

HKBWS

香港觀鳥會 The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society



bulletin
會員通訊

242

Winter 2016 ~ 冬



ZEISS Conquest Gavia 85

A compact companion for great discoveries



CONQUEST HD



VICTORY SF



TERRA ED

ZEISS

茂昌 OPTICAL



蔡司 X 茂昌 HONG KONG OPTICAL

香港觀鳥會會員專享：

● 免費 BlueProtect 鍍膜升級

● 8折配蔡司鏡片眼鏡

優惠有效期：2016年11月1日至2017年6月30日

* 使用優惠時，請出示有效會員證

地址：

Room 202, Kam Ming House, 51 Queen's Road Central, H.K.
香港中環皇后大道中51號金祥樓202室 Tel: 2523 3711

Shop 1, G/F, Tai Yau Plaza, 181 Johnston Rd, Wanchai, H.K.
香港灣仔軒士打道181號大有商場地下1號舖 Tel: 3102 3698

Shop 8, G/F, Fair View Comm. Bldg., 27 Sugar Street, Causeway Bay, H.K.
香港銅鑼灣糖街27號怡景商業大廈地下8號 Tel: 2576 2669

Shop G06, 442-456 King's Road, North Point, H.K.
香港北角英皇道442-456號美輪大廈地下6室 Tel: 2560 6039

Shop 4, 4/F., Kornhill Plaza(South), Quarry Bay, H.K.
香港新市場康怡廣場南座4樓4號舖 Tel: 2134 1522

Shop 7, G/F, Wai Fung Plaza, 664 Nathan Road, Mong Kok, Kin.
九龍旺角彌敦道664號美豐中心地下7號舖 Tel: 2381 3312

Shop 736, Level 7, Metropolis Mall, 6 Metropolis Drive, Hung Hom, Kin.
九龍紅磡御皇道6號都會廣場7樓736號舖 Tel: 2356 0836

Unit 607-608, 6/F, Miramar Tower, 132 Nathan Road, Tsim Sha Tsui
九龍尖沙咀彌敦道132號美蘭閣大廈6樓607-608室 Tel: 2762 7692

Shop 11, 2/F., The Pacifica Mall, 9 Sham Shing Road, Lai Chi Kok, Kin.
九龍荔枝角洋基道9號千禧匯2樓11號舖 Tel: 3110 3254

Shop 82, Level 2, Metro Town, Tsung Kwan O, N.T.
新界將軍澳龍匯新城市廣場2樓82號舖 Tel: 3549 8913

Shop 2036, 2/F, Discovery Park, 398 Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan, N.T.
新界荃灣愉景新城2樓2036號舖 Tel: 2610 1681



Easily fit into your pocket

The first truly "micro" spotting scope, Celestron's new Hummingbird micro ED

HUMMINGBIRD™
BY  **CELESTRON**

The World's First Truly Micro ED Glass Spotting Scope



HUMMINGBIRD ED MICRO SPOTTING SCOPE

Easily carried in vest or coat pocket, in belt pack, or shoulder bag. ED lens optical system provides sharp, clear images with vivid, well-managed color. 9-27x magnification range spans binoculars and spotting scopes "Birder-friendly" close focus distance: 10ft./3m close focus satisfies birding field optic requirements. Waterproof / Nitrogen filled -- Protected against wet weather, humid conditions, and other environmental challenges.



HUMMINGBIRD 9-27X56MM ED

-Magnification 9-27x
-Weight 590 g

HUMMINGBIRD 7-21X50MM ED

-Magnification 7-21x
-Weight 540 g



Included Accessories
Object Lens Cap,
Eyepiece Cap,
Soft Carrying Case



For further information, please visit
www.sightron.com.hk

Official Distributor

SIGHTRON®

Company Name: SIGHTRON HONGKONG LIMITED TEL : 2338-7092
Company Name(CN): 賽特龍香港有限公司 Email : info@sightron.com.hk
Open : Monday~Friday 09:00~05:30
A1, 10/F., OfficePlus@Mong Kok, 998 Canton Road, Mong Kok, Kowloon, Honk Kong
香港九龍旺角廣東道998號協成行旺角中心10樓A1



The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

A charitable organization incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability by guarantee.

Contents

Society News & Projects		06
Mai Po Update	– Katherine Leung	12
Birding Anecdote - Endemic birds of Madagascar		
	– Samson So	17
Hong Kong Bird News	– Richard Lewthwaite	20
Coming activities		22

Publisher: The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

Office Address :

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

Telephone: (852) 2377 4387
Facsimile: (852) 2314 3687
email: hkbws@hkbws.org.hk

Co-ordinator: Ronley Lee (bulletin@hkbws.org.hk)

English Editor: John Holmes

Chinese Editor: Henry Lui

Photo Editor: Cherry Wong

Contributors to this issue:

Katherine Leung, Samson So, Richard Lewthwaite,
HKBWS Staff

Translator: Amy Li, May Chan

Photo:

Lok Ching Wa Kevin, Ractis John, Jason Pun,
Hon Tak Ming Derek, Matthew Kwan, passerby-b,
Thomas Chan, Kinni Ho Kin Yip, Fong Yuen Wing,
Sit Kwok Wah, Leo

Front cover :

Lesser Coucal - Li Wai Yan (Mai Po), 01/10/2016, DSLR
Camera, 600mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter

Design & Printing:

Contemporary Development Company

All content and photos in this publication are owned by The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society and other individuals and cannot be reprinted or reproduced without our permission.



This bulletin printed on 100% recycled paper with soy ink

Website :

www.hkbws.org.hk

Forum :

www.hkbws.org.hk/BBS



Honorary President	Mr. Lam Chiu Ying
Executive Committee	
Chairman	Mr. Lau Wai Man, Apache
Vice-Chairman	Dr. Ng Cho Nam Mr. Michael Kilburn
Hon Secretary	Mr. Chan Hing Lun, Alan
Hon Treasurer	Ms. Chow Chee Leung, Ada
Committee members	Mr. John Allcock Mr. Fong Kin Wa, Forrest Ms. Au Chun Yan, Joanne Mr. So Ngai Hung, Samson Mr. Hung Wai Ming Ms. Yu Sau Ling, Wendy Mr. Man Kuen Yat, Bill (Representative, Crested Bulbul Club) Mr. Wong Chi Chun, Dickson Mr. Jor Chi Keung, George
Representative in UK	
Mr. Richard Stott	email: hkbwsuk@gmail.com
Hon. Auditor	
K. Y. Ng & Company Limited, CPA	
Hon. Legal Advisor	
Ms. Eling Lee	
Membership Affairs Committee	
Chairman	Ms. Au Chun Yan, Joanne
Committee members	Ms. Lee Wai Chu, Ronley Ms. Chow Chee Leung, Ada Mr. Chim Yuk Ming, Jimmy Mr. Chan Hing Lun, Alan
Records Committee	
Chairman	Mr. Geoff Carey
Committee members	Mr. Paul Leader Mr. Richard Lewthwaite Mr. Chow Ka Lai, Gary Mr. Yu Yat Tung
Bird Survey Committee	
Chairman	Mr. John Allcock
Members	Dr. Cheung Ho Fai Mr. Yu Yat Tung
Conservation Committee	
Chairman	Mr. Mike Kilburn
Committee members	Dr. Ng Cho Nam Mr. Fong Kin Wa, Forrest Dr. Yip Chi Lap, Beta
Education and Publicity Committee	
Chairman	Mr. Hung Wai Ming
Committee members	Mr. Lau Wai Man, Apache Mr. Lui Tak Hang, Henry Mr. Choi Chung Pak Mr. Fung Po Kei, Robin Mr. Lam Ngo Lun, Alan Ms. Yu Sau Ling, Wendy
Crested Bulbul Club	
Chairman	Mr. Man Kuen Yat, Bill
Vice-Chairman (Internal Affairs)	Mr. Yau Hon Kwong
Vice-Chairman (External Affairs)	Mr. Lo Wing Bun
Secretary	Mr. Cheng Kam Yuen, Graham
HKBWS China Conservation Fund Committee	
Chairman	Mr. Lau Wai Man, Apache
Committee members	Mr. Richard Lewthwaite Mr. Yu Yat Tung
Annual Report Editor	
Mr. Geoff Welch	Mr. John Allcock
Mr. Chow Ka Lai, Gary	Mr. Geoff Carey
Staff	
General Manager	Mr. Lo Wai Yan
Research Manager	Mr. Yu Yat Tung
Assistant Manager (Projects)	Ms. Yeung Lee Ki, Vicky
Assistant Manager (China Programme)	Ms. Fu Wing Kan, Vivian
Assistant Manager (Education, Art Development & Communications)	Ms. Chan Yin Ming, Christina
Senior Research Officer	Dr. Pang Chun Chiu
Senior Membership Officer	Ms. Chan Fong Ling, Bonnie
Conservation Officer	Ms. Woo Ming Chuan
Senior Project Officer	Ms. Fong Hoi Ning, Helen
Project Officer	Mr. Chung Chun Kit, Johnson Mr. Chung Yun Tak Mr. Ng Man Ching, Austin Ms. Wong Man Wa, Walkman Ms. Wong Ching Man, Jessica Ms. Lau Ka Lai, Karly Ms. Lo Pei Lai, Janice Mr. Tse Wai Lun, Ivan Ms. Yeung Ching Kan, Haley
Education Officer	
Research Officer	
Assistant Project Officer	



Society News and Projects

Annual General Meeting, Membership Fee Adjustment & New Membership Types

The 14th AGM was held on Oct 27th at the Scout Association Building. An increase of the Individual full-rate membership fee to HK\$450 per year was voted in, as was the family membership fee at HK\$100 per year & the Corporate Membership at HK\$1000 per year. Membership fees for other membership types remained unchanged.

Electronic communication has become the major way of communications in our daily life. The Society offers options of printed or digital version for key publications, i.e. the quarterly bulletin and the HK Bird Report. For the convenience of members and also for the sake of minimising consumption of paper materials, new types and rates of electronic membership were voted for during the AGM. Rights & duties of the “Full Rate e-Member”(eA) & “Oversea Full Rate e-Members”(eA) are identical to “Full Rate Member”(A) & Oversea Full Rate Members (V) except that subscription of Bulletin & HK Bird Report is restricted to digital version only and which would result in a lower membership fee of HK\$400 per year. To save the environment, members might consider an option of e-membership their your next renewal.

2017 Membership Card

The Society is turning 60 years old in 2017. In celebration of this 60th anniversary, the bird of the Society, Swinhoe's Egret, was chosen to feature on the 2017 membership card. Members holding 5-year memberships would have received this new card in mid-December.

Many thanks to the following volunteers for their design work and photos:

Designer: Ms. Puk Yuk Yin

Photographer: Mr. Chan To Fee (Front) & Mr. Lok Ching Wa, Kevin (Back)



2017 Membership card ~ front & back

Hon. Legal Advisor

We are so glad to announce that our member Ms. Eling Lee has consented to be our Hon. Legal Advisor. Ms Lee is also an experienced bird watcher and photographer. Her support to us is most appreciated.

The hotline of the Society

The hotline of the Society has been operating for a long time. However, due to the social change, the role of hotline has come to an end. We would like to express our gratitude to the people who helped manage and sponsor the hotline:

Hotline in-charge: Mr. Richard Lewthwaite & Mr. J A Cheung Mok

Hotline sponsor: Dr Cheung Ho Fai

Bird Watching Course

The 21st Elementary Bird Watching Course for Beginners was held in November. 39 members & birders were trained for basic birding knowledge. Thanks to their active participation and also support and guardians from instructors, this course was completed successfully. Next course will be held in February. Please visit our Discussion Forum for details.



21st Elementary Bird Watching Course for Beginners
6/11/2016 Kowloon Park Outing

Crested Bulbul Club

Early Morning Bird Watchers

No. of participants in
Hong Kong Park
from Aug to Nov 2016: 282

No. of participants in
Kowloon Park
from Aug to Nov 2016: 481



Bird watching interpretation in HK Wetland Park

A total of 89 participants Oct to Nov 2016.

Free talks and birding tours

Provided 2 free talks and birding tours to 2 elderly centres in Nov 2016 with around 60 participants

2015 - 2017 Nature Conservation Management for Long Valley



Rustic Bunting credit: Allen Chan

After two typhoons and a day with black rainstorm signal, the second season of paddy rice has turned into golden yellow. A plentiful harvest! November is the season of rice harvesting. We are lucky to see Yellow-breasted Bunting and Rustic Bunting back to Long Valley and having big meals on

the rice fields. Restoration of rice paddy is worthy and effective. Hope to see them again next year!

During the breeding seasons in 2015 & 2016, a colour-ring study was started in Far East Russia with about 200 buntings ringed including Yellow-breasted Bunting, Rustic Bunting, Black-faced Bunting, Chestnut-eared Bunting, Common Reed Bunting and Japanese Reed Bunting. All birds ringed in this study have one colour-ring above the metal ring on one leg, and two colour-rings on the other leg. Used colours are black, blue, green, orange, purple, red, white and yellow. May bird watchers and photographers please report to us if you have encountered any ringed buntings. Please provide in the email the bird species as well as the colours of the rings on both legs (it would be good to have photos) and send to yvicky@hkbws.org.hk. Thank you very much!

Request for 2016 records

Every year, HKBWS publishes an Annual Report listing all species recorded in the year and details by species. Although we collected records from the website and by means of social media (e.g. Facebook, WhatsApp, etc.) from members, we may miss some and it's always better to get records direct from members.

So why not send in your best 10 or 20 records (or more) from 2016? All you need to do is complete the worksheet "2016_Records" <http://www.hkbws.org.hk/BBS/viewthread.php?tid=25829> which could be downloaded from our forum (file name is "2016_Records.xlsx") and send it to Secretary of the Records Committee at recorder@hkbws.org.hk.

Please complete the file and send it to us as soon as possible and latest by 28th February 2017. If the bird records can be received by that date or earlier, they would be assembled within the "Hong Kong Bird Report" of the year.

Rethink Mercy Release

Mercy release, or merit release, is a traditional and widely practiced ritual which captive animals are released as an act of compassion. However, as globalization has now improved transportation and trade between cities and countries, many animals are captured from the wild so as to meet the increasing demand for religious release and it leads to commercialization of such practice. Owing to the lack of ecological knowledge, mercy release activities nowadays can lead to serious ecological impacts on local biodiversity.

A study in Hong Kong estimated that around 470,000-770,000 birds were sold for release every year (Chan, 2006). As the captured birds were often transported in poor condition (i.e. cramped in small cages without food and water), many individuals died during transportation and the survival rate of post-release is low. Moreover, the released animals may carry disease that will be harmful to the local population, or they may even be exotic invasive species which will compete with native species for food and habitats and threaten their survival.

Ironically, wild animals are already living in the wild. There is no point in capturing them in order to free them. The current “catch and release” mode of mercy release totally violates the original intention of helping animals out of compassion. Compassion and wisdom should go hand in hand. With respect and through better communication, we hope more people can understand the traditional way of mercy release is not a wise way to help animals and it should be replaced by other skilful alternatives which can cultivate compassion towards living beings (e.g. switch to a vegetarian diet, protect and enhance wildlife habitats, become a volunteer in nature conservation organizations, etc.).

AFCD has recently published a new poster to promote proper understanding of mercy release activities and to raise public awareness on animal welfare. Feel free to share and spread the message!



Reference:

Chan, S.W. (2006). The Religious Release of Birds in Hong Kong (Master's thesis). Retrieved from HKU Scholars Hub. (URL: <http://hub.hku.hk/handle/10722/51015>)

Guidelines for Planning and Carrying out Construction Works at Egrettries

Back in 2013 and 2014, there were a number of cases of construction works at nesting colonies of egrets and herons (egrettries) during the breeding season. This put at risk the safety of breeding birds, chicks, eggs and nests, which are protected under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap 170).

These incidents stimulated the HKBWS to organise a workshop in 2014 to develop guidelines for planning and carrying out construction works at egrettries. Officers, engineers and consultants from government departments and the private sector participated in the discussion and gave us helpful comments for the formulation of these guidelines.

In August this year, the guidelines are finally published and have circulated them to the Environment Bureau, Development Bureau and other key stakeholders. We hope they will assist works departments, contractors and project proponents both to plan and execute works around egrettries without causing unavoidable impact to the birds.

Last but not least, we would like to thank our Egret Research Group, all participants of the egrettry workshop in 2014 and AFCD for their contribution and valuable comments on the guidelines.

*Download: Guidelines for Planning and Carrying out Construction Works at Egrettries (First edition, August 2016)
<http://www.hkbws.org.hk/web/chi/documents/HKBWS%20Egrettry%20Guidelines%20%281st%20edition%20-%20August%202016%29.pdf>



香港濕地生態保育計劃

食出本土

第三屆 新界魚塘節



第三屆「新界魚塘節」 嘉年華



體驗活動
傳統小吃
淡水魚試食
魚塘生態導賞
漁具展覽
攤位遊戲
手工藝

日期：2017年2月12日（星期日）

地點：元朗大生圍村及毗鄰魚塘

時間：上午11:00至下午4:00

名額：350位

收費：每位\$130（12歲或以下\$110）
每個家庭可獲贈元朗烏頭乙條

塘鮮風味餐 及生態之旅



日期：2017年1月15日（星期日）

時間：上午9:00-下午3:00

地點：大生圍及甩洲魚塘

內容：塘邊塘鮮風味餐、
魚塘生態導賞、觀鳥

名額：25位

收費：每位\$380（二人同行價，每位\$350）

「港嘢」12月主題晚餐： 香港魚塘生態保育計劃



日期：2016年12月17日（星期六）

時間：晚上7:00至9:30

地點：「KUC SPACE」九龍佐敦道2號

內容：日常小革命菜式及魚塘生態保育計劃分享

名額：30位（務必訂位，額滿即止）

報名及詳情：www.facebook.com/kongyeahkongyeah

全港烏頭 烹飪比賽



日期：2017年2月19日（星期日）

時間：下午1:30至4:30

地點：煤氣烹飪中心（銅鑼灣利舞台）

內容：以烏頭為主材料的烹飪比賽

名額：決賽15位

資助



支持

大生圍村



新田鄉事委員會



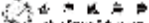
贊助



煤氣 Towngas



合辦



香港濕地生態保育計劃
The Hong Kong Wetland Conservation Programme

推廣贊助



更多精彩活動
詳情及報名可參閱



hkbsfishpond.wordpress.com

[f/HKFishpond](https://www.facebook.com/HKFishpond)

查詢

2377 4387

fishpond@hkbs.org.hk



Education Project “Discover the Urban Nature of Hong Kong cum City Sparrow Census”

Focusing on the commonly seen animals and plants in the urban area, this project has come to the second year. The Urban Eco-ambassadors training programme has started in late October with over 90 secondary school students participating. In the following months, events and competitions will be held for students from kindergartens and secondary schools. We will also recruit members of the public to take part in the sparrow census 2017. Please stay tuned with us by following the latest information in this bulletin and the HKBWS website online forum.



Exhibition board on community biodiversity produced by secondary school student has been displayed at the public libraries.



An International Conference on “The Protection of Yellow-breasted Bunting & Migratory Land Birds”

China

Programme

On November 2-4, this year, an International Conference on “The Protection of Yellow-breasted Bunting & Migratory Land Birds” organised by Sun Yat-sen University and BirdLife International was held in Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou. As a supporting organisation, HKBWS also participated actively in this event. Fifty-six experts and representatives of conservation organisations from countries including Germany, Russia, Mongolia, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, mainland China, and Hong Kong came together at the conference to exchange latest information about the Yellow-breasted Bunting. “An International Action Plan for the Conservation of Yellow-breasted Bunting” was formulated in accordance with the CMS Treaty, aiming to conserve this endangered avian species through research, protection, and educational promotion.

Reports presented at the conference, including those from the Yellow-breasted Bunting’s breeding and wintering areas, indicated that the existence of this species is already in a critical juncture. In the 70’s, there were 52 breeding grounds in Hokkaido, Japan; the number decreased to 15 in the 90’s, and at present there is only one remaining. At a ringing station in Russia’s Lake Baikal region, over 10,000 Yellow-breasted Buntings had been ringed in the 80’s, but in recent years, fewer than 10 were banded. In the past, the



Asst Manager Vicky Yeung introduced our Long Valley Conservation Programme to the experts from overseas.



Dr. Johannes Kamp from the University of Münster explained his research results concerning Yellow-breasted Bunting in the University of Hong Kong.



The sun set at Roebuck Bay where the tagged Knots were released.



Great Knot with satellite tags were released on the beach.



Research team was setting up the cannon net.

Days and Nights at Broome – The Journey as an Apprentice of Migratory Shorebird Research

In mid-September 2016, two staff from our Society, Ivan Tse and Helen Fong, had a chance to join a research of migratory shorebirds. They underwent three-weeks of training for satellite tracking study of shorebirds at Broome in Western Australia, so as to broaden the research spectrum of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society in the future.

Broome is located at the Kimberley region of Western Australia, with more than eight hundred thousand shorebirds visiting the area annually. It is the most significant site for shorebirds in Australia, and among the top sites for migratory shorebirds in the world. There are at least 29 species of shorebirds, including the globally threatened Great Knot and Far Eastern Curlew, roosting around semi-circular Roebuck Bay south of Broome town centre.

Our staff joined the research work initiated by Professor Theunis Piersma of the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. The research work belonged to part of the “Global Flyway Network” project, which aimed at studying the threats of migratory shorebirds through international cooperation. Helen and Ivan assisted in satellite tracking of Great Knots, including bird capturing and tagging.

Bird capturing is an important procedure for satellite tracking study

of shorebirds. Shorebirds usually roost on the beach of Roebuck Bay at Broome during high tide. Therefore, cannon netting is the most commonly adopted method for bird capturing in the area. The individuals of Great Knot suitable for carrying satellite tags must be adults which have reached critical weight. Therefore, several attempts at cannon netting had been conducted to ensure enough individuals could be captured. Apart from tagging, birds were also banded with colour rings with different colour combinations, in order to aid identification of individuals in the field. Tagged individuals of Great Knot were reared and observed in the research base in Broome for at least a day, in order to ensure they could get used to the tags. The birds will be released if they behaved normally, otherwise tags might be need to be removed.

It was a great opportunity for our staff to be involved in an overseas research project, learning new technology and conducting different research work. This journey focused on learning the satellite tracking method of shorebirds and a lot had been learnt, especially the techniques of tagging, as well as safety measures and caring for tagged individuals, after the hands-on experience. Our Society aims at developing research projects with this newly developed technology of satellite tracking, in order to enhance our understanding of migratory birds.

Bunting’s number was high and distribution wide, so there wasn’t any systematic research except in the breeding areas. However, according to the data from recent years, the number of Yellow-breasted Bunting appeared to have greatly reduced in China. After the conference, the participants made an appeal to relevant countries to speed up in a joint effort, to strengthen the cooperative research study, get a better understanding of the migratory route of the Bunting for more effective conservation action, and to target and publicise poaching hot spots for stricter legal actions.



Following the conference, most of the experts continued to participate in a talk held at the University of Hong Kong. Two speakers were invited by HKBWS: Dr. Johannes Kamp, Researcher, Münster University, Germany; and Dr. Pavel Kitorov, Senior Researcher, Russian Academy of Sciences, Far Eastern Division, Northern Biodiversity Research Center. On the next day, the experts visited Long Valley where the Society’s work in attracting Yellow-breasted Buntings with the plantation of rice paddy was explained. The experts highly rated this wetland conservation project, commenting that this is a model for a harmonious coexistence of agricultural development and wildlife which can be borrowed by other countries. HKBWS will continue to strengthen our cooperation with other regions and further promote the conservation of migratory birds.



Mai Po Update

*Text: Katherine Leung,
Assistant Reserve
Manager, Mai Po NR*

Management of vegetation on the inter-tidal mudflat

The inter-tidal mudflat outside the Mai Po Boardwalk has always been an important feeding and roosting habitat for migratory waterbirds passing through and wintering in Hong Kong. In order to control the invasion of mangrove onto the open mudflat area, since 1990's, WWF has been annually managing the mangrove seedlings in a 45ha area of mudflat in front of the floating bird watching hides. As the mudflat is soft and difficult to walk on, WWF staff use the mud-scooter to access the mudflat and step the seedlings into the mud. Base on the survey in 2013, we annually remove 13,500 mangrove seedlings, while *Kandelia obovata* is the dominant species, the invasive exotic mangrove *Sonneratia* spp. were also found and managed since 2000. It usually takes about 60 man-days annually to complete the work. Prior to start of the work, WWF needs to apply permission from government and submit a report to evaluate the effectiveness of the work after completion. This work effectively maintained the mudflat free from mangrove seedlings during the following autumn, winter and spring.



WWF staff working on mudflat (Credit: WWF-HK)

However, new challenge came in 2005 with grass and sedges first appeared and invaded the mudflat area. In the past years, WWF and AFCDD has tried different methods to control these grass and sedges, including 1) cutting with grass cutter; 2) digging up the root and 3) applying herbicide which has low impact to aquatic fauna. So far combining cutting and applying herbicide has been the comparatively most effective method. To minimise disturbance to feeding and roosting waterbirds, the work is only carried out when tide is lower than 1.6m. First round of control to the entire affected area starts from June, followed by a second round of control until the end of October to areas where vegetation has regrowth. It is observed that the affected area is increasing over the years, currently it takes over 90 man-days to carry out two rounds of control.

Management of the vegetation on mudflat is a battle between humans and natural succession. In view of the combined effect of mudflat level rise due to sedimentation and increased growth of vegetation due to climate change, it is anticipated that the grass and sedges are going to invade more areas of the mudflat. Hence, more man-power and resources will be required for the management work in the coming years. The inter-tidal mudflat is the core zone of the Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site, a longer-term solution is needed in the near future.



Mai Po mudflat, summer 2006 (Credit: WWF-HK)

Mai Po mudflat, summer 2016 (Credit: WWF-HK)

Repair of Rain-shelters

The two major rain shelters at Mai Po will be under renovation this winter, both of them has been built for over 20 years. We will replace the roof and rain gutter of the rain-shelter at Gate 107; for the rain-shelter at Gei wai #18, we will replace the roof and re-paint the pillars. Both renovations are expected to complete by the end of March.





黑眉葦鶯
駱正華
米埔

Black-browed Reed Warbler
Lok Ching Wa Kevin
Mai Po


12/10/2016
DSLR Camera, 400mm f/2.8 lens + 2x teleconverter



小白鷺 - 深色型
余伯全
米埔

Little Egret - dark morph
Ractis John
Mai Po

02/10/2016
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter

A Red-billed Leiothrix is perched on a branch, facing right. It has a bright red bill, a yellowish-green forehead, and a grey body with a yellowish-orange patch on its throat. Its wings show some blue and red markings.

紅嘴相思鳥
韓德明
大帽山

Red-billed Leiothrix
Hon Tak Ming, Derek
Tai Mo Shan

30/05/2016
DSLR Camera, 150- 600mm f/5-6.3 lens



藍翅希鶇
潘士強
大埔滘

Blue-winged Minla
Jason Pun
Tai Po Kau


07/05/2016
DSLR Camera, 200-500mm f/5.6 lens



橙頭地鸝
關朗曦
大埔滘

Orange-headed Thrush
Matthew Kwan
Tai Po Kau

20/09/2016
DSLR Camera, 500mm f/4 lens



山麻雀
陳土飛
北區公園

Russet Sparrow
Thomas Chan
North District Park

03/01/2016
DSLR Camera, 350mm lens + two 1.4x teleconverters



雲雀
路人乙
塋原

Eurasian Skylark
passerby-b
Long Valley

15/10/2016
DSLR Camera, 800mm f/5.6 lens

Blue Coua (*Coua caerulea*)



Malagasy Paradise Flycatcher (*Terpsiphone mutata*)



Endemic birds of Madagascar

Text/Photo: Samson So

Madagascar is the fourth largest island in the world. It separated from the African continent 160 million years ago, starting on its lengthy and unique path of biological evolution. A lot of people believe Madagascar is only known for its lemurs and its herbs, but for birders, a trip definitely brings tons of surprises. Madagascar has a list of over 300 bird species. 200 of these are resident birds and half of the residents are Madagascar or regional endemics.

Birding in Madagascar gives you both a feeling of familiarity but also many eye-opening surprises. Some of the bird species recorded in the island are familiar Old World species, like egrets, kingfishers, doves, bulbuls, robins, sunbird, and warblers. But long geographical isolation and ecological niches have contributed to its unique species evolution.

Madagascar has a mountain range stretching from north to south with a peak height of 2,876 meters and a plateau of 800 to 1,500 meters above sea level. The mountains restrict the moist air brought

in from the eastern Indian Ocean to form a rainforest environment in the eastern part of the island. The western part of the island is in the “rain shadow” resulting in dryer weather. In addition, ocean currents and monsoon winds help nurture a unique biological diversity.

Madagascar has five endemic forest bird families, including Mesites, (3 species), Ground Rollers, (5 species), Cuckoo Roller, Vangas, (14-22 species) and Asities, (4 species). Some bird species in Madagascar belong to endemic subfamilies, including several examples of coucal-like Madagascar Couas, all characterised by colourful skin around their eyes.

There are some endemics in wetland habitats, too, such as Madagascar Plover (*Charadrius thoracicus*), considered vulnerable with a population of only 3,500 individuals. During a trip to Madagascar in 2016, I observed it in its habitat in the coastal mangrove.

Madagascar Heron (*Ardea humbloti*)



Madagascar Plover (*Charadrius thoracicus*)



Yellow-billed Kite (*Milvus aegyptius parasitus*)



White-breasted Mesite (*Mesitornis variiegatus*)



It is better to be well-prepared for nature observation in Madagascar as at every single minute precious species may appear. When I was about to leave for other sites after observing a Madagascar Plover, I found a dark heron. Only through a telescope could I then identify it as a Madagascar Heron (*Ardea humbloti*), an endangered species with a population of only around 1,500 birds.

Madagascar is also a good place to admire raptors, there are 24 types in the island, half are endemic species. They show up both in the urban and rural areas, and some are quite confiding. Another commonly encountered raptor is Yellow-billed Kite. Yellow-billed Kite was once mistaken as a subspecies of Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*). In recent years, DNA studies show that Yellow-billed Kite is a full species, with Madagascar having an endemic sub-species.

Madagascar Sea Eagle is one of eight sea eagle species in the world. It has a highly restricted distribution along the west coast of the

island. Critically Endangered, it is one of the rarest raptors with only about 120 pairs remaining. The disappearance of habitat in the coastal forests, leading to reduced suitable nesting sites, has led to a decline in population.

According to archaeological records, human beings only arrived in Madagascar at most around 2,000 to 2,600 years ago. The ancestors of local people mainly came from Southeast Asia, Borneo and the African continent. The former introduced an agricultural model of “slash and burn”, while the latter brought in animal grazing as part of their way of life. Unsustainable deforestation has caused fragmentation and habitat loss. Foreign species brought in by people in Madagascar’s colonial period also potentially endanger the ecological system. Trying to meet international demand for exotic pets further depletes animal populations. All these threats make Madagascar the most endangered one of the top 25 biodiversity hotspots in the world.

Faced with numerous ecological crises and driven by both local and overseas scientists, the Madagascar government has set up National Parks and protected areas in several remaining ecological hotspots.



Madagascar Bulbul (*Hypsipetes madagascariensis*)



Madagascar Kestrel (*Falco newtoni*)

White-headed Vanga (*Artamella viridis*)



Madagascar Fish-eagle
(*Haliaeetus vociferoides*)




Private operators have set up private protected areas, preserving parts of important ecological environments on the island, igniting the hope of preserving species. There is a tight restriction on the number of visitors and their behaviour in Madagascar National Park Protected Areas. All activities should be under the lead of locally-accredited tour guides to avoid excessive numbers of tourists or misconduct.

Well-managed ecotourism has repeatedly proven that nature protection and financial benefits can co-exist. The practice brings sustainable financial return, local residents benefit directly and Madagascar's international image is enhanced. All those benefits create a greater sense of belonging and spark community interest in nature conservation.

The superior ecological environment in the reserves obviously provides a good place for bird-watching. As a matter of fact, all we need is careful observation. No matter it is garden view of a living place, farmland in a village or town of suburb area, or

even a bustling street in city, birds are always just nearby, many of them are endemic species. Thus in a vehicle or at rest, I will keep the telescope close by to grasp every single chance to admire birds in Madagascar. What I learned in classes on Biogeography and Adaptive Radiation in the environment comes to life again when I recognise species in the field.

Whether bird-watching or taking photos, we are not just bystanders or passers-by on each trip. Observation enriches our personal knowledge, participation brings profound experience. Madagascar is definitely a place worth repeated visits. I am privileged to have set foot on this amazing and big island four times, and am planning to visit it again in 2017. I hope to have a chance in future to be with all of you to experience the birdlife of this amazing country.

More essays and photos by Director Samson So from Eco Institute, please browse facebook for <Eco Institute 生態協會> and <Samson So Photography>. 

Crested Coua (*Coua cristata*)



Cuckoo Roller (*Leptosomus discolor*)

Text: Richard Lewthwaite

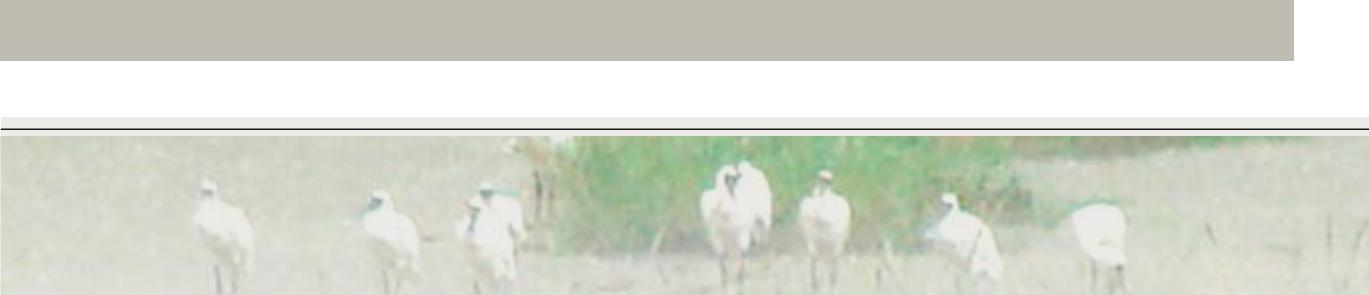
(Readers are reminded that this is not the final, "official" record of the sightings of this quarter, the Hong Bird Report 2016 is usually the last word. – Ed.)

July

- ▶ In a very hot and dry month, three species were found on earliest ever autumn dates – **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** at Mai Po on 17th (JAA), **Long-toed Stint** there on 23rd (DAD) and **Forest Wagtail** at Tai Po Kau Headland on 24th (RB), the earliest by 6, 5 and 4 days, respectively.
- ▶ One or two of the over-summering **Mongolian Gulls** were seen at Mai Po or in Deep Bay from time to time throughout the month (JGH, KCWL) and seven **Black-headed Gulls** were at Tsim Bei Tsui on 24th (JGH). At Mai Po, numbers of **Greater Sand Plovers** increased from 100 on 10th to 220 on 17th and 400 on 24th, and two **Asian Dowitchers** and 500 **Common Redshanks** were present on 24th (JAA).
- ▶ Once again **Chinese Blackbirds** raised young at Mai Po, whilst a **Chestnut-winged Cuckoo** and a **Chinese Grosbeak** there on 17th (JAA) were both unusual for the time of year.
- ▶ Apart from the **Forest Wagtail** mentioned above, the only other autumn passerines reported were two **Grey Wagtails** at Shek Kong Catchwater on 31st (JC).
- ▶ Reports of breeding or potentially breeding passerines included an **Orange-headed Thrush** at Sai Kung on 9th (AB), a juvenile **Russet Bush Warbler**, an adult **Blue-winged Minla** carrying nesting material, both at Tai Mo Shan on 17th (MK), and two **Black Bulbuls** at Shek Kong Catchwater on 30th (DAD). In addition, there were reports of two singing **Lesser Cuckoos** at Ng Tung Chai on 9th (JAA) and a **Speckled Piculet** at Shek Kong Catchwater on 31st (JC).
- ▶ Birds seen in agricultural land included a **Cinnamon Bittern** near Shek Kong on 11th (JC) and a **Black-winged Kite** near Tai Mei Tuk on 30th (RWL).
- ▶ A **Lesser Frigatebird** at Tai O on 9th (KCWL) was the only seabird of note found during the month.
- ▶ A well-lit urban part of Sai Kung again held a night roost of post-breeding **Barn Swallows**, with a peak count this year of 995 on 15th (SSRG).

August

- ▶ The major bird sightings of a rainy month occurred in its first and last days. In the first week, one or two **Sooty Terns** were seen in inner Tolo Harbour between 3rd and 6th (JGH, GT, et al). These were about the 9th for Hong Kong and were by 36 days the earliest yet recorded in autumn in Hong Kong. They were often sighted in company with other terns, mostly **Bridled** and **Black-naped**, which followed the Ma Liu Shui-Tap Mun ferry, attempting to catch small fish tossed up in its wake. The period also brought reports of a **Himalayan Swiftlet** near Ma On Shan on 4th (M&PW) and an **Amur Paradise Flycatcher** (formerly known as "Asian Paradise Flycatcher" or "Ince's Paradise Flycatcher", and recently split) at Tai Po Kau on 5th (DAD).



▶ At the month's end, an unusually early surge of the northeast monsoon reached Hong Kong, bringing a sudden influx of migrants which included single **Baillon's Crakes** at Lok Ma Chau and Long Valley on 29th-30th (JAA), the earliest ever in autumn by 18 days, as well as a **Brown-chested Jungle Flycatcher** at Ho Man Tin on 29th (KPC) and a Fairy Pitta at Po Toi on 30th (GW). Other species reported for the first time in the autumn during the influx were **Asian Brown Flycatcher** at Shek Kong Catchwater on 29th (JC), **Brown Shrike** at Ho Man Tin and Long Valley (KPC, JAA), **Himalayan Swiftlet**, **Dollarbird**, **Arctic Warbler** and **Yellow-rumped Flycatcher** at Po Toi (GW), all on 30th, and **Pale-legged/Sakhalin Leaf Warbler** at Lau Shui Heung on 31st (DAD).

▶ In between these events, there were the year's first autumn reports of the following: **Watercock** at Long Valley on 8th (DAD), **Eastern Crowned Warbler** at Tai Po Kau on 13th (LS), **Yellow Wagtail** at Long Valley on 19th (DAD), **Japanese Paradise Flycatcher** at Po Toi on 25th (per GW) and **Dark-sided Flycatcher** at Shek Kong Catchwater on 27th (JC).

▶ At Mai Po, the number of unseasonal **Mongolian Gulls** increased to three on 5th (DAD), with further sightings on 6th and 15th (KCWL), and seven **Caspian Terns** were present on 21st (JY).

▶ Finally, a **Bay Woodpecker** at Wonderland Villas, Kwai Chung on 27th (MK) was possibly a new record for the area.

September

▶ An interesting month brought reports of a wide variety of migrants, the rarest being a **Sykes's Warbler** trapped at Mai Po on 23rd (JAA), only the 3rd record for Hong Kong.

There were also reports of three sub-rarities – a **Fairy Pitta** at Po Toi on 6th (KKC), the second there of the autumn, single **Tiger Shrikes** at Ho Man Tin on 6th and 28th (KPC, M&PW), and single **Brown-chested Jungle Flycatchers** at Mount Davis on 10th (AB) and Ho Man Tin on 20th and 22nd (KPC). In addition, four species were reported on earliest autumn dates – **Dusky Warbler** at Sai Kung on 1st (MT), the earliest by 5 days, **Red-breasted Flycatcher** at Ho Man Tin on 19th (KPC), the earliest by 38 days, **Black-headed Bunting** at Long Valley on 24th (CKF), the earliest by 10 days, and **Mandarin Duck** at Mai Po on 25th (KL), which if accepted as genuinely wild will be the earliest by 24 days.

▶ Most of the regular warblers, flycatchers and robins of the season came through more or less on cue. **Arctic Warblers** were perhaps more widespread than in most years, and a total of 30 individuals at various sites on North Lantau on 19th (JAA) is one of the higher counts of recent years. Also reported in good numbers were **Pallas's Grasshopper Warblers**, with up to 50 at Mai Po on 6th and 22nd (DJS, JAA), and **Manchurian Reed Warblers**, with at least six different individuals at Mai Po between 16th and 23rd (JAA, DJS).

Passage of **Siberian Blue Robins** was stronger than usual, with at least 18 individuals reported from widespread areas, including a peak count of three at Ng Tung Chai on 9th, when the only **Brown-breasted Flycatcher** of the month was found (JAA). **Red Turtle Dove** was another species coming through in good numbers, with 100 at Mai Po on 20th (JAA), possibly only the second ever three-figure count.

▶ A **Ruddy-breasted Crake** and **Black Bittern** were found at Mai Po on 8th (JAA) and up to three of the over-summering **Mongolian Gulls** remained in Deep Bay until at least 18th (KCWL), but no particularly high counts of waterbirds were reported there. Elsewhere, Pui O hosted at least five shorebird species (**Black-winged Stilt**, **Pacific Golden Plover**, **Greater Sand Plover**, **Whimbrel** and **Sanderling**) on 25th (EMSK).

▶ Notable reports of resident species or summer breeders included four **Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrushes** at Tai Po Kau on 17th (MK) and a **Plain Flowerpecker** and an **Orange-headed Thrush** at Wonderland Villas on 22nd-24th (MK, TJW).

September

- ▶ Among reports of nightbirds were a **Eurasian Eagle Owl** at Tsuen Wan on 11th-12th (forfar), a **Brown Wood Owl** and two **Brown Fish Owls** at Shing Mun on 11th-13th (forfar, CM), a juvenile **Malayan Night Heron** at Tai Tong on 25th (many observers) and a **Grey Nightjar** at Ho Man Tin on 26th (KPC).
- ▶ Finally, good numbers of terns were encountered during a boat trip into southern waters on 10th (CM), including 16 **Greater Crested** and 28 **Aleutian Terns**.

List of observers & initials 2016

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

John Allcock (JAA), Paul Aston (PA), Karen Barretto (KB), Ruy Barretto (RB), Chris Campion (CC), Geoff Carey (GJC), S.Y. Chan (SYC), Thomas Chan (TC), K.K. Chang (KKC), Esther Chau (EC), J.A.M. "Kwok-Jai" Cheung (JAMC), T.M. Cheung (TMC), Vivian Cheung (VC), Owen Chiang (OC), Kenneth Chiu (KC), Gary Chow (GKLC), K.P. Chow (KPC), Francis Chu (FC), W.K. Chung (WKC), Y.T. Chung (YTC), John Clough (JC), David Diskin (DAD), Wilson Dring (WD), Y.W. Fong (YWF), Martin Hale (MH), Carla van Hasselt (CvH), Kinni Ho (KH), Peter Ho (PH), Tiffany Ho (TH), unknown Hong Kong Bird Watching Society members (HKBWS), Jemi Holmes (JH), John Holmes (JGH), Derek Hon (DH), Hermann Ip (HI), Kadoorie Farm and Botanical Garden staff (KFBG), E. Hui (EH), Mike Kilburn (EMSK), Koel Ko (KK), K.C. Kong (KCK), Matthew Kwan (MK), P.K. Kwan (PKK), Paul Leader (P JL), Kenny Lee (KHL), S.Y. Lee (SYL), Mike Leven (MRL), Katherine Leung (KL), Richard Lewthwaite (RWL), Benjiman Li (BLi), T.C. Li (TCL), Morten Lisse (ML), C.F. "Fai-jai" Lo (CFL), Brenda Lo (BLo), Kevin Lok (KCWL), Carrie Ma (CM), Jonathan Martinez (JM), Guy Miller (GM), Roger Muscroft (RM), Yann Muzika (YM), Benjamin Ng (BN), L.Y. Ng (LYN), W.K. Nip (WKN), Alan Pong (AP), Jason Pun (JP), Bart de Schutter (BdS), Leo Sit (LS), Dave Stanton (DJS), Y.H. Sun (YHS), Swallows and Swifts Research Group members (SSRG), Graham Talbot (GT), C.S. Tam (CST), Meiling Tang (MLT), Dylan Thomas (DT), Hugo To (HT), Ivan Tse (IT), Mike Turnbull (MT), Geoff Welch (GW), Martin Williams (MDW), C.Y. Wong (CYW), H.S. Wong (HSW), K. Wong (KW), L.C. Wong (LCW), Michelle & Peter Wong (M&PW), Ondy Wong (OW), Tim Woodward (TJW), World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong staff (WWF), W.Y. Yam (WYY), H.K. Ying (HKY), W.H. Yip (WHY), John Yu (JY), Y.T. Yu (YTY).



The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Bird Watching Tours Jan - Jul 2017

Outings				
Date	Duration	Time and site	Difficulties(1...3)	Target species
1/1/2017 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Shing Mun (08:00 Kiosk at Pineapple Dam, Shing Mun Reservoir)	☆☆☆	Forest birds
7/1/2017 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Long Valley (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Outside Maxim's MX, Sheng Shui Rail Station)	☆☆	Farmland and water birds
15/1/2017 (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
22/1/2017 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Shek Kong (08:00 Exit C, Kam Sheung Road West Rail Station)	☆☆	Forest & farmland birds
31/1/2017 (Tue)	TBC	Wild Card Day (Details will be announced on Jan 29 on Discussion Forum)		

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Bird Watching Tours Jan - Jul 2017

Outings				
Date	Duration	Time and site	Difficulties(1...3)	Target species
4/2/2017 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Tai Po Kau (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Tai Po Kau Carpark)	☆☆	Forest birds
11/2/2017 (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
19/2/2017 (Sun)	TBC	Wild Card Day (Details will be announced on Feb 17 on Discussion Forum)		
26/2/2017 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Nam Chung and Luk Keng (08:00 Pavilion at junction of Nam Chung Rd & Luk Keng Rd)	☆☆	Forest birds & Waterbirds
4/3/2016 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Shing Mun (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Kiosk at Pineapple Dam, Shing Mun Reservoir)	☆☆	Waterbirds
12/3/2017 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Tai Po Kau (08:00 Tai Po Kau Carpark)	☆☆☆	Forest birds
19/3/2017 (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
26/3/2017 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	Po Toi Island (08:00 Aberdeen Pier (Ferry Pier to Po Toi Island)) <i>Note: Participants have to pay for their own ferry fee. The returning time is not fixed, participants can decide their own returning time.</i>	☆☆	Migrants
1-2/4/2017 (Sat - Sun)	24 hrs	Hong Kong Bird Watching Day 2017 Cum Bird Race Fundraising Event (Details to be announced on Discussion Forum)		
1/4/2017 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Long Valley (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Outside Maxim's MX, Sheng Shui Rail Station)	☆☆	Farmland and water birds
9/4/2017 (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
14/4/2017 (Fri)	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
23/4/2017 (Sun)	TBC	Wild Card Day (Details will be announced on Apr 21 on Discussion Forum)		
29/4/2017 (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
6/5/2017 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Nam Sang Wai (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 V Cuisine Restaurant, Exit G2, Yuen Long West Rail Station)	☆	Waterbirds
14/5/2017 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Tai Mo Shan (08:00 Exit B near Hang Seng Bank, Tsuen Wan MTR Station)	☆☆☆	Grassland birds
21/5/2017 (Sun)	TBC	Wild Card Day (Details will be announced on May 19 on Discussion Forum)		
3/6/2017 (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
4/6/2017 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Nam Chung and Luk Keng (08:00 Pavilion at junction of Nam Chung Rd & Luk Keng Rd)	☆☆	Forest birds & Waterbirds
23/7/2017 (Sun)	1445 - 1900	Tolo Harbour & Sai Kung (14:45 Ma Liu Shui Ferry Pier, end 19:00 at Sai Kung) <i>Note: 1500-1700 Terns watching on public ferry from Mal Liu Shui to Tap Mun & then Wong Shek Pier 1700-1900 Bus from Wong Shek Pier to Sai Kung for Black Kite Watching. Participants have to pay for their own ferry & bus fare.</i>	☆☆	Breeding Terns & Black Kite

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.

松雀鷹
韓德明
米埔

Besra
Hon Tak Ming, Derek
Mai Po

28/08/2016
DSLR Camera, 150- 600mm f/5-6.3 lens



赤腹鷹
何建業
蒲台

Chinese Sparrowhawk
Kinni Ho Kin Yip
Po Toi

06/05/2016
DSLR Camera, 200-500mm f/5.6 lens





小杜鵑
薛國華
蒲台

Lesser Cuckoo
Sit Kwok Wah, Leo
Po Toi

20/10/2016
DSLR Camera, 50- 500mm f/4.5-6.3 lens



普通夜鷹
房遠榮
濕地公園

Grey Nightjar
Fong Yuen Wing
Wetland Park

08/10/2016
DSLR Camera, 120- 300mm f/2.8 lens + 2x teleconverter

更多施華洛世奇光學資訊，請訪問：
WWW.SW-OPTIK.COM

SLC 42 完美傳承



自 1989 年 SLC 系列問世以來，SLC 在自然觀察領域中就享有極高的聲譽，它的每一次蛻變都帶來革新的觀察體驗。

SLC 42 系列開創 HD 新標準，使用含氟高清光學鏡片，顯著提高影像的分辨率和對比度，使影像顏色更自然、輪廓更銳利。

無論您在白天或黃昏、多麼惡劣的天氣條件下觀鳥或動物，都可以充滿信心出發，獲得發現的喜悅。完美的人體工學設計，有效減輕使用時的“感覺”重量，長時間依舊輕鬆使用。



Wechat

SEE THE UNSEEN
WWW.SW-OPTIK.COM


SWAROVSKI
OPTIK

香港

AXIS Tel: 2885 4799 (Mong Kok)
Eco Institute Tel: 2789 2306 (KwaiChung)
Good World Tel: 2543 5657 (Central)
Kowloon Photo Tel: 2384 9302 (YauMaTei)
L&H Tel: 3907 0282 (CWB)
Supreme Company Tel: 2780 8818 (MongKok)
Standard Audio & Photo Tel: 2735 0005 (TST)
WWF-HK Tel: 2526 1011 (MaiPo)

Tin Cheung Tel: 2722 1265 (TST)
Tel: 2722 1386 (Central)
Universal Tel: 2801 6499 (Central)
Tel: 2801 6422 (Admiralty)

施華洛世奇光學 TEL: (852) 2969 6197 E-MAIL: INFO.OPTIK@SWAROVSKI.COM



BY APPOINTMENT TO
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II
SWAROVSKI OPTIK
SUPPLIER OF BINOCULARS

英國皇室指定望遠鏡供應商



白額雁
余伯全
新田

Greater White-fronted Goose
Ractis John
San Tin

15/10/2016
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter