

HKBWS

香港觀鳥會 The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society



bulletin
會員通訊

240

Summer 2016 ~ 夏



ZEISS VICTORY SF

THE WORLD'S BEST BIRDING AND WILDLIFE
OBSERVATION BINOCULARS



Sharper

- Natural colours and brilliant details: Ultra-FL lens system
- Sharp image all the way to the edges: seven-lens eyepiece with field flattener



Wider



Best field of view

- Maximum overview: (10x42) 120m or (8x42) 148m field of view at 1,000m



ZEISS VICTORY SF

ZEISS CONQUEST HD

PASSION STARTS WITH THE RIGHT OPTICS FROM ZEISS



ZEISS CONQUEST HD

ZEISS TERRA ED

THE NEW OUTDOOR BINOCULARS FROM ZEISS



ZEISS TERRA ED

Carl Zeiss Far East Co. Ltd.
Unit 3012 Level 30, Tower 1, Metroplaza,
223 hing Fong Road, Kwai Fong, NT., Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 23320402 Fax: (852) 37534118
www.zeiss.com/sports-optics

 [zeissshongkong](https://www.facebook.com/zeissshongkong)

ZEISS

煙腹毛腳燕
何建業
米埔

Asian House Martin
Kinni Ho Kin Yip
Mai Po

13/03/2016
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter



白腹毛腳燕
何建業
米埔

Common House Martin
Kinni Ho Kin Yip
Mai Po

31/12/2015
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter

The perfect companion for your next outdoor adventure.
Designed with the outdoor enthusiast in mind, waterproof and fully rubber armored.



NATURE DX BINOCULARS

Nature DX's high quality BaK-4 prisms are phase coated to increase contrast and resolution. Phase coated prisms, combined with fully multi-coated lenses, provide maximum light transmission through the entire optical path, for brighter images, even in low light conditions.



	Magnification	Objective Lens Diameter	Weight
-NATURE DX 8X25	8 x	25mm	343g
-NATURE DX 10X25	10 x	25mm	343g
-NATURE DX 8X32	8 x	32mm	510g
-NATURE DX 10X32	10 x	32mm	510g
-NATURE DX 8X42	8 x	42mm	629g
-NATURE DX 10X42	10 x	42mm	629g

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.

Bulletin 240

Contents

Society News & Projects	06
Mai Po Update	14
– Bena Smith	
Some forest bird surveys in southern Guangdong Province	15
– Captain Wong,	
Matthew Kwan and Siu Yuen	
Birding Anecdote - Wizard in the City	21
– Samson So	
Dong Dong Ting Hu and Hengshan	24
– Tim Woodward	
Hong Kong Bird News	27
– Richard Lewthwaite	
Coming activities	31

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

Birdline :

(852) 2465 6690 (Chinese)
(852) 2667 4537 (English)

Website :

www.hkbws.org.hk

Forum :

www.hkbws.org.hk/BBS

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

English Editor: John Holmes

Chinese Editor: Henry Lui

Photo Editor: Cherry Wong

Contributors to this issue:

Bena Smith, Samson So, Captain Wong, Matthew Kwan and
Siu Yuen, Tim Woodward, Stanley Chan, Richard Lewthwaite,
HKBWS Staff

Translator: Anita Lee

Photo:

Kinni Ho Kin Yip, passerby-b, Jason Pun, Ho Kam Wing,
Ractis John, Chan Chi Tat, Fong Yuen Wing,
Lok Ching Wa Kevin, oLDCar Lee

Front cover : Japanese Yellow Bunting -
Matthew Kwan (Mai Po), 28/03/2016, DSLR Camera,
500mm 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

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. Bena Smith Mr. Hung Wai Ming Ms. Yu Sau Ling, Wendy Mr. Man Kuen Yat, Bill (Representative, Crested Bulbul Club)
Representative in UK	
Mr. Richard Stott	email: hkbwsuk@gmail.com
Hon. Auditor	
K. Y. Ng & Company Limited, CPA	
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
Secretary	Mr. Geoff Welch
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. Tang Wing Shing, Dick
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
Research Specialist	Dr. Pang Chun Chiu
Assistant Manager (Projects)	Ms. Yeung Lee Ki, Vicky
Assistant Manager (China Programme)	Ms. Fu Wing Kan, Vivian
Senior Membership Officer	Ms. Chan Fong Ling, Bonnie
Conservation Officer	Ms. Woo Ming Chuan
Senior Project Officer	Ms. Fong Hoi Lun, Helen
Project Officer	Mr. Chung Chun Kit, Johnson Mr. Chung Yun Tak Mr. Ng Man Ching, Austin Ms. Wong Man Wa, Walkman Ms. Ji Quishuang
Education Officer	Ms. Wong Ching Man, Jessica Ms. Lau Ka Lai, Karly
Research Officer	Mr. Tse Wai Lun, Ivan
Assistant Project Officer	Ms. Yeung Ching Kan, Haley



Society News and Projects

Obituary

Mr. Clive Briffett

We are saddened to learn that Mr. Clive Briffett, Hon. Life Member of the Society, has passed away. He was the Hon Secretary of the Society between 1970 to 1973.

Mr. Dick Tang

Mr. Dick Tang, Vice-chairman of the Crested Bulbul Club, HKBWS passed away on 18 May 2016 at the age of 68. The Society and the Club offer our deepest condolences to his family members.

Dick was highly praised for his obliging personality where he earned so much applause and so many friends. During his service in the Crested Bulbul Club, he was responsible for many different kinds of activities which showed his devotion and capability in coordinating the work. The exemplary role model of Dick as a volunteer contributed so much to the Club and the Society and will be dearly remembered by all of us..

2016 Membership Renewal

Current membership stands at around 1870. Membership renewal is in progress. Renewal letters will be posted about two months before membership expiry dates.

2016 Hong Kong Bird Watching Day Cum Bird Race Fundraising Event

This key annual event was held from 2nd to 3rd April. There were 32 teams (with 160 members, birders and secondary school students) participating in Challenger and Secondary School categories of the race. In order to improve the birdwatching technique of the Secondary School teams, we provided a full day of training which included a lecture about bird identification and an outing before the actual bird race. A total of HK\$60,0288- in donations was received and will be allocated to support production of bird pamphlets which can be powerful educational tools in promoting birdwatching to the public. The society would like to express gratitude to all race teams and donors for their generous support to this event.

2016 Hong Kong Bird Watching Day Cum Bird Race Fundraising Event

Donation

Challenger Team & Supporter

Infinity Six	\$500-
Eye Kite	\$350-
Lucky Clover	\$250-
Happyhabit	\$11,660-
OSM	\$300-
Hero Buzzard	\$1,000-
Win's Lark	\$38,428-

Secondary School Team & Supporter

The Chinese Foundation Secondary School (CFSS Explorer)	\$500-
Daughters of Mary Help of Christians Siu Ming Catholic Secondary School (Baby Kingfisher)	\$1,300-

Individual

Ms Lam Shuet Fong	\$1,000-
Ms Wong	\$500-
Mr Tse Yung	\$500-
Mr Hon Tak Ming	\$600-
Anonymous	\$5,000-
Mr Chan Kai Wai	\$200-

Total Donation	\$60,288-
-----------------------	------------------

Special thanks are due for support from the following organizations and government departments which helped to make the event a success:

- Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
- WWF – HK
- Mr. Richard Lewthwaite (Adjudicator)
- Mr. Lee Kwok Shing (Online bird record system)
- Miss Katie Lau (Bird Race T-shirt drawing)



Sponsored prizes and souvenirs

We would like to extend our sincerest thanks and appreciation to the following prize sponsors (in random order):

Sightron Hong Kong Limited (Sponsor of Winner's prize for "Challenger Team" & Spotting scope for "Secondary School Team")

Shriro (HK) Ltd (Sponsor of Winner's prize for "Secondary School Team")

Schmidt Marketing Asia Ltd (Sponsor of Best Record prize for "Challenger Team")

Carl Zeiss Far East Co Ltd (Sponsor of Best Record prize for "Secondary School Team", souvenirs & lucky draw prizes for prizes presentation ceremony and Spotting scope for "Secondary School Team")

Swarovski Hong Kong Ltd (Sponsor of souvenirs for pre-race training and spotting scope for "Secondary School Team")

Race Teams: **Challenger Team**



1. Infinity Six:
Wong Wong Yung,
Ling Kwok Bun,
Siu Lai Chun,
Tsui Tsz Ying Kannis



2. Hero Buzzard:
Chang Chi Wai,
Hui Wun Fung,
Lam Chun Yin,
Lo Chi Choi Antonio,
Wang Ka Kei Elena



3. Garuda:
Li Chung Hoi,
Kwan Long Hei Matthew,
Chan Tsz Chung,
Fung Hon Shing



4. Lucky Clover:
Li Siu Lan,
Au Wai Yin Fion,
Cheung Yin Ping Carmen



5. Win's Lark:
Ng Shiu Han,
Wan Hung Yu,
Li Chun Yat Stephen,
Ho Chi Kong



6. Barbet Rangers:
Wong Man Wa Walkman,
Wong Ching Man Jessica,
Lau Ka Lai Karly,
Woo Ming Chuan,
Lau Hon Kiu Katie



Race Teams: Challenger Team



7. Primary School
Rookie Chicks:
Kenny Yip,
Carmen Li,
Luke Yip



8. BUBI:
Wong Po Ting,
Wong Ho Fung,
Chiu Sui Ching,
Chan Tseng,
Sung Yik Hei



9. Sky Island SSW Team+ α :
Chan Wai Shan Melanie,
Chan Tsz Him,
Lo Oi Yan,
Du Zhen Nan



10. Eye Kite:
Chan Kai Wai Peter,
Ng Chi Keung Jack,
Lam Mun Chris,
Lau Kwok Chung Francis,
Cheung Wai Leung William



11. Happyhabit:
Yeung Bing Chung,
Man Kuen Yat Bill,
Hung Kwok Kee,
Choi Mei Ching,
Chan Oi Lee Linda



12. LaLa Team:
Chan Ka Ho,
Chiu Ming Ho,
Ip Tsz Ying,
Ho Pui Lam Jocelyn,
Kei Lik Wai



13. OSM:
Kam Yi Lam Karen,
Fong Kin Sio,
Lou Chio Iong,
Lou Cheng Kio



14. Eyes on Birds:
Austin Ng,
Albert Lai,
Ng Sze On,
Wendy Yu,
Brian Chan



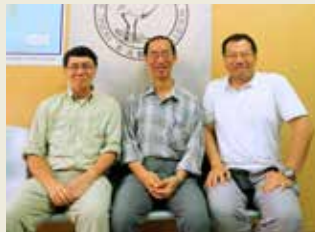
15. See Wings:
Fong Hoi Ning,
Yuen Yan Ling,
Yiu Sze Wing,
Ho Ching Yuen



16. DknKids:
Wong Chi Chun Dickson,
Wong Ching Sum Katherine,
Wong King Sum John,
Karin Chin,
Lachlan Chin



17. Agent Scott:
Katherine Leung,
Henry Lui,
Lai Nga Yee,
Tommy Cheung,
Meiling Lau



18. The Lark:
Forrest Fong,
Chan Ming Ming,
Li Wai Ki,
Lam Chiu Ying,
Ng Cho Nam

Race Teams: Secondary School Team



1. S.K.H. Tsoi Kung Po Sec. School (Grey-Chinned Minivet):
Shen Ze Hoi, Hui Tsz Fung,
Cheng Tsz Yin,
Chan Chi Fung
Instructor: Chow Kwok Pun



2. Immaculate Heart of Mary College(Immaculate Wagtail):
So Tsz Chun, Lung Sze Ki,
Yau Lok Yee, Lee Hoi Wing,
Shek Wing Tung
Instructor: Wong Ching Han



3. St. Louis School (Puffin):
Chan Chun Ket, Tsoi Kin Hang, Kwan Hoi Fung,
Leung Cheuk Hei,
Wong Ching Hang Jason,
Lai Wai Chung
Instructor: Chan Chun Ket



4. Fortress Hill Methodist Secondary School:
Tsoi Man Lok, Chau Hazel,
Lin Chung Tai James
Instructor: Ho Wing Suen



5. St. Stephen's Church College:
Ng Pak Shing, Cheung Lo Sha, Ho Wai Ho, Kok Tsz Chung, Chan Wai Yiu
Instructor: Hung Yat Chung



6. SKH Holy Trinity Church Secondary School (Team A):
Chan Wai Cheong, Yip Chun Ming, Wong Lai Chung,
Fu Pui Lam, Chan Esther Jee Som
Instructor: Wong Kin Ka



7. SKH Holy Trinity Church Secondary School (Team B):
Yip Ka Hung, Hung Shun Chi, Yuen Nok Hin, Li Ho Kan, Kam Chi Lok
Instructor: Chan Chi Tong



8. Confucian Tai Shing Ho Kwok Pui Chun College:
Lee Yan Wing Shannon, Ho Ming Yan, Ma Nga Yu, Yuen Yu Fung, Li Yan Yi
Instructor: Li Chi Keung



9. CUHKFAA Chan Chun Ha Secondary School:
Chan Ka Him, Wu Fei, Wong Hiu Nam,
Tsoi Pui Yan, Cheng Hiu Ying
Instructor: Yu Sun Sing



10. Daughters of Mary Help of Christians Siu Ming Catholic Secondary School (Baby Kingfisher):
Wong Cheuk Tung, Wong Wing Lam, Lo Ka Sin, Lee Hiu Lam, Chow Tsz Chin
Instructor: Tsai Lin Fung Sylvia

Race Teams: Secondary School Team



11. SKH Chan Young Secondary School (Greater Painted Snipe):
Tam Chun Him, Lam Man Hin, Lai Wai Yui, Tsui Man Ching, Cheung Chi Wai Jessica
Instructor: Chui Yung Shing



12. SKH Chan Young Secondary School (Blue-winged Leafbird): Lam Kwan Ha, So Yiu Tung, Tang Tsz Yan, Cheung Nga Sze, Yuen Hau Ching
Instructor: Hon Tak Ming



13. Queen Elizabeth School Old Students' Association Secondary School: Kwok Ka Chun, Wong Tak Yi, Ng Zhing Yu, Chen Zheng Hong, Ding Ka Lok
Instructor: Wong Chi Fai



14. The Chinese Foundation Secondary School (CFSS Explorer): Law Chung Hin Henry, Chan Chun Ming, Lin Lok Hei Alex, Lin Lok Lam Andrew
Instructor: Mak Man Chung

Race results:

Prizes

Winner

1st Runner-up

2nd Runner-up

Best Record Award

Best Location Team -
Mai Po

Best Location Team -
Long Valley

Best Location Team -
Tai Po Kau

Seen Record Team

Heard Record Team

Highest Amount of
Donation

Challenger Team

Garuda (161)

Agent Scott (156)

