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會員通訊

248

Summer 2018 ~ 夏



HKBWS

香港觀鳥會
The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society





栗頭鶯鶯
潘士強
龍虎山

Chestnut-crowned Warbler
Jason Pun
Lung Fu Shan

23/12/2017
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens

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The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

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Publisher: The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

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Front cover: Rufous-faced Warbler - kw223 (Bride's Pool), 23/12/2017,
 DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter

Design & Printing: Contemporary Development Company

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Birding after typhoons



Brown Noddy (Anous stolidus), First record in Hong Kong, Po Toi Island, 17 May 2006, Geoff Welch

Birding in summer brings season-specific experience to bird watchers: breeding birds are busy to display, building nests and feeding young. It is mind-refreshing to spend a couple of minutes seeing Barn Swallows flying back-and-forth to feed their yellow-mouthed chicks. However, birding in summer can be harsh and sometimes, less rewarding. You are birding in a humid place in temperatures up to 37°C where those exciting passage migrants are absent. Interestingly, many birders in Hong Kong are excited by a natural event where rarities show up under a specific severe weather condition – typhoons, which can force birds towards Hong Kong. In the past, many enthusiastic birders went out to look for these drifted birds, if weather allowed.

“Weather and bird migration in Hong Kong”, written by C. Y. Lam and Martin Williams in the Hong Kong Bird Report 1993, is a groundbreaking article describing how birds can be influenced under different weather conditions, including typhoons. Seabirds are long known as one major group of birds that are commonly brought to Hong Kong’s water by typhoons. Landbirds could be impacted too. According to Lam and Williams (1993), spring typhoons, like Brenda 1989, could bring large influxes of landbirds, such as bitterns, egrets, and herons.

When we look at the bird records submitted by some keen birders, it is not uncommon to expect unusual records in these typhoon days (\pm one day of the typhoon days). From 2005 to 2014, 33 typhoons impacted Hong Kong where at least signal no. 3 was issued. A total of 2529 birds were observed in these typhoon days, whereas their arrival were believed to be strongly associated with typhoon events (Table 1). We assigned the birds into four categories: non-tern seabirds, terns, waterbirds and shorebirds, and landbirds. Terns were the most abundant groups brought by the typhoons. Among the 2529 birds, 1836 individuals belongs to 10 tern species (Laridae), accounted for 72.6% of all the sightings. Waterbirds and shorebirds were the second most abundant “typhoon birds”, with 555 birds reported in this period. However, this figure is largely represented by one single species – Red-necked Phalarope, of which 547 birds were recorded. Non-tern seabirds formed a less substantial group. 102 non-tern seabirds from at least 4 species were observed, yet all are uncommon to rare birds including frigatebirds, shearwaters, and petrels. Lastly, there are a few records related to landbirds: only 36 birds were noted from the dataset. However, this figure comes from 12 species and some are rare, including two Pitta species.

Unfortunately, little is known about the impact on bird movement by typhoons. Lam and Williams (1993) suggested that seabird colonies in outlying islands or open waters could not resist the strong wind and were forced towards Hong Kong, as most typhoons came from east or southeast. They quickly returned to their colonies after the typhoon weakened. Regarding landbird movement, the impact of typhoons was the most significant during migration seasons. The migrants may encounter the typhoons at sea and seek for landfall when exhausted. Geoff Welch also shared his view in Hong Kong Bird Report 2007-08, that autumn typhoons may disrupt normal autumn migration and may result in arrivals of species more normally seen in spring. From 2005-2014, we identified a list of migrants where their arrivals are possibly associated with typhoons. Two notable records occurred in spring migration: three Pechora Pipits on 17th May 2006 on Po Toi and a

Blue-winged Pitta on 18th April 2008. More records were identified in autumn (though it is impossible to tell whether their arrival was exclusively typhoon-related), including a Fairy Pitta on 13th September 2009 on Po Toi, a Watercock on 16th September 2009 in Lok Ma Chau, a Black Stork on 21st October 2010 in Pui O, a Baikal Bush Warbler on 27th September 2011 at Mai Po, a Chinese Blue Flycatcher in Pokfulam and a Drongo Cuckoo on Po Toi on 2nd October 2011, and a Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler on 4th October 2011 in Long Valley.

It should be carefully noted that, the dataset is compiled only if birdwatchers submitted their data, or, the weather allowed sea-watching activities. Despite of this, the data from 2005-2014 strongly echoes Lam and Williams' analysis that there is a high chance to see various seabirds after typhoons. Interestingly, these birds were not necessarily present in some birding hotspots. For example, 120 Red-necked Phalarope were seen inside Victoria Harbour when affected by typhoon Damrey in 2014; and a moribund Bulwer's Petrel was found in Cheung Sha Wan after typhoon Haima in 2011.

Typhoon-related birdwatching had once been very popular in mid-1990s to 2000s because many rare birds, particularly seabirds, were found. Interest declined subsequently as it was getting harder to find new record or birds that had not been seen before (levelling-off). A decrease of extremely keen birders might be another reason as well, but we should never forget that it can be downright dangerous to go out birding when the weather is too harsh.

Table 1. Typhoon-related sighting of birds from 2005 to 2014. Brackets after year represents the number of typhoons that had impacted Hong Kong (no. 3 or higher signal was issued).

Species	2005 (1)	2006 (1)	2007 (0)	2008 (3)	2009 (2)	2010 (2)	2011 (3)	2012 (0)	2013 (3)	2014 (2)	Total
Landbirds											
Baikal Bush Warbler							1				1
Black-naped Oriole							20				20
Blue-winged Pitta				1							1
Brown Shrike							1				1
Chinese Blue Flycatcher							1				1
Drongo Cuckoo							1				1
Fairy Pitta					1						1
Himalayan Swiftlet										1	1
Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler							1				1
Pale Martin						4					4
Pechora Pipit		3									3
White Wagtail <i>baicalensis</i>						1					1
Waterbirds and shorebirds											
Black Stock						1					1
Eurasian Curlew				1							1
Red-necked Phalarope	120			1						426	547
Ruddy-breasted Crake							1				1
Watercock					1	1	2				4
Whimbrel				1							1
Non-tern seabirds											
Bulwer's Petrel							1				1
Frigatebird sp.					1						1
Lesser Frigatebird									1	1	2
Long-tailed Jaeger				13					3		16
Skua sp.									2		2
Streaked Shearwater		80									80
Terns (Laridae)											
Aleutian Tern				3						60	63
Black-naped Tern				1							1
Bridled Tern				110					1	171	282
Brown Noddy		1									1
Common Tern		173		10						128	311
Greater Crested Tern				8							8
Little Tern				5			1				6
Roseate Tern				25							25
White-winged Tern		848			10				1		859
Whiskered Tern				10	244		26				280

2018 the year of Yellow-breasted Bunting

Yellow-breasted Bunting photo exhibition

Once the rice paddies are grown in autumn, Yellow-breasted Buntings return to Hong Kong. Due to the destruction of habitat and overabundance of humans, Yellow-breasted Bunting has been up-listed to Critically Endangered. HKBWS organised a “Yellow-breasted Bunting photo exhibition” together with The Conservancy Association which was held in the Joint Publishing Shop at Wan Chai, in order to bring Yellow-breasted Bunting to our culture and daily lives.



Yellow-breasted Bunting Eco-art Exhibition

HKBWS organised a Yellow-breasted Bunting Eco-art Exhibition on World Migratory Bird Day as well as on the mother's day, as we wish the exhibition would be a means to spread the message of conservation to younger generations.



We specially thank Ocean Park Conservation Foundation Hong Kong, Carl Zeiss Far East Co Ltd, Hong Kong Community College, Environmental and Conservation Fund, D.park and everyone who has supported the project.

Membership Affairs

Hong Kong Bird Watching Day 2018

Hong Kong Bird Watching Day 2018, one of the annual key events of the Society, was held in February for the Challenger and Family Category and in April for the Secondary School Category. While the Challenger Category with 12 teams raced 24 hours from noon 24th to noon 25th Feb, the 11 teams in the Family's Category took a 5-hour race from 7am to noon on 25th February. Separately in mid-April, the Secondary School category attracted 13 teams from 9 schools to race for 7 hours on April 14. To support to the race teams, pre-race training was provided in order to enhance their bird identification skills, birdwatching technique and also knowledge of race location habitats.

A total of HK\$11,700- in donations was received and will be allocated to support promotion of 'Nature Education' to the public. The society would like to express gratitude to all race teams and donors for their generous support of this event.

2018 Hong Kong Bird Watching Day Cum Bird Race Fundraising Event

Donation

Challenger's Category & Supporter	Hobby	\$500-
	Little Sparrow	\$2,900-
	Owl Team	\$500-
Family Category & Supporter	Bird Discoverer	\$80-
	Pied Queenfisher	\$850-
	Verditer Flycatcher	\$520-
	Black Cat	\$350-
Secondary School Category & Supporter	Brother Sharp, Daughters of Mary Help of Christians Siu Ming Catholic Secondary School	\$2,000-
	BB Sharp, Daughters of Mary Help of Christians Siu Ming Catholic Secondary School	\$4,000-
	Total Donation	\$11,700-

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

- Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
- WWF – HK
- Mr. Lee Kwok Shing (Online bird record system)
- Miss Maomorning (Bird Race TEE design)
- Mr. Richard Lewthwaite (Adjudicator)
- Crested Bulbul Club & K Chan (Secondary School Category race day field volunteers)



Sponsored prizes & souvenirs

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

- Swarovski Hong Kong Ltd
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Secondary School Bird Race Group Photo

Race Results:

Prizes	Challenger's Category	Family's Category	Secondary School's Category
Winner	The Blackbeard Birdwatchers (163)	Sparrow (76)	Flappy Bird - SKH Chan Young Secondary School (66)
1st Runner-up	Five Plovers (154)	Wild Bird 2018 (65)	Osprey - CUHKFAA Chan Chun Ha Secondary School(65)
2nd Runner-up	Melting Bird (126)	Kingfisher Squad (54)	Brother Sharp - Daughters of Mary Help of Christians Siu MingCatholic Secondary School (62)
Best Record Award	Five Plovers (Rufous-faced Warbler)	Kingfisher Squad (Eastern Imperial Eagle)	149 th HKG - Chong Gene Hang College
Highest Amount of Donation	Little sparrow	Pied Queenfisher	BB Sharp - Daughters of Mary Help of Christians Siu MingCatholic Secondary School
TopTeam-Waterbirds	The Blackbeard Birdwatchers	--	--
TopTeam-Landbirds	Five Plovers	--	--
TopTeam-Woodland	Melting Bird	--	--
TopTeam-Urban	"BCCB (Birder, Couple, Countryside & Black)"	--	--

Race Results:



Winner- Challenger's Category:
The Blackbeard Birdwatchers



Winner- Family's Category:
Sparrow



Winner- Secondary School's Category:
Flappy Bird, SKH Chan Young Secondary School



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Race Teams: Challenger's Category



1. The Blackbeard
Birdwatchers : Li Chung
Hoi, Chan Tsz Chung,
Kwan Long Hei, Fung
Hon Shing



2. Five Plovers: Or Ka Man,
Cheung Ka Chun, Fong Hoi
Ning, Tse Wai Lun, Cheng
Nok Ming



3. Melting Bird: Lau Sin
Pang, Hon Tak Ming,
Poon Chin Pang Patrick,
Yim Shu Keung, Chui
Yung Shing



4. "BCCB (Birder, Couple,
Countryside & Black)" : Eva
Tam, Henry Lui, Felix Chan,
Sandra Chow, Woo Ming
Chuan



5. Three Generations: Li
Siu Lan, Chan Kai Wai,
Wong Wing Lam, Wong
Cheuk Tung



6. Little sparrow: Ng Sze On,
Yeung Bing Chung, Yeung
Kwai Lun



7. Hobby: Hung Kwok Kee
Vincent, Lai Yau Man
Philip, Choi Mei Ching
Jessica, Cheung Yuet Mei
Polly



8. Asia Potoo : Chan Ka Ho, Hui
Chung Hong, Tang Philip
Hoong Kin, Tong Chun Lok,
Zheng Xi



9. Sandpiper Common : Li
King Wa, Ng Kwan Yi
Gabriel, Wan Tsz Lap,
Lau Yuen Yung, Yip Ka
Yan



10. Rookie Chic 3 : Kenny Yip,
Carmen Li, Luke Yip



11. DKnKids : Dickson
Wong, John Wong, Karin
Chin, Lachlan Chin,
Hayden Chin



12. Owl Team : Yeung Wun
Chak, Lun Kai Fung Kevin,
Ng Ho Kan Perry

Race Teams: Family's Category



1. Sparrow: Louis Cheung, Cherry Wong, Cheung Ching-Sum



2. Wild Bird 2018: Forrest Fong, Fong Yik Yuen, Harold Tsoi, Elaine Chow, August Tsoi



3. Kingfisher Squad: Wong Lee, Lam Ka Wah, Lam Ho Long



4. Super Wings Team: Raymond Ng, Janet Wong, Brandon Ng, Savanna Ng



5. Verditer Flycatcher: Chow Wing Sheung Sharon, Lui Kwong Shing, Lui Ching Chloe, Lui To Tassos



6. Pied Queenfisher: Billy Yu, Zues Wan, Pia Wan, Chester Yu, Hyson Yu



7. Bird Discoverer: Wan Hau Yi, Ma Ka Cheong, Wan Pui Shan Doris, Wan Kai Chung, Wan Man Hei



8. Egretstar: Choi Shan Yu, Yip Chung Sing, Yip Tsz Ning, Yip Yi Sum



9. Black Cat: Cheng Man Yuen, Cho Ka Yin, Cheng Yin Tsz



10. Black-Faced Spoonbill: Chung Wing Chuen Emma, Wong Chun Sun, Wong Tin Yu, Chan Yan Chit Sophia, Chan Kit Ying



11. So's Family: Cheng Siu Ching, So Chun Hung, So Yat Long, So Yat Hei, Wong Tin Lok

Race Teams: Secondary School Category



1. Flappy Bird, SKH Chan Young Secondary School
So Hoi Yee, Cheung Chung Yin, Sham Wang Yin, Wong Miu Yin, Chen Nam Sin Nancy / Instructor: Hon Tak Ming



2. White-breasted Waterhen, SKH Chan Young Secondary School
Tam Chun Him, Lam Man Hin, Chan King Yu, Chow Wai Lok, Lok Ho Yin / Instructor: Chui Yung Shing



3. Osprey, CUHKFAA Chan Chun Ha Secondary School
Cheng Hiu Ying, Chan Ka Him, Lui Yuk Yi, Lau Ho Shun, Wong Ho Wang / Instructor: Lo Wing Sing



4. Sparrow, CUHKFAA Chan Chun Ha Secondary School
Chong Nga Ting, Chau Ka Sze, Zhuang Ho Yin, Leung Wing, Tong Hoi Shan / Instructor: Er Sing Seng



Race Teams: Secondary School Category



5. Brother Sharp, Daughters of Mary Help of Christians Siu Ming Catholic Secondary School
Lam Ka Ching, Hui Lok Yiu, So Tsz Yin, Lam Kai Wing / Instructor: Li Chun Yat



6. BB Sharp, Daughters of Mary Help of Christians Siu Ming Catholic Secondary School
Tam Tsz Man, Poon Cheuk Ying, Lau Pui Ka, Chow Tsz Ching / Instructor: Ng Shiu Han



7. Red-billed Blue Magpie, Confucian Tai Shing Ho Kwok Pui Chun College
Leung Tsz Hei, Man Tsz Hin, Ng Man Yu, Lok Wing Hei / Instructor: Li Chi Keung



8. Bird Lovers, Confucian Tai Shing Ho Kwok Pui Chun College
Cheng Man Fung, Chung Cheuk Yin, Lee Chun Him, Yau Hau Ming / Instructor: Cheng Sheung Hon



9. 149th HKG, Chong Gene Hang College
To Ki Ming, Wu Sze Yuen, Justin Cheung / Instructor: Lo Hoi Hong Joseph



10. Tiger Shrike, S.K.H Tsoi Kung Po Secondary School
Chen Shu, Yeung Hei Rong, Chen Tommy, Lee Tsz Him, Yeung Kit / Instructor: Chow Kwok Pun



11. St. Louis Bird Watching Team, St. Louis School
Chung Wing Fung Jess, Chan Jia Hui Tommy, Yu Ho Chun, Tam Ka Chai / Instructor: Yeung Hon Pan



12. I am a little little little bird, Kwon Tong Maryknoll College
Ho Tak Din, Chow Ho Yin, Ngan Wan Yiu, Chang Pak Kiu, Liu Cheung Ki / Instructor: Wan Ching Yuen



13. Greater Green Leafbird, SKH Holy Trinity Church Secondary School
Lam King Hin, Chang Chi Yan, Chung Cheuk Tong Eric, Tam Kam Chun, Ng Tsz Chung / Instructor: Chan Chi Tong

The International Black-faced Spoonbill Census 2018



Black-faced Spoonbills tend to rely on artificial wetlands due to habitat loss. Conservation of Deep Bay natural mudflats remains vitally important.

HKBWS coordinated The International Black-faced Spoonbill Census 2018 from 19 to 21 of January. During the 2018 census, a total of 3,941 Black-faced Spoonbills were recorded, the figure is the same as it was in 2017. Although the overall figure does not indicate that Black-faced Spoonbill (BFS) is further threatened, the numbers recorded in Deep Bay between Hong Kong and Shenzhen are continuously in decline. This reflects that suitable wetland habitat for BFS is shrinking. Coupled with continuous development in the Northwest New Territories, the habitat of BFS in Hong Kong is being seriously threatened. HKBWS appeals to the relevant government departments to develop conservation strategies for BFS habitat as early as possible, strategies which promote measures to protect the wetland and waterbirds in order to maintain the ecological balance.



Records in Deep Bay dropped 7% compared with 2017

The census results showed that 350 BFS were recorded in Deep Bay in 2018, 25 less than the last census. Mr Yu Yat-tung, the Research Manager of HKBWS, believed that the deteriorating quality of wetlands in Deep Bay area may lead to insufficient food supplies for BFS during their migratory journey.

Habitat degradation and destruction of mudflats in Deep Bay

BFS feeds on fish and shrimps. When the birds stay in the Deep Bay area in winter, it relies on mudflats and fishponds for roosting and feeding. With continuous development in Deep Bay in Shenzhen and the northwest New Territories, the habitat of BFSs around Deep Bay has been damaged to various extent. The impact caused by reclamation is the most serious. The reclamation work in Shenzhen in previous decades has reduced the size of mudflats in Deep Bay. Besides, heavy sedimentation at the estuary raised the mudflat elevation, which fosters the encroachment of mangroves. With the rapid growth of mangroves, especially exotic *Sonneratia*, the area of mudflats and the feeding grounds of BFSs keeps on shrinking.

Decrease in habitat quality in fishpond areas due to urban development

Deep Bay is located on the mid-point of the “East Asian-Australasian Flyway”, many migratory waterbirds including BFS spend winter in Hong Kong. In addition, use of some fishponds and wetlands in the northwest New Territories have been changed without making any formal applications. This directly affects the foraging range of BFS and the wintering time in Deep Bay. Yu Yat-tung expressed concern that the continuous development and the decline of the freshwater fish farming industry, which is leading to reduced suitable habitats for BFS, will finally make Hong Kong unsuitable for BFS in future winters.

Illegal animal traps found

In the past two years, HKBWS received 6 cases of 15 illegal traps in the fishponds in Deep Bay during winter time. Some traps caused this endangered bird to get injured or even killed. We understand that the waterbirds might affect harvest of fish, however, illegal use of traps threatening animal lives is forbidden. In this regards, HKBWS appeals to fish farmers to use safe and legal methods to drive away birds.

Insufficient law enforcement and difficult investigation of illegal case

In the past 6 months, HKBWS found two BFSs were being injured by illegal animal traps. HKBWS reported the incidents to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD). However, due to the insufficient evidence, the authorities could not make further follow-up actions. We recommend that the AFCD allocate more resources in

patrolling and conducting public education in order to enhance awareness of bird conservation and to promote animal-friendly policies.

No more delay on Conservation of Natural mudflats In the results of the present Census, more than 55% of BFSs were recorded in Taiwan, followed by Mainland China and Japan. Among the BFSs found in Taiwan, nearly 1,800 birds stayed in fishponds and salt pans in Chiayi and Tainan. In Mainland China, 744 were recorded, in which 270 of them were found in the fishponds in Fujian, and the number has nearly doubled to the figure of 2017. BFSs tend to recharge in artificial wetlands, it reflected that natural mudflats might not be able to feed them all.

Since the late 1990s, conservation of the endangered BFS has started in many sites along its flyway. However, with the development around the Yellow Sea region and mudflats along the coast of China, mudflats in this area are declining and deeply affect Deep Bay. The recent figures showed that BFSs tends to rely on artificial wetlands such as fishponds. The sustainability of such artificial wetlands is not as high as mudflats. YU Yat-tung was concerned that “The situation will change the foraging patterns of BFSs and affect the stability of their numbers. So, conservation of natural mudflats is urgent.” HKBWS calls all stakeholders to protect natural mudflats, this is the long-term, effective and sustainable way of conservation of birds and enhancing biodiversity.

Sparrow Census 2018



We sincerely thank the 260 Sparrow Census surveyors in completing the Sparrow Census 2018 survey on 5,6 & 12 May, and they were so important

to us in providing data of sparrow so that we could know more about sparrow's habitat. We have some first time surveyors this time, and some brought along their children. We believe that most of them observed some interesting sparrow behaviour such as courtship and mud-bathing. Results of this rigorous census which covers 18 districts all over Hong Kong will be announced in near future.



Photo: Lau Yiu Kwan

Land for Hong Kong: Our Home, Our Say!



The Task Force on Land Supply (the Task Force) was established by the Government last year, and the Task Force announced 18 land supply options for a five-month public consultation starting from 26 April, 2018. However, the public consultation document published by Task Force is similar to the "Hong Kong 2030+: Towards a Planning Vision and Strategy Transcending 2030" by the Government, which simplifies Hong Kong's problem of "pricy, tiny and cramped" and blame it on land shortage. Other critical factors, such as the uneven distribution of resources, population policy and the economic structure, were not mentioned for discussion. It failed to identify the real causes of the current social problems and provide corresponding solutions, but instead, it seems to direct the public to support land development. Among the land supply options, some are even located at ecologically

sensitive areas, bringing conservation and social needs into an unnecessary conflict.

Land supply is in fact closely related to our daily lives and our next generations. The Society hopes everyone would take some time to understand the current public consultation and submit your comments on the consultation document and your thoughts on the future development of Hong Kong. We will carefully study the relevant documents as well and will share with you all our thoughts later.

Public consultation document: www.landforhongkong.hk

Deadline for submission: 26 September 2018

Email: tfls@devb.gov.hk

Green groups strongly condemn human-induced fire accident in Nam Sang Wai and urge the Government to step-up the conservation efforts

Fires broke out in the reedbeds in Nam Sang Wai (NSW) in March 2018, leading to concerns and discussion on the conservation and threats in the area. The Society, along with Designing Hong Kong, Greenpeace, Green Power, The Conservancy Association and Friends of the Earth (HK) commissioned Public Opinion Programme of The University of Hong Kong to conduct a territory-wide poll through random sampling of telephone numbers, and successfully interviewed 1,003 people about their views on the conservation of NSW.

The poll result shows that 83% of the people interviewed support the conservation of the natural landscape of NSW, while 61% support long-term conservation of NSW through land resumption and non-in-situ land exchange under existing ordinances. This indicates that there is a clear demand from the public for the conservation of NSW, and some even urges the Government to take active measures to conserve NSW.

NSW has unique ecology and natural landscape. It was listed as one of the priority sites for enhanced conservation under the New Nature Conservation Policy since 2004, where its importance is not lower than others on the list. NSW is within the Wetland Conservation Area and is adjacent to the internationally recognized Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar site. It is an integral part of the Deep Bay wetland ecosystem. Habitats in NSW is diverse, including fishponds, mudflats and intertidal areas, while large pieces of reedbeds are one of the best in Hong Kong. This provides forage and roosting habitat for many birds and wildlife of conservation concern, such as the globally endangered Black-faced Spoonbill, Chinese Penduline Tit of regional concern, Yellow Bittern of local concern, and the globally near threatened

Eurasian Otter. The trees along the fishponds are also an important night roosting site in the

Deep Bay area for the winter migrant Great Cormorant. Therefore, the ecological environment in NSW must be conserved.

Ten years have passed since the introduction of 2004 New Nature Conservation Policy, however, its conservation effort is not as expected. NSW was listed as one of the priority sites for enhanced conservation, but its environment was constantly and deliberately damaged, which revealed the weaknesses of its current conservation effort. Therefore, the Government needs to review its conservation strategies for these places. As the poll result shows that the public is open to or even support long term NSW conservation measures such as land resumption and non-in-situ land exchange, the Government needs to investigate active conservation plans for NSW. In the short term, the Government should take actions to prevent fires and other threats of destruction in NSW. For instance, enhancing the communication between different stakeholders and facilitating the establishment of management agreement to protect and manage habitats. In this way, the public and the generations to come can still enjoy the beautiful natural environment of NSW.

(Originally a joint green groups press release published on 2 May 2018, now slightly amended for publication)

* "Survey on Nam Sang Wai Conservation" by the Public Opinion Programme of The University of Hong Kong:
[https:// www.hkpop.hku.hk/english/report/nsw_2018/index.html](https://www.hkpop.hku.hk/english/report/nsw_2018/index.html)



Be the Eco-fish farmer



We have been recruiting Eco-fish farmers to participate in our Eco-fish experiencing activities. In May the second key core activity- "Be the Eco-fish farmer" was held in 13 May. Though it was a hot sunny day, we was "working" so hard in taking care of Eco-fish, it was fun and we had some fantastic feedback from our little Eco-fish farmers. There are some more activities coming by the Eco-fish programme, don't miss it!



Fishpond Volunteer Scheme Activities

Bird Watching in Mai Po



Before the migratory birds going back to the north, a birding tour was organised for fishpond volunteers to visit the Mai Po Nature Reserve in early May. Some waders and egrets

have changed to the colorful breeding plumage. Volunteers were keen on finding the waterbirds even though some plovers and sandpipers were very similar appearance.

We also awarded the certificate of graduation to trainees during the activity. They have finished the Fishpond Eco-tour Guide Training Program. Congratulation and thanks for their service in the past six months.



Painting Activity in Nam Chung and Luk Keng

A painting activity was organised by voluntary painting tutor David in Nam Chung and Luk Keng. Volunteers visited the freshwater marsh, farmland and Lotus pond to explore the stunning scenery. They pictured the scenery with paint brush and drawing paper instead of phone and camera to enjoy the sight in another angle.



Study of local movement of waterbird in Deep Bay

We initiated a new project to aim at collecting more data about utilisation of fishponds, wetlands or other habitats in Deep Bay area. GPS tracking devices were setup on Chinese Pond Heron and Little Egret in order to investigate their time distribution to different habitats and pattern. Our researcher will trace the waterbirds regularly with the receiver. If you find any birds with trackers or rings during bird watching, please kindly inform us by email or Facebook.



Education Group

Nature Education

Hong Kong has been a party of the "Convention on Biological Diversity" conceived by the United Nation since 2011, the government then created "Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan" so as to enhance local's conservation and promote natural ecology.

Since Hong Kong been a metropolis and the effect of globalisation, student in Hong Kong can be easily connected to the world and get know to news about biodiversity. Although the topic of ecology is covered in Science subject in local academic scheme, we are not easy to know about local ecology status since we are fed with foreign ecology news.

Hong Kong with about 1000 square kilometers with very high biodiversity level. Living creatures are widely seen all over this small city, there are many wild lives tweet, they are mainly birds, amphibians, reptiles, mammals and some orthopterans.



Come join education programme organised by HKBWS, you might experience the amazing music of the nature or enrol to our in-school talks, which might allow your students to

know and to see creatures around them daily. We will raise your student's interest in the natural ecology. Information boards and material will be prepared so everyone will get know to the great nature in your school.

To learn more, please contact the education team of HKBWS at 2377 4387 or email to education@hkbws.org.hk.

Exploring Biodiversity- Spring Biodiversity sound camp



Sight is the most dominating sense in human, we get know to the world mainly with our sight. We would like to inspire participants to leave the dominate sense- sight and sense the nature with new perspectives, then we organised a brand new nature education comp with only sound. We brought participants to "listen" to the high level of biodiversity together with games and talks.



Education Group

Soundmap city park walk

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society has been organising city park walk once a month since December last year. We bring along participants to listen to and explore city's biodiversity.

To join: stay tuned with our facebook and forum.



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China Projects



Environmental Education Training workshop in Shandong

Besides local conservation issues, HKBWS also emphasises the importance of environmental education and promote it in mainland China, so that more and more people will fall in love with birds and would further engage in conservation. Therefore, with the support from The Swire Charitable Trust, we organized an Environmental Education Training Workshop in Donying, Shandong Province, between 21st and 22nd April. Fifty participants from different conservation groups, non-governmental organisations in mainland China as well as local school teachers and nature reserve staffs took part in the workshop. We were glad to have invited a famous environmental educator, Dr. Zhu Jingen, to be the guest tutor. He shared a lot on concepts and experiences of environmental education. In addition, we also demonstrated some environmental education games, in the hope that these would inspire the participants and they will put them into practice in the future. After the workshop, a social media platform was formed for sharing and further connection.



Fifty participants from different conservation groups, NGOs as well as local school teachers and nature reserve staff took part in the workshop.



We were honored to have invited a famous environmental educator, Dr. Zhu Jingen (Shanyin), to be the guest tutor and shared his experiences to the participants



Despite the sudden drop of temperature, participants were still in high spirit during the field work



Our staff, Vivian, who is in charge of the China Programme was leading the environmental education game demonstration.



Participants in class



Participants were active in the group discussion session

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White-bellied Erpornis
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Tai Po Kau

13/04/2018
Mirrorless DC, 300mm f/4 lens



白喉磯鶇 - 雌鳥
薛國華
嘉道理農場暨植物園

White-throated Rock Thrush - female
Sit Kwok Wa Leo
Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden

03/02/2018
DSLR Camera, 100-400mm f4.5-5.6 lens



栗耳鳳鶯
黃永文
嘉道理農場暨植物園

Chestnut-collared Yuhina
Wong Wing Man Kenneth
Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden

17/04/2018
Mirrorless DC, 300mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter



白眉地鵯
薛國華
大埔滘

Siberian Thrush
Sit Kwok Wa Leo
Tai Po Kau

14/02/2018
DSLR Camera, 100-400mm f4.5-5.6 lens



灰背燕尾
何建業
城門郊野公園

Slaty-backed Forktail
Kinni Ho Kin Yip
Shing Mun Country Park

01/01/2018
DSLR camera, 600mm f4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter



普通秧雞
路人乙
塱原

Water Rail
passerby-b
Long Valley

31/03/2018
Mirrorless DC, 800mm f/5.6 lens

To raise funds for the ecological monitoring of Great Knot

The 35th annual Big Bird Race was successfully organised by WWF Hong Kong on 14th April 2018. The event involved 14 teams from Hong Kong, Mainland China and Taiwan, with Sparrows claiming the Most Birds Seen award for spotting 156 species over the course of 12 thrilling hours. This year's event has so far raised a total of HK\$500,000 towards supporting part of the de-siltation of Gei Wai #3/4 and the monitoring of the globally endangered Great Knot.

Great Knot is restricted to the East Asian Australasian Flyway (EAAF). It breeds in north-east Siberia of Russia, mainly winters in Australia, and stages in estuaries and on intertidal mudflats along the coastline of East and Southeast Asia including Mai Po. The mudflats in Yellow Sea Ecoregion are of particular importance to this species, with the coastal wetlands in Yalujiang Estuary of Liaoning Province being a key stop-over site for refuelling.

Great Knot is suffering a rapid decline of its population. In addition to habitat loss, shortage of food is one of the other major threats.

Scientists from Fudan University found that 95% of Great Knot's food biomass in Yalujiang Estuary is *Potamocorbula laevis*, a kind of clam. They also discovered in March 2018 that the number of all available clams for Great Knot in the mudflats of Yalujiang Estuary is less than 5% of the average over the past 6 years. To understand the reasons for such a rapid decline, more research and monitoring work needs to be conducted so as to provide scientific information for its conservation in the future. WWF Hong Kong will continue to raise funds to support this ecological monitoring work.



Great Knot (Credit: John and Jemi Holmes)



▲ Before the installation of wood kerbs on boardwalk

▼ After the installation wood kerbs on boardwalk



Wheelchair user safety

Sponsored by HSBC, this program includes installing wood kerbs on both sides of the boardwalk to prevent wheelchairs from moving into *Gei Wai*; reducing the slope at the corner between 16b and 17b and repaving the part of a tilted concrete path near *Gei Wai* 16b to facilitate wheelchair users to get to bird hide #1. The installation of kerbs on the boardwalk in *Gei Wai* 16b has been completed, and similar work in *Gei Wai* #13 and 14 will be conducted in this coming summer. After the completion of all the work, a circular path will be available for wheelchair users to use.



Before repaving of 16b and 17b concrete path

Illegal activities on the mudflats

To facilitate reports, record sheets "Sighting record of mudskipper collectors" have been placed at 4 floating birdwatching hides for visitors to fill in. If you take any relevant photos or videos, please send them to: eddieleung@wwf.org.hk. The information provided by you will assist the Police and AFCD staff to patrol the mudflat in the future.



Bird Watching Competitions in Hong Kong

Text: Bonnie Chan



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Bird watching competitions in Hong Kong are usually races amongst bird watchers, conducted in team format with 3 to 5 members in each team. Participating teams will have to record as many bird species as possible on specified dates within a limited time inside the boundary of Hong Kong. Records must be attested by a certain number of members (e.g. a minimum of 3). As the race is based on an honour system, there will not be any adjudicator following the teams, it all depends on the participants' self-discipline. All records will be verified by a panel of judges at the end of the competition, and the team with the highest number of birds noted wins.

A bird watching competition was first held in Hong Kong in 1984 as a fund-raising charity event by WWF Hong Kong. The event was called "Big Bird Race" as inspired by the book "The Big Bird Race" by Bill Oddie and David Tomlinson which told the story of a bird watching competition held to raise funds for wildlife charities. WWF Hong Kong adopted the race's format and name, and invited HKBWS to take part in the first "Big Bird Race" in Hong Kong. Since then, the race has become an annual event which attracts many participants, not just locally but also from within the region, including China, Taiwan, Korea, and Japan. Hong Kong's "Big Bird Race" is an event that aims to raise funds, and over the years, the purpose of the funds differed as times changed. Initially it was used for acquiring gei wais (shrimp ponds), managing the ponds and educating the public. Later, money raised was directed to the repair of gei wais, and the building and maintenance of bird-watching hides. As of today, conservation efforts have successfully developed Mai Po into a world-recognised wetland reserve with great ecological conservation importance.

In 2002, in celebration of its 45th anniversary, HKBWS held a different bird race, called "Records 2002 - Bird Watching Competition". Its aim was to create an opportunity for members and birders to exchange notes and brush up on their birding skills, and to encourage birders to submit their sighting records. The name of the event in Cantonese "Chai, Cham, Ching" was a phonic depiction of the birding and record submission process.

"Chai" (Cantonese meaning "guess"): a calculated guess on the turn up of certain species in certain locations;

"Cham" (Cantonese meaning "seek"): look for the birds, identify with their characteristics and calls;

"Ching" (Cantonese meaning "submit"): take notes of the identified species and submit the records to HKBWS as reference for future studies on ecological environment and bird species.

The first "Chai, cham, ching – bird watching records competition" was well received by members and birders for the opportunity to share bird watching experience and tips with one another. It became an annual event with great support and interest from members, now close to a hundred people participate each year. The race has now become one of the most anticipated events of HKBWS. The name of the event has seen some changes, from "Chai, cham, ching" to "Hong Kong Bird Watching Competition", to "Hong Kong Bird Watching Day" in 2014, but the system of a 24-hour race remains unchanged. New elements were added to attract different types of birders, different groups have been created e.g. rookies, secondary students, family, and corporate invitational groups.



Team The Lark, Records 2012 - Bird Watching Competition



Fun-fun Team, 2014 Hong Kong Bird Watching Day

2013 autumn, we experimented with a small scale localised bird watching competition called "Little Little Bird Race (HK Island)". It was a 6-hour race which allowed birders to enjoy bird watching fun in a casual manner while enriching the database with sighting records of birds in different areas of Hong Kong.

Another program that is closely related to the Bird Watching Competition is “Target 100”, it is a simulation race derived from the former. First held in 1996, participants teamed up with an experienced birder who would serve as leader in finding 100 bird species in a day, both sight and sound included. In recent years, “Target 100” has become the annual event for our senior affiliates -- “Crested Bulbul Club”.



“2013 Target 100”, Crested Bulbul Club

Apart from formal competitions, the Society has also held and co-organised small races to promote bird watching to different sectors of the public. Amongst them, “Inter-school Bird Race” is one of the longest running programs held jointly with Hong Kong Wetland Park, now into its 17th year. This program is designed for Hong Kong’s secondary students. Participants will undergo training by HKBWS, including lecture and field practice, then they will represent their schools to compete in teams. The race will take place inside HK Wetland Park and its neighbouring area Tsim Bei Tsui. In recent years, the number of participating teams averaged between 30 and 40 each year. Since the participants are secondary students, an adapted format has been created for them. A birding route was determined for all teams with check points for signing in along the way. All teams were accompanied by their school teachers, and transportation to and from the race location was provided.



“2013 Inter-school Bird Race” Group photo

Since 2006, the Society has also organised a program called “Hong Kong Park Green Hunt”, in cooperation with the Leisure and Cultural Services Department. The program aims to educate primary students on bird watching and park ecology. Participants were given training by HKBWS before the race, and on D-day all teams were accompanied by members of the Crested Bulbul group and their school teachers. Participants were required to look for birds inside Hong Kong Park, and at the same time answer interesting questions or fulfill missions about other animals and plants found in the park through their own observation, e.g., find a squirrel, a butterfly etc. During the race, participants also wore team hats designed and produced by themselves to enhance team spirit, prizes were given for outstanding designs.



“2015 Hong Kong Park Green Hunt” event day



“2016 Hong Kong Park Green Hunt” winning team





On the path of migratory birds – a two-decade journey of birdwatching in China and Hong Kong

Text/Photo: KC LEE



Sunset at Mai Po

“The Brown Fish Owl is showing up in Cheung Chau again...”, “the Black-faced Spoonbills are back to Mai Po...”

Messages keep popping up on my phone on what and where new birds are found. When the hot and humid summer ends, everybody is ready to start yet another frenetic season of birdwatching.

As the city grows, the distance between urban and rural areas in Hong Kong diminishes. It only takes an hour’s ferry ride from Hong Kong Island to Cheung Chau, a mile-wide islet, to escape from the hustle and bustle of a big city to the serenity of a small fishing port. For a vibrant metropolis, Hong Kong’s rich wilderness and hidden areas of tranquility are surprisingly close-by.

“Hong Kong has more than 530 bird species – accounting for one third of the total species recorded in China ...”

Hong Kong is without doubt remarkably rich in bird diversity. The latest count shows 549 bird species have been found in Hong Kong, of which approximately 20% are residents, 60% are migrants, and the rest are seabirds, vagrants or introduced species.

Comparing to other nearby big cities in South China, with equally crowded streets dotted with dazzling skyscrapers, and also nature reserves in various sizes and shapes, Hong Kong still holds a record of approximately a hundred more bird species. The variety of birds in Hong Kong in fact can match that of Great Britain, which is 88 times bigger. The large number of bird species recorded is certainly related to our exceptional geographical location and environment, but the long history of birdwatching activity is also contributory.

Robert Swinhoe, British naturalist and China’s finest early birder, arrived in Amoy (modern-day Xiamen) in 1854 and went later to Taiwan. In over 20 years he collected and described 770 Chinese species; it was his pioneering work that helped unveil the scientific study of birds in China. Back then, however, Hong Kong was only a small barren outpost in the Far East. So while he had paid the place a short visit, Swinhoe missed paving the way on our local ornithological development.

Nevertheless, since the early days, the birth and sturdy growth of birdwatching as a pastime among Hong Kong people has been closely related to the affection, obsession and promotion by British residents.

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, the first birdwatching organisation in Greater China, was established in 1957, with an aim to promoting the interests, understanding and conservation of birds. Over the past 60 years, the society has accumulated a large amount of information and experience on local birds and their habitats, and has made Hong Kong an undisputed centre for birders in the region.



Yet my birdwatching journey started from the north, - on the mainland.

In 1996, soon after getting my first Home Return Permit, with absolutely no idea of what to expect when birdwatching, I joined a trip to Kuatun of China's Fujian Province to look for the Short-tailed Parrotbill. At the time I thought: bird or no bird, the wondrous scenery of the Wuyi Mountains is enough attraction for my debut. But amazingly, I was captivated; I was enchanted by a passion for birds that led my footsteps all over China for the next 20 years.

In 1999, I travelled to Xinjiang, taking along a spotting scope and a compact digital camera, which was still then an expensive new toy not widely available. As I looked at a Little Owl through the scope, I suddenly came up with the idea of taking images of the cute and smart little creature using the digital camera, before the term "digiscoping" had not even be coined. At the time, with conventional film-based equipment, bird photography was extremely challenging. Therefore, I hoped, this new way of image recording could perhaps help fill the gaps in knowledge of China's birds in the wild, when visual information of its many species and subspecies was rather lacking.

And so I continued to go, with a notebook, a telescope and a camera, to every remote quarter of the mainland. I have traversed the scrubby mountains in the west along the Yellow River; passed through the snowy steppes in the north up in Manchuria; trudged the rocky shores in the east beside the coast of Taiwan; and roamed the rainy valleys in the south by the Himalayas. On Orchid Island (Lanyu), I observed the endemic Lanyu Scops Owl in great and gratifying detail. In the Helan Mountains (Alashan), I was eventually rewarded with my "nemesis" bird, Ala Shan Redstart. At the frontier of Tibet, I captured a photo of Fire-tailed Myzornis, probably China's first wild shot of it, and made the country's first record of Himalayan Bulbul.

But the more I see the magnificent stretches of wilderness, the more I appreciate the unique clustering of habitats in Hong Kong.

Of course HK is without high mountains, long rivers, or vast plains, and is in no way comparable ecologically to the mainland, which boasts 1458 bird species. Moreover, unlike isolated enclaves like Taiwan or Hainan, Hong Kong is literally only a spot in the shadow of an enormous terrain, and therefore difficult to harbour endemic species or subspecies. Yet, with its special geographical location, diverse natural environment, close proximity of urban and rural areas and organic combination of development and conservation, Hong Kong is small but mythical.

What has been packed within Hong Kong's total area of just around 1100 square kilometres, in terms of habitat diversity, is simply amazing. It has curvy and vegetated hillsides, brackish and freshwater marshes, mature and dense secondary forests, open and grassy farmlands, and gentle and broad mudflats, all by the side of a boundless ocean. It provides some of the most suitable habitats for a large variety of birds to roost, to replenish and breed.

Hong Kong is situated on the south-east coast of China and at the same time is in the middle of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway of migratory birds. Hence, the variety of birds in Hong Kong encompasses the characteristics of the Palaearctic region, the Oriental region and the Australian region. Every year thousands of migratory shorebirds use Hong Kong as a stop-over or wintering grounds, including Swinhoe's Egrets, enshrined in the HKBWS logo, and Black-faced Spoonbills...

... and the Siberian Crane: a rare visitor from the freezing subarctic. When the first sun rays pierce the morning clouds, and the reed-beds are tinged gold along the waterside, beautiful Mai Po becomes even more spectacular with the arrival of its majestic guests. This elegant crane, fully recovered from the rigours of a 6000 kilometre journey, is gracefully strolling across the humble grass.



Black-faced Spoonbill



Lanyu Scops Owl on Orchid Island



Brown Fish Owl at Cheung Chau



Siberian Crane at Mai Po

Situated in Deep Bay at the north-west corner of Hong Kong and separated from the large mainland city of Shenzhen only by a narrow river, Mai Po Nature Reserve is a very important wetland on the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. Deep Bay is an estuary area composed of mangrove and marshes where the seashore is enriched by the organic nutrients from the Shenzhen River and Yuen Long Rivers, supporting a wide range of flora and fauna. In the 1900s, residents on both sides of the Bay cultivated oysters on the mudflats and later excavated gei wai in the mangroves, making use of tides to breed and harvest shrimps. This eco-friendly way of shrimp farming attracted a large number of birds over the years to forage in the shrimp ponds.

The Hong Kong Government declared Mai Po as a restricted area in 1975 and announced it as a Site of Special Scientific Interest in 1976. Mai Po has been officially a nature reserve since 1982 and became the first conservation wetland of China's coast. With substantial efforts by various parties, the conservation of migratory birds made significant progress. On 4 September 1995, another milestone was achieved as 1540 hectares of marshland in Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay was designated as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention.

Since 1990, Mai Po Nature Reserve has been actively providing training and experience-sharing with wetland managers and scientists. They come from various places - most are from China mainland - to participate in courses on wetland management and exchanges on the principles, practice and techniques in habitat conservancy and environmental education.

Despite being a small place, Hong Kong has made huge contributions in bird conservation over the years.

Admittedly, the natural environment in Hong Kong is under all kinds of threats: urban development, climate change, water pollution, invasive species and so on. All these threats need to be tackled by a concerted effort of the government, NGOs and the public. Public awareness and support could be raised through environmental education, field observation and bird surveys. With determination and resolve, I think we can still be cautiously optimistic on the outlook for Hong Kong's natural habitats.

When the sun begins to set and the night advances, a ferry boat is heading towards the pier of Cheung Chau, where a crowd has already been gathering along its busy shores. Among them are keen birdwatchers, avid photographers, laid-back tourists, and passers-by just enjoying the breeze. All of them gaze intently as their attention is drawn by a pair of big and round golden eyes. A Brown Fish Owl is roosting right on the top of a fishing-boat mast, deliberately scanning the surroundings. Sometimes it watches patiently; sometimes it patrols around confidently. Sometimes, in swift actions, it strikes into the sea to hunt. In a way, it looks exactly like the bustling city around.



A flock of migratory birds at Mai Po (Black-tailed Godwit)



Ala Shan Redstart in Helan Mountains



Yeung Chit - a Primary Five student who never plays games

Text/Photo: Chow Kwok Bun ("Little John")

*Bird Watching group member of three
(left is Little John, middle is Dad, and right is Little Chit.)*

Yeung Chit is a ten-year-old member of the HKBWS 21st Elementary Bird Watching Course for Beginners. Among the many adult members, it is very easy to locate him at first glance. During the class, he is devoted and surprisingly quiet. In fact, the bird watching class starts teaching at seven at night and ends up till after nine thirty. To a person working regular hours, it is only natural to yawn as time passes. However this little friend always stays focussed in the class and pays attention to every aspect.

After the class, I accidentally met him at Long Valley. We even agreed to go to Ho Man Tin a day later together to watch birds. Having listened to his story, I am stunned. At his age, he already has two years bird watching experience. His first step to understanding nature was a fascination with butterflies. His parents' hiking and jogging activities unexpectedly paved the road for this little Naturalist. In holidays, they do not pass time in shopping malls or to watch movies, rather they hike in the outdoors and discover nature. When parents are occupied with work, Little Chit has another caretaker, his Grandmother, to accompany him to go around. So of course he has frequently visited Fung Yuen and Tsui Hang, Sai Kung. Owing to his love of butterflies, he is acquainted with Mr. Yeung Kin Yip, the chairman of Hong Kong Lepidopterists' Society. According to his Dad, every time Little Chit consults the butterfly specialist, the discussion can easily last over two hours.

In kindergarten, the teacher entrusts this little butterfly expert to introduce different types of Hong Kong butterfly to his classmates. Besides butterflies, he has even started studying jellyfish and octopus in Hong Kong waters. As a matter of fact, he loves Yan Chau Tong Marine Park very much. When he is asked about things there, he can recite with ease the characteristics, habitat and behaviour and related information of every species. He never holds back until all the answers to your questions are done! Not long ago, he was fascinated with fireflies. What a lucky guy, the

parent of his classmate is exactly the chairman of Hong Kong Firefly Research Association, Mr. Mak Siu Fung, who is consulted regularly.

Books relating to lions and tigers in the library surely interest him, too. Yet he nevertheless regards these as far away. His studying must have time to do on site observation. Outdoors, he began to notice birds. Through binoculars he found tons of research objects in his surroundings. Increasingly engaged, he started observing in the Wong Tai Sin area where he lives. At first, he came across Tree Sparrows, Chinese Bulbuls, then Red-whiskered Bulbuls, then Common Tailorbird, Japanese White-eyes, and even the stunning Fork-tailed Sunbird one by one! With more experience, he sensed seasonal changes. Some birds showed regular behaviour patterns right before his eyes. He even discovered some more uncommon bird species, like Grey Treepie, Crested Serpent Eagle, Verditer Flycatcher, and Fujian Niltava in his neighbourhood. Seeing his son's enthusiasm, his father decided to accompany him to the 21st Elementary Bird Watching Course for Beginners, which has opened the gate of bird life to him.

P.S. Hong Kong, a highly developed society, abides to golden rules of standardisation, comparison and utilitarianism. It is really not a simple thing to nurture a unique ecologically-oriented child. Little Chit's Dad told me that his wife and he brought their two little boys outdoors to get in touch more with natural things, and lead them to the library to find things beyond their little world. Gradually they detect that the two boys have developed their specific interests and strengths. Dad has been "hands-off" to allow space for them to develop. And he made a very big decision, affecting the family, to quit his current job to spare time to take care of the two little experts. In the discussion, I fully acknowledge what a courageous move this is in a society like Hong Kong.



Postscript:

At last, I ask a question: "Little Chit! Do you play games?" Little Chit is direct and without a doubt to reply: "If I spare time to play games, I may be left with little time to discover and study nature! Thus, I don't play games!"

Words from the mouth of a primary five student! It leads us to consider the sacrifice of his parents. Is it worth it?

Right before bird watching at Ho Man Tin, I remind Little Chit to show me his Wong Tai Sin bird watching report. When I get it, I do not have time to read through. Two days later, I read it in detail and note it can be viewed as the result of two years of bird watching experience.

Bird watching in Wong Tai Sin



Introduction: North of Wong Tai Sin is Lion Rock, as a result, forest bird species are rather abundant. In downtown, there are numerous parks, big and small, natural habitat for urban birds. In the south of the district, there is a nullah where different types of waterbird can be found.

Main observation points: Lion Rock Country Park, Shatin Pass Road, Jat's Incline, and Kai Tak Nullah.

Threats in the district: The development of Tze Wan Shan downtown has destroyed over half of the local woodland. The last section of Kai Tak Nullah construction has contaminated water quality. Moreover, except the above named bird watching sites, the district has been left with zero ecological value - a "concrete jungle".

Bird records: Mainly urban birds while comparatively special records are usually found in the woodland. There are also winter visitors as well as spring and autumn migrants. Waterbird record are not rich, but raptor record is pretty good.

His notes (*Illustrated - Ed.*) have a pretty complete structure, an organised layout and show good powers of observation: there is an introduction, an analysis of Wong Tai Sin's habitats and environmental issues, species occurrence and so on.

Next day I share on Facebook and make a joke that if Hong Kong gets a few more children like Little Chit, the total number of bird species in Hong Kong may surpass the 1500 species recorded in China!

I broadened my horizons after my encounter with Little Chit. In this generation, communication is usually conducted via virtual reality - on mobile phones and computer notebooks. Chit has neither a Facebook account or a Whatsapp software application. I need to contact his Dad first to reach him. In terms of internet habits,

Bird record



Bird types more commonly seen (over ten records in a year).

Tree Sparrow, Red-whiskered Bulbul, Chinese Bulbul, Common Tailorbird, Japanese White-eye, Fork-tailed Sunbird, Cinereous Tit, Large-billed Crow, House Crow, Magpie, Red-billed Blue Magpie, Black-collared Starling, Crested Myna, Masked Laughingthrush, White Wagtail, White-rumped Munia, Spotted Dove, rock pigeon, Great and Little Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, Chinese Pond Heron, Asian Koel, Black Kite, Blue Whistling Thrush and Oriental Magpie-robin.

Birds that are infrequent (fewer than five records in a year).

Crested Goshawk, Peregrine Falcon, Crested Serpent-eagle, Azure-winged Magpie, Chestnut Bulbul, Silver-eared Mesia, Black-throated Laughingthrush, Greater-necked Laughingthrush, Common Kingfisher, White-breasted Kingfisher, Grey Heron, Scarlet Minivet and Hair-crested Drongo.

Little Chit is living in the past. His Dad explains, as a matter of fact technology is very easy to master. He added that, in their childhood, we had better let children observe and experience more! On the day we do bird watching, the boys use binoculars undistracted by digital technology.

I have been taking up the post of scout leader for nine years and seen a lot of children and teenagers. Rather than playing games by themselves on the mobile phone, they have enjoyed unforgettable first-hand experiences such as circling around a camp fire to play group games, counting stars laying on the beach at night, or eating sandy campfire food. Some of these youngsters are now parents themselves. We all agree that such real activities had more value than today's virtual "experiences".

My personal conclusion is that happiness actually does not have to cost a cent. Simply lying on grass, looking at clouds and the blue

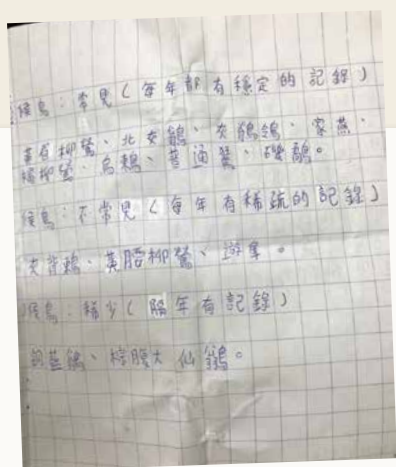
sky, listening to birdsong, smelling fragrant flowers, and having relatives or a group of comrades sharing the same experience is the answer. It was a coincidence when I heard Little Chit sharing his nature story, as if a meteor had crossed the sky in the dark! I hope he can soon be joined by others....a meteor shower!



Text: Chow Kwok Bun ("Little John")

Experienced leader of Bird Watching Society; Leader of 1st Bird Watching Leader Training Class and Bird Identification Tutor of Bird Watching Foundation class (23rd and 24th classes).

Devoted to promote the use of binoculars, "Bird watching" for visually impaired persons and children nature education



Migrant: frequent (regular records every year).

Yellow-browed Warbler, Asian Brown Flycatcher, Grey Wagtail, Barn Swallow, Dusky Warbler, Eurasian Blackbird, Common Buzzard and Common Sandpiper.

Migrant: infrequent (scarce record every year).

Grey-backed Thrush, Pallas's Leaf Warbler and Peregrine Falcon.

Migrant: scarce (record with every two years).

Verditer Flycatcher and Fujian Niltava.



Conclusion: compared to other urban areas in Hong Kong, Wong Tai Sin woodland is quite well-preserved. As to habitat diversity, the district has large areas of woodland, waterbirds can also be found in the nullah. On species record aspect, majority are urban birds, the rest are waterbirds and forest birds. There are several species of raptor in the district. In spring and autumn, rather scarce bird species can be found in the woodland. Improvement can be made in the area by reducing the ecological damage caused by Kai Tak Nullah construction.





January

- ▶ This was a warm month until its final days when a cold spell set in, and wintering thrushes and bluetails were much scarcer than usual, though **Daurian Redstarts** were present in good numbers. Three rarities were found - a fly-by juvenile **Northern Goshawk** at Pui O on 1st (JAA), a potential 2nd record, a **Black-backed Swamphen** at Mai Po from 7th (per YYT), about the 8th for Hong Kong and the second of the winter following one at Hok Tau in December, and a **Japanese Waxwing** in a large fruiting tree at Airfield Road on 18th (per GT), only the 4th for Hong Kong and the first in over 20 years. In addition, an **Ashy Minivet** was found at Mui Shue Hang on 12th (DAD), only the second winter record of the species.
- ▶ Among other notable birds found in the month were a male **Siberian Thrush** at Ng Tung Chai on 1st (TL), a flock of **Eurasian Siskins** at Shek Kong Catchwater from 10th (JC), a first-winter **Daurian Jackdaw** near Crest Hill on 11th (MRL), a **Dusky Thrush** at Pui O on 12th (MDW), a **Baer's Pochard** at Lok Ma Chau on 15th (PJL), a **Rosy Starling** at Ma Tso Lung, also on 15th (JAA), a **Eurasian Chiffchaff** trapped at Mai Po on 20th (CM), the second of the winter, and an **Ashy Drongo** of the subspecies *hopwoodi* at Ha Hang on 21st (RWL).
- ▶ A large proportion of the key birds found earlier in the winter remained into the month, with further reports of the **Ferruginous Duck** at Lok Ma Chau up to 10th (PJL), the **Rufous-faced Warbler** and **Eastern Crowned Warbler** at Brides Pool to 14th and 17th (DT, PH), respectively, and the **Ultramarine Flycatcher** at Shek Kong Catchwater on 31st (per PH). The following remained through the month and into February - the **Greater White-fronted Goose**, **Smew**, **Oriental Stork** (after moving from Lok Ma Chau in mid month) and **Rook**, all at Mai Po, the **Small Niltava** at Lung Fu Shan, the **White-spectacled Warbler** at Cheung Chau and the **Slaty-backed Forktail** at Shing Mun.

February

- ▶ In a cool and dry month, highlights were a drake **American Wigeon** seen in front of the boardwalk between 7th and 24th (KCWL, MK), potentially only the 2nd for Hong Kong, a first-winter **Glaucous Gull** also in front of the boardwalk from 22nd into March (MK), about the 11th record, and a **Rufous-faced Warbler** in Tai Po Kau on 28th (HKBWS), the second of the winter and potentially the 8th for Hong Kong.
- ▶ Though it continued to be a poor winter for commoner *Turdus* thrushes such as Japanese and Grey-backed, there were reports of single **Orange-headed Thrushes** at Pak Tam Chung, Pak Sha O and Peak Road between 2nd and 18th (MK, GJC, AH), a male **Siberian Thrush** of the nominate subspecies at Tai Po Kau on 8th (P&MW), a female **White-throated Rock Thrush** at Kadoorie FBG on 3rd (LS), and two **Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrushes** there on 25th (LS). A count of six **Red-flanked Bluetails** in the Victoria Peak-Lung Fu Shan area on 5th (AH) was by far the highest in a poor winter for the species.
- ▶ Despite much searching, the Ultramarine Flycatcher was not seen again at Shek Kong Catchwater, but coverage of the site led to sightings of a **Chestnut-flanked White-eye** on 2nd, 30 **Eurasian Siskins** and 71 **Hair-crested Drongos** on 19th, the latter the highest count on record, and a **Speckled Piculet** on 28th (all GT).



- ▶ Rarest among the flycatchers found during the month were a male **Fujian Niltava** at Pak Tam Chung from 2nd to 9th (MK), a female **Small Niltava** at Kadoorie FBG on 3rd (LS) and a **Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher** at Lung Fu Shan from 11th to 28th (CFL, GT). Other notable forest/shrubland birds found during the month included a **White-spectacled Warbler** at Tai Po Kau from 4th to 15th (DAD, PH), and a **Mrs Gould's Sunbird** at Shing Mun Sports Ground on 13th (MK).
- ▶ At Mai Po, the over-wintering **Oriental Stork** was reported up to 24th, and the **Greater White-fronted Goose**, **Black-backed Swamphen** and **Rook** remained through the month and into March. Good numbers of **Daurian Redstarts** were present, with 23 counted on 12th (ML), and a **Black-winged Kite** was observed feeding on a fruit bat on 16th (IC). Reports from Deep Bay included a **Brown-headed Gull** and three **Pallas's Gulls** on 6th (DAD), a **Long-billed Dowitcher** on 20th (CFL), a first-winter **Common Gull** and an adult **Vega Gull** on 23rd (RWL), and the first **Oriental Pratincole** of the year on 24th (HKBWS). Elsewhere in the Deep Bay area and hinterland, a **Russet Sparrow** was at Long Valley on 2nd and 10th (DAD, TJW) and single **Eastern Water Rails** were found at Long Valley on 10th (TJW) and Fung Lok Wai on 13th (JAA). At Lam Tsuen, a **Brown Crake** was seen on 24th (JAA).
- ▶ A **Brown Wood Owl** and the first **Large Hawk Cuckoo** of the year were heard in Tai Po Kau on 24th (HKBWS), and there were further sightings of the **Brown Fish Owl** at Cheung Chau (MDW).

March

- ▶ Though the weather was warm, sunny and very dry for nearly all of the month, thus providing perfect conditions for migrants to pass through Hong Kong without stopping, one extraordinary record came to light. An alert birdwatcher (K.F. Sin) watching a local TV programme on a series of fires which had damaged Nam Sang Wai noticed that the film footage included brief but clear views of a fine male **Lapland Bunting**. Checks with the TV company (TVB) revealed that all the footage shown was shot at Nam Sang Wai on 13th. In view of this, the good condition of the bird and a close match in dates with spring records in Taiwan and Japan, this was accepted as a first for Hong Kong. It is also the southernmost record in continental China.
- ▶ Two further rarities were found - a **Barred Cuckoo Dove** at Tai Po Kau Headland on 21st (RB) and a **Yellow-throated Bunting** at Po Toi on 29th (GT), both about the 11th for Hong Kong, and the month also produced the first ever breeding record of **Plumbeous Redstart**, with two adults and three chicks seen together at Tso Kung Tam, Tsuen Wan on 7th (SY per MLT).
- ▶ There were further sightings at Mai Po or in Deep Bay of rarities found earlier in the winter - the **Purple Swamphen** on 9th, the **Rook** on 11th, the **Glaucous Gull** up to 22nd, and the **Greater White-fronted Goose** on several dates in the month and into April.
- ▶ Shorebirds noted on passage included up to 28 **Oriental Pratincoles** at San Tin and Mai Po between 3rd and 10th (EMSK, KCWL), 50 **Red-necked Phalaropes** from the Po Toi ferry on 20th (per GW), a **Ruddy Turnstone** and 172 **Great Knot** in front of the Mai Po boardwalk on 26th (DH), and an **Oriental Plover** at Tin Shui Wai on 30th. Among other waterbirds reported were a **Cinnamon Bittern** at Nam Chung on 16th (AB), up to 60 **Caspian Terns** in Deep Bay on 26th-27 (DH, MLT) and 367 **Chinese Pond Herons** at Lok Ma Chau on 27th (PJL), the latter the highest ever count of the species at a single site in Hong Kong, though larger numbers have been recorded in the whole Deep Bay area during co-ordinated counts.



- ▶ Raptor passage was light but included a **Grey-faced Buzzard** at Po Toi on 22nd (GW), with another at Pui O on 24th (EMSK), a **Eurasian Sparrowhawk** at Po Toi on 24th (DAD), a **Crested Honey Buzzard** at Mai Po on 25th (CFL), a **Japanese Sparrowhawk** at Brides Pool on 26th (MK), and a **Eurasian Hobby** at Tai Mo Shan on 30th (MK).
- ▶ Passage of flycatchers was even lighter, with a male **Narcissus Flycatcher** at Chung Mei on 21st (PH), a **Blue-and-white Flycatcher** at Tai Po Kau on 22nd (MLT) the only reports of note.
- ▶ Other notable reports concerned a small flock of **Chestnut-collared Yuhinas** at Discovery Bay on 9th (EMSK), 71 **Red Turtle Doves** at San Tin on 10th (EMSK), the **Slaty-backed Forktail** again at Shing Mun on 18th (LS), six **Russet Bush Warblers** in song at Tai Mo Shan on 20th (PH), one or two **Grey Nightjars** in song in the Brides Pool-Chung Mei area from 23rd (RWL), and the first **Chestnut-winged Cuckoo** of the spring at Shek Kong Catchwater on 27th (DAD).

List of observers & initials 2018

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

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department staff (AFCD), John Allcock (JAA), Paul Aston (PA), Abdel Bizid (AB), Karen Barretto (KB), Ruy Barretto (RB), Chris Campion (CC), Geoff Carey (GJC), Isaac Chan (IC), K.F. Chan (KFC), S.Y. Chan (SYC), Thomas Chan (TC), K.K. Chang (KKC), Esther Chau (EC), J.A.M. "Kwok-Jai" Cheung (JAMC), Louis Cheung (LC), T.M. Cheung (TMC), Vivian Cheung (VC), Owen Chiang (OC), Kenneth Chiu (KC), Gary Chow (GKLC), K.P. Chow (KPC), Francis Chu (FC), W.K. Chung (WKC), Y.T. Chung (YTC), John Clough (JC), Fritz Davis (FD), David Diskin (DAD), Wilson Dring (WD), Y.W. Fong (YWF), Ken Fung (KF), Martin Hale (MH), Andrew Hardacre (AH), Carla van Hasselt (CvH), C.Y. Ho (CYH), Kinni Ho (KH), Peter Ho (PH), Tiffany Ho (TH), unknown Hong Kong Bird Watching Society members (HKBWS), Jemi Holmes (JH), John Holmes (JGH), Derek Hon (DH), Herman Ip (HI), Kadoorie Farm and Botanical Garden staff (KFBG), E. Hui (EH), Samuel Hung (SH), Mike Kilburn (EMSK), Koel Ko (KK), K.C. Kong (KCK), Matthew Kwan (MK), P.K. Kwan (PKK), C.T. Kwok (CTK), T.K. Kwok (TKK), Kenneth Lam (KCL), Paul Leader (PJL), H.L. Lee (HLL), Kenny Lee (KHL), Louis Lee (LL), S.Y. Lee (SYL), Thomas Legg (TJL), Jennifer Leung (JL), Katherine Leung (KL), Mike Leven (MRL), Richard Lewthwaite (RWL), Benjiman Li (BLi), Tom Li (TL), T.C. Li (TCL), Morten Lisse (ML), Yang Liu (YL), Aaron Lo (AL), C.F. Lo (CFL), Brenda Lo (BLo), Kevin Lok (KCWL), Henry Lui (HL), Carrie Ma (CM), Jonathan Martinez (JM), Guy Miller (GM), Harry Miller (HM), Roger Muscroft (RM), Yann Muzika (YM), Austin Ng (AN), Benjamin Ng (BN), L.Y. Ng (LYN), W.K. Nip (WKN), Alan Pong (AP), Jason Pun (JP), Bart de Schutter (BdS), Leo Sir (LS), Ken So (KS), Dave Stanton (DJS), Y.H. Sun (YHS), Swallows and Swifts Research Group members (SSRG), Graham Talbot (GT), C.S. Tam (CST), Meiling Tang (MLT), Wing-sze Tang (WST), Dylan Thomas (DT), Hugo To (HT), Ivan Tse (IT), Mike Turnbull (MT), Lag Wan (LW), Geoff Welch (GW), Martin Williams (MDW), C.Y. Wong (CYW), Dickson Wong (DW), H.S. Wong (HSW), K. Wong (KW), Kenneth Wong (KWMW), L.C. Wong (LCW), Michelle & Peter Wong (M&PW), Ondy Wong (OW), Chuan Woo (CW), Thelma Woodward (TW), Tim Woodward (TJW), World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong staff (WWF), W.Y. Yam (WYY), James Yau (JY), Sherman Yeung (SY), H.K. Ying (HKY), W.H. Yip (WHY), John Yu (JY), Y.T. Yu (YTY).

Outings

Date	Duration	Time and site	Fee (HK\$)	Difficulties (1...3)	Target species
1/9/2018 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Tai Sang Wai (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 V Cuisine Restaurant, Exit G2, Yuen Long West Rail Station)	Registration not required Free	★	Waterbirds
16/9/2018 (Sun)	TBC	Wild Card Day (Details will be announced online on Sep 14 on HKBWS Forum)	Registration not required Member: free Non-member: \$30 (Aged <18yrs: \$10)		
23/9/2018 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	Po Toi Island (08:00 Aberdeen Pier - Public Ferry Pier to Po Toi Island) <i>Note: The group will take the 08:15 ferry to Poi To & returning time is open. Participants have to take care of their own ferry tickets.</i>		★★	Migrants
29/9/2018 (Sat)	0800 - 1600	Mai Po Nature Reserve (12yrs old & above only) (08:00 Kowloon Tong MTR Station (Kent Road Exit F), OR 09:00 Mai Po Carpark, ends 15:00 Mai Po, 16:00 Kowloon Tong)	<Registration required> Member meeting at Mai Po: \$30 Kln Tong: \$60 Non-member: \$120	★★	Waterbirds
6/10/2018 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Tsim Bei Tsui (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Tin Chak Estate Shopping Centre, the Exit near Tin Yat Light Rail Station at Tin Shui Wai)	Registration not required Free	★	Waterbirds
14/10/2018 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	Po Toi Island (08:00 Aberdeen Pier - Public Ferry Pier to Po Toi Island) <i>Note: The group will take the 08:15 ferry to Poi To & returning time is open. Participants have to take care of their own ferry tickets.</i>	Registration not required Member: free Non-member: \$30 (Aged <18yrs: \$10)	★★	Migrants
20/10/2018 (Sat)	TBC	Wild Card Day (Details will be announced online on Oct 18 on HKBWS Forum)			
28/10/2018 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	Mai Po Nature Reserve (12yrs old & above only) (08:00 Kowloon Tong MTR Station (Kent Road Exit F), OR 09:00 Mai Po Carpark, ends 15:00 Mai Po, 16:00 Kowloon Tong)	<Registration required> Member meeting at Mai Po: \$30 Kln Tong: \$60 Non-member: \$120	★★	Waterbirds
3/11/2018 (Sat)	0900 - 1300	Luk Keng (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Pavilion at entrance to Nam Chung Road)	Registration not required Free	★	Forest & water birds
4/11/2018 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Tai Po Kau (08:00 Tai Po Kau Carpark)	Registration not required Member: free Non-member: \$30 (Aged <18yrs: \$10)	★★★	Forest birds
11/11/2018 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Long Valley (08:00 Pavilion by the public toilet at Yin Kong Village)		★★	Farmland & water birds
18/11/2018 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	Po Toi Island (08:00 Aberdeen Pier - Public Ferry Pier to Po Toi Island) <i>Note: The group will take the 08:15 ferry to Poi To & returning time is open. Participants have to take care of their own ferry tickets.</i>		★★	Migrants
25/11/2018 (Sun)	0800 - 1600	Mai Po Nature Reserve (12yrs old & above only) (08:00 Kowloon Tong MTR Station (Kent Road Exit F), OR 09:00 Mai Po Carpark, ends 15:00 Mai Po, 16:00 Kowloon Tong)	<Registration required> Member meeting at Mai Po: \$30 Kln Tong: \$60 Non-member: \$120	★★	Waterbirds
1/12/2018 (Sat)	0800 - 1300	Long Valley (Crested Bulbul Club Activity) (08:00 Outside Maxim's MX, Sheng Shui Rail Station)	Registration not required Free	★	Farmland & water birds
9/12/2018 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Pui O (08:00 Exit B, Tung Chung MTR Station)	Registration not required Member: free Non-member: \$30 (Aged <18yrs: \$10)	★★	Wintering forest & farmland birds
15/12/2018 (Sat)	TBC	Wild Card Day (Details will be announced online on Dec 13 on HKBWS Forum)			
23/12/2018 (Sun)	0800 - 1200	Tai Po Kau (08:00 Tai Po Kau Carpark)		★★★	Forest birds



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 Amber, Red or Black are hoisted by the Hong Kong Observatory at 7:00am on the event day, the activity will be cancelled. If Thunderstorm Warning is announced during the activity, Team Leader will decide whether the activity should be continued or cancelled. You can contact the outing leader at **9457 3196 3.** during the event day if you have any query about the weather.

Disclaimer

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普通燕鵴
余伯全
米埔

Oriental Pratincole
Ractis John
Mai Po

11/03/2018
DSLR Camera, 600mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter

中華攀雀
駱正華
米埔

Chinese Penduline Tit
Lok Ching Wa Kevin
Mai Po

08/03/2018

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



紫水雞
潘士強
米埔

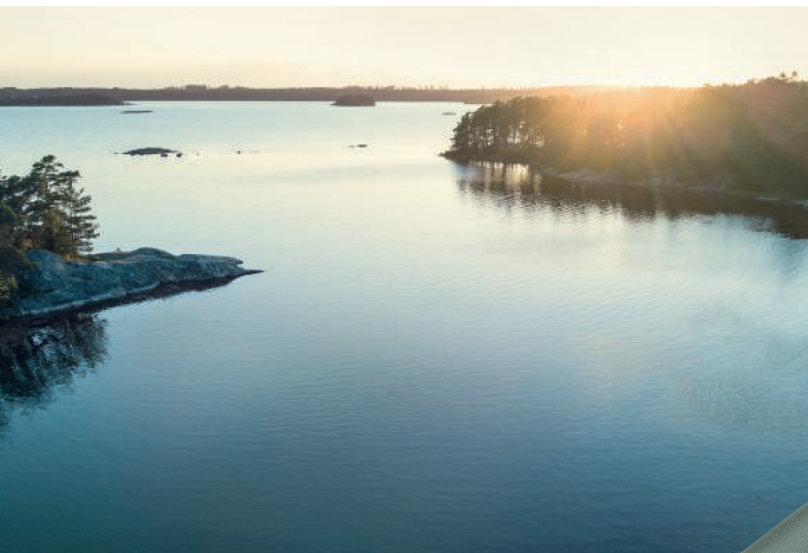
Purple Swamphen
Jason Pun
Mai Po

19/02/2018

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

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白眶鵯
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大埔滘

White-spectacled Warbler
Ho Man Hin Peter
Tai Po Kau

15/02/2018
DSLR Camera, 300mm f/4 lens + 1.4x teleconverter