

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

香港
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HKBWS



通 Bulletin 訊
Autumn 2019 秋

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林柳鶯
潘士強
蒲台

Wood Warbler
Jason Pun
Po Toi

蔡司望遠鏡

捕捉怦然心動的一刻



蔡司單筒望遠鏡系列



Victory Harpia 85 22-65x
Victory Harpia 95 23-70x



CONQUEST Gavia 85
30-60x

蔡司雙筒望遠鏡系列



蔡司VICTORY系列



蔡司TERRA ED系列



蔡司CONQUEST HD系列



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Bulletin Summer 2019



The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

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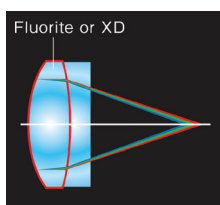
Kowa fluorite crystal lenses are manufactured using Kowa's advanced processing technology that has been pioneered and developed over many years. These lenses deliver outstanding colour and resolution properties virtually eliminating all chromatic aberration and producing the ultimate viewing experience.

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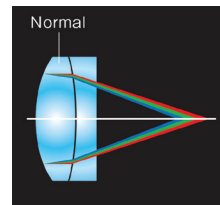
CHROMATIC ABERRATION - SEE THE DIFFERENCE



Fluorite crystal or XD lenses



Normal lens



Long Valley – the future Nature Park

In 2012, HKBWS and The Conservancy Association issued a joint statement on the “Kwu Tung North New Development Area – Proposed plan on Long Valley and neighbouring agricultural area”. After that, the two organisations kept communicating with related government departments to ensure the transition of Long Valley into Nature Park (LVNP) follows the below principles:

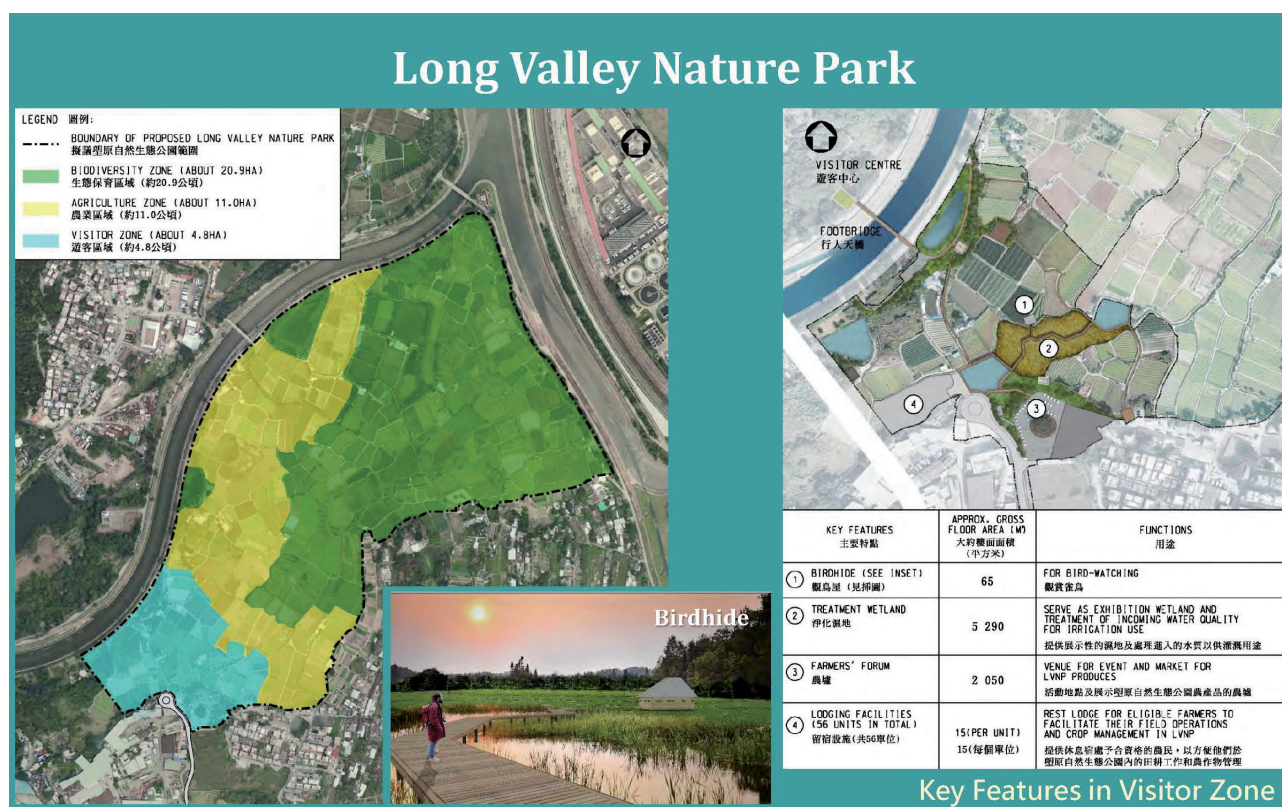
- The ecology of Long Valley should not be destroyed nor deteriorated before and after the establishment of LVNP;
- The highly diverse farmland habitat, which is unique in Long Valley, should be maintained in the LVNP;
- Secure local farmers' livelihood;
- Eco-friendly farmland management method should be implemented;
- No mass tourism. Number of visitors should be controlled.

The 37ha Long Valley Nature Park will be divided into three zones: Visitor Zone (about 4.8ha), Eco-agriculture Zone (about 11ha) and Conservation Zone (about 20.9 ha). 1. Eco-friendly agriculture will be adopted in Eco-agriculture Zone and Conservation Zone in order to keep both the agriculture and ecological value of Long Valley.

In early May this year, Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved the funding for the Advance and First Phase Works of the Kwu Tung North and Fanling North New Development Areas. This implies that the land resumption procedure will begin in Long Valley very soon, but the exact timetable is yet to be announced by the government. We will keep you all posted through our website/Facebook once we receive any updates.

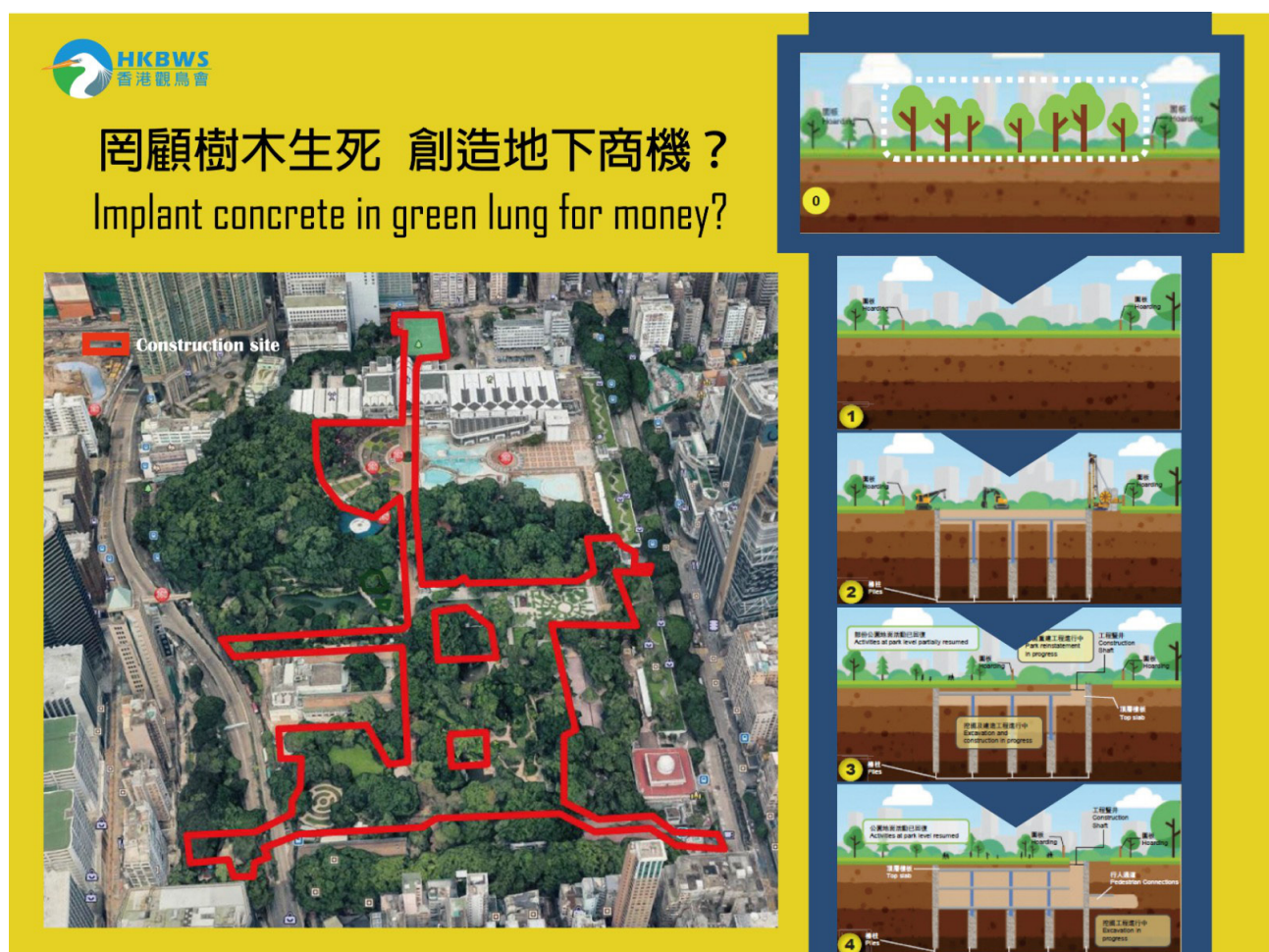
Extracted from Legislative Council document LC Paper No. CB(1)499/18-19(01), 22nd January, 2019.

<https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr18-19/english/panels/dev/papers/dev20190122cb1-499-1-e.pdf>



Underground Space Development at Kowloon Park - Implant concrete in green lung for money?

After the Stage 1 Public Engagement, Kowloon Park was selected among the four strategic urban areas to develop its underground space as a priority. Kowloon Park is a “green lung” in the urban area and an urban refuge for wildlife. However, the proposed large scale underground development would bring undesirable ecological damage to this public amenity. The conceptual scheme is in fact an underground shopping mall with carpark accounting for 60% of the total underground space, while only about 15.6% is proposed for community facilities and public space. It is unacceptable to diminish the ecological, social and amenity value of Kowloon Park to “generate commercial value”. HKBWS has objected to the underground development at Kowloon Park based on the following reasons.



Ecological and social values of Kowloon Park

Kowloon Park is located at the heart of the Kowloon Peninsula. With many old trees, extensive interconnected tree canopies and slightly elevated from the street level, the park creates tranquility within the hustle and bustle of the city. From an ecological perspective, Kowloon Park is a green lung in the urban area and an urban refuge for wildlife.

The egretty at Kowloon Park is the seventh largest colony among 21 colonies in Hong Kong in 2018. Kowloon Park consists of a total of 48 nests in Hong Kong ^[1]. This colony supports about 26% of the total number of nests of Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) in Hong Kong. Therefore, the Kowloon Park egretty is an important egretty in Hong Kong and should be considered as “an important ecological habitat”.

In 2018, Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), that is the only species nest and breed at the egretty in Kowloon Park, is regarded as of “Local Concern” which is assessed based on the restrictions of their nesting and/or roosting sites ^[2]. We thus consider they are bird species of conservation interest especially at their nesting and roosting sites. Yet, the egretty is at the immediate vicinity of the selected site for underground space development, hence the potential impacts on the birds should not be overlooked.

Moreover, Kowloon Park provides suitable habitats for both residents and migratory birds. According to HKBWS bird records, migratory bird species of conservation concern recorded in Kowloon Park include the globally near threatened Japanese Paradise Flycatcher ^[3], Ferruginous Flycatcher (*Muscicapa ferruginea*) of potential regional concern ^[4], and Orange-headed Thrush (*Geokichla citrina*) of local concern [4]. The nationally rare and protected Crested Goshawk (*Accipiter trivirgatus*) was recorded breeding in the park. Other woodland associated migratory bird species such as Narcissus Flycatcher (*Ficedula narcissina*), Mugimaki Flycatcher (*Ficedula mugimaki*), Grey-streaked Flycatcher (*Muscicapa griseisticta*) and Blue-and-white Flycatcher (*Cyanoptila cyanomelana*) were recorded in the park as well. We consider that the trees in Kowloon Park are suitable and important foraging/roosting grounds for birds.

As such, Kowloon Park is a popular birding place given its proximity to the city centre and its diverse bird life. HKBWS regularly holds birdwatching activities in the park every Friday morning, where visitors can enjoy the bird life together with the Society’s experienced members ^[5]. Kowloon Park is also one of the four sites selected for our elementary bird watching course field trips. In 2016 and 2017, we held our Sparrow Carnival in the Kowloon Park Piazza. The location is ideal to promote and educate the public about nature in urban areas, and allow them to experience the bird life within the park.

Direct habitat loss aroused from the proposed scale of development

From the public engagement digest Stage 1 and 2, it is repeatedly stated that Old and Valuable Trees (OVT) and densely vegetated areas would be excluded from the underground development by setting aside a buffering distance. As the root system of these trees in the park can be extensive, referring to both spread and depth, it is necessary to understand the root system prior to the planning stage. However, there is no information provided in both consultation papers to

^[1] Anon, 2018. Summer 2018 Report: Egretty Counts in Hong Kong with particular reference to the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site. Report by The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government.

^[2] Fellowes et al.: Fauna of Conservation Concern (2002)

^[3] <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/22707151/0>

^[4] Fellowes et al. 2002

^[5] <http://www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/parks/kp/watching.html>

investigate the root system of the OVT in Kowloon Park, so as to demonstrate how the proposed construction area could protect the OVT against any potential adverse impacts.

Apart from the concerns about OVT, we consider that all other trees in the park are important for birds and should be adequately protected. All the aboveground and underground works of the development should not damage the canopies and root systems of the trees.

However, from the paper of Pilot Study on Underground Space Development in Selected Strategic Urban Areas – Stage 2 Public Engagement Digest (the paper), surface excavation would be carried out for the construction of underground space. From Google Earth aerial photograph, most of the excavation site, which is about approximately 33,250 square metre and accounting for 25% of Kowloon Park area, is currently covered with tall trees. It is also mentioned in the Focus Group Meeting held on 5 June 2019 that there would be 300 trees affected under the proposed surface excavation works. We are concerned the underground works required may directly or indirectly damage the tree root systems and adversely affect the health and survival of these trees, which may in turn disturb the roosting and foraging grounds for birds.

“Top-down” construction method as a measure to minimize impacts is misleading

From the paper, the “top-down” construction technology is claimed “to minimise possible disruption to Kowloon Park” as compared to the conventional “bottom-up” construction. They emphasised that the current proposal would allow “early commencement if reinstatement works for the affected surface and resume part of the park activities while the underground excavation activities can continue”, and therefore the ‘disruption to the park could be lessened by “top-down” approach’^[6].

However, as mentioned in the previous section, the extensive surface excavation associated from the proposed “Top-down” construction method which will be associated with an extensive vegetation clearance and removal of trees, will cause serious disruption to the ecology of the park. Even if there is transplantation of some of the affected trees, the health of the tree is greatly compromised during the process and there is no guarantee that all tree individuals will healthily survive after the transplantation. We consider in-situ conservation should be regarded as the first priority whereas transplantation should be regarded as last resort for mitigation measure.

Moreover, the four diagrams at page 23 of the paper showing the construction procedures of the proposed “top-down” approach only illustrate the process of turning a “grassland” to a land covered with trees, giving the public a false impression that the proposed project will plant more trees in Kowloon Park and enhance its aesthetic value. This is misleading as the current status of the well-wooded Kowloon Park was not shown, while the works required to reach the “grassland” appearance in the first diagram (i.e. tree removal/ transplantation, site clearance and erection of hoardings) were hidden. Without mentioning the direct habitat loss resulted from the proposed “technology”, we consider that claiming the “top-down” approach could minimise the impacts by simply comparing it with the “bottom-up” approach is misleading. The proposed so-called “top-down” construction method is simply destructive to both the ecology and amenity of the park due to the massive surface excavation works.

^[6] Stage 2 Public Engagement Digest. Available at: https://www.urbanunderground.gov.hk/files/docs/Stage2_Digest.pdf

Potential adverse impacts on bird life

The construction site is just 25m distance from the egretty. Given that breeding egrets/herons are susceptible to disturbance by human activities, we are concerned the construction of the underground space would greatly increase the disturbance from the lighting, human activities and noise to the egretty, thus deteriorate the habitat quality and potentially reduce the breeding success of the birds. In the worst case scenario, the egrets may eventually abandon the site and may have adverse impacts on the viability of the egret/heron population. However, there is no measure proposed by the project proponent to avoid the potential undesirable impacts on the breeding egrets/herons.

Moreover, we are concerned the entrances/exits of the underground space created within Kowloon Park would change the visitor flow, thus may disrupt the tranquility of the park and create more disturbances to the birds and their habitats. The construction and operation of the proposed underground development may alter the composition of birds in the park and adversely affect the habitat quality for the birds to roost and forage.

The proposed underground space is not in line with the planning intention of “Open Space (O)” zoning

According to the Approved Tsim Sha Tsui Outline Zoning Plan No. S/K1/28 , the proposed development is located within O zoning where is “intended primarily for the provision of outdoor public open-air space for active and/or passive recreational uses serving the needs of local residents as well as the general public.” Moreover, it is stated in the explanatory statement that “Kowloon Park is a large public open space which has district significance.”^[7]

Public space is considered as the main feature to be provided by parks like Kowloon Park under O zoning. However, the proposed underground development provides only about 15.6% of underground space for community facilities and public space, while 60% of them are for commercial uses including retail/food and beverage facilities and parking facilities.

Such commercial-intensive development will not only undermine the “district significance” of embracing such a high ecological and social value in urban area due to the damaging construction works, but it is also not in line with the intention to provide public space for the residents and public.

^[7] Approved Tsim Sha Tsui Outline Zoning Plan No. S/K1/28. Available at:
https://www2.ozp.tpb.gov.hk/plan/ozp_plan_notes/en/S_K1_28_e.pdf

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society received HK\$200,000 donation from
Mr Lam Chiu Ying for the conservation work of the society.
We are grateful to Mr Lam for his generous donation.



Support HKBWS

"HKBWS has been working hard on bird conservation, especially preparation of development plans and environmental impact assessments which provide solid and valid ground on bird research and conservation as well as advocacy on conservation policy so as to strive for birds' welfare. In order to obtain the above, HKBWS has been exploring different channels in getting resources. Therefore your support is extremely important to HKBWS, I hope that you would support HKBWS by making a donation to its' bird conservation work." CY Lam



Brand new activity of fishpond project: Fishpond Summer Camp

The first ever fishpond project summer camp was held in order to let children enjoy the day and night in fishponds during their vacation. 21 enthusiastic children from age 7 to 11 joined this 2-day-1-night camp on 16 and 17 of August 2019. None of them were afraid of the hot weather, and kept energetic and engaged in different experiences and adventures in the fishpond.



Kids learnt fish's body structure through Gyotaku fish printing



Shrimp traps was set in Tai Sang Wai fishpond



Kids enjoyed the grey mullet very much.



They were curious about the shrimp caught from fishpond.



Due to heavy rain, though the night safari was taken place in campsite instead of fishpond, kids had a fun time searching for nocturnal animals.



"Thank you! My kids had a nice and happy camping."

"My kid said he learnt a lot and felt joyful. Hope there will be more camps in autumn and winter."

Feedback from parents



In addition to having fun in nature, information of fishpond and conservation message were delivered in each part of the activities. We truly hope they can learn through games and happiness, and share the knowledge with their family members and friends!

Watercolour painting workshop – Black-capped Kingfisher

A watercolor painting workshop was organized in 28 July 2019. Apart from introducing our work on fishpond conservation, a Hong Kong artist – Anthony Choy Yat Chun was also invited to share the skills of watercolour painting with 14 participants. A beautiful Black-capped Kingfisher was completed by everyone.



A participant focused on her drawing.

Drawing can calm and heal our minds, and is not difficult to learn. Even kids could finish their own beautiful drawing after following Anthony's instructions. Through every movement of paint brush, the details and demeanour of birds were defined, and became the participants' one and only Black-capped Kingfisher. Hope that all participants can also enjoy the experience of drawing birds.



Participants took pictures with their drawings and tutor, Anthony Choi (Back right, standing)



In this summer, birds were breeding while education team was keeping on to do eco-art education.

During this season, HKBWS acted as a community partner of "Make a Difference" Institute to start the second round education programme named "Studio in-situ". The participants expressed that they had learnt more about bird life during the bird watching activity in Tai Po. During the course, they were invited to develop creative actions encouraging people to live in harmony with birds.

Different activities were created by 3 groups of participants as well as an Open Class organised on 10 August. Newbies were invited to join the Open Class to learn more about the life of birds and the Tai Po community.

On that day, the 3 teams have shared what they had learned and created with the participants of the Open Class. The first team organised an activity named "Tai Po Egret Food Guide". Local delicacies and the ecology of the egret in their neighbourhood were shared. The second team organised an activity named "Tai Po Egret Survey Workshop". An Ecological survey was used to share the life of egrets with the participants. The third team organised an event named "New walking experience @ Tai Po Egret". Interesting tools were created and participants were invited to test the tools.



Bird Academy for Secondary Students

In conjunction with STEM education to develop students' interest on sciences, HKBWS organized "Bird Academy" to train students with the knowledge of wild birds and develop them as an ambassador of Bird biodiversity.

Bird Academy conducted on 19, 26 Oct and 2, 9 November. There were 4 schools and 23 students joined bird academy.

Bird Academy content

Lecture

Bird biodiversity
Knowing Endangered bird species
Bird identification skills
HK nature and wildlife and conservation situation

Field trip

Kowloon Park
Hong Kong Wetland Park
Sheung Shui Long Valley
Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve



2020 Membership Card

2020 HKBWS Membership card features the beautiful Glossy Ibis. This new card will be distributed to every new member in November and sent to all 5-year members in December. The Society would like to show our appreciation to everybody who has contributed, they are:

Designer: Ms. Puk Yuk Yin

Photographer: Mr. Kinni Ho (Front) & Mr. Allen Chan (Back)



2020 Membership card ~ front & back



Ongoing Habitat Works in the Summer of 2019

The major habitat works of summer 2019 have started, including the enhancement of reedbed in gei wai #8b and #23. A piece of dry reedbed in gei wai #8b is being converted into wet reedbed, which will have a higher ecological value. The internal bunds of gei wai #23b are being removed, which will then allow gei wai #23b to become a relatively un-fragmented reedbed after the natural expansion of reed growth in the future.

The typhoon of September 2018 caused several parts of bunds in gei wai #6, #11, #13, #16/17, #18, #19 to collapse and the mud flushed into the water channels. To improve water flow in the gei wai, the designed channel near FCA road will be desilted by digger and the water level will be lowered to facilitate the habitat work.

All works mentioned above should be completed by the end of October to minimise disturbance to wintering waterbirds.



▲ Showing the location of the habitat work



▲ Repairing work of Tower hide

Tower hide renovation work

The Tower hide is one of the favourite bird hides in Mai Po Nature Reserve as it is conveniently close to the Reserve entrance. In addition, it is the tallest building in the Reserve. The stunning panoramic view of freshwater pond #8a and reedbed #8b can be seen from the top floor. However, after serving the visitors for over 30 years, and damaged by typhoons in recent years, a major repair is needed. The maintenance work, which includes replacement of the cladding, wooden subframe, lightning conductor as well as re-painting of metal frame, started at the end of July, and is expected to be completed in mid-November.

Peter Scott Field Studies Centre rebuild

With the generous support of a capital funding grant from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, WWF is embarking on a project to rebuild the Peter Scott Centre to meet the needs of our Mai Po Community, whilst bringing the facility up to today's environmental and building safety standards.

From 16 August 2019, there may be some disruption with moving of equipment, such as noise barriers, to be stored in the forecourt. Private cars are still able to park on a first come, first served basis, whilst coaches can U-turn at the turning area adjacent to the public toilets. This arrangement is expected to continue until March/April 2020.

Mai Po Nature Reserve will remain open to visitors throughout the upcoming Peter Scott Field Studies Centre rebuild, and the PSFSC site safety office and reception will remain outside the main gate.

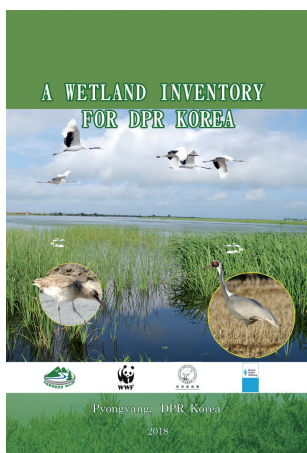


Birds Korea and our Work in the DPRK: the What and the Why

Part 1: The "What"

My first visit to the DPR Korea (DPRK) was to Rason, close to the border with PR China and the Russian Federation. It was made in March 2014 as part of an international research team brought together by the North-east Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC) and the Korea office of the international Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF). The research team included three Birds Korea members, and scientists from Far East Russia and PR China. We were searching for White-naped Cranes which winter in the Republic of Korea (ROK) and southwestern Japan. We found several. We also wanted to assess the international importance of the area as

defined by the Ramsar Convention. We found tens of thousands of waterbirds on several shallow lakes, including hundreds of "our birds" (species like the Whooper Swan, which very likely spent most of the winter only 10km from the Birds Korea office in the Nakdong Estuary, in the southeast of the ROK). We also saw large rafts of grebes and seaduck and several gorgeous Spectacled Guillemots out on the sea – evidence of a marine environment that is still largely healthy.

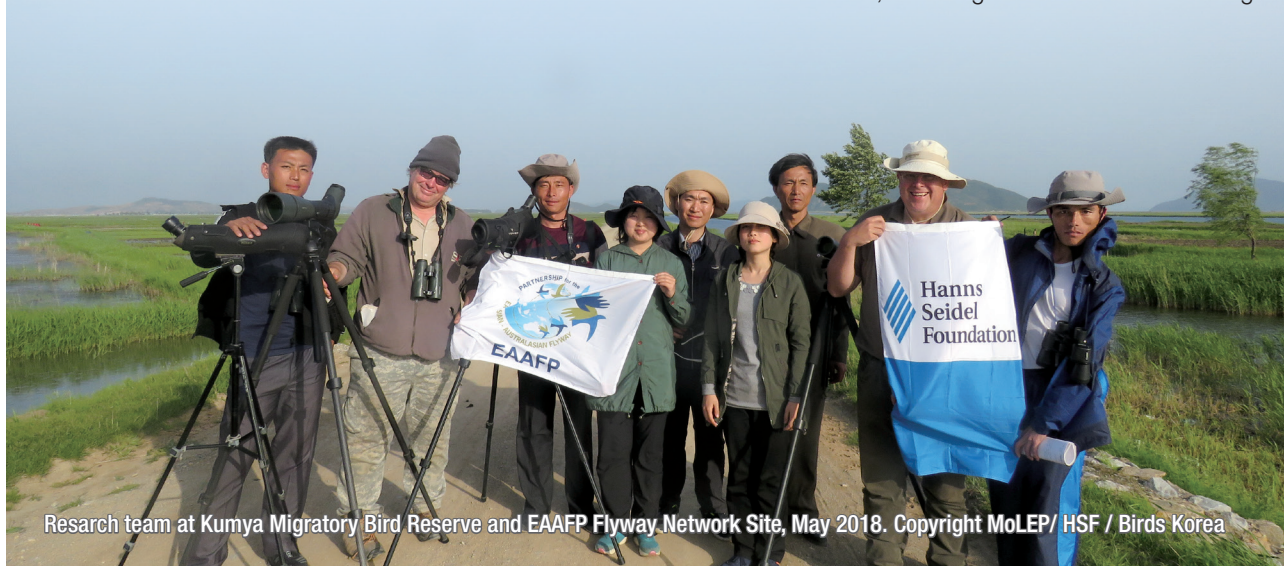


Since that first visit, on behalf of Birds Korea I have conducted a further ten surveys of birds and wetlands in the DPRK with the HSF. Four of these additional surveys were in Rason, and aimed to improve understanding of migration through the area and of the breeding avifauna (Moores 2017). These were followed by two short birdwatching tours to Rason in March 2019: one with three members of SBS-in-China; and the second (resulting in this article!) made up of a wonderful group from the Hong Kong

Birdwatching Society. In addition to providing a great birding experience for participants, both tours aimed to prove to authorities in Rason that conservation of their wetlands can lead to benefits, including increased understanding



View over Manpo, Rason. Copyright of Nial Moores.



Research team at Kumya Migratory Bird Reserve and EAAFP Flyway Network Site, May 2018. Copyright MoLEP/ HSF / Birds Korea



Yellow-billed Loon, North Gangwon Coast, March 2017. Copyright Nial Moores.



HKBWS team birding at Rason, March 2019. Copyright Nial Moores.

of the DPRK internationally. (And thanks to their success, we hope to conduct similar tours next year too). Additional surveys were also conducted along the East Coast from the inner border of Korea north to the industrial city of Hamhung, again finding large numbers of seaduck and Yellow-billed Loons; and along parts of the west coast, including at Mundok, which is increasingly well-known for its flocks of Swan Geese. Mundok, like the wetlands in Rason, was designated as a Ramsar site in 2018. We also spent a week searching – unsuccessfully! – for Scaly-sided Mergansers on major rivers in the southwest in January 2019, with other members of the Scaly-sided Merganser Task Force.



Researcher, Ms Woo, from MoLEP counting waterbirds, Nov 2017. Copyright Nial Moores.

During these surveys, we have had the welcome opportunity to help train a small number of government and State Academy of Science researchers in field identification and bird-counting; and we also presented at a couple of workshops on biodiversity and wetland conservation, including to more than a hundred officials in Pyongyang.

Most of these research visits were organised to support revision of a national Wetlands Inventory (DPRK 2018) and to encourage DPRK accession to the Ramsar Convention (Ramsar 2018) – both of which progressed successfully. This process, conducted under the banner of the DPRK Wetlands Project, was initiated and led by the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection (MoLEP), with the vital support of the HSF and the IUCN, and of wonderful folks like Dr. Lew Young, first when he worked for the Ramsar Secretariat and subsequently as Chief of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP), which the DPRK also joined last year (EAAFP 2018). For this important contribution and so much else, Lew continues to be deeply missed by all of us here, as in Hong Kong and along the Flyway.

Thanks to the support of the HSF, we also joined meetings with DPRK officials in Cambodia, Hong Kong (at Mai Po) and in Shanghai and at the INTECOL conference in Changsu (Moores et. al 2019). We also continue to review literature on the biodiversity of the DPRK as part of our compiling an annotated checklist for the whole of the Korean Peninsula. And in addition, at MoLEP's request, we have contributed a lot of images and information to DPRK IUCN publications and a recently-published pamphlet on the Critically Endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper.

This kind of collaboration in environmental issues between the DPRK and outside bodies is not new. (Kim 2015). One well-known example is joint research on cranes by DPRK and Japanese researchers which started in the



Spectacled Guillemot, Rason, March 2019.
Copyright Nial Moores.



Stejneger's Scoter, Rason, March 2019.
Copyright Nial Moores.

early 1990s. Satellite transmitters were used to identify key areas used during migration. Based on the results, several new protected areas in the DPRK were designated as Migratory Bird Reserves. Later, an integrated management plan was then developed for a small part of one staging area with the support of the HSF, which included enhanced rice production; an agroforest; and habitat managed specifically for migrant cranes (Chong et al. 1994; Higuchi 2001; State Academy of Sciences 2016).

Part Two: The "Why"

In our own work, like those before us we have been struck by the knowledge and passion of MoLEP officials. They have demonstrated openness to new information throughout, as well as a clear understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals (UN 2015) and conservation convention texts, and how all of these relate to the improvement of peoples' lives. We therefore consider that our work in the DPRK has been successful – in multiple ways. However, it has also provoked negative responses from at least a few people who do not support any kind of confidence-building measures with the DPRK at this time. The work even cost us quite a few of our own members.

It therefore seems helpful to take this opportunity to explain more of the rationale behind Birds Korea; and why we believe that supporting environmental conservation in the DPRK – whether undertaken by organisations from the ROK or Hong Kong – can make a positive contribution to genuinely sustainable development and peace in this region.

Founded in 2004, Birds Korea is a specialised NGO based in Busan (ROK), with much of our work done – regrettably! - on a volunteer basis. We still depend entirely on membership fees, donations, projects and other forms of technical and practical support. Although very small, our workload is huge. This is not only because of the ecologically destructive development model that still holds sway over the ROK, but also because right from the start we fixed our mission as the conservation of birds and their habitats in Korea (i.e. in both the ROK and the DPRK) and the wider Yellow Sea Ecoregion.

Three realities shape the scope of our work.

The first is that approximately 90% of all the 560+ bird species recorded to date on the Korean Peninsula are migratory, with most of these migrating through both the ROK and the DPRK as they move along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. This total includes a diverse array of globally threatened species including the now-annual



HKBWS team at Rason, March 2019. Copyright KC Lee

Siberian Crane in winter, Spoon-billed Sandpiper in both spring and autumn, and breeding Chinese Crested Tern, along with a host of other long-range migrant shorebirds, seabirds and landbirds. All of these species require inter-Korean and regional conservation solutions. So just like the Hong Kong Birdwatching Society, Birds Korea does what it can to support conservation of these species at home, and also in lands and waters in adjacent areas of the Flyway.

The second reality is that some of the most important bird habitats on the Korean Peninsula are now contained in the inner border area of Korea, lying divided between the ROK and the DPRK. Indeed, we now recognise that there is a near-unbroken chain of internationally important habitats in those counties which lie partly in the DPRK and partly in the ROK. To the west, Ongjin County has internationally important wetlands in the DPRK part, while the ROK part contains the migrant hotspot of Baekryeong Island (DPRK 2018; Birds Korea 2019); the bird-rich Han-Imjin Estuary near to Seoul forms the DMZ for several km; and moving east, the DMZ and Civilian Control Zone which lies immediately south of it in Yeoncheon and Cheorwon Counties, support large numbers of Red-crowned and White-naped Cranes in winter. Even the divided Goseong County on the East Sea coast meets Marine IBA criteria, as it supports very large concentrations of seabirds (Moores et al. 2017). At least some of the importance of these areas is due to the relatively low human pressures that they have experienced, compared with elsewhere in lowland ROK and DPRK.

And third, there is still no BirdLife partner organisation in either the ROK or the DPRK (or even in the Russian Federation or in mainland PR China). There is therefore a massive gap in both regional representation of, and advocacy for, bird conservation in this part of Northeast Asia. This includes for the Yellow Sea Eco-region, a vital hub on our Flyway. Organisations like the Hong Kong Birdwatching Society and SBS-in-China cannot and should not have to fill this void by themselves. Instead, as the only NGO in Korea dedicated equally to the conservation of birds and their habitats, Birds Korea has had no choice but to do what it can to work locally, nationally and internationally.

As a non-political NGO, all of this work explicitly supports progress towards environmental sustainability as envisioned by national laws, international conservation conventions and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. We welcome collaboration with other similar-minded NGOs. We also try to support, whenever we can, the EAAFP, whose Secretariat is based in Incheon (ROK). We were part of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force and are still active in the Scaly-sided Merganser Task Force (hence the research in the DPRK in early 2019); we contributed to action plans for Baer's Pochard, Scaly-sided Merganser, Far Eastern Curlew and Spoon-billed Sandpiper; and we have advised on Site Information Sheets for several ROK Flyway Network Sites. Lacking the status of an IOP or INGO, however, we are not a Partner to the EAAFP ourselves; and our experience remains that - despite some recent improvements - our work is still very poorly recognised by ROK government bodies, even if it is increasingly well-covered by national and international media.

Since 2014, our work has focussed more and more on the inner border area of Korea and on the DPRK. This shift has been enabled by our partnership with the HSF. It has also been driven by rapidly worsening degradation along the ROK side of the DMZ and by an increase in development proposals being made by the ROK that affect either the DMZ or the DPRK or both. These include the attempted designation of the ROK part of the DMZ as a World Heritage Site in 2011 (ROK 2011); controversial calls for the construction of a DMZ World Peace Park in 2013 (Jeong 2013); and steps taken this year (2019) to open up "peace trails" into the ROK part of the DMZ, an area that has remained largely free from human disturbance and development for over six decades (Gibson 2019). Currently too, there are top-level ROK calls for a new "Peace Economy" for the whole Korean Peninsula (ROK, Unification Ministry 2019).

As recent statements made by the DPRK make clear (Han 2019), these kinds of unilateral development proposals can cause serious misunderstandings, especially in the absence of long-term confidence-building measures. One arena that remains overwhelmingly neutral and open to collaboration, however, is the environment. The twin crises of rapid climate change and biodiversity loss are already affecting everybody on the Korean Peninsula and throughout East Asia. The continued degradation of ecosystems and loss of ecosystem services can only increase hardship and tensions further. Therefore, support given at this time to the DPRK in their identification and management of key habitats and in their finding ways to restore degraded ecosystems - including those within shared systems like the Yellow Sea and in transboundary areas like the DMZ and Rason - is a big positive for the region's birds and also for the region's people.

For these reasons and more, Birds Korea will continue to do what we can to remind decision-makers everywhere of all 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which together make explicit that ending poverty (Goal 1) and achieving peace (Goal 16) must go hand-in-hand with strategies that also tackle climate change (Goal 13) and help to conserve global biodiversity (Goals 14 and 15). We will continue to call for a moratorium on unilateral development proposals in the DMZ, and encourage the nation's leaders to buy up, manage and restore habitats in the ROK part of the inner border area, and throughout the nation. This to provide direct benefits to the ROK and also for potential export of experience and appropriate technologies to the DPRK.

We will continue to do this online, through publications and mass media, in meetings with officials and at high-level conferences (including one in late August on the Peace Economy and one in September on the DMZ). And we hope, we will continue to do so with your support too. Thank you.

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April-June 2019

April

- ▶ This was yet another exceptionally warm month (HK Observatory) and, though rather poor overall for non-passerines, it produced two 1st records for Hong Kong (assuming acceptance by the Records Committee) - a **Wood Warbler** at Po Toi from 2nd to 6th (PH, many other observers) and a **Collared Owlet** at Tai Po Kau from 23rd and into early May (YTY, MK, M&PW et al.).
- ▶ The only other rarity found in the month was a **Thick-billed Green Pigeon** at Shek Kong Catchwater on 11th (DAD), the 7th for Hong Kong and the first in spring, though there were further sightings of the **Western Yellow Wagtail** at Lut Chau up to 9th (PH, GT) and the two immature **Glossy Ibises** at Tai Shang Wai up to 24th (CM et al.), both of which were found the previous month.
- ▶ Also, intriguingly, a **Chinese Bamboo Partridge** (Cat III) was calling at Man Uk Pin (Robins Nest) on 22nd (JAA), less than 10 km from where one was heard almost exactly a year earlier. Could the species be colonising the NE New Territories?
- ▶ Passage of shorebirds was perhaps the lightest of the past few springs. Only one **Spoon-billed Sandpiper** was reported, in front of the Mai Po boardwalk on 16th (IT), and counts of **Great Knot** and **Nordmann's Greenshank** were considerably lower than usual (IT, YTY). The only surprises were birds at unusual sites - an **Oriental Plover** on Po Toi beach on 9th (per GW) and a **Ruddy Turnstone** at Long Valley on 17th (JAA).
- ▶ Of the spring raptors, numbers of **Grey-faced Buzzard** were quite good compared to previous years, with counts of 40 at Lung Fu Shan on 1st (per DAD) and 20 on South Lamma on 14th (JAA), but no large flocks of **Chinese Goshawk** were reported, the two highest counts being 12 at Po Toi on 14th (per DAD) and seven at Sha Lo Tung on 16th (RWL). **Black Baza**, now rare in spring, was reported on two dates, including six at Uk Tau on 18th (RM), but the only **Crested Honey Buzzard** reported was one at the Wetland Park on 2nd (CFL).
- ▶ A good variety of migrant landbirds came through at various times of the month, all on fairly typical dates except for a **Rufous-faced Warbler** singing at Tai Tong on 25th (KPC), the first in spring and 72 days later than the previous latest winter date, and a male **White-throated Rock Thrush** at Ho Man Tin on 29th (KPC), the latest in spring by 22 days.
- ▶ Coverage of Po Toi in the first week of the month led to sightings of up to 40 **Ashy Minivets** a **Swinhoe's Minivet**, seven or eight flycatcher species, three **Bramblings**, and single **Yellow-browed** and **Japanese Yellow Buntings** (PH, MK, M&PW et al). The same period also produced a **Brambling** at Lai Chi Kok Park on 4th (per MLT), 20 **Blue-tailed Bee-eaters** and two **Common Reed Buntings** at Mai Po on 5th (JAA), and a singing **Pale-legged Leaf Warbler** at Fan Lau on 5th (MDW).
- ▶ After a rather quiet spell, reports of migrants in the final two weeks of the month included a **Siberian Thrush** and 23 **Eyebrowed Thrushes** at Tai Lam CP on 22nd (JC), a **Two-barred Warbler** singing at Pak Sha O on 22nd (GJC), a **Fairy Pitta** at North Point on 26th (per HKY), the first **Oriental Dollarbird** of the spring at Uk Tau on 27th (RM), and a male **Siberian Thrush** possibly of the subspecies *davisoni* at Ho Man Tin on 28th-29th (LCW, KPC).
- ▶ **Chinese Barbets** were again noted in Tai Po Kau (DAD) and Tai Lam CP (JC), and numbers of **Hainan Blue Flycatchers** were again quite high, with counts of up to 13 at Ho Pui, Tai Lam CP, and the Wu Kau Tang-Ha Miu Tin area on 17th-18th (JC, RB, RWL).

- ▶ Among other reports of known or potential breeders were a **Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo** at Braemar Hill on 4th (DJS), possibly the first for Hong Kong Island, single **Malayan Night Herons** at Po Toi on 4th (MK), Lam Tsuen on 6th (JAA) and Tong Fuk (Lantau) on 11th (YM), a singing **Oriental Scops Owl** at Shing Mun on 6th (per DAD), a **Brown Wood Owl** in Tai Po Kau on 6th (KCC), a **Brown-breasted Flycatcher** and four **Plain Flowerpeckers** in Tai Po Kau on 11th (MK), three pairs of **White-throated Kingfishers** nesting at Ho Man Tin on 25th (KPC, MK), a pair of **Eurasian Hobbies** displaying at Crest Hill on 27th (MRL), six **Russet Bush Warblers** on Tai Mo Shan on 27th (MK), and a **Black Bulbul** carrying nesting material at Tai Lam CP on 28th (JC).
- ▶ Boat trips into southern waters of Hong Kong turned up two **Red-breasted Mergansers** on 20th (PJL, MT), two **Short-tailed Shearwaters**, three **Aleutian Terns**, and two **Roseate Terns** on 27th (CM et al), the latter the earliest on record by 2 days, and four **Greater Crested** and 71 **Bridled Terns** on 28th (RWL, MLT). Strangely, the only **Lesser Frigatebird** reported was one soaring over Bride's Pool gorge and later over Plover Cove Reservoir on 15th (RWL).

May

- ▶ In a month that was cooler and cloudier than usual (HK Observatory), three rarities were reported - a **Japanese Leaf Warbler** at Pak Sha O on 20th (GJC), only about the 5th for Hong Kong, a **Blue-throated Bee-eater** at Nam Chung on 29th (per SY), a potential 7th record, and a **Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler** at Mai Po on 30th (JAA), about the 8th for Hong Kong.
- ▶ A period of sustained easterly winds in the first week of the month led to a noticeable build-up of migrants and several days with strong migration. Reports of large numbers included 170 **Eyebrowed Thrushes** at Tai Lam CP on 3rd (JC), a record count, 90 **Chinese Goshawks** at Fanling Golf Course on 7th (PJL) and 80-100 **Brown Shrikes** at Po Toi on 9th (PH, MLT). In addition, nine **Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoos** were detected at Tai Lam CP on 4th (JC), the highest count on record of this summer visitor.
- ▶ Ten species were found on latest-ever spring dates in the month, all but one during or just after the period of easterly winds: **Rufous-tailed Robin** at Ho Pui Reservoir on 1st and Shek Kong Catchwater on 4th (JC), the latest by 9 days and the first in May, **Ferruginous Flycatcher** at Po Toi on 4th (per PH) and Tai Po Kau on 11th (KPC), the latest by 9 days, **Swinhoe's Minivet** at Po Toi on 6th (PH, GT), the latest by 1 day, **Eastern Crowned Warbler** at Fanling Golf Course on 7th (PJL), the latest by 19 days, **Amur Paradise Flycatcher** at Tai Po Kau on 8th (LS), the latest by 2 days, **Stejneger's Stonechat** at Lok Ma Chau village and also Tai Shang Wai on 8th (JAA), the latest by 2 days, **White-throated Rock Thrush** a female at Ho Man Tin on 7th (KPC) and a male at Po Toi on 9th (PH, MLT), the latest by 30 days and the first in May, **Siberian Thrush** at Ho Man Tin on 9th (KPC), the latest by 1 day, **Grey-faced Buzzard** at Po Toi on 9th and 11th (PH, MLT, CM), the latest by 4 days, and **Blue-tailed Bee-eater** at Mai Po on 30th (JAA), the latest by 3 days.
- ▶ In addition to the usual migrants of the time of year, such as **Yellow Bittern**, **Oriental Dollarbird**, **Arctic Warble**, **Grey-streaked** and **Asian Brown Flycatchers**, which were all widespread, this period brought reports of a number of rarer late spring migrants and potential breeders, including one or two **Pechora Pipits** at Tai Shang Wai on 2nd (PJL) and Mai Po on 11th (JAA), a **Square-tailed Drongo Cuckoo** at Pak Sha O on 4th (GJC), single **Malayan Night Herons** at Po Toi on 4th and 7th (GW, PH), one or two **Black Bitterns** at Po Toi on 6th-7th (GW, PH) and near Mai Po on 17th (JAA), single **Dark-sided Flycatchers**, rare in spring, at Peng Chau on 6th (TJL) and Tai Po Kau on 8th (LS), and a **Brown-breasted Flycatcher** at Tai Po Kau on 10th (DAD).
- ▶ No seabirds of particular interest were found in the month, but among a fairly wide range of waterbirds reported were one or two **Baillon's Crakes** at the Wetland Park on 7th (CFL) and Mai Po on 11th (JAA), 175 **Asian Dowitchers** at Mai Po on 8th (DH), a **Pectoral Sandpiper** at Mai Po on 22nd-23rd (IT, DAD), three *atrifrons*-group **Lesser Sand Plovers** at Mai Po on 23rd (DAD), and 40 **Great Knot** at Mai Po on 24th (MK).

- ▶ Breeding observations reported in the month included **Velvet-front Nuthatches** nest-building at Lam Tsuen on 4th (DT) and a male **Silky Starling** carrying food towards a possible nest on a village house at Tai Mei Tuk on 21st (RWL).
- ▶ Finally, two species were reported at unusual localities - a **Bay Woodpecker** at Wan Tau Tong in downtown Tai Po on 19th (MLT), and a **Slaty-legged Crane** (a forest/shrubland species) at Mai Po on 28th (JAA).

June

- ▶ In a month described as “abnormally hot” by HK Observatory, a **Common Snipe** at Long Valley on 1st (TJW) set a new latest spring date by 4 days and was the only surprising report to come out of the Deep Bay wetlands area.
- ▶ Kung Chau island off Tap Mun attracted a variety of breeding and passage terns especially in the first half of the month, including a juvenile **Sooty Tern** from 1st to 12th (MLT et al), the latest on record by 19 days, and a **Greater Crested Tern** from 6th to 9th (TL, M&PW), a rare summer record.
- ▶ Birders escaping the summer heat by ascending Tai Mo Shan reported a **Lesser Cuckoo** on 6th and 14th (PH, LS) and a **Stejneger's Stonechat** on 14th (LS), the latter the latest on record by 39 days. Single **Lesser Cuckoos** were also reported at Tai Po Kau Headland on 15th (RB) and Tai Po Kau on 20th (YTY).
- ▶ Other notable reports from forest/shrubland sites included juvenile **Black Bulbuls** at Tai Lam CP on 7th (JC) and Kap Lung on 26th (KPC), and single **Malayan Night Herons** at Kap Lung on 26th and Tai Tong on 29th (KPC).

List of observers & initials 2019

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

John Allcock (JAA), Fion Au (FA), Abdel Bizid (AB), Karen Barretto (KB), Ruy Barretto (RB), Chris Campion (CC), Geoff Carey (GJC), Alan Chan (AC), Isaac Chan (IC), K.F. Chan (KFC), S.Y. Chan (SYC), Thomas Chan (TC), K.K. Chang (KKC), K.C. Cheung (KCC), J.A.M. “Kwok-Jai” Cheung (JAMC), Louis Cheung (LC), T.M. Cheung (TMC), Vivian Cheung (VC), Kenneth Chiu (KC), Gary Chow (GKLC), John Chow (KPC), Francis Chu (FC), W.K. Chung (WKC), Y.T. Chung (YTC), John Clough (JC), David Diskin (DAD), Y.W. Fong (YWF), Ken Fung (KF), Andrew Hardacre (AH), C.Y. Ho (CYH), Kinni Ho (KH), Peter Ho (PH), Tiffany Ho (TH), Jemi Holmes (JH), John Holmes (JGH), Derek Hon (DH), unknown Hong Kong Bird Watching Society members (HKBWS), Hermann Ip (HI), Kadoorie Farm and Botanical Garden staff (KFBG), E. Hui (EH), Mike Kilburn (EMSK), Ashkat Khirwal (AK), Koel Ko (KK), Y.W. Ko (YWK), K.C. Kong (KCK), Matthew Kwan (MK), P.K. Kwan (PKK), C.T. Kwok (CTK), T.K. Kwok (TKK), Kenneth Lam (KCL), Eva Lau (ESFL), Paul Leader (PJL), H.L. Lee (HLL), Kenny Lee (KHL), Louis Lee (LL), S.Y. Lee (SYL), Thomas Legg (TJL), Mike Leven (MRL), Richard Lewthwaite (RWL), Tom Li (TL), T.C. Li (TCL), Morten Lisse (ML), Aaron Lo (AL), C.F. Lo (CFL), Brenda Lo (BL), Roman Lo (RLo), Kevin Lok (KCWL), Henry Lui (HL), Kent Luo (KLuo), Carrie Ma (CM), Walter Ma (WM), Guy Miller (GM), Harry Miller (HM), Roger Muscroft (RM), Yann Muzika (YM), Aaron S.O. Ng (SON), Benjamin Ng (BN), Jack Ng (JN), L.Y. Ng (LYN), W.K. Nip (WKN), Roger Ping (RP), Alan Pong (AP), Jason Pun (JP), Bart de Schutter (BdS), Leo Sit (LS), Ken So (KS), Dave Stanton (DJS), Y.H. Sun (YHS), Swallows and Swifts Research Group members (SSRG), Graham Talbot (GT), C.S. Tam (CST), Meiling Tang (MLT), Wing-sze Tang (WST), Dylan Thomas (DT), Hugo To (HT), Ivan Tse (IT), Wallace Tse (WT), Mike Turnbull (MT), Lag Wan (LW), Geoff Welch (GW), Martin Williams (MDW), C.Y. Wong (CYW), Dickson Wong (DW), H.S. Wong (HSW), K. Wong (KW), Kenneth Wong (KWMW), L.C. Wong (LCW), Michelle & Peter Wong (M&PW), Ondy Wong (OW), Chuan Woo (MCW), Thelma Woodward (TW), Tim Woodward (TJW), World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong staff (WWF), W.Y. Yam (WYY), James Yau (JY), Sherman Yeung (SY), H.K. Ying (HKY), Edward Yip (EY), K.Y. Yip (KYY), W.H. Yip (WHY), John Yu (JY), Y.T. Yu (YTY).



BIRD WATCHING OUTINGS | September to December 2019 |

OUTINGS					
Date	Duration	Site, Meeting Time & Place	Fee(HK\$) & Registration	Difficulties (1<2<3)	Target species
7/9/2019 (Sat)	0900 - 1300	Lui Kung Tin (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (09:00 Entrance to Lui Kung Tin (#72 Green mini bus terminus))	Free Registration NOT required	☆☆	Forest birds
15/9/2019 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	Po Toi Island (08:00 Aberdeen Pier - Public Ferry Pier to Po Toi Island) <i>Note: The group will take the 08:15 ferry to Poi To & returning time is open. Participants have to take care of their own ferry tickets.</i>	Member: free Non-member: \$30 (Aged <18yrs: \$10) Registration NOT required	☆☆	Migrants
22/9/2019 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Long Valley (08:00 Pavilion by the public toilet at Yin Kong Village)		☆☆	Farmland & water birds
29/9/2019 (Sun)	TBC	Wild Card Day (Details will be announced online on Sep 27 on HKBWS Forum)		TBC	TBC
5/10/2019 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Nam Sang Wai (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 V Cuisine Restaurant, Exit G2, Yuen Long West Rail Station)	Free Registration NOT required	☆	Waterbirds
13/10/2019 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	Mai Po Nature Reserve (12yrs old & above only) (08:00 Kowloon Tong MTR Station (Kent Road Exit F), OR 09:00 Mai Po Carpark, ends 15:00 Mai Po, 16:00 Kowloon Tong)	Member meeting at Mai Po: \$40 Kln Tong: \$80 Non-member: \$200 Registration Required	☆☆	Waterbirds
20/10/2019 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Tai Po Kau (08:00 Tai Po Kau Carpark)	Member: free Non-member: \$30 (Aged <18yrs: \$10) Registration NOT required	☆☆☆	Forest birds
26/10/2019 (Sat)	TBC	Wild Card Day (Details will be announced online on Oct 24 on HKBWS Forum)		TBC	TBC
2/11/2019 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Long Valley (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Outside Maxim's MX, Sheng Shui Rail Station)	Free Registration NOT required	☆	Farmland & water birds
10/11/2019 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	Po Toi Island (08:00 Aberdeen Pier - Public Ferry Pier to Po Toi Island) <i>Note: The group will take the 08:15 ferry to Poi To & returning time is open. Participants have to take care of their own ferry tickets.</i>	Member: free Non-member: \$30 (Aged <18yrs: \$10) Registration NOT required	☆☆	Migrants
16/11/2019 (Sat)	0800 - 1600	Mai Po Nature Reserve (12yrs old & above only) (08:00 Kowloon Tong MTR Station (Kent Road Exit F), OR 09:00 Mai Po Carpark, ends 15:00 Mai Po, 16:00 Kowloon Tong)	Member meeting at Mai Po: \$40 Kln Tong: \$80 Non-member: \$200 Registration Required	☆☆	Waterbirds
24/11/2019 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Long Valley (08:00 Pavilion by the public toilet at Yin Kong Village)	Member: free Non-member: \$30 (Aged <18yrs: \$10) Registration NOT required	☆☆	Farmland & water birds
7/12/2019 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Tai Sang Wai (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 V Cuisine Restaurant, Exit G2, Yuen Long West Rail Station)	Free Registration NOT required	☆	Waterbirds
14/12/2019 (Sat)	0800 - 1600	Mai Po Nature Reserve (12yrs old & above only) (08:00 Kowloon Tong MTR Station (Kent Road Exit F), OR 09:00 Mai Po Carpark, ends 15:00 Mai Po, 16:00 Kowloon Tong)	Member meeting at Mai Po: \$40 Kln Tong: \$80 Non-member: \$200 Registration Required	☆☆	Waterbirds
15/12/2019 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Pui O (08:00 Exit B, Tung Chung MTR Station)	Member: free Non-member: \$30 (Aged <18yrs: \$10) Registration NOT required	☆☆	Wintering forest & farmland birds
21/12/2019 (Sat)	TBC	Wild Card Day (Details will be announced online on Dec 19 on HKBWS Forum)		TBC	TBC
29/12/2019 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Tai Po Kau (08:00 Tai Po Kau Carpark)		☆☆☆	Forest birds

THE HONG KONG BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY

OUTING BOOKING SLIP

I would like to register the following HKBWS outings:

** HKBWS will re-confirm with contact person of their attendance 2 weeks before the outing by email or by phone. 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 (Kin 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 overseas 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\$ 40-	HK\$ 80-
Student Member	HK\$ 20-	HK\$ 40-
Non-Member	HK\$ 200-	

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 Amber, 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.



2019
JULY
14

黃嘴栗啄木鳥
黃永文
大埔滘

Bay Woodpecker
Wong Wing Man Kenneth
Tai Po Kau