

THE HONG KONG BIRD REPORT 1981/1982



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HONG KONG BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY

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Records compiled by M.L. Chalmers
Report edited by C.A. Viney

Officers of the Society
(1982)

Chairman. G.C.H. Cooper

Hon. Secretary Dr. E.D. Tweddell
Hon. Treasurer J.S.R. Edge
Hon. Recorder M.L. Chalmers

EDITORIAL NOTE

Publication of the Bird Report has for several years been getting later and later. In an endeavour to redress the balance and to reduce publication costs the years of 1981 and 1982 have been combined. This is an unusual but not unique step. It says much for the Society that the Bird Report has been published continuously since 1958 and that detailed records have been maintained throughout this twenty-five year period.

With the publication of the Bulletin on a regular basis (usually four times a year) the Bird Reports have moved away from the parochial style of yesteryear. Gone are the Chairman's poems, reports of outings and even lists of members. Now the back of Systematic List is filled with weightier matter, perhaps not so readable but certainly more acceptable internationally. Last year a discreet advertisement in *British Birds* resulted in copies of the 1980 Bird Report being sold not only in the United Kingdom but also to ornithologists in West Germany and Japan. It even appeared in a leading London bookshop.

In line with this new image it has been decided that a short editorial will introduce the Bird Report rather than "Society News" or more recently "Chairman's Report". However, it was felt that the era and coincidentally the Society's silver jubilee year, should not end without publication of Michael Webster's thought provoking speech given at the 1982 Annual General Meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 1982

As given by Michael A. Webster
at the Annual General Meeting of
the Society on 21st April, 1982.

Since this is the last Chairman's Report that I shall give, I thought I would depart from custom, and have a look back over the years since I first joined the Society and at the changes which have taken place. I hasten to add that I have no intention of leaving Hong Kong; it is my home, and is likely to remain so for the foreseeable future. However, changing commitments have severely reduced the time available for bird watching, and I also feel that it is time the Society changed. . . . it can more easily do so under a new Chairman.

When I joined the Society in 1965, it had between 50 and 60 members. When I became Chairman in 1974, it had 134. This year, for the first time, it has passed 200; there are in fact 156 ordinary members, one corporate member, six honorary life members, and 45 overseas members, making a total of 208.

The first Annual Report, that of 1958, contains a complete list of members of the Society at that date. Only one of these, Martin Rowlands, is still resident in Hong Kong, though a few others have remained overseas members, and keep in touch. Arthur Walton was the Chairman, and remained so for a couple of years. By 1961 Edgar Webb had taken over, and he remained Chairman until his retirement in 1970. Fred Hechtel was Chairman from 1971-74, when I took over. In Hong Kong we are used to rapid changes, not least of personnel, and I think it is worth pointing out that the Chairmen of the Society have tended to be long-term residents, whose concern for the countryside has been that of people whose home it is, not those who are interested in making a career out of it.

In my 17 years in Hong Kong, enormous changes have taken place in the countryside. The Deep Bay Marshes have shrunk to a fraction of their former size, and many other bird areas have shrunk or disappeared. One feels that a sustained tale of gloom could be told, of the vanishing of the Crested Kingfisher, the obliteration of the marshes where Jacanas and Watercock used to breed, and so on. However, the remarkable truth is that we observe just as many species as we did in the early days, and many have become common which once were rare. We seem to have lost less than we have gained.

It is worth thinking about the reason for this. The first must be conditions inside China itself. Those who have been there (I haven't) without exception talk of the birdlessness of the country, due partly

to the anti-bird campaign of the 1950s, and even more to the lack of nest sites due to intensive farming. Yet this cannot be the whole story. Very large numbers of birds are still imported here annually from China, and these must come from somewhere. Many of our winter visitors summer in North China.

The second reason for the number and variety of bird records lies with the observers; we now have more experienced observers than ever, and they continue to add new species to the Colony list at the rate of four or five a year. We have, too, a more accurate standard of reporting rarities, with a Records Committee which vets everything before it is 'accepted'. When I was Recorder I had to make my own decisions, and doubtless made mistakes.

Yet there are features of the bird life of Hong Kong for which we have no adequate explanation. Why, for example, have Scarlet Minivets become relatively common? It took me three years to see my first! Why are we getting larger numbers of Asiatic Dowitchers? Partly because of better recognition, but the species with which they can be confused, the Bar-tailed Godwit, was always very scarce here, and misidentification could not explain the whole increase.

The ban on hunting has clearly led to an increase in the number of duck, but what accounts for the increase in the numbers of gulls?

This leads me on to the main topic of this report. We have a vast store of records, of varying reliability; we have a considerable number of keen birders, of varying interests; but we do not have more than a handful of scientific projects.

Bird study, as opposed to bird watching, in Hong Kong can be summarized very quickly. Fred Hechtel did some ringing in 1956–66, but not really enough to get any useful results. David Melville has done a considerable amount of work on the Black Kite, and a little on waders. There have been, occasionally, organized kite counts, egret counts and waterfowl counts. That's about it. Our elaborate records depend almost entirely on sight observations, which are all very well for White Storks (our first record of these is now considered highly doubtful), but very shaky for *Phylloscopus* warblers. Our knowledge of breeding habits, even of breeding seasons, is almost non-existent. How many nests have you seen in Hong Kong?

The Society has grown from the handful of enthusiasts who started it to a sizeable body. It has been active in the collection of bird records, and in the struggle for bird conservation. It has taken its part in the world conservation movement. But it has not grown up scientifically.

I am not suggesting that we should cease to be what Edgar Webb used to call simple birdwatchers. I doubt whether I shall ever be more than that myself, because I am not scientific by nature. What I am suggesting is that the Society collectively should progress beyond the accumulation of records, and concentrate on one or more projects, planned and organized, with a definite end-result in view. I suggest for example, a population study over a small well-defined area, say the fung shui wood at She Shan, working on to a comparison between areas, and an attempt to identify differences and the reasons for the differences. Another project might concentrate on the breeding biology of a single species or all species within a restricted area.

I am not thinking of the kind of study which depends on a quick visit every other Sunday, but of something more detailed. Perhaps we could enlist the help of students, from secondary schools or universities. We would need some money, maybe for a hut, certainly for equipment; to get money we would need to have a very clearly defined plan, and the reasonable certainty that we could achieve what we planned without depending entirely on casual visits.

Progress for the sake of progress is, in my opinion, no progress at all. This is not what I have in mind. What we must do, if we are to grow and expand, and above all involve local people in nature conservation, is collect accurate facts on which conservation can be based.

How do we go about this? Is it a practical idea, or merely an exercise in starry-eyed idealism? I intend it to be thoroughly practical, and I think it can be, provided we are precise about our objectives, and do not try and take on too much (this is why the breeding birds survey of a few years back was a flop). It requires a co-ordinator for each project, which must be exhaustively discussed and planned in advance of actually going out into the field and doing something. It requires a willingness to cost a project, and to approach sponsors for funds. It requires exactly the same kind of enthusiasm which has gone into our Annual Reports and Checklists, only directed a different way. I think we've grown up enough to do this.

There have been times when the Society looked like disintegrating through lack of active support, but I am happy to say that that period appears to be well behind us. I would like to take this chance to thank all the people whose hard work has built the Society up to what it is now.

A second objective must be to make this Society more firmly based on local, rather than expatriate, enthusiasms. We are, after all, aiming at better conservation of the countryside both for the

sake of the birds and for the sake of the people; it would seem to make very good sense if the people were more actively involved in the conservation of their own countryside rather than having this in some way imposed on them by the enthusiasms of foreigners. The Society has made a start at this, but only a start. I hope I shall still be here to see the Society run largely by local people, or at least with a strong enough following among local people to make it unnecessary to rely on expatriates to fill most of the committee posts. This is not, of course, a question of racism; it is merely a recognition of the fact that conservation has a political side, and that the future of conservation in Hong Kong depends, quite properly, on those who were born and bred here, and who will remain here whatever happens in the magic year 1997.

I would conclude by wishing the incoming Chairman the best of luck, plenty of good birds, and lots of enthusiastic support in leading the Society into a richer future.

REPORT ON THE BIRDS 1981

Hon. Recorder: Michael L. Chalmers

Although the volume of records submitted was less than last year, reflecting a smaller number of active observers, the total of species reported remained high, with 265 accepted by the Records Committee. This excludes the possible escapes in Category E and birds not specifically identified.

Three new species were added to Category A of the Hong Kong list and one was removed to Category F. The additions were a flock of at least three Penduline Tits at Mai Po on 20 April, a pair of Large Grass Warblers at Tai Mo Shan on 14 and 20 June, and a single Crested Honey Buzzard at Sek Kong on 7 September. With the birds at Tai Mo Shan positively identified as Large Grass Warblers, the former records attributed to David's Hill-warbler in the same area have been relegated to Category F.

Three further species were added to Category E, the section for species for which the possibility of escape or release from captivity cannot be excluded. These were Hill Blue Flycatcher, Grass Owl and Asian Pied Starling. Unconfirmed reports suggested that the last may have bred at Stanley.

After several years of suspected breeding in Hong Kong, Little Ringed Plovers hatched young at Yuen Long Industrial Estate and probably at Tai Po. Unfortunately, both sites are recently reclaimed and are unlikely to remain undeveloped for long. Breeding was also confirmed for Hainan Blue Flycatchers at Tai Po Kau and one pair of Swinhoe's Egrets continued to nest at Yim Tso Ha Egrettry. Summer records of Chinese Babax at Tai Mo Shan, Savannah Nightjars near Dill's Corner and near Tsing Lung Tau, and both Scarlet and Grey-throated Minivets at Tai Po Kau also indicate probable breeding. Sulphur-crested Cockatoos were again found nesting at Victoria Barracks, Central.

A monthly summary of sightings is given below:—

January

Numbers and variety of duck were high in the Deep Bay area and a large flock of mixed Teal, Shoveler and Pintail was present in the Yuen Long Creek. Mallard, Gadwall, Garganey, Tufted Duck and Baer's Pochard were also recorded in small numbers with up to 111 Wigeon and 97 Falcated Teal. Up to four Dalmatian Pelicans

were seen from 10th. A waterfowl count (the second organised by the Society) was carried out in the Deep Bay area on 17th and 18th and recorded over 12,000 birds of 52 species (see separate summary in this report). At Cheung Chau a Yellow-eyed Flycatcher-warbler was seen in January, February and March, probably the same bird first seen in December 1980.

February

The mild winter continued and thrushes, redstarts and bluetails remained sparse. A Yellow-legged Button-quail (the first of three recorded in the year) was found dead at Lamma on 1st, a flock of 70 unidentified pelicans was seen on the Chinese side of Deep Bay on 6th and small flocks of House-martins were reported at Ho Chung and Pak Nai on 21st and 28th respectively.

March

A large owl (Eagle or Brown Fish-owl) was seen at Little ai Wan on 10th. The numbers of wintering Imperial Eagles in the northern New Territories rose to a new maximum of nine on 14th and several remained until a new late date of 8th April. Several White-throated Needle-tails were seen over Sek Kong Catchwater on 17th and 27th and five Grey-faced Buzzard-Eagles were watched over Chi Ma Wan on 28th.

April

As usual the wader passage provided a wide variety of species in good numbers including one Spoon-billed Sandpiper on 4th and 6th, a pair of Painted Snipe on 16th and up to 23 Asiatic Dowitchers on 20th. On the last date at least three Penduline Tits at Mai Po were a new record for Hong Kong. 14 Blue-tailed Bee-eaters were reported at Mai Po on 26th and four White-throated Needletails near Tai Mo Shan the next day. Red-winged Crested Cuckoos were seen and heard in widespread areas from the end of the March through to July.

May

A pair of Swinhoe's Egrets were seen at Yim Tso Ha Egrettry on 10th and 13th. A Slaty-backed Forktail was watched feeding along the stream at Tai Po Kau on 9th, 10th and 13th.

June

Breeding was confirmed for the first time for Little Ringed Plovers at Yuen Long on 3rd and strongly suspected later at Tai Po. Two Black Bazas were seen at She Shan on 7th. Breeding was also confirmed

for Hainan Blue Flycatchers at Tai Po Kau on 13th with both Scarlet and Grey-throated Minivets also being recorded. A bird trapped near the summit of Tai Mo Shan on 14th proved to be a Large Grass Warbler, thus confirming doubts over the previous identification of David's Hill-warblers in that area.

July

Two Black-naped Terns were watched at Soko Islands on 5th. Between one and three spoonbills seen flying over Dill's Corner on three separate dates were unusual summer records. Two immature Crimson-legged Crakes were reported at Wu Kau Tang on 26th.

August

A Hoopoe at the Peak on 31st was the only record of note.

September

On 5th a frigate-bird was seen over the East Lamma Channel and a Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler was reported at San Tin. A Crested Honey Buzzard passed over Sek Kong on 7th, and an Orange-headed Ground-thrush was seen there on 12th. The autumn wader passage produced higher than usual numbers of many species with exceptional counts of 150 Whimbrel and 400 Bar-tailed Godwits on 14th. By contrast the flycatcher passage was poor. Two Sooty Flycatchers at Pak Nai on 22nd were one of the few highlights. A Yellow-legged Button-quail was found dead at Mai Po on 20th.

October

Two Black Bazas at She Shan on 17th were a new late record. Mount Nicholson produced a Siberian Thrush on 21st and a Ruddy Crake on 28th. The third Yellow-legged Button-quail for the year was found dead on the Peak on 24th.

November

Unusual reports included a Ferruginous Flycatcher on 9th and a Brambling between 16th and 18th. Irruptive winter species appeared at the end of the month with Treepies and flocks of Collared Sivas from 25th in several areas.

December

Another irruptive woodland species, Chestnut Bulbuls, were seen from 19th. Sightings of Asian Pied Starlings were confirmed

at Stanley. A Solitary Snipe was flushed at Sek Kong on 20th, a Black Vulture was seen near Lok Ma Chau on 20th and 23rd, a Grass Owl was found dead at Kai Tak on 25th, and Chestnut-flanked White-eyes and a White-bellied Yuhina were reported from Tai Po Kau. On the marshes two White Storks were present from 26th and remained throughout the winter, and a drake Pochard and female Goldeneye appeared on 31st.

The Systematic List and appendices incorporate records from the following observers:—

Agriculture and Fisheries Department, E.A. Barnes, J.F.S. Batson, I.D. Bell, A.J. Brandt, D.P. Carthy, M.L. Chalmers, J.L. Chapple, A. Cheung, C.R. Clark, O.F. Clark, M.J. Cleary, C. Cook, G.C.H. Cooper, J.S.R. Edge, R. Ferguson, D.J. Galloway, V.J. Hamilton, F.O.P. Hechtel, F. Holroyd, J.A. Irving, W.R. Johnson, P.R.A. Kelly, D.S. Melville, H.C. Ryker, K.C. Searle, D. Simpson, K.V. Thompson, C.A. Viney, M.A. Webster, C.D. Weidemann, B.D. Wilson.

Finally I wish to record my thanks to Gavin Cooper and Michael Webster who, as the other members of the Records Committee, appraised the records of the rarer species and to Hilary Walker who typed the draft.

SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 1981

A. SPECIES WHICH HAVE BEEN RECORDED IN AN APPARENTLY WILD STATE IN HONG KONG WITHIN THE LAST FIFTY YEARS.

2. **Great Crested Grebe** (*Podiceps cristatus*)
Four off Lau Fau Shan on 18 January and about five in Deep Bay on 27 December.

4. **Little Grebe** (*Podiceps ruficollis*)
Recorded from Mai Po or San Tin in all months except March with a maximum of 12 on 14 February. Up to three juveniles were seen from July indicating successful breeding. Elsewhere, one was seen at Ma Tso Lung and Hok Tau Reservoir in January, two at Tai Lam in February, one along the Sek Kong Catchwater in April and July, one at Ho Piu Reservoir in June and five there in October.

7. **Dalmatian Pelican** (*Pelecanus crispus*)
Record from Mai Po or Deep Bay between 10 January and 10 February with maximum of four (three adults and one immature on the latter date). Records of unidentified pelicans, which were probably this species, were up to seven at Mai Po between 11 and 25 January, and a flock of about 70 on the Chinese side of Deep Bay on 6 February.

8. **Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)
As usual large flocks of several hundred birds wintered in the Deep Bay area; maximum counts were about 800 on 17 January and about 1000 on 26 October and in December. At Plover Cove, up to 100 were present until the first week of April. Nine returned on 10 October with numbers increasing to over 150 at the end of the year. Also recorded at Tung Chung Bay with three on 4 January, 220 on 15 February, and 60 off Chek Lap Kok the same day. About 40 were seen at Stonecutters Island on 18 January and over 100 there the next day. Smaller numbers were also recorded from other coastal areas. Frequently seen flying westwards at dusk from both Plover Cove and Mai Po. Extreme dates were up to 8 April and from 10 October.

- [9/10. **Frigate-bird sp.** (*Fregata sp.*)
An immature circling over the entrance to Sok Kwu Wan, Lamma on 5 September (MLC) was also seen over Chung Hom Kok three hours later (WRJ).

- 12. Yellow Bittern** (*Ixobrychus sinensis*)
Single wintering birds seen at Mai Po on 10 and 17 January, 1 March, and 6 December. Regularly reported there between 8 April and 14 November with over 30 in April, May and August. Also single birds at Ho Piu Reservoir on 11 October and Luk Keng on 1 November.
- 13. Chestnut Bittern** (*Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*)
Single birds at Ho Chung on 6 April, Wu Kau Tang on 16 April, Tai O on 12 May and Tai Long Wan on 29 May. Two near Sha Tau Kok on 5 May and at Mai Po on 30 August.
- 14. Black Bittern** (*Dupetor flavicollis*)
Recorded at Mai Po with three on 6 April, one on 7 June and two on 16 August.
- 15. Japanese Night Heron** (*Gorsachius goisagi*)
A mottled brown bittern seen briefly on 18 October when flushed from the edge of the tea plantation at Ngong Ping, Lantau was probably this species (KVT).]
- 16. Bittern** (*Botaurus stellaris*)
All records are from Mai Po up to 22 April and from 14 November. Most sightings were of single birds, but two were seen in February and April.
- 17. Night Heron** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)
Recorded in all months except March, mostly from Mai Po or Starling Inlet, with groups of 11 and ten seen flying between these areas near Ho Sheung Heung on 14 June and 13 September respectively. Continuing the trend of recent years, increased breeding occurred at Yim Tso Ha Egretty with about 30 pairs in the main egretty and several pairs on the small nearby island in Starling Inlet. Maximum numbers were 200 at Mai Po on 6 April and 200 at Yim Tso Ha on 10 May. A day roost was located in bamboos behind the temple at the entrance to Ho Chung Valley in January and February with over 50 birds flying in at dawn on 21 February.
- 18. Chinese Pond-Heron** (*Ardeola bacchus*)
Common along muddy shores and marshes throughout the year. On 18 January at least 230 present in the Deep Bay area during the waterfowl count. Breeding occurred at Yim Tso Ha and Mai Po Egrettries with several tens of pairs at each site. Single birds at Kowloon Park on 11 April and KGV School, Kowloon on 28 August.
- 19. Cattle Egret** (*Bubulcus ibis*)
Seen throughout the year in the northern New Territories. 42 wintering birds were counted in the Deep Bay area on 18 January.

At least 150 pairs bred at Yim Tso Ha, where it was the dominant species, and several pairs bred on the nearby island in Starling Inlet. On 9 May large numbers were fighting to nearby woods to collect sticks for nest building. About 100 were noted roosting at dusk in the mangroves at Mai Po in August, with a return flight eastwards over San Tin at dawn. On 11 April seven migrants were noted flying east past Tsuen Wan and one was seen in Victoria Harbour. On 22 September one flew west past 17 miles Castle Peak Road during Typhoon Clara.

- 20. Little Green Heron** (*Butorides striatus*)
Reported in small numbers in all months with maximum of ten at Mai Po on 26 July. All records are from the New Territories except for one at Pokfulam Reservoir on 22 February and 29 March, and two (one adult and one immature) there on 24 October.

- 21. Little Egret** (*Egretta garzetta*)
Common in the Deep Bay area throughout the year with 970 counted on 18 January. Between 200 and 300 pairs nested at Mai Po Egretty and about 20 pairs at Yim Tso Ha. A pale grey bird seen at Mai Po on 22 May was considered to be paler than the grey phase individuals seen in previous years. Also noted in the Plover Cove and Hebe Haven areas.

- 22. Lesser Egret** (*Egretta intermedia*)
All records are from Mai Po with four on 26 October, one on 15 November and at least four on 21 November (MAW, CAV, GCHC, MLC).

- 23. Swinhoe's Egret** (*Egretta eulophotes*)
Recorded at Yim Tso Ha Egretty with one on 17 April and two on 10 and 13 May.

- 24. Reef Egret** (*Egretta sacra*)
Small numbers recorded throughout the year from rocky shores of Hong Kong Island, outlying islands, Lantau, Stonecutters Island, and New Territories. Maximum counts were eight at Hebe Haven on 28 November and nine at Cheung Chau on 31 December.

- 25. Great Egret** (*Egretta alba*)
Noted in the Deep Bay area in all months with maximum counts of 128 on 18 January, 123 on 7 November and over 300 on 27 December. At least one pair nested on the island in Starling Inlet, where up to four pairs may have bred. Elsewhere, single birds at Tai O on 28 March, Tin Kok Road on 27 April, and flying west at 17 miles Castle Peak Road during Typhoon Clara on 22 September, and two at Ho Chung on 30 October.

26. **Grey Heron** (*Ardea cinerea*)
Present throughout the year in Deep Bay with maximum count of 206 on 18 January. Over 100 in the winter months up to February and from November, but less than ten summering between the end of April and the end of August.
27. **Purple Heron** (*Ardea purpurea*)
Recorded in every month except June at Mai Po. Usually in ones and twos but maxima of six, ten and six seen on 30 August, 11 October and 14 November respectively.
28. **White Stork** (*Ciconia ciconia*)
Two birds (race *boycciana*) were present at Mai Po and in the adjacent part of Deep Bay from 26 December (RF), and remained throughout the winter. Unsubstantiated reports indicate that one of the two birds was present from 13 December. This is only the second time that this species has wintered in Hong Kong, the first occasion being a single bird in 1979/80.
29. **Black Stork** (*Ciconia nigra*)
Two seen on the rocks in the centre of Plover Cove Reservoir on 13 December took off at 1645 h, spiralled to 600 m and flew north (DJG).
30. **White Ibis** (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*)
Between one and three recorded at Mai Po up to 3 May and from 14 September.
31. **European Spoonbill** (*Platalea leucorodia*)
Recorded at Mai Po with one on 17 January, two on 6 February, one on 8 March, four on 6 April, one on 8 April and two on 21 November.
32. **Lesser Spoonbill** (*Platalea minor*)
Recorded in the Deep Bay area in small numbers (up to six) up to 3 May and from 26 August. Numbers for spoonbills not specifically identified during the same period rose to eight during November and December. There was also an interesting series of summer records with two and three flying west over Dill's Corner on 4 and 5 July respectively, and one immature at Mai Po on 19 July.
33. **Mallard** (*Anas platyrhynchos*)
All reports are from Mai Po Marshes with three on 17 January, one (drake) on 18 January, three on 6 February, one (duck) on 26 October, five on 15 November, four on 22 November and two on 27 December.

34. **Yellow-nib Duck** (*Anas poecilorhyncha*)
Present throughout the year at Mai Po. Between 40 and 60 present in the winter months up to the end of February and from mid-August. Maxima for the summer months of May, June and July were ten, seven and four respectively.
35. **Gadwall** (*Anas strepera*)
All records are for Mai Po Marshes with up to five between 11 January and 1 February, at least two on 6 February and three on 4 April.
36. **Falcated Teal** (*Anas falcata*)
Large numbers were noted wintering at Mai Po. Maximum counts for each month were 97 in January, over 60 in February, six (at San Tin) in March, eight in April, two in May, over 20 in October and November and over 100 in December. Extreme dates were up to 3 May and from 26 October.
37. **Teal** (*Anas crecca*)
Common and numerous in the Deep Bay area up to 26 April and from 13 September, with a new late record of two ducks at San Tin on 16 May. Maximum numbers were 790 on 18 January (all Deep Bay area), and over 500 at Mai Po during February, October and December. During March over 100 were also present at San Tin. At Plover Cove Reservoir 35 were seen on 10 October and nine the next day. Also during October and November up to five were seen along Ting Kok Road. One found dead at Kai Tak on 16 October.
39. **Garganey** (*Anas querquedula*)
All passage records are from Mai Po or San Tin between 15 March and 9 May and 12 September to 22 November. Maximum counts in spring and autumn were 60 on 6 April and over 100 on 18 September. Also two wintering records at Mai Po of 11 on 18 January and one on 6 February.
40. **Wigeon** (*Anas penelope*)
Present in the Deep Bay area from Ma Tso Lung to Tsim Bei Tsui up to 18 April and from 11 October. Maximum counts at the beginning and end of the year were over 111 on 18 January and over 50 on 6 December.
41. **Pintail** (*Anas acuta*)
Recorded in the Deep Bay area up to 22 April and from 11 October. A large group of about 250 birds was present in the mouth of the Yuen Long Creek throughout the winter months.

- 42. Shoveler** (*Anas clypeata*)
The second commonest wintering duck in the Deep Bay area next to Teal. Maximum numbers occurred in the mouth of Yuen Long Creek with 500 on 18 January, 650 on 28 February and over 100 on 27 December. Extreme dates were up to 18 April and from 11 October.
- 45. Baer's Pochard** (*Aythya baeri*)
A pair seen on the water at Mai Po on 25 January (MLC).
- 46. Tufted Duck** (*Aythya fuligula*)
Six (one adult male, one female and four immature males) seen on a kei wai at Mai Po on 25 January (MLC).
Reports of birds at Mai Po which were either Baer's Pochard or Tufted Duck were as follows:—
Five on 11, two on 17 and 18 January; two on 1, 4, 6 and 8 February; one on 15 November; 3 on 6, 1 on 27 and 18 on 31 December.
- 47. Common Pochard** (*Aythya ferina*)
An adult drake seen on the water at Mai Po Marshes on 31 December (GCHC).
This represents the third record for Hong Kong, the previous two (also single drakes) having been seen in May/June 1970 and December 1979.
- 48. Goldeneye** (*Bucephala clangula*)
An adult female first seen at Mai Po on 31 December (GCHC) remained on the marshes well into 1982. This is the fourth record of this species for Hong Kong.
- 49. Red-breasted Merganser** (*Mergus serrator*)
Three at Mai Po on 21 November was the only record.
- 50. Shelduck** (*Tadorna tadorna*)
Recorded in the Deep Bay area up to 8 March and from 31 October. The highest numbers in each month, usually on the mudflats off Mai Po, were 110, 150 and 5 in January, February and March, and 2, over 100 and over 140 in October, November and December respectively.
- 55. Black-eared Kite** (*Milvus migrans*)
Common and widespread throughout the year, with increased numbers in winter. Apart from the traditional roosts at Stonecutters Island, Magazine Gap, and Ma Nam Wat, up to 15 birds regularly roosted in the partially cleared outer mangroves at Mai Po. Stick carrying behaviour noted at Mount Nicholson as early as 15 October.

- 56. Black Baza** (*Aviceda leuphotes*)
Three in flight on 27 April over the wooded valley between the MacLehose Trail and Sek Kong Catchwater to the west of Route Twisk (above Tsing Tam Upper Reservoir). Also two at She Shan on 7 June and again on 17 October, a new late date.

- 56.1 Crested Honey Buzzard** (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*)
One pale phase adult seen in flight as it passed directly overhead at close range on 7 September along Sek Kong Catchwater (GCHC).
This is the first record for Hong Kong of this migratory raptor. Extracts from the notes submitted are given below:—

"The head — the shape and manner it protruded (recalling a pigeon) — made it unlike a Buzzard, the shape of the wings appeared to be somewhat different to a Buzzard's, rather narrower and the tail was long and fairly narrow.

The head and whole of the upper body and upper wings appeared generally one-tone brown. The underparts were pale to white. There were dark carpal patches and very clearly marked rows of dark spots running the length of the wings under surfaces (sic). These were very clear against the pale background. The underparts of the body were pale to white heavily blotched with dark brown. The tail was very distinctive in that it was white with a broad brown sub-terminal band and with two narrower brown bands nearer the base of the tail under the feet."

The Crested Honey Buzzard is treated here as a separate species to the Honey Buzzard (*P. apivorus*) of Europe and West Asia. The most likely race to occur (*P.p.orientalis*) breeds in North-east Asia and migrates south through China to winter in Indochina.

- 57. Buzzard** (*Buteo buteo*)
Between one and three birds reported from widespread areas of Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories. Most records are for the period up to 5 April and from 26 October, but there were two summer records of single birds at Pak Shek Wo (near Pik Uk) on 1 July and 2 August. On 26 November a bird near Grenade Range was seen taking a snake.

- 58. Sparrowhawk** (*Accipiter nisus*)
Single birds seen in widespread areas including Mid-levels and Mount Nicholson up to 2 February and from 18 September.

- [59. Japanese Sparrowhawk** (*Accipiter gularis*)
Single small dark *Accipiters* seen at Mai Po on 4 April and Tai Mei Tuk on 4 November were probably this species. The latter was seen to take a Tree Sparrow feeding at a rubbish collection point.]

- 60. Goshawk** (*Accipiter gentilis*)
One seen at rest and in flight chasing two Hair-crested Drongos at Sek Kong Catchwater on 16 December (GCHC). One probable (male) at Tai Po Kau on 13 March.
- 61. Horsfield's Goshawk** (*Accipiter soloensis*)
One adult at Mai Po on 22 April was seen to hover briefly over one of the kei wais and then stoop nearly vertically onto prey (probably a mud-skipper) (CAV).
- 63. Imperial Eagle** (*Aquila heliaca*)
Several birds regularly seen in the border hills between Lo Wu and Lok Ma Chau and over the Deep Bay Marshes up to 8 April, a new late date, and from 24 October. Maximum count was nine, a new high, on 14 March. As usual, most birds seen were immatures, but up to two adults were present in February. Elsewhere, one immature at Ting Kok Road on 24 October and one adult at Nim Wan on 7 December.
- 65. Spotted Eagle** (*Aquila clanga*)
One immature flushed from a bund at Mai Po on 11 January (MLC) and another seen there on 9 November (RF).
- 66. Bonelli's Eagle** (*Hieraetus fasciatus*)
Single birds or pairs recorded from widespread parts of the New Territories and outlying islands in January, February, April, October and November. An immature at Yim Tso Ha on 6 October was seen carrying a live domestic duck, and later stooping unsuccessfully on Night Herons in the egrettry.
- 67. White-bellied Sea Eagle** (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*)
Single birds or pairs seen throughout the year, from widespread coastal areas including Hong Kong Island, Victoria Harbour, Ting Kok Road (Tolo Harbour), Sai Kung Peninsula, Castle Peak Road and outlying islands. Adults were seen to catch fish off Castle Peak Road on 7 July and off Kau Yi Chau on 5 December. Breeding was suspected, but not proven, at several sites.
- 68. Grey-faced Buzzard-Eagle** (*Butastur indicus*)
Five birds circling overhead in a loose flock at Chi Ma Wan on 28 March (MLC *et al.*).
- 69. Serpent Eagle** (*Spilornis cheela*)
One or two reported from Tai Po Kau between 6 April and 13 June. Single birds also seen above Sek Kong on 9 February, 27 April and 10 October, Chek Keng on 25 April, She Shan on 23 May and 17 October, near Pik Uk on 26 July and Fanling on 13 September.

- 70. Marsh Harrier** (*Circus aeruginosus*)
Up to five wintering birds in the Deep Bay Marshes up to 18 April and from 5 September. One at Ma Tso Lung on 18 January. Although most were females or immatures, single males were seen on several occasions.
- 73. Black Vulture** (*Aegypius monachus*)
An adult seen in flight and at rest in the border hills north of Chau Tau Grenade Range on 20 and 23 December.
- 74. Osprey** (*Pandion haliaetus*)
Present throughout the year in the Deep Bay area. Two or three birds seen up to May and from August with a maximum of four in September. Single birds were recorded in the summer months on 28 June, 20 and 26 July. One bird was also present throughout the year at Plover Cove, although less frequently seen between July and September, and two were seen together there on 4 October and 14 November. Elsewhere, one at Luk Keng on 9 May and one at Tai Lam Chung Reservoir on 12 December.
- 75. Hobby** (*Falco subbuteo*)
Single birds recorded on spring passage at Lo Wu on 8 April, Chek Keng on 25 April and Tai Mo Shan on 23 May. In the autumn singles at Mai Po and Sek Kong Catchwater on 26 and 28 September, up to four near Chek Keng on 3 October, one at Mount Nicholson on 5 October, two at 17 miles Castle Peak Road on 10 October, one at She Shan on 17 October and one at Chung Hom Kok on 10 November. Also an immature near Chau Tau Grenade Range on 27 December.
- 76. Peregrine Falcon** (*Falco peregrinus*)
One or two reported from widespread areas in January and then from June to December. Urban records were from Ho Man Tin (Kowloon) and Mount Nicholson. Regularly reported from Mai Po where an immature was seen to take a sand-plover on 26 September.
- 78. Kestrel** (*Falco tinnunculus*)
One or two reported from widespread areas up to 28 March and from 28 August, a new early date. Often seen in urban areas. Pairs were observed calling and displaying at Sharp Peak on 3 October (including talon grasping) and Mount Nicholson on 5 October. An unusual summer record of one at Pak Shek Wo (near Pik Uk) on 7 July.
- 79. Chinese Francolin** (*Francolinus pintadeanus*)
Present in scattered numbers throughout the year in widespread parts of the New Territories and Hong Kong Island. Birds heard calling between 14 February and 30 July.

- 80. Japanese Quail** (*Coturnix japonica*)
At least one near Chau Tau Grenade Range on 24 October.
- 82. Yellow-legged Button-quail** (*Turnix tanki*)
In contrast to recent years, when there have been very few reports of this species, there were three records in 1981. The remains of one, probably a female, were found on Lamma Island on 1 February (AJB, CAV). Another probable female was found dead on the road at Mai Po beside the security fence on 20 September (CC). The third was also found dead at Mansfield Road, Peak (per KCS) on 24 October and was judged to be a first winter male.
- 84. Water Rail** (*Rallus aquaticus*)
One in flooded paddy near Tap Shek Kok on 1 January.
- 85. Banded Rail** (*Rallus striatus*)
One or two seen at Mai Po In January, August, October and November. On 31 August one juvenile seen with an adult. One in flooded paddy near She Shan on 23 May.
- 87. Ruddy Crake** (*Porzana fusca*)
A freshly dead male was found at Mount Nicholson on 28 October (CAV).
- 88. Crimson-legged Crake** (*Amaurornis akool*)
Two immatures were seen near, and later crossing, the road near Wu Kau Tang on 26 July (DJG).
- 89. White-breasted Waterhen** (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*)
Common and widespread in marshy areas. One heard at Aberdeen Reservoir on 5 April is one of the few records for Hong Kong Island. Downy young noted at Ho Chung Valley on 27 April, Sek Kong Catchwater on 21 May, Pat Heung on 23 May (this pair bred again in late summer), and Mai Po on 29 August.
- 90. Moorhen** (*Gallinula chloropus*)
Common and widely distributed in marshy areas throughout the year with increased numbers in winter. 71 counted in the Deep Bay area on 18 January.
- 91. Watercock** (*Gallicrex cinerea*)
Up to three males and one female at Luk Keng between 3 May and 26 July, and up to five males and three females at Sha Po between 22 May and 18 July, with much displaying and fighting on the former date. Also two adult males seen flying into reeds adjacent to the Yuen Long Industrial Estate on 3 June.

- 92. Coot** (*Fulica atra*)
Common on the Deep Bay Marshes up to 22 May and from 26 October, with one summer record of three at Mai Po on 26 July. Maximum numbers were over 200 and over 150 in November and December.
- 93. Pheasant-tailed Jacana** (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*)
One in non-breeding plumage at San Tin on 9 May and one at Mai Po on 18 October.
- 94. Painted Snipe** (*Rostratula benghalensis*)
A pair at Lei Uk (Ting Kok Road) on 16 April.
- 96. Lapwing** (*Vanellus vanellus*)
A flock of 14 at Ma Tso Lung on 18 January.
- 97. Grey-headed Lapwing** (*Vanellus cinereus*)
Most reports are from San Tin and Lok Ma Chau with 6, 15 and 2 on 10, 18 January and 31 March, and at least 4, 24 and 19 on 21, 26 November and 27 December. The flock of 24 appears to be a new high. Also nine at Lo Wu on 29 November.
- 99. Little Ringed Plover** (*Charadrius dubius*)
Recorded throughout the year, usually in small numbers but about 200 at San Tin in September. Most reports are for the Deep Bay area but also seen at Ting Kok Road, Nam Wai, Lantau and Siu Lam.
Following suspected breeding at Kai Tak in recent years (ref. David Melville's paper in 1978 Report), breeding was confirmed for the first time in Hong Kong at Yuen Long and strongly suspected at Tai Po (DJG). Two downy young with two adults were seen on the Yuen Long Industrial Estate reclamation on 3 June. At Tai Po Industrial Estate reclamation up to five pairs were holding territory in June and showed anxiety on approach. Broken wing distraction display was observed on 21 June. At least two well grown young were later seen staying close together and freezing when alarmed, not flying.
Unfortunately, both these sites are likely to be developed in the near future. These records appear to illustrate that this species will rapidly occupy new areas and breed if suitable habitat is maintained.
- 100. Kentish Plover** (*Charadrius alexandrinus*)
Recorded in all months except June in the Deep Bay area with large numbers wintering up to February and from October. Maximum counts were 910 on 18 January and about 2000 at Mai Po on 22 November. Also recorded from other suitable areas at Ho Chung,

Tai Long Wan, Nam Wai, Luk Keng, Tai O and Siu Lam. The only July records, the first ever, were at Mai Po with ten, one and five on 11, 19 and 28 July.

101. Greater Sand-plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*)

Reported in the Deep Bay area between 4 April and 9 May and between 30 August and 26 September. Maximum numbers were over 20 in spring and over 50 in autumn.

102. Mongolian Sand-plover (*Charadrius mongolus*)

Present in the Deep Bay area between 28 February, a new early record, and 3 May and between 29 August and 26 September. Maximum in spring was over 20 but numbers rose to about 50 in autumn. Elsewhere, one at Tai O on 28 March.

There were unusual summer records of unidentified sand-plovers with over 100, one and 20 at Mai Po on 11, 19 and 28 July and 21 at Tai Po Industrial Estate on 2 August.

104. Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)

32 in Yuen Long Creek on 18 January. Up to ten at Mai Po between 20 April and 2 May. Four at Mai Po on 26 September and one at Mong Tseng on 7 November.

105. Asiatic Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominicus*)

Recorded at San Tin and Mai Po in spring between 29 March and 2 May, and in autumn between 24 August and 21 November. Maximum number in both periods about 20. On 6 May 15 at Kai Tak.

106. Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)

Up to ten at Mai Po or San Tin in spring between 4 April and 9 May. Seven at Nim Wan on 30 August and two at Mai Po on 14 September.

107. Fantail Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)

Recorded in widespread marshy areas up to 2 May and from 24 August. Maximum count was over 60 on 7 February at San Tin.

[108/109. Pintail/Swinhoe's Snipe (*Gallinago stenura/megala*)

At least one at Mai Po on 8 April, one at Sek Kong on 27 April, at least four at San Tin/Lok Ma Chau on 12 September and one flushed from stream at Sek Kong on 21 November. Richly coloured plumage and lack of heavy flight suggest that most of these were *G. stenura*.]

109. Swinhoe's Snipe (*Gallinago megala*)

One at Chek Keng and three at Tai Long on 25 April (CAV, GCHC, MLC). One at Mount Nicholson on 4 May (CAV) and at least

three at Ham Tin/Tai Long on 3 October (CAV, MLC).

110. Solitary Snipe (*Gallinago solitaria*)

One seen at close range at Sek Kong on 20 December (GCHC). This is the first record of this species since 1976 (see appendix) and only the fourth for Hong Kong.

112. Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*)

One or two birds seen up to 8 March and from 24 October at Sek Kong, Lam Tsuen Valley, Tai Po Kau, Wu Kau Tang and Mai Po.

113. Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)

Recorded in the Deep Bay area up to 26 April and from 23 August. Maximum numbers were 64 on 6 February, over 60 on 11 October, 75 on 7 November and over 70 on 27 December.

114. Australian Curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*)

Single birds at Mai Po on 21 April and 22 November.

115. Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)

Recorded in the Deep Bay area between 18 April and 3 May and between 26 August and 11 October, with one winter record of a single bird at Nim Wan on 27 December. Maximum numbers observed were over 30 in spring on 25 April rising in the autumn to a new high of over 150 on 14 September. This flock was seen on the outer bund at Mai Po at high tide mixed with the exceptionally large flock of Bar-tailed Godwit. Also one at Sha Tau Kok on 3 October.

117. Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*)

All sightings were at either Mai Po or San Tin. Extreme dates were 29 March to 22 May and 29 August to 26 November. Over 100 were present during April with a peak of 200 on 25 April. Maximum in autumn was over 30 on 14 September.

118. Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*)

Two at Mai Po on 25 April, 2 and 16 May. An exceptionally high number present at Mai Po on 14 September when a flock seen resting at high tide on the outer bund and in flight was estimated to contain about 400 birds (MAW, GCHC). The previous highest count had been 100. On 26 September four remained at Mai Po.

119. Asiatic Dowitcher (*Limnodromus semipalmatus*)

All records are from San Tin or Mai Po. Apart from 23 on 20 April, not more than ten were reported in spring between 18 April and 3 May. Numbers were fewer in autumn with not more than three

between 19 August and 14 September.

120. Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*)

Reported in small numbers, not more than 20, in widespread areas up to 2 May and from 15 August.

121. Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*)

Most records refer to the Deep Bay area but there were other reports for Long Valley, Ham Tin, Ting Kok Road and Pik Uk. Extreme dates were up to 9 May and from 29 August. Highest counts were at San Tin with 100 in the spring on 8 April and 300 in the autumn on 12 September with numbers remaining high throughout the rest of the month.

122. Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)

Recorded in the Deep Bay area between 8 March and 26 May and 16 August and 22 November. Highest numbers for each passage were 200 on 3 May at Mai Po and 100 on 31 August.

123. Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*)

All records are for the Deep Bay marshes up to 22 May and from 31 August. 400 were counted in the Deep Bay area on 18 January, and 270 were still present at San Tin on 6 April. The following winter the maximum count before the end of the year was 200 at Mai Po on 21 November.

124. Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)

All records are for the Deep Bay area. Most refer to the period up to 26 May and from 29 August, but there were new summer sightings of 11, nine and one on 11, 19 and 28 July and three on 19 August. Most reports are of less than 20 birds but over 21 present on 18 January and 28 counted at Mai Po on 20 April.

126. Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*)

Recorded in the Deep Bay area up to 13 May and from 29 August. Peak numbers were at San Tin with 150 in spring on 6 April and over 50 in autumn on 13/14 September. Wintering numbers were fewer with no more than 15 between November and February.

127. Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

Widespread in small numbers in every month. Summer records were one at Ting Kok Road on 28 June and three at Mai Po/Lok Ma Chau on 26 July. On 18 January at least 45 were counted in the Deep Bay area.

128. Grey-rumped Sandpiper (*Heterosceus brevipes*)

Small numbers, usually less than ten but with over 20 at Tai

Po on 12 May, in widespread coastal areas on both passages. Extreme dates were from 3 May to 6 June and from 29 August to 20 October.

129. Terek Sandpiper (*Xenus cinereus*)

All records are for Mai Po or San Tin except two at Tai Po on 12 May. Extreme dates were 18 April to 22 May and 19 August to 14 September. Maximum counts were 110 in spring on 16 May and 60 in autumn on 14 September.

130. Knot (*Calidris canutus*)

Recorded at Mai Po and San Tin with one, four, 20 and six on 5 April and 3, 16 and 22 May, and nine on 14 September. A flock of 100 birds seen at Mai Po on 26 April were probably this species.

132. Eastern Little Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*)

All records are for Mai Po or San Tin between 8 March and 23 May, and between 19 August and 26 October. Large numbers occurred on spring passage with maxima of 300 on 8 April and 23 May, whereas the highest count in autumn was only 20 on 26 October.

By analysing measurements, plumage and weight gains of birds trapped in Hong Kong at Mai Po and San Tin between 1977 and 1980, together with limited recovery and control data, David Melville has suggested that Hong Kong is a major refuelling stop in spring for both this species and Curlew Sandpipers travelling from wintering quarters in Australia to breeding grounds in Siberia.

133. Long-toed Stint (*Calidris subminuta*)

Up to ten in spring at Mai Po or San Tin between 8 March and 3 May. Over 20 in autumn between 29 August and 14 September with a peak of 50 at San Tin on the latter date. The only wintering record was over 20 on 27 December. Elsewhere, one at Starling Inlet on 3 May.

134. Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*)

Recorded in small numbers on the Deep Bay Marshes up to 5 April and from 13 September. Not more than five during passage but up to 20 in the winter months.

135. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*)

Reported in spring between 29 March and 23 May and in autumn between 20 August and 14 September. All records are for the Deep Bay Marshes except for one or two birds at Tai Po (Ting Kok Road) on 16 April, 6, 12 and 17 May and eight there on 8 May. Maximum in spring was at least 30 at San Tin on 8 May, whereas there were only up to three in autumn.

136. Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)

One at Mai Po on 17 January and 85 at Pak Nai on 18 January. The only spring record was one bird in breeding plumage at San Tin on 23 May. More regularly recorded in the Deep Bay area in autumn and the following winter between 14 September and 27 December with 200 at Mai Po on 26 October and 22 November.

137. Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)

Unusual winter records of one at Luk Keng on 4 February and three at Nam Chung on 5 February. All other records are for Mai Po or San Tin between 16 March and 23 May and between 19 August and 11 October. Numbers rose in spring to 160 on 6 April but no more than five were reported in autumn.

138. Sanderling (*Crocethia alba*)

Eight at Tai Po Industrial Estate reclamation on 17 May and one in an illegal bird net at Mai Po on 26 May.

139. Spoon-billed Sandpiper (*Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*)

One in non-breeding plumage at San Tin on 4 and 6 April and 22 May.

140. Broad-billed Sandpiper (*Limicola falcinellus*)

Recorded at Mai Po and San Tin between 4 April and 22 May and between 13 September and 11 October. Maximum in spring was only 20 on 16 May whereas numbers rose in autumn to 51 on 14 September, a new high, even more unusual for being in autumn instead of spring. Also one at Tai Po Industrial Estate reclamation on 12 May.

141. Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)

Except for one at Tai Po on 4 October all records are from San Tin. A reeve on 29 March and 8 April. Seven on 13 September, one the next day and two on 26 September.

142. Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*)

Small numbers on both passages. One in Long Harbour on 25 April. Four at Sha Tau Kok on 5 May. One or two at San Tin between 16 May and 7 June. Five in West Lamma Channel on 9 September. Six and nine at San Tin on 26 and 27 September.

143. Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*)

Present in the Deep Bay Marshes, most frequently at San Tin, up to 16 May and from 27 August with one summer record of three at San Tin on 27 June. The trend over recent years for wintering numbers to increase has continued. Maximum seen up to May was over 30 on 29 March. A flock of over 60 was recorded in flight at

San Tin on 27 August. Thereafter the largest number counted was 35 on 14 September.

144. Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*)

Recorded in the Deep Bay area up to 22 May and from 14 November, with one summer record of a single bird at Mai Po on 21 July. Previously, there had been no summer records and the latest spring date had been 12 March. Numbers were also higher than ever before. The maxima for the first five months were 35, 51, 25, one and two respectively. A large flock returned in November with over 100 feeding along the margins of Deep Bay at Mai Po on 21 November and 60 there the next day.

145. Oriental Pratincole (*Glareola maldivarum*)

12 and 13 at Mai Po on 1 and 9 March respectively. Single birds at Tai Po on 14 June, flying east at Star Ferry on 1 December and at Tung Chung on 5 December. The winter records are new late dates.

146. Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)

Regularly recorded in widespread coastal and inshore areas, including Victoria Harbour, up to 1 April and from 11 November, with one exceptional summer record of an immature at Starling Inlet on 18 July. Numbers at the Pak Nai beach roost were 197 and 180, on 18 January and 28 February and 200 during December.

151. Brown-headed Gull (*Larus brunnicephalus*)

One adult in breeding plumage off Kwai Chung Container Terminal on 19 March (MLC).

152. Black-tailed Gull (*Larus crassirostris*)

Six at Starling Inlet on 16 January and five there on 24 January, two at Tsim Bei Tsui on 18 January, one at Sha Tau Kok on 21 March and one at Yim Tso Ha on 4 April. As usual, all aged records refer to immatures.

153. Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*)

Common and widespread in coastal and inshore areas. Most records are up to 5 April and from 25 October, but there were unusual sightings of three at Mai Po on 31 May and four juveniles at Mai Po/San Tin on 31 August. One at Ocean Park lake on 16 October may not have been wild. On 18 January approximately 4800 were counted in the Deep Bay area. Flocks of several hundred birds were regularly seen elsewhere and the total wintering population shows no signs of reduction from the numbers established in recent years.

154. Saunders' Gull (*Larus saundersi*)

All records are from the Deep Bay area up to 9 March and from

14 November. Numbers rose from only three in January to ten in February and March. Birds in breeding plumage with black heads were first noted on 6 February. The maximum at the end of the year was 11 at Mai Po on 14 November.

156. White-winged Black Tern (*Chlidonias leucoptera*)

Reported in spring at San Tin between 13 May and 9 June with numbers rising to over 50 on 22 May. Elsewhere, 25 in West Lamma Channel on 6 May and 50 to 60 there on 11 June, 20 flying west at Star Ferry on 15 May and one in Tolo Harbour on 23 May. Only autumn record was one at San Tin on 14 September.

157. Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*)

Only two records of this normally regular passage migrant. One found dead at Kai Tak on 12 August and one at Mai Po on 26 September.

158. Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)

Recorded at Mai Po and San Tin between 18 April and 3 May with maximum of 20 on first date. One at Tai Po on 24 May. Summer records of single birds at Mai Po on 13 June and 11 July. A new high was established on 1 September when at least 150 were seen following fishing boats and ferries off south Lantau. The only other autumn record was 15 at Mai Po on 14 September.

159. Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*)

Recorded in the Deep Bay area up to 22 May and from 15 November except for one at San Tin on 29 August and the following unusual summer records at Mai Po:— 18 on 9 June, single birds on 13 June, 1 and 19 July and six on 11 July. Wintering numbers did not exceed 14 but over 20 were recorded on passage in April with a maximum of over 60 on 22 May at Mai Po.

160. Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)

40 in the East Lamma Channel on 5 September and 20 there on 13 September. Ten seen from 17 Miles Castle Peak Road during Typhoon Clara (No. 3 signal) (MLC).

161. Black-naped Tern (*Sterna sumatrana*)

Two seen from Tolo Harbour Ferry near Tap Mun on 25 April (MLC, CAV, GCHC). Two seen feeding over the sea and perched on rocks at Soko Islands on 5 July (DSM).

162. Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*)

Only two records, both at San Tin, of this normally regular passage migrant. One on 29 March and four on 4 April.

166. Rufous Turtle-dove (*Streptopelia orientalis*)

Widespread up to 3 May and from 30 August. Most records refer to less than 15 birds, but a large roost became established in the outer mangroves at Mai Po at the end of year with over 100 on 21 November and 200 in early morning on 27 December.

167. Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*)

Common and widespread. One carrying nesting material in Lam Tsuen Valley on 10 January.

168. Red Turtle-dove (*Streptopelia tranquebarica*)

Only two records. A male in Kowloon Park on 24 March and a female/immature at Mai Po on 26 October.

170. Himalayan Cuckoo (*Cuculus saturatus*)

Two at She Shan wood on 20 April (MLC).

171. Indian Cuckoo (*Cuculus micropterus*)

Seen or heard in widespread areas including Kowloon Tong and Deep Water Bay between 25 March and 14 June. Several separate birds were heard between Chek Keng and Tai Long Wan on 25 April.

[169/171. Cuckoo sp.] (*Cuculus sp.*)

An unidentified bird near Hang Ha Po on 1 November was the only autumn report.]

172. Large Hawk-cuckoo (*Cuculus spaverioides*)

Occasionally seen but mostly heard only between 27 March and 28 June on the upper slopes of Tai Mo Shan, Kadoorie Farm, Sek Kong Catchwater, Tai Po Kau, She Shan, Shing Mun and Sunset Peak. Maximum of three calling at Shing Mun on 30 May.

174. Plaintive Cuckoo (*Cacomantis merulinus*)

Fairly common and widespread including urban areas at Victoria Barracks and Mount Nicholson, Peak and Repluse Bay. Heard calling between 14 February and 26 July. Also single birds seen at San Tin on 11 October, Mai Po on 24 October, Sek Kong on 25 October and Lok Ma Chau on 27 December. Hepatic individuals were seen on three occasions.

175. Red-winged Crested Cuckoo (*Clamator coromandus*)

Number of records continued to increase for this species which was formerly considered a vagrant but has, in recent years, established itself as a passage migrant and summer visitor.

One heard at Tung Chung on 28 March. One heard and seen at Tai Po Kau on 6 April. A pair seen near Wu Kai Sha between 12 and 15 April. One heard above Sek Kong Catchwater on 27 April

and 26 May. Three heard, one of which was also seen, near Bride's Pool on 9 May, and two heard there the next day. One seen at Tai Po Kau on 10 May and one heard there on 13 June. One heard at Shing Mun on 30 May and 20 June. One seen and heard along Sek Kong Catchwater on 4 July.

The characteristic call of this species has been identified as a two-note whistle "pee-pee" in a monotone lasting about two seconds and repeated at frequent intervals. The alarm note is a harsh chatter.

177. Koel (*Eudynamis scolopacea*)

Recorded in ones and twos in every month from widespread areas including Kowloon Park, Stanley, Mount Nicholson, Victoria Barracks, Battery Path (Central), Zoological and Botanical Gardens and Mid-levels. Heard calling between 15 February and 19 December. A juvenile at Luk Keng on 4 November was being fed by Black-faced Laughing-thrushes.

178. Greater Coucal (*Centropus sinensis*)

Fairly common and widespread throughout the year, including Kowloon Park and Mid-levels.

179. Lesser Coucal (*Centropus bengalensis*)

Reported from widespread hill country.

182. Collared Scops Owl (*Otus bakkamoena*)

Heard throughout the year at Tai Mei Tuk (Plover Cove), with two seen at dawn on 17 February. Also heard at Mount Nicholson in February, August, November and December and Conduit Road in June and July.

[185/187. Brown Fish-owl/Eagle-owl (*Ketupa zeylonensis/Bubo bubo*)

A large owl with yellow/orange eyes, seen by torch-light perched on a goal-post at Little Sai Wan on 10 March, was considered to be one of these two species (IDB).]

189. Savannah Nightjar (*Caprimulgus affinis*)

At least three regularly seen and heard (and calls tape-recorded) at dusk on the hills above Chau Tau Grenade Range between 9 April and 14 June (MJC et al.). At least two males and one female were present and breeding is strongly suspected. Up to four were also heard on 6 June near the Yuen Tun C.A.S. camp above Tsing Lung Tau. One seen and up to three heard at Lung Kei Wan (Sai Kung) on 19 and 20 June. These records suggest that this species is still resident in suitable areas.

One unidentified female/immature nightjar (*C. affinis/indicus*) was seen at dusk at 17 Miles Castle Peak Road on 30 September.

189.1 White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*)

At least ten and two seen over Sek Kong Catchwater on 17 and 27 March respectively (GCHC). Four watched at close range for over one hour on 27 April feeding over the ridge (MacLehose Trail) to the west of Route Twisk (MLC).

190. Large White-rumped Swift (*Apus pacificus*)

Scattered groups of up to ten birds seen in widespread areas between 15 February and 13 September. However, many noted in northern New Territories on 8 April and 50 at Lamma on 11 April. One of two at Stanley on 17 April was carrying nesting material.

191. House Swift (*Apus affinis*)

Reported from widespread areas in all months with large flocks of over 100 and over 70 on 18 January at Lok Ma Chau and 18 March at Conduit Road. Probably nesting on YMCA, Waterloo Road, Kowloon.

192. Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*)

One or two recorded every month from Mai Po, San Tin and the Starling Inlet area with three at Mai Po on 26 July and 15 August and four at Luk Keng on 1 November. Also one at Nim Wan on 1 April.

194. Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

Widespread in small numbers and recorded in all months with maximum of 24 at Mai Po on 5 September.

195. White-breasted Kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*)

Fairly common and widespread. Young apparently just out of the nest were seen on 21 and 23 June at Tung Chung and Tai Mei Tuk.

196. Black-capped Kingfisher (*Halcyon pileata*)

Widespread in small numbers. Two young seen at Mai Po on 27 May. One at She Shan on 17 October had the rip-top of a soft drink can caught in its bill.

197. Blue-tailed Bee-eater (*Merops philippinus*)

A flock of 14 at Mai Po on 26 April (MAW, AC).

198. Broad-billed Roller (*Eurystomus orientalis*)

Single birds at Chek Keng and Tai Long on 25 April, and two at Cheung Chau from 12 to 14 May. At least one at Chek Keng on 3 October. Two immatures at Sek Kong Catchwater on 7 October and six (including two adults) there the next day. Two at She Shan on 17 October. Between one and four at Chung Hom Kok between

17 and 22 October, and one at Pokfulam Reservoir on 24 October.

199. Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*)

One watched on the CBF's lawn at Barker Road, Peak on 31 August (JLC, CAV, JSRE).

200. Great Barbet (*Megalaima virens*)

Seen or heard in ones and twos in widespread wooded parts of the New Territories including Tai Po Kau, Lam Tsuen Valley, Shing Mun, Ho Chung Valley, Sek Kong and Tai Long Wan.

203. Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*)

One or two recorded in widespread areas including Mount Cameron up to 28 March and from 1 October.

205. Small Skylark (*Alauda gulgula*)

At least three at Kai Tak on 6 May. One seen regularly above Chau Tau Grenade Range between 31 May and 14 June may have been breeding. One or two at Mai Po between 14 and 21 November.

206. Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

Common and widespread in all months with higher numbers between February and August. A flock of 300 seen at dusk on 15 August at Mai Po.

207. Red-rumped Swallow (*Hirundo daurica*)

One at Wong Nei Chong Gap on 24 October, at least ten at Mai Po on 21 November and two at San Tin on 20 December.

208. House-martin (*Delichon urbica*)

At least two over Route Twisk on 16 May (RF). Six unidentified house-martins (*D. urbica/dasypus*) at Ho Chung on 21 February, six more at Pak Nai on 28 February and two at San Tin on 29 March.

209. Sand-martin (*Riparia riparia*)

Over 20 at San Tin on 16 May and one there on 31 August.

211. Rufous-backed Shrike (*Lanius schach*)

Common and widespread with reports from urban Kowloon at Ho Man Tin/Ma Tau Wei. As usual melanistic morphs (Dusky Shrikes) recorded widely.

213. Brown Shrike (*Lanius cristatus*)

Single birds recorded in widespread areas up to 13 May and from 31 August. A heavy fall was noted in early May with at least eight, and probably many times this number, at Aberdeen Country Park on 5 May (adults identified as race *lucionensis*), two at Kai Tak, one



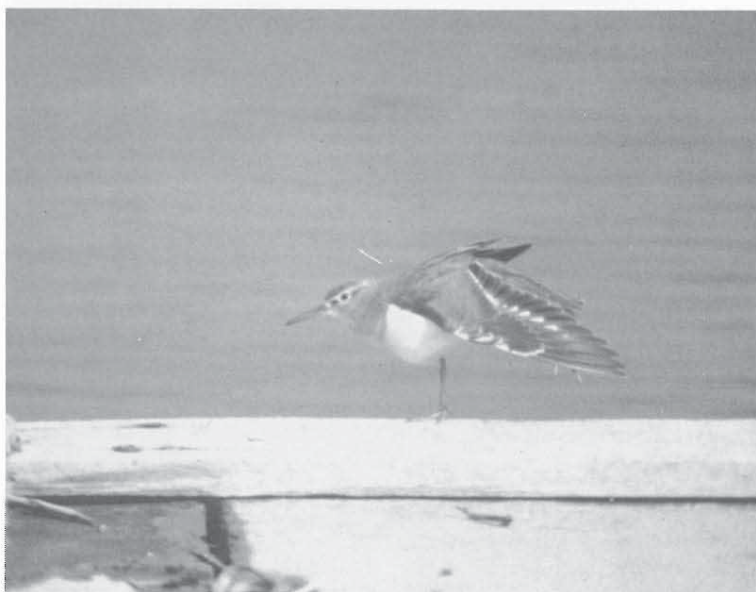
Asiatic Golden Plover
(R.P. Tipper)



Yellow-bellied Wren-warbler
(R.P. Tipper)



Juvenile White-breasted Kingfisher
(M.L. Chalmers)



Common Sandpiper
(R.P. Tippey)

at Mount Nicholson, and one at Kowloon Park on 6 May, and one at Tai Mei Tuk on 7 May.

214. Black-naped Oriole (*Oriolus chinensis*)

Up to six recorded in widespread wooded areas of the New Territories, particularly at Fanling Golf Course and She Shan, from 4 February to 1 November. Immatures were seen in many localities, including Mount Nicholson and Chung Hom Kok, between 3 October and 1 November.

215. Black Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocercus*)

Common and widespread between early April and end-November with winter records at Mong Tseng of up to six birds in January, February and December.

216. Ashy Drongo (*Dicrurus leucophaeus*)

One White-cheeked Drongo (race *leucogenis*) at Kowloon Park on 6 January. Single birds at Hebe Haven on 26 January, Mount Cameron on 22 March, Tai Mei Tuk on 6 April and Ho Sheung Heung on 21 April.

217. Hair-crested Drongo (*Dicrurus hottentottus*)

Recorded widely in the New Territories between 15 March and 7 November with over five at Tai Po Kau, She Shan and Tai Long. Adults seen with fledged young at Mount Nicholson on 13 May, 14½ Miles Tai Po Road on 9 June and Pak Shek Wo (near Pik Uk) on 28 June.

218. Chinese Starling (*Sturnus sinensis*)

Reported in scattered areas, including Kowloon Park, with maximum flocks of over 50 at Mai Po on 6 February, over 60 there on 9 March and 40 at Ho Chung on 8 December.

219. Silky Starling (*Sturnus sericeus*)

Present in the New Territories up to 27 March and from 4 November. Maximum numbers were 150 at Ha Tsuen on 28 February and at least 250 at Sha Tau Kok on 14 November.

220. Grey Starling (*Sturnus cineraceus*)

Present in the New Territories up to 7 February and from 1 November, with most sightings in the last two months. Maximum counts were 32 at Mong Tseng on 7 November and 50 at Mai Po on 22 November.

222. Black-necked Starling (*Sturnus nigricollis*)

Fairly common and widespread in small numbers throughout the year with flocks of over 40 at Beas River on 19 July and over

35 at Lam Tsuen Valley on 17 October. Up to six in Kowloon Tong in May and June, and one in Central on 28 December.

223. Crested Mynah (*Acridotheres cristatellus*)
Common and widespread. Over 100 roosting in banyans at Kowloon Cricket Club on 26 January.

224. Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*)
Up to six regularly seen feeding in picnic areas along Plover Cove until 28 March and up to five from 9 December. Up to three in April or May at Wu Kai Sha, Tai Lam Forest, Shing Mun and Bride's Pool. Between one and four from 3 October at Chek Keng, She Shan, Sek Kong Catchwater, Chau Tau Grenade Range, Upper Ho Chung Valley and Chung Hom Kok.

225. Blue Magpie (*Urocissa erythrorhyncha*)
Widely distributed throughout the year in ones, twos or small groups on Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories.

226. Magpie (*Pica pica*)
Common and widespread. One nest constructed on a neon sign near Jordan Road, Kowloon and many others on electricity pylons in the New Territories. Recently fledged young seen at Mount Nicholson on 12 April.

227. Treepie (*Crypsirina formosae*)
One at Kowloon Park on 11 April. Two at Sek Kong Catchwater on 7 October and up to six in scattered areas of the New Territories from 25 November.

228. Jungle Crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos*)
Seen throughout the year in small numbers on Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories. Large numbers in every month at Shuen Wan rubbish tip with maximum of over 75.

229. Collared Crow (*Corvus torquatus*)
Up to 20 seen throughout the year at Mai Po and Mong Tseng. Up to seven regularly recorded in Tai Mei Tuk area where this species is considered to be increasing.

230. Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike (*Coracina melaschistos*)
Three at She Shan on 8 March, one found dead at Kai Tak on 5 May, two at Tai Po Kau on 6 September, one at Cape Collinson on 26 December and one at Mong Tseng on 27 December.

233. Ashy Minivet (*Pericrocotus divaricatus*)
Three at She Shan on 4 April, five at Sek Kong Catchwater on

1 October and two at She Shan on 7 November.

234. Grey-throated Minivet (*Pericrocotus solaris*)
The first summer record of this species was a male at Tai Po Kau on 13 June. Up to three males and three females were present at Tai Po Kau from 1 November in mixed flocks with Scarlet Minivets.

235. Scarlet Minivet (*Pericrocotus flammeus*)
Recorded from Tai Po Kau and She Shan generally from 14 February until 13 May and from 1 November in both small numbers and flocks up to 30 birds. Also a pair at Shing Mun on 30 May, several parties of three to four females/immatures at Tai Po Kau on 13 June and a male and two female/immatures there on 10 July.

236. Chestnut Bulbul (*Hypsipetes castanotus*)
Ten at Tai Po Kau on 19 December and at least four at Tai Tam Country Park on 30 December.

238. Crested Bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus*)
Very common and widespread.

239. Chinese Bulbul (*Pycnonotus sinensis*)
Very common and widespread.

240. Red-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus aurigaster*)
Widespread in suitable areas.

241. Black-faced Laughing-thrush (*Garrulax perspicillatus*)
Common and widespread.

242. Black-throated Laughing-thrush (*Garrulax chinensis*)
Up to five recorded throughout the year at Mount Nicholson especially in spring and early summer when this species calls daily. Also seen and heard near Plunkett's Road, Peak in January, March and August, and heard at Aberdeen Country Park in May.

243. Hwamei (*Garrulax canorus*)
Up to ten seen or heard in widespread areas of Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories in all months.

244. Greater Necklaced Laughing-thrush (*Garrulax pectoralis*)
Flocks of at least five, 15 and approximately 12 seen at Tai Po Kau on 8 September, 12 and 22 December respectively.

245. Chinese Babax (*Babax lanceolatus*)
One or two seen on the upper slopes of Tai Mo Shan between 9 May and 14 June. Birds were seen carrying food on 9 and 16 May

indicating probable breeding.

246. Collard Siva (*Yuhina castaniceps*)

Apparently an irruption year for this species with flocks of between 20 and 40 birds seen at Mount Nicholson, Castle Peak summit, Tung Chung and Tai Po Kau (twice) on 25, 29 November, 5, 12, 22 and 29 December respectively.

247. White-bellied Yuhina (*Yuhina zantholeuca*)

One at Tai Po Kau on 31 December (RF).

248. Asian/Ince's Paradise Flycatcher (*Terpsiphone paradisi*)

Only spring record was one at Tai Po Kau on 6 April. Single birds recorded between 29 August and 25 October at Tai Po Kau, Sek Kong and Tai Lam Country Park with one wintering female at Nim Wan on 27 December.

249. Japanese Paradise Flycatcher (*Terpsiphone atrocaudata*)

One at Sek Kong on 25 October.

250. Grey-headed Flycatcher (*Culicicapa ceylonensis*)

Two at Sek Kong Woods on 1 February, 20 and 30 December, and one there on 6 and 15 February. Two at Tai Po Kau on 22 December, one at She Shan on 26 and 29 December, and one at Chinese University on 31 December.

251. Black-naped Monarch Flycatcher (*Hypothymis azurea*)

A male at She Shan on 8 March.

252. Brown Flycatcher (*Muscicapa latirostris*)

Widespread in small numbers up to 16 May and from 6 October.

253. Grey-spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa griseisticta*)

Up to three recorded from widespread areas between 21 April and 5 May and between 29 August and 17 October. The August sighting of one at Tai Lam Chung Country Park is a new early autumn date, and was followed by others on 6 and 12 September. (The previous earliest autumn date was 12 September).

254. Sooty Flycatcher (*Muscicapa sibirica*)

Two first-winter birds in pine wood at Pak Nai on 22 September (MLC). This is only the third Hong Kong record. The weather at the time was overcast drizzle in the wake of Typhoon Clara.

255. Ferruginous Flycatcher (*Muscicapa ferruginea*)

One at Tai Po Kau on 9 November.

256. Verditer Flycatcher (*Muscicapa thalassina*)

One at Tai Long Wan on 1 February. Single birds at Lam Tsuen Valley on 21 November, Sek Kong Catchwater on 15 December (male), and Ho Chung Valley on 23 (male) and 25 December (female).

257. Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Ficedula parva*)

One or two reported from widespread areas up to 14 February and from 14 October. Generally scarce but at least 12 present in Sek Kong Woods on 25 October.

258. Robin Flycatcher (*Ficedula mugimaki*)

Pair seen at Ngong Ping, Lantau on 18 October, a male and an immature at Chau Tau Grenade Range on 15 November and a female at the Zoological and Botanical Gardens on 18 November.

260. Tricolour Flycatcher (*Ficedula zanthopygia*)

A male and female/immature at Tai Lam Chung Country Park on 29 August, and a female/immature at Chung Hom Kok on 6 September.

261. Hainan Blue Flycatcher (*Cyornis hainana*)

Up to five recorded in Tai Po Kau between 6 April and 13 June. Four separate singing males seen on 17 April and two recently fledged young seen on 13 June indicate that this species is again breeding at Tai Po Kau.

262. Blue and White Flycatcher (*Cyanoptila cyanomelana*)

Only two reports of single birds at Tung Chung on 28 March and Tai Po Kau on 6 April.

263. Chinese Bush Warbler (*Cettia diphone*)

Reported in small numbers from widespread areas up to 24 April and from 5 October.

264. Short-tailed Bush Warbler (*Cettia squameiceps*)

One at Sek Kong Woods on 1 February, at least three at Tai Po Kau on 12 December, two there on 22 December and two at Sek Kong Woods on 30 December.

265. Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella certhiola*)

One found skulking along the middle bund at San Tin on 5 September (CRC).

An immature bird seen briefly at Mai Po on 18 September may have been this species or Lanceolated Warbler (*L. lanceolata*).

267. Von Schrenck's Reed-warbler (*Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*)

Several reported at Mai Po between 8 April and 22 May, with

single birds seen on 18 October and 14 November. Two in reed-bed at Luk Keng on 10 May.

Two or three small unstreaked *Acrocephalus* warblers were seen at Mai Po on 18 September but defied positive identification.

268. Great Reed-warbler (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*)

Recorded between 8 April and 22 May and between 29 August and 14 November except for two summer records, the first ever, of two in song at Mai Po on 7 June and one there on 11 July. Most other sightings are of up to ten birds at Mai Po/San Tin but single birds reported at Chung Hom Kok on 18 October and Kowloon Park on 30 October.

269. Dusky Warbler (*Phylloscopus fuscatus*)

Fairly common and widespread in small numbers up to 8 May and from 26 September.

270. Yellow-browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus inornatus*)

Common and widespread up to 27 April and from 7 October.

271. Pallas's Warbler (*Phylloscopus proregulus*)

Widespread in both winters but few records submitted. Extreme dates up to 6 February and from 28 November.

272. Arctic Warbler (*Phylloscopus borealis*)

Up to five reported in spring between 28 April and 10 May and in autumn between 29 August and 25 October. One heard at Tai Mong Tsai on 14 September was considered to be race *xanthodryas*.

274. Crowned Willow-warbler (*Phylloscopus coronatus*)

Two separate birds in mixed feeding parties of tits and warblers in Tai Po Kau on 26 December (MLC).

[274.1 Blyth's Leaf-warbler (*Phylloscopus reguloides*)

One probable at Tai Po Kau on 14 February gave the undulating tit-like song quoted by Ben King (1975), *Birds of South-East Asia*. Another bird seen in Tai Po Kau on 28 November may have been this species.]

276. Yellow-eyed Flycatcher-warbler (*Seicercus burkii*)

One at Cheung Chau on 8 January, 27, 28 February and 2 March (CDW). These separate sightings probably refer to the same bird as seen earlier on 16 December 1980.

279. Long-tailed Tailor-bird (*Orthotomus sutorius*)

Common and widespread.

280.1 Large Grass Warbler (*Graminicola bengalensis*)

Two seen carrying food on upper slopes of Tai Mo Shan on 14 June. One caught by mist-net, examined, measured, photographed and released in same area on 20 June (DSM, MLC, RF). The background to the identification and inclusion of this species on the Hong Kong list and the transfer of David's Hill-warbler (*Prinia polychroa*) to Category F is given in a paper elsewhere in this report.

281. Brown Wren-warbler (*Prinia subflava*)

Common on the Deep Bay Marshes throughout the year. Also seen at Ho Chung Valley in February and April, Shuen Wan in April and Tung Chung in December.

282. Yellow-bellied Wren-warbler (*Prinia flaviventris*)

Fairly common and widespread in all months including Kowloon Park.

283. Fantail Warbler (*Cisticola juncidis*)

Widespread throughout the year in ones and twos but higher numbers of around ten noted in January, November and December.

285. Red-tailed Robin (*Erithacus sibilans*)

Two or three regularly seen at Cheung Chau until first week of April. Single birds at Tai Po Kau on 2, 19 and 22 December.

286. Bluethroat (*Erithacus svecica*)

All records are for Mai Po, San Tin or Lok Ma Chau. A male and female on 18 January, one red-spotted male in breeding plumage on 7 February, one on 14 February, one on 8 April and one on 26 December.

288. Rubythroat (*Erithacus calliope*)

Seen but more often heard in widespread parts of the New Territories up to 22 April and from 24 October. Also one at Black's Link on 24 January. Three males seen at Mai Po on 30 December gave snatches of sub-song and appeared to be defending winter territories.

289. Red-flanked Bluetail (*Tarsiger cyanurus*)

Up to three recorded in widespread areas up to 11 March and from 27 October, with the majority of sightings in December.

290. Magpie Robin (*Copsychus saularis*)

Common and widespread. At Mount Nicholson one nest with five eggs was found in a nest box on 13 April, all hatched by 3 May and flown by 13 May. A male was found sitting on five eggs in a nearby box on 5 June.

- 291. Daurian Redstart** (*Phoenicurus aureus*)
Widespread but not common. Extreme dates were up to 26 March and from 11 November.
- 292. Plumbeous Water-redstart** (*Rhyacornis fuliginosus*)
Two males resident at Ho Chung from 8 December, a female at Yuen Tun Ha on 13 December, a male at Sek Kong Catchwater on 14 December, a female at Sheung Lau Wan, Sai Kung on 17 December and a pair at Hang Ha Po on 20 and 29 December.
- 293.1 Slaty-backed Forktail** (*Enicurus schistaceus*)
One feeding along the stream at Tai Po Kau on 9, 10 and 13 May (CDW, CAV, MLC, RF). This is the third record for Hong Kong.
- 294. Stonechat** (*Saxicola torquata*)
Widespread and numerous up to 8 April and from 26 September.
- 295. Grey Bushchat** (*Saxicola ferrea*)
A male near Chau Tau Grenade Range on 10 and 17 January, and two males there on 1 and 5 February. A female at Sek Kong Catchwater on 26 October, and another at Kowloon Park on 11 November. Two males and a female at Mong Tseng on 27 December.
- 296. Blue Rock-thrush** (*Monticola solitaria*)
Widespread in small numbers (up to four) until 25 April and from 19 September.
- 298. Violet Whistling Thrush** (*Myiophonus caeruleus*)
Regularly recorded throughout the year in favoured localities including upper levels of Hong Kong Island. Also one on Soko Islands on 5 July. Two nests with young were found at Sek Kong Catchwater on 6 July.
- 299. Pale Thrush** (*Turdus pallidus*)
One at Sek Kong Woods on 20 December.
- 300. Eye-browed Thrush** (*Turdus obscurus*)
A male at Mount Nicholson on 10 April.
- 302. Grey-backed Thrush** (*Turdus hortulorum*)
Few records at the beginning of the year with no reports in April and only one in March. Common and widespread from the end of November with ten at Tai Po Kau on 28 November, over six at both Tung Chung on 5 December and Mong Tseng on 27 December. Extreme dates were up to 14 March and from 25 September.

- 303. Dusky Thrush** (*Turdus naumanni*)
One at Lok Ma Chau on 18 January and a flock of 20 on the south side of Kowloon Peak on 5 March.
- 304. Blackbird** (*Turdus merula*)
Fairly common and widespread up to 8 March and from 1 November with flocks of over ten birds noted in February, November and December.
- 305. Grey Thrush** (*Turdus cardis*)
Scarce with only two reports in January including up to ten on Cheung Chau on 13 January, one in March, one in April and two in December. Extreme dates were until 4 April and from 12 December.
- 306. Siberian Thrush** (*Turdus sibiricus*)
A male at Mount Nicholson on 21 October (CAV).
- 307. Orange-headed Ground-thrush** (*Zoothera citrinus*)
A male seen along the wooded path above Sek Kong Catchwater on 12 September (GCHC). The head markings of these birds vary, the above having an indistinct dark line in front and behind the eye.
- 308. White's Thrush** (*Zoothera dauma*)
Only report at the beginning of the year was one at Tai Po Kau on 10 January. Up to three recorded at Tai Po Kau between 2 and 31 December and single birds at Ngong Ping, Lantau and Sek Kong on 5 and 6 December.
- 310. Great Tit** (*Parus major*)
Fairly common and widespread. Adults seen feeding young between 8 April and 10 May in several areas.
- 312.1 Penduline Tit** (*Remiz pendulinus*)
A small flock comprising at least three birds seen in reed-beds at Mai Po on 20 April (MLC). This is the first record of this species for Hong Kong.
The following description was taken:—
"Small size about 4 inches. Body round and plump. Tail medium length for bird's size with shallow fork (notch). Crown and nape grey with fine streaking on crown. Forehead, area around eye and ear coverts black forming distinctive mask. Thin whitish border between top of black mask and grey crown. Upper back chestnut brown. Lower back and rump pale brown, only a little darker than underparts. Flight feathers of wing and tail dark brown with thin pale edges visible when wings and tail spread during preening. Chin, throat and cheeks white. Breast, flanks, belly and under-tail coverts uniform pale buff. Bill short and pointed; tit-like. Bill and legs leaden blue-

grey. Eye black."

Palearctic, from Western Europe to China. Currently expanding westwards in Europe. The eastern-most race (*R.p.consobrinus*) breeds in north-east China and winters in the Yangtze valley and Yunnan.

313. Richard's Pipit (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*)

Widespread in small numbers up to end of April and from September. Only summer records were up to two at Tai Mo Shan on 22 May and 14 June.

314. Indian Tree-pipit (*Anthus hodgsoni*)

Common and widespread. Extreme dates were up to 29 April and from 14 October.

315. Red-throated Pipit (*Anthus cervinus*)

Recorded from the Deep Bay Marshes, Sek Kong and Tung Chung up to 22 March and from 25 October with maximum numbers up to 20 in October and November.

318. Upland Pipit (*Anthus sylvanus*)

Up to ten at Sunset Peak, Lantau on 8 February and at least three there in July. Between two and four at Tai Mo Shan between 22 May and 14 June.

319. Forest Wagtail (*Dendronanthus indicus*)

No spring records. One at Sek Kong Catchwater on 7 October, three at Tai Po Kau on 4 September and four there on 14 September, one at 17 Miles Castle Peak Road on 18 September.

320. White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*)

Common and widespread with extreme dates up to 18 April and from 18 September. Large numbers noted flying to roost at Mai Po in December.

321. Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)

Widespread in small numbers up to 22 May and from 13 August except for two near Sunset Peak, Lantau on 29 July and one at Tai Mei Tuk on 4 August. One at Nethersole Hospital, Pokfulam, on 10 November was seen to repeatedly attack its own reflection in a car rear bumper.

322. Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*)

Recorded in small numbers from favoured locations in New Territories up to 9 May and from 29 August. Several reports of blue-headed race *simillima* between February and May.

324. Fork-tailed Sunbird (*Aethopyga christinae*)

Reported throughout the year in widespread areas including Kowloon Tong, Mid-levels, Repulse Bay, Tai Po Kau, Tai Mei Tuk and She Shan. A female seen carrying nesting material at Mount Nicholson on 14 April.

325. White-eye (*Zosterops japonica*)

Common and widespread.

326. Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum cruentatum*)

Seen in small numbers throughout the year in widespread areas including one in the heart of the urban area at Marine Police Headquarters, Tsim Sha Tsui on 11 December.

327. Fire-breasted Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum ignipectus*)

Two or three at Tai Po Kau on 14 February. Ten at She Shan on 7 November, including at least two males, and one female there on 21 November. A pair at Tei Tong Tsai, Lantau on 5 December and single birds at Mount Nicholson on 12 and 21 December.

328. Black-tailed Hawfinch (*Coccothraustes migratoria*)

Recorded in ones and twos and flocks up to 40 birds from widespread areas up to 3 April and from 3 November. A flock of about 20 birds regularly seen in Kowloon Park in the first part of the year.

329. Chinese Greenfinch (*Carduelis sinica*)

Seen throughout the year in small numbers in the Tuen Mun to Siu Lam area with maximum of 12 in October. Also up to four reported from widespread areas until 25 April with two at Route Twisk on 7 June and one at Mai Po on 28 July and 6 December.

331. Common Rosefinch (*Carpodacus erythrinus*)

Recorded in widespread parts of the New Territories up to 23 April and from 24 October with maximum flock of at least 15 birds in the Lam Tsuen Valley on 10 January.

332. Masked Bunting (*Emberiza spodocephala*)

Widespread in small numbers up to 2 May and from 25 October.

333. Tristram's Bunting (*Emberiza tristrami*)

Except for one at Mount Nicholson on 11 December, all records are from Tai Po Kau. At least 15 in groups of five to six on 14 February, two on 6 April, at least one on 28 November, at least five, three and two on 12, 19 and 22 December respectively.

334. Chestnut Bunting (*Emberiza rutila*)

No spring records. A female at She Shan on 7 November, a flock

of ten at Tai Po Kau on 9 November, one at Mount Nicholson on 17 November and three at Ngong Ping, Lantau on 18 November.

335. Yellow-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza aureola*)

At least 20 at Mai Po on 8 April. Two at Tung Chung and one at Ting Kok Road on 24 October, and flocks (unspecified numbers) noted at Mai Po on 15 November.

337. Little Bunting (*Emberiza pusilla*)

Reported in small numbers from widespread parts of the New Territories up to 8 April and from 31 October. More numerous in the first part of the year with flocks of between five and 15 birds noted in the Lam Tsuen and Ho Chung Valleys.

339. Crested Bunting (*Melophus lathamii*)

Up to six recorded at Tai Mo Shan between 3 May and 20 June and three at Kowloon Peak on 4 June. Elsewhere, one at Mong Tseng on 9 February, five above Tuen Mun on 7 March, one at Sek Kong Catchwater on 27 March and one at Mai Po 21 November.

340. Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

Very common and widespread, especially near habitation.

341. Chestnut Munia (*Lonchura malacca*)

Up to 12 recorded at Mai Po in all months except March, June and December. On 15 August a large flock of between 300 and 500 munias contained at least ten adult race *atricapilla* and two race *malacca*. On 11 September an adult was seen at a nest at Tramway Path, Hong Kong.

342. Spotted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*)

Fairly common and widespread throughout the year in small flocks of up to 20 birds. Large flocks of over 100 birds seen at Plover Cove on 20 April, between 300 and 500 seen at Mai Po on 15 August and up to 40 at Mong Tseng on 10 November.

343. White-backed Munia (*Lonchura striata*)

Up to ten reported throughout the year from widespread areas including Kowloon Park, Mid-levels and Peak. Two collecting nesting material at Pat Heung between 5 and 8 March and two separate birds carrying long grass stems at Shing Mun on 30 May, where one nest was found.

C. SPECIES WHICH, ALTHOUGH ORIGINALLY INTRODUCED BY MAN, HAVE NOW ESTABLISHED A REGULAR FERAL BREEDING STOCK WHICH APPARENTLY MAINTAINS ITSELF WITHOUT NECESSARY RECOURSE TO FURTHER INTRODUCTION.

501. Emerald Dove (*Chalcophaps indica*)

Up to two reported at Tai Po Kau in January, February, April, May, July and September. One at Sek Kong Catchwater in January, April, May and June. One at Fanling Golf Course on 12 June and two at Chi Ma Wan on 28 March, Hebe Haven on 15 September and Upper Ho Chung Valley on 31 December.

502. Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*)

Widespread throughout the year including the urban areas of Kowloon and Hong Kong Island. Highest counts were over 25 at Happy Valley on 2 January and 50 at Mai Po on 24 October.

503. Common Mynah (*Acrodothis tristis*)

Regularly seen at Sek Kong between January and September with numbers rising sharply in June and July to a maximum of at least 19 on 14 July (presumably breeding within the army camp). Up to five reported from Dill's Corner in April and August where one pair nested in the roof of the medical centre. Elsewhere, one at Mai Po on 8 March, two at Mong Tseng on 11 July, one at Ho Man Tin on 10 and 19 August, one at Pui O on 18 October and two at Fanling Golf Course on 28 October.

504. White-cheeked Laughing-thrush (*Garrulax sannio*)

Up to ten recorded in most months, with sightings at the Zoological and Botanical Gardens, Mount Nicholson, Bowen Road, Little Sai Wan, Sek Kong, She Shan and Ho Sheung Heung. One seen carrying food at Mount Nicholson on 15 April.

D. SPECIES INTRODUCED BY MAN, OF WHICH THE FERAL POPULATIONS MAY OR MAY NOT BE SELF-SUPPORTING.

601. Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua sulphurea*)

Recorded on Hong Kong Island between Happy Valley and Hong Kong University with flocks of up to 16 birds. Always to be found in Victoria Barracks and regular in the Zoological and Botanical Gardens. A young bird just out the nest was found on the ground at Victoria Barracks on 25 May.

602. Indian Grackle (*Gracula religiosa*)

Two at Tai Long on 7 March and one at Kowloon Park on 12

November.

E. SPECIES OF WHICH ALL PUBLISHED RECORDS ARE
SUSPECTED OF BEING OF BIRDS ESCAPED OR RELEASED
FROM CAPTIVITY.

708. Pekin Robin (*Leothrix lutea*)
Single birds at Kowloon Park on 9 January, Chung Hom Kok
on 9 May and Tai Mo Shan on 7 June. Three near Harlech Road,
Peak on 28 October.

709. Chestnut-flanked White-eye (*Zosterops erythropleura*)
One at Tai Po Kau on 26 December (MLC) was the first of a
series of sightings there in winter 1981/82. It is probable that wild
birds were involved.

710. Java Sparrow (*Padda oryzivora*)
Two at Hong Kong University on 11 June.

711. White-headed Munia (*Lonchura maja*)
At least seven adults in a mixed flock of 300 to 500 munias at
Mai Po on 15 August (CAV) and at least 12 there on 31 August (MAW,
GCHC).

720. Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*)
One female/immature at Mount Nicholson between 16 and 18
November (CAV).

723. Rainbow Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus haematodus*)
Up to five regularly seen at Deep Water Bay until September
and three at Mount Nicholson at the end of November.

725. Azure-winged Magpie (*Cyanopica cyanus*)
Up to 13 recorded at the Zoological and Botanical Gardens
throughout the year and five at Victoria Barracks on 2 January.

727. Yellow-fronted Canary (*Serinus mozambicus*)
One at Kowloon Park on 7 October.

731. Blossom-headed Parakeet (*Psittacula roseata*)
A female with no tail at Tai Long, Sai Kung on 25 April.

732. Grey-headed Parrotbill (*Paradoxornis gularis*)
Recorded at Mount Nicholson with one on 31 January, at least
three on 5 February and at least five on 15 February (CAV). A flock
of approximately ten birds observed feeding and moving through

undergrowth at Kowloon Hills Fitness Trail on 7 November (OFC).

741. Hill Blue Flycatcher (*Cyornis banyumas*)
A male recorded in the Zoological and Botanical Gardens between
5 November and 12 December had apparently been resident since
September (GCHC, CAV). Another male flew into a flat at British
Military Hospital, Kowloon on 26 November and was later released
(JFSB).

742. Asian Pied Starling (*Sturnus contra*)
One at St. Stephen's College, Stanley on 21 December was the
first confirmed sighting of this species (FH). Up to six birds were
subsequently seen in 1982. Earlier unsubstantiated reports of starlings
breeding at Stanley may refer to this species. If breeding occurs,
transfer to Category D would be justified.

743. Grass Owl (*Tyto capensis*)
A dead bird was picked up at Kai Tak runway on 25 December
and subsequently identified by an officer of the Agriculture and
Fisheries Department. Although there was no evidence of the bird
having been in captivity or of releases of confiscated birds in this
area, this species was formerly imported on a large scale for food,
and some illegal trading probably continues. It is therefore con-
sidered that sufficient doubt exists over its origins to preclude
Category A status on the basis of this single urban record.

APPENDIX TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 1975

810. Black-legged Kittiwake/Red-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla/*
brevirostris)

The above record has been reviewed by the original observer
and the Records Committee in the light of a recent paper "Some
notes on Red-legged Kittiwake Identification", L.G. Balch (*Birding*
12(2) 78-82). Based upon the pale grey colour of the mantle and
the relatively long bill and characteristic head shape, the record is
now accepted as Black-legged Kittiwake (*R. tridactyla*) and is accord-
ingly transferred to Category A (154.1).

APPENDIX TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 1976

59. Japanese Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter gularis*)

An adult female brought to the HKSPCA, Harcourt Road on 19 May was subsequently put down and a skin prepared (FOPH). Both rear toes were necrotic and nearly falling off.

110. Solitary Snipe (*Gallinago solitaria*)

One flushed several times in Long Valley on 4 January (RF). This is the third record for Hong Kong.

APPENDIX TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 1977

29. Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*)

Two at Mai Po on 15 February (FOPH).

68. Grey-faced Buzzard-Eagle (*Butastur indicus*)

An immature at Mai Po on 31 March (FOPH).

REPORT ON THE BIRDS 1982

Hon. Recorder: Michael L. Chalmers

Despite the continual pressure on habitats and the relatively small number of active observers, 1982 was a bumper year for variety of species. The total accepted for categories A, C and D was 276 which is the highest ever recorded, easily beating the previous best total of 271 in 1978, and continuing the apparent four year cycle of fluctuations.

As expected from the previous pattern, the winter was typified by the occurrence of several irruptive woodland species, notably Collared Sivas, Treepies and Chestnut Bulbuls. There were also several reports of apparently wild Chestnut-flanked White-eyes. As well as offering a wide variety of species, the year also maintained our appetite for spectacularly large numbers of wintering water and shore birds in the Deep Bay area. Several thousand migrant waders were also present at San Tin in the spring, and higher than normal numbers were recorded again during the autumn passage.

Four new species were added to Category A of the Hong Kong list. The first was a Velvet Scoter seen from a police launch off Pak Nai, Deep Bay on 5th February. Next a Long-billed Dowitcher was recorded at San Tin in April and Mai Po in May. The third new species was a Short-toed Lark seen on the foreshore at Nim Wan in October, and the last was Thick-billed Warbler, two of which were seen near Lok Ma Chau (Grenade Range) also in October. Three obvious escapes were also added to Category E, viz. Bank Mynah, Rufous Laughing-thrush and Red-crested Cardinal

Notable sightings of other varieties included White Storks, Red-necked Grebes, Pochard, Goldeneye, Barred Button-quail, Lanceolated Warbler, Yellow-breasted Warbler and Japanese Robin.

Gains or discoveries of breeding species appeared to outweigh losses. Both the established egretries at Yim Tso Ha and Mai Po Village continued to be used, although numbers at the main Yim Tso Ha egretty decreased as a result of a break-away group established on the nearby island in Starling Inlet. Although it has been suspected that herons and egrets also breed in the outer mangroves at Mai Po, this was confirmed for the first time when crab-fishermen reported finding Night Heron's nests. However, the most exciting breeding record was undoubtedly the Eagle Owls on Lamma. By coincidence there were two other sight records of Eagle Owls last year. Before 1982 there had been only two confirmed records although early reports

in Herklots of this species breeding in the New Territories possibly reflect its true status. Another nocturnal species, the Savannah Nightjar, was regularly seen or heard both in the border hills and above Castle Peak Road between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun in the spring and summer months and is probably a widespread resident which has been under-recorded in the past. New species continue to colonise the maturing woodland. At Tai Po Kau several pairs of Hainan Blue Flycatchers again bred. Before 1980 there had been only one record of White-bellied Yuhinas but since then they have been seen on several occasions at Tai Po Kau, mostly in winter but now for the first time in June (breeding was subsequently confirmed in 1983). The first ever summer record of Chestnut Bulbuls was also at Tai Po Kau. Red-winged Crested Cuckoos were widespread and appear to be consolidating their recent increase. The same applies to Black Bazas: a new high count of 14 in the Lam Tsuen Valley possibly reflects local breeding success.

Lastly, I will mention briefly four ongoing projects. The annual waterfowl count was again held in Deep Bay in mid-January when over 18,000 birds of 49 species were counted. This was the third such census and, with the others, has served as a basis for the planning of conservation measures in the area. The Director of Agriculture and Fisheries granted a special licence for netting and subsequently releasing warblers at Mai Po for identification purposes. The results will be reported in the next Annual Report. An attempt was made to encourage summer visits to certain areas to redress the dearth of records at this time of the year. Lastly, the breeding birds survey continued. We already have a broad picture, but hope to add greater detail, especially to remoter areas, by continuing over the next year.

A monthly summary of sightings is given below:—

January

The year began with a selection of rarities at Mai Po which included a drake Pochard, a female Goldeneye and two White Storks. The last stayed the whole winter and were last seen on 27th March. A Black Vulture was present in the hills near Lok Ma Chau up to 17th, and a Hen Harrier was seen there on 1st. The first of several sightings of Collared Sivas was made on 9th. High numbers of wintering waterfowl in the Deep Bay area were confirmed by the count at mid-month. The woods held good numbers of wintering thrushes. A White-bellied Yuhina and several Chestnut-flanked White-eyes and Chestnut Bulbuls were seen at Tai Po Kau in the last week of the month.

February

A Velvet Scoter was seen in flight in Deep Bay on 5th and the series of Eagle Owl sightings at Lamma began on 13th following earlier reports from villagers and police. Up to six Asian Pied Starlings were noted at Stanley throughout the month and up to five Reed Buntings were seen at Mai Po. Collared Sivas and two White-bellied Yuhinas were seen at Tai Po Kau, where Chestnut Bulbuls continued to be seen up to April.

March

Dusky Thrushes, which had been seen in high numbers in February, continued to be reported from widespread areas with one or two sightings of the red-tailed race. On 12th a dead Japanese Sparrowhawk was found near Siu Lam. On 21st a Ruddy Crake was seen at Mai Po, and an Eagle Owl flew over the Chau Tau Grenade Range. Savannah Nightjars were regularly heard from this time near the Grenade Range and near Siu Lam. A Hoopoe provided a splash of colour at Wu Kai Sha between 24th and 26th.

April

A large movement of hirundines at San Tin on 4th included over 200 Asian House-martins. Black Bazas were reported from She Shan from 11th, and a pair of Swinhoe's Egrets returned to Yim Tso Ha. Conditions at San Tin were attractive for waders and large numbers of the regular species were recorded including up to 30 Turnstones, over 20 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, over 50 Broad-billed Sandpipers and about 1000 Eastern Little Stints. Also one Spoon-billed Sandpiper was reported on 11th and 21st. A Long-billed Dowitcher was seen on 19th and again at Mai Po in May. On 20th a Horsfield's Goshawk was reported at Mai Po. On 24th an exceptional flock of a least 20 Horsfield's Goshawks was seen at Tai Long Wan with several other migrant raptors in the same area. On 31st ten White-throated Needle-tails were sighted over Sek Kong.

May

Flycatcher passage in April had been average for numbers and variety and this was continued but with widespread reports of Grey-spotted Flycatchers in May. Further wader records from Mai Po and San Tin included Ruff, Knot, Great Knot, Australian Curlew and Bar-tailed Godwit.

June

Chinese Babax and Large Grass Warblers were recorded at Tai Mo Shan. At Tai Po Kau two White-bellied Yuhinas on 19th and five Chestnut Bulbuls on 26th were the first summer records.

July

Night Herons were confirmed breeding at Mai Po and a family of recently fledged Hainan Blue Flycatchers was seen at Tai Po Kau.

August

As usual, a quiet month. Small numbers of early passage waders were recorded at Mai Po where five White-headed Munias were seen on 15th.

September

Three Red-necked Grebes were seen at Mai Po on 19th and 21st. Higher than normal numbers of autumn passage waders were noted. Arctic Warblers and flycatchers were widespread throughout the second half of the month.

October

A most active month with passage migrants much in evidence. A Lanceolated Warbler and up to five Purple-backed Starlings were seen at Mai Po on 7th, with two more starlings at Tsim Bei Tsiu on 12th. A Short-toed Lark was recorded on the shore at Nim Wan on 12th. A new high count of 14 Black Bazas was reached on 13th in Lam Tsuen Valley. A Japanese Nightjar was found dead at Sek Kong Catchwater on 18th. Flocks of 15 and 17 Grey-faced Buzzard-Eagles were seen over Tai Po Kau on 16th. It was also a good autumn for warblers and rarities included one Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler and two Thick-billed Warblers on 31st.

November

Large congregations of wintering duck returned to Deep Bay and on the marshes a flock of Tufted Duck increased their number to over 30 by December. A Barred Button-quail was seen at Tai Long Wan on 20th and a rarity these days, a Common Starling, was seen at Sek Kong on 30th.

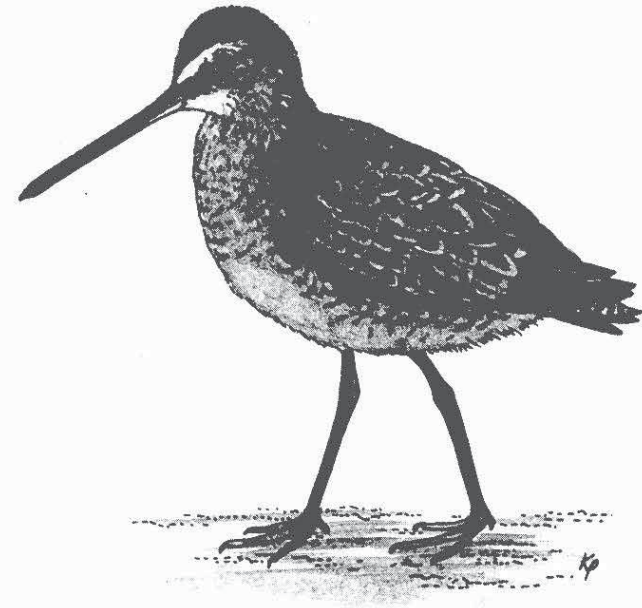
December

On 3rd a Yellow-breasted Willow Warbler was seen at Tai Po Kau and a Japanese Robin was at the same locality on 22nd. Baer's Pochards were seen with Tufted Duck at Mai Po, the latter reaching a peak of 39 on 18th. Two drake Pochards were also present from 5th to 27th.

The Systematic List incorporates records submitted by the following observers:-

P. Alstrom, H.E. Axell, C.P. Barnes, E.A. Barnes, R.J. Barnes, J.F.S. Batson, A. Betts, D.P. Carthy, M.L. Chalmers, O.F. Clark, C.R. Clark, C. Cook, G.C.H. Cooper, M.J. Cope, J.S.R. Edge, R. Ferguson, T.H. Fisher, D.J. Galloway, R.E. Hale, V.J. Hamilton, V. Hodgson, F. Holroyd, J.A. Irving, P.R.A. Kelly, B.F. King, D.S. Melville, U. Olsson, C. Richardson, J.M. Rowlands, K.C. Searle, R.M. Spowage, R.D.E. Stott, R.P. Tipper, C.A. Viney, D. Walker, M.A. Webster, C.D. Weidemann, B.D. Wilson.

Finally, I wish to thank Michael Webster and Gavin Cooper who, as the other members of the Records Committee, appraised the rarity records, and Hilary Walker who kindly typed the draft.



Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus Scolopaceus*)
Drawn: Karen Phillips

SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 1982

A. SPECIES WHICH HAVE BEEN RECORDED IN AN APPARENTLY WILD STATE IN HONG KONG WITHIN THE LAST FIFTY YEARS.

2. **Great Crested Grebe** (*Podiceps cristatus*)
One in Deep Bay on 4 December and two seen from Tsim Bei Tsui on 27 December.

3. **Red-necked Grebe** (*Podiceps grisegena*)
Three on a fish-pond at Mai Po on 19 and 21 September (CRC, GCHC, CAV, DPC, MLC). These sightings represent the second record for Hong Kong, the first being in Starling Inlet on 2 January 1955.

4. **Little Grebe** (*Podiceps ruficollis*)
Recorded at Mai Po and San Tin in all months except June with maximum of over 30 in December. Juveniles seen in September indicated successful breeding. Also reported in small numbers at Tai Lam, Upper Tsing Tam and Ho Pui Reservoirs.

7. **Dalmatian Pelican** (*Pelecanus crispus*)
One in Deep Bay on 27 January. Pelicans not specifically identified were also noted with 12 in flight over Stantley Fort in November, one at Mai Po on 25 December and four there two days later.

8. **Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)
Very common in Deep Bay during the winter months with maxima of 700 in December, 1230 in January and 955 in February. Also about 700 noted feeding in Tung Chung Bay on 29 January. Present throughout the winter at Plover Cove with over 100 in December and 370 in March. Extreme dates were up to 5 May and from 10 October.

12. **Yellow Bittern** (*Ixobrychus sinensis*)
Common at Mai Po during the summer months with at least 50 in May and June. Wintering records from Mai Po included single birds on 9, 16 and 17 January, 21 November and 18 December and two on 22 December.

13. **Chestnut Bittern** (*Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*)
Single birds at Mai Po on 16 and 23 May and 5 September.

16. **Bittern** (*Botaurus stellaris*)
Regular sightings of one or two birds at Mai Po up to 14 February, and from 23 October, including one found dead on the border fence

on 12 December. Also new late date by nearly three weeks of two together on 15 May and one the next day.

17. **Night Heron** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)
Recorded at Mai Po in all months except January, February and December with maximum numbers of about 400 on 9 October and over 300 during the following month. A nature warden reported that crab-collectors had found Night Heron nests in the outer mangroves. Breeding probably also occurred in Mai Po Egretty as 30 to 40 birds were present in April and stick-carrying was noted. Also bred on an island in Starling Inlet with about 100 present in April with only about 10 in nearby Yim Tso Ha Egretty. The roost behind the temple at the entrance to Ho Chung Valley contained up to 50 birds in January and February. Stick-carrying was also noted there in April.

18. **Chinese Pond-Heron** (*Ardeola bacchus*)
Widespread and common in suitable areas throughout the year with 20 pairs breeding at Yim Tso Ha and over twice this number at Mai Po Egretty. 253 recorded in the Deep Bay area on 17th January during the waterfowl count.

19. **Cattle Egret** (*Bubulcus ibis*)
Wintered as usual in the northern New Territories. On 17 January the flock at San Tin numbered 87 birds. In the summer months about 50 pairs bred at Yim Tso Ha, 25 pairs in Starling Inlet and several pairs at Mai Po Egretty. Passage records of birds flying offshore included one at Siu Lam on 4 April and seven on 5 April. Unidentified egrets were also seen at Siu Lam on 9 April and 4 September and Sandy Bay on 5 April.

20. **Little Green Heron** (*Butorides striatus*)
Reported in small numbers (not more than five) throughout the year from Mai Po, Ho Chung, Lam Tsuen Valley, Brides Pool, Rennie's Mill and Tolo Harbour. Following last year's sightings at Pokfulam Reservoir one adult and one juvenile were seen there on 12 April suggesting possible breeding.

21. **Little Egret** (*Egretta garzetta*)
Common throughout the year in the northern New Territories with over 900 counted in the Deep Bay area on 17 January. Up to 40 pairs bred at Yim Tso Ha and Starling Inlet and over 100 pairs bred at Mai Po.

22. **Lesser Egret** (*Egretta intermedia*)
Two at Tsim Bei Tsui on 23 January, up to five at Mai Po on 14 and 15 March, one at Luk Keng on 21 March and 12 at Mai Po

on 15 December.

23. Swinhoe's Egret (*Egretta eulophotes*)

At least one pair bred on the island in Starling Inlet opposite Yim Tso Ha. Three birds were seen there on 18 April.

24. Reef Egret (*Egretta sacra*)

Recorded in small numbers (up to four) throughout the year in widespread rocky coastal areas including Sai Kung, southern shores of Hong Kong Island, along Castle Peak Road, Lantau and outlying islands.

25. Great Egret (*Egretta alba*)

Common in the Deep Bay area during the winter months with 244 counted on 17 January. Also up to ten recorded at Starling Inlet in January. At least one pair bred at Starling Inlet and up to ten adults were present there in May. The only report away from the northern New Territories was of a single bird at Tai Long (Sai Kung) on 20 November.

26. Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)

Particularly numerous in the Deep Bay area in both winters with 385 counted on 17 January and over 500 at Mai Po on 18 December. Elsewhere two were seen at Yim Tso Ha on 26 January and five at Tap Mun on 11 September. Extreme dates were up to 10 July and from 5 September.

27. Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*)

Recorded in small numbers from Mai Po and San Tin in all months except August (probably due to lack of observers), with maximum of 20 on 5 and 25 September and 50 on 23 October.

28. White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*)

The two birds, both judged to be immatures, which arrived in the Deep Bay/Mai Po area in December last year continued to be seen regularly up to 27 March.

29. Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*)

Two frequently seen at Plover Cove from 1 January to 14 February (DJG, JMR), probably the same birds as seen in December last year. Often harried, both on the ground and in the air, by a wintering Osprey. When not feeding along exposed edges of reservoir (water level was very low), usually perched on exposed rocks or towers near dam.

30. White Ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*)

Between one and three recorded at Mai Po up to 9 May and from

23 October.

31. European Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*)

Occasionally reported in small numbers from Mai Po between 17 January and 19 May with maximum of five in February and April. Also one unidentified juvenile spoonbill at Luk Keng on 2 May.

32. Lesser Spoonbill (*Platalea minor*)

All records are from Mai Po up to 21 April and from 19 September. A maximum of 20 occurred on 18 December and 15 or more were also seen during January, February, March and other dates in December.

33. Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

At least five recorded at Mai Po up to 7 February and up to four there from 7 November. Also four seen at Ma Tso Lung on 17 January.

34. Yellow-nib Duck (*Anas poecilorhyncha*)

Seen at Mai Po in all months except August with maximum of 110 on 17 January, and over 100 on 7 February and 25 September.

35. Gadwall (*Anas strepera*)

Two females at San Tin in 30 November.

36. Falcated Teal (*Anas falcata*)

Recorded at Mai Po and San Tin up to 11 April and from 23 October with maximum of 210 at Mai Po on 27 January. Other monthly maxima for November, December and February were 48, 150 and 60. An immature male seen at Ma Tso Lung on 17 January.

37. Teal (*Anas crecca*)

Widespread and common in the winter months with maximum of 1565 in the Deep Bay area on 17 January. Extreme dates were up to 5 May and from 23 October except for a new summer date of five at Mai Po on 3 July. Elsewhere seven were seen at Luk Keng on 20 January and five (free-flying) birds were present at Penfold Park, Shatin on 24 January.

39. Garganey (*Anas querquedula*)

Recorded at Mai Po and San Tin between 20 March and 9 May and between 5 September and 30 October with maxima of only 15 in spring and over 200 in autumn. Also wintering records of two in January and November and six in December and a summer record of two in July. On 30 March, 50 small duck seen over the sea off Sham Tseng were probably this species.

40. Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)

Wintering records at Mai Po up to 15 March and from 10 October with maximum of 90 on 17 January. Also five flying south-west past Nim Wan on 3 January, a pair at Ma Tso Lung on 17 January and a free-flying drake at Penfold Park, Shatin on 24 January.

41. Pintail (*Anas acuta*)

Numerous in Deep Bay during the winter months with 512 on 17 January and at least 600 on 4 December. Also seen at Mai Po and San Tin in much smaller numbers, with an unusual record of over 30 flying north-west over Tolo Harbour on 17 October. Extreme dates were up to 27 March and from 9 October.

42. Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)

Recorded in similar numbers to Pintail in Deep Bay, Mai Po and San Tin up to 9 May and from 9 October. Maximum counts were 453 on 17 January and at least 600 on 4 December.

45. Baer's Pochard (*Aythya baeri*)

Males seen at Mai Po on 1 and 16 January, 18 and 27 December in the company of other Baer's/Tufted Duck on all occasions.

46. Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

Two at San Tin on 31 October and six and seven there on 6 and 7 November respectively. One in flight at Tsim Bei Tsui on 4 December. Birds seen at Mai Po from 7 November remained until well into 1983, with numbers increasing to record highs of over 30 in December with a maximum of 39 on 18 December.

Other birds not specifically identified but either Baer's Pochard or Tufted Duck were seen at Mai Po as follows: at least 12 on 1 January, one on 8 January, four on 16 January, two on 5 November, one on 5 and 18 December, four on 15 December, and two on 27 December.

47. Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*)

The drake first seen at Mai Po on 31 December last year was also seen on 1 January (GCHC, MLC). Two drakes were recorded at Mai Po from 5 to 27 December (MAW, JFSB, GCHC, *et al*).

47.1 Velvet Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*)

One seen in flight from a police launch off Pak Nai, Deep Bay on 5 February (DSM). This is the first record for Hong Kong of this sea-duck.

The following notes were submitted:

"At 1735 h an all black diving duck was observed flying fast south off the coast, north-west of Pak Nai. The bird kept low over the water (about 5-10 ft.) and had quick wing beats. At

a distance the most noticeable feature of the bird was that it appeared entirely black, there being no sign of lighter coloration on the breast/belly. This was confirmed as the bird passed the boat, however, at this distance (50 yards) it was noted that the secondaries were white as in a Redshank (*Tringa totanus*). The head, which appeared to be unmarked, was relatively small and did not give the big-headed appearance of the Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*)."

Velvet Scoters are widely distributed across Northern Europe, Asia and America. In Asia they are reported to be common winter visitors to the coasts of Japan and northern and eastern China.

48. Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*)

The female first seen at Mai Po 31 December last year was regularly seen between 1 and 27 January (GCHC, MLC, DSM, *et al*).

49. Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*)

A single male on Plover Cove Reservoir on 6 February. At Mai Po a flock of 20 seen on 14 March and 6 on 21 March. Two at San Tin on 5 December.

50. Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*)

Recorded in the Deep Bay area up to 13 February and from 4 December with maximum of 230 on 17 January and over 150 on 27 December.

55. Black-eared Kite (*Milvus migrans*)

Common and widespread throughout the year with greatly increased numbers in winter, particularly evident at Stonecutters Island roost. On 8 February a separate night roost of 28 birds was located at Hei Ling Chau.

56. Black Baza (*Aviceda leucophotes*)

Widespread sightings reflected the continued growth in numbers. Recorded between 11 April and 19 May and between 10 and 13 October at She Shan, Sek Kong Catchwater, Tai Po Kau, Tai Lam Chung and Nam Shan (Sai Kung). Maximum numbers were eight in spring and 14 (a new high) in autumn.

57. Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*)

Ones and twos regularly reported in widespread areas of the New Territories and Hong Kong Island up to 21 March and from 23 October with several at Mai Po on 14 February.

58. Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*)

Widespread reports of single birds received up to 8 April and from 2 September, with two together at the Grenade Range on 23 October.

59. Japanese Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter gularis*)

An adult female found dead at Barbecue Gardens, 17 miles Castle Peak Road on 12 March (MLC) and an immature seen at Tai Po Kau on 16 October (CAV).

Other reports of single small *Accipiters* which were probably this species were as follows: Lok Ma Chau on 10 October, Ho Sheung Heung on 23 October and Chek Lap Kok on 25 October.

[60. Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)

Single large *Accipiters*, either this species or the Crested Goshawk (*A. trivirgatus*) which could occur here, were seen at Tai Po Kau on 3 January (with curious fluttering flight) and 20 March, Tai Lam Chung on 15 February, She Shan on 11 April, Sek Kong Catchwater between 29 April and 5 May, Sai Kung on 2 May, Mount Nicholson on 16 September and 12 October and Happy Valley on 30 October.]

61. Horsfield's Goshawk (*Accipiter soloensis*)

A male at Ho Sheung Heung on 20 April, at least 20 adults and immatures and possibly up to 50 at Tai Long on 24 April (CAV, HEA, RF *et al*), and further single males at Plover Cove on 27 April and Tai Mo Shan on 13 October. The exceptional sighting of a migratory flock at Tai Long occurred under poor weather with low cloud after heavy rain. The birds were hawking insects over a wood. The date agrees closely with passage dates in previous years.

63. Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*)

Present in the border hills between Lok Ma Chau and Lo Wu and occasionally over the Deep Bay marshes as far as Mong Tseng up to 4 May and from 7 November, with maximum of seven on 17 January. Most records refer to immatures.

Other records of eagles not specifically identified included three at Tai Lam Chung on 15 February, two at San Tin on 21 February, one at Sek Kong on 16 March and at least two at Mai Po on 19 March.

65. Spotted Eagle (*Aquila clanga*)

A juvenile at Mai Po on 14 February and 14, 15 and 21 March, San Tin on 7 November and again at Mai Po on 18 December.

66. Bonelli's Eagle (*Hieraetus fasciatus*)

Recorded in most months from the northern, central and eastern parts of the New Territories and Lamma Island. All sightings refer to either one or two adults or single immatures.

67. White-bellied Sea-Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*)

Present throughout the year with reports of up to three from outlying islands, south and west of Hong Kong Island including the Peak and Victoria Harbour, the outer part of Deep Bay, Lantau and

Sai Kung. Nest building noted at one traditional locality.

68. Grey-faced Buzzard-Eagle (*Butastur indicus*)

Four in flight over Tai Lam Country Park on 14 April. Two loose flocks of 15 and 17 moving generally south over Tai Po Kau on 16 October (CAV, CDW), one mobbed by crows at Mai Po on 23 October and one at San Tin on 6 November. Also a probable at Sharp Peak on 24 April and Mai Po on 26 September.

69. Serpent Eagle (*Spilornis cheela*)

Single birds recorded at Sek Kong, Tai Po Kau, Ma On Shan and Wong Chuk Yeung between 18 March and 18 July and between 18 October and 22 November. Three together over Tai Lam Country Park on 14 April and two along Sek Kong Catchwater on 8 May.

70. Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*)

All records are from Mai Po or San Tin except one at Tsim Bei Tsui on 17 January. Extreme dates were up to 16 April and from 25 September. Highest numbers were five at Mai Po on 17 January and at least five there on 25 September. On 16 January sightings included one adult male.

72. Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)

An adult male seen in flight over the hills north of Chau Tau Grenade Range on 1 January was being mobbed by a Jungle Crow (CC).

73. Black Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*)

A single adult seen in the hills between Chau Tau Grenade Range and Lo Wu on 1, 9 and 17 January. On the first occasion the observer (CC) was able to approach within three metres, and on the other two occasions the bird was soaring with Imperial Eagles.

74. Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Regularly recorded at Mai Po and in Deep Bay with up to three or more birds present until 30 May and from 25 September. A single bird seen in flight near Lau Fau Shan on 26 June. Also a single bird reported from Plover Cove in every week of the year, often perched on a raft in the centre of the reservoir, and two present on 3 February.

75. Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*)

Single birds at Mai Po on 9 January, Pat Heung on 23 March, Tai Long on 24 April, Mai Po on 19 September and 10 October, Chau Tau Grenade Range on 2 October and Tai Mo Shan on 13 October. Two associating with Grey-faced Buzzard-Eagles at Tai Po Kau on 16 October and two at the Grenade Range on 23 October.

76. Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)
Reports of one or two in most months in widespread parts of the New Territories, Kowloon (Tsim Sha Tsui and Kai Tak) and Hong Kong Island (Aberdeen and Mount Nicholson).

[77. Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)
One very small falcon being mobbed by munias at San Tin on 6 November was probably this species.]

78. Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)
Seen in widespread areas in ones and twos, including the urban area, up to 14 April and from 23 September. One at Little Sai Wan on 28 February flew down several times to take worms from a cricket pitch.

79. Chinese Francolin (*Francolinus pintadeanus*)
Seen, but more often heard, in widespread hill areas of the New Territories and Hong Kong Island. Not recorded at Mount Nicholson for the first year since 1979.

80. Japanese Quail (*Coturnix japonica*)
Two flushed from the central bund at San Tin on 11 December. On one occasion one actually hit the observer's leg (CDW).

81. Barred Button-quail (*Turnix suscitator*)
A female flushed from scrub at Tai Long Wan, Sai Kung on 20 November (CAV, CDW).

85. Banded Rail (*Rallus striatus*)
One or two seen at Mai Po in January, September, October and November. Also one at Tai Long Wan on 20 November.

87. Ruddy Crake (*Porzana fusca*)
One watched bathing beyond outer bund at Mai Po on 21 March (GCHC).

89. White-breasted Waterhen (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*)
Common and widespread in suitable habitat.

90. Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)
Most records are from Mai Po, San Tin or Lok Ma Chau throughout the year with a maximum count of 15 in March. At least four dead birds were found on the border fence in September and October. Also reported at Ho Chung Valley and Lam Tsuen Valley in January, and at Lau Fau Shan in January, February and December, with 23 there on 4 December.

91. Watercock (*Gallicrex cinerea*)
One or two recorded at Mai Po, Sha Po and Luk Keng between 16 May and 18 July, with a further single bird at Mai Po on 10 October.

92. Coot (*Fulica atra*)
Most reports are from Mai Po or San Tin up to 23 May and from 23 October with maxima of at least 300 at Mai Po in January and December. Elsewhere two seen at Lau Fau Shan in January and February.

93. Pheasant-tailed Jacana (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*)
Recorded only from San Tin in the autumn with three on 23 October, two on 31 October and singles on 7 November and 5 December.

96. Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)
One in flight over Mai Po on 17 October.

97. Grey-headed Lapwing (*Vanellus cinereus*)
A large flock wintered at San Tin at the beginning of the year with 34 counted on 27 January and 32 on 7 February. Extreme dates were up to 4 April and from 23 October. Also recorded in smaller numbers (up to ten) at Mai Po, Deep Bay and Mong Tseng, and at Lo Wu (Long Valley) where up to 16 were seen in December.

99. Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*)
Reported from the Deep Bay area, Ho Chung, Silvermine Bay, Luk Keng and Pak Nai up to 10 April and from 31 October. Usually in small numbers but about 100 at Pak Nai in January and February and 50 at Luk Keng in January.

100. Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*)
Present in the Deep Bay area up to 20 May and from 23 October with maximum of 200 at Pak Nai on 6 February although most of the 1500 unidentified small waders seen in Deep Bay on 17 January were probably this species. Elsewhere 20 at Luk Keng on 26 January, over 50 at Ho Chung on 30 January, five at Tung Chung on 27 March, two at Sha Ha, Sai Kung on 8 May and at least five at Tai Long Wan on 20 November.

101. Greater Sand-plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*)
Recorded in spring at Mai Po, San Tin and Lok Ma Chau between 27 March and 20 May with maximum count of 20. Also three at Ho Chung on 10 April. No autumn records.

102. Mongolian Sand-plover (*Charadrius mongolus*)

All sightings were in spring between 11 April and 20 May with maximum of about 100 at San Tin on 21 April. The only record away from San Tin or Lok Ma Chau was three at Sha Ha on 8 May.

104. Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)

All records are from Deep Bay, Mai Po or San Tin up to 21 April and from 5 September. Highest counts were 38 on 17 January and at least 40 on 4 December.

105. Asiatic Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominicus*)

Up to six reported between 9 April and 8 May at San Tin. At least one at Shuen Wan on 17 April and one at Mai Po on 23 October.

106. Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)

Recorded at San Tin between 11 April and 16 May with numbers peaking at about 30, equal to the previous highest count, on 20 April. In the autumn reported at Mai Po with one on 19 and five on 26 September.

107. Fantail Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)

Reported from widespread areas of the New Territories up to 1 May and from 25 September. Usually in small numbers but up to 30 at Luk Keng and 110 at Mai Po in January.

108. Pintail Snipe (*Gallinago stenura*)

Four at San Tin on 11 October (GCHC). At least seven birds at Mai Po on 25 September and one at San Tin on 23 October were probably this species.

[109. Swinhoe's Snipe (*Gallinago megala*)

Single birds at She Shan on 10 October (MLC) and Mong Tseng on 12 October (GCHC) were probably this species.]

[107/108/109 Snipe sp. (*Gallinago sp.*)

Snipe not specifically identified were recorded at Sek Kong and San Tin on 21 February, Mai Po in March, April, October and December.]

112. Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*)

Single birds reported from widespread areas of the New Territories in January with at least two near Nim Wan on 23 January, the remains of a dead bird found at Chek Lap Kok on 1 February and single birds at Plover Cove, Tai Lam Chung, and Nim Wan on 19, 26 and 27 December respectively.

113. Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)

Reported in Deep Bay at Mai Po up to 23 May and from 5 September. Highest monthly counts were 260 in January, about 200 in February, and about 140 in December. Not more than about 20 in other months.

114. Australian Curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*)

Two at Mai Po on 9 May and one there on 11 May.

115. Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)

Fewer records than usual of this regular passage migrant. About ten at Mai Po on 11 April and 23 May, one on 16 May and four on 5 September. Also one at Chek Keng on 11 September.

117. Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*)

Reported in spring at Mai Po and San Tin between 14 March and 16 May with maximum of 50 on 11 April. In the autumn up to 14 seen between 19 September and 17 October.

118. Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*)

Recorded only at Mai Po with two on 11 April, one on 11 and 16 May and two on 19 September.

119. Asiatic Dowitcher (*Limnodromus semipalmatus*)

All records are from either San Tin or Mai Po with up to five between 17 April and 16 May and at least five on 19 September.

119.1 Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*)

One in breeding plumage seen at San Tin on 19 April (MAW *et al.*). What was presumably the same bird was seen at Mai Po on 9 May with one Asiatic Dowitcher and three Black-tailed Godwits for comparison (DPC). This is the first record for Hong Kong. The following descriptions were submitted:

"Slightly smaller than Spotted Redshank, and rusty red all over (underparts never fully visible), with darker streaking above. Obvious dowitcher bill, but relatively short compared with Asiatic (two seen day before). Noticeable eye-stripe and slight eye-ring. In flight appeared to have long bill but virtually no tail; white rump and "V" up back almost to neck; near third of wing pale but not white". Seen with group of ten American birders, of whom at least three were highly experienced (MAW).

"Size midway between Redshank and Black-tailed Godwit – approximately that of Asiatic Dowitcher – shorter legged than Black-tailed Godwit. Bill about 1" shorter than Black-tailed Godwit and very clearly down-curved towards tip. Colour similar to Black-tailed Godwit at base but remainder dark. Bill shape and colour quite different from Asiatic Dowitcher. Back scaly dark brown with rufous

edges, wings especially primaries darker. Supercilium clearly visible off-white. Neck and throat rufous. Chest rufous barred black. Belly white. Flanks rufous, white towards rear, strongly barred blackish as far as undertail coverts. Tail white barred black". (DPC)"

The white back and rump and coloured base to bill rule out Asiatic Dowitcher and reduce the possibilities to either Long-billed (*L. scolopaceus*) or Short-billed Dowitcher (*L. griseus*). Fortunately, as the bird was in breeding plumage, identification was confirmed as *scolopaceus* by the rich rufous underparts (not pale or orange) and the heavy transverse bars on the breast (*griseus* has breast plain or spotted in breeding plumage).

The Long-billed Dowitcher breeds in North America and North-east Asia and is a noted long-distance migrant and wanderer. It is recorded as an uncommon winter visitor or transient in Japan and has occurred in Australia.

120. Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*)

Reported in small numbers of not more than ten from widespread parts of the New Territories up to 21 April and from 5 September.

121. Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*)

Recorded in widespread areas of the New Territories, particularly the Deep Bay area, up to 20 May and from 25 September. Maximum numbers were at San Tin with about 150 on 16 January and about 100 on 20 March.

122. Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)

All records are from either Mai Po, San Tin or Lok Ma Chau. Apart from over 50 at Mai Po on 13 February and five on 5 September, all other sightings were between 16 March and 5 June, with a maximum of over 100 on 16 April.

123. Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*)

Present in the Deep Bay area up to 15 May and from 5 September with 200 or more in January, April and December.

124. Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)

Recorded in small numbers in the Deep Bay area up to 6 June and from 5 September with maximum of over 20 on 3 October. Also one at Silvermine Bay on 27 March. On 3 January a completely white albino was seen at Mai Po (GCHC).

126. Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*)

Up to 30 present at Mai Po/San Tin up to 5 June and from 25 September, with the highest counts in March and April.

127. Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

Widespread in small numbers in all months except June to August.

128. Grey-rumped Sandpiper (*Heteroscelus brevipes*)

Up to 20 reported in spring from San Tin, Tolo Harbour, Sha Ha, Rennie's Mill and Ho Chung between 24 April and 22 May. Two at Nim Wan on 19 June and one at Shelter Cove on 16 October.

129. Terek Sandpiper (*Xenus cinereus*)

Recorded in spring at Mai Po/San Tin between 11 April and 20 May with maximum of over 20 on latter date. Two at Mai Po on 5 September.

130. Knot (*Calidris canutus*)

Two at Mai Po on 11 April, at least one there on 3 May and three on 11 May.

131. Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*)

Seven at Mai Po on 9 May and one seen at close range on the beach at Tai Mong Tsai, Sai Kung on 17 April.

132. Eastern Little Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*)

Recorded on spring passage between 21 March and 5 June with maximum of over 1000 at San Tin on 18 April. Only record away from Deep Bay area was five at Sai Kung on 8 May. One at San Tin on 25 September and ten there on 12 December.

One ringed by David Melville at San Tin on 12 May 1980 was controlled at Queenscliff, Victoria, Australia on 27 March, 1982.

133. Long-toed Stint (*Calidris subminuta*)

Apart from one at Sai Kung on 8 May, all records were from Mai Po or San Tin up to 2 May and from 25 September with maximum counts of over 100 on 2 May, over 60 on 23 October and over 50 on 18 December.

134. Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*)

All reports are from Mai Po/San Tin up to 16 April and from 23 October with highest counts of over 60 on 23 October and over 40 on 12 December.

135. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*)

Present at Mai Po or San Tin between 27 March and 20 May with maximum of about 50 on 11 April and at least 50 on 21 April. No autumn records.

136. Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)

Three at Mai Po on 1 January and single birds at San Tin on

25 September and 5 December.

137. Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)

All records are from Mai Po or San Tin between 20 March and 5 June except for over five on 25 September. Numbers in spring increased to a sharp peak of about 500 on 17 April.

138. Sanderling (*Crocethia alba*)

One at San Tin on 11 April and one at Mai Po on 26 September.

139. Spoon-billed Sandpiper (*Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*)

One at San Tin on 11 and 21 April.

140. Broad-billed Sandpiper (*Limicola falcinellus*)

All records were at Mai Po or San Tin in spring between 27 March and 5 June, with numbers increasing to a peak of over 50 on 17 April.

141. Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)

A male at San Tin on 3 May with some breeding plumage evident on breast. Also up to five reported at San Tin Between 2 and 22 December.

142. Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*)

About 30 offshore on 2 April, about six near Soko Islands on 9 April, up to ten at San Tin between 16 and 20 April, two in Tolo Harbour on 21 April, and one at Tap Mun on 24 April. One at Mai Po on 19 September.

143. Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*)

All records are from Mai Po, San Tin or Lok Ma Chau up to 16 May and from 25 September. Maximum counts in each winter were 31 on 21 March and 54 on 30 November.

144. Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*)

A large flock of over 50 regularly reported in the Deep Bay area up to 14 February and from 14 November, with maximum counts of about 100 at Mai Po on 17 January and 65 at San Tin on 12 December.

145. Oriental Pratincole (*Glareola maldivarum*)

One at Mai Po on 9 January, over ten there on 14 March, one at San Tin on 20 March and 17 April, and 12 at Mai Po on 9 May.

146. Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)

Present in coastal waters including Deep Bay up to 12 April and from 23 October. On this last date a juvenile was seen flying east past the Grenade Range towards Starling Inlet. Up to 300 counted

at the Pak Nai beach roost in January.

151. Brown-headed Gull (*Larus brunnicephalus*)

Single adults in non-breeding plumage were seen off Kadoorie Beach on 5 February and at San Tin on 19 March (DSM).

152. Black-tailed Gull (*Larus crassirostris*)

Two at Mai Po on 10 January, single birds off Stonecutters Island on 1 and 4 February and off Pak Nai on 6 February and six near Ma Wan on 6 March. All apparently first winter except the Stonecutters Island bird which was second winter.

153. Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*)

Common and widespread in coastal waters all around Hong Kong up to 24 April and from 3 October. Over 700 present in Deep Bay on 16 January and over 500 there on 18 December.

154. Saunders' Gull (*Larus saundersi*)

Recorded in small numbers at San Tin or Mai Po from 9 January to 16 April, with maximum of 20, mostly in breeding plumage, on 7 February.

156. White-winged Black Tern (*Chlidonias leucoptera*)

About ten at San Tin on 20 May, up to 100 at Mai Po between 1 and 26 September and about 15 there on 23 October.

157. Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*)

Up to ten at Mai Po between 19 September and 23 October. Also one near Ma Wan on 27 September and an unidentified marsh tern there on 11 October.

158. Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)

Reported only in spring from Mai Po and San Tin, with up to 20 between 11 April and 20 May.

159. Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*)

Small numbers present in the Deep Bay area in all months up to August with maximum of 50 at San Tin on 11 April. Two at Mong Tseng on 27 December.

[160. Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)

Flocks of up to 20 terns in the Western Harbour and approaches on 29 August and 6 September were probably this species.]

162. Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*)

Three at Mai Po on 21 April.

166. **Rufous Turtle-dove** (*Streptopelia orientalis*)
Widespread in good numbers in the New Territories up to 23 May and from 26 September with over 200 roosting in the mangroves at Mai Po during January.
167. **Spotted Dove** (*Streptopelia chinensis*)
Common and widespread.
168. **Red Turtle-dove** (*Streptopelia tranquebarica*)
Apart from 30 at Mai Po on 18 April and 34 at Nim Wan on 12 October, all other reports were for less than nine either at Mai Po, Mong Tseng or Siu Lam.
170. **Himalayan Cuckoo** (*Cuculus saturatus*)
One at the Grenade Range on 25 September. Another there on 2 October and two at Tsim Bei Tsui on 12 October were probably this species.
171. **Indian Cuckoo** (*Cuculus micropterus*)
Seen or heard in widespread parts of the New Territories between 17 April and 27 June.
172. **Large Hawk-Cuckoo** (*Cuculus sparveroides*)
Seen or heard in ones or twos at Tai Po Kau, Sek Kong, Pat Heung and above Tsz Wan Shan from 30 March to 13 July.
174. **Plaintive Cuckoo** (*Cacomantis merulinus*)
Seen or heard in widespread parts of Hong Kong Island and the New Territories up to 26 June and from 23 October. Most frequently heard from mid-March to the end of May.
175. **Red-winged Crested Cuckoo** (*Clamator coromandus*)
One or two seen or heard between 8 March and 8 July at Tai Po Kau and Sek Kong and Tsuen Wan Catchwaters. Also one unconfirmed report from Pokfulam in early July.
177. **Koel** (*Eudynamis scolopacea*)
Seen or heard in most months from widespread wooded areas including Victoria Barracks and the Zoological and Botanical Gardens.
178. **Greater Coucal** (*Centropus sinensis*)
Common and widespread in ones and twos throughout the year in the New Territories and parts of Hong Kong Island.
179. **Lesser Coucal** (*Centropus bengalensis*)
Widespread in small numbers throughout the year in suitable parts of the New Territories. One seen behind the K.C.R. Station

in Kowloon Tong on 22 December.

182. **Collared Scops Owl** (*Otus bakkamoena*)
Heard and occasionally seen at Mount Nicholson and Barker Road in all months except June, August and December. Two seen displaying or threatening on 16 May with one hissing at another perched a short distance away (CAV). One found stunned by the roadside near the summit of Route Twisk on 20 May.
Unidentified owls were also seen along Sek Kong Catchwater on 30 April and at Tai Po Kau on 11 July.
187. **Eagle-owl** (*Bubo bubo*)
One seen at dusk above Sok Kwu Wan, Lamma Island between 13 and 28 February. The bird was aggressive and obviously holding territory, striking the back of a retreating observer on 13 February. Attention was first drawn to this area by earlier reports to the police of attacks on local residents. Numerous pellets were collected which when washed were found to contain rodent remains. Unconfirmed reports indicated that three young were subsequently fledged. This represents the first definite breeding record for Hong Kong, although it is likely that this species is resident in remote rocky areas. Also one seen and heard at dusk at Chau Tau Grenade Range on 21 March (GCHC, RF, HEA) and another was reported perched all day in a tree near Bowen Road, Mid-levels on 1 October (VH, JSRE).
188. **Japanese Nightjar** (*Caprimulgus indicus*)
One found dead on the road beside Sek Kong Catchwater on 18 October.
189. **Savannah Nightjar** (*Caprimulgus affinis*)
At Chau Tau Grenade Range a male seen and another heard on 21 March, a pair seen on 4 April and a female flushed on 25 September. Also regularly heard in the hills above Siu Lam between April and June, and above Ting Kau in May. A male flushed at Tai Long Wan on 20 November.
- 189.1 **White-throated Needletail** (*Hirundapus caudacutus*)
About ten seen at close quarters over Sek Kong Catchwater on 30 April (GCHC) and one seen the next day nearby in Tai Lam Chung Country Park (MLC).
190. **Large White-rumped Swift** (*Apus pacificus*)
One at Mong Tseng on 23 January. Up to ten seen in widespread areas between 19 March and 8 May and between 2 and 23 October, except for maximum of 60 over Mai Po on 16 April. At least six over Waglan Island in late March were possibly breeding.

191. House Swift (*Apus affinis*)

Widespread in all months except July, August and September. Over 100 at San Tin on 16 January and 50 over Cheung Chau on 14 October constituted definite movements. Noted nesting at Tai Po in June in addition to other urban/suburban sites previously known.

192. Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*)

Up to four recorded throughout the year at Mai Po and Luk Keng. Also two at Nim Wan on 3 January, one at Wu Kau Tang on 16 January, up to two at Plover Cove from 10 October to 31 December and up to two at Long Valley on 4 and 7 November. On 26 January one was seen inspecting a burrow at Luk Keng.

194. Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

Widespread in small numbers throughout the year in the New Territories and Hong Kong Island. Over ten at Mai Po on 29 May.

195. White-breasted Kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*)

Seen throughout the year in the New Territories, Hong Kong Island and Kowloon. Maximum of seven seen at Mai Po on 13 February. At She Shan two seen displaying on 9 April by rapidly opening and closing wings.

196. Black-capped Kingfisher (*Halcyon pileata*)

Apart from one at Deep Water Bay in April, all other reports are from the New Territories in most months. Maximum count was three groups, possibly family parties, totalling 15 at Nam Shan, Sai Kung on 2 May.

198. Broad-billed Roller (*Eurystomus orientalis*)

Recorded in spring between 21 April and 19 May from Tai Long, Sai Kung, Mount Nicholson and Sek Kong Catchwater. Over eight at Sek Kong on 30 April and five at Sai Kung on 2 May.

199. Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*)

One at Wu Kai Sha between 24 and 26 March and one at Fanling Golf Course on 19 September.

200. Great Barbet (*Megalaima virens*)

Reported in most months of the year with birds seen or heard at Tai Po Kau, Lam Tsuen Valley, Sek Kong Catchwater, Ho Chung, Tai Long and Kowloon Peak.

203. Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*)

Single birds seen at Tai Mei Tuk, Ma Wan, Mai Po and Sek Kong between 1 January and 27 March and at Chau Tau Grenade Range, She Shan and Mai Po from 25 September to 22 December.

204.1 Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella cinerea*)

One watched on the foreshore at Nim Wan on 12 October (GCHC *et al*). This is the first record for Hong Kong. The following description was submitted:—

“Compared to the Richard’s Pipits was much smaller and appeared to be 5½” and 6”. Shorter tail than the pipit and had a “lark-like” appearance. Bill appeared short and stubby. Medium length legs. Bill appeared fleshy-pink, as were the legs. Dark eye.

Upperparts were generally sandy-brown with blackish edging to primaries and wing coverts. Central tail feathers were dark making the outer tail feathers appear almost white, especially at the tips. The crown, nape and mantle were streaked with darker brown. No crest seen. There was a long and clearly marked buffy-white eyebrow. The underparts were generally white with a buffy pink wash on the upper breast which extended onto the shoulders of the wing. Some buffy colouring on the sides of the ventral area. Wing streaking showed as dark and bright buffy barring. Most noticeable feature however was a blackish half-collar on either side of the upper breast, which was clearly and easily seen.

A two-note call was heard when the bird rose from the ground and a small trill was also heard sometimes.” (GCHC).

Separation from the similar Lesser Short-toed Lark (*C. rufescens*) is determined by the dark patches on the sides of the breast and the generally unstreaked breast.

Short-toed Larks have a wide range across the Palaearctic region and are a noted long distance migrant and wanderer. Eastern races breed in central eastern Asia and winter in Indo-China.

[A lark seen in flight at Mai Po on 30 November was probably a Northern Skylark (*A. arvensis*) (PA, UO). However, because of the difficulties of separating this species from the Oriental Skylark (*A. gulgula*), doubts must remain over this bird’s identity.]

206. Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

Common and widespread throughout the year in all areas. Birds sitting on nests as early as 19 March at Kam Tin. Between 300 and 500 over the ponds at San Tin on 15 May was the largest count. One partial albino with white patches on wings, tail and underparts seen at San Tin on 20 March.

207. Red-rumped Swallow (*Hirundo daurica*)

About ten at Mai Po on 16 January. Between 4 April and 15 May up to 25 at San Tin and Mai Po. One at Long Valley on 31 October, up to two at Mong Tseng on 12 November, and 4 December. Large flocks reported in December with over 250 at Luk Keng on 8 December and up to 200 at Mai Po/San Tin/Grenade Range between 12 and 22 December.

- 208.1 Asian House-martin** (*Delichon dasypus*)
Over 200 at San Tin on 4 April (GCHC, PRAK). Other reports of house-martins not specifically identified were one at Mai Po on 27 March, ten at San Tin on 5 April, four at Pat Heung on 6 April and one at Sek Kong Catchwater on 30 April.
- 209. Sand-martin** (*Riparia riparia*)
At Mai Po up to four between 11 and 21 April, ten on 11 October and at least four moving east before a cold front with large numbers of Swallows on 23 October.
- 211. Rufous-backed Shrike** (*Lanius schach*)
Common and widespread in most areas throughout the year.
- 213. Brown Shrike** (*Lanius cristatus*)
Single wintering birds reported at Yuen Long, So Kwun Wat, Stone-cutters Island, Q.E. Hospital and Lau Fau Shan between January and March. Up to three in widespread areas between 24 April and 1 May and between 16 September and 24 October.
- 214. Black-naped Oriole** (*Oriolus chinensis*)
Up to three recorded at Beas River between 20 February and 7 November. Elsewhere singles at Ho Chung on 28 February, Hebe Haven on 21 September, Chau Tau Grenade Range on 25 September, and Mai Po on 23 October, and up to three immatures at Chau Tau on 2 October, Ho Sheung Heung on 10 October, Tsim Bei Tsui on 12 October, Sek Kong Catchwater on 18 October and She Shan on 23 October.
- 215. Black Drongo** (*Dicrurus macrocerus*)
Widespread between 21 April and 23 October with winter records of one at Tsim Bei Tsui on 23 January and three at Mong Tseng on 4 December. Migrating groups of 15 at Chek Keng on 24 April and about 20 at Cheung Chau on 14 October.
- 217. Hair-crested Drongo** (*Dicrurus hottentotus*)
Sixteen at Sai Kung on 25 and 26 January, two at She Shan the next day and one at Shouson Hill on 7 March. Up to ten reported in widespread wooded areas from 7 April to 23 October. One at Sek Kong on 5 December.
- 218. Chinese Starling** (*Sturnus sinensis*)
Present in the northern and western New Territories in most months with maximum winter flocks of about 100 at Mai Po in January and 30 at San Tin in October. Elsewhere over 40 at Sek Kong on 16 March, two at Silvermine Bay on 27 March, two pairs at Siu Lam on 14 April and four at Sha Ha, Sai Kung on 8 May.

- 218.1 Purple-backed Starling** (*Sturnus sturninus*)
Up to five at Mai Po (Tam Kon Chau) on 7 October and two at Tsim Bei Tsui on 12 October (GCHC).
- 219. Silky Starling** (*Sturnus sericeus*)
Reported up to 27 March and from 10 October from widespread areas with maximum counts of about 100 at Mong Tseng in January and December.
- 220. Grey Starling** (*Sturnus cineraceus*)
Widespread up to 5 April and from 12 October. Most reports refer to up to 20 birds, but a flock of over 120 present at Mai Po in January and over 100 there in early February.
- 221. Common Starling** (*Sturnus vulgaris*)
One at Sek Kong Woods on 30 November.
- 222. Black-necked Starling** (*Sturnus nigricollis*)
Common and widespread even in the suburban area with sightings at Kowloon Tong, Mount Nicholson and Stanley.
- 223. Crested Mynah** (*Acridotheres cristellatus*)
Common and widespread. Night roost found on Tang Lung Chau (south of Ma Wan) on 2 February.
- 224. Jay** (*Garrulus glandarius*)
Parties of between one and five seen at Ho Chung, She Shan, Chau Tau Grenade Range, Mong Tseng, Tai Lam Chung, Sek Kong Catchwater and Bride's Pool up to 17 March. Up to three seen at Sek Kong Catchwater and Tai Po Kau between 9 August and 28 November. Up to six at Plover Cove from 17 November.
- 225. Blue Magpie** (*Urocissa erythrorhyncha*)
Recorded in most months from Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and favoured parts of the New Territories in small numbers. In Kowloon sightings were at Royal Observatory, Anderson Road and Kowloon Tong. On 22 April one was seen taking an egg from a nest (probably bulbul's) at Mount Nicholson.
- 226. Magpie** (*Pica pica*)
Common and widespread, even in the urban area.
- 227. Treepie** (*Crypsirina formosae*)
One or two at Ho Sheung Heung, Mong Tseng, Tai Po Kau and Pokfulam up to 24 April and one at Mong Tseng on 4 December.

228. Jungle Crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos*)
Widespread in small numbers throughout the year with high counts of over 38 at Tai Po Kau on 5 June and 125 flying east over Lam Tsuen Valley early on 23 October. Unusual records of two at Pak Nai and 13 at Mai Po on 17 January, one on 13 February, and at least two on 19 September.

229. Collared Crow (*Corvus torquatus*)
Most records are for up to ten in most months at Mai Po, Ho Chung, Tolo Harbour or Deep Bay except for over 100 at Mai Po on 27 June.

230. Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike (*Coracina melaschistos*)
One or two seen at Tai Po Kau, She Shan, Sek Kong, Mong Tseng, Ho Sheung Heung, Mount Nicholson and Lamma between 25 September and 27 December.

233. Ashy Minivet (*Pericrocotus divaricatus*)
Between one and three at Chau Tau Grenade Range and Ho Sheung Heung between 14 February and 4 April, two at Lok Ma Chau on 10 October and two at Ho Sheung Heung the same day.

234. Grey-throated Minivet (*Pericrocotus solaris*)
All records are from Tai Po Kau with several on 3 January, two males on 5 January, a female on 28 January, five on 30 January, a pair on 26 February, four males and six females on 2 September, 15 including one male on 28 September, a male and two females on 18 November and two males on 22 December.

235. Scarlet Minivet (*Pericrocotus flammeus*)
Reported at Tai Po Kau in all months except August and September with large flocks of up to 35 in January and 100 in November. Up to four present in the summer months suggested breeding. Also 15 seen at Sek Kong Catchwater on 22 January.

236. Chestnut Bulbul (*Hypsipetes castanotus*)
Up to eight reported at Tai Po Kau between 30 January and 11 April. First ever summer records of at least five on 26 June, including one carrying food, strongly suggest breeding. Also heard on 2 May and five seen on 11 December.

237. Black Bulbul (*Hypsipetes madagascariensis*)
Two at Pokfulam on 14 February, one at Lamma on 16 February and 13 March and one at Tai Po Kau on 23 February.

238. Crested Bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus*)
Abundant and widespread.

239. Chinese Bulbul (*Pycnonotus sinensis*)
Abundant and widespread throughout the Territory.

240. Red-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus aurigaster*)
Widespread in favoured habitats.

241. Black-faced Laughing-thrush (*Garrulax perspicillatus*)
Common and widespread.

242. Black-throated Laughing-thrush (*Garrulax chinensis*)
Up to 12 throughout the year at Mount Nicholson, and one apparently wild bird at the Zoological and Botanical Gardens on 30 September.

243. Hwamei (*Garrulax canorus*)
Seen but more often heard in widespread areas including suburban Kowloon and Hong Kong Island.

244. Greater Necklaced Laughing-thrush (*Garrulax pectoralis*)
At Tai Po Kau a flock seen on 2 January, two on 5 April and about 15 on 23 December.

245. Chinese Babax (*Babax lanceolatus*)
Family groups recorded on the upper slopes of Tai Mo Shan between 5 June and 11 July. Maximum numbers were up to 11 on 26 June, when juveniles were being fed by adults. Three birds seen near Lead Mine Pass on 2 September were probably this species.

246. Collared Siva (*Yuhina castaniceps*)
A flock of 30 seen at Tai Lam Chung Reservoir on 9 January and a separate flock heard the same day at Tai Po Kau. Between 15 and 25 were subsequently seen at Tai Po Kau on 26 January and 2 and 16 February. On 15 February over 50 were seen at Tai Lam Chung with White-eyes and Pallas's Warblers. About 35 were seen at the Peak on 15 March.

247. White-bellied Yuhina (*Yuhina zantholeuca*)
Recorded at Tai Po Kau with one on 26 and 30 January and 1 February, two on 16 February and 19 June, and one on 11 October.

248. Asian/Ince's Paradise Flycatcher (*Terpsiphone paradisi*)
Single birds seen at Tai Po Kau on 2 and 28 September, and 11 October, and at Mai Po, Tai Po Kau and Ho Sheung Heung all on 2 October.

249. Japanese Paradise Flycatcher (*Terpsiphone atrocaudata*)
A male in breeding plumage with elongated central tail feathers

at Ho Sheung Heung on 20 April.

250. Grey-headed Flycatcher (*Culicicapa ceylonensis*)

One or two reported at Sek Kong Woods up to 16 February and at least three, and possibly up to five, there from 18 November. Also up to three at She Shan between 3 and 28 January and one at Tai Po Kau on 2 February.

251. Black-naped Monarch Flycatcher (*Hypothymis azurea*)

Single birds (mostly female) at Nim Wan on 3 and 17 January, She Shan on 16 and 28 January, Wun Yiu (Tai Po) on 14 March, Tai Po Kau on 11 October, and Sek Kong on 26 December, and a pair at Nim Wan on 27 December.

252. Brown Flycatcher (*Muscicapa latirostris*)

Widespread up to 24 April and from 19 September including Mount Nicholson and Kowloon Tong in the suburban area. Most reports are of single birds but about three in Lam Tsuen Valley on 16 January and up to three at Mount Nicholson in September.

253. Grey-spotted Flycatcher (*Muscipapa griseisticta*)

One at Pak Shek Wo (near Pik Uk) on 25 April. Two at Mount Nicholson on 30 April and at Sek Kong Catchwater between 30 April and 3 May. One at Mai Po on 18 May. In the autumn at least one at Mount Nicholson between 19 and 24 September and at Chau Tau Grenade Range between 25 September and 2 October.

255. Ferruginous Flycatcher (*Muscicapa ferruginea*)

One at Lamma Island on 28 March.

256. Verditer Flycatcher (*Muscicapa thalassina*)

Recorded in ones and twos at Fung Yuen, Pak Nai, She Shan, Tai Mei Tuk, Tai Po Kau and Ho Chung between 17 and 25 January and from 23 October.

257. Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Ficedula parva*)

Single birds seen at Luk Keng on 31 January and Beas River on 27 March were surprisingly the only records at the beginning of the year. Recorded from 10 October in widespread areas including Kowloon Tong and Mount Nicholson.

258. Robin Flycatcher (*Ficedula mugimaki*)

A pair at Sek Kong Catchwater on 22 November and a male at Plover Cove on 19 December.

259. Narcissus Flycatcher (*Ficedula narcissina*)

One at Siu A Chau, Soko Islands on 10 April.

260. Tricolour Flycatcher (*Ficedula zanthopygia*)

Up to two females at Chau Tau Grenade Range from 25 September to 10 October and one female at Tai Po Kau on 11 October.

261. Hainan Blue Flycatcher (*Cyornis hainana*)

Apart from a male at Ho Sheung Heung on 30 November all other reports are from Tai Po Kau between 9 April and 20 November. Up to three singing males were seen in April and a family party with two juveniles was seen on 11 July.

262. Blue and White Flycatcher (*Cyanoptila cyanomelana*)

A male at Tai Po Kau on 5 April, a female at Sek Kong Catchwater on 28 April and a male at Long Valley on 7 November.

263. Chinese Bush Warbler (*Cettia diphone*)

Widespread in small numbers up to 14 April and from 20 November. In the last week of March singing males were noted at Ngong Ping, Lantau and Mount Nicholson.

264. Short-tailed Bush Warbler (*Cettia squameiceps*)

Recorded at Tai Po Kau, Sek Kong Woods, Ma Tseuk Leng, Yim Tso Ha, Yuen Tun and Mount Nicholson up to 28 January and from 11 October. Maximum number was four at Tai Po Kau on 22 December.

265. Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella certhiola*)

One flushed at San Tin on 31 October (GCHC, THF).

265.1 Lanceolated Warbler (*Locustella lanceolata*)

One at Mai Po on 7 October was only the second record for Hong Kong (GCHC).

266. Styan's Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella pleskei*)

One at Mai Po on 19th September (GCHC).

267. Von Schrenck's Reed-warbler (*Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*)

Recorded at Mai Po, San Tin and Long Valley between 27 March and 23 May and between 5 September and 12 November. Highest count was over 20 at Mai Po on 17 October.

268. Great Reed-warbler (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*)

One at Mai Po on 14 February is a new early date. Small numbers reported at Mai Po and San Tin between 15 March and 23 May. Much more numerous in autumn between 5 September and 12 November with several hundred at Mai Po on 25 September. Also recorded at Nim Wan and Long Valley in autumn.

268.1 Thick-billed Warbler (*Phragamaticola aedon*)

Two at the Grenade Range on 31 October were the first record of this species for Hong Kong (GCHC, THF, RF). The following description is taken from one of the two sets of notes submitted:—

“First thought to be a Great Reed-warbler. Similar size c. 7”–7½” long. Longish tail. Generally uniform tawny-brown upperparts. No markings on head. Large black eye. Tail uniform colour, a little darker than body; slightly graduated. Pale underparts with rusty buff on flanks and vent. Bill thickish at base; pinkish with yellow gape. When alarmed cocked tail and raised crest. Had loud chattering call. Also harsh “chit-chit-chit”. Great skulker. Grey-brown legs. Often flicked tail open – possibly marked at tip” (THF).

This species is separated from the Great Reed-warbler in the field by its lack of prominent supercilium and eye-stripe, shorter more rounded wings and longer more graduated tail. It prefers scrub to reeds and is noted for raising its crown feathers.

Thick-billed Warblers breed across northern and central Asia and winter south to India and Indo-China.

269. Dusky Warbler (*Phylloscopus fuscatus*)

Widespread and fairly common up to 9 May and from 3 October.

270. Yellow-browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus inornatus*)

Common and widespread up to 28 April and from 24 September.

271. Pallas's Warbler (*Phylloscopus proregulus*)

Widespread in small numbers up to 16 February and from 4 December.

272. Arctic Warbler (*Phylloscopus borealis*)

Up to three at Mai Po, Ho Sheung Heung and Mount Nicholson in spring between 21 March and 17 April. Generally considered to be much commoner than usual in autumn with widespread reports between 16 September and 30 November. One of race *xanthodryas* identified in Tai Po Kau on 16 October by its loud metallic bell-like call (CAV).

[273. Pale-legged Willow-warbler (*Phylloscopus tenellipes*)

Single birds at Mong Tseng on 2 December and Tai Po Kau on 3 December were probably this species.]

274. Crowned Willow-warbler (*Phylloscopus coronatus*)

At least one at She Shan on 16 and 27 January (CAV, MLC) and one Tai Po Kau on 1 and 2 February (OFC, GCHC).

[274.1 Blyth's Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus reguloides*)

One bird at Tai Po Kau on 2 January was either this species or

White-tailed Leaf Warbler (*Ph. davisoni*).]

275. Yellow-breasted Willow-warbler (*Phylloscopus ricketti*)

One at Tai Po Kau on 3 December, seen by Swedish visitors, was the first record since 1974 (PA, UO).

279. Long-tailed Tailor-bird (*Orthotomus sutorius*)

Common and widespread. A nest with young was found on 2 July at Mount Nicholson constructed from a single large vine leaf.

280.1 Large Grass Warbler (*Graminicola bengalensis*)

Two at Tai Mo Shan on 27 June and three there on 13 October.

281. Brown Wren-warbler (*Prinia subflava*)

Common on the Deep Bay Marshes. Also reported at Silvermine Bay, Lam Tsuen Valley, Chau Tau Grenade Range and Chek Lap Kok.

282. Yellow-bellied Wren-warbler (*Prinia flaviventris*)

Common and widespread.

283. Fantail Warbler (*Cisticola juncidis*)

Recorded throughout the year at Mai Po and San Tin, and in the winter months at other localities around Deep Bay, Tung Chung, Silvermine Bay and Ho Chung.

284. Japanese Robin (*Erithacus akahige*)

One at Tai Po Kau on 22 December was only the third record for Hong Kong and the first since 1967 (RMS).

285. Red-tailed Robin (*Erithacus sibilans*)

Reported at Tai Po Kau with one, two and one on 5 January, 22 and 31 December respectively.

286. Bluethroat (*Erithacus svecica*)

A pair at San Tin on 1 January, a female at Ma Tso Lung on 17 January, two females at Mai Po on 24 January and a male there on 21 March.

288. Rubythroat (*Erithacus calliope*)

Seen and heard in widespread areas up to 20 April and from 4 November including Stonecutters Island in February and Kowloon Tong in November and December. Up to four in the same locality.

289. Red-flanked Bluetail (*Tarsiger cyanurus*)

Reported in widespread areas up to 28 February and from 11 December. Up to four in the same locality.

290. Magpie-robin (*Copsychus saularis*)
Widespread and common. At Mount Nicholson three young were fledged from a nest box on 23 May, and a second brood of three were present in the same box on 3 July.

291. Daurian Redstart (*Phoenicurus aureus*)
Recorded in widespread areas up to 21 March and from 7 November. Occasionally two together.

292. Plumbeous Water-redstart (*Rhyacornis fuliginosus*)
Single females at Ho Chung and Lam Tsuen Valley and an immature male at Kowloon Hills Fitness Trail on 2 January. A male at Mong Tseng and a pair at Bride's Pool on 3 January and a male at Ho Chung on 8 January. A female at Tai Lam Chung headwaters on 14 April. A male at Bride's Pool on 14 November and a pair nearby on 19 December.

294. Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*)
Widespread and common in scattered areas up to 21 April and from 5 September.

295. Grey Bushchat (*Saxicola ferrea*)
A male at Mong Tseng on 3 January, a female at Fung Yuen on 25 January and a male with four female/immatures at Tai Mo Shan on 13 October.

296. Blue Rock-thrush (*Monticola solitaria*)
Small numbers up to five present in widespread areas up to 25 April and from 11 September. As usual many of the records were of the red-bellied form.

298. Violet Whistling Thrush (*Myiophonus caeruleus*)
Up to three recorded throughout the year in suitable areas including Ho Man Tin, Kowloon Tong and around Stubbs Road. A nest with at least one young was found in the roof of a disused temple at Ho Chung on 18 July.

299. Pale Thrush (*Turdus pallidus*)
One or two seen at Kadoorie Beach, Mount Nicholson, Kowloon Hills Fitness Trail, Lau Shui Heung and the Peak up to 7 March. Single birds at Mount Cameron on 13 November and Mount Nicholson on 21 December.

300. Eye-browed Thrush (*Turdus obscurus*)
A female at Victoria Peak on 24 February, a flock of six at Tai Lam Country Park on 1 May and one at Sek Kong Catchwater on 19 November.

301. Brown Thrush (*Turdus chrysolaus*)
Two female/immatures at She Shan on 16 January (CAV).

302. Grey-backed Thrush (*Turdus hortulorum*)
Fairly common and widespread up to 9 April and from 4 December, with maximum of over ten at Kadoorie Beach on 3 January, and over eight at Lamma on 16 February.

303. Dusky Thrush (*Turdus naumanni*)
In the first three months of the year small flocks were recorded with three birds at Chau Tau Grenade Range, three at Chek Lap Kok, six at Pak Shek Wo, and four at Lo Wu in January, up to 16 on Lamma in mid-February, and three at the Grenade Range in March. Elsewhere one or two birds were recorded up to 27 March and from 3 December. Single birds of the red-tailed race (*T.n. naumanni*) were seen at Lo Wu on 9 January and Tung Chung on 27 March, two were seen at Soko Islands on 19 April, and one possible hybrid showing some of the characteristics of this race was present at Little Sai Wan in the first two weeks of March.

304. Blackbird (*Turdus merula*)
Fairly common and widespread in flocks of up to eight (except for over 20 at Sai Kung on 25 January) up to 27 February and from 20 November.

305. Grey Thrush (*Turdus cardis*)
One or two in widespread areas up to 27 February, except for two at Severn Road on 6 April, and from 19 December.

308. White's Thrush (*Zoothera dauma*)
Up to three together in widespread areas including Mount Nicholson, Severn Road, Stonecutters Island and Tai Po Kau up to 16 April and from 23 November.

310. Great Tit (*Parus major*)
Fairly common and widespread throughout the year.

313. Richard's Pipit (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*)
Recorded in most months from scattered areas. Two or three pairs holding territory in summit area of Tai Mo Shan on 27 June.

314. Indian Tree-pipit (*Anthus hodgsoni*)
Common and widespread up to 27 April and from 16 October.

315. Red-throated Pipit (*Anthus cervinus*)
Recorded at Mong Tseng, Mai Po, San Tin, Lok Ma Chau, Sek Kong, Chau Tau, Luk Keng and Tai Long up to 17 April and

from 10 October. Over ten at San Tin on 1 January and about 30 in fields at Sek Kong on 24 October.

318. Upland Pipit (*Anthus sylvanus*)
Single birds at Kowloon Peak on 31 January and 14 March, and up to seven at Tai Mo Shan between 5 June and 11 July.

319. Forest Wagtail (*Dendronanthus indicus*)
Single birds at Yim Tso Ha on 17 April and Ho Sheung Heung on 17 and 20 April.

320. White Wagtail (*Montacilla alba*)
Common and widespread in low-lying areas (up to 15 together) up to 23 May and from 25 September.

321. Grey Wagtail (*Montacilla cinerea*)
Common in scattered areas up to 29 April and from 9 September.

322. Yellow Wagtail (*Montacilla flava*)
Migrant flocks of 40 at Sai Kung on 1 May, 30 at Mai Po on 9 May, over 200 there on 16 May and about 20 (grey-headed race) at San Tin on 20 May with other widespread records of up to five. Extreme dates were up to 20 May and from 5 September.

324. Fork-tailed Sunbird (*Aethopyga christinae*)
Up to five reported in all months from widespread wooded areas including the Zoological and Botanical Gardens, Mount Nicholson, and Kowloon Tong, with most records from Tai Po Kau.

325. Japanese White-eye (*Zosterops japonica*)
Very common and widespread.

326. Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum cruentatum*)
Reported in small numbers throughout the year at Tai Po Kau, Lam Tsuen Valley, Wu Kau Tang, Shatin, Mid-levels, and Sek Kong.

327. Fire-breasted Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum ignipectus*)
One to two seen at Tai Po Kau, She Shan or Mount Nicholson in February, October, November and December.

328. Black-tailed Hawfinch (*Coccothraustes migratoria*)
Reported in widespread areas, particularly the northern and western New Territories, in flocks up to 25 until 29 March and from 12 November.

329. Chinese Greenfinch (*Carduelis sinica*)
Up to nine seen in every month of the year with sightings at Siu

Lam, Kowloon Tong, Pak Nai, Mai Po, Mong Tseng, Lamma, Mount Cameron and Tsz Wan Shan.

331. Common Rosefinch (*Carpodacus erythrinus*)
One at Mount Nicholson on 12 April. All other records of up to five birds were in the New Territories until 16 February and from 12 October.

332. Masked Bunting (*Emberiza spodocephala*)
Widespread and common up to 9 May and from 23 October.

333. Tristram's Bunting (*Emberiza tristrami*)
One at Tai Po Kau on 5 January and up to six there from 22 December.

334. Chestnut Bunting (*Emberiza rutila*)
At least one at Long Valley on 30 November and two at She Shan and Sek Kong Woods on 10 December.

335. Yellow-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza aureola*)
Recorded in the northern New Territories between 15 March and 3 May and between 12 October and 11 December. Maximum in spring was 15 whereas flocks of up to 100 and 50 were seen at Tsim Bei Tsui and Mai Po on 12 and 16 October respectively.

336. Grey-headed Bunting (*Emberiza fucata*)
One at Mong Tseng on 27 December.

337. Little Bunting (*Emberiza pusilla*)
Recorded in widespread parts of the New Territories with maximum of 30 until 21 April and up to 12 from 12 October.

338. Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*)
At Mai Po five on 7 February (CAV), at least three on 14 February (MLC) and an immature there on 14 March (GCHC, BFK).

339. Crested Bunting (*Melophus lathami*)
Not more than one pair seen at Tai Mo Shan in June. Elsewhere between one and ten recorded in March, April and November at Sek Kong, Mai Po, Chek Keng, Tai Long and Mong Tseng.

340. Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)
Abundant and widespread.

341. Chestnut Munia (*Lonchura malacca*)
Two at Mai Po on 21 March and at least one there with White-headed Munias (711) on 23 October.

342. Spotted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*)

Generally in small flocks of up to 30 throughout the year in widespread areas, but over 200 moving south-west at Mai Po during early evening of 27 June, possibly to roost.

343. White-backed Munia (*Lonchura striata*)

Recorded at Tai Po Kau, Mount Nicholson, Zoological and Botanical Gardens and Severn Road in most months in flocks of up to ten.

C. SPECIES WHICH, ALTHOUGH ORIGINALLY INTRODUCED BY MAN, HAVE NOW ESTABLISHED A REGULAR FERAL BREEDING STOCK WHICH APPARENTLY MAINTAINS ITSELF WITHOUT RECOURSE TO FURTHER INTRODUCTION.

501. Emerald Dove (*Chalcophaps indica*)

One or two recorded in most months at Tai Po Kau, Sek Kong Catchwater, Bride's Pool or Ho Sheung Heung, with at least seven at Tai Po Kau on 11 July.

502. Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*)

Fewer records than usual with up to 12 in widespread areas including Victoria Barracks, Zoological and Botanical Gardens and Central Government Offices in most months.

503. Common Mynah (*Acridotheres tristis*)

Single birds at Tai Mei Tuk, Kowloon Tong, Dill's Corner and Pat Heung on 28 February, 14 and 29 March and 5 June respectively, and at least 23 at Burma Lines, Sek Kong on 25 April.

504. White-cheeked Laughing-thrush (*Garrulax sannio*)

Up to ten recorded at the Zoological and Botanical Gardens, Mount Nicholson, High West, Cheung Chau, Pokfulam and Fei Ngo Shan Road up to April and from September.

505. Red Avadavat (*Amandava amadava*)

A male at Chau Tau Grenade Range on 25 September and three, including two males, at Mai Po on 7 October.

D. SPECIES INTRODUCED BY MAN, OF WHICH THE FERAL POPULATIONS MAY OR MAY NOT BE SELF-SUPPORTING.

601. Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua sulphurea*)

Up to six regularly seen on Hong Kong Island between Mount

Nicholson and Hong Kong University.

602. Indian Grackle (*Gracula religiosa*)

One regularly seen at a nesting hole at Island School, Bowen Road.

E. SPECIES OF WHICH ALL PUBLISHED RECORDS ARE SUSPECTED OF BEING OF BIRDS ESCAPED OR RELEASED FROM CAPTIVITY.

707. Vinous-throated Parrotbill (*Paradoxornis webbiana*)

A flock of about 12 at Tai Mo Shan on 12 October.

708. Pekin Robin (*Leiothrix lutea*)

Three at Tai Po Kau on 3 January and two there on 25 January. Two free-flying in the Zoological and Botanical Gardens on 7 January, single birds at Mai Po on 7 February, and Mount Nicholson on 10 April and 17 September.

709. Chestnut-flanked White-eye (*Zosterops erythropleura*)

In Tai Po Kau one on 28 January (GHC), at least three on 30 January in mixed flock with White-eyes (MAW), at least two on 1 February (OFC) and one on 3 December (PA, UO).

711. White-headed Munia (*Lonchura maja*)

Reported at Mai Po with five on 15 August, seven on 23 October and one on 4 November.

714. Red-breasted Parakeet (*Psittacula alexandri*)

One next to Government House on 19 November (JSRE).

715. Budgerigar (*Melopsittacus undulatus*)

Single birds at the Zoological and Botanical Gardens, Mount Nicholson, Kennedy Road and Mai Po in separate months.

718. Golden-fronted Leafbird (*Chloropsis aurifrons*)

One at Victoria Barracks on 8 January (JSRE).

723. Rainbow Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus haematodus*)

Flocks up to ten seen at Victoria Barracks, Shouson Hill and Deep Water Bay in April, August and October.

725. Azure-winged Magpie (*Cyanopica cyarus*)

Up to ten in the Zoological and Botanical Gardens in January, February and September.

727. Yellow-fronted Canary (*Serinus mozambicus*)
Up to two at Mount Nicholson on 11 and 12 May.

737. Alexandrine Parakeet (*Psittacula eupatria*)
One at Sandy Bay on 11 April (DPC).

741. Hill Blue Flycatcher (*Cyornis banyumas*)
The male seen in late 1981 in the Zoological and Botanical Gardens was still present on 7 January (CAV).

742. Asian Pied Starling (*Sturnus contra*)
Up to six near St. Stephen's Beach, Stanley in the latter half of January and throughout February.

744. Bank Mynah (*Acridotheres ginginianus*)
One at Mong Tseng on 3 January is a first record in Hong Kong of this resident of the Indian sub-continent (MLC, OFC).

745. Rufous Laughing-thrush (*Garrulax poecilorhynchus*)
A flock of at least five in the Zoological and Botanical Gardens on 7 and 8 January (CAV, GCHC). This is a new record for Hong Kong.

746. Red-crested Cardinal (*Paroaria cristata*)
One in the Zoological and Botanical Gardens on 8 January is a new record for Hong Kong (GCHC, KCS).

ADDENDUM TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 1979

50.1 Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*)
Two first seen at San Tin on 4 November (RPT).

LARGE GRASS WARBLERS IN HONG KONG: THE DISCOVERY OF *GRAMINICOLA BENGALENSIS* WITH A REVIEW OF RECORDS OF *PRINIA CRINIGER* AND *PRINIA ATROGULARIS*

By David S. Melville and Michael L. Chalmers

BACKGROUND

On 11 June 1978 a heavily streaked rufous brown warbler was observed during a Hong Kong Bird Watching Society visit to Tai Mo Shan just above the road barrier at an elevation of about 750 metres above sea-level. It was assumed to be a David's Hill-warbler *Prinia criniger* (= *polychroa*) as this species had been recorded from the same area in previous years. However, several of its features, particularly the strong dark streaking on the nape and upper back, paler supercilium, blue-grey cheeks, bright buff lower back and rump and broad blackish tail did not agree with the description given by King *et al.* (1975). The first doubts on the identification were thus cast.

Next year on 16 June two birds were found in the same area where they were observed carrying food and faecal sacs. The field description again mentioned the black underside to the tail, whitish supercilium, grey cheeks, rufous upperparts including rump and, for the first time, the streaking on the nape was noted as black and white. After careful observation the nest with four young was located and photographed (figure 1). It comprised an open cup made entirely of reed-like grass with a lining of finer grass, and was woven between the vertical stems of the tall hill grass about 0.5 metres above the ground. Reference to La Touche (1924–1935) and Ali and Ripley (1973) confirmed that *P. criniger* should construct a domed nest like other *Prinias*. After considering the evidence it was suggested by MLC that the birds might be Large Grass Warblers *Graminicola bengalensis* but the whitish supercilium and habitat did not fit the description given by King and doubts remained.

The birds were seen again at Tai Mo Shan in 1980 by several observers including F.O.P. Hechtel and G.C.H. Cooper who both expressed doubts over the identification as *P. criniger*. The same year records were obtained away from Tai Mo Shan for the first time with birds seen near the summit of Sunset Peak, Lantau by C.D. Weideman in August and October.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION AND IDENTIFICATION

In order to resolve the uncertainty over the identity of these

warblers it was considered desirable to examine specimens in the hand. A reconnaissance of Tai Mo Shan was made during a H.K.B.W.S. visit on 14 June 1981 and two birds were found in an area of large boulders, tall grass and scrub on the south ridge at an elevation of about 770 metres. Again they were presumed to be breeding as they were both seen carrying food, but no attempt was made to find the nest. DSM and MLC returned on 20 June with R. Ferguson and caught one of the birds in a mist-net at 0725h. It was examined, measured, weighed, and photographed (fig 2-4), and released at 0830h. The following details were recorded in the hand:—

Upper-parts

Forehead and crown feathers very worn with blackish-brown centres and pale gingery edges (but not tips, perhaps because of wear). Feathers on forehead short and spiky. Nape feathers with black centres and broad pale grey to whitish edges giving very marked streaked appearance. Mantle feathers with broad black centres and pale buffish edges on each side but not tips. Back and rump as mantle except buff edges becoming gingery. Upper tail coverts as mantle.

Head

Lores and area immediately around eye whitish. Supercilium whitish, curved down over eye and merging into whitish streaking on nape. Ear coverts pale vinaceous brown with thin black shaft streaks. Three to four very prominent black rectal bristles.

Under-parts

Chin, throat, centre of breast and belly white. Sides of breast pale buff becoming tawny on flanks, both with dark brown and black shaft streaks. Under-tail coverts pale buff. Feathers to top of legs gingery.

Wings

Short and rounded. All upper wing coverts with blackish-brown centres and gingery brown edges and narrow tips, the blackish centres to the greater coverts being particularly broad. Primaries and secondaries grey-brown above with outer webs fringed ginger. Fringes combined on closed wing to give uniform ginger appearance. Tertiaries darker and less worn. Under-wing coverts very pale buff. Underside of flight feathers grey-brown with pale buff edges to inner webs but not tips.

Tail

Long, broad and rounded. Feathers dark brown becoming pale gingery towards edges of outer webs. Pale buff tips on outer two tail feathers (apparently only on inner webs, but tips worn) with

traces of buff on tips of second-most outer feathers each side. Underside of tail uniform sooty grey-brown with traces of buffy tips on outer two feathers.

Bare parts

Bill heavy, narrow and relatively deep with slightly decurved upper mandible. Upper mandible dark horn with pale flesh cutting edges. Lower mandible pale flesh with darker tip. Inside of mouth pink. Tongue pink with two oval-shaped dark grey tongue spots, one either side near barb. Iris terra-cotta. Orbital ring very pale brown-flesh. Legs, feet and claws flesh. Brood patch naked but not vascularised.

Measurements

Wing and tail heavily abraded with worn tips; measurements are therefore approximate. Wing (maximum chord) 59mm. Tail 76mm. Bill 14mm to base of feathers, 16.5mm to skull, and 18mm to gape. Depth of bill 5mm at nostrils and 6mm at feathering. Tarsus 24mm to last undivided scute. Hind claw 6.5mm. Longest rectal bristle 6mm. Overall length 157mm. Weight (at 0823h) 16.8g.

Wing formula

(Primaries numbered ascendantly). Ten primaries, all abraded and lengths therefore approximate. Wing point 7th. 8th = 6th > 5th > 4th > 3rd > 2nd > 1st. 9th and 10 broken. 8th, 6th and 5th all less than 1mm shorter than 7th 4th — 1mm, 3rd — 5.5mm, 2nd — 13mm, 1st — 24mm. 1st 17mm longer than primary coverts. 4th, 5th and 6th (and perhaps 3rd) slightly emarginated on outer webs. Secondaries = primaries.

Tail formula

Twelve feathers, all abraded and lengths therefore approximate. 5th — 3mm, 4th — 8mm, 3rd — 15mm, 2nd — 26mm, 1st — 41mm.

The bird, presumed to be an adult male because of the snatch of song heard before capture, was identified as a Large Grass Warbler, the first record of the species for Hong Kong. Identification was confirmed by DSM by examining skins at the Bombay Natural History Society and the British Museum (Natural History), Tring.

No birds were seen at the site when MLC re-visited it on 4 July 1981.

SUB-SPECIES

Three races of the Large Grass Warbler are currently recognised, viz:—

<i>striata</i>	Thailand; Hainan, where Hachisuka (1939) recorded it as a resident "obtained from Lei Mui-mon, Leimoi, and Five-finger Mts."
<i>sinica</i>	Guangdong, collected in January; Gansi collected in April/May and November/December (Cheng 1976).

On distribution it would seem likely that birds in Hong Kong would belong to *sinica*. La Touche (1924–1935) translates Stresemann's (1923) description of *sinica*, which is based on a single male specimen collected by Mell on 23 January 1917 at Siuhang, Guangdong: "Larger than *G.b.bengalensis* Jerdon and *striata* Styan (wing 62mm), and differing from both by the deep black colour of the shaft of the breast-feathers (instead of yellowish-brown). Upper-parts, sides of head and tail coloured as in *G.b.striata*, flanks and under tail-coverts darker red-brown than in *G.b.bengalensis*". Styan's (1892) description of *Graminicola striata** makes no mention of the black rachis of feathers on the sides of the breast. However, examination of skins in the British Museum (Natural History) revealed that this character is found in some specimens of both *bengalensis* and *striata*.

There are only two Chinese specimens of *Graminicola bengalensis* in the British Museum:—

G.b.sinica: male, collected 5 May 1931 at Yaoschan, Gansi by K.K. Yen. Exposed culmen 13mm, bill to skull 16mm, wing 60mm, tail 86.5mm.

G.b.striata: female, collected 25 April 1899 at Five-finger Mts., Hainan by the Whitehead Expedition. Exposed culmen 12.5mm, bill to skull 16mm, wing 56mm, tail 69mm.

The overall colouration of these two specimens is very similar and both show black shaft streaks on feathers at the sides of the breast.

At the present time it is not possible to determine the racial

* Similar to *G.bengalensis*, but may be separated by the lores and superciliary being more brownish-yellow (fulvescent), and the feathers of rump finely streaked with black. Total length 6.5in, wing 2.25in. (trans. M.A. Webster). See also Styan (1893).

identity of the Tai Mo Shan bird. Furthermore, DSM considers that a revision of the taxonomy of Chinese specimens may be necessary in the future once more material is available for comparison.

CONFUSION WITH *PRINIA CRINIGER* (DAVID'S HILL-WARBLER)

Although there should be no confusion between the Large Grass Warblers and David's Hill-warbler *P. criniger*, written descriptions of the two species are somewhat misleading. La Touche (1924–1936) and King *et al.* (1975) describe both species as basically long-tailed, brown birds with heavily streaked heads and upper-parts. King *et al.* also note the unstreaked rump of the Large Grass Warbler as a field character whereas it is streaked in *G.b.striata* (see above), and of eleven Thai specimens of *striata* in the British Museum, eight have streaked rumps, two are damaged, and the only one with an unstreaked rump may be a juvenile (collected on 29 August at Sam Koh in fresh plumage). The rump of the Gansi specimen of *sinica* noted above is damaged but the few remaining feathers have dark centre streaks.

The location and habitat where the bird is found in Hong Kong, hill grassland, appear to be atypical for the species and probably contributed to the opinion that the birds were David's Hill-warblers. King *et al.* (1975) note that it is 'resident at low elevations', being found in 'reeds and grass in swamps'. Elsewhere in its range the species is generally recorded as favouring swampy areas with tall grass and reeds (eg Flemming *et al.* 1976, Jerdon 1863, Stuart Baker 1924), and it formerly frequented the low 'central plains' of Thailand (Deignan 1963). Murray (1887) noted that it 'affects high grass' but did not mention water, while Hume (1889) recorded it as 'not uncommon at Dacca in grass jungle'. The species is very secretive (Ali and Ripley 1973) and it is not clear whether it may have been overlooked in areas away from water, or whether the lack of suitable swamp habitat in Hong Kong has forced it into dry grass land. Unfortunately we have been unable to trace any details of habitat for the other collecting localities in China.

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS RECORDS OF *PRINIA CRINIGER* IN HONG KONG

David's Hill-warbler was first recorded in Hong Kong in 1957 by J.H. Sergeant and F.J. Walker. Sergeant's notes (1958) are:—

"Tai Mo Shan, 7 July 1957. Walker and I climbed part of the way up Tai Mo Shan in search of the Upland Pipit but unfortunately only heard them. However, we did discover a new bird for the Colony, a species of Hill-warbler and almost certainly David's. A short field description follows, as taken down in the area in which the birds

were seen.

"A large warbler with a noticeably long, graduated tail. Length about 6½ inches. Bill pinkish brown, legs flesh. Forehead to back of nape, feathers light with very dark centres, this extending well round the sides of the nape. The feathers of the upper-parts were similar except that they were edged with bright chestnut. The same applies to the feathers of the wing-coverts. There was a very slight eyebrow which was warm buff and an incomplete orbital ring. The tail was very dark purplish-chestnut, and the under-parts white washed with buff. The flanks were warm buff. We heard an alarm-note, a nasal 'dzchee', repeated several times, and a very melodious warbling song, which was at one time very like a shrike's, but a later version consisted of a short phrase with two metallic notes to end it off, the whole repeated several times. In flight the bird held its tail much in the manner of wren-warbler. The area in which these birds were seen was at about 2,500 feet in thick grass with scattered scrub.

Although this description tallies well with that given in La Touche for David's Hill-warbler, there are a few points which we did not notice which will have to be settled before a certain identification can be made."

Despite Sergeant's caution in his identification Walker (1958a) notes: "*Suya crinigera parumstriata*. Two or more birds of this species were seen and heard on Tai Mo Shan on the 7th July, 1957 at a height of circa 2,500 feet. The alarm note was a nasal "squarr", the song a pleasant warble "tpee tpee tpee tpee". This is the first record for the Colony". In his checklist Walker (1958b) states "*Suya crinigera parumstriata*. Three Tai Mo Shan". And so the species entered the list of birds recorded in Hong Kong.

Sergeant was rightly cautious in his identification and we consider that the birds described were probably Large Grass Warblers, based on the following points:—

Tail

The colouring (purplish-chestnut) is difficult to place; in *P.c. parumstriata* the rachis of the rectrices is dark brown, the vanes being more-or-less uniform chestnut; in *G.bengalensis* the rachis and inner part of the vanes are dark (black) becoming washed with ochre at the sides of the feathers.

Bill

In the breeding season *P.c.parumstriata* has a black bill; pale during the non-breeding season. Based on Chinese skins in the British Museum, the bill appears to turn pale in August and becomes dark

again in April.

Head and nape

The centre of the feathers in *G.bengalensis* are black, in *P.c. parumstriata* they are dark reddish Van Dyke brown. The "very dark" feathers described suggest *G.bengalensis*. Also the streaking extends further down the sides of the nape in *G.bengalensis* than in *P.c.parumstriata*.

Upper-parts

These feathers are edged chestnut in *G.bengalensis*, but are dull grey-brown in *P.c.parumstriata*.

Supercilium

This character fits the bird caught on Tai Mo Shan but is not apparent in skins of either species in the British Museum.

Call

Although difficult to compare written descriptions of calls, the nasal "dzchee" is similar to the nasal "tchair" heard in 1981.

Several of the above points, as well as the difference in bulk and size, are illustrated by the comparison of skins in fig. 5.

Following the discovery of "David's Hill-warbler" in 1957 on Tai Mo Shan, the following records were subsequently accepted from the same locality:—

1958 One seen and heard singing on 15 June at 850 metres.

1959 One singing on 25 June and two singing on 25 November at 850 metres.

1960 One singing on 1 August at 850 metres.

1961 Two to three singing on 5 May at 850 metres, one seen and heard singing on 11 July at about 710 metres.

1962 One on 11 June.

There were no further records for seven years until 1969 when one was claimed to have been heard, but this was not accepted. A further six years passed before the next sighting in 1975. These gaps in the records probably indicate a lack of observers and do not necessarily imply an absence of birds.

1975 Two on 4 May near lower police post, two on 24 May,

three on 25 May and one on 14 June* above 710 metres.

1977 One on 21 August*.

1978 One, possibly two seen on 11 June* just above barrier,
one seen and heard on 9 July*, three seen on 8 October.

1979 Two adults seen and nest with four young found on
16 June* at 750 metres, one on 30 June.

1980 One on 17 May, two on 27 May, one on 29 May, one
on 7 June, one on 19 June.
Also three to four at Sunset Peak, Lantau on 25 August*
and one on 8 October.

Field notes are available for those records marked*. In each case the available descriptions are either indeterminate or suggest Large Grass Warblers and not David's Hill-warblers. In our opinion, the records for 11 June 1978 and 16 June 1979 given below clearly indicate Large Grass Warblers.

11 June 1978 "Brown head with very strong dark streaking on the nape and upper back, the cheeks finely streaked and blue-grey in colour, very noticeable point. Pale supercilium, white on throat, breast and upper belly, remainder of underparts buffy. The tail was dark, perhaps black. The wings were prominently bright buff and this was made more noticeable in the very bright sun. Lower back and rump were also quite brightish buff. Its call, a two-note unmusical effort, which rose in tone at the end, was recorded. It was fairly hoarse and unlike that of any other bird I've heard in Hong Kong" (GCHC).

16 June 1979 "Adults large c.7." Short weak flight above grass then dropping clumsily. Heavy, clumsy birds in flight with short rounded wings and long tail slightly fanned. Crown, back and mantle rich-brown heavily streaked darker. Black and white streaking on nape. Indistinct eye-stripe/supercilium not clearly seen. Underparts pale buff with rich buff on flanks, vent and rump. Underside of tail distinctly blackish and clearly visible in flight" (MLC).



Large Grass Warbler's nest,
Tai Mo Shan, June 1979.
(P.R.A. Kelly)



Large Grass Warbler
Tai Mo Shan, June 1981
(M.L. Chalmers)

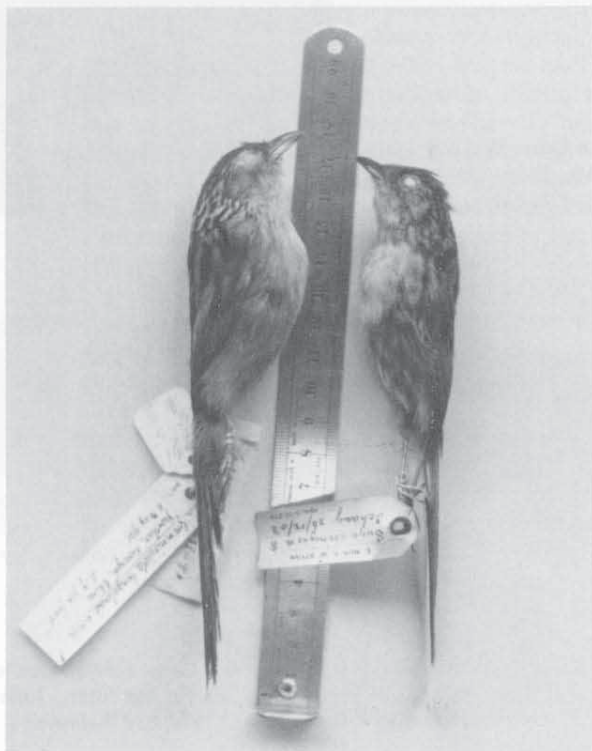


Large Grass Warbler
Tai Mo Shan, June 1981
(M.L. Chalmers)



▲ Large Grass Warbler
Tai Mo Shan, June 1981
(M.L. Chalmers)

▼ Skins of Large Grass Warbler (left) and
David's Hill Warbler (right)
British Museum (D.S. Melville)



REVIEW OF *PRINIA ATROGULARIS* (WHITE-BROWED HILL-WARBLER) IN HONG KONG

To complete our review the following two previous sightings of the White-browed Hill-warbler *P. atrogularis* were also examined as the size, habitat and pale supercilium are features shared with *G. bengalensis*.

1961 One at She Shan on 9 January (A.D. Macdonald).
Placed in Category F by Webster (1975) because of
doubt over the record.

1965 One at Tai Long, Sai Kung on 14 March (F.O.P.
Hechtel). Subsequently withdrawn by observer.

Neither of the descriptions for these records mentions streaked upperparts or any of the diagnostic features of *G. bengalensis*. Furthermore, the dates and elevations are not typical. The first was at 80 metres above sea-level in January and the second at 130 metres in March. In contrast, all the previous records attributed to *P. criniger* (= *polychroa*) were above 600 metres between 4 May and 25 November.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

We conclude that there are no satisfactory records of David's Hill-warbler from Hong Kong and that the species should be relegated to Category F (doubtful published records) of the Territory's checklist. We consider that prior to 1981, when the Large Grass Warbler was first identified at Tai Mo Shan, the records on 11 June 1978 and 16 June 1979 are also attributable to this species and that the other previous sight records, including the first on 7 July 1957, are probably of this species.

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WATERFOWL COUNTS IN DEEP BAY (1979–1983)

Michael L. Chalmers

Deep Bay and the adjacent marshes and ponds, notably those at Mai Po and San Tin, are a major wintering area for large numbers of waterfowl but, as with most other wetland habitats in Hong Kong, they are under threat from development. Waterfowl counts have been carried out in this area in recent years to quantify the wintering population and monitor annual trends.

The first co-ordinated waterfowl count in Deep Bay was carried out by the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society in January 1979 (Melville, 1980). Similar counts have subsequently been made in mid-January 1981, 1982 and 1983, and details with tabulated results are given in Appendices A, B and C respectively.

Table 1 summarises the number of waterfowl species recorded during each count with breakdowns into major groups. Allowing for the approximations inherent in carrying out counts of this nature and the variations due to inclusion of different areas in some years, the following tentative generalised conclusions can be drawn:

- i Over the last three years the numbers of Cormorants appear to have increased. In early 1983 other estimates suggested that up to 2,000 birds may have been present.
- ii The total numbers of herons, egrets, spoonbills and ibises, taken as a group, have been relatively constant at between 1,500 and 2,000 birds although within the group the numbers of Grey Herons appear to be increasing.
- iii Apart from a low in 1981, the total numbers of duck also appear to have been relatively constant at between 3,000 and 3,500. However, the counts have revealed the numbers of each species more accurately. Formerly, the most common duck was assumed to be Teal whereas in 1983 Pintail was found to be more numerous. Shoveler numbers have also proved to be much higher than previously recorded.
- iv Coot numbers have fluctuated widely but this appears to be similar to earlier records which have included flocks of up to 2,000 birds.
- v Relatively small variations have occurred in the numbers of waders with totals between 2,100 and 2,800.
- vi The total for the gulls and terns group has shown a large and significant increase due to the greater numbers of Black-headed

Gulls which appear to have risen from less than 5,000 to over 8,000 in the last four years. This is in accord with experience elsewhere in Hong Kong in recent years (Melville, 1977).

The area continues to attract a wide variety of wintering waterfowl (approximately 50 species). The most numerous species (with over 1,000 birds recorded) are Black-headed Gull, Cormorant, Teal, Pintail, Coot and Kentish Plover. Other species whose numbers have exceeded 500 during the counts are Little Egret, Shoveler and Spotted Redshank.

Since the effective enforcement of the ban on hunting and the construction of the security fence and access road there has been less disturbance on the Mai Po Marshes, and a marked increase in sightings and numbers of several species, which formerly were confined to the bay, has been observed on the marshes. Falcated Teal are a notable example. Also beyond the fence, the part of the outer mangroves which was cleared for fish ponds has proven to be attractive as a high tide roost for waders.

It is to be hoped that with adequate protection and management the area will continue to support a diverse and numerous wintering population of water and shore-birds.

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TABLE 1 SUMMARY OF WATERFOWL COUNTS IN DEEP BAY (1979-1983)

Date	14 Jan 1979	17 & 18 Jan 1981	16 & 17 Jan 1982	15 & 16 Jan 1983
Waterfowl Species Recorded	44	52	49	52
Sub-totals by groups				
i Cormorants	not included	800	1,230	1,445
ii Herons, Egrets, Storks, Spoonbills and Ibises	1,652	1,587+	1,936	1,680+
iii Duck	3,441	1,842+	3,136	3,549
iv Rails, Coots, Moorhens and others	748	229	639	1,183
v Waders	2,241	2,109+	2,760	2,792+
vi Gulls and Terns	4,748+	5,760	9,118	8,454
Total	12,830+	12,327+	18,819	19,103+

APPENDIX A

WATERFOWL COUNT
17TH AND 18TH JANUARY 1981

A co-ordinated waterfowl count was carried out in the Deep Bay area over the weekend 17th and 18th January 1981 on a similar basis to the first such count on 14th January 1979 (Melville, 1980). The period was chosen to coincide with worldwide counts organised by the International Waterfowl Research Bureau.

As before, the area covered extended from Ma Tso Lung in the north through Lok Ma Chau, San Tin, Mai Po, and Mong Tseng to Deep Bay, where observations were made by boat in the Yuen Long Creek. This year the Deep Bay shore from Tsim Bei Tsui to Pak Nai was also included.

The main counts were made on the morning of 18th January with supplementary counts in the afternoon and on the previous day. The weather was warm and sunny with visibility reduced by haze. Winds were light easterly. The predicted tide at Tsim Bei Tsui (Lower High Water) was 1.9 m at 1050h on the 18th.

The results are summarised in Table A.1. Counts in Deep Bay near the mouth of the Sham Chun River and at Au Tau are included under Mai Po whereas birds seen off the west of Mong Tseng peninsula and in Yuen Long Creek are included under Deep Bay. The totals represent the higher count for each species on either of the two days. Altogether 12,327+ waterfowl of 52 species were recorded. A breakdown into major groups gives, 1,587+ herons and egrets; 1,842+ duck; 2,109+ waders; 5,760 gulls and terns and 1,029 others. Wader numbers could have been higher if the ponds at San Tin had not been dried up.

In addition to the birds counted, a flock of up to 97 Falcated Teal was present in the area during January together with 2 Baer's Pochards and up to 6 Tufted Duck.

The co-operation and assistance of British Forces Hong Kong and the Royal Hong Kong Police are gratefully acknowledged. Thanks are also due to the following observers who took part in the count:—

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M.A. Webster.

TABLE A. 1

RESULTS OF WATERFOWL COUNT: 17-18 JANUARY 1981

Species	17.1.81	18.1.81					17-18.1.81
	Mai Po/ San Tin	Ma Tso Lung	Lok Ma Chau/ San Tin	Mai Po	Deep Bay	Pak Nai/ Tsim Bei Tsui	Total
Great Crested Grebe						4	4
Little Grebe	1	1		1			2
Dalmatian Pelican	3sp			3			3
Cormorant	c.800	c.15		200+	43	c.380	800
Yellow Bittern	1						1
Bittern				1			1
Chinese Pond Heron	40+	c.20	52	100+	37	23	232+
Cattle Egret	c.10	c.10	32				42
Little Green Heron		1					1
Little Egret	300+	c.100	68	85	630	90	973
Great Egret	50+	3	3	20	100	2	128
Grey Heron	80+	11		140	53	2	206
Purple Heron	2			3			3
White Ibis	1			2			2
European Spoonbill	1						1

Continued

Species	17.1.81	18.1.81					17-18.1.81
	Mai Po/ San Tin	Ma Tso Lung	Lok Ma Chau/ San Tin	Mai Po	Deep Bay	Pak Nai/ Tsim Bei Tsui	Total
Lesser Spoonbill	2+ 1sp			3			3
Mallard	3			1			3
Yellow-nib	60+			50+	4		60+
Gadwall	4						4
Falcated Teal				3			3
Teal	250+	c.250	86	300	158		794
Garganey				11			11
Wigeon	80+	c.30		80+	1		111+
Pintail	3				c.250		250
Shoveler	5		4		c.500		504
Baers/Tufted	2			2			2
Shelduck	70+			100			100
Banded Rail				1			1
White-breasted Waterhen	5	1	11	20	3	4	39
Moorhen	30+	c.20	23	20	8		71
Coot	15+	c.20	44	45			109
Lapwing		14					14
Grey-headed Lapwing			15				15
Little Ringed Plover		3	29	6		12	50
Kentish Plover	300+			20	530	360	910

Continued

Species	17.1.81			18.1.81		17-18.1.81	
	Mai Po/ San Tin	Ma Tso Lung	Lok Ma Chau/ San Tin	Mai Po	Deep Bay	Pak Nai/ Tsim Bei Tsui	Total
small wader sp.				200+			200+
Grey Plover					32		32
Fantail Snipe	3sp. 6	c.30	32	6			68
Curlew				12	10		22
Green Sandpiper	c.5	c.20	16	4	2	1	43
Wood Sandpiper	25+	2	131		3		136
Spotted Redshank	200+	c.150		250			400
Greenshank	1			1	20+		21+
Marsh Sandpiper					15		15
Common Sandpiper	5+	5+	6	20	8	6	45+
Temminck's Stint	3		12				12
Dunlin	1					85	85
Avocet	35			33			35
Herring Gull	4			3		180	183
Black-tailed Gull						2	2
Black-headed Gull	c.3000	300+	700	950	2830	780	5560+
Saunders' Gull	3						3
Caspian Tern	2			1		11	12

APPENDIX B

WATERFOWL COUNT 16TH AND 17TH JANUARY 1982

The third co-ordinated waterfowl count was held in the Deep Bay area over the weekend 16th and 17th January 1982, following the pattern set by the previous counts in January 1979 and 1981. As in 1982, the area covered extended from Ma Tso Lung in the north through Lok Ma Chau, San Tin, Mai Po and Mong Tseng to Pak Nai. Birds in Deep Bay were counted both from the shore and from a boat in the Yuen Long Creek and off Mai Po.

The main census was carried out on 17th January, and was concentrated in the afternoon, but supplementary counts were made in some areas the day before. The weather was clear with good visibility and winds were light north-easterly. The predicted tide at Tsim Bei Tsui (Lower High Water) was 2.1m at 1810h on the 17th.

Counts in the mouth of the Sham Chun River are included under Mai Po whereas the rest of the tidal mudflats, including the area between Mong Tseng and Yuen Long Creek, are included under Deep Bay. These divisions are the same as those adopted last year. Again, numbers given are conservative. In cases of possible double counts between areas, figures are quoted under one area only. The higher figure for each species on either of the two days is used to give the total.

The results are presented in Table B.1. Altogether 18,819 birds of 49 species were recorded. Sub-totals for major groups were 1,936 herons, egrets and other large wading birds such as storks, bitterns, ibis and spoonbills; 3,136 duck; 2,760 waders; 9,118 gulls and terns and 1,869 others (mostly Cormorants and Coots). These totals represent an increase of approximately 50% over last year's figures, and are considered to reflect the greater number of wintering birds present. New high counts have been set for Cormorant, Curlew and Avocet, and two vagrant species, the White Storks and a female Goldeneye, were included. Only the week before a Common Pochard had also been seen at Mai Po. The large flocks of unidentified small waders in Deep Bay were probably mostly Kentish Plover.

The co-operation and assistance of British Forces Hong Kong and the Royal Hong Kong Police are again gratefully acknowledged. Thanks are also due to the following observers who took part in the count:

J. Beck, M.L. Chalmers, C.R. Clark, C. Cook, G.C.H. Cooper, P.R.A. Kelly, W. Smart, C.A. Viney and M.A. Webster.

TABLE B. 1

RESULTS OF WATERFOWL COUNT: 16-17 JANUARY 1982

Species	16.1.82		17.1.82				16-17.1.82	
	Lok Ma Chau/ San Tin	Mai Po	Ma Tso Lung	Lok Ma Chau/ San Tin	Mai Po	Deep Bay	Pak Nai/ Tsim Bei Tsui	Total
Little Grebe		30		4	15			30
Cormorant		c.200			120	1110		1230
Yellow Bittern		1			1			1
Bittern		1			2			2
Chinese Pond Heron	5	c.15	4	48	100	24	77	253
Cattle Egret	77+		20	87			3	110
Little Egret	c.30	c.250	8	c.175	250	460	21	914
Great Egret				5	16	220	3	244
Grey Heron		c.225			235	150		385
Purple Heron		3		2	4			6
White Stork		2			2			2
White Ibis		2			1			2
European Spoonbill					2			2
Lesser Spoonbill		15			15			15
Mallard		3	4		4			8

Continued

Species	16.1.82		17.1.82				16-17.1.82	
	Lok Ma Chau/ San Tin	Mai Po	Ma Tso Lung	Lok Ma Chau/ San Tin	Mai Po	Deep Bay	Pak Nai/ Tsim Bei Tsui	Total
Yellow-nib		55+			110			110
Falcated Teal		c.160	1		7			160
Teal		c.400	c.200	2	343	1020		1565
Garganey		2						2
Wigeon		54+	2		70	18		90
Pintail		2			2	510		512
Shoveler		10+	2		1	450		453
Tufted Duck		4+						4
Baer's Pochard		1		1				1
Goldeneye		1						1
Shelduck		17				230		230
Banded Rail					2			2
White-breasted Waterhen				4	4		5	13
Moorhen	1	5+	c.30	17	17		9	73
Coot	65	310	62	89	370		2	521
Little Ringed Plover		7	1	12	8			21
Kentish Plover							72	72
small wader sp.		c.1000			1500			1500
Grey Plover						38		38
Fantail Snipe		4	c.60	18	115			193

Continued

Species	16.1.82			17.1.82			16-17.1.82	
	Lok Ma Chau/ San Tin	Mai Po	Ma Tso Lung	Lok Ma Chau/ San Tin	Mai Po	Deep Bay	Pak Nai/ Tsim Bei Tsui	Total
Curllew		35				260		260
Green Sandpiper		5	3	14	11		1	29
Wood Sandpiper	c.150		2	56	4			150
Spotted Redshank	1	c.50	10	52	190	65		317
Greenshank		3			1			3
Marsh Sandpiper				1				1
Common Sandpiper		c.10		22	11		6	39
Long-toed Stint	2			4				4
Temminck's Stint				8				8
Black-winged Stilt	25			19				25
Avocet						100		100
Herring Gull		1				3	300	303
Black-headed Gull	220	c.700	c.500	c.350	390	c.7000	560	8800
Saunders' Gull		2			4			4
Caspian Tern						2	9	11

APPENDIX C

WATERFOWL COUNT
15TH AND 16TH JANUARY 1983

The fourth co-ordinated count of wintering waterfowl was held in the Deep Bay area over the weekend 15th and 16th January 1983. Similar counts have been held during the middle weekend of January in 1979, 1981 and 1982. As in 1981 and 1982 counts were made at Mao Tso Lung (with a Closed Area permit), Lok Ma Chau, San Tin, Mai Po, Deep Bay and Tsim Bei Tsui to Pak Nai. Birds in Deep Bay were counted both from the shore and from a boat in Yuen Long Creek. Long Valley was also included this year.

The main census was carried out in the late morning and early afternoon of 16th January, but supplementary counts were made the day before in some areas. The higher figure for each species on either of the two days was carried forward to the total. In cases of possible overlap or double counts, figures are quoted under one area only and are therefore conservative. Birds seen from Mai Po in the mouth of the Shum Chun River are included under Mai Po, in accordance with the divisions used in previous years.

The weather was warm and clear and winds were moderate easterly. The predicted tide at Tsim Bei Tsui (Lower High Water) was 1.9m at 1400h on 16th.

The results are presented in Table C. 1. A total of 19,103 birds of 52 species were recorded. This is 284 more than last year's record-breaking total. Sub-totals for major groups were 1,680+ herons, egrets, bitterns, ibis and spoonbills; 3,549 duck; 2,792+ waders; 8,454+ gulls and terns and 2,628 others (mostly Cormorants and Coots).

The most unusual feature was the exceptionally high number of Pintail present in Deep Bay. In addition a new high count was set for Cormorants in Hong Kong. The numbers of Garganey, which are usually recorded wintering here only in ones and twos, and Black-winged Stilts were also noteworthy. Less common species included Gadwall, Baer's Pochard, Water Rail, Sanderling, Ruff, Oriental Pratincole and Brown-headed Gull. It is encouraging to note that overall numbers of birds in the Deep Bay Area remain high, and that Mai Po continues to attract large concentrations of Cormorant, Grey Heron and Coot as well as such duck as Falcated Teal, probably due to the lesser disturbance since the outer fence and road were constructed.

Based on previous experience the large numbers of small waders seen at distance in Deep Bay were probably either Dunlin or Kentish Plover, most likely the latter.

The co-operation and assistance of British Forces Hong Kong and the Royal Hong Kong Police are again gratefully acknowledged. Thanks are also due to the following observers who took part in the count:

J. Beck, M.L. Chalmers, C.R. Clark, G.C.H. Cooper, J.S.R. Edge, S. Smith, R.D.E. Stott and M.A. Webster.

TABLE C. 1

RESULTS OF WATERFOWL COUNT: 15-16 JANUARY 1983

Species	15.1.83			16.1.83				15-16.1.83		
	San Tin	Mai Po	Long Valley	Ma Lung	Lok San Tin	Ma Chau	Mai Po	Deep Bay	Pak Nai/ Tsim Bei Tsui	Total
Little Grebe	—	9	—	—	—	—	16	—	—	16
Dalmatian Pelican	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	13
Cormorant	—	1000+	—	—	—	—	400	250	795	1445
Yellow Bittern	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Night Heron	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	6
Chinese Pond Heron	7	46	30+	30+	8	—	100	50	80	298+
Cattle Egret	17	—	25	—	46	—	—	3	4	78+
Little Egret	19	c.100	2	10+	6	—	80	141	40	279+
egret sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	300+	—	—	300+
Great Egret	—	137+	—	—	—	—	70	144	—	214
Grey Heron	—	202+	—	—	—	—	315	163	—	478
Purple Heron	—	6	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	6
White Ibis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Lesser Spoonbill	—	2	—	—	—	—	12	7	—	19
Yellow-nib Duck	—	10	—	—	—	—	25	—	—	25

Continued

Species	15.1.83		16.1.83						15-16.1.83
	San Tin	Mai Po	Long Valley	Ma Tso Lung	Lok Ma Chau San Tin	Mai Po	Deep Bay	Pak Nai/Tsim Bei Tsui	Total
Gadwall	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Falcated Teal	—	240	—	—	—	200	—	—	240
Teal	89	165+	—	c.200	13	100	470	—	783
Garganey	2	27	—	—	—	20	—	—	29
Wigeon	—	20	—	—	—	60	—	—	68
Pintail	—	8	—	—	—	1	1790	—	1791
Shoveler	6	—	—	—	15	—	230	—	245
Baer's Pochard	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Tufted Duck	—	23	—	—	—	25	—	—	25
Shelduck	—	—	—	—	—	—	340	—	340
Water Rail	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
White-breasted Waterhen	3	3	—	1	4	8	5	—	18
Moorhen	5	17	—	10	11	40	—	22	83
Coot	—	438	68	80+	4	900	—	—	1052
Grey-headed Lapwing	—	—	—	—	24	—	—	—	24
Little Ringed Plover	2	15	19	—	7	2	—	11	39
Kentish Plover	—	—	—	—	31	—	79	69	179
small wader sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	1800	—	1800
Grey Plover	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	—	29
Fantail Snipe	8	30	54+	4	1	6	—	—	65+

Continued

Species	15.1.83		16.1.83						15-16.1.83
	San Tin	Mai Po	Long Valley	Ma Tso Lung	Lok Ma Chau San Tin	Mai Po	Deep Bay	Pak Nai/Tsim Bei Tsui	Total
snipe sp.	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3
Curlew	—	—	—	—	—	—	31	—	31
Green Sandpiper	2	5	5	—	10	4	—	5	24
Wood Sandpiper	43	6	2	—	66	—	—	—	58
Spotted Redshank	2	65	—	—	5	50	230	—	285
Greenshank	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	—	17
Common Sandpiper	—	6	—	—	4	13	—	5	22
Long-toed Stint	14	—	—	—	19	—	—	—	19
Temminck's Stint	—	4	—	—	14	—	—	—	14
Dunlin	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	23	24
Sanderling	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Ruff	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Black-winged Stilt	33+	—	—	—	57	—	—	—	57
Avocet	—	—	—	—	—	—	97	—	97
Oriental Pratincole	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Herring Gull	—	—	—	—	—	12	2	344	358
Brown-headed Gull	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Black-tailed Gull	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Black-headed Gull	333	c.3000	30+	300+	182	350	6800	430	8092+
Caspian Tern	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2

BOOK REVIEW

David S. Melville

ETCHECOPAR, R.D. and HUE, F. 1983, *Les Oiseaux de Chine, de Mongolie et de Corée. Passereaux*. Pp. 704, 22 colour plates, numerous line drawings and maps. Paris: Société Nouvelle des Éditions Boubee.

This work, which is the final volume of a four-part series covering the avifauna of the major desert regions of the old world, describes all of the passerines recorded from China, Mongolia and Korea. The volume covering the non-passerines was published in 1978 (see review by Melville 1979).

The problems which have beset this project and which were noted in my earlier review have continued. One can well understand Etchecopar's comments in the foreword: "Je dois avouer que par la suite, j'ai du parfois faire appel à toute ma ténacité (pour ne pas dire obstination) quand j'avais, seul, à faire face aux nombreux obstacles qui m'étaient réservés (abstraction faite de tous ceux professionnels ou scientifiques inhérents au sujet lui-même!), notamment lors du double changement d'éditeurs et surtout quand je fus frappé par les décès de mes deux précieux collaborateurs, savoir: Paul Barruel et François Hue."

This volume follows the previous ones in format. For each species information is given under the headings: identification, behaviour, breeding, distribution and subspecies. It has not been possible to scrutinize all species accounts but a few observations are noted below.

As with the preceding volume, covering the non-passerines, chunks of text have been carried over from *Les Oiseaux du Proche et du Moyen Orient* (1970) unchanged and, once again, this has caused a few problems e.g. the legs of *Anthus spinoletta* are described as "très sombre", while this is true for the race *coutelli* (= *blakistoni*), La Touche (1925–34) records the leg colour of *japonicus* as "dull flesh". Some specimens of *Ficedula strophilata* from Sichuan lack the red gorget (Cheng and Chang 1965) but this is not noted. The lower mandible of *Seicercus burkii* is orange rather than yellow. Under *Muscicapa (Niltava) sapphira* I found the comment "Cheng considère les oiseaux du Tsing Ling comme une race distincte qu'il nomme *M.s. tienchuanensis* mais que nous n'avons pu examiner" to be unhelpful, especially as the original reference (Cheng 1964) is not given. There is some inconsistency in the coverage of certain topics, especially the amount of detail given under "world distribution". *Acrocephalus*

bistrigiceps is recorded wintering only as far south as Thailand and southern Burma, whereas it occurs in Malaya south to Singapore (Medway and Wells 1976). Egg dimensions are given in various ways: in some species average length and breadth are given with no sample size: in others the sample size is included; in some species details appear to be given of clutches measured (1/2 + 2/3 etc. apparently meaning 1 clutch of 2 eggs, 2 clutches of 3 eggs etc., but this is not explained in the text); in yet others maximum and minimum sizes only are given. It has not been possible always to give measurements of eggs from China and this is noted where appropriate, but in the case of *Garrulax erythrocephalus* it is not very helpful to find that the average dimensions of 100 eggs are "pas de woodi!" (the only race recognised by the authors, cf. Cheng 1976) – what race are they?

Distribution maps are given for most species. These are less precise than those given by Cheng (1976) and only show the breeding range. Arrows occasionally indicate the general wintering area. In order to save space two species sometimes share the same map, which I found to be confusing e.g. the map for *Anthus spinoletta* and *Coracina novaehollandiae*, page 43.

The bibliography covers both this volume and that on the non-passerines. In view of the great condensation of material which has been necessary for this work I would have welcomed an extensive bibliography so that topics of interest could be followed up with ease – this is not the case. Instead one is referred to previous major works covering the area and only the more important (mostly post-war) works are listed. This results, for example, in no references to works by Swinhoe or Styan – both these authors are also omitted by Cheng (1976) in his bibliography, thus one has to go back to La Touche (1925–35) to find reference to these works. The most recent publications cited are for 1979 but some of the latest works appeared too late for information to be included in the text.

There are a number of surprises in the bibliography. Webster's (1968) 'popular' account of gulls in Hong Kong is cited (incorrectly dated 1967) but not his note on *Sturnus vulgaris* (1972), which presumably explains why there is no mention of this species wintering in Hong Kong in the text. In view of the authors' decision to regard *Larus relictus* as a hybrid (Vol. 1, p. 377) I was surprised to find Auevov (1971) listed. De la Moussay (1958) is listed but his record of *Stercorarius pomarinus* in Hong Kong has been overlooked, or dismissed without comment (Vol. 1, p. 377). The important paper by Li et al. (1974) is not listed and *Arborophila rufipectus* is noted as known from a single specimen (Vol. 1, p. 231). In view of the paucity of information concerning migration in the area I would have considered McClure (1974) worthy of inclusion.

There is no gazeteer in Volume 2 — reference must be made to Volume 1. As noted previously (Melville 1979) a gazeteer incorporating pinyin names would have been very helpful for those wishing to consult current Chinese literature.

19 of the 22 colour plates and the two monochrome plates are by Patrick Suiró, the remaining colour plates are by C.G. Armani. For the species with which I am familiar Suiró's plates are generally quite good but tend to be too bright and the shades too dark — possibly a fault of the printer rather than the artist. The head of *Tesia olivacea* is too drab, the crown should be golden and the lower mandible a bright reddish orange. Armani's plates are disappointing, the plate of bulbuls being very poor — *Pycnonotus sinensis* is almost unrecognisable being much too grey, *Melanochloris sultanea* is too orange, *Serinus pusillus* should be more yellow. An errata slip notes that plates 24 and 42 have been transposed. In my first copy all of the plates had been bound incorrectly in the text but the publishers promptly provided a replacement copy. According to one London bookseller there had been a number of copies with loose pages.

During a brief scan a number of misprints were apparent, especially mis-spellings in the bibliography. *Acrocephalus* has been omitted from the index.

Why was this book written? The two volumes covering China are insufficiently robust and are much too bulky for regular use in the field, yet the text is too 'thin' and inadequately referenced for the serious student of Chinese ornithology. It has presumably managed to find a market due to the recent growth of interest in Chinese birds, assisted by the increasing number of bird tours to China, and the fact that there is no other similar work available in a European language, but it is very expensive for such casual use. Those people who already have Volume 1 will probably want to purchase Volume 2 as well, others who want an identification guide may prefer to wait for the forthcoming volume (due 1984) from the Smithsonian Press. Those working with Chinese birds will still need to refer to the old classics (e.g. La Touche 1925–34) and more recent Chinese works (e.g. Cheng 1976, Cheng et al. 1978, 1979 and in press). Etchecopar is to be congratulated on his perseverance but it is unfortunate that the end result can not be recommended more highly despite the great amount of work which has gone into the production of these two volumes.

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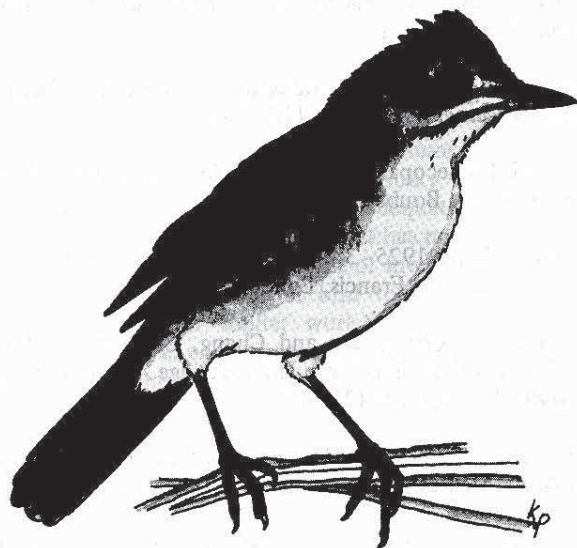
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European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* to Hong Kong. *Bull. Brit. Ornithol. Club* 92: 96.

* * * * *

With all its faults, this book does at present do a job which is not done by any other and will probably not be superseded until someone produces a modern *Field Guide* for China.

EDITOR



Thick-billed Warbler (*Phragmaticola aedon*)
Drawn: Karen Phillipps

RECORDS

Recording

One of the most important functions of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society is the publication of the Hong Kong Bird Report. The value of this publication depends entirely on members submitting records and all members are encouraged to submit records at the end of the each year.

The Society provides 152 X 106mm record cards for use by members and it will greatly facilitate analysis and storage if these are used rather than pieces of paper or other cards. Cards are available from the Hon. Recorder. Completed cards are stored in a species-indexed filing system at the Zoology Department, *Hong Kong University* and members wishing to look at past records are asked to contact the Hon. Recorder. It is hoped that the ease with which records can be retrieved will result in interested people analysing migration patterns and population trends and undertaking other studies.

Nest Record Cards are also available from the Recorder for reporting breeding data.

The Society also maintains a Register of Ornithological Sites. Standard forms are available to record the numbers and varieties of birds seen throughout the year at sites of special interest.

Recently it has also been agreed that the Society will maintain a collection of reports submitted by members on birds seen during their visits to other parts of South-east Asia to assist others in planning overseas trips.

Rarities

While the birds of Hong Kong are better known than those of many other areas of the Far East, new species are continually being added to the Hong Kong list and the status of many other species is uncertain.

Field identification techniques for species in the area still need refining and the Society has a Records Committee to assist the Hon. Recorder in the unenviable task of assessing records and ensuring that a high standard of observation is maintained. A list of species considered by the Committee is given below. The list may seem dauntingly long and to include some unmistakeable species such as

Oystercatcher. However, all members are requested to submit field descriptions of the birds listed.

Ideally field notes of a rarity should cover the following points:—

- (a) Date, time and location of sighting.
- (b) Power of binoculars/telescope used, distance of bird from observer, weather and light conditions.
- (c) Description of habitat and what other birds (if any) it was associated with.
- (d) Whether you saw it from different angles; at rest, in flight, swimming etc.; from above or below. (The more varied the conditions the better).
- (e) What were its actions and what was the character of its flight compared with other birds.
- (f) Its general shape and structure as compared with other birds e.g. size and shape of bill, length of legs, shape of wing, length of tail.
- (g) Colour of bill, legs, feet and iris.
- (h) So far as possible, an exact description of the whole plumage of the bird, not only those parts which you think may help in identifying it. A rough sketch or diagram is a great help.
- (i) Any calls or notes, indicating especially the quality of the sound (harsh, rattling, shrill, hoarse, liquid etc.) and comparison with notes of other species.
- (j) Note on previous experience with the species or species with which it may be confused.

If possible try and get someone else to see the bird as two descriptions are better than one. *Make sure that you take full field notes on the spot* — it is all too easy to imagine field marks after consulting a book!

Even if you do not know what the bird is please send in the description as it may be possible for the Committee to identify it for you. It should be remembered that many species of cage birds have been recorded as escapes in Hong Kong and they may not be included in any of the local books.

The increasing number of field guides on the market often make positive identification appear all too easy, but it must be remembered that there are still many difficult species and groups of birds and it is only by careful painstaking observation that such species can be identified.

Species for which written descriptions of all sightings must be submitted to the Recorder for consideration by the Records Committee

The following list is based on *An Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Hong Kong*, Webster 1975, and subsequent Hong Kong Bird Reports up to 1980. In many cases brief notes added to the record cards describing the salient features, ranges and viewing conditions will suffice. However, full descriptions are required for the rarer or more difficult species, or any new species not yet on the Hong Kong list. In addition the Recorder may request descriptions of other species under unusual circumstances. Records submitted without descriptions may not be considered.

CATEGORY A

Red-throated Diver	Spotted Eagle
Red-necked Grebe	Grey-faced Buzzard-Eagle
Swinhoe's Fork-tailed Petrel	Pied Harrier
Spotted-billed Pelican	Hen Harrier
all frigate-birds	White-legged Falconet
Von Schrenck's Little Bittern	Merlin
Japanese Night Heron	all button-quails
Lesser Egret	all crakes
Swinhoe's Egret (away from Yim Tso Ha)	Oystercatcher
White Stork	Common Ringed Plover
Glossy Ibis	Oriental Plover
Baikal Teal	Harting's Ringed Plover
Mandarin	Little Whimbrel
Scaup	snipe (other than Fantail)
Baer's Pochard	Asiatic Dowitcher
Tufted Duck	Long-billed Dowitcher
Common Pochard	Bar-tailed Godwit
Velvet Scoter	Common Gull
Goldeneye	Nordmann's Greenshank
Ruddy Shelduck	Glaucous Gull
Lesser Whistling Teal	Slaty-backed Gull
Cotton Teal	Brown-headed Gull
all geese	Great Black-headed Gull
Crested Honey Buzzard	Saunders' Gull
Japanese Sparrowhawk	all skuas
Goshawk	Common Tern
Crested Goshawk	Black-naped Tern
Horsfield's Goshawk	Greater Crested Tern
Golden Eagle	Sooty Tern
Steppe Eagle	Ancient Auk

Bar-tailed Cuckoo-dove
Cuckoo
Himalayan Cuckoo
Hodgson's Hawk-cuckoo
Drongo-cuckoo
all owls (other than Collared Scops)
all nightjars
White-throated Needletail
Crested Kingfisher
Blue-tailed Bee-eater
all woodpeckers
Chinese Pitta
Small Skylark
Short-toed Lark
all house-martins
Chinese Great Grey Shrike
Tiger Shrike
Bull-headed Shrike
Chestnut-cheeked Starling
Purple-backed Starling
Greater Cuckoo-shrike
Grey-throated Minivet
Rosy Minivet
Sooty Flycatcher
White-bellied Yuhina
Lanceolated Warbler
Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler

Thick-billed Warbler
Pale-legged Willow-warbler
Styan's Grasshopper Warbler
Crowned Willow-warbler
Blyth's Leaf-warbler
Yellow-eyed Flycatcher-warbler
Yellow-breasted Willow-warbler
Fulvous-faced Flycatcher-warbler
Chestnut-crowned Warbler
Large Grass Warbler
Japanese Robin
White-capped Redstart
Pallas's Blue Robin
Chestnut-breasted Rock-thrush
Slaty-backed Forktail
Brown Dipper
Siberian Thrush
Red-headed Tit
Penduline Tit
Wren
Water Pipit
Petchora Pipit
Siskin
Citrine Wagtail
Reed Bunting
Yellow-browed Bunting
Yellow-throated Bunting

CATEGORY B

all

CATEGORY C

none

CATEGORY D

none

CATEGORY E

all, other than most obvious escapes

CATEGORY F

all

NOTES FOR APPLICANTS WISHING TO VISIT THE MAI PO MARSHES

The following information has been received from the Agriculture and Fisheries Department:

Individuals

Individual members of the public will normally be granted a 'day permit', however in certain cases permits for a longer period may be issued. Applications should be made *at least two weeks* in advance of the proposed date and must include the following details:

Name in full

Hong Kong Identity Card No. or Passport No.

Date of proposed visit.

Point of entry into area: Tam Kon Chau/Tai Shang Wai

Purpose of visit

Other pertinent details e.g. membership of relevant societies etc.

Groups

Group permits will be limited to a maximum of 35 persons per group and will be valid for one day only. Groups will normally be escorted by a Nature Warden. To enable the spacing of group visits to prevent excessive disturbance, applications should be made *not less than one month* in advance of the proposed date and should include the following details:—

Name in full and Hong Kong Identity Card No. of group leader(s)

Date of proposed visit

Point of entry into area: Tam Kon Chau/Tai Shang Wai

Purpose of visit

Number in group

Other pertinent details

Please ensure that full details are given with your applications, otherwise the issue of a permit may be delayed.

You are advised to apply for permits well in advance of the proposed visiting date.

All applications and enquiries should be addressed to:—

The Director of Agriculture & Fisheries,
Canton Road Government Offices,
393 Canton Road,
Kowloon.

Identity Cards

Identity cards must be carried by all persons enter into the Mai Po Marshes.