Win's Lark (136)

Grey-faced Buzzard (The Lark)

Agent Scott

See Wings

Agent Scott

Garuda

Agent Scott

Win's Lark

Prizes

Winner

1st Runner-up

1st Runner-up

Best Record Award

Highest Amount of
Donation

Secondary School Team

SKH Chan Young Secondary School -
Blue-winged Leafbird (68)

CUHKFAA Chan Chun Ha Secondary School (67)

Confucian Tai Shing Ho Kwok Pui Chun College (67)

SKH Chan Young Secondary School -
Blue-winged Leafbird (Eastern Water Rail)

Daughters of Mary Help of Christians Siu Ming Catholic
Secondary School - Baby Kingfisher



Winner of Challenger Team:
Garuda



Best Record Award of Challenger
Team:
The Lark (Grey-faced Buzzard)



Adjudicator:
Mr. Richard Lewthwaite (left)



Winner of Secondary School
Team:
SKH Chan Young Secondary
School (Blue-winged Leafbird)

Crested Bulbul Club

Early Morning Bird Watchers

No. of participants in Hong Kong Park from Feb to Apr 2016: 202

No. of participants in Kowloon Park from Feb to Apr 2016: 360

Bird watching and interpretation in Hong Kong Wetland Park

A total of 150 participants Feb to Apr 2016.

Education Project

Discover the Urban Nature of Hong Kong cum City Sparrow Census



The first-ever City Sparrow Census is an activity of "Citizen Science" which serves both scientific and educational purposes and lets more people conduct a scientific survey. The event was held on 8th May, 2016. We thank all the surveyors for participating in the survey. The result of the Sparrow Census will be released by mid-July. A Sparrow Carnival was also held on 1st May, 2016. We hope to raise the awareness of the public to conserve the environment. Please find the event highlights in HKBWS forum.



Hong Kong Headline Indicators for Biodiversity and Conservation 2013-2014

The Society recently published the latest report of the “Hong Kong Headline Indicators for Biodiversity and Conservation”, the only systematic monitoring of the state and progress of biodiversity conservation in Hong Kong. It is the third report of the same series, which reports on data collected over the past 5 years.

The headline indicators used in this report were developed based on the report “Nature Conservation: A new policy framework for Hong Kong” published by Civic Exchange, and were selected through discussions with environmental NGOs, academics, consultants, government officials and other stakeholders. The data used in the report was collected from Government departments, environmental NGOs and academics.

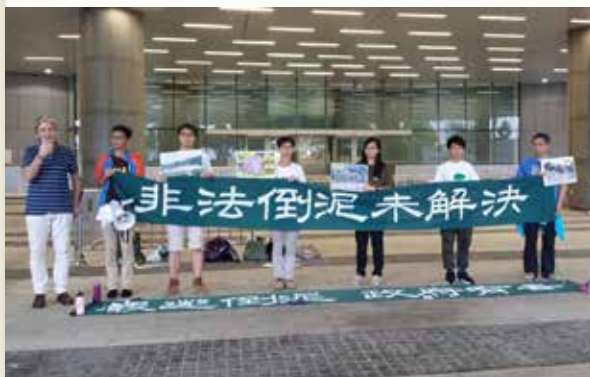


Currently, the Government is formulating a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) for Hong Kong. We consider that this report is particularly important as it provides key baseline information about the key threats and challenges to biodiversity that the BSAP is intended to address.

Link to the report: <http://www.hkbws.org.hk/BBS/viewthread.php?tid=24858>

*Further readings - The Society's comments on BSAP: <http://www.hkbws.org.hk/BBS/viewthread.php?tid=24850>

Illegal land filling and dumping problem



Dumping and land filling on land reserved for conservation and agricultural uses continues to impact Hong Kong's habitats, ecology and biodiversity. The Society together with other environmental NGOs is deeply concerned over the lack of preventive and enforcement action by government against these unauthorized developments. Therefore, we released a joint statement urging the Government to: 1) Enhance control measures against construction and demolition waste disposal; 2) Plug the loopholes in the Waste Disposal Ordinance and Town Planning Ordinance; 3) Establish a public and transparent database to provide baseline information for the reinstatement of damaged sites; and 4) Establish an inter-departmental nature conservation enforcement task force to co-ordinate and oversee all enforcement cases and ensure all damaged sites are properly restored; the budgets and headcount for enforcement teams should also increase.

*For more details, please see: <http://www.hkbws.org.hk/BBS/viewthread.php?tid=24982>

In order to increase the public participation in our “Hong Kong Fishpond Conservation Scheme”, a volunteer scheme was set up in 2014. We are pleased to have had more than 200 volunteers supporting our work in the past two years. After receiving one day basic training, volunteers were involved in different kinds of work, such as the operating of education kiosks, fishpond eco tours, public exhibitions, a fishermen oral-history project and beautifying fishpond containers. If you want to join us as a volunteer, please email us at fishpond@hkbws.org.hk.

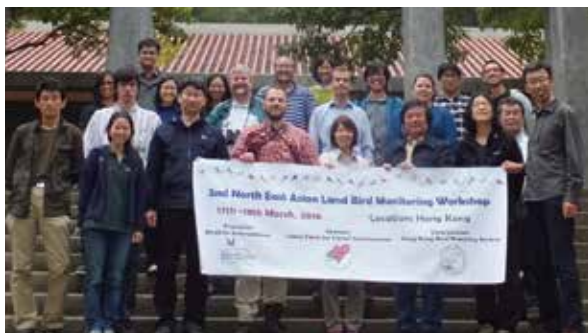


Beautifying the container of fish farmer



Fishpond Festival Celebration

2nd North East Asian Land Bird Monitoring Workshop



Participants of 2nd North East Asian Land Bird Monitoring Workshop



Geoff Welch giving a presentation on Trends of changes for Hong Kong Land Birds

Our society was pleased to help BirdLife International organize the 2nd North East Asian Land Bird Monitoring Workshop, which was held between 17th and 18th March, 2016, at Kadoorie Institute of The University of Hong Kong. A total of ten researchers, representatives of government and NGOs from Japan, Republic of Korea, Russia and The U.K., were invited to attend the meeting. Discussions included the production of a list of declining birds in Asia, establishment of information sharing platforms, the structure of a Land Bird Monitoring programme, and other challenges and resources. Our member, Geoff Welch also shared the findings on trends of change for Hong Kong Land Birds from the perspective of citizen science. 

Mai Po Update

*Text: Bena Smith,
Centre Manager,
Mai Po*

Restoration of an inter-tidal gei wai

Gei wai #22, the only inter-tidally operated gei wai at Mai Po, located in the far southwest corner of the Reserve is to be restored this summer. Its operation was switched from a standard shrimp rearing gei wai in 2008 following the conversion of its neighbour Gei wai #21 into a high-tide roost. Gei wai #22 has performed admirably since 2008 by providing Black-faced Spoonbills, egrets and ducks, especially Northern Shoveler, daily foraging opportunities. It also offers ephemeral shorebird roost habitat.

Over the last 8 years siltation (the scourge of Mai Po!), and invasion by reedgrass has led to a reduction in the total area of open water available for waterbirds. Hence a major renovation with backhoes and bulldozers to remove the mud and unwanted vegetation is necessary. Some reed fringe will be retained around the gei wai perimeter to add diversity, and channels will be then dug to prevent reinvasion into central areas. We'll use the opportunity to enlarge the 'spits' (or headlands) along former bund alignments which are known to attract roosting waterbirds, and also create several shallow pools to retain water for waterbirds to forage during periods of low tide in Deep Bay.


Black-faced Spoonbill inside the Reserve



*Black-faced Spoonbill roosting
at Mai Po Nature Reserve
Credit : Neil Fifer*

WWF's bird monitoring data confirmed 2015/16 as a poor winter for daytime roosting Black-faced Spoonbill inside Mai Po. The winter period began well with a 200 plus count in late November, but dropped to around 100 in early December then tailed off over the remaining winter; a trend observed in the last few winters. The reason is not clear. One theory is there are now a greater number of suitable roost sites within Deep Bay - Lok Ma Chau Ecological Enhancement Area, drained fishponds under the ECF Management Agreement Scheme and the Hong Kong Wetland Park - and Spoonbills are

utilizing them. Another potential factor might be reduced food availability, where it is speculated water quality or gei wai management changes are responsible for a gradual decline in gei wai productivity. WWF is investigating this.

Whilst a change in daytime roost preference is evident, Mai Po still supports a significant number of overnight roosting spoonbills. Casual observations by staff just after dusk and local bird researchers first thing in the morning noted flocks of 350 individuals inside Pond #8a (in front of the Tower Hide) and Gei wai #11a (in front of Hide #8). Presumably Black-faced Spoonbills find those areas to be safe and undisturbed at night. 



Some forest bird surveys in southern Guangdong Province

Text: Captain L.C. Wong, Siu Yuen and Matthew L. H. Kwan

Photo: Captain L.C. Wong


Forest birds in Guangdong have been surveyed extensively in the last two decades by experts in Hong Kong and mainland China (KFBG South China survey reports 2001-2004, Lewthwaite 1996). Their focus was primarily nature reserves in northern and central Guangdong, for instance the Nanling Nature Reserve, as these sites are less disturbed when compared with other places in Guangdong.

Regarding those in southern Guangdong, in particular those between Guangzhou/Dongguan and Hong Kong, the general perception, with a few exceptions like Nankunshan and Luofushan, is that most hillsides have been heavily degraded by a century of deforestation, in particular during the 1950s and 1960s. Assuming these hillsides were totally deforested at that time, the regenerated secondary forest should now be about 40 to 50-year-old, and so it is interesting to see what forest birds are now present there, and, whether there is any difference in the composition of forest bird species between HK and these areas. Also, could these areas of re-growth serve as important stopovers, in terms of dispersal of forest birds in this part of Guangdong?

Administratively, a number of provincial or city level forest parks were established in the last two decades (quoted from the Guangdong government website in 2011). These forest parks should not only function as recreational sites for the public, but also protected areas for terrestrial wildlife. As the basic facilities (e.g. trails) are improving, as is the road and rail infrastructure, having a day trip to these forest parks is now becoming feasible.

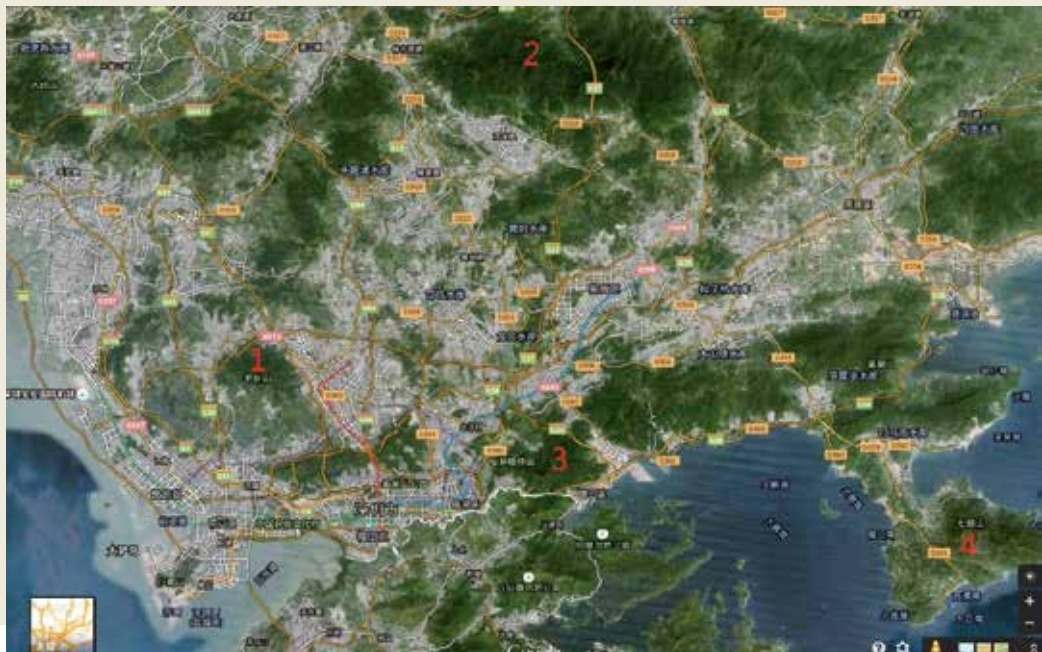
In view of these points, we are now conducting some “haphazard” surveys of nearby forests around Hong Kong, in particular those around Shenzhen, Dongguan and Huizhou. From the context of Hong Kong, these areas are about 10-150 km away and could potentially serve as stopover sites for forest bird dispersal. We visited four sites (Wutongshan 梧桐山, Yangtaishan 羊台山 and Qiniangshan 七娘山 in Shenzhen, and Yinpingshan 銀瓶山 in Dongguan) between Feb and April 2015. Both sites are semi-mature secondary forests. Yinpingshan is supposed to be the prime one, in terms of size of trees and coverage. All these sites are popular with local people. For instance, countless visitors were seen hiking up to the hilltop during the survey at Qiniangshan in March 2015. Previous bird surveys of these sites could be viewed at the reference list.

Interesting findings are Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo, Speckled Piculet, Slaty-legged Crane, Slaty-backed Forktail, Silver-eared Mesia and Red-billed Leiothrix at Yinpingshan, Lesser Shortwing and Red-billed Leiothrix at Qiniangshan, and Blue-winged Minla at Wutongshan. The records of Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo, Slaty-legged Crane and Silver-eared Mesia at Yinpingshan are new to this Forest Park. The record of Silver-eared Mesia is the second one in Guangdong (R. Lewthwaite pers comm). This record is out of expectation as this species was just recorded at two sites in southern China (Lee et al. 2006). While the presence of Red-billed Leiothrix at Yinpingshan and Qiniangshan may indicate that they are quite widespread in southern Guangdong. Both species are considered to be exotic in Hong Kong.

We will continue our surveys and plan to cover more similar forest parks in southern Guangdong, and also to re-visit these four sites. 

References:

- Lee K.S., Lau M. W.N., Fellowes J.R., and Chan B. P. L. 2006. Forest bird fauna of South China: notes on current distribution and status. *Forktail* 22: 23-38
- Lewthwaite, R.W., 1996. Forest birds of Southeast China: observations during 1984-1996. *Hong Kong Bird Report* 1995: 150-203
- Qiu C. Y., Zhuang P.D and Chang H. 2007. Avifauna and bird resource in Mount Yangtai Forest Park of Shenzhen City. *Ecologic Science* 26: 146-150 (In Chinese)
- Zhuang X., Cao S.K. and G.G. Hu. 2013. Animal Resources Survey in Dapeng Peninsular National Geopark of Shenzhen. *Tropical Geography* 33: 582-587 (In Chinese)
- Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden. 2001 -2004. South China Forest Biodiversity Report Series. <http://www.kfbg.org/eng/kcc-resources.aspx>
- Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden. 2001. Report of a Rapid Biodiversity Assessment at Wutongshan National Forest Park, Shenzhen Special Economic Zone, China, 16 to 17 May 2001.
- South China Institute of Endangered Animals. 2011. 東莞銀瓶山自然保護區動物調查報告 (A report on the fauna survey of Yinpingshan Nature Reserve, Dongguan; In Chinese only).
- The location of Yangtaishan 羊台山 (1), Yinpingshan 銀瓶山 (2), Wutongshan 梧桐山 (3) and Qiniangshan 七娘山 (4) in Guangdong





黄腹鸫
路人乙
塬原

Buff-bellied Pipit
passerby-b
Long Valley

20/03/2016
DSLR Camera, 800mm f/5.6 lens

紅喉潛鳥
潘士強
南丫島

Red-throated Loon
Jason Pun
Lamma Island

28/03/2016
DSLR Camera, 200- 500mm f/5.6 lens



紅喉潛鳥
何錦榮
南丫島

Red-throated Loon
Ho Kam Wing
Lamma Island

18/03/2016
DSLR Camera, 200- 500mm f/5.6 lens



紅喉潛鳥
余伯全
南丫島

Red-throated Loon
Ractis John
Lamma Island

19/03/2016

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

漁鷗
潘士強
米埔

Pallas's Gull
Jason Pun
Mai Po

28/02/2016
DSLR Camera, 200- 500mm f/5.6 lens +
1.4x teleconverter



費氏鷗
余伯全
米埔

Franklin's Gull
Ractis John
Mai Po

13/02/2016
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter





Buzzard

Wizard in the City

Photo/Text: Samson So (Eco Institute)

Hong Kong is about 1100 square kilometres large, with a population of 7 million. Our home is a well-developed international city and is one of the most densely populated regions in the world. However, if we are willing to observe and understand our rich biodiversity, we will be able to see many miracles of nature.

People living in urban areas always need to work hard for a living, and generally take less interest in enjoying nature. Actually, birds can act as an introduction to the beauties of nature. If we are able to open our minds and understand, all may be revealed.

Many people still misunderstand that appreciation of nature is not limited to those who are living in the countryside. Some of them do not realise that observing nature can be a hobby or a source of pleasure.

In fact, nature hasn't set a limit for anyone. If - and only if - people have the interest, they can put down their mobile phones and start appreciating nature all about them.

If high-rise buildings and bridges are not your cup of tea, you may get some pleasure from observing birds flying in the sky. In Hong Kong, Black Kites are our common urban raptor. Their large wingspan and their forked tails reveal their identity. Furthermore, House Swifts and Barn Swallows are also very commonly seen in groups of ten or twenty.

*White-breasted
Kingfisher*



Urban parks are good starting places for us to learn about nature. These places are not only for human leisure but good habitat for the shelter and food of wildlife. Maybe you could try bringing your lunch box over to your nearest park during lunch time. It can be a good time for meeting with the nature even it is only for 15 minutes or half an hour.

Apart from sitting-out areas, urban parks are equipped with green spots or water pools for wildlife to rest and feed at. Plantations inside the parks also provide food for birds. Chinese Bulbul, Red-whiskered Bulbul, laughing thrushes, starlings, and Asian Koel will feed on fruit. Sunbirds, flower peckers and Japanese White-eyes feed on nectar and can be seen around flowers. In addition, plants can also attract insects and birds which feed on insects, such as flycatchers, warblers and Magpie Robin.

Around the grassland and at the poolside of the park, we can find birds which mainly feed on seeds, such as munias, Tree Sparrows, and Spotted Doves. Mynas and Greater Coucal may be feeding on worms. Looking at busy birds finding food, I could imagine how humans are working hard for their living.

Some of the big parks have artificial water features with captive (wing-clipped) birds. These places are also good for observing wildlife. Egrets and kingfishers are common visitors at such places, where they can feed on small fish and insects in the water.

Spotted Doves





Black-faced Laughing-thrush



Peregrine Falcon

Birds living around the parks are used to the presence of humans. If we slow down and observe our surroundings, we are able to appreciate the world of birds. For bird watching or bird photography beginners, our well-managed parks are good places to get started with a modestly-priced pair of binoculars. Many people take cameras with them, to easily make records of birds and share the happiness of observation.

Our big city may look like a prohibited area for wildlife. However, concrete canyons can make a unique environment for opportunistic and adaptable species. Urban parks are oases for wildlife, especially birds. Adaptable and observant humans can gain many insights from these convenient windows into the natural world. 🐦



Common Kingfisher

Dong Dong Ting Hu 洞庭湖 and Hengshan 衡山,

24-28th March 2016

Text: Tim Woodward

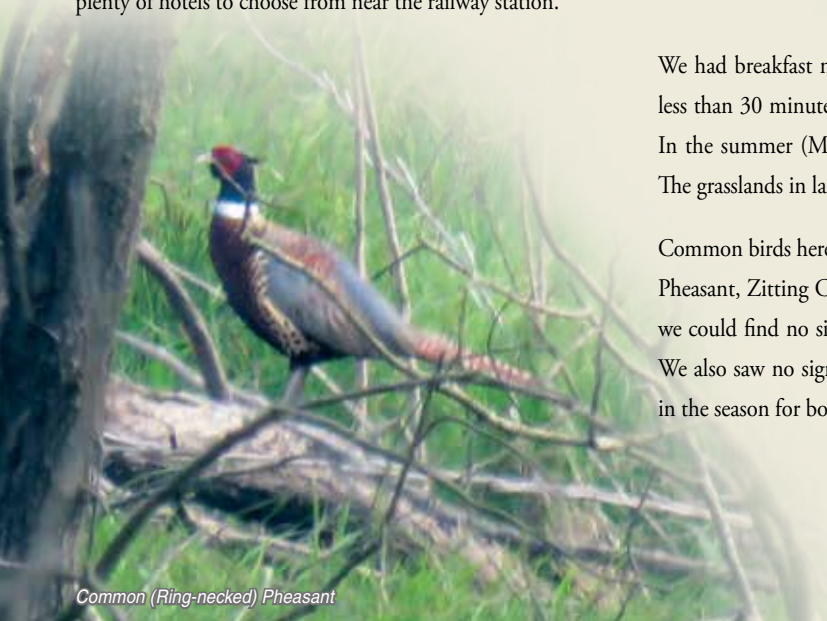


We took four days over Easter for a family trip to these two sites as they are very conveniently reached by train from Shenzhen. There is an overnight sleeper train which departs from Shenzhen East at 6.50pm, arriving in Yueyang 岳陽 in northern Hunan at 7.35am the following morning. Yueyang is just south of the Yangtze and a pleasant sized city with plenty of hotels to choose from near the railway station.



We had breakfast nearby and took a taxi out to Junshanisland. It takes less than 30 minutes by taxi to the grasslands to the north of the island. In the summer (May onwards) a ferry runs from Yueyang to Junshan. The grasslands in late March were already full of pink and yellow flowers

Common birds here are Eastern Spotbill Ducks, Common (Ring-necked) Pheasant, Zitting Cisticola. The Marsh Grassbird should be here too but we could find no sign of it. It is easier to find later in spring apparently. We also saw no signs of either cranes or geese though it was getting late in the season for both.



Common (Ring-necked) Pheasant



Dusky Thrushes



Eurasian Skylark



Azure-winged Magpie

Dusky Thrushes perched in the dead reedbeds and Vinous-throated Parrotbills flitted through these as well. A black and white harrier (presumably Pied) glided above the reeds in the distant mist. Closer by we saw a small group of Silky Starlings in the trees. Eurasian Skylark and Buff-bellied Pipit were also located here.

On the second morning at the same site I found a group of about twenty Fantail/Common Snipe near the dam area. There were few waders though. Azure-winged Magpies are common around Junshan as well, though introduced.

Chinese Hares are found in the Yue Yang market and were apparently caught on the grasslands.

In Yueyang the weeping willow trees below the battlements near the famous tower were full of singing Pallas's Warblers, White-cheeked Laughingthrushes and a single Little Bunting.

Our second site visited was Hengshan, one of China's five famous Holy Mountains. We were there on a holiday and the mountain was packed with tourists and a few pilgrims in rope sandals. The best strategy is to get a bus up to the top cable car terminal and then walk the last 45 minutes to the summit. However, be aware that the summit area never seems to be very birdy. On this trip we had a few Asian House Martins soaring overhead at the summit but other than that there were few birds there beyond Chinese Bulbuls and Cinereous Tits (clearly Cinereous and not Eastern Great Tit).



White-capped Redstart



Collared Finchbill

Much better was the broadleaf forest between the entrance and the lower cable car station. There is a path behind the small area of lunch restaurants that leads through Poetry Rocks. Follow this path and there are other smaller paths heading off to the left where you should soon find yourself well away from tourists. In this area we quickly recorded Eurasian Siskin, Rufous-faced Warbler, Goodson's/Claudia's Warbler, Eastern Crowned Warbler, Speckled Piculet, Collared Finchbill as well as more common Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler, Rufous-capped Babbler and Grey-cheeked Fulvetta. We also had a possible Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler. On previous trips we have also had Grey-headed Woodpecker and Green-backed Tit. It was interesting to me that Kloss's Warbler, so common at Lushan, appeared to be absent here. Striped squirrels are common in the woods here and there were some interesting flowering woodland plants as well such as dead nettles and species of corydalis.

White-capped Redstart and White-crowned Forktail are found along the streams here in the lower slopes of the hills.

Down near the small town the following morning I added several additional species including Eurasian Jay and Yellow-bellied Tit.

The bullet train back to Shenzhen North from Hengshan West costs Rmb300 and took just 3 hours. Book as early as possible because they do get full up quite quickly.

As a four day trip this was a really pleasant break. More details and pictures can be found on my website southchinabirder.com



Oriental Turtle Dove

Text: Richard Lewthwaite

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

January

- ▶ After an unseasonably warm opening three weeks of the month, temperatures plummeted on 23rd-24th as an intense winter surge brought Hong Kong its coldest days since 1957 – down to about 1 Celsius over much of the lowlands and minus 6 on top of Tai Mo Shan. It was also the wettest January on record. Nearly all the key birds were found in the mild first three weeks of the month, and the cold weather, though deadly to some small passerines, seems not to have brought either rarities or influxes from further north.
- ▶ The star bird was a drake **American Wigeon**, a potential Hong Kong 1st, found and photographed in front of the Mai Po boardwalk on 17th (M&PW) and intermittently seen to the month's end. Two warblers, both potential 1st records, were found at Tai Po Kau – a possible **Sichuan Leaf Warbler** on 3rd (OW) and a possible **La Touche's Leaf Warbler** on 12th (LS, MLT) - though it is unclear at the time of writing whether the identification of either bird has been conclusively established.
- ▶ The only other rarity found was a **White-bellied Green Pigeon** at Kuk Po on 12th (JAA), about the 10th record for Hong Kong and the second of the winter. An **Ashy Minivet** at Lau Shui Heung on 14th (DAD) was unprecedented, there being no previous Hong Kong records between the end of November and the middle of March, though occasional winter records are known for southwest Guangdong and Hainan. Coverage of Mai Po and Pui O led to further sightings of the **Franklin's Gull**, **Greenish Warbler** and **Booted Warbler** found earlier in the winter.
- ▶ Results of the January waterbird count were disappointing and showed that the decline in overall numbers in Deep Bay over the past few winters has not started to reverse (YTY, IT). Nevertheless a wide variety of large and medium-sized gulls were present during the month. A roost which formed fairly regularly in front of the new boardwalk hide attracted up to 290 **Heuglin's Gulls**, five **Mongolian (Caspian) Gulls**, and one or two **Common**, **Slaty-backed**, **Pallas's** and **Vega Gulls** (IT, DAD, PJJ, RWL), whilst shorebird sightings included 63 **Great Knot**, possibly a record mid-winter count, and a summer-plumaged **Curlew Sandpiper** on 14th (RWL) as well as a **Nordmann's Greenshank** and a **Long-billed Dowitcher** on 30th (MLT). There were also reports of a **Dusky Thrush** at Mai Po on 20th (JAA), a **Himalayan Swiftlet** there on 21st (CFL) and a male **Black-headed Bunting** at San Tin fishponds on 21st (GJC). Following on from late December, up to eight **Northern House Martins** remained over fishponds near Mai Po on 1st-2nd (OC, MLT), with one or two nearby at San Tin on 21st-23rd (GJC, EMSK), the first-ever mid-winter records of the species, while the over-wintering **Black-necked Grebe** was seen near Mai Po again on 11th (JAA).
- ▶ Reports from other open habitats in the NT included a male **Russet Sparrow** at Fanling on 3rd (CT), a **Black-headed Bunting** at Sham Chung on 7th (JAA), 15 **Chinese Penduline Tits** at Kuk Po on 12th (JAA), 10 **Asian House Martins** near Kam Sheung station on 23rd (CFL) and a female **Mandarin Duck** there on 23rd and 30th (CFL, JAA). Also of note were sightings of **Oriental Greenfinches** in the eastern NT, with 12 at Tap Mun on 1st (MDW), four at Kuk Po on 12th (JAA) and three at Shuen Wan on 30th (RWL).



▶ Forest birds at Tai Po Kau included a male **Fujian Niltava** on 6th (PH) and 12th (MLT), a **Chestnut-crowned Warbler** on 6th and 23rd (PH, DT), a **Sulphur-breasted Warbler** and four **Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrushes** on 23rd (DT, DAD), and a **Crested Honey Buzzard** on 25th (PKK). Among a wide range of resident and wintering birds reported at Shek Kong Catchwater, which was again regularly covered, were a **Speckled Piculet** on 2nd, a **Raddes's Warbler** through the month and peak counts of six **Red-flanked Bluetails** on 6th and seven **Daurian Redstarts** and three **Grey Bushchats** on 22nd (all JC). In addition to attracting the **Ashy Minivet** mentioned above, Lau Shui Heung also hosted a **Dusky Thrush** on 3rd (DAD), a **Speckled Piculet** on 14th (DAD) and a male **White-throated Rock Thrush** on 25th (KB), whilst Wonderland Villas, Kwai Chung held 30 **Chestnut-collared Yuhinas** on 16th and a male **White-tailed Robin** on 27th (TJW).

▶ A **Brown Bush Warbler** at Yi O on 18th (JAA) was possibly a first record for Lantau Island and a **Bull-headed Shrike** on Victoria Peak possibly the first for Hong Kong Island. Other notable birds from Lantau included an **Orange-headed Thrush** at Tai O on 18th (JAA) and up to five **Dusky Thrushes** and 13 **Little Buntings** at Chek Lap Kok on 25th-27th (EMSK), whilst an observation of nesting **Emerald Doves** at Cheung Chau on 14th (MDW) was very surprising in view of the early date.

February

▶ Rarest birds of the month were single **Chinese Thrushes** at Ho Man Tin on 16th (KPC) and Pui O on 21st (PA), potential 5th and 6th records for Hong Kong, which were found during an influx of thrushes. The only other newly arrived rarity of a cool and dry month was an unidentified waxwing at Airfield Road on 23rd (per TML). The thrush influx was noted at widespread localities including Lamma on 13th (JAA), Tai Tong on 22nd (TML), Pui O on 27th (EMSK) and Shek Kong Catchwater on 29th (JC), with **Grey-backed Thrush** the most numerous species followed by **Japanese** and **Pale**; both **Dusky** and **Brown-headed** were more widespread than usual, whilst **White's** and **Eyebrowed Thrushes** were only occasionally sighted.

▶ In Deep Bay, two of the key birds from earlier in the winter were seen again - the **American Wigeon** up to at least 27th (P&MW) and the **Franklin's Gull** on at least four dates up to 20th (WKC, JY, JGH, MK). Among other notable reports from the area were a **Cinammon Bittern** (quite rare in winter) at Mai Po on 4th (RWL, RB), a **Northern Lapwing** on 6th-7th (JAA, WKC), 112 **Great Knot** on 11th (JAA), an unusually large number for the time of year, a **Nordmann's Greenshank** and **Long-billed Dowitcher** also on 11th (JAA), and a first-winter **Pallas's Gull** on 13th and 26th (JH, RWL), all from the boardwalk. Reports from Long Valley included a **Long-toed Stint**, **Dusky Thrush**, **Citrine Wagtail** and **Buff-bellied Pipit** on 15th (DAD) and one or two **Eastern Water Rails** on 20th and 28th (MK, KCK). Elsewhere in the northern NT, there were reports of a **Crested Honey Buzzard** at Fanling Golf Course on 12th (JAA), a male **Bull-headed Shrike** at Kam Sheung Station on 13th (JAA) and 10 **Oriental Greenfinches** at Kuk Po on 25th (RWL, RB).

▶ Birds of interest at Tai Po Kau included a **Crested Honey Buzzard** on 5th (PKK), a **White-spectacled Warbler** on 10th (LS), one or two **Brown Wood Owls** on 12th and 14th (JH, GT), a **Hume's Leaf Warbler**, **Sulphur-breasted Warbler** and **Chestnut-crowned Warbler** on 21st (LS), and one or two **Bay Woodpeckers** throughout the month (DT). A visit to Shek Kong Catchwater on 6th (JC) brought reports of two **Speckled Piculets**, two **Raddes's Warblers**, three **Grey Bushchats** and three **Ashy Drongos**. Other notable birds found there included an **Orange-headed Thrush** on 9th, a **Hume's Leaf Warbler** on 21st and a **Brown Bush Warbler** on 24th (JC).



▶ In addition to the Chinese Thrush, rarest birds reported in Kowloon were a **Radde's Warbler** at Ho Man Tin on 20th (KPC) and a **Brown-headed Thrush** at Kwai Chung on 28th (CYW).

▶ An **Orange-bellied Leafbird** at Tai Tam on 6th (JAA) was possibly a new record for Hong Kong Island. Among a variety of birds reported from Lantau (EMSK except as indicated) were up to five **Dusky Thrushes** at Chek Lap Kok through the month, nine **Grey-headed Lapwings** there on 9th, a **Common Rosefinch** at Ngong Ping on 9th, two **Grey Bushchats** at Yi O on 18th (MDW), single **Brown-headed Thrushes** at Tai O and Pui O (PA) on 21st, and a **Bull-headed Shrike** at Pui O on 27th. At Cheung Chau, a **Brown Fish Owl** was present on 4th (MDW).

March

▶ A **Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon** at Pak Sha O between 6th and 9th (GJC), the first for Hong Kong and, remarkably, the fifth *Treron* species to be recorded in the territory, was the highlight of the month. One other rarity, a **Red-throated Diver**, only the 5th for Hong Kong, was found at Yung Shue Wan, Lamma on 14th (per GW) and remained into April, and two species which have become increasingly rare in recent years were reported - a **Naumann's Thrush** at Mount Davis on 25th (per CFL) and a **Ruddy Shelduck** at Mai Po on 31st (KL).

▶ Also found in the month were a **Brown-chested Jungle Flycatcher** at Tai Tong on 18th (per MLT), potentially the first spring record of the species, and an unusually early **Himalayan / Oriental Cuckoo** at Lam Tsuen from 9th to 12th (JAA), only the second record before the last week of March.

▶ The month brought earliest ever spring records of **Siberian Blue Robin** – one at Lung Fu Shan on 29th (TCL), the earliest spring date by 3 days, followed by singles at Po Toi (GW) and Lamma (GM) on 31st – and very good numbers of **Narcissus and Blue-and-white Flycatchers**, with peak counts of five **Narcissus** (all males) at Shek Kong Catchwater on 25th (JC), equalling the highest count of the species, and six **Blue-and-white** (four males, two females) at Po Toi on 26th (GW). The **Blue-and-white Flycatcher** reports included at least four males thought to show characteristics of the subspecies *intermedia* – at Shek Kong Catchwater on 15th (JAPW), Shatin Pass on 16th (LS), Lung Fu Shan on 17th (HT) and Lamma on 18th (JAA) – as well as at least five males from 16th showing characteristics of the nominate subspecies.

▶ As usual, the month saw a great departure of wintering waterbirds from the Deep Bay area. The over-wintering **Franklin's Gull** was seen on just one day, the 11th (JAA). An unusual duck, thought to be a **Northern Shoveler x Garganey hybrid**, was found on 16th (JAA). Spring passage of shorebirds and waterbirds was not particularly strong or varied at this stage, though there were reports of two **Long-billed Dowitchers** and over 100 **Curlew Sandpipers** on 11th (JAA), an **Oriental Plover** on 30th (DAD), and 278 **Great Knot**, 74 **Caspian Terns** and 85 **Gull-billed Terns** on 31st (RWL, HKY). Notable reports from the reserve at Mai Po included **Asian House Martins** in good numbers on 11th-13th (JGH, KH), ten **Grey-faced Buzzards**, the peak count of the month, on 25th (DAD), a **Japanese Yellow Bunting** on 29th (MK) and four **Blue-tailed Bee-eaters**, the first of the spring, on 31st (JAA), whilst rarest landbirds at Long Valley were up to three **Russet Sparrows** between 14th and 28th (PH, RWL, DAD) and two **Japanese Yellow Buntings** on 25th (MK).



- ▶ Among reports from forest/shrubland sites in the NT were a **Large Hawk Cuckoo**, the first of the spring, at Shing Mun on 3rd (SLT), a **Black-throated Tit** at Tai Po Kau on 3rd (LS), a **Chinese Barbet** singing there from 5th (DT, OW), one or two **Grey Bushchats** at Shek Kong Catchwater up to 11th (JC), one of the **Radde's Warblers** there until 16th (JC), single **Ferruginous Flycatchers** at Ng Tung Chai on 18th and Tai Po Kau on 20th (both JAA), a **Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush** at KFBG on 20th (P&MW) and two **Silver-backed Needletails** at Shek Kong Catchwater on 28th (JC). In addition, five **Brown-flanked Bush Warblers** and a **Russet Bush Warbler** were noted at Ma On Shan on 5th (TJW).
- ▶ Kowloon Park attracted two very fine birds early in the month – a male **Fujian Niltava** on 1st-3rd (WHY) and a male **Siberian Thrush** on 3rd (YWF) – and at Ho Man Tin the over-wintering **Radde's Warbler** was present until at least 10th (KPC).
- ▶ Coverage of the islands led to reports of eight **Red-tailed Robins** at Chek Lap Kok on 17th (EMSK), two **Silver-backed Needletails** at Yung Shue Wan on 18th (J&JH), a **Brown Fish Owl** at Cheung Chau on 19th (per CFL), 120 **Red-necked Phalaropes** from the Po Toi ferry on 22nd (GW), five **Grey-faced Buzzards** and an **Eastern Crowned Warbler** at Tai O on 26th (EMSK), a **Japanese Yellow Bunting** at Po Toi on 28th (LS), a **Swinhoe's Minivet** at Po Toi on 31st (WKN), a very late **White-throated Rock Thrush** at Lamma on 30th (GM), a **Swinhoe's Minivet** at Po Toi on 31st (GW) and five **Oriental Plovers** and 16 **Oriental Pratincoles** at Chek Lap Kok also on 31st (EMSK).

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), J.A.M. "Kwok-Jai" Cheung (JAMC), T.M. Cheung (TMC), Vivian Cheung (VC), Owen Chiang (OC), Gary Chow (GKLC), K.P. Chow (KPC), Francis Chu (FC), W.K. "Wah-Jai" 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), unknown Hong Kong Bird Watching Society members (HKBWS), Jemi Wong (JAPW), John Holmes (JGH), Herman Ip (HI), Kadoorie Farm and Botanical Garden staff (KFBG), E. Hui (EH), Mike Kilburn (EMSK), Koel Ko (KK), K.C. Kong (KCK), P.K. Kwan (PKK), Matthew Kwan (MK), Paul Leader (PjL), Kenny Lee (KHL), Mike Leven (MRL), Katherine Leung (KL), Richard Lewthwaite (RWL), Benjiman Li (BL), T.C. Li (TCL), C.F. "Fai-jai" Lo (CFL), 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 Schuster (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 Jul - Dec 2016

Outings				
Date	Duration	Time and site	Difficulties(1...3)	Target species
3/9/2016 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Luk Keng (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Exit C, Fanling Rail Station)	☆☆	Forest birds & Waterbirds
11/9/2016 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Shing Mun (08:00 Kiosk at Pineapple Dam, Shing Mun Reservoir)	☆☆	Forest birds
17/9/2016 (Sat)	0800 - 1600	Mai Po Nature Reserve (12yrs old & above only) (08:00 Kowloon Tong MTR Station (Kent Road exit), OR 09:00 Mai Po carpark, end 15:00 Mai Po, 16:00 Kowloon Tong)	☆☆	Waterbirds
25/9/2016 (Sun)	TBC	Wild Card Day (Details will be announced on Sep 23 on Discussion Forum)		
1/10/2016 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Ng Tung Choi (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 64K Bus-stop outside Tai Wu Station (near Exit A))	☆☆	Forest birds
2/10/2016 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	Po Toi Island (08:00 Aberdeen Pier (Public Ferry Pier to Po Toi Island)) <i>Note: Participants have to pay for their own ferry fee. The returning time is not fixed, so participants may decide their own returning time.</i>	☆☆	Migrants
9/10/2016 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Long Valley (08:00 Pavilion beside public toilet at Yin Kong Village)	☆☆	Farmland and water birds
16/10/2016 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	Mai Po Nature Reserve (12yrs old & above only) (08:00 Kowloon Tong MTR Station (Kent Road /F Exit), OR 09:00 Mai Po carpark, end 15:00 Mai Po, 16:00 Kowloon Tong)	☆☆	Waterbirds
23/10/2016 (Sun)	TBC	Wild Card Day (Details will be announced on Oct 21on Discussion Forum)		
5/11/2016 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Nam Sang Wai (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 V Cuisine Restaurant, Exit G2, Yuen Long West Rail Station)	☆☆	Waterbirds
12/11/2016 (Sat)	0800 - 1400	Mai Po Nature Reserve (Not visiting boardwalk/ 4 yrs old & above only) (08:00 Kowloon Tong MTR Station (Kent Road /F Exit), OR 09:00 Mai Po carpark, end 13:00 Mai Po, 14:00 Kowloon Tong)	☆☆	Waterbirds
20/11/2016 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	Po Toi Island (08:00 Aberdeen Ferry 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
27/11/2016 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Tai Po Kau (08:00 Tai Po Kau carpark)	☆☆☆	Forest birds
3/12/2016 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Tai Sang Wai (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Bus Stop outside Café de Coral near Hang Heung Cake Shop, Yuen Long)	☆☆	Waterbirds
11/12/2016 (Sun)	TBC	Wild Card Day (Details will be announced on Dec 9 on Discussion Forum)		
18/12/2016 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Pui O (08:00 Exit B, Tung Chung MTR Station)	☆☆	Wintering forest & farmland birds
24/12/2016 (Sat)	0800 - 1200	Tai Po Kau (08:00 Tai Po Kau carpark)	☆☆☆	Forest birds

Member: Free of Charge

Non-member: Free of Charge

(Registration not required)

Member: Free of Charge

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

(Registration not required)

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

Non-member: HK\$ 120

(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.

鴛鴦 - 雌鳥
陳志達
錦田河

Mandarin Duck - female
Chan Chi Tat
Kam Tin River

10/01/2016
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter



綠眉鴨
房遠榮
米埔

American Wigeon
Fong Yuen Wing
Mai Po

26/01/2016
DSLR Camera, 120- 300mm f/2.8 lens +
2x teleconverter





羅紋鴨
駱正華
米埔

Falcated Duck
Lok Ching Wa Kevin
Mai Po

27/02/2016
DSLR Camera, 400mm f/2.8 lens + 2x teleconverter

更多施華洛世奇光學資訊，請訪問：
WWW.SW-OPTIK.COM

全新 EL 系列 無限完美



新的 EL 系列是施華洛世奇光學有史以來最好的雙筒望遠鏡。
其配備的專業功能套服讓新 EL 的舒適性和功能性再上新高度。
新 EL 卓越的光學性能及精度、出色的人體工程學和設計革新，讓它成為遠距離觀測的杰作。
施華洛世奇光學 – 更加享受的時刻。



官方微信

SEE THE UNSEEN
WWW.SW-OPTIK.COM

香港:

AXIS Tel: 2885 4799 (Mong Kok)
Eco Institute Tel: 2789 2306 (Kwai Chung)
Good World Tel: 2543 5657 (Central)
Image Digital Tel: 2771 6838 (TelFord)
Kowloon Photo Tel: 2384 9302 (Yau Ma Tei)
Supreme Company Tel: 2780 8818 (Mong Kok)
WWF Tel: 2526 1011 (Mai Po)
L&N Tel: 3907 0282 (CWB)

Standard Audio & Photo Tel: 2735 0005 (TST)
Tin Cheung Tel: 2722 1265 (TST) Tel: 2722 1363 (CWB)
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



SWAROVSKI
OPTIK



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

A Chestnut-eared Bunting is perched on a dry, brown reed. The bird has a yellowish-brown head with a prominent reddish-brown patch on its cheek. Its body is covered in intricate brown and black streaks, with a lighter, more uniform color on its underparts. The bird's beak is short and pointed, and its legs are thin and pinkish. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a natural habitat.

栗耳鵯
李啟康
塋原

Chestnut-eared Bunting
oLDcaR Lee
Long Valley

14/02/2016
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens