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香港觀鳥會 The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society



bulletin  
會員通訊

238

Winter 2015 ~ 冬



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# The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

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In Conservation News (Po Toi) you'll see that the presentations made by HKBWS staff and members to the Town Planning Board in November achieved some success. It shows that carefully researched and presented submissions can influence the government to do the right thing.

"Well done" to everyone involved.

It is the start of another birding year. Some people may have plans for a "Big Year" and some are planning that "Big Trip", but we should not overlook our local patches, and remember the importance of recording what we see.

Have a great 2016! 

John Holmes

## Society News and Projects

Members

Affairs

### 2015 Membership Renewal

Membership stood at around 1985 as at early December. Membership renewal letters will be posted about two months before membership expiry date.

### Annual General Meeting & Membership Fee Adjustment

Fifty-six members attended the 13th AGM, held on Oct 28th at the Scout Association Building, Austin Road. A slight increase of the Individual full-rate membership fee to HK\$400 per year was voted in, as was the Corporate Membership at HK\$600 per year. Membership fees for other membership types remained unchanged.

*Chairman's report by Mr. Apache Lau*



### 2016 Membership Card

New membership cards for 2016 feature images of Pygmy Cotton Goose. This new card was sent to all 5-year members at the end of November. Many thanks to the following volunteers for their design work and photos:

Designer: Ms. Puk Yuk Yin

Photographer: Mr. Sam Chan (Male bird) & Mr. Allen Chan (Female bird)



2016 Membership card ~ front & back

## Bird Watching Course

An Autumn Forest Bird Identification Workshop and the 19th Elementary Bird Watching Course for Beginners were completed in October & December respectively. Another Forest bird Identification workshop for winter will be organized in January. Visit the BWS website Discussion Forum for details.

## New Member Orientation 2015/2016

Another round of new member orientations will be held on Jan 28, 30 & 31. Please visit our Discussion Forum and facebook page for registration.

The new member orientation aims at giving new members a deeper understanding of the work of the Society and enhancing communication between new members. At the same time, it serves to boost the awareness of proper conduct when birding in protected areas and private rural areas through introducing and visiting hotspots like Mai Po and Long Valley.

## Overseas Activity ~ Sri Lanka Bird Watching Trip (13-20/11/2015)

An overseas trip to Sri Lanka, jointly organized with Eco-Travel Ltd, a subsidiary of HKTraveler.com Ltd, was completed in late November. Twenty-one birders and three guides experienced an unforgettable week there with a total of 194 birds, including 26 endemics recorded.

The Society would like to thank Eco-Travel Ltd & HKTraveler.com Ltd for their initiative to donate the net income, after deduction of all necessary expenditure and administrative fees, of this trip to the Society to support our conservation work.

## Education

### Programme

## Discover the Urban Nature of Hong Kong cum City Sparrow Census

In a bid to raise public awareness of nature conservation, we have launched a 2-year project focusing on the commonly seen animals and plants in the urban area. This project has three components: (1) The training of secondary school students to be Urban Eco-ambassadors, (2) recruitment of the public to take part in the sparrow census which will help us to have a better understanding of urban conditions, and (3) to organise events and competitions for students from kindergartens and secondary schools. The ultimate goal is to encourage the public to engage more in protecting the environment. This project is funded by the Environmental Campaign Committee.

## Crested Bulbul Club

### Early Morning Bird Watchers

No. of participants in Hong Kong Park  
from Sept-Oct 2015: 146

No. of participants in Kowloon Park  
from Sept-Oct 2015: 258

### Bird watching interpretation in Hong Kong Wetland Park

A total of 53 participants Oct 2015.

### "HKBioBlitz" organized by Tai Tam Tuk Eco Education Centre (24/10)

Members assisted with birding guidance for about fifty secondary school students at the event.

## Overseas Bird Fairs

Several volunteers and staff attended various bird fairs held at end of October: Austin Ng attended the 6th Asian Bird Fair in Singapore; outing leader Bond Shum and volunteer Fion Au attended the Japanese Bird Fair 2015 held in Chiba, Japan; and Vivian Fu with outing leader Meiling Tang attended the Taipei



International Bird Fair held in Taipei. Also, outing leader Lai Nga Yee joined the Borneo Bird Festival in Kinabalu Park, East Malaysia.

*Our booth at the Taipei International Bird Fair*

## Conservation News

### A small victory for Po Toi

The Society, together with other green groups and local villagers of Po Toi, attended the Town Planning Board (TPB) meeting on 5 November 2015 to urge for better protection of Po Toi. After the meeting, the Board decided to reduce the “Residential (Group D)” zone and reject the developers’ columbaria proposal. Please see the TPB meeting minutes for the details of the discussion: [http://www.info.gov.hk/tpb/en/meetings/TPB/Minutes/m1098tpb\\_e.pdf](http://www.info.gov.hk/tpb/en/meetings/TPB/Minutes/m1098tpb_e.pdf)

Thanks to those members who made submissions to the TPB during the consultation period and those who authorized us to attend the meeting on their behalf. Your participation has given us strong support and adequate presentation time at the TPB meeting. We would also like to express our gratitude to other green groups and the local villagers of Po Toi. Without the professional presentations of the green groups and the love of Po Toi from the villagers, we believe the outcome would not be the same.

Now, the Planning Department will need to amend the draft Po Toi Islands Outline Zoning Plan according to the requirements of the TPB and go through another round of public consultation. The Society will keep a close track on the progress of the draft plan and will let you know when we have the latest news.



**Hong Kong Fishpond Conservation**

第一屆新界魚塘節

## 拼貼后海灣

約一千公頃的魚塘，飽覽新界風光。  
拼貼出一個生態動人的后海灣。  
原來魚塘背後大有自然與人文共舞的生態后海灣！

**「漁漁福」**  
紙紮行寄春

日期：2015年11月27日  
內容：介紹新界西貢新界新界  
活動：參觀紙紮行

收費：每位 \$70

**親子體驗工作坊**

日期：2015年11月29日  
地點：元朗大生圍村及鄰近魚塘  
內容：康樂及小朋友一同體驗漁民的  
日常生產及耕作工作。

收費：每位 \$300 (12歲以下 \$240)

**新界魚塘節**  
嘉年華

日期：2016年1月24日  
地點：元朗大生圍村及鄰近魚塘  
內容：魚塘生態導覽、體驗活動、  
展出漁具、農具、手工藝品及美食等  
收費：每位 \$120 (12歲以下 \$100)  
每位參加者可獲贈元朗地圖乙條

**「漁漁福」**  
日落葵邊紙紮工作坊

日期：2016年12月13及14日  
內容：由資深紙紮師指導紙紮入門  
收費：每位 \$150

**更多活動詳情**  
詳情及報名  
可掃描

查詢：2377 4387  
fishpond@hkfish.org.hk

**後海灣**  
賞雀

日期：2016年1月31日  
地點：元朗新界  
內容：前往傳統客家茶樓，  
觀賞及拍攝賞雀表演  
收費：每位 \$130  
(12歲以下 \$100)

The “Fishpond eco-tour guide training course 2015” was completed in October. A total of 26 participants attended the 6-day training programme. They have been equipped with knowledge of wetland ecology, fish farming culture, skills in waterbird identification and interpretation. All participants passed the final assessment. The next stage will be to provide a guiding service, with an emphasis on wetland and bird conservation, to school students.

