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The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

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Contents

Obituary	– Clive Viney	06
Society News & Projects		08
Mai Po Update	– Bena Smith	13
Birding Anecdote - Snow-white visitors	– Samson So	14
A Singapore bird watching trip by three gentlemen (6 to 10 July 2015)	– Bill Man	22
Hong Kong Bird News	– Richard Lewthwaite	27
Coming activities		31

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Jason Pun (Mai Po), 28/11/2015, DSLR Camera,
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Obituary

We are saddened to learn that Francis J. Walker (Frank Walker), Co-founder and Hon. Life Member of the Society, passed away in Malta on 12th February 2016 at the age of 91. We are most grateful to him for his contribution to the establishment of the Society. We would like to express our deepest condolences to Frank's family. For a pen picture of Frank, please see the article by Clive Viney.

Francis J. Walker [1925 - 2016]

On 16th February 2016 the HKBWS received the sad news from Roger Norman that Frank Walker had passed away in Malta.

At the age of 91, Frank had finally succumbed to a debilitating illness that he had bravely fought for several years.

In 1955 Frank Walker, who served in the Royal Air Force, was posted to Hong Kong. He spent much of his free time studying the birds of Hong Kong. Without anything approaching a modern field guide, he conducted pioneering fieldwork. The first edition of G. A. C. Herklots Hong Kong Birds (published in 1953) is a delightful book but provides very few illustrations. However, as I did in my early years, Frank managed to unravel identifications from Herklots' museum descriptions, which in many ways was a good learning exercise. In 1957 and 1958, Frank circulated lists and details of his observations and these were eventually published by HKBWS and became the valued foundation for later checklists.

"Early Days" by Mr. Frank Walker published in HK Bird Report 1967 edition

EARLY DAYS

My posting to Hong Kong in 1955 was my first real overseas tour. I had a fair amount of experience of U.K. birds and, after purchasing a copy of Herklots' "Birds of Hong Kong", felt fit to do battle with the fauna of the area.

Once at Sek Kong, in June, I ventured forth with notebook in hand, glasses strung round my neck and plunged literally into the surrounding padi to try my luck. It was a great awakening—I knew nothing about birds! Bulbuls were fairly easy; small warblers falling off their tails difficult, and the minute birds flitting about in the canopy of the "fung shui" woods impossible. In the autumn a typhoon left a debris of birds on the Ping Shan marshes, but numbers and variety confused me. I decided I needed help.

My initial introduction to J.D. Romer opened to me the beginning of a wonderful period of bird watching. I made several trips with him whilst he collected snakes and various reptiles, and after a while he introduced me to Miss Maura Benham. Later that autumn I met Jeremy Sergeant, and we teamed up to cover the Mong Tseng peninsula and the Mai Po marshes. We started discovering birds that Herklots had not mentioned, nor Dove and Goodhart for that matter, but group expeditions with Maura Benham, Toby Woodhams and others started to pay off, and with the arrival of Roland de la Moussaye, we all began to understand just how much could be done to improve ornithology in the Colony.

Many pleasant days were spent together in the Mai Po marshes and Lam Tsuen valley and slowly I began to identify birds with the help of the resident bird watchers. Mutual interest between the bird watchers of the Colony began to take a firmer shape, and in the steaming quiet of parts of the New Territories it was agreed that the time had come to co-ordinate all our activities and publish annual reports—in short to form a bird watching society.

After further discussion, a letter was drafted and despatched to all known interested parties in Hong Kong, and a meeting called. It was a most pleasant surprise to see the numbers

who turned up at the inaugural meeting, and after preliminary introductions, we got down to business, with Mr. Walton in the chair. I nervously suggested "Hong Kong Ornithological Society" as the title for the proposed society, but after further discussion we settled for the "Hong Kong Bird Watching Society" and then we were in business.

No individual can really claim credit for the formation of the Society. It was an amalgamation of ideas, many of which had been simmering in the minds of bird watchers of Hong Kong for years. The final result was the joint hard work and co-operation of many people. In my time, 1955 to 1957, many names come to mind—Maura Benham, Roland de la Moussaye, Jeremy Sergeant, Arthur Walton, Edgar Webb and Toby Woodhams are but a few. The results of their hard work, and the efforts of the members who followed have shown the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society to be a serious, hard-working ornithological organisation that can claim parity with many such societies overseas.

On this tenth anniversary may I thank friends and members of the Society for their unstinting help and guidance during my short visits to the Colony and express my best wishes for the future.

F. Walker



Frank Walker recognised the need for a birdwatching society in Hong Kong and with Mr A. St. G. Walton and Lt. J. H. Sergeant sent an invitation letter to friends saying, "There has been for some time a growing need for the formation of a competent ornithological society in the Colony of Hong Kong." This led to the establishment of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society.

Unfortunately Frank was posted away from Hong Kong before the first AGM held on 13th November 1957 in the Central Government Offices. Frank's considerable efforts were recognised when he was unanimously elected the first Honorary Life Member of the HKBWS. Also at that first meeting, Mr A. St. G. Walton was elected as the Society's first chairman and Lt. J. H. Sergeant as the Society's first secretary.

The Hong Kong Bird Report 1967 included a short article by Frank Walker marking the tenth anniversary of the formation of HKBWS. Not a lot more was heard from Frank until 1987, when, following a review of his (and – to that date - Hong Kong's only) record of a Long-billed Plover at Shek Kong on 4th December 1955, he sent more information and photographs. However, the record was rejected by the Records Committee. Although a Long-billed Plover was later recorded at Shek Kong (in 1994), the Records Committee did not reinstate Frank's original record.

From that time onwards Frank and I regularly corresponded and we first met when he briefly returned to Hong Kong. He visited our bungalow at Mount Nicholson Gap and we soon recognised that our approach to studying and enjoying the natural world was similar.

After leaving Hong Kong Frank moved to Cyprus, where he did much to promote the study of birds and help create the Cyprus Ornithological Society (1957). In 1965 Frank formed the Royal Air Force Ornithological Society (RAFOS). Frank certainly had a penchant for forming birdwatching societies.

Before being posted to Hong Kong, Frank was based at RAF Rye in southern England. During his time at Rye he discovered an unusual communal roost of Hen Harriers that was later referred to in the authoritative Handbook of the Birds of the Western Palearctic.

After his return to civilian life, Frank spent most of each year in Vancouver, New Zealand and Portugal. For many years, Frank wintered at Sagres in southwest Portugal, where he enjoyed the milder climate. He stayed at the Hotel Baleeira where the staff looked forward to his return each year and considered him part of the family. Frank made daily observations and kept copious notes of the birds migrating through and wintering in the extreme southwest corner of Europe. Again he was ahead of the times. He passed his notes to the fledgling Portuguese ornithological society (SPEA) but then they did not fully appreciate their significance. Today, the autumn migration of raptors through the Sagres Peninsula is regarded as one of the great spectacles of the European birdwatching calendar. When I went to live in the Algarve I enjoyed occasional field trips with Frank and never ceased to admire his considerable energy, knowledge and enthusiasm.

In recent years, due to declining health, Frank ceased visiting the Algarve and spent more time in Canada and eventually Malta.

I wish that I knew more about Frank's personal life. Our conversations and correspondence invariably concerned birds and Hong Kong in the old days. He was a charming and unassuming man and in many ways a very private person. I know that he was proud of his mother who lived to be 100. Also that he relished our friendship and enjoyed meeting Barbara. In retrospect, I wish that I had met him more often.

I would like to thank Roger Norman, who was the first editor of RAFOS, and Lam Chiu Ying, Honorary President of HKBWS, for providing information that helped produce this pen picture of Frank Walker.

Clive Viney
3rd March 2016
Tavira, Portugal



Society News and Projects

2016 Membership Renewal

Membership stood at around 1942 as at early March. Membership renewal under the new membership criteria is in progress. Renewal letters will be posted about two months before membership expiry date.

New Honorary Member

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the contribution of Dr Michael Leven towards the birds of Hong Kong and the Society in the past three decades. Therefore, the Executive Committee have unanimously supported the nomination of Mike as our “Honorary Member” to acknowledge his enormous contribution to the Records Committee for the past 23 years and to the development of the Society. Usually, we call for the nomination of Honorary Members during our AGM, however, on this occasion we agreed not to delay it until the next AGM.

Bird Watching Course

Winter Forest Bird Identification Workshops and a 20th Elementary Bird Watching Course for Beginners were completed in middle of January and March, which have provided bird watching training at different level to 20 and 37 members and birders respectively.



New Member Orientation 2016

A talk and a Mai Po outing for new members were held on Jan 28 and 31 respectively. A total of 23 new members attended.

2016 Hong Kong Bird Watching Day Cum Bird Race Fundraising Event

Our annual event Hong Kong Bird Watching Day will be held from 2nd to 3rd April. Teams will race under 2 categories, ie the “Challenger” and “Secondary School”. Raised funds from this bird race will be used for production of bird pamphlets, including Black Kite, Waterbirds, Forest Birds, etc. The pamphlets can be powerful educational tools in promoting bird watching to the public.

Education

Programme

Hong Kong City Sparrow Census

Eurasian Tree Sparrow is commonly seen in Hong Kong Urban areas. That might be a reason that explain why there is so little scientific research about this species. The City Sparrow Census is an activity of “Citizen Science” which serves both scientific and educational purposes and leads more people to try conducting a scientific survey.

The event is going to be held on 8th May, 2016 and the pilot census will be on 23rd April. We welcome all society members to join in. More information will appear on the HKBWS website forum.

Society News and Projects - (cont.)

Crested Bulbul Club

Early Morning Bird Watchers

No. of participants in Hong Kong Park from Nov 2015 to Jan 2016: 226

No. of participants in Kowloon Park from Nov 2015 to Jan 2016: 362

Bird watching interpretation in Hong Kong Wetland Park

A total of 148 participants from Nov 2015 to Jan 2016.

North District Flower, Bird, Insect and Fish Exhibition

North District Flower, Bird, Insect and Fish Exhibition – was held between 23 to 28 Dec 2015. Thanks are due to the Crested Bulbul Club and the volunteer group of the Fishpond project for their active support.



Hong Kong Park Green Hunt

Took place on 16 and 30 Jan 2016. In a total of 25 teams, 120 students from 16 schools joined this year's event. Again, many thanks are due to members of the Crested Bulbul Club for their stewardship of the event.



Champion-Black-winged Kite, Fung Kai Liu
Yun Sum Memorial School



Members of the Crested
Bulbul Club

2015 - 2017 Nature Conservation Management for Long Valley

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of Harvest Fest, we have arranged a series of activities including a Bird Model Design Competition, Long Valley Little Farmer, a Music Festival, and exhibition to promote agriculture and conservation work done in Long Valley. The Harvest Fest was held on 3rd and 31st of January 2016. This year, we were glad to have Dr. PM So, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation to be the officiating guest of the event and to inaugurate a piece of Yellow-breasted Bunting artwork named "Rise from the Straws". With the cooperation with Pokfulam Village, "Rise from the Straws" is created by fire-dragon artist Mr. Ng Kong Kin and the Long Valley team. We hope to bring out the problems and threats that Yellow-breasted Bunting is facing through this artwork and to spread a message of conserving this species.

Inauguration of "Rise from the Straws"



Society News and Projects

Conservation News

News from Po Toi

The draft Po Toi Islands outline zoning plan (OZP) has been revised. We generally support the amendment items A1 and A2 (rezoning from R(D) to a conservation zoning). However, there is still a big mature tree within the reduced R(D) zone. We consider that the conservation zoning(s) should extend to all Government land and up to the drip-line of the big mature tree for better protection of the tree and limiting the land use within this sensitive area while respecting the re-development right of the villagers. The Society has already submitted comments to the Town Planning Board in February 2016.



BSAP public consultation is out now

The Government started formulating a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 2013. During two years of public engagement, the Society, together with various environmental NGOs and academic sectors actively participated in providing recommendations to be put forward in the action plan. Finally, the public consultation of the first city-level BSAP for Hong Kong was launched this year in early January.

Feel free to take a look at the BSAP consultation document and give your comments/recommendations to the Government, in hope of stepping up biodiversity conservation and supporting sustainable development in Hong Kong. We will share with you our thoughts later when we have carefully studied the consultation document.

- * Deadline of the public consultation: 7 April 2015 (Thursday)
- ** BSAP consultation document (English full version): http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/conservation/con_bsap/bsap_consultation/files/BSAP_ConDoc_Eng_full_r2.pdf
- *** For more information: http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/conservation/con_bsap/bsap_consultation/bsap_consultation_index.html



Hong Kong Fishpond Conservation Scheme



Interpretation



Traditional food workshop



Opening ceremony

Co-organized by The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society and the Hong Kong New Territories Fish Culture Association, the 2nd "NT Fishpond Festival" carnival was launched in Tai Sang Wai on 24 Jan 2016. Although the weather was super cold, over 80 volunteers and 300 participants joined the carnival. Thank you so much for all your support! It is our honour to have Dr. Leung Siu Fai, Director of AFCD as our Guest of Honour at the opening ceremony, when Dr. Leung and other guests tasted the Yuen Long pond fish together.

