde's Warblers**.
- ▶ The **Eurasian Hawfinch** was photographed at Po Toi on 1st (WKG, CYT) and has been accepted as wild by the Records Committee, thus promoting the species to Category I of the Hong Kong list. Still to be considered by the Records Committee are a male and female **House Sparrow** photographed at Long Valley on 3rd-4th (LJ) and a **Whistling Green Pigeon** subspecies *riukiuiensis* (also known as "Ryukyu Green Pigeon") found at Po Toi on 27th (DY, GW).
- ▶ Other highlights were a **Red-backed Shrike** at Long Valley on 3rd, the second of the autumn at Long Valley and the fourth for Hong Kong, the **Rosy Pipit** from the end of October which remained at Long Valley until at least the 6th, a **Yellow-streaked Warbler** at Mai Po on 6th (PJL), a **Bianchi's Warbler** at Po Toi on 11th (BK) and a **Japanese Marsh Warbler** at Mai Po on 23rd (WWF). Single **Amur Falcons** at Long Valley on 18th (HKBWS website) and Lamma on 20th (PJL) are the latest-ever autumn records.



- ▶ Following sightings of one or two individuals at Mai Po, Po Toi and Mount Davis on 5th-6th and 9th, **Radde's Warblers** became almost common and widespread during 19th-24th, with six at Mount Davis on 19th (BK), a record count, five at Lamma on 20th (PJL) three at Nam Sang Wai on 21st (PJL), and single birds at Mai Po, Lok Ma Chau, Long Valley, Tai Po Kau and Po Toi (PJL, KJ, KPK).
- ▶ Long Valley hosted a wide range of interesting birds throughout the month. In addition to those mentioned above, the following birds were reported during 2nd-6th (MH, BK, IH, EMSK, CNM, GT): a **Mandarin Duck**, up to four **Japanese Quails**, a **Slaty-breasted Rail**, 30 **Greater Painted Snipe**, two **Eurasian Woodcocks**, a **Eurasian Skylark**, two **Common Starlings**, a **Lanceolated Warbler**, a **Grey Bushchat**, two **Russet Sparrows**, four **Buff-bellied Pipits**, a **Rustic Bunting**, three **Chestnut-eared Buntings** and a **Black-headed Bunting**. These were followed by a **Pheasant-tailed Jacana** and a **Pallas's Reed Bunting** on 12th (OC), an **Eastern Water Rail** and a **Brambling** on 13th (MH), a **Ruddy-breasted Crake** on 14th (WN), a **Bull-headed Shrike**, a **Yellow-browed Bunting** and 12 **Yellow-breasted Buntings** on 16th (KJ), a **Citrine Wagtail** on 17th (Mon) and a **Yellow-legged Buttonquail** on 23rd (KJ).
- ▶ Mount Davis was another productive site, especially during 3rd-9th (BK) when there were rare reports for Hong Kong Island of **Mountain Tailorbird**, **Bright-capped Cisticola**, **Rufous-capped Babbler** and **Lesser Shortwing**, as well as sightings of migrants such as **Chestnut-winged Cuckoo**, **Eastern Crowned Warbler**, **Chestnut-flanked White-eye**, **Red-tailed Robin**, **Mugimaki Flycatcher**, **Red-throated Flycatcher** and **Brambling**. A fly-over **Eurasian Skylark** on 12th might also be a first for Hong Kong Island. Further coverage on 17th-22nd (BK) led to reports of **Yellow-streaked Warbler** (on 17th), **Black-naped Monarch**, **Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher**, **Siberian Flycatcher**, **Grey-streaked Flycatcher**, **Red-breasted Flycatcher** (male on 20th), **Blue-and-white Flycatcher** and **Chestnut Bunting**.
- ▶ Birds of note at Mai Po (mainly JAA, PJL, WWF) included the long-staying **Oriental Stork**, six **Daurian Redstarts** on 2nd, the number rising to 13 on 29th, 17 **Northern Lapwings**, 125 **Chinese Penduline Tits**, five **Chestnut-eared Buntings** and 15 **Siberian Rubythroats**, all on 6th, single **Manchurian Reed** and **Thick-billed Warblers** on 6th and 19th, a **Nordmann's Greenshank** on 18th, a **Pallas's Reed Bunting** on 19th and 70 **Red-rumped Swallows** beside the access road on 29th. A **Fork-tailed Sunbird** on 2nd and a **Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker** on 10th (WWF) were possibly the first for the reserve. A **goose** sitting amongst a dense flock of cormorants in front of the Mai Po boardwalk on 14th caused much excitement until it was realised that it was of the domestic variety.
- ▶ At Po Toi, one or two **Bramblings** and up to 12 **Eurasian Siskins** were reported in the first two weeks (GW). Thereafter, other notable birds were a **Bianchi's Warbler** and a **Japanese Yellow Bunting** on 10th-11th (BK, WD), a **Brown Hawk Owl** on 18th (BK), a freshly-arrived **White-breasted Waterhen** on 20th, a **Red-breasted Flycatcher** on 21st and three **Brown-headed Thrushes** on 22nd (GW). Thrushes and chats appeared in increasing numbers as the month progressed. Counts of **Daurian Redstarts**, for example, rose from nine (all males except for one) to 17 in the first week and then to a peak of 23 on 15th (GW). The island also hosted a **Vivid Niltava** on 24th (BK) and a **Hill Blue Flycatcher** the same or the next day (per GW), both apparently of uncertain origin.
- ▶ Among reports from other sites were a **Brown Wood Owl** at Lam Tsuen on 1st (DT), an **Eastern Water Rail** there on 3rd (EMSK), a **Bay Woodpecker** at Tai Po Kau on 10th (KB, RB), seven **Common Starlings** at Lut Chau on 14th (PJL), a **Sulphur-breasted Warbler** at Tai Po Kau on 14th and 22nd (NG), two **Plumbeous Redstarts** at Shing Mun on 19th (SLT), a **Thick-billed Warbler**, a **Grey Bushchat**, 10 **Daurian Redstarts** and a **Japanese Yellow Bunting** at Lamma on 20th (PJL), an **Orange-headed Thrush** at Tai Po Kau Headland on 22nd (KB, RB) and a **White-spectacled Warbler** at Tai Po Kau on 24th (KPK).

December

- ▶ In a month in which thrushes, bluetails and redstarts were widespread, a long list of rare species turned up, all involving single birds: **Chinese Thrush** at Po Toi on 5th (GW), **Naumann's Thrush** at Mai Po on 6th (PJL) and Chek Lap Kok on 27th-30th (EMSK), **Bianchi's Warbler** at Kadoorie Farm on 8th and 12th (EMSK), **Northern House Martin** at Tai Sang Wai on 9th (JGH), **Barred Cuckoo Dove** at Tai Po Kau on 21st (KPK), **Varied Tit** at Yuen Long on 22nd (LYM), **Red-headed Bunting** at Long Valley on 23rd and **White-tailed Robin** at Shing Mun on 26th (CCT, LYM). Two **Japanese Yellow Buntings** at Lin Au on 3rd (BK) and one at Po Toi on 4th (GW) were the first ever reported in December and the latest in autumn.
- ▶ In addition to the birds mentioned above, other birds of note reported in the first week of the month were 130 **Chestnut Buntings** and two **Crested Buntings** at Lin Au on 3rd (BK), single **Radde's Warblers** at Lam Tsuen, Wu Kau Tang, Cheung Chau, Mount Davis and Kap Lung during 2nd-8th (DT, EMSK, RWL, MDW, BK), a **Himalayan Swiftlet**, 43 **Yellow-breasted Buntings** and five **Chestnut-eared Buntings** at Long Valley on 4th (KJ), a **Pallas's Reed Bunting** at Mai Po on 6th (PJL) and seven **Mugimaki Flycatchers** at Airfield Road (CNM) and 10 **Eurasian Siskins** at Cheung Chau on (MDW) on 7th. Also in this period, a male **Fujian Niltava** was found at Shing Mun on 5th (SLT), the first of four reported in the month, the others being a male at Wonderland Villas on 8th (TJW), a female at Mount Davis on 9th (web) and a male at Pok Fu Lam Reservoir on 23rd (BK).
- ▶ The second week brought reports of a **Speckled Piculet** at Kap Lung and a **White-spectacled Warbler** at Tai Lam on 8th (AB) and **Chestnut-collared Yuhinas** from widespread areas including Sha Chau Island on 11th (KJ, EMSK). Also of note in this period were up to two **Dusky Thrushes** at Cheung Chau (MDW) and Pui O (BK) on 8th, single **Orange-headed Thrushes** at Tai Po Kau Headland (RB) and Victoria Park on 9th (Mon), an immature male **Siberian Thrush** at Shing Mun on the same day, a **Grey Bushchat** at Cheung Chau on 11th (MDW), a **Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher** at Tai Po Kau on 12th (BK) and a female **Small Niltava** at Kadoorie Farm on 15th (EMSK).
- ▶ Ducks at Mai Po featured strongly in the third week of the month: five **Common** and two **Baer's Pochards** on 16th, a **Red-breasted Merganser** on 17th and a **Greater Scaup** on 20th (WWF). Mai Po also hosted a **Red-breasted Flycatcher** from 21st (HD). Elsewhere, a **Russet Sparrow** was photographed at Po Toi on 16th (WD).
- ▶ A female **Mandarin Duck** which unexpectedly turned up on the stream at Tai Po Kau on 25th (KPK) competed with two **Black-throated Tits** at Po Toi (TW) for best bird of Christmas day. Other contenders were a **Crested Honey Buzzard** at Lam Tsuen (EMSK) and a **Red-breasted Flycatcher** at Mount Davis (BK). Sightings of the long-staying **Oriental Stork** at Mai Po (WWF) and a male **Japanese Robin** at Tai Po Kau on 31st (KPK) rounded off a very fine month and brought the year to a close. 

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Indoor Meetings Apr - Jun 2013

Indoor Meetings				
Date	Time	Topic	Speakers	Venue
16/4/2013 (Tue)	1915-2115	Birding in China ~ the 18-Province Experience (Cantonese with Chinese powerpoint)	Mr. Lo Kar Man	HKBWS Lai Chi Kok office 7C, V Ga Building, 532 Castle Peak Road, Lai Chi Kok, Kowloon.
30/5/2013 (Thu)	1900-2100	Tibet – Going West (or …) (Cantonese with Chinese powerpoint)	Mr. Lam Chiu Ying	Rm. 1114, Scout Assn of HK, Austin Road, Kowloon.
20/6/2013 (Thu)	1915-2115	Wild West India Vs Serene South India (Cantonese with English powerpoint)	Ms. Vicky Yeung & Ms. Marie Louise	HKBWS Lai Chi Kok office 7C, V Ga Building, 532 Castle Peak Road, Lai Chi Kok, Kowloon.

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Bird Watching Tours Apr - Sep 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		
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)	0830 - 1300	Shing Mun (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:30 Kiosk at Pineapple Dam, Shing Mun Reservoir)	☆	Forest birds
2/6/2013 (Sun)	0830 - 1200	Nam Chung and Luk Keng (08:30 Pavilion at junction of Nam Chung Rd & Luk Keng Rd)	☆☆	Forest birds & Waterbirds
20/7/2013 (Sat)	0830 - 1630	Mirs Bay and Eastern Waters (08:30 Sai Kung Old Pier, end 16:30 Ma Liu Shui New Pier) Note: This will be a long trip on open waters. The ride could be quite rough and some people may be seasick. Those who want to leave at lunchtime may take the ferry (departing hourly) at Tap Mun for Wong Shek Pier. The fare is non-refundable irrespective of early departure at Tap Mun.	☆☆☆	Seabirds (Terns)
25/8/2013 (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
7/9/2013 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Long Valley (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Maxim's MX, Sheng Shui Railway Station)	☆☆	Forest birds
15/9/2013 (Sun)	0830 - 1200	Shing Mun (08:30 Kiosk at Pineapple Dam, Shing Mun Reservoir)	☆☆	Forest birds
22/9/2013 (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
28/9/2013 (Sat)	0800 - 1600	Po Toi and HK South Waters (08:00 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.	☆☆	Migrants

Member: Free of Charge

Member: Free of Charge

Member: HK\$60 (Student Member: HK\$30)

Member: HK\$160

Non-member: Free of Charge

Non-member: HK\$30 (HK\$10 for age under 19 student)

Non-member: HK\$120

Non-member: HK\$200

(registration not required)

(registration not required)

(registration required)

(registration required)

Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Activity Booking Slip

I would like to register the following HKBWS outings:

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 <small>(First one will be considered contact person)</small>	Membership No.	Mobile Phone	Fare*	Mai Po Outing Meeting Place <small>Kln Tong 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, 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

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褐頭鵐
陳家華
望原

Red-headed Bunting
Jacky Chan
Long Valley

17/01/2013

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



田鵲
沈冠宇
塋原

Rustic Bunting
KY Shum
Long Valley

04/11/2012
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