# Mai Po Update

Text: Bena Smith,  
Mai Po Centre Manager

Normally we refrain from mentioning summer work activities at Mai Po till later bulletins, but with a larger than normal work programme expected in 2016 I thought it wise to sneak in a few now.....

## Upgrade of Hide #1 and Hide #8 for wheelchair users

Starting from mid-June, Hide #1 which overlooks the Gei wai #16/17 high-tide waterbird roost, and Hide #8 sitting adjacent to the Gei wai #11a high-tide waterbird roost, will both be revamped to improve wheelchair accessibility and accommodate a larger number of wheelchairs. The upgrade will include safety improvements to the ground supports, new doors, internal shelves and a range of low height shutters for wheelchair users. The upgrade is part of a wider programme of works to encourage people with disabilities to visit Mai Po and experience nature first-hand.

## Enhancement of waterbird roosting islands in Gei wai #16/17

After the Black-winged Stilt breeding season, several larger sized islands inside the Gei wai #16/17 high-tide roost are to be enhanced. This is needed because former islands have eroded, and the total area of island available to waterbirds, particularly shorebirds, has decreased. Designing islands for our waterbirds has been and continues to be a challenge. Even when we follow expert advice and successful examples elsewhere on the Reserve, there's no guarantee the birds will like them.

## Enhancement of freshwater Pond #16a

The fate of Pond #16a, the mysterious small overgrown pond sandwiched between the lily pond (Pond #16b) and the Gei wai #16/17 high-tide roost, is finally decided. After being trialled as rice paddy, then as a seasonal flooded pond, both with limited success, the pond will be redesigned to attract dragonflies and amphibians. This will involve contouring the pond floor, creating a wide range of water depths, transplanting aquatic vegetation and full conversion to freshwater habitat. In time, the pond could be attractive to foraging bitterns.



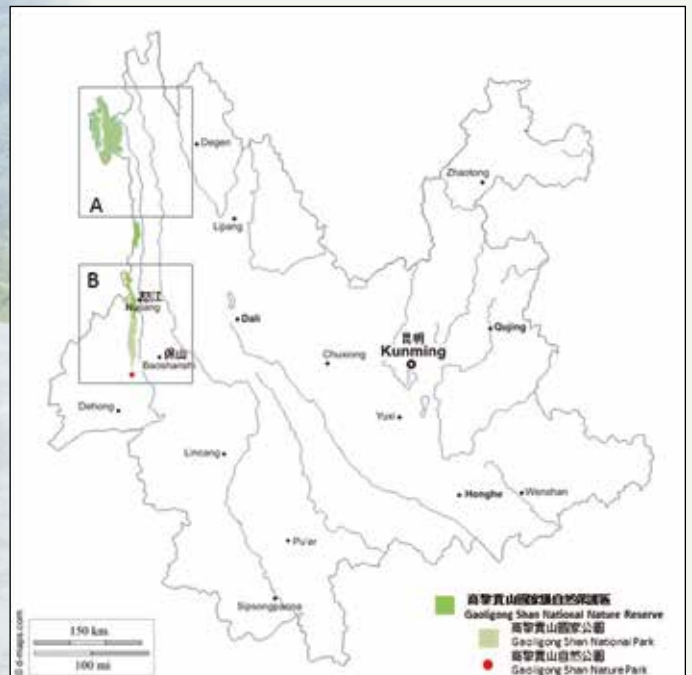
*Von Schrenck's Bittern, a potential beneficiary of the Pond #16a enhancement works.  
(Credit : John Holmes)*

# A trip along the Nujiang (upper Salween River) and Gaoligong Shan (14 to 27 September 2015)

Text/Photo: Carrie Ma

This September, with a small group I spent 13 days travelling over 2,000 km at Nujiang (怒江) and Gaoligong Shan (高黎貢山) in Yunnan, China. The trip started from Baoshan City (保山市) to various parts of the Gaoligong Shan National Nature Reserve (高黎貢山國家級自然保護區) which is spread over three counties, they are Gongshan (貢山) (including Dulong Jiang (獨龍江) and Bingzhongluo (丙中洛)), Fugong (福貢) and Lushui (瀘水)(including Pianma (片馬)).

We also had short trips to Baihualing Village (百花嶺村) in Mangkuan Township of Longyang District, Baoshan City (保山市的隆陽區芒寬鄉) which is part of a scenic area of the nature reserve. The trip ended at Gaoligong Shan Nature Park (高黎貢山自然公園) near Tengchong (騰衝縣).(Figure 1)





## Day 1 and 2:

After meeting at Baoshan City, we started our birdwatching trip at Qinhua Lake (青華湖) which was under habitat restoration. In the six square kilometer lake area, apart from a viewing tower, there were a number of waterbodies with lotus plantations and shallow water areas which attracted migratory waterbirds such as Ruff, Eurasian Curlew and White-winged Black Tern, as well as breeding birds such as Little Grebe and Pheasant-tailed Jacana.

North along route S228 for 300 km from Baoshan to Fugong, we saw villages and towns of various sizes along the road. Not many birds were found but a small flock of Pale Martins were noted using nest holes of Blue-tailed Bee-eaters on a nearby cliffside.

At “Fugong 18 km (福貢十八里)” we planned to look for Sclater’s Monal. The entrance is a bridge (Yazhulo Bridge 亞左洛大橋) with a roadside sign “Yaping Eco-tour Area (亞坪生態旅遊區)”. We had been told that about 18 km from the bridge there is a village named Yaping (亞坪). After Yaping, there would be chance for the monal if we continued travel to the west up the mountain until the Boundary Stone No. 31 (31 號界碑) which marks the border between China and Myanmar. We overnighted at Fugong and refueled the car. Unfortunately, the next morning we discovered that access to the “Yaping Eco-tour Area” was not allowed by the staff of the entrance station. We gave up this location and continued our trip to other places as planned.

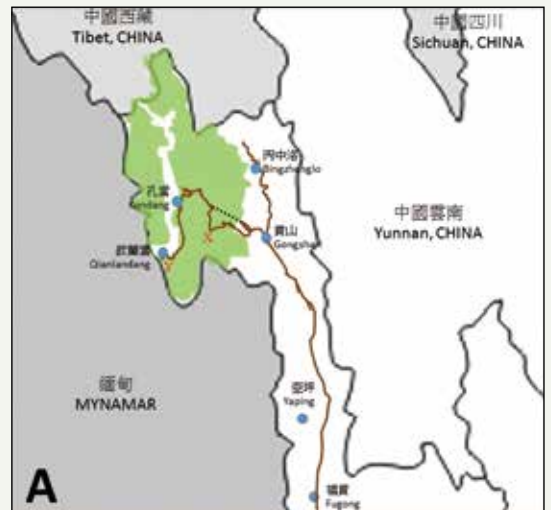
## Gaoligong Shan National Nature Reserve

### Day 3 and 8:

Road construction work for the 120 km Gongdu Road (貢獨公路) with a new 6.8 kilometer tunnel (dashed line on Map A) have recently been completed. Travelling time between the Salween and Irrawaddy valleys has shortened to a convenient 4 hours. Up and down the mountain and on both sides of the road are good forest areas for watching birds. South from Kongdang, the 45km road to Qianlandang (欽蘭當) only takes about 1.5 hours. The road runs alongside a tributary of the Irrawaddy River, which continues into Myanmar. There are a few hostels in Kongdang and Qianlandang, prior booking may be required.

This part of Gaoligong Shan National Nature Reserve lies close to the international border. There is undisturbed primary forest habitat, woodland, bamboo and shrubs, mossy cliffs, lakes and grassland in the area. We stayed at Qianlandang for 2 days and travelled along the old mountain road for 3 days.

There was road construction work going on at the few km area between the Moon Waterfall (月亮大瀑布) and Boundary Stone No. 41 (it was said the works would be complete by November 2015). It is suggested to drive under the waterfall to avoid getting wet. Near the waterfall, we found Long-billed Wren Babblers around the remaining shrubs at the bottom of valley on the right before going up the



sloping road (Area Y in Map A). Along this road along the Dulong River, there was chance to see Beautiful Nuthatch in the large trees, as well as Spotted Forktail along the river. There were also villagers travelling delivering daily necessities to Myanmar, including Lisu (傈僳族) hunters. At the Boundary Stone area, there was an old militiaman who guarded the access road between China and Myanmar.

On the way back to Kongdang, near the bridge which led to Pukawang (普卡旺), there was a troupe of Shortridge's Langur moving at the slope at the opposite side of the river (thanks the forestry staff who showed us their location).

The old 30 km-mountain road appeared silent with less than 4 vehicles and bikes a day (perhaps most people are using the new Gongdu road instead) during the 3 days of time we spent there. These people were herb collectors, researchers, reserve staff and travellers. The road condition was unstable during rainfall. We arrived at the Heipolo Mountain Pass (黑破羅樞口) at 3,300 m in altitude at dawn for 3 consecutive days to look for Sclater's Monal at its habitat of bamboo and moss cliffs near the entrance of the Hepo Tunnel (黑普隧道) (on the Gongshanside). The bird responded to us by calling from a nearby area high up the cliff, but we were unable to see it. Some of us climbed up to 3,500 m and found a large piece of flat grassland habitat on the top of the mountain. [Note: There were also herb collectors who mentioned that they saw "chickens" coloured red, black and green, of which we thought the black one might be the Sclater's Monal. It is possibly that there one might be Blyth's or Temminck's Tragopan, and the green one might be Blood Pheasant].

However, in the next two days, fog and heavy rainfall made birding very difficult. We changed our plan by spending half a day travelling to Bapo Village (巴坡) to see traditional blanket weaving, and to look for the remains of the historical "Tea Horse Road (茶馬古道)" carved into a cliff at Wuli (霧里) above the Salween River, near Bingzhongluo (丙中洛). Another half day was spent on travelling southward 240 km along S228 to Daxingdi Town (大興地鄉), including several stopovers for birdwatching and sightseeing.

## Day 9 to 11:

Pianma (片馬) is a small town near the border of China and Myanmar. We travelled 15 km along S228 from Daxingdi Village to reach the road junction of Piangang Highway (S316) (片崗公路) (i.e. 12 km northward from Liuku (六庫)), then we turned westwards and travelled 84 km to Pianma along the highway (Map B).

The S316 runs across the Gaoligongshan National Nature Reserve (from Yaokaping at KM45 to KM78). According to information of birding friends who has been to this place, there are a number of good birding locations, including KM58.5 which was the Fengxue Mountain Pass (風雪丫口) at 3,050 m above sea level, and between the area from KM64 to KM76 with woodland, shrubs, rhododendron, and bamboo.

We spent two consecutive mornings at the mountain pass at dawn. At the area near the top with shrubs, rocks with mosses, we saw one female Sclater's Monal calling and disappearing quickly. We believe there were chicks nearby and the female tried to distract us. We spent our birding time at the area between KM64 and KM76 the rest of the time. Birds including Black-faced Warbler, Yellow-bellied Fantail, Whiskered Yuhina and Black-faced Laughingthrush became active when the fog disappeared. At lower down, there were also the calls of Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler.

Pianma has large border crossing area between China and Myanmar for trade by road. A number of shops trading wood and jewelry including jade can be found in the town. We also visited the "Hump" Airlift Museum (怒江駝峰航線紀念館), and Boundary Stone No. 16.



Back eastwards over the pass and down the Nujiang Valley, we travelled 60km southwards along S230 until KM78. At the KM78 section of S230, there is a village track Y213 along the Gangdang River (崗黨河) leading to the well-known Baihualing Village in Mangkuan Town (芒寬鄉百花嶺村) where we stayed for one evening.

## Baihualing Scenic Area, Gaoligongshan National Park

### Day 12:

The “Ancient Road Farmhouse” in Baihualing Village is a hostel (homestay / B&B) with excellent facilities. It is famous among birdwatchers and hikers, and has become the Baihualing accommodation of choice for users of Bird net ([www.birdnet.cn](http://www.birdnet.cn)). The hostel operator, Mr. Hau has encouraged local villagers to build ponds at their allocated farmlands adjacent to the nature reserve, and to manage these ponds by farming and regular feeding, in order to attract wild birds (i.e. “bird pools”). Admission fees are collected from visitors at RMB 40 per person. In this way, the villagers received incentives for habitat management, instead of hunting in the wild. According to Mr. Hau, the Baihualing area has attracted over 600 species of birds since 2009. This is both an innovative and a successful example of habitat management.



*Rufous-throated Partridge*

In the hostel, there is a “Folk Museum” developed by Mr. Wu, an elderly man who has kept a collection of bullets, bomb fragments and various equipment from the fighting against the Japanese. Mr. Wu opens his home to visitors and recalls his wartime experiences.

With our very limited birdwatching time of half a day, we went to Mr. Hau’s suggested pond up the mountain in the early morning. Within 30 minutes, we saw Rufous-throated Partridge, Red-tailed Laughing thrush, and Red-faced Liocichla. Along the road down the mountain, it was also easy to spot Black Eagle, Oriental Honey Buzzard, Bay Woodpecker, White-tailed Nuthatch, Maroon Oriole and Flavescent Bulbul.

According to a local villager, this road was the ancient Shu Yandu Dao (蜀身毒道) (“Shu” means Sichuan; “Yandu” was the ancient name of India) used by mule teams for transportation some 2000 years ago. It runs through the Gaoligongshan to Tengchong (騰冲) via the “Southern Zhai Gong House (南齋公房)” at the mountain top [Note: the Zhai Gong House area was also a known spot for Sclater’s Monal according to birding friends in China mainland].

After leaving Baihualing, we reached Gaoligongshan Nature Park (高黎貢山自然公園) at Baoteng Highway (S317 保騰公路) before the evening. (Warden Post at KM20; entrance of Nature Park at KM22). After dinner, we went to the cliff along the roadside at KM21 to look for flying squirrels. However, we only heard loud calls from we believed to be those of flying squirrels, but we were unable to see them in the fog. On returning to the hostel, we went to a small lake (Black Pond) to look for reptiles and amphibians.

## Gaoligongshan Nature Park

### Day 13:

The Nature Park is located at the area between the Gaoligongshan National Nature Reserve and Xiaoheishan Provincial Natural Reserve (小黑山省級自然保護區). This park is a refuge for Hoolock Gibbon and other gibbon species. There is a small restaurant at the entrance of nature reserve where staff can arrange accommodation nearby.





The primary forest habitat in the Nature Park attracted a high number of forest bird species such as Red-tailed Minla, Bar-throated Minla, Spot-throated Babbler, Rufous-winged Fulvetta and Rusty-capped Fulvetta. We also heard the call of Hoolock Gibbons.

Finally, we returned to Baoshan City in the afternoon to search for waterbirds at Qinhuang again in the evening.

Thanks to Tangjun, Liuyang, Yu Yat Tung and Menxiu Tong for various comments before the trip. Part of this trip was planned with reference to the earlier trips by Jemi and John Holmes in 2009. Thanks also to Wong Tin Wa, Cheung Ho Fai and Zhang Wei as birding companions and I have learnt a lot from them.

### The following is some useful trip information:

Accommodation		Standard room price per night (RMB)
Baoshan Shi (保山市) (lots of choice)	Long Yang Hotel (龍陽大酒店)	188
Fugong (福貢) (lots of choice)	Ming Zhu Xia Gu Hotel (明珠峽谷酒店)	68 [Note: clean and tidy]
Sanxiang, Dulongjiang (獨龍江三鄉)	Hong Teng Hotel (宏騰飯店) (Prior booking is needed: 088-63588288 / 15912782140 / 13988619107)	128
Sanxiang, Dulongjiang (獨龍江三鄉)	Du Long Renjia (獨龍人家) (Prior booking is needed: 13508868210)	128
Qianlandang, Dulongjiang (獨龍江欽蘭當)	One the 1/F above a small shop (Prior booking is needed: 15925553151 / 1508850090) [there are also simple hotel with poor condition nearby]	80 [Note: need to use public toilet at the outside.]
Daxingdi Town (大興地鄉)	Xi Ying Bin Guan (喜迎賓館)	60
Pianma (片馬)	Tianhao Hotel (天豪商務賓館) Wan San Bao Farmhouse (旺三寶農家樂) [Prior booking is needed: 1592555973 (Li Kai-fen 李開芬)]	120
Baihualing Village (百花嶺村)	Ancient Road Farmhouse (古道農家園) , [Prior booking is needed: 13577552830 / 13577564036 (Mr. Hau (老候)) / 18787590830 (Mr. Hau's daughter)	60
Gaoligongshan Nature Park (高黎貢山自然公園)	Park management contractor, owner of restaurant at park entrance (Ms. Yang Ke-qing (楊可慶) 15887681264)	100 [only one 5 people room and 2 standard room available]

**References:** J & J trip report – Nujiang (Spring): [http://johnjemi.hk/journey\\_tr/cn/yn09\\_03/itinerary.html](http://johnjemi.hk/journey_tr/cn/yn09_03/itinerary.html)

J & J trip report – Nujiang (Autumn): [http://johnjemi.hk/journey\\_tr/cn/yn09\\_09/nujiang.html](http://johnjemi.hk/journey_tr/cn/yn09_09/nujiang.html)

CCTV Programme (in Chinese only, “Travelling along the Border”, Episode No. 31 to 33)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Zb3lpWngCA&list=PLIdvirr6KSKX9CISgOhE5NVD-RNCD5A24>





棉鳧  
孔慶水  
米埔

Cotton Pygmy-Goose  
Ben Hung Hing Shui  
Mai Po

09/10/2015  
DSLR Camera, 400mm *f*/2.8 lens + 2x teleconverter



紅胸秧雞  
陳土飛  
塋原

Ruddy-breasted Crake  
Thomas Chan  
Long Valley

01/02/2015  
DSLR Camera, 350mm lens + two 1.4x teleconverters



灰胸秧雞  
譚錫朋  
米埔

Slaty-breasted Rail  
Tam Sik Pang  
Mai Po


06/07/2015  
DSLR Camera, 500mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter



董雞  
李啟康  
米埔

Watercock  
oLDcaR Lee  
Mai Po

04/10/2015  
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens



霍氏鷹鵂  
馮漢城  
大埔滘

Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo  
Ken Fung  
Tai Po Kau

15/08/2014  
DSLR Camera, 400mm f/5.6 lens

霍氏鷹鵂  
薛國華  
大埔滘

Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo  
Sit Kwok Wah, Leo  
Tai Po Kau

04/08/2015  
DSLR Camera, 50 - 500mm f/4.5-6.3 lens



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Sunlite	Tel: 2891 2261 (WanChai)
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WWF	Tel: 2526 1011 (MaiPo)

L&H	Tel: 3907 0282 (CWB)
Standard Audio & Photo	Tel: 2735 0005 (TST)
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# Magpies and Crows

Text/Photo: Samson So



*Flying Eurasian Magpie's black and white feathers*

I once heard a British folk song about the magpie (Eurasian Magpie, *Pica pica*) when I was travelling in England:

"One for sorrow, two for joy, three for a girl and four for a boy, five for silver, six for gold, seven for a secret never to be told, eight for a wish, nine for a kiss, ten for a bird you must not miss".

It was interesting that when people encountered different numbers of magpies, the interpretation of the meaning of the number of birds seen could be so totally different.

Talking about magpies, I believe that many people may think of positive things yet to happen. In fact, in one of the Chinese ancient publications 'Qin Jing' (禽經), the magpie was mentioned: "The weather will be bad when it calls with head up, it will be raining when it calls with head down, it is good for people to hear the call sound" (仰鳴則陰，俯鳴則雨，人聞其聖則喜).

From the above information, I wonder whether the author of Qin Jing thought that magpies could forecast the weather as well as bring people good luck. Although I have never investigated the validity of the magpie's weather forecast, I do think that the call sound is just like human laughter. Maybe that's why many people feel happy hearing a magpie call.



*Large-billed Crow flies like a raptor*

In ancient Chinese paintings, artists regarded a magpie standing on a plum as a propitious sign. That's why traditional painters always liked to include the species. In literature, the magpie had a duty in an ancient Chinese story of two lovers meeting once a year on the 7th day of July. Many magpies gathered together to form a bridge, helping the lovers to meet each other once a year.

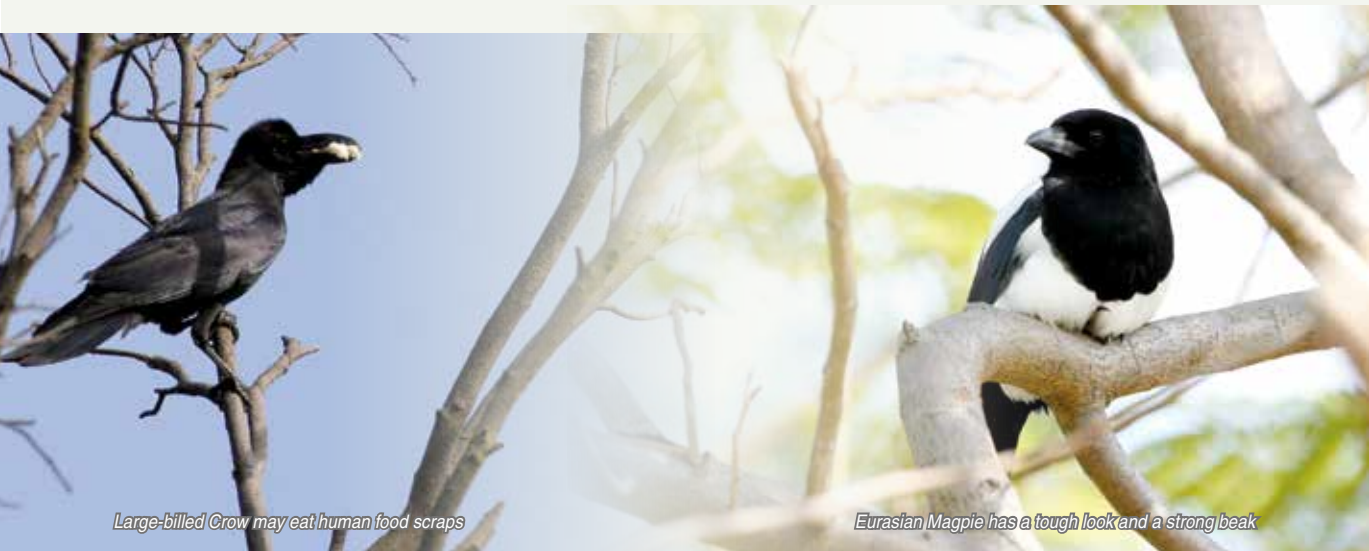
However, in the northern Chinese version of the story, the bridge of birds was not formed by magpies but by crows. It is because the crow was regarded as bird of filial piety in northern China.

In fact, both species are large birds, members of the bird order corvidae. They are easily noticed by people who are not birders. Both are well adapted to human activity and scavenge food scraps. In Hong Kong we can easily spot them all year round. Corvids have strong beaks, and readily walk on the ground. They tend to pair for life.

Both magpies and crows are usually loud, active callers. A Chinese idiom is "The magpie and crow are silent", which means that the whole environment is silent.

In early Hong Kong action movies, crow calls were usually used as a symbol of the dead or to presage a crisis. Director Alfred Hitchcock used group of crows gathering in *The Birds* to make the atmosphere horrible. In a movie titled *The Crow*, crows were used to bring out the feeling of horror and to lead the protagonist (Brandon Li) to a course of revenge.

The black colouring of temperate-region crows and magpies has been the focus of widespread superstition. A proverb mentioned in "The dream of the red chamber" (ancient Chinese fiction) declares that "Crows all over the world are as black as ever" -a negative remark about human nature.



*Large-billed Crow may eat human food scraps*

*Eurasian Magpie has a tough look and a strong beak*



*Corvids can walk on the ground easily*

In fact, in nature, corvids display high intelligence, for example when they like sliding on snowy mountain slopes and knowing to use passing cars to open nutshells. Research also points out that they can even recognize individual human faces.

In Aesop's Fables, there is a story of a crow dropping pebbles to raise the level of drinking water in a jug, with a moral for us to think more in solving problems. In the bible, a crow was sent from Noah's Ark to see if the flood had subsided. Evidently, corvids have a place in many different human cultures.

In reality, wildlife has no clear boundary of good and bad, unless humans impose their own feelings on them. In nature, every bird must be a lucky and skilled survivor.

Magpies and crows are not a photographer's target with bright colours, nor have they melodic calls. However, if we put aside our biases, looking into these species and appreciating them, we may find their bright side.

Birding is not merely bird watching, but also nature watching and observation of the human condition.

More articles and photos of Samson So, Director of Eco Institute could be read from his facebook page -- <Eco Institute> and <Samson So Photography>. 



*Large-billed Crow forehead and beak form a 90 degree angle*

Text: Richard Lewthwaite

*(Readers are reminded that this is not the final, "official" record of the sightings of this quarter, the Hong Bird Report 2015 is usually the last word. – Ed.)*

## July

- ▶ Despite it being an uncomfortably hot and wet month, coverage of key sites was surprisingly good and a fairly wide variety of breeding birds, over-summering non-breeders and early migrants were reported.
- ▶ Two species which have occurred in other months were reported for the first time in July – a **Himalayan Swiftlet** on 17<sup>th</sup> and a **Long-billed Dowitcher** on 22<sup>nd</sup>, both at Mai Po (JAA). Previous extreme dates for these species are 1 August-16 June and 4 October-12 May, respectively. In addition, a **Red Turtle Dove** at Mai Po on 26<sup>th</sup> (JAA) equalled the earliest autumn date.
- ▶ At Mai Po, **Slaty-breasted Rails**, **Common Moorhens**, **Greater Painted Snipes** and **Black-winged Stilts** all raised young in front of one of the hides on the scrape (WKC, JP). Among shorebirds present in the month were ten **Grey-tailed Tattlers** on 7<sup>th</sup>, 300 **Greater Sand Plovers** and an **Asian Dowitcher** on 11<sup>th</sup>, 400 **Common Redshanks** and a **Far Eastern Curlew** on 17<sup>th</sup>, an "*atrifrons*-group" **Lesser Sand Plover** on 22<sup>nd</sup> and a **Nordmann's Greenshank** on 26<sup>th</sup> (JAA, JGH). Three species of terns were found - two **Gull-billed** on 7<sup>th</sup> (JGH) and a **Little** and six **Whiskered** on 17<sup>th</sup> (JAA) - and there were also reports of two **Chestnut-winged Cuckoos** on 11<sup>th</sup> (JAA), a juvenile **Richard's Pipit** on 12<sup>th</sup> (WKC) and a **Black-winged Kite** on 17<sup>th</sup> (WKC) and 21<sup>st</sup> (JGH).
- ▶ At the Lok Ma Chau mitigation ponds, an unidentified buttonquail and two juvenile **Cinnamon Bitterns** were present on 22<sup>nd</sup> (MRL), marking the second successive year in which the species has bred there. Elsewhere in the northern NT, five **Red-rumped Swallows** were at Long Valley on 15<sup>th</sup> (DAD).
- ▶ Coverage of forest and shrubland sites (JAA except as indicated) led to reports of up to three **Orange-headed Thrushes** at Ng Tung Chai and Tai Po Kau between 6<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, including single juveniles at Ng Tung Chai on 6<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> and at Tai Po Kau on 14<sup>th</sup> (KWS). Other birds noted at these sites included a **Lesser Cuckoo** calling at Ng Tung Chai on 14<sup>th</sup>, the second successive year in which an individual has remained into July, and three **Bay Woodpeckers** at Tai Po Kau on 30<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere, no fewer than 32 **Grey Treepies** were noted at Chek Keng on 13<sup>th</sup>.
- ▶ The appearance of two juvenile **Lesser Frigatebirds** at Sai Kung pier on 4<sup>th</sup> (YLN, WKC) was followed by sightings of single birds in front of the Mai Po boardwalk on 21<sup>st</sup> (JGH), at Sai Kung again on 26<sup>th</sup> (YLN) and at the Black Kite roost at Coombe Road, Hong Kong Island on 30<sup>th</sup> (DJS). Otherwise, with the exception of a **Greater Crested Tern** in Mirs Bay on 18<sup>th</sup> (KH) and an adult **Common Tern** and two **Roseate Terns**, the latter bearing metal rings, in Victoria Harbour on 29<sup>th</sup> (KH), very little news came through regarding seabirds.
- ▶ A summer night-roost of **Barn Swallows**, presumably involving post-breeding migrants, again formed on wires in a well-lit part of Sai Kung. Numbers built up from 570 on 2<sup>nd</sup> to peak at 1,082 on 5<sup>th</sup> (slightly higher and three weeks earlier than last year's peak count) before falling to 661 on 21<sup>st</sup> and 288 on 30<sup>th</sup> (ssrg).



## August

- ▶ In a month that was drier than usual and saw the hottest day on record, on 8<sup>th</sup>, with temperatures exceeding 36°C in Kowloon and edging close to 38°C locally on Hong Kong Island and in the northern NT (HK Observatory), at least two **Chinese Barbets**, an adult on 8<sup>th</sup> (GT) and a possible juvenile from 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> (MHH), were found at Tai Po Kau, these following the first records there between the end of December and early April.
- ▶ Passage of migrant landbirds was full of interest, with five species and one subspecies reported on earliest ever autumn dates, as follows [with the number of days in advance of the previous earliest record shown in square brackets]: a **Grey-streaked Flycatcher** at Po Toi on 11<sup>th</sup> (per GW) [18 days], a **Eurasian Wryneck** at Long Valley on 17<sup>th</sup> (YTC) [11 days], a **Brown-chested Jungle Flycatcher** at Ho Man Tin on 24<sup>th</sup> (KPC) [4 days], a **Pale-legged Leaf Warbler** at Kam Tin on 28<sup>th</sup> (JAA) [7 days], and a male **Daurian Starling** at Chek Lap Kok on 28<sup>th</sup> (EMSK) [7 days], the latter followed by five further individuals at the same site on 31<sup>st</sup> (EMSK). Though not on the earliest date for the species, an **Eastern Yellow Wagtail** of the subspecies macronyx at Pui O, Lantau on 30<sup>th</sup> (EMSK) was by 10 days the earliest for the subspecies. One other early report was a **Stejneger's Stonechat** at Mai Po on 17<sup>th</sup> (CT), which equalled the earliest date.
- ▶ Following one at Tai Po Kau on 9<sup>th</sup> (TCL), the first of the autumn, **Asian Paradise Flycatchers** became fairly widespread, with a peak of three at Mai Po on 21<sup>st</sup> (JAA). Other typical migrant landbirds came through in ones and twos, with first reports on the following dates: **Forest Wagtail** at Clearwater Bay CP on 10<sup>th</sup> (GT), **Eastern Crowned Warbler** at Tai Po Kau on 18<sup>th</sup> (HKBWS web), **Brown Shrike** and **Yellow-rumped Flycatcher** at Mai Po on 22<sup>nd</sup> (KH, M&PW), **Eurasian Hoopoe** at Chek Lap Kok (EMSK), **Arctic Warbler** at Ho Man Tin and Chek Lap Kok (KPC, EMSK), **Bright-capped Cisticola**, **Oriental Reed Warbler** and **Eastern Yellow Wagtail** at Long Valley (DAD), all on 25<sup>th</sup>, **Japanese Paradise Flycatcher** at Tai Po Kau on 26<sup>th</sup> (MLT), **Grey Wagtail** at Wu Kau Tang on 28<sup>th</sup> (RWL), **Zitting Cisticola**, at Long Valley on 29<sup>th</sup> (CFL) and **Asian Brown Flycatcher** at Chek Lap Kok on 31<sup>st</sup> (EMSK).
- ▶ Chek Lap Kok and Ho Man Tin both proved to be productive early autumn sites. In addition to birds already mentioned, other notable records at these sites included a **Grey-headed Lapwing** at Chek Lap Kok on 17<sup>th</sup> (EMSK) and a **White-throated Kingfisher** at Ho Man Tin on 28<sup>th</sup> which had predated and was attempting to swallow a **Japanese White-eye** (KPC).
- ▶ The hot, dry weather, conditions may have encouraged waterbird flocks to push on further south. At any rate, rather few reports were received from Mai Po, the best birds being a juvenile **Oriental Pratincole** (not necessarily locally bred) on 9<sup>th</sup> (M&PW), an early **Grey-headed Lapwing** on 11<sup>th</sup> (WKC) and three **Garganey**, the first of the autumn, on 22<sup>nd</sup> (M&PW). Elsewhere in the northern NT, a **Cinnamon Bittern**, presumably a migrant, was at Tsim Bei Tsui on 16<sup>th</sup> (JGH).
- ▶ An adult **Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoos** at Tai Po Kau on 4<sup>th</sup> (KWS), quite a late date for a bird of this age. Passage of **Himalayan Swiftlets** continued from July with one at Long Valley on 22<sup>nd</sup> (MK), one at Ng Tung Chai on 27<sup>th</sup> (JAA) and two at Po Toi the same day (GW).
- ▶ Following on from July, there were further reports of **Lesser Frigatebirds** in coastal waters – one at Sai Kung on 9<sup>th</sup> (TML), two juveniles at Stanley on 20<sup>th</sup> (PC), a second-year showing only remnants of a breast band at Sai Kung on 21<sup>st</sup> and a single juvenile at Sai Kung again on 24<sup>th</sup> (HWY). Passage of terns and phalaropes was in evidence with five **Greater Crested** and 65 **White-winged Terns** seen in Tolo Channel and 18 **Red-necked Phalaropes** in Mirs Bay, all on 17<sup>th</sup> (IT, RWL), and 43 **Aleutian Terns** in southeast waters on 22<sup>nd</sup> (YTY).

September

- ▶ The most intriguing records of a hot and dry month, in which the first NE monsoon of the season arrived on 12<sup>th</sup>, were an adult **Grey-backed Shrike** found at Ng Tung Chai on 22<sup>nd</sup> (JAA) and an unusual warbler thought to be a **Kamchatka Leaf Warbler**, a potential first record for Hong Kong, at Chek Lap Kok on 29<sup>th</sup> (CFL). Although the lifestyle of adult shrikes leads them to be bleached and worn in autumn, doubts were expressed over the origins of the **Grey-backed Shrike** in view of its heavily worn condition. It remained at Ng Tung Chai through the month and into October. Shortly after the original sighting, news emerged of an unusual shrike photographed above the temple at Ng Tung Chai on 13 January 2014 (RB), which also appears to be an adult **Grey-backed Shrike**. These two Ng Tung Chai records will surely lead to a review of previous records and a review of the category of the species (currently Category III).
- ▶ Other rarities were a **Chinese Barbet** again at Tai Po Kau on 4<sup>th</sup> (MHH), a **Brown-chested Jungle Flycatcher** also at Tai Po Kau on 13<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> (M&PW, YTY) and at least one, possibly two **Fairy Pittas** at Lau Shui Heung on 14<sup>th</sup> (DAD). The run of unusually early **Daurian Starlings** continued from August with one at Chek Lap Kok again on 1<sup>st</sup> (EMSK), a **Yellow-browed Bunting** at Pui O on 21<sup>st</sup> (YTY, IT) was by one day the earliest ever in autumn, and a **Styan's Grasshopper Warbler** at Chek Lap Kok on 29<sup>th</sup> (KK) was a rare record of the species away from Deep Bay.
- ▶ Coverage of sites was good, and the usual migrants of the season were fairly regularly reported from widespread areas, though not in big numbers. Larger counts included four **Blue Rock Thrushes** at Chek Lap Kok on 9<sup>th</sup> (EMSK), five **Eastern Crowned Warblers** at Tai Po Kau on 12<sup>th</sup> (PKK), four **Yellow-rumped Flycatchers** at Mai Po on 12<sup>th</sup> (CFL), nine **Arctic Warblers** at Dong Ping Chau on 19<sup>th</sup> (JAA), eight **Pale-legged / Sakhalin Leaf Warblers** and six **Asian Brown Flycatchers** between Tai O and Fan Lau on 20<sup>th</sup> (JAA), four **Two-barred Warblers** at Mai Po on 26<sup>th</sup> (CFL), four **Orange-headed Thrushes** at Tai Po Kau on 27<sup>th</sup> (PKK) and four **Pallas's Grasshopper Warblers** and six **Black-browed Reed Warblers** at Kam Tin on 29<sup>th</sup> (JAA).
- ▶ Among other migrants, first sightings of the autumn were reported as follows, all singly except as indicated: **Dollarbird** at Po Toi on 3<sup>rd</sup> (BL), **Yellow-breasted Bunting** at Mai Po on 4<sup>th</sup> (YWF), **Dark-sided Flycatcher** at Po Toi on 6<sup>th</sup> (per GW), **Blue-and-white Flycatcher** at Shing Mun on 6<sup>th</sup> (SLT), **Black-naped Oriole** at Po Toi on 8<sup>th</sup> (GW), **Red Turtle Dove** at Chek Lap Kok on 9<sup>th</sup> (EMSK), **Siberian Blue Robin** at Tai Po Kau on 12<sup>th</sup> (PKK), **Yellow-browed Warbler** at Po Toi on 13<sup>th</sup> (GT), **Red-throated Flycatcher** there on 15<sup>th</sup> (GT), **Eastern Marsh Harrier**, **Watercock**, **White-winged Tern** and **Manchurian Reed Warbler** at Mai Po on 18<sup>th</sup> (JAA), **Pechora Pipit** at Chek Lap Kok on 19<sup>th</sup> (EMSK), **Verditer Flycatcher** at Tai O on 20<sup>th</sup> (EMSK), **Japanese Sparrowhawk** at Po Toi on 20<sup>th</sup> (GW), **Lanceolated Warbler** at Yung Shue O on 23<sup>rd</sup> (DT), **Eurasian Woodcock** at Po Toi on 26<sup>th</sup> (GW), **Ruddy-breasted Crake** at Yung Shue O on 26<sup>th</sup> (DT), **Ashy Drongo** at Kap Lung on 27<sup>th</sup> (JC), **Eurasian Hobby** (two) at Wonderland Villas, Kwai Chung on 27<sup>th</sup> (TJW), **Pied Harrier** and **Red-throated Pipit** at Mai Po on 28<sup>th</sup> and **Yellow-legged Buttonquail** and **Blue-tailed Bee-eater** there on 30<sup>th</sup> (JAA). In addition, an unidentified "**Blyth's Leaf Warbler-type**" was at Ng Tung Chai on 12<sup>th</sup> (JAA).
- ▶ Sightings of **Himalayan Swiftlet** continued, with one at Mai Po on 3<sup>rd</sup> (M&PW), and **Zitting Cisticolas** were found breeding at Tai O on 5<sup>th</sup> (EMSK), quite a late date.
- ▶ Bay Woodpeckers finally seem to be turning up at multiple sites. In addition to reports from Tai Po Kau in the month (PKK), one or two were found at Kowloon Hills Catchwater on 13<sup>th</sup> (DAD), Ho Pui on 16<sup>th</sup> (JAA) and Kap Lung on 27<sup>th</sup> (JC). Among other good forest birds reported were a **Speckled Piculet** at Shing Mun on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> (SLT), apparently a new record for the site, followed by two at Ng Tung Chai on 12<sup>th</sup> (JAA). Two **Mountain Bulbuls** were at Kowloon Hills Catchwater on 13<sup>th</sup> (DAD), also a new site. The rarest nightbird found was seen in full daylight – a **Brown Wood Owl** at Tai Po Kau on 6<sup>th</sup> (CvH).



## List of observers & initials July-Sept 2015

Initials are standardised for observers along the lines suggested for publication in the "From the field" feature in *BirdingASIA*— i.e. with the surname given last for Chinese and non-Chinese names alike.

Initials of observers whose reports/photographs helped in preparation of HK Bird News for the period July-Sept 2015 are as follows:

John Allcock (JAA), Karen Barretto (KB), RuyBarretto (RB), Geoff Carey (GJC), Peter Chan (PC), J.A.M. "Kwok-Jai" Cheung (JAMC), Vivian Cheung (VC), Gary Chow (GC), K.P. Chow (KPC), Frankie Chu (FC), W.K. "Wah-Jai" Chung (WKC), Y.T. Chung (YTC), John Clough (JC), David Diskin (DAD), Wilson Dring (WD), Martin Hale (MH), KinniHo (KH), unknown Hong Kong Bird Watching Society members (HKBWS), Carla van Hasselt (CvH), John Holmes (JGH), Peter Man-hin HO (MHH), Mike Kilburn (EMSK), P.K. Kwan (PKK), Matthew Kwan (MK), Paul Leader (PJL), Kenny Lee (KHL), Mike Leven (MRL), Katherine Leung (KL), Richard Lewthwaite (RWL), T.C. Li (TCL), C.F. "Fai-jai" Lo (CFL), Jonathan Martinez (JM), Roger Muscroft (RM), YannMuzika (YM), L.Y. Ng (LYN), Alan Pong (AP), Jason Pun (JP), K.W. Sit (KWS), Dave Stanton (DJS), Swallows and Swifts Research Group members (SSRG), Graham Talbot (GT), Meiling Tang (MLT), Dylan Thomas (DT), Ivan Tse (IT), Mike Turnbull (MT), Geoff Welch (GW), Martin Williams (MDW), H.S. Wong (HSW), L.C. Wong (LCW), Michelle Wong (MW), Peter Wong (PW), World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong staff (WWF), WY Yam (WYY), Ed Heung-wing Yip (HWY), Yat-tung Yu (YTY). 

## The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Bird Watching Tours Jan - Jun 2016

Outings				
Date	Duration	Time and site	Difficulties(1...3)	Target species
2/1/2016 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	<b>Tsim Bei Tsui</b> (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Tin Chak Estate Shopping Centre Exit, near Tin Yat Light Rail Station, Tin Shui Wai)	☆	Waterbirds
3/1/2016 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	<b>Tai Po Kau</b> (08:00 Tai Po Kau carpark)	☆☆☆	Forest birds
10/1/2016 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	<b>Long Valley</b> (08:00 Pavilion beside public toilet at Yin Kong Village)	☆☆	Farmland birds & waterbirds
17/1/2016 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	<b>Shek Kong</b> (08:00 Exit C, Kam Sheung Road West Rail Station)	☆☆	Forest & farmland birds
24/1/2016 (Sun)	TBC	<b>Wild Card Day</b> (Details will be announced on Jan 22 on Discussion Forum)		
31/1/2016 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	<b>Shing Mun</b> (08:00 Kiosk at Pineapple Dam, Shing Mun Reservoir)	☆☆	Forest birds

<input type="checkbox"/> Member: Free of Charge	Non-member: Free of Charge	(Registration not required)
<input type="checkbox"/> Member: Free of Charge	Non-member: HK\$ 30 (HK\$ 10 for age under 19 student)	(Registration not required)
<input type="checkbox"/> Member: HK\$ 60 (Student Member: HK\$ 30)	Non-member: HK\$ 120	(Registration required)
<input type="checkbox"/> Member: HK\$ 160	Non-member: HK\$ 200	(Registration required)



# The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Bird Watching Tours Jan - Jun 2016

Outings				
Date	Duration	Time and site	Difficulties(1...3)	Target species
6/2/2016 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	<b>Nam Sang Wai</b> (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 V Cuisine Restaurant, Exit G2, Yuen Long West Rail Station)	☆☆	Waterbirds
14/2/2016 (Sun)	0900 - 1700	<b>Mai Po Nature Reserve</b> (12yrs old & above only) (09:00 Kowloon Tong MTR Station (Kent Road Exit), OR 10:00 Mai Po carpark, end 16:00 Mai Po, 17:00 Kowloon Tong)	☆☆☆	Waterbirds
20/2/2016 (Sat)	TBC	<b>Wild Card Day</b> (Details will be announced on Feb 18 on Discussion Forum)		
28/2/2016 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	<b>Nam Chung and Luk Keng</b> (08:00 Pavilion at junction of Nam Chung Rd & Luk Keng Rd)	☆☆☆	Forest birds & Waterbirds
5/3/2016 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	<b>Tai Sang Wai</b> (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 V Cuisine Restaurant, Exit G2, Yuen Long West Rail Station)	☆☆	Waterbirds
6/3/2016 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	<b>Tai Po Kau</b> (08:00 Tai Po Kau carpark)	☆☆☆☆	Forest birds
13/3/2016 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	<b>Mai Po Nature Reserve</b> (12yrs old & above 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
20/3/2016 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	<b>Po Toi Island</b> (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
27/3/2016 (Sun)	TBC	<b>Wild Card Day</b> (Details will be announced on Mar 23 on Discussion Forum)		
2-3/4/2016 (Sat - Sun)	24 hrs	<b>Hong Kong Bird Watching Day 2016 Cum Bird Race Fundraising Event</b> (Details to be announced on Discussion Forum)		
16/4/2016 (Sat)	0800 - 1600	<b>Po Toi and HK South Waters</b> (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.	☆☆☆☆	Seabirds and migrants
24/4/2016 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	<b>Mai Po Nature Reserve</b> (12yrs old & above 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
1/5/2016 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	<b>Po Toi and HK South Waters</b> (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
7/5/2016 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	<b>Tai Po Kau</b> (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Tai Po Kau Carpark)	☆☆	Forest birds
15/5/2016 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	<b>Tai Mo Shan</b> (08:00 Exit B near Hang Seng Bank, Tsuen Wan MTR Station)	☆☆☆☆	Grassland birds
21/5/2016 (Sat)	TBC	<b>Wild Card Day</b> (Details will be announced on May 19 on Discussion Forum)		
4/6/2016 (Sat)	0800 - 1330	<b>Tap Mun</b> (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Ma Liu Shui Ferry Pier)	☆☆	Residents & Terns
5/6/2016 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	<b>Nam Chung and Luk Keng</b> (08:00 Pavilion at junction of Nam Chung Rd & Luk Keng Rd)	☆☆☆	Forest birds & Waterbirds

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 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*	Required information for Mai Po Outing only	
						Meeting Point (Kln Tong/MP)	Age Group (✓ where appropriate)
							<input type="checkbox"/> 12 yrs & above <input type="checkbox"/> Below 12 yrs
							<input type="checkbox"/> 12 yrs & above <input type="checkbox"/> Below 12 yrs
							<input type="checkbox"/> 12 yrs & above <input type="checkbox"/> Below 12 yrs
							<input type="checkbox"/> 12 yrs & above <input type="checkbox"/> Below 12 yrs
							<input type="checkbox"/> 12 yrs & above <input type="checkbox"/> Below 12 yrs
							<input type="checkbox"/> 12 yrs & above <input type="checkbox"/> Below 12 yrs

\*\* 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.



白腹海鵬  
潘士強  
西貢碼頭

White-bellied Sea Eagle  
Jason Pun  
Sai Kung Pier

05/07/2015  
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens



鵞鵞  
余伯全  
米埔

Pied Harrier  
Ractis John  
Mai Po

10/10/2015  
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter



鳳頭蜂鷹  
潘士強  
大埔滘

Crested Honey Buzzard  
Jason Pun  
Tai Po Kau

13/02/2015  
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens