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233

Autumn 2014 ~ 秋





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The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

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Bulletin 233

Contents

Editorial note	– John Holmes	06
Society News & Projects		06
Mai Po Update	– John Allcock	10
Birding Anecdote - Birding and Island Biogeography	– Samson So	11
Encounters with Chestnut Bulbul	– Stanley Cheng	14
South Africa on a Shoestring (Part 2)	– Captain Wong	21
Hong Kong Bird News	– Richard Lewthwaite	25
Coming activities & indoor meeting		30

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Editorial Note

Autumn should be a season to enjoy birding in some of the best weather of the year.

But, overall, conditions for the birds we like to watch are not getting any better, and the threats to the local environment are long-term.

A Hong Kong – Zhuhai – Macau road bridge is under construction, and the HK Airport Authority is confidently seeking approval (and a lot of taxpayers money) to build a third airport runway. There are smaller-scale threats to farmland and the edges of our country parks, too.

In addition to this, a (Shenzhen-side) plan to develop part of the north of Deep Bay into a new high-rise district may further constrict the space available to resident and migratory birds.

Details of all these projects have been flagged-up in the Conservation News section of the HKBWS website. They are all well worth a read.

Despite all this gloom and doom, the Chinese Crested Terns (see “China Programme Update”) had a good breeding season. A reason to be cheerful! 

John Holmes

Society News and Projects

Members

Affairs

2014 Membership Renewal

Membership stood at around 1905 as at early September. Membership renewal under the new membership criteria is in progress. Renewal letters will be posted about two months before membership expiry date.

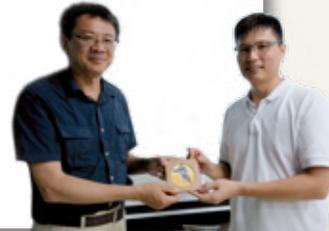


21/7 “Herpetofauna of Hong Kong” Talk
(Speaker: Ivan TSE, HKBWS)

HK Wildlife Series Talk

A series of HK wildlife and overseas butterfly watching talks were organized during the summer time in July and August with great response from members and the public.

1/8 “Skippers of Hong Kong” Talk. Mr. WY Lo, HKBWS General Manager, presenting a souvenir to the speaker Mr. James Young, HK Lepidoptera Society Chairman.



Bird Watching Course

The 17th Elementary Bird Watching Course for Beginners, jointly organized with the Hong Kong Professional Teachers’ Union for the first time, will be held in the middle of November. For details, please refer to the attachment and the BWS website discussion forum.

Crested Bulbul Club

Early Morning Bird Watchers

No. of participants in Hong Kong Park
from May to Jul 2014: 228

No. of participants in Kowloon Park
from May to Jul: 309



Construction Disturbance to Egrettries

During this year's egret breeding season (between March and July), construction work at Tai Po Market, Tuen Mun and Mai Po Village egrettries was reported to HKBWS. This has been an on-going issue for a number of years and this year the Society has taken a new approach. From previous cases we have learned that not only is there a lack of a systematic framework in dealing with construction work near egrettries, the site staff are often unaware of the presence of egrettries and the impact their works can have on them. In August, the Society held a workshop with government works departments and construction companies and provided background information on the conditions of egrettries in Hong Kong as well as possible mitigation measures to consider when planning or carrying out work. In return, participants provided us feedback in regard to how the HKBWS can work together to help them address this issue. The workshop provided a useful communication platform between the Society, government departments and construction companies. Moving forward, we plan to develop a set of guidelines for engineers and contractors with an aim to avoid and minimize construction activity at egrettries during the breeding season.

Conservation News

Kam Tin South and Pat Heung Land Use Review

The Planning Department is currently reviewing the land use at Kam Tin near the Kam Sheung Road West Rail station. The purpose of the review is to provide high and low-density residential development at Kam Tin South and Pat Heung. The scale of the development is just small enough so that an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required under the EIA Ordinance, stripping away the public's ability to voice their concerns. Green groups held a meeting with the Planning Department to voice concerns about the lack of stakeholder engagement activity, the lack of consideration of the loss of active farmland habitat within the proposed development sites and the use of outdated ecological survey data for the proposed preliminary layout.

Third Runway Environmental Impact Assessment

The Third Runway EIA report was endorsed with conditions by the Advisory Council of the Environment in September. During the public inspection stage, green groups including the HKBWS submitted comments to EPD concerning the lack of adequate mitigation measures for Chinese White Dolphins. The Society also emphasized concerns about the impact to the Sha Chau Egretty, because drilled materials from the submarine pipelines will be excavated close by. As part of the mitigation measures the Airport Authority has promised to avoid work during the whole of the egret breeding season.

2012-2015 Nature Conservation Management for Long Valley

Migration has begun. When you visit Long Valley, please be reminded of the following points:

1. Long Valley is mostly owned by private landowners and managed by farmers, please respect local residents and farmers, do not damage anything and crops in the field;
2. Farmers also plant crops on farmland margins and bunds. So please be careful when you are walking in Long Valley. DO NOT step on the crops and DO NOT walk into the field plots to avoid unnecessary damage.
3. Protect the natural environment, do not litter or smoke. Please keep quiet.

In order to prevent obstructing and misunderstanding with local farmers and residents, please note the following points:

1. Try to use proper car parks or parking spaces with meters;
2. Try to park vehicles in open area or beside broad roads;
3. After parking the car, please make sure the vehicle does not cause traffic obstruction or occupy resident parking spaces;
4. Place your contact number in front of the windscreen for emergency contact.

Parking at Yin Kong is very restricted, opposite to the beancurd factory at Ho Sheung Heung is a less controversial place to park. In any case, members visiting these areas should respect and not cause any inconvenience to local villagers and residents.

Thank you for your cooperation!



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香港國際攝影節協辦

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|-------|-----------------|
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| ✦ 生態組 | ✦ 公開組—本港居民，年齡不限 |
- 截止日期：2014年11月15日

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大生圍村



漁農自然護理署



News of Chinese Crested Tern Restoration Programme

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society proudly announce that the artificial restoration project of Chinese Crested Terns by using a "social attraction method" at the Jiushan Islands had a second and even more successful breeding season than last year's: at least 43 Chinese Crested Terns arrived and stayed on one of the Jiushan Islands, Tiedun Dao, this breeding season (from mid-May to early-August 2014), and at least 20 breeding pairs were formed. This is about 90% of the world's Chinese Crested Tern population for the estimated population of less than 50. In early August, no less than 13 young Chinese Crested Terns have fledged. These records together added up to the highest count of Chinese Crested Tern at a single site ever. For such a rare species, this is a remarkable, almost miraculous, success.



*Chinese Crested Tern incubating its egg
(Photo credit: Simba Chan)*

Chinese Crested Terns, a "Critically Endangered" bird species listed in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species, were presumed extinct in the late 20th century. This legendary bird was rediscovered at the Mazu Islands in 2000, and one new colony was discovered at the Jiushan Islands, Xiangshan County of Zhejiang Province, in 2004. Since 2011, BirdLife International and HKBWS have been working with Dr. Chen Shui-hua from Zhejiang Museum of Natural History, the Zhejiang Wild Bird Society, the Ocean and Fishery Bureau of Xiangshan County and a team of tern experts lead by Dr. Daniel Roby from Oregon State University in the United States on a restoration project for Chinese Crested Terns in the Jiushan Islands, using the audio-visual social attraction methods of decoys and tern call playbacks. The social attraction method showed early success in 2013, please see Bulletin 229 for details.

Building on the excellent results from the first two years of this restoration project, the team is considering expanding the project to Wuzhishan Island, Zhejiang and Mazu Island next year and further collaborating with Taiwan researchers. The team will improve the nesting habitat as well as apply the audio-visual social attraction method on all three selected sites, hoping to establish a network of breeding sites for the species. To identify the Chinese Crested Tern's migration and over-wintering areas, a banding project (to attach a small, individually numbered tag to the leg of the bird) for the terns has also been proposed.

This project was only made possible with the generous support of the Xiangshan Ocean and Fishery Bureau, the Zhejiang Museum of Natural History, the Ocean Park Conservation Foundation (HK), the Japan Fund for Global Environment, Endangered Species Fund from the State Forestry Administration of China, Pacific Seabird Group and BirdLife International Preventing Extinctions Programme supporter - Mark Constantine. The two organisations in Zhejiang also provided significant logistical support which helped make the project such a resounding success. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (Wildlife Without Borders) supported the project by providing decoys and playback equipment needed for social attraction.

Young Chinese Crested Tern fledged (Photo credit: Simba Chan)



Mai Po Update

Text: John Allcock

Stilts nesting again at Mai Po

Regular visitors may remember that 2013 was the first year for 10 years that Black-winged Stilts did not nest at Mai Po. This followed a bad year in 2012, when dogs found the nesting islands and many pairs abandoned their nests. We were hoping that the stilts would return in 2014.

There were some early attempts at nesting in March this year, but these were abandoned after unseasonably heavy rain on 30 March caused high water levels on the reserve. Birds were around for the next couple of months, and occasionally looked like nesting, but none settled until June, when a single nest was found on Gei wai #16/17. Fortunately this pair managed to hatch their eggs, and then led the chicks to an undisturbed area of Gei wai #19 (which was drained for reprofiling). Eventually two chicks were successfully raised. This total of only two birds is much lower than the successful period from 2003-2012, but might be an indication that the stilts will return to breed again in future years.

Control of exotic Acacia trees on the reserve

There are three species of Acacia trees on the reserve, none of which is native to Hong Kong. These are invasive species that easily spread by seed across the reserve, and grow rapidly and can often be fairly tall. We aim to keep an open landscape on the reserve, because this is more suitable for waterbirds, and these tall and fast-growing species are incompatible with this management aim.

During 2014 we will be controlling the Acacia trees across the reserve, with the aim to limit their further spread and if possible to eradicate them from the reserve. Some trees will be felled, while others will be killed by ring-barking (removing the outer layer of bark) to leave some standing dead wood. Dead trees on the reserve are often used as roosting sites for raptors, and it is expected that the ring-barked Acacia trees will also serve this purpose. Control of the Acacia trees is expected to take begin in October 2014.

Collared Crows in Mai Po and Hong Kong

This has been another good summer for Collared Crows on the reserve. Following the record count of 167 birds in 2013, this record was broken again in 2014, with a count of 173 in July. This is more than twice the number recorded a decade ago. This is considered to be the largest population of this species known globally, and with another large roost known at Shuen Wan, it is likely that Hong Kong is the global stronghold of this Near Threatened species. 

*Beautiful Sibia (Heterophasia pulchella):
a species found in southwestern China
and Southeast Asia*

Birdwatching and Island Biogeography

Photo/Text: Samson So

I first came across the subject of Island Biogeography when I was still an undergraduate student of Environmental Science. This is a school of knowledge developed by R. H. MacArthur and E. O. Wilson, which considers the size of islands, the distance between them and the mainland, and the resulting differences in biodiversity.

The general conclusion is that through time and geographical isolation, each island develops unique and divergent sets of life forms.

As an ecology student who loved birdwatching, Island Biogeography became a clear guideline to me for a better understanding of birds.

Since the 90s I have enjoyed watching birds and have always seized opportunities to visit different places and seek to view different species. Not only have I seen many birds, but I have been able to personally witness the effects of Island Biogeography, confirming the theory taught to me in my student days.

Taiwan Yuhina (Yuhina brunneiceps): Taiwan endemic



*White-whiskered Laughing Thrush (Garrulax morrisonianus):
Taiwan endemic*



*White-eared Sibia (Heterophasia auricularis):
Taiwan endemic*



Even the most common birds species can teach us about the relationship between species and geographical spacing, as well as the relationship between the species and individuals. Take the familiar White-throated Kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*) as an example, in Hong Kong, the species' white patch extends from the chest to the belly, and hence the common English name White-breasted Kingfisher. In the Philippines, the white patch has only covers the throat, that's why the local English name there is White-throated Kingfisher. Using the Blue Whistling Thrush (*Myiophonus caeruleus*) as another example, Hong Kong's race has a black bill, whereas the southwestern race has yellow bill. The Magpie Robin (*Copsychus saularis*) in Hong Kong has white underparts, whereas populations

in Southeast Asia are darker. It is fun to learn about the variations of these species in accordance with their geographical distributions.

Apart from the variation of sub-species, some of the species distribution has led me to learn more about Biogeography and Climate Change. Nowadays, the Sibias (*Heterophasia* spp.) are spread throughout Taiwan, South East Asia and Yunnan (China). This separated distribution may be related to the Climate Change when the birds were shifting their distributions during and after the Ice Ages and interglacial periods. Naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace did his most famous work in the islands of what is now Indonesia. His conclusions inspired him to develop his own version of

Coliiformes: Mousebirds are all endemic to sub-Saharan Africa



*Philippine Falconet Microhierax erythrogenys:
Philippines endemic*





*Bornean Bristlehead (Pityriasis gymnocephala):
Unique to Borneo*

the Theory of Evolution (which, famously, he outlined in a letter to Charles Darwin, spurring the latter to publish his "On the Origin of Species").

When Wallace was researching on different islands, he observed that there was a hidden boundary marking a difference between the bird populations of Borneo and Sulawesi, and between Bali and Lombok Island. The hidden boundary separated the East from the West. Using birds as an example, Wallace, in his book "The Malay Archipelago" shared with readers his observations that many South East Asian birds could be found on Bali but not on Lombok Island. The invisible line that divides the distribution of the species is now called 'Wallace's Line'.

Appreciating species through the eyes of Biogeography helps us to learn more about the uniqueness of life. It is also impressive to realize the work done by nature over the eons. Under this concept every species is unique and worthy of conservation. Astronomist Carl Sagan stated in his book "Pale Blue Dot: A vision of the Human Future in Space", that loving and protecting every pale blue dot in our universe is our earnest obligation and responsibility because this is the one and only one home of every life, including humans.

After all the earth is one of the little islands in the universe.



Cuckoo Roller (Leptosomus discolor): a Madagascar endemic

Encounters with Chestnut Bulbul

Photo/Text: Stanley Cheng

When I brought a pair of binoculars, back-packed a camera and departed for bird watching on a beautiful morning in April, the sun was shining brightly. On the trails of Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve I held the binoculars firmly, while my mind flashed like projector slides with bird species that I might encounter. Just past an open picnic area, I soon entered the gloomy bushy woods. While my eyes were still adjusting, a bird abruptly flew away from a cross trunk ten meters ahead of me. I got a quick impression of its blackish-chestnut crest and white belly as it gave me a teasing look in passing. What a pity. I put aside the binoculars, felt overwhelmed and could do nothing!

At noon on a day in August, I returned to in the same trail. Just after I passed steps to a pool, I found a Chestnut Bulbul taking a rest on a wikstroemia bush five metres away. I rushed forwards, lowering the binoculars in my left hand, and brought up the camera in my right hand. Hurriedly squinting through the viewfinder, I saw shivering branches but no Chestnut Bulbul.

Glancing up I saw the chestnut body in mid-air, with its vivid blackish-chestnut crest. I stood still, deeply regretting that the Chestnut Bulbul I had spent so much effort to locate had disappeared. I put the binoculars and camera away and stared hard at the trail ahead, mentally preparing myself for the need to search again.



Another new year, another January morning and I started out on Tai Po Kau's trails again. Approaching the picnic area I found lovely birdsong rushing into my ears. A whistling that was like jingling bells, cadences in harmony, the sound of a Steinway Piano in the woods. The music was filling up every corner. I stood still enjoying the amazing moment, refreshing both my mind and body. This music show presaged an appointment between me and the Chestnut Bulbul on a later day.

On a rainy day in March, I ascended the Tai Po Kau access track. But once I arrived at the orchard the rain abruptly stopped and sunshine broke through. Looking up I saw a Chestnut Bulbul perched above me. A view through 10x binoculars brought it very close.

Its blackish-chestnut crest was formed of several bundles of feathers with, below, a darkish-chestnut shade on most of the upperparts. The sunshine brought out the richness of the chestnut-coloured plumage, including the white tail edges, which shone brightly. Dark brown flight feathers also highlighted the chestnut colours of the wing coverts. The snowy white throat, abdomen and undertail coverts were separated by a greyish chest.

This Chestnut Bulbul resembled an elf in a fairytale, and it brought the whole Nature Reserve to life for me. I put down the binoculars, and raised the camera equipped with 300cm lens and 1.4x extender. I saw a pair of reddish brown irides with dark pupils looking back at me through the viewfinder, implying consent for me to shoot, then it shook the head a little bit to tidy up its crest, straightened the body, and made a fine pose. I quickly pressed the shutter. I put down the camera and knew the image was captured. It flipped its wings and flew towards the hill of the Nature Trail. I packed the camera, held the binoculars and continued on my way.

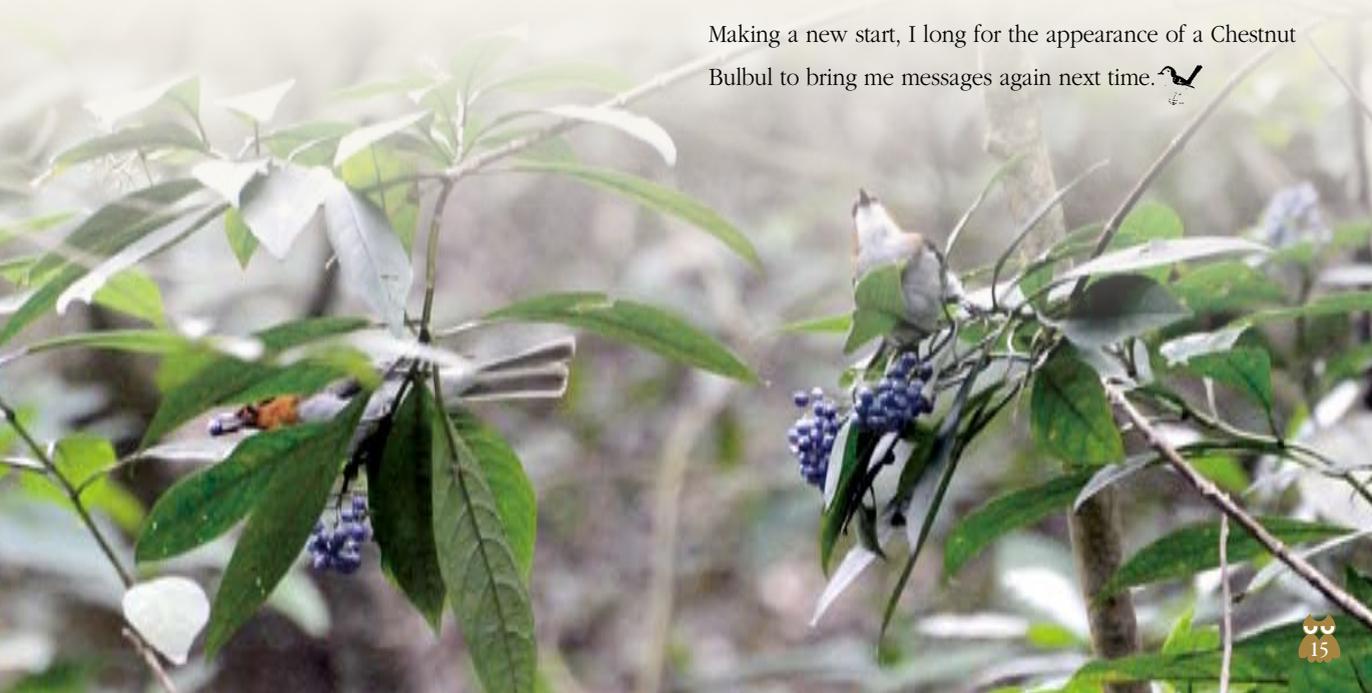
On an overcast morning in January of a new year, I returned to the Tai Po Kau trails. At a bend in the track

I held back behind a big boulder, aware that there was movement in front. I leaned towards the boulder and sought cover behind some pandanus leaves. Squatting down slowly, the spikes of pandanus pierced my trousers and then my right leg. Ignoring the pain I located two Chestnut Bunbuls feeding in a hydrangea bush.

I leaned my shoulder hard towards the boulder and my body stayed dead still. I controlled my breathing long and light without any noise as if the body disappeared, but my eyes kept fixed on the two Chestnut Bunbuls. The one on the right looked relaxed, only eating ripe dark blue fruits; whereas the one on the left was just gulping up everything, stuffing fruit into itself. After a few moments, having sated themselves, they looked at each other and flew off. I stretched my body straight behind the pandanus leaves, and got back on the trail.

Within Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve, I have never really successfully found a Chestnut Bulbul. On the other hand, it has been Chestnut Bulbul which has found me. At an appropriate time, it has appeared in front of me and brought me different messages, elevating me from a fundamental to a mature stage and a step closer to Zen.

Making a new start, I long for the appearance of a Chestnut Bulbul to bring me messages again next time. 



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山鵲鶉
陳志達
城門

Forest Wagtail
Chan Chi Tat
Shing Mun

30/12/2013
DSLR Camera, 300mm f/2.8 lens



海南藍仙鶴
壞蛋 1 號
大埔滘

Hainan Blue Flycatcher
Bad Egg #1
Tai Po Kau

25/04/2014
Mirrorless Digital Camera, 50-230mm f/4.5-6.7 lens
@ 230mm (1/15", f/8, ISO3200)

小灰山椒鳥
Vivian Cheung
蒲台

Swinhoe's Minivet
Vivian Cheung
Po Toi

26/04/2014
DSLR Camera, 300mm f/2.8 lens + 2x teleconverter



褐胸鶉
路人乙
大埔滘

Brown-breasted Flycatcher
passerby-b
Tai Po Kau

03/05/2014
DSLR Camera, 800mm f/5.6 lens





達烏里寒鴉
何建業
沙田彭福公園

Daurian Jackdaw
Kinni Ho Kin Yip
Penfold Park, Shatin

29/05/2014

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

Photo/Text: Wong Lun Cheong, Captain

SOUTH AFRICA ON A SHOESTRING (PART 2)



Day 4

We left Olifants and headed some 100km away south to Lower Sabie camp.

It had been raining throughout the night and the rain became even heavier in the morning, needless to say, there was only limited bird activity.

We departed at 8am and took H1-4. Didn't see much in the heavy rain, but managed to find a Goliath Heron and a Hammerkop beside a river. We also saw some Wattled Starlings and a Purple Roller hiding from the rain. Other wildlife included elephants, zebras, giraffes, buffaloes and impalas, the same herbivores which we'd been seeing over the previous few days.

As we approached the rest stop at Satara camp, the landscape began to change from woodland savanna to savanna. The view opened up and bird conditions improved. I saw White Storks, European migrants here for their winter, and a group of African Grey Hornbills in flight. During our break at Satara camp, I saw Red-billed Buffalo-Weavers nest-building, a gang of Arrow-marked Babblers and a lone-ranger Black-headed Oriole.

We moved along H1-3 from Satara to the next stop, Tshokwane and we saw many big birds on our way: White-backed Vulture, Black Stork, African Openbill, Saddle-billed Stork, Water Thick-knee, African Fish Eagle, Black-headed Heron and Brown Snake Eagle. Although they differed in shapes and sizes, they all exhibited a common look, crestfallen and bedraggled.



Red-crested Korhaan

Tshokwane is actually a picnic area, it has a small shop (with sandwiches, hamburgers etc.), an outdoor covered dining area and toilets. The rain was still pouring while we waited for our food, but we could still find an African Jacana and a Southern Red Bishop by the river. After lunch we continued on to Lower Sabie via H10. Before going uphill, we saw a rarer species, a group of 4 to 5 Southern Ground-Hornbills. On the way up, there were two lookout areas for visitors to stop for a good view of the savanna. From there we saw two groups of Ostriches, totalling as many as 12 birds. H10 passes through a hilly area (not a real highland), where I saw many Amur Falcons. Then all of a sudden, a totally soaked Secretarybird appeared. I saw this species in a television documentary when I was small, it was awesome being able to see it in the flesh! After the Secretarybird, things got even better. We saw two cheetahs in clear view by the side of the road. Although we didn't see them running in action, we were able to observe them for some time, watching them look out—play—look out—leave. We were so exhilarated that all three of us in the car were talking at the same time, making a lot of excited noise. After the elation died down, nothing else managed to stir us for the remaining 10km.

Exhaustion kicked in when we arrived at Lower Sabie, so I had little appetite for birding. We had a river view room for 3 with a kitchen, from where we could hear elephant and hippo calls while preparing dinner.



Day 5

Despite the rain, I got up early in the morning for a round of birding in the camp. There was a White-winged Widowbird and a Green-backed Heron on the grass by the riverbank. At the camping area I found Common Scimitarbill, Village Weaver, White-browed Robin-Chat, Black-backed Puffback and Southern Boubou. On the outskirts of the camp, I also saw the only woodpecker of this trip, a Cardinal Woodpecker.

Our plan was to go to Crocodile Bridge along H4-2. After a heavy downpour, the sky was still dark. There had been no sign of any lion in the past few days, it could have been the rain, but might just as well have been our luck. We were worried that lion would become the “dip” of our trip. Luckily, the sky above our heads cleared and a



Day 6

It was drizzling again in the morning, and bird conditions were similar to the day before. New species included Diderick Cuckoo and White-browed Scrub-Robin.

We left the National Park in the morning in sunshine and headed towards Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve in the afternoon (about 100km away from Kruger National Park). After leaving Lower Sabie camp, we took S21 and S112 towards the south-western part of the National park. There was nothing interesting on these two dirt roads. We then turned into H1-1, and after driving for some time, we saw a Black Rhino from afar. We looked around, there were no wired fences, so it was a “tickable” Rhino at last !

We arrived at Pretoriuskop Camp (very close to Numbi Gate) before noon. Since it's still early after lunch, we decided to take a detour inside the Park. We checked the notice board and saw notes of leopard sightings on S3 and S7, so we took this route to exit the Park from Phabeni Gate. Unfortunately, we saw no leopards ourselves.

Leaving the Park behind through Phabeni Gate, we passed by a big town called Hazyview going uphill to a scenic small town Graskop. Finding this place too ‘urbanised’ for city folks like us, we continued on, doing some sightseeing on our way looking for the hillside accommodation recommended in the guidebook. The place is called Thaba Tsweni, it's got a beautiful environment with beds of wild flowers nearby, cost also reasonable (2 bedroom chalet almost 2,000 sq ft big at HK\$700± per night). We had dinner at a ‘private dining room’ (owned by the brother of the lady who operated the accommodation), a 4-course western dinner at HK\$120 per head. In retrospect, the ‘restaurant’ was filled with Victorian style furniture and decorative items, dim lighting plus the owner's favourite opera music background. It reminded me of the opening scene from the movie “Silence of the Lambs 2”, where Dr Hannibal invited guests for dinner. In real life, the owner was outgoing and friendly, we had a relaxing evening discussing the situations in Hong Kong and South Africa.

group of lions appeared in the middle of the road blocking our way, like a police roadblock. Although the picture looked unnatural with lions against the paved road, I still kept shooting my camera non-stop. After all, it's my first encounter with lions, a memorable moment in my life. Apart from the lions, we also found two Black Rhinos near Crocodile Bridge. Before we became too happy, we saw electricity-wired nets and fences circling this area, meaning these rhinos were kept inside this area to protect them from poachers. We felt somewhat disappointed.

As we continued on our way, we saw quite a number of bedraggled raptors in the treetops, probably due to the earlier downpour. Apart from the ‘suspected’ Tawny Eagle and Bateleur, there was a Martial Eagle, White-headed Vulture, Lappet-faced Vulture and a ‘suspected’ Wahlberg's Eagle. My apologies for all the guesswork due to my elementary level of local raptor identification, after all, it's my first trip to Africa.

Crocodile Bridge camp was small in area, and close to a National Park gate, thus more suitable for visitors who arrive late. At this camp, I found just a pair of Cut-throat Finches, because too much time was spent shopping.

Going back to Lower Sabie on the S28, afternoon rain interrupted sunny periods. Many species of herbivores were seen in this area, and pictures could be taken at close range. I also saw Red-billed Oxpeckers here, both adults and juveniles. We visited a lookout point and saw hippos at close range.

After a long break at noon, we went out to try our luck again, this time taking S130. Not many bird records, but my dad found some lions at close range (possibly the same pride we saw in the morning). Grassland made a better background for good photos than the paved road had in the morning.

In the evening, we joined the night safari organized by the National Park (2 hours, roughly HK\$160 per person). New mammals for us included African Porcupine, genet, steenbok, hyena (adult), African Wild Cat, and a hippo that was walking very fast.



Day 7

Another early morning round in drizzle. We found African Stonechat in the roadside grass, Red-collared Widowbird, Cape Grassbird, African Olive Pigeon and Amethyst Sunbird. There was a Greater Double-collared Sunbird in the garden of the 'private dining room'. Too bad the rain made photo taking almost impossible.

After breakfast we went via the highway inside Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve to a hotel near Johannesburg International Airport. There wasn't any surprise along the way except for a Cinnamon-breasted Rock Bunting at a scenic spot and a Grey-headed Gull at a highway rest stop.



Day 8

We returned the car at the airport in the morning and boarded our flight back to Hong Kong. There was no birding that day.

Summary: all expenditure excluding airfares came to about HK\$7,000 per person, which was quite economical. During our seven days in South Africa we recorded over 140 bird species. If the weather had been better and one or two more birding hotspots had been included in our itinerary, the number could have been higher. Taking into account our close encounters with lions, cheetahs, giraffes, rhinos (a bit far), and many other herbivores on the savanna, I considered this trip a good beginning for my first African adventure. 🦁

cheetah



Text: Richard Lewthwaite

(These are not formal records and observers are still invited to submit records in the usual ways – Ed.)

April

- ▶ A male **Rosy Minivet** photographed at Po Toi on 27th (LYM, oldcar), a first record for Hong Kong if accepted, was the undoubted highlight of an otherwise largely forgettable month.
- ▶ Apart from **Terek Sandpipers** (peak count of 303 on 18th, JAA), **Black-tailed Godwits** (peak of 1750 on 13th, RWL) and **Curlew Sandpipers** (present in good numbers throughout the month), passage of shorebirds in Deep Bay was weaker than usual. The peak count of **Nordmann's Greenshank** was just five (on 1st, JAA), and only one **Spoon-billed Sandpiper** was reported (on 15th and 16th, JGH). Although one or two **Little Stints** were fairly frequently noted, counts of **Red-necked Stint** rarely exceeded 100. Among the rarer shorebirds reported in the Mai Po area were a **Long-billed Dowitcher** on 1st (JAA), five **Little Curlews** on 5th (WJ), one at Chek Lap Kok (again) on 29th (EMSK), a **Pectoral Sandpiper** on 16th (IT), two summer-plumaged 'atrifrons-group' **Lesser Sand Plovers** on 23rd (JAA), and an **Oriental Plover** on 24th (DAD). Summer-plumaged **Red Knots** showing characters of the subspecies *rogersi* and *piersmai* were photographed together in front of the Mai Po boardwalk on 3rd and 7th (JGH). Gull numbers in Deep Bay were high in the first days of the month, with 123 **Heuglin's Gulls** on 2nd (RWL) and 40 **Black-tailed Gulls** on 5th (JAA), and 172 **Black-headed Gulls** were still present on 16th (RWL). Also of note were a **Pallas's Gull** in Deep Bay on 2nd-3rd (web) and one or two **Brown-headed Gulls** there from 2nd to 21st (PMW, MDW, DAD, EMSK). **Caspian Terns** were seen in very small numbers, but good numbers of **Gull-billed Terns** were again present in Deep Bay, including 342 on 17th (WWF). First arrival of **Swinhoe's Egrets** was a little later than usual, with one on 22nd (RWL).
- ▶ Passage of migrant passerines was generally weak, with the exception of **Narcissus Flycatchers**, at least nine of which were reported at Ho Man Tin, Mai Po, Tai Po Kau Headland, Chek Lap Kok, Po Toi and Lamma between 1st and 21st (JAA, RB, EMSK, GW, PMW). **Blue-and-white Flycatchers** came though in lower numbers than unusual, with perhaps not more than six in total at Ho Man Tin, southwest Lantau, Chek Lap Kok and Mai Po between 2nd and 13th (EMSK, PMW). Except for single **Asian Brown** and **Grey-streaked Flycatchers**, the latter from 21st (PMW), the only other migrant flycatchers reported were a **Yellow-rumped Flycatcher**, a spring rarity, on 13th (RWL, MH), a **Japanese Paradise Flycatcher** between 13th and 19th (PMW, oldcar) and a **Red-throated Flycatcher** on 28th (WWF), all at Mai Po. With regard to breeding flycatchers, up to five **Hainan Blues** were noted at Tai Po Kau and Shing Mun from 5th (KPK, SLT), and a pair of **Brown-breasted Flycatchers** were at a nest in one of the picnic areas at Tai Po Kau from about 12th (TML, DAD, KPK). Regrettably, the unrelenting attention of some photographers appears to have alerted local macaque monkeys who raided the nest and seized the eggs on 30th (WD).

▶ Other migrant landbirds found during the month included single **White's Thrushes** at Ho Man Tin, Kowloon and southwest Lantau between 2nd and 21st (LL, EMSK), a total of 42 **Pale Martins** at Mai Po and Tai Shang Wai on 2nd (RWL), single **Swinhoe's Minivets** at Po Toi on three dates between 3rd and 26th (GW), 15 **Ashy Minivets** at Tai Po Kau Headland on 3rd (RB) and 23 at Mai Po on 4th (JAA), a female **Grey Bush Chat** at Mai Po on 3rd (DAD), a **Brown-flanked Bush Warbler** singing in mangroves at Mai Po between 3rd and 22nd (RWL, WWF), eight **Eyebrowed Thrushes** at Lamma on 4th (GW), up to three singing **Styan's Grasshopper Warbler** beside the Mai Po boardwalk between 4th and 27th (JAA), one or two **Bramblings** at Nam Chung on 5th and Long Valley on 10th-13th (GT, DAD, HKBWS), single **Pale-legged Leaf Warblers** singing at southwest Lantau on 5th (EMSK) and Mai Po on 16th-17th (JAA), a **Brown-headed Thrush** at Chek Lap Kok on 9th (EMSK), a **Brown-chested Jungle Flycatcher** at Mai Po on 9th (Tommy at WWF, Mai Po), a male **Yellow-throated Bunting** at Po Toi on 12th (ChipnDale), a peak count during the month of 57 **Blue-tailed Bee-eaters** at Mai Po on 14th (WWF), a **Siberian Blue Robin** at Mai Po on 17th (JAA), three **Ashy Drongos** at Tai Po Kau Headland on 21st (RB), 73 **White-cheeked Starlings** in a bare tree beside the Mai Po car park on 23rd (RWL), quite a large number so late in the month, and up to two **Chestnut-checked Starlings** at Mai Po between 24th and 27th (WWF, DAD).

▶ Reports of singing cuckoos included **Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoos** at Yung Shue on 4th (DT), Tai Po Kau on 5th (KPK) and Pak Sha O (three) on 18th (GJC), and a **Fork-tailed Drongo Cuckoo** at the latter site on 28th (GJC). Up to three **Grey Nightjars** were heard at Yung Shue O on 5th (DT) and in the Bride's Pool-Chung Mei area on 10th-11th (RWL). Reports from Mai Po NR of one or two **Chestnut-winged Cuckoos** from 9th (WWF) and a **Collared Scops Owl** on 13th (WWF) presumably reflect the increase of woody habitat there.

▶ The identification of a **mystery harrier** photographed at Long Valley on 5th (SC, RB) generated a lot of discussion on the HKBWS website, and the question appears to have been resolved by raptor expert Dick Forsman who commented that it was a first-summer male **Pallid Harrier** but with inconsistencies in the structure and plumage which possibly indicated hybrid origin. This bird may therefore go down as the second hybrid harrier of the winter period. Migrant raptors came through in small numbers, with peak counts of three **Grey-faced Buzzards** at southwest Lantau on 5th (EMSK) and 22 **Chinese Goshawks** at Lamma on 28th (JS). In addition, a **Eurasian Hobby** was reported at Mai Po on 7th (JAA) and a **Japanese Sparrowhawk** at Long Valley on 10th (DAD), whilst a **Black Kite**, presumably a local nester, was photographed pursuing and catching a **Gull-billed Tern** at Shui Hau, Lantau on 21st (BC).

▶ Among seabirds sighted in southern waters were a **Black-winged Kittiwake**, two **Ancient Murrelets**, six **Greater Crested Terns** and 435 **Red-necked Phalaropes** on 12th (MH et al), and a **Short-tailed Shearwater**, three **Streaked Shearwaters**, four **Ancient Murrelets**, 117 **Aleutian Terns**, four **Long-tailed Jaegers**, six **Parasitic Jaegers** and four **Pomarine Skuas** on 26th (MH et al). Three **Greater Crested Terns** and 320 **Red-necked Phalaropes** were seen in the eastern waters on 17th (J+JH),



May

- ▶ Highlights of the month were a **Cotton Pygmy Goose** photographed from the Po Toi ferry on 10th (YWY), only the second spring record, single **Lesser Cuckoos** seen at Po Toi on 10th (BC), heard near A Ma Wat on 18th (CC) and seen and heard singing beside Plover Cove on 19th-21st (J&JH), and a very late **Daurian Jackdaw** at Penfold Park from about 24th to 31st (KH, GC).
- ▶ The month saw heavy passage of **Brown Shrikes**, **Arctic / Japanese Leaf Warblers** and **Grey-streaked Flycatchers**, especially between 6th and 10th, and also produced a series of latest ever spring records: a singing **Pale-legged Leaf Warbler** on southwest Lantau on 6th (JAA), the latest by one day, an **Eastern Water Rail** at Mai Po on 7th (PJL), the latest by 3 days, two **Japanese Bush Warblers** at Po Toi on 10th (MH), the latest by 2 days, a **Common Rosefinch** at Po Toi on 10th (MH), the latest by 7 days, a singing **Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler** at Mai Po on 28th (JAA), the latest by 10 days, and a **Chestnut Bunting** at Yung Shue on 28th (DT), the latest by 12 days. In addition, a **Siberian Rubythroat** at Dong Ping Chau on 10th (JAA) equalled the latest spring date.
- ▶ Main passage of **Brown Shrikes** was short and intense. One individual which predated a **Lanceolated Warbler** was photographed at Po Toi on 6th (KH), after which numbers reported at Po Toi reached 84 on 8th (GW) and 95 on 10th (CC, GT, P&MW, RWL), a record count. By 15th, none could be found there (TML). Highest counts of **Arctic / Japanese Leaf Warbler** were eight at Cheung Chau on 5th (MDW), 37 on the southwest coast of Lantau on 6th (JAA), 14 at Po Toi on 8th (GW) and six at Yung Shue O on 10th (DT), though the only report received of an individual identified to species was an Arctic in song at Pak Sha O on 3rd (GJC). Highest counts of **Grey-streaked Flycatcher** were 30 on the southwest coast of Lantau on 6th and 18 at Dong Ping Chau on 10th (JAA).
- ▶ Among other reports of migrant passerines in the first half of the month were 50 **Chinese Penduline Tits** at Mai Po on 1st (WWF), an unusually large number for the time of year, single **Japanese Paradise Flycatchers** at Ho Man Tin on 2nd (web) and Po Toi on 10th (MH), a **Forest Wagtail** at Po Toi on 3rd-4th (JL, HKBWS) and another in southwest Lantau on 6th (JAA), a **Chestnut-checked Starling**, a **Blue-and-white Flycatcher** and a **Eurasian Siskin** at Po Toi on 4th (HKBWS), three **Styan's Grasshopper Warblers** in song beside the Mai Po boardwalk on 6th (AB), a late **Eyebrowed Thrush** on southwest Lantau on 6th (JAA), 25 **Pechora Pipits** at Mai Po on 7th (PJL), a **Fairy Pitta** at Po Toi on 8th (GW), four **Pallas's Grasshopper Warblers** at Mai Po on 13th (DJS) and a rather late **Dusky Warbler** at Cheung Chau on 15th (MDW).
- ▶ Marsh terns were fairly widespread in the first half of the month. Among the higher counts were 75 **Whiskered Terns** at Mai Po on 8th (RWL) and 300 **White-winged Terns** over Palm Springs on 9th (PJL). Other reports of waterbirds in the Mai Po area included 192 **Asian Dowitchers** on 2nd (WWF), four **Swinhoe's Egrets** and a **Nordmann's Greenshank** on 4th-5th (JW, KH), a **Baillon's Crane** on 7th (PJL), and a very fresh-looking juvenile **Oriental Pratincole** on 13th (web). Elsewhere, the **Little Curlew** found at Chek Lap Kok at the end of April remained until 3rd (EMSK), a **Pheasant-tailed Jacana** was at Tin Shui Wai Wetland Park on 11th (web) and single **Cinnamon** and **Von Schrenck's Bitterns** were present at Long Valley on 14th (TML).



▶ Sightings of aerial feeders during this period included 33 **Blue-tailed Bee-eaters** at Mai Po on 5th (JAA), a **Silver-rumped Needletail** and nine unidentified needletails on southwest Lantau on 6th (JAA), a possible **Sand Martin** amongst 100 **Pale Martins** at Mai Po on 7th (PJL), eight **Blue-tailed Bee-eaters** at Cheung Chau on 10th (MDW), and a **Himalayan Swiftlet** at Mai Po on 13th (JAA).

▶ Passage of raptors was rather weak, with not more than seven **Chinese Goshawks** at a single site and only one or two **Eurasian Hobbies** reported, whilst a **Northern Boobok** at Po Toi on 10th-11th (P&MW, LTM) was the only rare owl found.

▶ In the second half of the month, passage of passerines dropped off sharply. Among the waterbirds reported during this period were a **Pheasant-tailed Jacana** at Long Valley on 17th (KH), two **Swinhoe's Egrets** at Tsim Bei Tsui on 18th (MH), a **Pectoral Sandpiper** at Mai Po on 21st (IT), two **Nordmann's Greenshanks**, 72 **Terek Sandpipers** and 39 **Grey-tailed Tattlers** there the next day (WWF), a **Malayan Night Heron** at Crest Hill on 23rd (DJS), and two **Gull-billed**, two Little and 43 **White-winged Terns** at Mai Po on 30th (WWF).

▶ Although single **Lesser Frigatebirds** were seen from the Po Toi ferry on 4th (GT) and at Mai Po on 13th (DJS), and a **Short-tailed Shearwater** was found in southern waters on 10th (CC), it was not a particularly good month for seabirds.

▶ Birds present at Tai Po Kau included a **Slaty-backed Flycatcher** on 3rd and a pair of **Brown-breasted Flycatchers** throughout the month (leo2012).

▶ Highest counts of **Collared Crows** at the two known roost-sites were 168 at Mai Po on 21st (WWF), a record count, and 108 at the Shuen Wan Golf-Driving Range (formerly known as the Shuen Wan Landfill) on 29th (RWL).

June

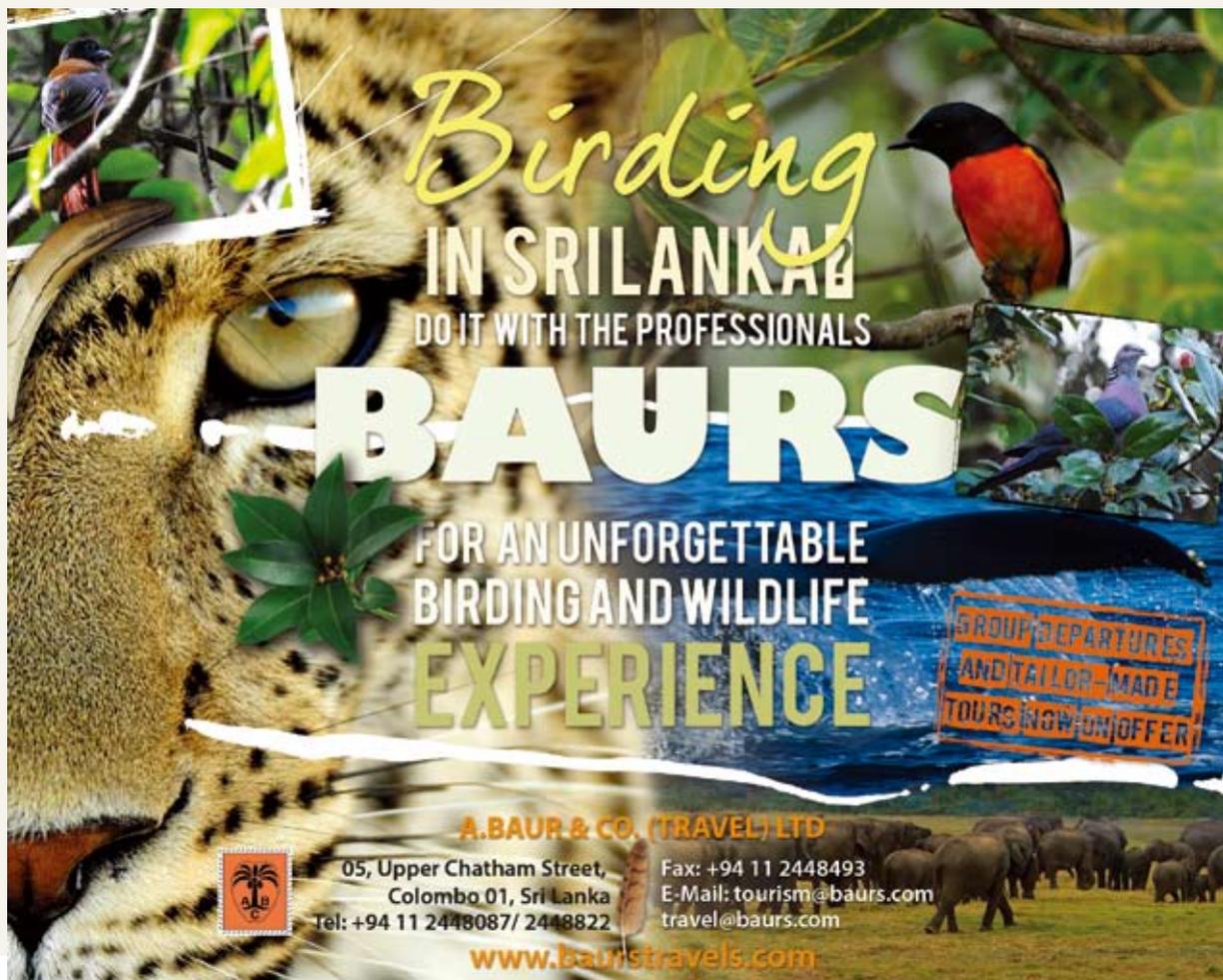
▶ Highlights of the month were the successful breeding of **Brown-breasted Flycatchers** at Tai Po Kau and further summer records of **Lesser Cuckoo**.

▶ Having had two nests destroyed by monkeys, the well-watched pair of **Brown-breasted Flycatchers** at Tai Po Kau (one of which could be recognised by its missing tail, lost sometime in May) finally raised four young which were photographed near the nest on 30th (leo2012). Following a previous record at Tai Po Kau in 2012, this is the second confirmed breeding record for Hong Kong.

▶ **Lesser Cuckoo** is another species which may now be trying to breed in Hong Kong. Further reports this summer were of single birds in song in the Ng Tung Chai-Kadoorie FBG area on 7th (JAA) and near the Leadmine Pass area above Tai Po Kau on 14th (KPK).

▶ As usual in June, most bird reports came from Mai Po, where sightings (WWF except as indicated) included six **Black-faced Spoonbills** on 4th, an **Oriental Turtle Dove** on 5th, a **White-winged Tern** on 6th, a **Wood Sandpiper** and two **Oriental Reed Warblers** on 11th, 16 **Oriental Pratincoles** including two juveniles on 15th (KH), three **Himalayan Swiftlets** on 16th (JAA), 25 **Whimbrel**, a **Nordmann's Greenshank** and 45 **Terek Sandpipers** on 16th, a **Chestnut-winged Cuckoo** on 18th, and 46 **Red-billed Starlings** on 23rd. The **Wood Sandpiper** on 11th was by 5 days the latest on record during return migration.

▶ Notable reports elsewhere included a **Eurasian Hobby** at Tai Tong on 4th (DJS), a singing **Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo** at Yung Shue O on 5th and 14th (DT), a **Lesser Frigatebird** at Sai Kung on 8th and two there on 17th (WJ), 117 **Collared Crows** at the Shuen Wan Golf-Driving Range on 11th (RWL), a **Chinese Grosbeak** at Ho Man Tin on 23rd (web) and 14 **Grey-capped Greenfinches** at Robin's Nest the same day (MH). 



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The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Bird Watching Tours Oct 2014 - Mar 2015

Outings				
Date	Duration	Time and site	Difficulties (1...3)	Target species
4/10/2014 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Aberdeen Reservoir (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Bus #7 Bus-stop at Connaught Road Central outside Hang Seng Bank Head Office)	☆	Forest birds
12/10/2014 (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, so participants may decide their own returning time.	☆☆	Migrants
19/10/2014 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Long Valley (08:00 Pavilion beside public toilet at Yin Kong Village)	☆☆	Farmland and water birds
26/10/2014 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	Mai Po Nature Reserve (08:00 Kowloon Tong MTR Station (Kent Road /F Exit), OR 09:00 Mai Po carpark, end 15:00 Mai Po, 16:00 Kowloon Tong)	☆☆	Waterbirds
1/11/2014 (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
8/11/2014 (Sat)	TBC	Wild Card Day (Details will be announced on Nov 6 on Discussion Forum)		
16/11/2014 (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
23/11/2014 (Sun)	TBC	Wild Card Day (Details will be announced on Nov 21 on Discussion Forum)		
30/11/2014 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Tai Po Kau (08:00 Tai Po Kau carpark)	☆☆☆	Forest birds
6/12/2014 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Long Valley (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Outside Maxim's MX, Sheng Shui Rail Station)	☆☆	Farmland and water birds
7/12/2014 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	Mai Po Nature Reserve (08:00 Kowloon Tong MTR Station (Kent Road /F Exit), OR 09:00 Mai Po carpark, end 15:00 Mai Po, 16:00 Kowloon Tong)	☆☆	Waterbirds
14/12/2014 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Pui O (08:00 Exit B, Tung Chung MTR Station)	☆	Wintering forest & farmland birds
20/12/2014 (Sat)	TBC	Wild Card Day (Details will be announced on Dec 18 on Discussion Forum)		
28/12/2014 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Tai Po Kau (08:00 Tai Po Kau carpark)	☆☆☆	Forest birds
3/1/2015 (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
4/1/2015 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Long Valley (14:30 Pavilion beside public toilet at Yin Kong Village)	☆☆	Farmland birds & waterbirds
10/1/2015 (Sat)	0800 - 1200	Tai Po Kau (08:00 Tai Po Kau carpark)	☆☆☆	Forest birds
18/1/2015 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Shek Kong (08:00 Exit C, Kam Sheung Road West Rail Station)	☆☆	Forest & farmland birds
25/1/2015 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	Mai Po Nature Reserve (Mai Po Marshes Area Only) (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

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Bird Watching Tours Oct 2014 - Mar 2015

Outings

Date	Duration	Time and site	Difficulties (1...3)	Target species
1/2/2015 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Shing Mun (08:00 Kiosk at Pineapple Dam, Shing Mun Reservoir)	☆☆	Forest birds
7/2/2015 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Nam Sang Wai (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 V Cuisine Restaurant, Exit G2, Yuen Long West Rail Station)	☆	Waterbirds
8/2/2015 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Wild Card Day (Details will be announced on Feb 6 on Discussion Forum)		
15/2/2015 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Nam Chung and Luk Keng (08:00 Pavilion at junction of Nam Chung Rd & Luk Keng Rd)	☆☆	Forest birds & Waterbirds
22/2/2015 (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
7/3/2015 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Tai Sang Wai (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Bus Stop outside Café de Coral near Hang Heung Cake Shop, Yuen Long)	☆	Waterbirds
8/3/2015 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Tai Po Kau (08:00 Tai Po Kau carpark)	☆☆☆	Forest birds
14/3/2015 (Sat)	0800 - 1200	Wild Card Day (Details will be announced on Mar 12 on Discussion Forum)		
22/3/2015 (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
29/3/2015 (Sun)	08:00 - 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

Member: Free of Charge

Member: Free of Charge

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

Non-member: Free of Charge

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

Non-member: HK\$120

(registration not required)

(registration not required)

(registration required)

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Indoor Meetings Sep ~ Dec 2014

Indoor Meetings

Date	Time	Topic	Speakers	Venue
23/9/2014 (Tue)	1915-2115	Hot Topics in HKBWS Conservation Work (Cantonese with English powerpoint)	Ms. Jocelyn Ho HKBWS Senior Conservation Officer	HKBWS office
4/11/2014 (Tue)	1915-2115	Live Organic - Relationship of organic farming to its environment and how to differentiate and support organic products (Cantonese with Chinese powerpoint)	Mr. Jim Fung Produce Green Foundation	HKBWS office
11/11/2014 (Tue)	1915-2115	Donald Duck & Friends ~ a Xinjiang Adventure (Cantonese with English powerpoint)	Ms. Marie Louise	HKBWS office
11/12/2014 (Thu)	1915-2115	"Cloud Appreciation Diary" ~ Cloud Appreciation & Weather Photography (Cantonese with Chinese powerpoint)	Ms. Christina Chan	HKBWS office

HKBWS office : 7C, V Ga Building, 532 Castle Peak Road, Lai Chi Kok, Kowloon

Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Outing Booking Slip

I would like to register the following HKBWS outings:

** 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	Outing Fee*	Mai Po Outing Meeting Place Kln Tong or MP

** Activity payment are processed individually, please use separate cheques for different outings.

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: 7C, V Ga Building, 532 Castle Peak Road, Lai Chi Kok, Kowloon

Notes for Mai Po Outing:

- Participants below age of 12 yrs 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.

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-	

Other 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 on our Discussion Forum: <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 7:00am on the event day, the activity will be cancelled. If Thunderstorm Warning is announced during the activity, Team Leader will decide whether the activity should be continued or cancelled. You can contact the outing 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.



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