In order to provide an authentic experience of fishponds to the participants, this carnival took place in a local fishpond area. Participants also took part in taking care of fishpond, e.g. feeding fish and casting nets to catch fish. Participants could also taste the freshly baked Flathead Mullet with salt and steaming fish congee.

In order to introduce birds in fishpond and aquaculture operation and facilities, tour guides and staff provided interpretation. Through the booth games, aquaculture figures and displays, the net-casting game and special local food, citizens could know more about the conservation of birds and fishponds.



Freshly baked Flathead Mullet with salt

Assessment of the ecological role of birds in Hong Kong's secondary forests

Birds are known to provide a significant ecological function, for example, seed dispersal of plants. However, this has been understudied for a long time, especially in Hong Kong. We launched a one-year project in Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve from December 2014 to assess the seed dispersal of forest birds. We captured forest birds by a mist-netting approach. The faeces from the birds captured were collected and seeds inside were identified. A total of 416 captures involving 352 individuals of 44 species of birds has resulted from the mist-netting surveys. Huet's Fulvetta, Red-billed Leiothrix, Cinereous Tit and Chestnut Bulbul are the most abundant bird species captured in the surveys. A total of 13 plant species is revealed to be consumed by birds in secondary forests, including six tree, four shrub, two climber and one herbaceous species. *Machilus* spp., *Psychotria asiatica* and *Schefflera heptaphylla* are the commonest plant species dispersed by birds. Chestnut Bulbul is the most important seed-dispersal agent in forests, individuals having consumed at least seven plant species throughout the project year. We expect to continue the project so as to collect multiple-year data as we believe more birds and plant species could be recorded with extended research period. This project is funded by the Environment and Conservation Fund.



Mountain Bulbul and other bulbul species have an important role in seed dispersal in the Hong Kong's forests.

13th China Ornithological Conference

The 13th China Ornithological Conference was held in Anhui University, Hefei, Anhui Province between 12th and 15th November, 2015. The theme for this year was "Ecology, evolution and protection of birds". In this conference, our society jointly apply for a symposium "Citizen Science and bird protection" with Dr. Liu Yang from Sun Yat-sen University, and invited bird watching societies and bird-related non-governmental civil society organizations to share results of self-initiated or participated bird monitoring and conservation programmes. Presentations were made by representatives from China Coastal Waterbird Census Team, Protected Area Friendly System, Chinese Bird Watching Societies Network, China Bird Watching Society and Hong Kong Bird Watching Society. In the past, there have been very few civil societies joining academic conferences, but these symposia provided a good opportunity for amateur bird watchers and academics to share and exchange ideas, as well as to promote development of citizen science in mainland China.



Updates on CEPF programme on capacity building to civil societies in southern China

Training workshop for eco-tour guides

After one year's work of education in coastal areas of Guangdong and Guangxi, the rise of awareness of local people towards bird protection has leads increasing interest in nature. Therefore, we had organized the third training workshop of the CEPF programme to nurture and build capacity of local eco-tour guides. The workshop was held between 7th and 8th November, 2015 at Guangxi Mangrove Research Center in Beihai, Guangxi Province. A total of 27 participants from local civil societies or volunteers of Guangdong, Guangxi and Hainan Provinces joined the workshop. We had invited Mr. Kevin Guo from Swarovski's Feathers Voluntary Group and Ms. Wong Hok Sze, HKBWS's experienced trainer of eco-tour guides to lead the workshop. The first part of the workshop comprised lectures covering bird identification, skills and techniques on guiding outdoor bird tour and tour planning. The second part of the workshop included mock outdoor guided tours for the public. Participants were divided into groups to try to conducting a small scale eco-tour. The next step of the plan is to help develop nature-experience activities in the project areas. We would like to give our greatest gratitude to Guangxi Mangrove Research Center to co-organize this workshop and volunteers of Beihai for their help with the organisation.



Participants conducting mock outdoor guided tour



Ms. Wong Hok Sze is giving lecture on technique on guiding eco-tour



Updates on CEPF programme on capacity building to civil societies in southern China

China
Programme

Record-breaking number of wintering Critically Endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper in southern China

Under the support of CEPF, this is the second year we join hands with Zhanjiang Bird Watching Society and Zhanjiang Mangrove National Nature Reserve to conduct bird monitoring. The survey was carried out between 25th and 29th January this year, which was in cooperation with the International Spoon-billed Sandpiper winter census. During the three days' survey, the survey teams got a record-breaking count of at least 43 Spoon-billed Sandpiper in three days' survey on mudflats east of Zhanjiang area. Two more were recorded in Xitou of east Guangdong and one was sighted in Beihai, Guangxi. Among the 38 individuals found in Fucheng, Leizhou, 6 of them were tagged by rings or flags, and even one of them with white leg flag engraved "MA" was the same one sighted last year at the same place. We were happy that this spoony safely returned to Leizhou! Another good observation of this survey was that there was no single mist net spotted during the survey in the surveyed area in Leizhou area! This proves that situation of illegal trapping was improved in the past years under the CEPF project promotion and effort of local bird volunteers and government authorities, making this a safer place for migratory birds coming to this site!

We thank Zhanjiang Bird Watching Society, Zhanjiang Mangrove National Nature Reserve, our members Jonathan Martinez and John Allcock for their long working hours in the field and doing the survey so diligently in challenging weather !



Jonathan Martinez and John Allcock were doing survey in a wetland at Leizhou



Survey team in Southwest Guangdong



Spoon-billed Sandpiper found roosting in a fishpond in Beihai (Photo credit: Da Yu)

Call for telescope

New bird watching societies are emerging in southern China. They also serve as the local frontline guardian of birds. Yet because they are newly established, they cannot afford to buy telescopes. If you have any unwanted but usable telescope(s) and are happy to donate, we would be thankful for your generosity. Zhanjiang, Guangdong and Beihai, Guangxi would be our top priorities in allocating any donated telescopes, as these two places are where we are working to address the illegal bird trapping problem.

Please contact HKBWS China Programme at e-mail (info@chinabirdnet.org) or PM, or bring your old scope to our office. We thank Francis Chu and a donor who did not leave his name for their generosity.

Thank you so much for your support! 

Mai Po Update

Text: Bena Smith,
Centre Manager,
Mai Po NR

Pond #19a access upgrade

Converted to freshwater in 2013, Pond #19a now contains stands of wet reedbed and tracts of open water offering excellent views into the pond interior and neighbouring gei wai. This spring and early summer, the wooden walkway that provides access into the centre of the pond is to be upgraded. Works will include replacement of old supports and surface planks, and the installation of safety barriers. The latter will enable wheelchair users to access the pond for the first time. During upgrade, the boardwalk will be closed off to all visitors, but open again in time for autumn migration.

