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會員通訊

247

Spring 2018 ~ 春



HKBWS

香港觀鳥會
The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society





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余伯全
米埔

Northern Lapwing
Ractis John
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04/11/2017
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The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

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Counting our little neighbours – Sparrow Census 2018



Our natural environment, including many organisms, provides us various benefits known as ecosystem services, for example, forests as carbon sequestration, many bacteria for waste decomposition and detoxification, and ecotourism as recreational experience. Birds are one important group of animals that offers us many services such as food provisioning and pest control. Interestingly, birds are also said to be good indicators of the health of our environment. In the past, canaries were brought into coal mines by miners to detect poisonous gas like carbon monoxide. When the birds showed sign of poisoning, miners knew to put on a mask or escape before they had the same fate of the birds. Another well-known example comes from the story of Silent Spring: there was a sudden silence of songs of birds when people were so desperate to spray deadly toxic chemicals to suppress the growth of pests and weeds back in the 1950's, thus we knew it was time to act.

In Hong Kong, bird monitoring was also implemented for examining the health of the environment. A Monthly Waterbird Count has been conducted since early 1990's to assess the regional waterbird population and the condition of the Deep Bay area. Yet some species prefer staying close to us rather than in the Country Parks or other protected areas. Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* is a small resident passerine in Hong Kong which almost exclusively inhabits the urban part of the city. We barely see any of them in the countryside. This little species had drawn scant attention in the past where little study or research focused on it. It is understandable why it was overlooked, due to its common status, but at the same time, its commonness and easiness to detect make it a perfect species for monitoring.

In order to understand the ecology of birds especially in an urban setting, HKBWS started a Sparrow Census in 2016: surveying Eurasian Tree Sparrow in all 18 districts of Hong Kong. In the study, we have been not only interested in collecting the bird data, but also in public engagement. The collaboration between scientists and the general public for research is known as Citizen Science,





which had been introduced in the mid-1990s in the U.S. and now becomes a popular research tool worldwide. It was argued that the accuracy and preciseness of the data generated by the public were questionable, such bias could be improved and compensated by proper training and increased sample size. Meanwhile, it provides a wonderful platform to let the public appreciate the intrinsic value of nature, and even raise their awareness to different environmental issues.

In the Sparrow Census, we provided a training and mock censuses for the public to introduce them the project background, our goals and how we were going to achieve them. We recruited 618 and 427 participants in the Census 2016 and 2017 respectively, which comprised families, students, nature-lovers and people who were interested in research. We obtained highly similar counts from the two census: 1,355 birds per km² in 2016 and 1,434 per km² in 2017. This gives us an estimate of approximately 300,000 sparrows inhabiting urban Hong Kong. The census have provided us new insights into the ecology of sparrows and important baseline information on how urban wildlife utilises every corner of the city.

Urban ecology has become a hot research field worldwide because it could nurture unique wildlife composition and this novel habitat is expanding so rapidly. For example, the Australian Government looks for new technologies and solutions to reduce urban ecological footprints and improve the sustainability of its cities. With the initiation of Sparrow Census, we introduce an important step to monitor the condition of the urban ecosystem in Hong Kong – a powerful tool to monitor how friendly our city is to the wildlife within. However, it is not easy to generate such a massive dataset without the continued support of the general public on a yearly basis. We hereby encourage every bird- and nature-lover to participate in the upcoming census in May 2018. In case you are interested, please stay tuned for the details of this event.



4th Fishpond Festival Carnival – Through the past years of fishponds



Hong Kong's economy grew rapidly in the 1970s. Until the 1980s, it was the best decade for Hong Kong. Not just finance and industrial production, but also the fish farming industry flourished at that time.

More than 400 participants joined the carnival. "Through the past years of fishponds" and "nostalgia" were the themes of the carnival. Participants cherished the memory of the history of the fish farming industry. Some of the 2nd generation of fish farmers were born in the 1980s. They were parents already and attended the carnival with their children and elderly relatives. In order to introduce the past lifestyle and traditional fish farming practices to the young generation, some activities such as traditional net weaving, blown sugar technique, vintage coins throwing game and a nostalgic household products display were organised. The opening ceremony was held by Under Secretary for the Environment Mr. TSE Chin Wan. All guests held the traditional harvesting net in the opening ceremony to represent abundant harvests and the sustainable development of the fish farming industry.

We express our gratitude to all supporters. Thanks to Yeungs Marine Products Limited, Mr. Lai Loi Chau, Amoy and Canon Hong Kong to sponsor the gifts. Thanks also to all volunteers and Tai Sang Wai villagers for joining and supporting the event.



Win-win-win Eco-fish Benefits to animals, environment and human.

Our first pond of Eco-fish was raised in last December. The product was introduced to the public by “Farmfest” organized by AFCD in the mid-January.

“Eco-Fish” is farmed by eco-friendly and bird-friendly way:

1. No bird expelling facilities: At our “Eco-fish” pond, you will not see any facilities that would hinder birds from foraging and staying at the pond.
2. Extended low water level: Traditional fish-farming drains the pond for 4 to 7 days while harvesting. At our “Eco-fish” pond, we extend the low-water-level period to 14 days to benefit both migratory birds and the fishpond itself.
3. Low-density fish farming: We adopt low-density fish farming in order to reduce the chances of disease. Therefore, fish farmer do not need to use antibiotics or medicine during the rearing stage.
4. Polyculture methods: We use mixed fish farming in raising Grey Mullet, Grass Carp and Bighead Carp in order to make full use of the fishpond resources.
5. AFCD Accredited Fish Farm: Our “Eco-fish” pond is accredited by the AFCD Accredited Fish Farm Scheme, to ensure that fish raised are absolutely safe for consumption.



Most importantly, we held an Eco-fish donation campaign “Eco-fish for all”, as we believe that these healthy eco-fish should be of benefit to all of us. With the help of Food Grace, Christian Concern for the Homeless Association, Food Angel, St. Stephen’s Society, and Jubilee Ministries, we have sent over 1100 catty of eco-fish to beneficiaries together with local fish farmer. One of the fish farmers expressed “Sharing tasty eco-fishes is meaningful though it is a hard task as they are heavy.”

Thank you everyone who has donated to “Eco-fish for all”.



Conservation



Any hope for the wetlands and farmlands at Sha Ling?

Perhaps you may not notice when you are on the train heading towards Lo Wu, there are some agricultural lands right next to the railway at Sha Ling in Sheung Shui. Actually, the fishponds, wetlands and farmlands there are of special conservation importance.

The Feasibility Study of the Land Use Planning for Closed Area completed back in 2010 already stated, the bird community of the wet agriculture and fishpond area south of Sandy Ridge cemetery is very similar to that of Long Valley. A number of wetland-dependent, conservation-significant and locally range-restricted species were recorded, including the Greater Painted-snipe of local concern, which the Society's 2014 bird record also reconfirmed its presence in the area. Besides, the globally near threatened Eurasian Otter was recorded as well. The area together with the fishponds, wetlands and farmlands along the Ng Tung River is an important foraging area for the breeding ardeids at the Ho Sheung Heung egretty. It also acts as an important ecological corridor in connecting Long Valley and the Deep Bay wetland ecosystem, and forms part of the "Inner Deep Bay and Shenzhen River catchment" Important Bird Area recognized by BirdLife International.

Imminent development pressure

The wetland and farmlands in the area were preserved in the past, due to being located within the restricted Frontier Closed Area (FCA). However, development pressure increased after the FCA opened up. The wetlands and farmlands south of Sandy Ridge cemetery is currently zoned as "Agriculture" (AGR) under the Fu Tei Au and Sha Ling Outline Zoning Plan. During 2014 and 2015, the Town Planning Board (TPB) received 3 planning applications for temporary goods reshuffling yards (A/NE-FTA/151), temporary frontier shopping centre (A/NE-FTA/152), and temporary unloading/loading platforms (A/NE-FTA/156) respectively. The Society submitted our objections to TPB. Various Government departments did not support the application as the applicant failed to demonstrate the proposed

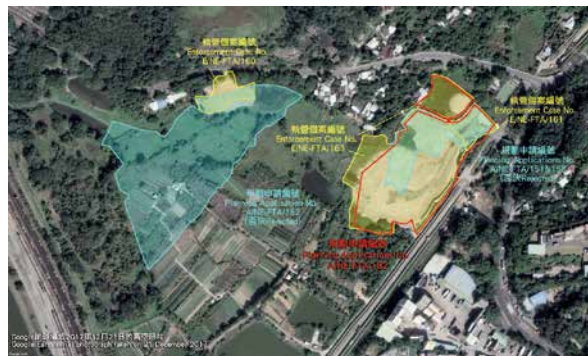
development would have no adverse traffic, environmental and landscape impacts on the surroundings. TPB eventually rejected the three planning application as it was not in line with the planning intention of the AGR zone and approval would set undesirable precedent for similar applications.

The preliminary concepts for the New Territories North Development was mentioned in the "Hong Kong 2030+: Towards a planning vision and strategy transcending 2030" announced by the Government. In the strategic plan, a 35-hectare Man Kam To Logistic corridor was proposed right next to the fishponds, wetlands and farmlands of conservation concern in Sha Ling. However, illegal dumping and filling is commonly seen at agricultural land in the New Territories, and the development threat faced by farmland is much greater than that of other conservation zonings. So how could the Government ensure the proposed logistic development and related activities will not encroach into the wetlands and farmlands of conservation concern just across the road?

Unfortunately, illegal land and pond filling has already occurred. Approximately 2 hectares of abandoned fishponds and fallow farmlands were filled in 2017. Planning Department investigated and issued Enforcement Notices and Reinstatement Notices. Yet early this year, a planning application related to agriculture use at the filled area was submitted to TPB, requesting for permission to fill land and pond for the proposed hydroponic farm. The applicant claimed that part of the site already obtained approval from District Lands Office (North), Environmental Protection Department and Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for the land filling works and the hydroponic farm.

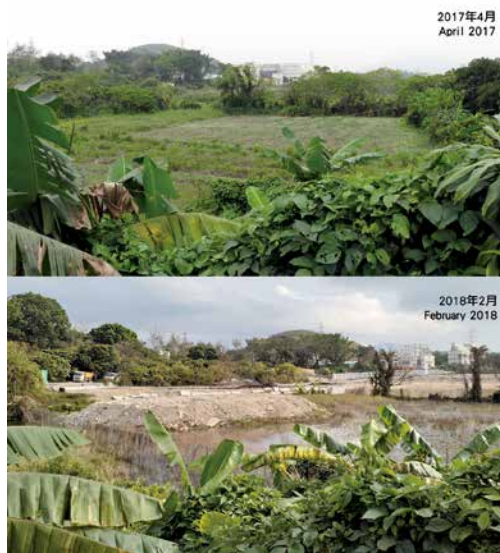
Hydroponic is an agriculture use. What's wrong?

The Society and the Conservancy Association has been carrying out habitat management agreement scheme with the farmers in Long Valley for more than 10 years, which demonstrates the multiple values of agricultural land. Apart from the social and economic value of food production, farmlands also has ecological value, landscape



value, cultural value, educational value, and buffering effect between urban areas and countryside. On the other hand, a report published by the Liber Research Community in 2015 stated that the performance of hydroponic farm is unsatisfactory, both in terms of environmental protection and return on investment. It quoted information from the Government saying that the operation of iVeggie, a hydroponic demonstration unit by the Vegetable Marketing Organisation, has already lost 6 million Hong Kong dollars, while its carbon emission is about 13 times higher than that of conventional farms. Hydroponic farms, which do not require soil cultivation, should not occupy arable farmland. Moreover, farmlands destroyed by illegal dumping and filling are difficult to reinstate and rehabilitate for farming, giving people an excuse to apply for other non-agriculture related land use. The Society considers that the Government should strengthen the protection of farmland, and strictly regulate the application and operation of hydroponic farms. TPB should also reject applications for hydroponic farms on land reserved for agricultural use, so as to ensure farmlands can be preserved for cultivation.

Therefore, the Society objects to the hydroponic farm planning application (A/NE-FTA/182). The application site and its surroundings are fishponds, wetlands and farmlands of conservation importance. The land and pond filling as required by the proposed hydroponic farm would destroy the farmlands, fishponds, hydrology and ecological value in the area. In addition, the site is suspected to be “destroy first, apply later”. The approval of this application would set an undesirable precedent for similar applications, leading to adverse cumulative impacts on the environment in the area.



(This item originally appeared on the HKBWS Forum in February 2018, - Ed.) <http://www.hkbws.org.hk/BBS/viewthread.php?tid=27159>

Nature Conservation Management for Long Valley



Mr. Simon Chan, Mr Yan Wa Tat and Apache put a ring on the Yellow-breasted bunting model to call for public awareness.



Children joint the Yellow-breasted Bunting Modeling contest

Mr. Simon Chan, Assistant Director of AFCD was invited to be the officiating guest of the 12th Harvest Fest. In order to launch the “International Yellow-breasted Bunting Awareness Year 2018”, Simon together with our Chairman Apache and Mr. Yan Wa Tat, Chairman of The Conservancy Association, put leg flags onto Yellow-breasted Bunting models, wishing that Yellow-breasted Bunting coming back to Long Valley every year.

The critically endangered Yellow-breasted Bunting (YBB) is the main theme of Harvest Fest this year. Message of conserving YBB was put into activities such as exhibition, origami, costume competition, obstacle race etc. Besides, traditional stove, rice processing, drama, straw arts, cooking class using local farm produce etc were also included in the Harvest Fest so that participants can know more about the ecology and agriculture of Long Valley. Altogether 800 members of the public joined the 2-day Harvest Fest and 21 media reports were received. We hope that the Long Valley projects and conservation of YBB could reach more people through the media reports.



Children enjoy harvesting

China Projects

China Coastal Waterbird Census Coordinators Meeting

With the support of The Swire Charitable Trust, we held a meeting for coordinators of the China Coastal Waterbird Census between 12th and 13th January, 2018, in Xiamen, China. Coordinators from 12 sites, including Dandong and Panjin in Liaoning, Tianjin, Yellow River Delta in Shandong, Lianyungang in Jiangsu, Shanghai, Minjiang Estuary and Xiamen in Fujian, Haifeng and Shenzhen in Guangdong, Beihai Guangxi and Hong Kong. The meeting included report of each site, discussion on issues such as the database development, preparation of reports and scientific paper, training, the organisation establishment and a publicity plan.



China Coastal Waterbird Census Coordinators meeting 2018

International Spoon-billed Sandpiper Wintering Census in southern China



Illegal mist nets were still found in Guangxi

This winter, we conducted a survey on Spoon-billed Sandpiper in South China region again. The last complete survey in the coastal area of Guangxi was carried out 4 years ago, this year, we did the survey again in the hope of discovering more about the distribution of SBS during winter time in southern China. During the week-long survey between 19th and 24th December 2017, we recorded a total of 7 Spoon-billed Sandpipers at 3 survey sites, from which 2 sites were new to record the bird. One of the new sites was at Fangchenggang (1 individual), another new site was in Qinzhou (5 individuals).

On the other hand, with the support from International Conservation Fund of Canada, the International Spoon-billed Sandpiper Wintering Census, which was coordinated by the Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force under the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership, took place between 12th January and 5th February, 2018. We recorded 14 Spoon-billed Sandpiper in Leizhou, Zhanjiang, Guangdong Province. Another one was found in Xitou, Guangdong. The situation of illegal netting in the region has obviously improved. However, the invasion of *Spartina* cordgrass shows sign of spreading, meaning the control of *Spartina* is an urgent matter. We are thankful to all volunteers who joined the census and survey from the Zhanjiang Bird Watching Society, the Zhanjiang Mangrove National Nature Reserve and bird watchers and volunteers from Beihai and Guangxi.



Fishpond Art Fest 2018

(some photos by Mr. Anthony Fok)

Background

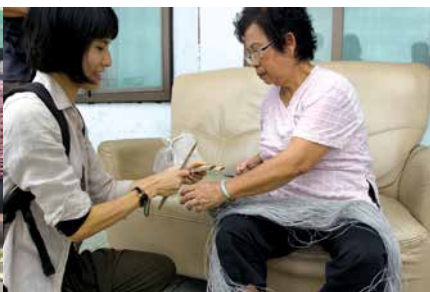
In the past few decades, artists in Europe, America and Taiwan have found inspiration from life in nature and the environment. Many visual arts and performing arts series were created with nature as a theme. In this way, art has also become a channel to promote public awareness of natural conservation.



"Ecological art" has been developing since the 1990's in western countries. Conservationists collaborated with artists using ecology as a theme, linking conservation with artistic expression in various forms. These artworks helped to spread important ecological messages to a wider spectrum of society.



Artists interact with villagers during their stay in village



Artist learning net knitting from villager



Participants in workshop making dream-catchers

It is our aim to promote, through art, a harmonious relationship between people and the land, and people with people; and to raise awareness of the importance of fishpond conservation as one aspect of Hong Kong's environmental issues as a whole.

During our years of working on the fishpond project, we have collected many interesting local stories, especially concerning Tai Sang Wai. We invited some artists to spend time in Tai Sang Wai. By living there, the artists learned about the local culture, and this first-hand experience has become inspiration for artistic creation, telling stories about the area.

Art is not a privilege only for artists, creativity is innate in every one of us. Through the Fishpond Art Fest, we hope to promote artistic education to a wider public so that more Hong Kong citizens can experience the unique power of art.

Art Fest in the Field

HKBWS and Art Together have always worked on maintaining the balance of ecology and searching for possibilities in sustainable living, the former through ecological conservation, the latter through community arts. Since 2012, HKBWS has been conducting the Fishpond Conservation Scheme in northwestern New Territories covering over 600 hectares of fishponds, cooperating with local fish farmers in ecological environment management. Art Together first launched the Sustainable Fest at old Kai Tak Airport in 2016, and continually works on promoting the concept of sustainable living through different projects. The two organisations first sat down together in 2017 to develop the Fishpond Art Fest 2018. The aim is to make use of art's special binding quality, allowing the artists to express in their own unique language in leading the audience and participants to appreciate the value of conserving Tai Sang Wai from various angles, and personally feeling the importance of sustainable living.

With over one year's preparation, the Fishpond Art Fest 2018 was held from January 20th to 21st in Tai Sang Wai with a series of art education workshops on site. More than 480 people visited and participated in the workshops over the 2-day period.

Six artists, namely Ban Cheong, Monti Lai, Ankie AuYeung, Natalie Lo, Mudwork and Sze Ka Yan participated in the project. They were stationed in Tai Sang Wai from December last year to observe the ecological characteristics in this natural environment and experience life in the local community. Different art media were used to express their own unique viewpoints.

Both Cheung and Mudwork created sculptures by the fishpond. Cheung made use of wood pieces dumped in construction sites to create a mischievous visual image, criticising environmental destruction in a humorous manner. Mudwork created a roof with birds in migration, flying with spread wings. It served as a shelter for people from winds and rain, as well as a salute to the fish farmers who helped maintain the ecological balance. Ankie's inspiration came from the eco-system linking fish, birds, humans and other species. During her stay in Tai Sang Wai, Ankie asked villagers to teach her how to weave fish nets in the traditional way. She hoped that this special skill can be passed on to future generations. The net also symbolises the interdependence of species in surviving through the evolutionary process. As just one of the species in the ecosystem, humans should learn to live in harmony with nature.



Artpiece by Ban Cheong

Monti chose to involve students' participation in her creative process and held workshops during her resident period. Participants learnt about fishpond ecology through introduction by HKBWS volunteers, and with the guidance of Monti, created sculptures of common local birds with mud from Tai



Artpiece by Monti

Sang Wai's ponds. These sculptures did not go through firing, after the exhibition, they were recycled back to the ponds, as part of nature once again. Being a musician, Sze Ka Yan has keen ears, not just for music, but also for stories. During her stay in Tai Sang Wai, she picked up a lot about fish farming as well as expertise in making fish soups. At the Art Fest, Sze Ka Yan shared with audiences music originating from Tai Sang Wai, and warm fish soup. While some were singing praises, artist Lo looked at Tai Sang Wai and its surroundings from a judgmental perspective and reviewed its history of development. Through a film commentary, she shared with the audience her personal experience in trying to understand the interrelationship of various species in Tai Sang Wai.

There were also other artistic groups that participated but were not stationed in the village, including Carmen Or, an artist well versed in the diversity of ecology and biology; and art students studying for Associate in Design (Visual Communication) at HK Community College, HK Polytechnic University. The art students created works that aroused public concern in the sustainability of Tai Sang Wai's ecology. Ms Or, a master in Chinese ink paintings, painted 20 birds recorded in Tai Sang Wai (including 2 endangered species) in a realistic style. The works were displayed in an unconventional manner, spreading in different spots around the fishponds together with exquisite bird-motif ink stamps. Visitors were invited to actively look for the works themselves, while appreciating art pieces, visitors also enjoyed a biology class in the field. From the keen participation of students from HK Community College, we felt that Hong Kong's younger generation also showed great concern about local ecological issues.

Some students communicated with visitors through art activities, while others created interactive works with recycled materials. These were exhibits of experience in creation and sharing. Architect Mr. Charles Lai who is interested in Earth Art was also invited to participate in this event. He created a bamboo installation by the fishpond for rest and shelter.



Artists and helpers had a wonderful time at the end of day



Artpiece by Carmen Or



Artist worked with students in creating artwork



Artpiece by Ankie Au Yeung

Membership Affairs



Venue of 60th Anniversary Dinner

60th Anniversary Dinner Celebration

The Society has marked her 60th anniversary in 2017. In celebrating this special anniversary, a dinner gathering for 178 members of the Society & the Crested Bulbul Club was held on the evening of 10th January in Best Hotpot Restaurant in Cheung Sha Wan. Dr. David Robertson, one of our Honorary Members residing in Australia, made his long way to Hong Kong to join the celebration and he encouraged everyone in the HKBWS to treasure resources former bird watchers have provided, to work on bird conservation. In addition, there were charity sales, lucky draws and bird-shaped crystal auction during the dinner which gave everyone excitement. The Society thanks all attendees for their participation and support of the dinner celebration.

Moreover, acknowledgement would also be made to the following sponsoring organisations and individuals (in no particular order):

Carl Zeiss Far East Co Ltd
Pacific-Palette International
Shriro (H.K.) Ltd
Sightron Hong Kong Ltd
Swarovski Hong Kong Ltd
Mr Lau Wai Man, Apache,
HKBWS Chairman
3 anonymous members



EXCO members toasting



Sharing session by Dr. David Robertson, HKBWS Honorary Member



Lucky Draw



Bird Crystal Auction

HKBWS eShop



HKBWS eShop, an online shop operated by the Society, was open on 12th December, 2017. We focus on the sales of meticulously selected items featuring birds and wildlife, and eco-products that encourage green living for a better future. All income generated from this eShop will be used to support the conservation work & operating cost of HKBWS.

The HKBWS eShop marks a gathering place for our members & the public to enjoy a happy shopping of bird related & green life products. The image of the shop logo, designed by our voluntary designer, Mr. James Ip, signifies an integration of the outline of a bird, a fish tail and a piece of leaf which has perfectly described our major works on promoting bird watching activity, conserving birds & their habitat through the Fishpond Conservation Scheme. The Society would like to extend our special thanks due to Mr. Ip for his in-depth interpretation & demonstration of his design.

"Feathers" 2018 Calendar



We would like to give our gratitude to the Hong Kong Bird Drawing Group for donating the "Feathers" 2018 Bird Artwork Desk Calendar for sale. The total raised fund is HK\$7,244.2.



Hong Kong Park Green Hunt



HKBWS jointly organised with LCSD an event called “Hong Kong Park Green Hunt”. Over 155 students from 19 primary schools joined the event. Through interesting and creative games and activities, participants were engaged to observe the natural environment and see it with their hearts.

Radio programme on RTHK

Series of 8 Radio programmes on RTHK about “Environment and birds” was finished

Introducing how birds are affected by the climate change. HKBWS was invited to share our view on bird conservation on the radio programme “Climate Watcher” 大氣候 on RTHK from 2-12-2017 to 27-1-2018. It was a weekly radio programme sharing the importance of environmental protection. Dr Ng Cho Nam and Mr Lam Chiu Ying also represented the HKBWS to share their experience on bird conservation.



To playback: <http://bit.ly/HKBWSCLIMATEWATCHER>

Education Group

1. Eco- Art Education

“Hong Kong Biodiversity Sound Map” is an educational project which combines the natural sounds of Hong Kong with art creations. So far we have launched two educational programmes, one being a monthly “sound walk” in an urban park with the public, and the other being a cross-discipline sound and biodiversity study programme for primary students.

If you are interested in joining a sound walk, please visit the Facebook page and online Discussion Forum of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society for more information.

2. Urban Nature

In keeping with the spirit of the “Discover HK Urban Nature Scheme”, the Education Group recently joined hands with property management companies in launching a pilot scheme for birdwatching in housing estates. The objective of the pilot scheme is to enable housing estate residents to know their community better and foster a stronger sense of belonging to the community by gaining a better understanding of Hong Kong urban nature. As part of the pilot scheme, Education Group members watched birds alongside residents of Tin Yiu Estate in Tin Shui Wai, Kwai Fong Estate in Kwai Chung, Shui Pin Wai Estate in Yuen Long and Ping Tin Estate in Lam Tin, and everyone had good fun!



3. Kindergarten Teacher Training

Fostering children's love for nature from an early age will benefit their growth and development. We have therefore designed three thematic activities in alignment with the learning areas of a kindergarten to assist teachers in designing and providing nature education in school. If any kindergarten teacher is interested, please feel free to contact Miss Lau of HKBWS at 2377-4387.

1. Urban Ecology Around Me

- Identification of animals and plants in the neighbourhood
- Interesting stories concerning urban ecology
- Getting in touch with nature by using the five senses

2. Interaction with Wetlands

- Getting to know the wetland environments
- Exploring the relationship between wetland plants and animals and their habitats
- Touching wetland plants and understanding their structures

3. Birds and I

- Getting to know the body structure of birds, such as the position of their facial features
- Comparing the daily routine of birds and humans
- Imagining the challenges faced by birds

Sessions	Theme	Number of participants (minimum: 15)	Fee (per participant)
Classroom session: Field trip:	Interaction with Wetlands 19:00-21:00, 2 February 2018 (Friday) 08:00-14:00, 3 February 2018 (Saturday)	20	HKD325*
Classroom session: Field trip:	Birds and I 19:00-21:00, 2 March 2018 (Friday) 08:00-14:00, 3 March 2018 (Saturday)	20	HKD275*
Classroom session: Field trip:	Interaction with Wetlands 19:00-21:00, 9 March 2018 (Friday) 08:00-14:00, 10 March 2018 (Saturday)	20	HKD325*
Classroom session: Field trip:	Birds and I 19:00-21:00, 16 March 2018 (Friday) 08:00-14:00, 17 March 2018 (Saturday)	20	HKD275*
Classroom session: Field trip:	Urban Ecology Around Me 19:00-21:00, 20 April 2018 (Friday) 08:00-14:00, 21 April 2018 (Saturday)	20	HKD150
Classroom session: Field trip:	Urban Ecology Around Me 19:00-21:00, 18 May 2018 (Friday) 08:00-14:00, 19 May 2018 (Saturday)	20	HKD150

* Note: the fee is inclusive of the cost of transportation from the meeting point to the site for the field trip



Waterbird Count Training Workshop 2018

The Waterbird Count Training Workshop was carried out on 28 Jan 2018. A brief introduction was done at the Peter Scott Field Studies Centre of Mai Po Nature Reserve. Thanks to WWFHK for lending the meeting room for the workshop. There were 28 participants in the workshop on that day and all of them joined the field practice on the same day. The aim of organising the workshop was to promote the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site Waterbird Monitoring Programme and recruit the new blood of surveyors for the monthly Waterbird Count. Some of the participants showed the interest in joining the Waterbird Count surveys after the workshop. If some of you are keen on waterbirds and interested to join the Waterbird Count Programme, please join the workshop next year!

For the other workshops, The Egretty training workshop will held on 28 April 2018.



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Mai Po

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凍原豆雁
譚錫朋
米埔

Tundra Bean Goose
Tam Sik Pang
Mai Po

10/11/2017
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter

Mai Po Nature Reserve Habitat Management Plan

Many long-time visitors may notice that we have done many large-scale habitat management works from time to time such as desilting water channels and reprofiling islands to maintain and increase the ecological value of Mai Po, especially to provide favourable habitats for waterbirds. These major works were carried out according to Mai Po Management Plan. Since the mid 90's, we have set up a Mai Po Management Committee for providing professional advices on habitat management, monitoring and research activities in Mai Po. Every five years, we develop a management plan to guide the management of Mai Po. A working group is now set up to develop a management plan for the next five years (2018-2023) and to review the implementation of current plan (2013-2018). In addition to the advice and comments from working group members and Mai Po Management Committee members, we also welcome the advice and comments of others. Please feel free to contact us at maipo@wwf.org.hk if you have any comments to make.

Birds injured by animal traps found in Mai Po

Since 20 January 2018, three Black-faced Spoonbills (*Platalea minor*) have been seen in Deep Bay and within the Mai Po Nature Reserve being caught by the bill or toes by animal traps. One was found dead on 23 January 2018 in the Mai Po Nature Reserve. This is deeply concerning as this may indicate animal traps have been set in the Deep Bay area.



Black-faced Spoonbill found dead with animal trap caught on feet. (Photo: WWF-Hong Kong)

Since no sight of animal traps was reported within Mai Po Nature Reserve, we suspect that the birds were injured in the surrounding wetland such as Deep Bay and then flew to Mai Po. Detering waterbirds from feeding on fishes in fishponds or hunting birds for food may be the reason for putting these animal traps.



(Photo: WWF-Hong Kong)

We urge the public to be vigilant about traps in Deep Bay area. If anyone finds any injured animals or animal traps, please mark down the location, time and sighting details and contact Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD; Government hotline: 1823) as soon as possible. If the case occurs within Mai Po Nature Reserve, please contact the AFCD Warden Post (Tel: 2471 4411) or WWF Mai Po office (Tel: 2471 6212).



60th Anniversary Review and prospects – Works Together

Text: Apache Lau

It seems yesterday but the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society is now celebrating her 60th anniversary. We could still survive nowadays after all these years mainly because of the tremendous contribution of our predecessors who have built a solid foundation with their wisdom and endeavour.

It is a sad year for the Society as two previous chairmen passed away one after the other. Mr. Michael Webster put a lot of effort on promoting birdwatching. He also set up a very strict standard for keeping bird records so that we owe him a lot even today. The unconditional devotion in promoting birdwatching by Mr. Gavin Cooper also lead to a prosperous development of the society during the 90s especially in terms of membership.

Today, we continue to uphold the will of our predecessors and 2000 members towards a broader influence in bird conservation, education and study. Especially in the past few years, the number of staff has increased from a dozen to 20, and the directions of development have become more concrete.

The results of our research and study are always the most intangible assets of the Society, providing the basis of our different work. Maintenance of bird data still depends on the contribution and support of members, birders and staff to maintain HKBWS as the authority of bird conservation in Hong Kong.

Regarding policy advocacy and monitoring of environmental issues, the Society heavily relies on the Conservation Committee leading even on a voluntary basis in the past has already make a difference. You may still remember the Long Valley campaign in the year 2000. Today, we are lucky to have one excellent staff taking up most of the work and being more effective in voicing our opinion.

Thirdly, the two large management agreement projects, namely the “Nature Conservation Management for Long Valley” and the “Hong Kong Fishpond Conservation Scheme” have marked our cooperation with other stakeholders such as farmers and fishermen to manage the sites with high ecological value especially for birds. More importantly, these projects have already exceeded their ambit of nature conservation while incorporating agriculture, fishery, local economics, traditional culture, environmental education, landscape conservation, sustainable development, etc.



Looking ahead, HKBWS will focus more on the development of Conservation Policy and Advocacy, Eco-art Education, Research and Monitoring, Habitat Management, four aspects.

The development of the China program in the past decade has reminded us that species protection is the new emphasis besides the capacity building of NGOs in mainland China, especially for those threatened species. We have cooperated with the local birdwatching organisations, general public, government departments and forestry policeman to clear the mist nest along the coast of Guangdong and Guangxi Province over the past 2 years. This is a very successful example which demonstrated that local people and government department could work together in protecting birds.

You will certainly agree that education is the most important part to make conservation to be successful. However, we find that “nature education” is somewhat ignored by the formal education system for a long time and our children have become sadly detached from nature. Last year, we have launched a program to kindergarten students which made use of games, handicraft, storytelling, etc. to convey the message of nature conservation to the children. They were also brought outdoors to experience nature first-hand. Another creative project incorporating nature sound, art creation, human sense experience and knowledge transfer has just been launched, marking a new start of our “art in nature education” towards our future. By the way, the “Fishpond Art Festival” under the fishpond project will be held in the coming months. You are most welcome to join.

For the member activities, regular outings, talks, courses have been arranged accordingly in the past decade which should fit different needs of our members and birders. Your support and advice is always the most important pillar of our success.

In future, the burden on our shoulders will only be heavier than before. Take the Tai Po egret case as an example, one example of absurd misbehaviour used up most of the energy and time of our responsible officers and other supporting staff. The “uplisting” of threatened species such as the Yellow-breasted Bunting from Vulnerable to Endangered status within a short time, or even to Critically endangered in the near future could only urge us to do something before it is too late. If we want to prevent having to uplist this bird as Extinct, your support is critical!

We have to express our sincere thanks to all the members, volunteers, friends and organisations for their credit to our work in the last 60 years and we expect to get the same support in the future.

On behalf of HKBWS, here's hoping all of us will enjoy healthy and prosperous birding in the year of the DOG!





Use of monopod on board a jeep

Carefree African bird watching

Text/Photo: Samson So

Riding on a jeep to observe animals in the savannah, or walking through dense forest to search for precious-and-rare primates. These may be the typical impressions of an African trip for most people. But if we look out for big animals only, we surely will miss many other aspects of nature in the process. In my personal opinion, bird watching here in Africa is one of the most comfortable activities, with zero pressure on your physical strength or equipment. No matter whether you do on-the-spot birding in your camp or hotel, or make use of vehicles or small boats to venture out to different habitats, the joy of the experience stands out from just watching animal migration or the African “Big Five”.

Sub-saharan Africa has complex and diverse habitats. This is a place with abundant bird species including residents and migratory birds from Eurasia. Take Eastern Africa as an example (that is, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi). Around 1400 species of birds have been recorded. From ostrich to tiny sunbirds, and birds of prey soaring in thermals above, there is much to admire. If you are a fan of waterbirds, seeing huge flocks of flamingo and many types of wader will surely be an unforgettable experience. For many birdwatchers that moment of discovering African endemic families is always the highlight of the trip.



*Long-toed Lapwing,
photographed from a boat*



*Brightly-coloured
Golden-breasted Starling*



A bean bag can help stabilise your telephoto lens.

Africa is an animal paradise. Besides birds there are always a lot of mammals to be seen during a game drive. Some birds develop interactive relationships with mammals: starlings feed on insects on large animals, egrets step in herbivores footprints to catch stirred up insects and other prey. Vultures and Marabou Storks follow predators and scavenge the left-overs. Whether observing from a vehicle or small boat, we should always be alert for any movement or sound nearby.



A Yellow-billed Oxpecker on a Water Buffalo



Comparing with walking on foot, it is a lot easier to observe or photograph birds from vehicle or boat if you know what to look for. A vehicle is a mobile hide in grassland, shrub, forest, riverside or lakeside. What we need to do is to keep quiet and avoid any sudden moves. Generally a vehicle allows closer encounters with birds and offers a better chance to see some shy or reclusive animals. My first choice is to hand-hold the equipment, but I do occasionally use a bean bag or monopod for extra support in low light or for particularly steady subjects. Binoculars and guidebooks are essential, too.

*White-browed Robin-Chat
from the camp terrace.*



African endemic Speckled Mousebird



Giant Kingfisher by the lakeside

Shallow water areas or places with lush aquatic plants hold many interesting wetland birds. Yet Pelicans, Cormorants, Gulls and Terns are active in more open areas. This is when using a small boat is a more practical way to observe and photograph them. As there may not be a suitable space for bean bag or monopod, hand-holdable equipment is the best to track fast-moving birds nearby.

Lesser Flamingoes at a soda lakeside along the African Great Rift Valley



A Yellow-necked Spurfiowl is photographed from a vehicle "hide"


A walk in the forest or scrub (if it is safe to walk in these areas) can yield small-sized or secretive woodland birds. Woodpeckers and Trogons may be in the trees overhead. If your trip does not have many hiking opportunities, areas around restaurants, swimming pools or gardens are good options to look for birds. I often use the balconies of the rooms as vantage points to look for and record birds, enjoying a cup of coffee or tea at the same time.

Birds are environmental indicators, their numbers and diversity reflect the status of environmental healthiness. No matter which method you use to appreciate birds it is a blessing to be able to appreciate the beauty of birds, and seeing their interactions in nature will surely make every trip a fruitful learning process.



Observing from the vehicle is often very productive

Author introduction:-

Samson So spends roughly three months a year working in Africa, leading tours or on photography missions. For more photos and articles from Samson So, please browse "Samson So Photography" and "Eco Institute Ecology" on Facebook. 

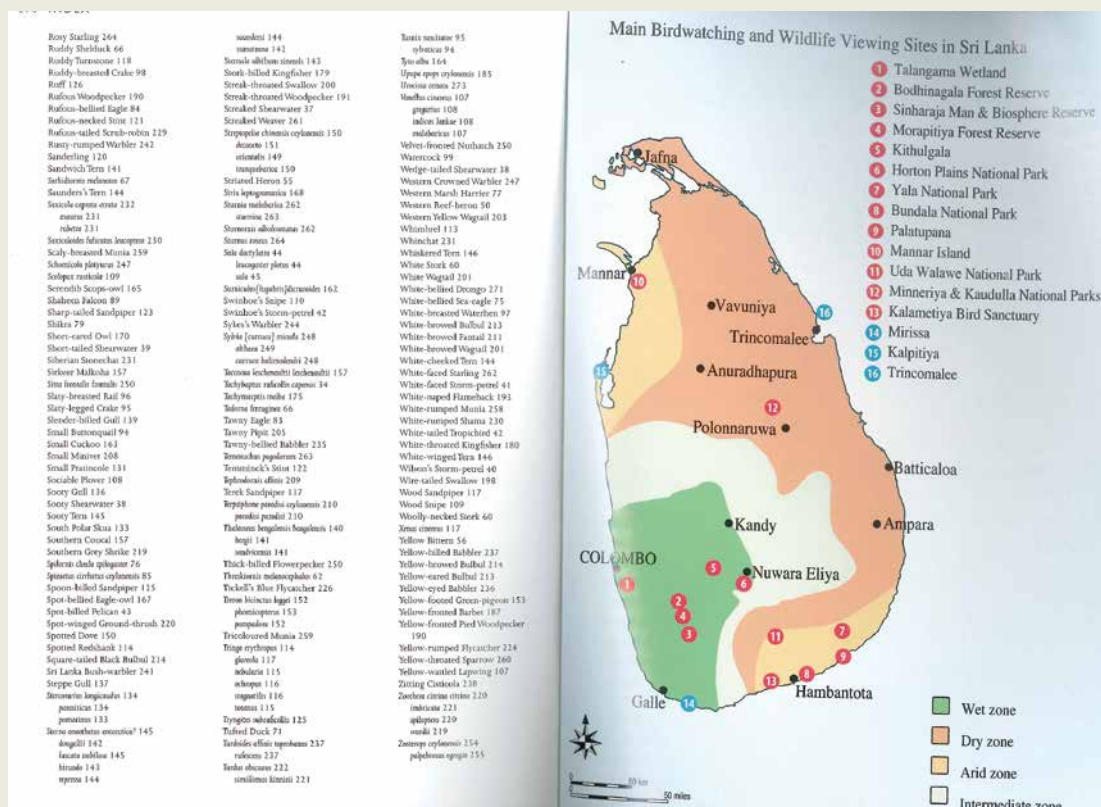


Hand-holdable equipment is best when used on boat

030



The photo layout is two species per page, and one or two photos per species. All the photos are large enough for details and the quality of photographs is superb. Each species has size, habitat, distribution plus a distribution map, voice and status, all in point forms with smaller and different fonts standing out from the main text. The stronger characters of main text are the key features for identifying the birds and separating them from similar species. In addition, when introducing the next order or family, two colour-framed boxes are used for a general description of the order and family. This could be particularly useful for birders from other continents encountering new bird families.



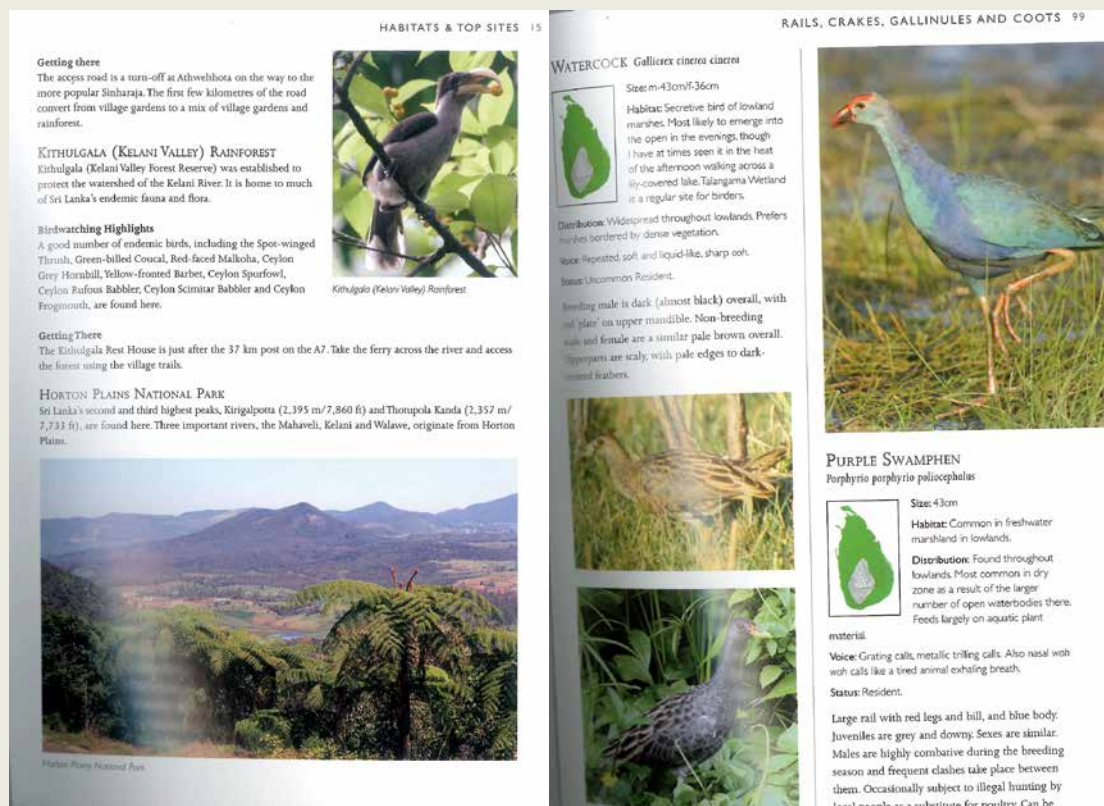


The book usefully highlights Sri Lanka's habitats & top sites, additional birdwatching sites and suggests itineraries. Readers who haven't been to Sri Lanka before will have some general idea about the habitat with some of the landscape photos, and more importantly with the birdwatching highlights to fit your target species. Surely, the itinerary is good reference for serious birders to follow and over 200 species on a trip list is highly attainable. A very high proportion of endemic species (34 in total) is also very attractive.

At the end of the book, there is a useful checklist of the birds of Sri Lanka with abundance and status information. The inner back cover shows the main birdwatching and wildlife viewing sites in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka is not just a good spot for birdwatching, but also for mammals and other wildlife watching, similar to the experience of safari in Africa and exploration in the Amazon rainforest. Whale watching for the largest animals on earth, Blue Whales has also developed in recent years. Birders are recommended to join these sea trips for dolphins and whales, and to look for unpredictable seabirds.

I highly recommend this book and am actively planning to have an ecotour to Sri Lanka.



(Readers are reminded that this Bulletin Bird News account is not part of the Society's official record, and reports and/or URFs may need to be submitted regarding some species - URFs are required for those species highlighted in yellow on the list that can be downloaded from the BWS website - Ed)



032

Late news from September 2017:

- ▶ A **Slaty-backed Forktail**, rare in recent years, was at Shing Mun Reservoir on 19th (KH).

October

- ▶ Following a generally quiet opening, with the weather “unseasonably hot” according to the HK Observatory, the month came good for birds in its last 10 days, the highlights being the second **Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler** of the autumn and the 7th for HK, trapped at Mai Po on 20th (DJS), a female **Black Redstart** at Long Valley from 29th (mars), only the third for Hong Kong and the first in autumn, and four **Tundra Bean Geese** and three **Greater White-fronted Geese** at Mai Po from 31st (SY, KL), the 4th and 6th HK records, respectively.
- ▶ Three species were found on earliest ever autumn dates; - **Mandarin Duck**, a female at Mai Po on 8th (KCWL), **Common House Martin**, two at Tin Shui Wai and one Mai Po on 21st (CFL, IT, M&PW), and **Dusky Thrush**, one at Ho Man Tin on 30th (per KPC), the earliest by 12, 29 and 1 day, respectively.
- ▶ A fourth rarity was found on the latest ever autumn date; - **Tiger Shrike**, at Lantau Peak on 14th (per TJW), the latest by 18 days. A count of nine **Crested Honey Buzzards** at Pak Nai on 22nd (JAA) is the highest on record, and 47 **Streaked Shearwaters** off Cape d'Aguilar during the passage of Severe Typhoon Khanun on 15th (P&MW) is the highest autumn count of the species.
- ▶ **Pale Martins** were present in good numbers in the northern NT in the second half of the month, with at least 200 congregating over the Mai Po scrape from 17th to at least 23rd (DAD) and 200 also at Long Valley on 21st (KCK), and **Eurasian Skylarks** were reported from multiple sites, with one at Long Valley on 10th (DAD), up to three at San Tin fishponds on 24th and 28th (DAD, EMSK), and singles at Mai Po on 27th (JAA) and at Shuen Wan Landfill on 31st (RWL), the latter a rare record away from the northern NT.
- ▶ Other reports from Mai Po included a **White Wagtail** ssp *lugens* on 20th (SY), 19 **Amur Falcons**, 34 **Blue-tailed Bee-eaters** and a **Pallas's Reed Bunting** on 23rd (JAA), and a **Nordmann's Greenshank** on 25th (DAD). The Wetland Park at Tin Shui Wai hosted a **Yellow-legged Buttonquail** and an **Oriental Scops Owl** on 22nd, a **Pied Harrier** on 23rd and two **Himalayan Swiftlets** on 30th (CFL).
- ▶ Coverage of San Tin fishponds led to reports of a **Bull-headed Shrike**, a **Daurian Starling**, the first **Buff-bellied Pipit** of the season on 22nd and a count 85 **Dusky Warblers** on 28th (EMSK).
- ▶ Best birds at Long Valley were a **Chestnut-cheeked Starling** on 19th (DAD), a **Black-headed Bunting** on 21st (KCK) and at least 30 **Amur Falcons** on 24th (KCWL).
The month brought a series of interesting reports from urban Kowloon. A male **Narcissus Flycatcher** at Kowloon Park on 18th (AP) was a rare autumn record. Migrants at Ho Man Tin, which was particularly well covered, included two **Orange-headed Thrushes** on 11th (KPC), a **Slaty-legged Crane** on 17th (KPC), a **Brown-chested Jungle Flycatcher** on 19th (KH), a **White-throated Rock Thrush** on 26th (M&PW), and a **Siberian Blue Robin** and a **Chestnut Bunting** on 28th (evafun2014).

- ▶ In addition, four Hong Kong breeding species were found for the first time in Kowloon – **Blue-winged Minla**, up to eight at Kowloon Park on 19th and 23rd (AP, EMSK), **Pygmy Wren Babbler**, one at Ho Man Tin on 24th (KPC), **Lesser Shortwing**, two also at Ho Man Tin on 24th (KPC), and **Mountain Tailorbird**, single birds at Ho Man Tin on 26th and Kowloon Park on 28th (M&PW, edyip1999).
- ▶ One or two **Grey Nightjars** were regularly seen at Tai Lam CP throughout the month (K&RB), and a **Brown Wood Owl** was heard there on 3rd (K&RB). Other reports from forest/shrubland sites included an **Ashy Drongo** ssp *hopwoodi* at Shek Kong Catchwater on 27th (MK), possibly a returning individual, and a **Siberian Thrush** at Tai Po Kau on 29th (AB).
- ▶ Best birds at Po Toi, which received less coverage than usual, were a **Siberian Thrush** on 5th (TL), and 10 **Eurasian Siskins**, a **Yellow-browed Bunting** and four **Yellow-throated Buntings** on 31st (PH).
- ▶ A visit to Lung Kwu Chau island off northern Lantau on 23rd turned up a **Grey-faced Buzzard**, two **Himalayan Swiftlets** and a **White-throated Rock Thrush** (JAMC), whilst a **Sulphur-breasted Warbler** at Pui O on 8th (EMSK) was probably the best bird found on Lantau itself.

November

- ▶ A month of sustained interest brought two potential first records - a **Rook** at Mai Po and the nearby Lut Chau fishponds from 1st and throughout the month (CTK) and a **Hen Harrier** at Mai Po on 4th and 15th (KCWL, M&PW). The latter bird was identified retrospectively from photographs (PJJ) and not seen again.
- ▶ Other rarities were up to three **House Sparrows** at Long Valley on 4th-5th (HL, DAD), the 4th for Hong Kong, a **Rosy Pipit** at Long Valley on 26th (MK), also the 4th, a first-winter male **Ultramarine Flycatcher** at Shek Kong Catchwater from 29th (JAA), the 3rd record and one that is likely to prompt a category review (the species is currently in Category III).
- ▶ A first-winter **Relict Gull** in front of the Mai Po boardwalk on 3rd (RWL) was the 9th record and by 18 days the earliest-ever in autumn.
- ▶ Other notable records were a **Brown Crake** at Mai Po on 3rd (AB) and a **Crested Kingfisher** at Ting Kok on 23rd (JAA), both now very rare species in Hong Kong, a **Yellow-rumped Flycatcher** at Cheung Chau on 23rd (MDW), the latest in autumn by four days, and eight **Black-winged Cuckooshrikes** at Shek Kong Catchwater on 22nd (JC), the largest single-site count of the species.
- ▶ Of the key birds from the previous month, the three **Greater White-fronted Geese** and at least two of the four **Tundra Bean Geese** remained at Mai Po through the month, though sadly one of the latter was found dead on 17th (KCWL). The female **Black Redstart** at Long Valley also remained on site through the month but was elusive at times.
- ▶ It was a good month for rarer buntings, with **Yellow-throated** at Po Toi and Mount Davis on 2nd (MLT, JC), **Pallas's Reed** at Lut Chau on 3rd-4th (JC), **Yellow-browed** at Long Valley on 4th and southwest Lantau on 19th (M&PW, JAA), **Black-headed** at Long Valley on 5th and beside the Mai Po access road on 20th (M&PW, PJJ), and **Rustic** at Long Valley on 25th (DAD), all singles. There were two **Japanese Yellow Buntings** at Po Toi on 7th (JY).
- ▶ It was also a good month for **Bramblings**, with singles at Long Valley, Lok Ma Chau, Po Toi and the Mai Po access road, all between 5th and 28th (M&PW, PJJ, DJS, PH).
- ▶ In addition to waterbirds already mentioned, the month brought reports of a **Ruddy-breasted Crake** at Long Valley between 4th and 14th (M&PW, DAD), single **Eastern Water Rails** at Mai Po, Tin Shui Wai, Yim Tin Tsai and Long Valley between 2nd and 28th (DAD, CFL, MLT, edyip 1999), a **Black Stork** over Tuen Mun on 6th (per SY), three **Greater Scaups** at Mai Po the same day (SY), a **Ferruginous Duck** at Lok Ma Chau from 13th (PJJ), an early **Pallas's Gull** in front of the boardwalk from 14th (KCWL), and an **Oriental Stork** at Lok Ma Chau from 26th (PJJ).



- ▶ Additional reports of migrant landbirds included single **Russet Sparrows** at Long Valley on 5th and 25th-28th (M&PW, MK), 100 **Dusky warblers** and 60 **Black-browed Reed Warblers** at Lok Ma Chau on 6th (PJL), up to seven **Eurasian Skylarks** at San Tin fishponds on 11th-12th (EMSK), a rather late **Narcissus Flycatcher** at Ho Man Tin on 17th and seven **Mugimaki Flycatchers** there on 19th (PH), a female **Fujian Niltava** at Tin Shui Wai on 22nd (CFL), a **Brown-headed Thrush** and a **Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher** at Po Toi on 23rd (PH), a **Red-breasted Flycatcher** at Airfield Road the same day (JC), and a **Blunt-winged Warbler** at Mai Po on 29th (PJL).
- ▶ Though passage of raptors was light, a **Eurasian Sparrowhawk** at Ho Man Tin on 2nd (KPC) and two in southwest Lantau on 19th (JAA) were possibly the first for Kowloon and Lantau, whilst seven **Amur Falcons** at King's Park on 11th (JC) were possibly the first for Kowloon.
- ▶ One or two **Grey Nightjars** were present at Tai Lam CP up to 29th (K&RB), and a **Brown Fish Owl** was seen at Discovery Bay on 8th and 11th (EMSK).

December

- ▶ In a pleasantly warm and sunny month, seven rarities were found – a female **White-tailed Robin** at Mai Po on 6th (per SY), a **Black-backed Swamphen** *Porphyrio viridis* (recently split from Purple Swamphen) at Hok Tau on 12th (per SY), a **Chinese Thrush** at Shing Mun on 12th-13th (SY), a **Rufous-faced Warbler** at Brides Pool from 17th (KPK), a **Smew** at Mai Po from 21st (per KL), a **Eurasian Chiffchaff** at Mai Po from 23rd (per CM), and a **Barred Cuckoo Dove** at Airfield Road on 24th (per MK), all potential 7th-10th records for Hong Kong.
- ▶ **Plumbeous Redstarts** were perhaps more numerous than ever before, with two along the river near Tai Wo on 3rd (DT), two at Brides Pool on 7th (SY), three along the Lam Tsuen River on 17th (DT) and three at Chung Mei on 19th (RWL). There were also reports of **White-spectacled Warblers** at Cheung Chau on 6th (LH) and Tai Po Kau on 14th and 20th (DAD, KPK). **White Wagtails** ssp *lugens* were noted at Ting Kok on 8th and 24th (JAA, RWL) and Pak Nai on 9th and 17th (RWL, EMSK) and **Baikal Bush Warblers** in song at Mai Po on 7th (JAA) and Yi O, Lantau on 10th (JAA), all singly, whilst a count of 54 **Whimbrel** at Sha Kiu on 17th (RWL) is the highest ever in winter for the species.
Some of the key birds from the previous month were again sighted: the **Greater White-fronted** and **Tundra Bean Geese** at Mai Po on 3rd (MLT), the **Ferruginous Duck** now joined by a second bird at Lok Ma Chau on 6th (MRL), the **Ultramarine Flycatcher** at Shek Kong Catchwater up to at least 14th (per MLT), the **Crested Kingfisher** at Chung Mei from 15th to 19th (MK) and again on 29th (JGH), the **Black Redstart** at Long Valley up to 17th (DAD), the **Oriental Stork** at Lok Ma Chau until at least 20th (DJS, PJL), the **Rook** at Lut Chau until 28th (JAA), and the **Slaty-backed Forktail** at Shing Mun up to 30th (CFL, MK).
- ▶ Coverage of forest/shrubland sites was good, leading to reports of a **Brown-breasted Flycatcher** at Tai Po Kau on 8th (KWMW), an **Eastern Crowned Warbler** and a **Chestnut-flanked White-eye** at Brides Pool from 9th (M&PW), a male **Small Niltava** and a **Chestnut-crowned Warbler** at Lung Fu Shan from 13th (M&PW), a male **Japanese Robin** at Ng Tung Chai on 26th (EMSK), and two **Rufous-gorgeted Flycatchers** there on 30th (EMSK, LCW).
Also, one or two **Indochinese Green Magpies** (Cat III) were seen at Brides Pool from 6th (SY).
- ▶ Among birds of interest at Mai Po were two adult and a juvenile **Pallas's Gull** from 1st to 4th (KCWL, RWL), and a **Nordmann's Greenshank** and 48 **Saunders's Gulls** on 6th (DAD, RWL).
- ▶ In addition to the **Baikal Bush Warbler**, best birds found on Lantau were a **Crested Honey Buzzard**, a **Ruddy-breasted Crake** and two **Grey Bushchats** at Yi O on 7th (JAA) and a **Scarlet Minivet**, still rare on the island, and a **Buff-bellied Pipit** at Pui O on 16th (EMSK).



Outings

Date	Duration	Time and site	Difficulties (1...3)	Target species
7/4/2018 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Long Valley (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Outside Maxim's MX, Sheng Shui Rail Station))	☆☆	Farmland and water birds
8/4/2018 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	Mai Po Nature Reserve (12yrs old & above only/ Registration required) (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
15/4/2018 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	Po Toi and HK South Waters (Registration required) (08:00 Hang Seng Bank, Sai Wan Ho MTR Station) <i>Note: This will be a long trip on open waters. The ride could be quite rough and some people may be seasick.</i>	☆☆☆	Seabirds and migrants
21/4/2018 (Sat)	TBC	Wild Card Day (Details will be announced on Apr 19 on Discussion Forum)		
29/4/2018 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Tai Mo Shan (08:00 Exit B near Hang Seng Bank, Tsuen Wan MTR Station)	☆☆☆	Grassland birds
5/5/2018 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Nam Sang Wai (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 V Cuisine Restaurant, Exit G2, Yuen Long West Rail Station)	☆	Waterbirds
12/5/2018 (Sat)	0800 - 1200	Tai Mo Shan (08:00 Exit B near Hang Seng Bank, Tsuen Wan MTR Station)	☆☆☆	Grassland birds
20/5/2018 (Sun)	TBC	Wild Card Day (Details will be announced on May 18 on Discussion Forum)		
2/6/2018 (Sat)	0800 - 1330	Lui Kung Tin (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (09:00 Entrance to Lui Kung Tin (#72 Green mini bus terminus)	☆☆	Forest birds
3/6/2018 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Nam Chung and Luk Keng (08:00 Pavilion at junction of Nam Chung Rd & Luk Keng Rd)	☆☆	Forest birds & Waterbirds
Date TBC July 2018 (Sun)	1445 - 1900	Tolo Harbour & Sai Kung (14:45 Ma Liu Shui Ferry Pier, end 19:00 at Sai Kung) <i>Note: 1500-1700 Terns watching on public ferry from Mal Liu Shui to Tui Mun & then Wong Shek Pier 1700-1900 Bus from Wong Shek Pier to Sai Kung for Black Kite Watching. Participants have to pay for their own ferry & bus fare.</i>	☆☆	Breeding Terns & Black Kite

Outing Type	Outing Fee for HKBWS Member	Outing Fee for Non-Member	Registration
	Free of Charge	Free of Charge	Not required
	Free of Charge	HK\$30 (\$10 for student 18yrs old or below)	Not required
	HK\$60 (Student Member: HK\$30)	HK\$120	Registration required
	HK\$160	HK\$200	Registration required

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 (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 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\$30-	HK\$60-
Student Member	HK\$15-	HK\$30-
Non-Member	HK\$120-	

Other Notes:

- HKBWS members have a high priority to join four weeks before the activity. Thereafter, registration will be made on first come first serve basis.
- Any changes of the activities will be announced on our Discussion Forum: <http://www.hkbws.org.hk/BBS>
- Arrangement during bad weather: When Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No.3 or above or Rainstorm Warnings Red or Black are hoisted by the Hong Kong Observatory at 7:00am on the event day, the activity will be cancelled. If Thunderstorm Warning is announced during the activity, Team Leader will decide whether the activity should be continued or cancelled. You can contact the outing leader at **9457 3196** during the event day if you have any query about the weather.

Disclaimer

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society ("the HKBWS") assumes no responsibility, liability or obligations, whether financial or otherwise, for losses, injuries, death, damages, whether to the person or property, arising or occurring in the course or as a result from the activities, outings or training courses ("the Activities") organized by the HKBWS. Persons who participate in the Activities must ensure that they are medically fit to do so. If in doubt, they should consult qualified medical practitioners before participating. Participants are recommended to purchase relevant insurance for their own protection. By participating in the Activities, the participants impliedly agree that they will not hold the HKBWS, its Executive Committee members, other committee members, its officers, employees, volunteers, agents or subcontractors responsible or liable for any losses, injuries, death damages arising or occurring in the course or as a result from the Activities.



白眉藍姬鵯
何建業
雷公田

Ultramarine Flycatcher
Kinni Ho Kin Yip
Lui Kung Tin

02/12/2017
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter

方尾鵯
薛國華
蒲台

Grey-headed Flycatcher
Sit Kwok Wa Leo
Po Toi

26/11/2017
DSLR Camera, 100-400mm f4.5-5.6 lens



紅喉姬鵯
潘士強
石崗

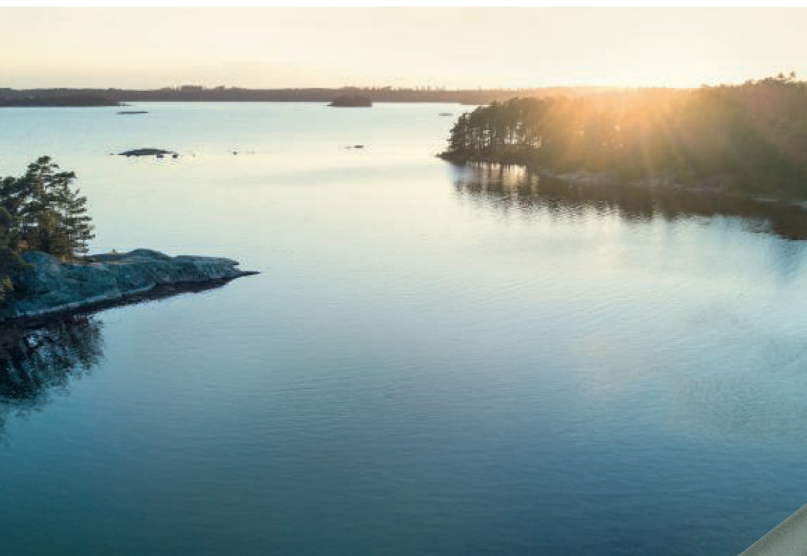
Red-throated Flycatcher
Jason Pun
Shek Kong

31/12/2017
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter



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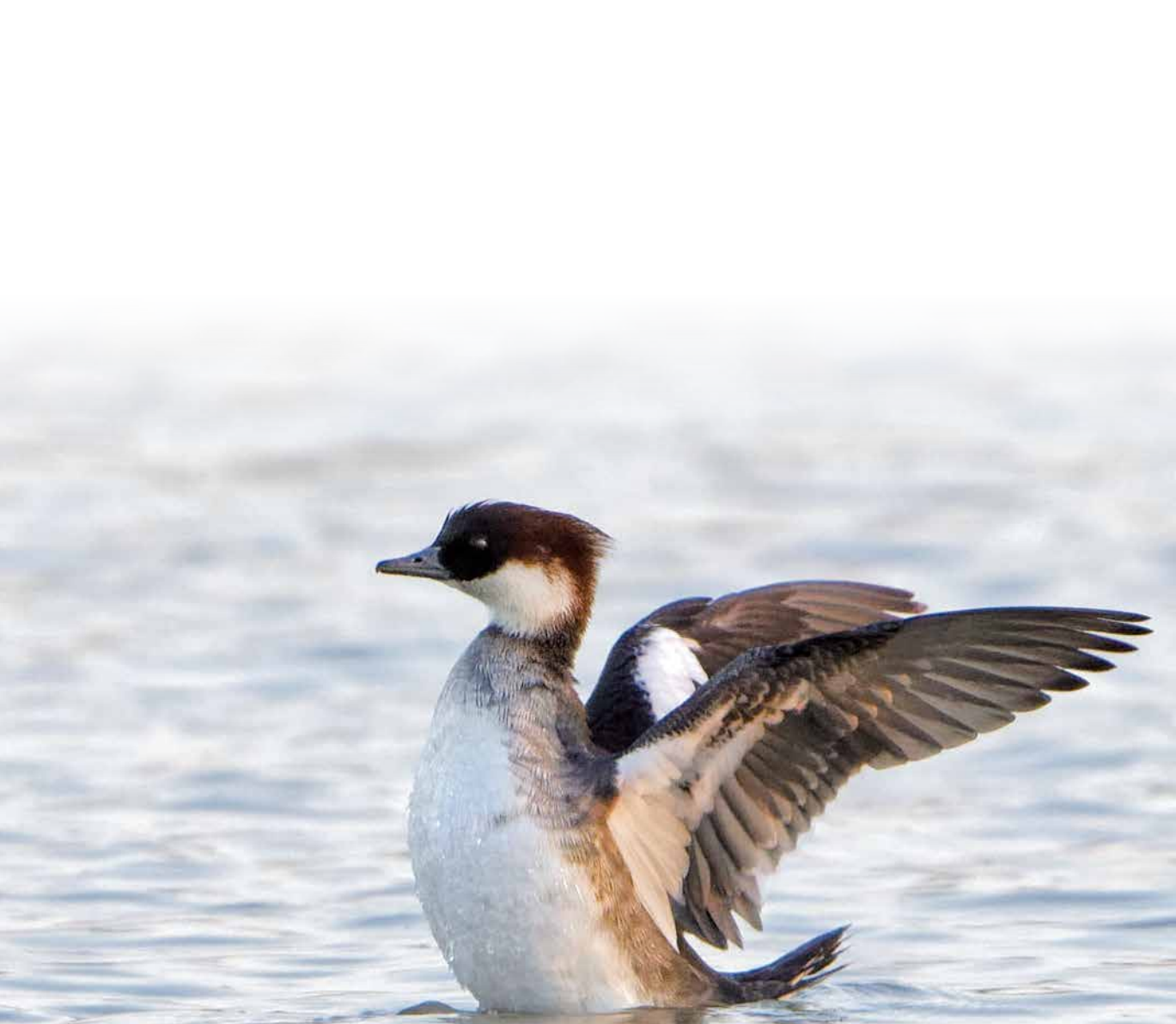
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