Reedbed in Gei wai #14

Our mission to restore wet reedbed continues; this year the main focus is Gei wai #14.

Inside the gei wai, two large stands of reedbed closest to the Education Centre have succumbed to the inevitable process of succession, evident by the presence of small mangroves and terrestrial grasses. Commencing in April, vegetation will be cut and removed by hand, then a dozer and backhoe will be used to remove silt. The aim is to lower the gei wai floor by around 15 cm, then let reed grass naturally regenerate from the remaining rhizomes.



Manchuian Reed Warbler, a potential beneficiary of the reedbed restoration work.
Credit : Martin Hale

As many birdwatchers know, in 2015 an egretty was established at the seaward end of Gei wai #14. With this in mind and a strong desire to see the breeding birds return, the two ends of the gei wai were intentionally separated with earth bunds in late 2015 to ensure normal operation at the egretty end during 2016. Similar to last year, if nesting behaviour is observed we will cordon off areas such as the bund between Gei wais #13 and #14.

Subject to raising sufficient funds from the annual Big Bird Race, another area of reedbed inside Gei wai #8b will be restored in 2016.



Snow-white visitors

Text/Photo: Samson So

To bird-watching beginners, observing egrets should be an excellent introduction to wetland bird study. Ancient Chinese poets have implanted images of egrets in human minds for a long time.

The poem by Du Fu,

*“Two golden orioles sing amid the willows green;
A row of white egrets fly into the blue sky.....”*

is justly famous. Another description of a flock of egrets flying; -

*“Frosty cloaks, snowy crests, dark jade beaks,
Gathering to catch fish in shadows on the stream,
Startled, sparks fly, distant to green mountains,
A single pear’s blossoms fallen in the late wind.”*

By Du Mu, vividly describes the outlook and motion of a group of egrets. *

Twenty years ago, in the days when I was conducting activities in Mai Po Nature Reserve, many people would refer to white egrets as white cranes. With the proliferation of nature study activities and easy access to reference data, our ability to distinguish these should now be much better. Egrets adapt to wetlands, and watercourses to survive. When we concentrate on these habitats, there is much of interest to find out.

Egrets are medium to large waterbirds with eye-catching snow-white feathers. Not only for beginners but also for experienced birdwatchers, the best way to know the natural ecosystem is by observing them. There are five species of white egrets in Hong Kong, besides the well-known Great and Little Egret, there is Intermediate Egret which is easily overlooked. Cattle Egret and Chinese Egret are on the list, too. Though white Pacific Reef Heron may look like an egret, it is not common and out of our discussion here.



Intermediate Egret catches mudskipper in mudflat



Breeding Little Egret has two outstanding feathers on its back of head



Non-breeding plumage of a Little Egret

Fishpond draining-down attracts huge amount of egrets to come foraging for "trash" fish



Little Egret is the most common egret in Hong Kong, and among around 20 types of ardeids in China. It is perhaps the best of those that succeed in widespread habitats. With typical long slim legs and neck, snow-white feathers, it has a year-round black bill. Other useful identification features are bright yellow toes, and two lengthy nuptial plumes at the back of the head only found during the breeding period. Little Egret is able to find food in natural wetland environments with knee-height water levels, and also makes a living in man-made places such as ponds in downtown parks and nullahs. Their staples are little fishes and shrimps. At fishponds in the New Territories, especially when fishpond keepers drain them down, Little Egrets will gather at shallow places to help themselves to the remaining "trash" fish. Then we have chance to admire the magnificent sight of scores of Little Egrets feeding together.

Great Egret is another common egret in Hong Kong, which can be found foraging in wetland areas in the New Territories, mudflats and swamps. Same as other egrets, it breeds in egrettries. The habitat of Great Egret is similar to that of Little Egret. But Great Egret is much larger in build with has a long "S" shaped neck when curled up. Bird guides may point out that in the winter non-breeding season, its bill is bright yellow, whereas it turns to black during the breeding season in spring and summer. Bare skin on the face becomes bluish green, and the toes change to black, instead of yellow as with Little Egret.

Intermediate Egrets are medium-sized. It is a piece of cake to tell the difference if all three white egret species are put together. Intermediate Egret's neck is shorter than that of a Great Egret and does not bend as much. In the non-breeding season, most of its bill is yellow with a black tip. In summer, the bill changes to black and the chest and the back will grow decorative feathers. Intermediate Egrets like to forage in swamps, edges of ponds and tidal mudflats, mainly for fish. A "Stand and wait" strategy is adopted, with the prey seized efficiently.

This species used to be considered quite rare, but better observer coverage in recent years has revealed them to be widespread, especially on tidal mudflats.

Great Egret gets a black bill during breeding period



Great Egret during non-breeding season - base of its bill extends behind the eye

In the past, when there were a lot of cattle in the New Territories, it was common to see Cattle Egrets pecking parasites on the back of the animals, a mutually beneficial relationship. The egrets would also forage at the feet of cattle, for insects, frogs and other prey items disturbed by them. The number of cattle herds has been reducing, and the sight of attendant cattle egrets similarly rare. The Cattle Egret's bright-yellow beak as well as its round crown makes identification easy. Entering into the breeding season, its orange-brown breeding plumage in the neck, chest and the back stands out among others egret species nearby in the egretty.



Cattle Egret taking a ride



Note the round crown and the yellow bill of a Cattle Egret in non-breeding plumage



A Cattle Egret in breeding plumage

Chinese Egret – an Endangered species - is the rarest among different types of white egret in Hong Kong. There were breeding records here in Hong Kong prior to 1982. In recent years, it has been observed as a migrant in spring. The size of a Chinese Egret is similar to Little Egret, but the yellow bill of the former differentiates it from the black bill of the latter.

Egrets are quite common and tend to cluster together which can make observation easy, so over-familiarity can mean they are not fully appreciated. From April to October egrets breed in large, noisy groups, often with several species mixed in together.

Egrets are predators in the natural world, belonging to the top end of the food chain. Easily seen and counted, their numbers and movements can give a reliable indication of environmental factors.

There are a lot more articles and photos by Samson So, Director of ECO Institute Ltd, please visit his Facebook page.

(*original Chinese versions of these and other poems here:

<http://old.eport.com.cn/Forums/ShowPost.aspx?PostID=15979&View=Threaded&ThreshHold=15> and here:

http://poetryhack.blogspot.hk/2014/05/200ish-tang-quatrain.html#white_egrets)



Chinese Egret





白喉磯鶇(雌鳥)
Guy Miller
南丫島大山西

White-throated Rock Thrush (female)
Guy Miller
Tai Shan West, Lamma Island

17/12/2015
DSLR Camera, 300mm f/4 lens

白腹姬鶲
何建業
蒲台

Blue-and-white Flycatcher
Kinni Ho Kin Yip
Po Toi

20/09/2015
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter



小仙鶲
何文顯
蒲台

Small Niltava
Peter Ho
Po Toi

17/12/2015
DSLR Camera, 400mm f/2.8 lens + 2x teleconverter



白喉林鶉
馮漢城
小瀝源

Brown-chested Jungle Flycatcher
Ken Fung
Siu Lik Yuen

22/12/2015
DSLR Camera, 100- 400mm f/4.5-5.6 lens



赤胸鵯
Clement F.
葵涌

Brown-headed Thrush
Clement F.
Kwai Chung

10/02/2016
DSLR Camera, 100- 400mm f/4.5-5.6 lens

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A Singapore bird watching trip by three gentlemen (6 to 10 July 2015)

Text/Photo: Bill Man



The three gentlemen:
TP Luk, Herman Ip and Bill Man

Nine Bird watching destinations:

Bukit Batok Town Park
Pasir Ris Nature Park
Pulau Ubin

Bukit Batok Nature Park
Bukit Timah Nature Reserve
Botanic Garden

Pasir Ris Town Park
Garden By the Bay
Chinese Garden

Three Hong Kong gentlemen went to Singapore for six days, visiting nine locations for birding. They mainly went to Nature Parks and Botanical Gardens and observed 59 species.

I discovered that that TP and Herman had booked a 5D4N package to Singapore which coincided with my family visit to Singapore. We were able to arrange time to go birding together.

Our itinerary was made with reference to HKBWS members bird watching plans posted on the HKBWS website forum. In addition, we also collected information online about Singapore's birding. Here I would like to express my appreciation of TP's planning.

The three of us visited eight locations in five days, all travelling by public transport (e.g. MRT and bus). After five days, TP and Herman went back to HK, and I was left behind for a day, meeting with my relatives and then having a few hours to observe birds at the Chinese Garden. In total, I observed 59 species.

6 July (Monday) – Pasir Ris Town Park + Pasir Ris Nature Park



After meeting at the hotel, we travelled to the Town Park by MRT. We were very lucky to be told by one of the locals that there was a Nature Reserve at the other side of the park which had many more birds, including owls.

In addition, some hikers helped us to observe sunbird parents feeding their young. We felt amazed at how Singaporeans love and respect birds. Later, we met a group of birders who waited at a bridge to watch for Buffy Fish Owls to catch their food at night. Not until after 7pm were they finally able to see the species move inside the wood. That day we observed Buffy Fish Owl, Red Jungle fowl (female), Collared kingfisher, Stork-billed Kingfisher, Olive-backed Sunbird, and Brown-throated Sunbird.

7 July (Tuesday) -- Bukit Timah Nature Reserve + Garden By the Bay



We went to the Reserve in the early morning, and finally went to the lakeside area. Over there, we met hikers who showed us Flying Squirrels in the trees behind us. If nobody had helped us, we might probably have missed them. In this five-hour trip, we observed birds and squirrels as well as monkeys.

In late afternoon, we went back to the city centre and continued our trip to the Garden By the Bay, observing birds and then appreciating the night scene near the famous Merlion statue.

Best birds included Pin-striped Tit Babbler, Rufous-tailed Tailorbird, Chestnut-bellied Malkoha, Rufous Woodpecker, Peaceful Dove, and Pink-necked Green Pigeon.

8 July (Wednesday) – Pulau Ubin

Pulau Ubin is an island located NE of Singapore. It is 8 miles long, and 1.3 to 1.7 miles wide.

The pier was at the south side of the island. We travelled from there toward the wetland reserve at Chek Jawa. The first half of the road was relatively plain and flat, but the latter half was rough, with mud and rocks. All three of us felt tired travelling this bumpy road because of our backpacks. During the four-hour trip, we heard the sound of birds and saw shadows of them.

At the entrance of the reserve, we encountered a group of wild pigs.

As we ate we spotted those wild pigs moving towards us, looking like they wished to eat our meal. We immediately put our food and drinks back to our backpacks and went away to the mangrove area. However, due to the strong sunlight, we didn't see any birds.



On our return trip, we met someone who was selling durians for five dollars a catty which we were happy to buy and eat before travelling back to the hotel by boat. While waiting at the pier I suddenly saw “a mouth” moving in a tree which caused me to move toward it. Unluckily, the bird moved inside the bush and I could not see it again. I immediately called the other two back to where I waited in order to watch together. Suddenly, we found out that it was an Oriental Pied Hornbill.

With some effort, we finally found more Hornbills resting on a few trees and fighting for habitat with some other birds. I was stressed by the great effort of photographing the scenes of Hornbills flying and feeding their young. That day we also saw Purple-throated Sunbird, White-rumped Shama, Glossy Starling, Brahminy Kite, and Red-breasted Parakeet.

9 July (Thursday) – Bukit Batok Town Park + Bukit Batok Nature Reserve

After visiting Bukit Batok Town Park, we met a retired photojournalist, with whom we had become good friends on facebook. Inside the Nature Reserve, we found a Red Jungle fowl which was not willing to move out of the undergrowth. That day, we also saw Grey-headed Fish Eagle, Crimson Sunbird, White-crested Laughing thrush, and Laced Woodpecker.



10 July (Friday) -- Singapore Botanical Gardens

We met Red Jungle fowl again, wandering around the gardens, appreciating the sunlight and grassland. We enjoyed our time watching this species too. We also enjoyed watching sunbirds in the Gardens. Best birds were Lesser Whistling Duck, Black Swan, Blue-throated Bee Eater, Pink-necked Green Pigeon, Red Jungle fowl, Grey-headed Fish Eagle, Laced Woodpecker, and Olive-backed Sunbird.



13 July (Monday) -- Chinese Garden

The other two gentlemen had gone back to Hong Kong, exhausted after five days' birding in Singapore. So I went to visit the Chinese Garden alone.

Originally, I thought that it was a leisure park, where I could only take a few photos of scenery and then be ready to leave. Suddenly, I saw a spot of blue over the green grassland - a Collared Kingfisher! Luckily I still had my backpack on my shoulder, and I managed to take a few photos of it.



Moving on around the park, I heard some bird sound and bird movement. First of all, there was Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker. After that, I observed White-vented Myna, Glossy Starling, Coppersmith Barbet, Yellow-vented Bulbul and Pied Fantail. I was amazed to have seen so many birds in the Chinese Garden.

To summarize the Singapore trip: it was a bit hot, and out of the birding season, but we three Hong Kong birders saw a total of 59 species of birds in six days, and I ate two cabbages of durian.



Our trip was made with reference to the information given (especially about the Buffy Fish Owls and Flying Squirrels) by HKBWS members, as well as information from local people that we met in Singapore.

Pulau Ubin- in the Malay language - means "Island of Granite". It is billed as the last kampong (village) of Singapore. People can experience the simple life over there. It seems as though we had travelled back to the 1960s and seen many buildings from the olden days. Visitors can travel there by boat and then rent a motor car to get around.

Transportation: boat (SGD 2.5 for a single trip)

Business time: 6am - 10pm

Business hours: 8:30 - 5pm

Fee: Free 



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.)

October

- ▶ In a very good month for rarities, the highlight was a **European Golden Plover**, a potential first record for Hong Kong, which was found on the scrape at Mai Po during a high tide count on 25th (IT) and whose key features were skilfully captured by photographers (TC, KH, JGH, M&PW). Seven other rarities were discovered in the month – one or two **Swinhoe's Plovers** at Pak Nai on 4th, 11th and 18th (JAA, WD, JY), potentially the 3rd for Hong Kong, a **Red-footed Booby**, sadly moribund, in Victoria Harbour on 8th (HKBWS) a few days after a passing typhoon, only the 8th record and on the latest autumn date by 6 weeks, a female **Cotton Pygmy Goose** at Mai Po (CFL) from 9th to 13th, a potential 8th record, a **Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler** at Chek Lap Kok (EMSK) also from 9th to 13th, possibly only the 3rd record, a first-winter **Chinese Blue Flycatcher** at Disney, northern Lantau on 19th (JAMC), a potential 8th record and on the earliest date in the season by nearly 6 weeks, a **Northern Hawk Cuckoo** at Kowloon Park on 25th (KK), a potential 5th record, and two **House Sparrows** at Mai Po on 27th (PJL), only the 2nd for Hong Kong following the first record in November 2012. Two other rarities from September were again recorded in October – the possible **Kamchatka Leaf Warbler** at Chek Lap Kok on 1st (CFL) and the **Grey-backed Shrike** at Ng Tung Chai throughout the month (JAA).
- ▶ A young male Japanese Thrush at Kings Park on 21st (AP) set a new early autumn date by 4 days, and a count of 13 **Purple Herons** at Mai Po on 7th (WWF) is the highest in recent years. Other reports involving good numbers were 100 **Black Drongos** at Nam Sang Wai on 7th, 105 **Whiskered Terns** at Mai Po on 11th, 15 **Grey-faced Buzzards** and 15 **Black-naped Orioles** in southwest Lantau on 13th (all JAA), 90 **Blue-tailed Bee-eaters** (BS) and 20 **Asian Brown Flycatchers** (MK) at Mai Po also on 13th, and 50 **Hair-crested Drongos** at Shek Kong Catchment on 19th (JC).
- ▶ The passage of Typhoon Mujigae, which tracked from the Philippines to make landfall at Zhanjiang, southwest Guangdong on 4th, led to the discovery of two **Swinhoe's Egrets** (very rare in autumn) at Pak Nai on 4th (JAA), but brought few terns or seabirds – just a **Bridled** and five **Common Terns** at Cheung Chau on 3rd-4th (MDW) and two unidentified shearwaters off Cape d'Aguilar on 4th (CC). In the rainy conditions that followed, 16 **Gull-billed Terns**, possibly the largest number seen in autumn in recent years, were found at Mai Po on 6th, together with moderate numbers of marsh terns (46 **Whiskered** and six **White-winged**), and one **Little Tern** (JAA), followed by the unfortunate Red-footed Booby on 8th mentioned above.
- ▶ The area near Terminal 2 at Chek Lap Kok has been intensely covered by one avid birder (EMSK) over the past few years and the list of species found has far exceeded expectations, even allowing for the powerful attraction that airport lights have for night-flying migrants. The main birding areas are on the face of it rather unpromising - a traffic roundabout planted with trees ("The Magic Roundabout") and a strip of knee-high grass squeezed between the chain-link fence of the former airport golf course and a palm-tree hedge which screens off a four-lane trunk road. During October, the grassy strip alone attracted four *Locustella* species - a **Styan's Grasshopper Warbler** on 1st (KK), the **Middendorff's** from 9th and up to five **Pallas's Grasshopper Warblers** and five **Lanceolated Warblers** between 13th and 16th – and the site as a whole attracted totals of 50 species or more on several days, notably including **Japanese Paradise Flycatcher** on 1st, **Pheasant-tailed Jacana**, **Grey Nightjar** (CFL) and **Chestnut-eared Bunting** on 12th, **Yellow-legged Buttonquail** on 13th (CC, DAD), **Slaty-legged Crake** on 14th (KFBG), **Oriental Cuckoo** and **Amur Falcon** on 15th (both CC), **Watercock** (KK) and **lugens White Wagtail** on 16th, and **Buff-bellied Pipit** on 24th (EMSK except as indicated). Perhaps unsurprisingly, some birders who live or work close to the Airport Express rail link are already treating Chek Lap Kok as a major go-to site during periods of good passage.

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- ▶ Best birds at Po Toi, which was perhaps less visited by birders than in previous years, were a **Grey Nightjar** and an Ashy Minivet on 6th, a **Von Schrenck's Bittern** on 10th, a **Himalayan Swiftlet** on 11th (KH), the first **Mugimaki Flycatcher** of the autumn on 21st (JC), and a **Rosy Starling** and a **Japanese Yellow Bunting** on 25th (GW except as indicated).
 - ▶ Ho Man Tin once again attracted an interesting set of migrants, including an **Oriental Cuckoo** on 6th, two **Pechora Pipits** on 9th, a **Grey Bushchat** on 16th and a male **White-throated Rock Thrush** on 25th (KPC).
 - ▶ At Mai Po, in addition to the European Golden Plover, there were sightings of a **Long-billed Dowitcher** on 3rd (AB), up to four **Far Eastern Curlews** on 7th and 28th (JAA) and a **Nordmann's Greenshank** on 30th (JGH). Other birds reported there included a **Watercock** on 4th (WWF), a **Himalayan Swiftlet** on 11th (CT), a **Yellow-streaked Warbler** on 23rd (DJS) and the first **Eastern Imperial** and **Greater Spotted Eagles** of the autumn the same day (CT). Elsewhere in the Deep Bay area, a **Chestnut-eared Bunting** at Lok Ma Chau on 9th (MRL) was the first of the autumn and a **Baillon's Crake** was at Tai Shang Wai on 21st (LCW).
 - ▶ Birds of interest reported elsewhere included an **Oriental Cuckoo** at Long Valley on 1st (per MLT), a **Russet Sparrow** there on 20th followed by a **Eurasian Sparrowhawk** on 21st (per MLT) and a **Common Starling** there on 27th (IT), a **Lanceolated Warbler** at Yung Shue O on 1st and a **Ruddy-breasted Crake** there from 9th to 13th (DT), and three **Grey Bushchats** at Shek Kong Catchment on 19th (JC).
 - ▶ **Eurasian Hobbies** were reported in ones or twos from fairly widespread localities, and the peak count of **Amur Falcons** was 13 in southwest Lantau on 13th (JAA).

November

- ▶ Three new species for Hong Kong were found in an amazing six-day period between 22nd and 27th – an **Emei Leaf Warbler** in mature shrubland at Pak Sha O on 22nd (GJC), a **Franklin's Gull** in front of the Mai Po boardwalk on 26th (RWL) and a **Booted Warbler** in a reedbed at Mai Po on 27th (TMC). A cluster of new records within such a short time period is unprecedented in recent years and is presumably related to a weather event such as an unusually strong El Nino. The new records are all the more surprising given that this particular November was the warmest since records began in 1884 (HK Observatory) and rarities in late autumn are usually associated with cold weather surges. All three individuals remained to the end of the month.
- ▶ November also brought reports of six other rarities, four of which are potential 3rd or 4th records: an immature male **Green-backed Flycatcher** at Po Toi on 10th (EH, KKC), a **House Sparrow** at Long Valley on 15th, a **Water Pipit** at Lok Ma Chau on 27th (PJL), and a **Greater White-fronted Goose** at Mai Po on 27th-28th (WD); the other two rarities are potential 6th-10th records, namely an **Alstrom's Warbler** at Po Toi between 3rd and 7th (PH), and a **Yellow-streaked Warbler** at Mai Po on 5th (PJL). In addition, a first-winter female **Vivid Niltava** which was found at Po Toi on 29th and remained there into early December (LS, per MLT) may lead to a category upgrade for the species.



- ▶ Although a wide variety of birds were reported during the month, only a few species were noted in large numbers, notably 88 **Chinese Blackbirds** at Hang Tau on 17th (JGH), 16 **Red-throated Flycatchers** at Fanling Golf Course on 26th (JAA) and nine **Pygmy Wren Babblers** at Tai Po Kau on 28th (DT). Counts of 56 **Great Knots** at Mai Poon 13th (RWL) and 13 **Gadwalls** there on 30th (JAA) were also relatively high for the time of year.
- ▶ Among other birds of interest reported in the Mai Po area were a **Paddyfield Warbler** on 5th (PJL), a **Long-billed Dowitcher** on 10th (IT), a **Manchurian Bush Warbler** on 14th (CFL), a **Western Marsh Harrier-hybrid** on 17th (PJL) and a **Black Stork** on 24th-25th (CFL). Elsewhere in the Deep Bay area, there were reports of a **Bull-headed Shrike** at Long Valley on 5th (JGH), a **Black-headed Bunting** there on 17th (CFL) and a **Eurasian Jay**, now very rare, at Tsim Bei Tsui on 29th (per MLT).
- ▶ Coverage of forest and shrubland sites in the NT led to sightings of a **Crested Honey Buzzard** at Shek Kong Catchwater on 22nd, a **Brown-headed Thrush** there on 28th (JC), a **Speckled Piculet** and 25 **Chestnut-collared Yuhinas** at Shing Mun on 28th (SLT), a **Japanese Robin** at Tai Po Kau also on 28th (DT) and a **Siberian Thrush** there the next day (PKK).
- ▶ As usual, the month brought a wide variety of migrant passerines to Po Toi, including up to three **Bramblings** between 1st and 10th (LS, AB, GW), a **Hume's Leaf Warbler** and a **Red-breasted Flycatcher** on 5th (CFL), 50 **Chestnut Bulbuls** on 12th (CFL), signalling an influx into Hong Kong, a **White-spectacled Warbler** on 19th (CST) and a **Yellow-throated Bunting** on 29th (LS). Lamma Island also had its moments, rarest birds being a **Common Starling** on 26th, a **Brambling** on 28th and a **White-throated Rock Thrush** on 29th (GM).
- ▶ Migrants reported at Ho Man Tin included a **Radde's Warbler** on 9th and a **White-throated Rock Thrush** and five **Mugimaki Flycatchers** on 19th (KPC). Another **Radde's Warbler** was at Mount Austin on 28th (MT), but the most surprising sighting on Hong Kong Island was a **Greater Spotted Eagle** heading southwest over Ap Li Chau on 4th (GW).
- ▶ Among reports from Lantau were a late **Von Schrenck's Bittern** and a **Siberian Thrush** at Pui O on 27th (JAA) and a **Eurasian Skylark**, a **Bluethroat** and a **Brambling** at Chek Lap Kok on 28th (GT, EMSK).
- ▶ A male **Ruby-cheeked Sunbird** was seen in Tai Po Kau on several dates in the autumn (per MLT). This sunbird is not known to migrate and its distribution in China is apparently restricted to parts of south and west Yunnan. In the absence of records from Guangdong, Guangxi and east Yunnan, it would seem to have little chance of being accepted as a wild bird in Hong Kong. A **Zebra Dove** found at Chek Lap Kok on 24th (EMSK) also seems destined for Category III since it is a sedentary species whose range lies well to the south of China.

December

- ▶ The highlight of another very good month was a **Greenish Warbler** found at Tai O, Lantau on 19th (JAA), whose vocalisations were thought to match subspecies *viridanus*. The bird subsequently remained into January. Assuming acceptance, this will be the first for Hong Kong and the ninth new record of a memorable year.

- 
- ▶ Other rarities were a **Martens's Warbler** at Po Toi on 1st and 3rd (CFL), the 8th for Hong Kong, a possible **Green-backed Flycatcher** at Po Toi from 8th to 15th (KWS, LS, P&MW), a potential 5th record, a Smew at Mai Po on 13th (GT), the 7th for Hong Kong, a **White-bellied Green Pigeon** at Mai Po on 21st (KKC), the 9th record, two **Common House Martins** at Pui O, Lantau from 21st to 24th (JAA, CFL) followed by up to 17 beside the Mai Po access road on 30th-31st (IT, PJKL), the 5th and 6th records, one or two **Japanese Cormorants** at Shek O from 21st (KKC), a potential 5th record, and a **Black-necked Grebe** at Mai Po on 25th (CYT), the 7th Hong Kong record. In addition, a **Eurasian Black Vulture** flying over Stanley on 18th (per IT) was only the second for Hong Kong since the 1990s.
- ▶ A month which was warmer and wetter than usual brought two **Oriental Dollarbirds** to Po Toi on 6th (per GW), the latest autumn date for the species by 8 days, and single **Bramblings** were noted at Chek Lap Kok on 1st (EMSK) and Long Valley on 30th, the first ever records of the species in December. A count of eight **Grey-headed Canary Flycatchers** at Tai Po Kau on 4th (MK) was one of the highest in recent years.
- ▶ The **Franklin's Gull** was seen intermittently throughout the month, mainly in front of the Mai Po boardwalk but also once at Nam Sang Wai (JAA), and the **Booted Warbler** was present at Mai Po up to at least 11th (MLT). Among other birds of interest at Mai Po were a **Brown Bush Warbler** on 8th (DAD), a **Pheasant-tailed Jacana** on 19th (WKC) and a summer-plumaged **Curlew Sandpiper** on 24th (DAD). Elsewhere in the Deep Bay area and hinterland, a drake **Baikal Teal** was found at Lok Ma Chau on 7th (PJJ), whilst a **Rustic Bunting** on 6th (KHL) and an **Eastern Water Rail** on 13th (MK) were among birds seen at Long Valley.
- ▶ As usual, Tai Po Kau attracted a wide range of wintering passerines, including a **Eurasian Siskin** on 3rd (PKK), a **White-spectacled Warbler** on 4th (MK), a **Sulphur-breasted Warbler** on 19th (PKK) and a male **Fujian Niltava** on 23rd (PH). A **Chinese Barbet** was again seen there on 27th and 28th (YHS, DAD). Other notable reports from forest and shrubland sites in the NT included the **Emei Leaf Warbler** again at Pak Sha O on 12th (GJC), two **Radde's Warblers** at Shek Kong Catchwater on 14th (JC), a **Bull-headed Shrike** and a **Brown-headed Thrush** on 18th (JC), and a **Hume's Leaf Warbler** at Sai Kung West CP on 28th (GJC). At Ho Man Tin, Kowloon, the **Radde's Warbler** and **Red-breasted Flycatcher** were seen again on 3rd, and a late **Black-naped Oriole** was found on 14th (KPC).
- ▶ Four rare flycatchers graced Po Toi during the month. The **Vivid Niltava** found at the end of the previous month remained until at least 3rd (MLT), the same day as a **Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher** was discovered (KKC). As the month progressed, two other niltava species were found - a female **Fujian Niltava** on 12th (P&MW) and a male Small Niltava on 15th (BN).
- ▶ Lantau Island continued to receive good coverage leading to reports of a **Rustic Bunting** at Chek Lap Kok on 1st (EMSK), a **Common Starling** and four **Grey Bushchats** at Yi O on 4th (MDW), a **Buff-bellied Pipit** at Chek Lap Kok on 19th (EMSK), a **Brown Fish Owl** and a **Dusky Thrush** at Pui O on 24th (CFL), and a late **Yellow-breasted Bunting** at Chek Lap Kok on 28th (EMSK). On Lamma Island, the female **White-throated Rock Thrush** was again seen on 13th (GM).
- ▶ On Hong Kong Island, in addition to the **Japanese Cormorants**, there were reports of a **Bull-headed Shrike** at HKU on 20th, a **Pygmy Wren Babblernear** at HKU the same day and a **Red-breasted Flycatcher** at Pok Fu Lam on 21st (per GT). 

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Bird Watching Tours Apr - Sep 2016

Outings

Date	Duration	Time and site	Difficulties(1...3)	Target species
2-3/4/2016 (Sat - Sun)	24 hrs	Hong Kong Bird Watching Day 2016 Cum Bird Race Fundraising Event (Details to be announced on Discussion Forum)		
16/4/2016 (Sat)	0800 - 1600	Po Toi and HK South Waters (08:00 Aberdeen public pier, near Ocean Court) <i>Note: This will be a long trip on open waters. The ride could be quite rough and some people may be seasick.</i>	☆☆☆	Seabirds and migrants
24/4/2016 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	Mai Po Nature Reserve (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	Po Toi and HK South Waters (08:00 Hang Seng Bank, Sai Wan Ho MTR Station) <i>Note: This will be a long trip on open waters. The ride could be quite rough and some people may be seasick.</i>	☆☆☆	Seabirds and migrants
7/5/2016 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Tai Po Kau (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Tai Po Kau Carpark)	☆	Forest birds
15/5/2016 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Tai Mo Shan (08:00 Exit B near Hang Seng Bank, Tsuen Wan MTR Station)	☆☆☆	Grassland birds
21/5/2016 (Sat)	TBC	Wild Card Day (Details will be announced on May 19 on Discussion Forum)		
4/6/2016 (Sat)	0800 - 1330	Tap Mun (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Ma Liu Shui Ferry Pier, end 13:30 at Tap Mun Pier) <i>Note: Return ferry departs at 13:45 and arrives in Ma Liu Shui at 15:00. Participants have to pay for their own ferry fee.</i>	☆	Residents & Terns
5/6/2016 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Nam Chung and Luk Keng (08:00 Pavilion at junction of Nam Chung Rd & Luk Keng Rd)	☆☆	Forest birds & Waterbirds
23/7/2016 (Sat)	0830 - 1630	Mirs Bay and Eastern Waters (08:30 Ma Liu Shui New Pier, end 16:30 Sai Kung Old Pier) <i>Note: This will be a long trip on open waters. The ride could be quite rough and some people may be seasick. Those who want to leave at lunchtime may take the ferry (departing hourly) at Tap Mun for Wong Shek Pier. The fare is non-refundable irrespective of early departure at Tap Mun.</i>	☆☆☆	Seabirds (Terns)
3/9/2016 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Luk Keng (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Exit C, Fanling Rail Station)	☆	Forest birds & Waterbirds
11/9/2016 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Shing Mun (08:00 Kiosk at Pineapple Dam, Shing Mun Reservoir)	☆☆	Forest birds
17/9/2016 (Sat)	0800 - 1600	Mai Po Nature Reserve (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
25/9/2016 (Sun)	TBC	Wild Card Day (Details will be announced on Sep 23 on Discussion Forum)		

Member: Free of Charge

Member: Free of Charge

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

Member: HK\$ 160

Member: HK\$ 180

Non-member: Free of Charge

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

Non-member: HK\$ 120

Non-member: HK\$ 200

Non-member: HK\$ 220

(Registration not required)

(Registration not required)

(Registration 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.





阿穆爾隼
潘士強
米埔

Amur Falcon
Jason Pun
Mai Po

06/11/2015
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter



水雉
李啟康
落馬洲

Pheasant-tailed Jacana
oLDcaR Lee
Lok Ma Chau

18/10/2015
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens



水雉
余伯全
米埔

Pheasant-tailed Jacana
Ractis John
Mai Po

24/05/2015
DSLR Camera, 600mm *f*/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter



黑鶴
陳巨輝
米埔

Black Stork
Sam Chan
Mai Po

25/11/2015
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter