

THE HONG KONG BIRD REPORT 1983



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HONG KONG BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY
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(A registered society under the Hong Kong Societies Ordinance)

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

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EDITORIAL NOTE

For the past few years, as our understanding of Hong Kong birds has increased, it has become evident that the Systematic List has not given an accurate picture of the year's birds. The number of members submitting full records is usually only five or six, in addition, perhaps another dozen report their better sightings. This has had the effect of polarising the systematic list into an account of weekend birds seen in the Deep Bay area and in the woodlands of the central New Territories, plus a bias to one or two well-watched gardens (such as mine at Mount Nicholson). With the imminent publication of the comprehensive fourth edition of the **Checklist**, the time has come to consider the wisdom of continuing to publish the annual systematic list. The new **Checklist** summaries the status of all species which have occurred in Hong Kong (up to mid 1985) and takes full account of the Society's records (both published and unpublished) and can be taken as a base line from which to view all future records.

The appearance of the new **Checklist** will not mean the eclipse of the **Hong Kong Bird Report** although, as in the past, circumstances may dictate that it becomes a biennial publication. A case in point will be the next report covering the years 1984/85 which will appear early next year.

This 1983 **Hong Kong Bird Report** will be the last in the traditional format. The 1984/85 report will set the standard for the years to come and although lacking the full systematic list will include the following:—

- (i) A summary of the records for 1984 and 1985, similar to that published quarterly in the **Bulletin**.
- (ii) The report of the Records Committee for the years 1984 and 1985.
- (iii) Changes in status of breeding species.
- (iv) Addendum to the fourth edition of the **Checklist**.
- (v) Report on the Wildfowl Counts for 1984 and 1985.
- (vi) Plus a comprehensive paper on Mount Nam Kun Nature Reserve, short articles on identification problems, notes on regional bird-watching areas and reviews of recent literature relevant to bird-watching in Hong Kong.

The demise of the systematic list does not mean that observers should stop submitting their records — on the contrary, to keep up-to-date via the new style reports it is essential that everyone plays their part by submitting record cards (available from the Hon. Recorder) to the Society.

It is anticipated that the new format reports will be more attractive, not only to members but to overseas interests, which will result in wider readership, thereby enhancing the standing and reputation of your Society.

CLIVE VINEY
October, 1985.

REPORT ON THE BIRDS 1983

Hon. Recorder: Michael L. Chalmers

1983 proved to be yet another year with its fair share of ornithological surprises. Altogether 264 species were recorded in Categories A-D, with a further 13 in Category E (escapes or possible escapes) and one in Category F.

Three new species were added to Category A of the Hong Kong list. The first was a male White-bellied Green Pigeon seen at rest and in flight at Sek Kong Catchwater on 25 January. Cheng in his distributional list indicates that this species occurs across southern and eastern China. Although it is a partial migrant in Japan, there are few records from the east of China. The second new species was a female Lesser Frigatebird found dead at Island School on 12 September. Frigatebirds are sighted in coastal waters, especially to the south and east of Hong Kong, in most years. However, many are in immature plumage and have defied specific identification. It was thus not until Typhoon Ellen provided this specimen that the species was admitted to our list. It appears that all previous records in Hong Kong are either Great or Lesser Frigatebirds. Two published records attributed to Christmas Island Frigatebirds are now considered to probably refer to dark-headed immature Great Frigatebirds. The third and last new record was a Crested Goshawk at Hong Kong University on 19 October. The possibility of this bird occurring has been acknowledged for some time. An adult perched prominently on a dead tree showing its crest, distinctive streaking and barring on underparts and short wings was conclusive. Surprisingly, before the year ended, up to two had also been seen at Mount Nicholson and one at Kowloon Reservoirs. It seems likely that this species has been overlooked and has been present for several years. The bird was also seen on recent visits to a forestry area in northern Guangdong and thus appears to have extended its range north-eastwards since the 1920's when La Touche did not mention it in his handbook of the birds of eastern China.

Other rarities included an Amur Falcon over Tai Po Kau in April (promoted to Category A from E), a Nordmann's Greenshank in Deep Bay in September, a Thick-billed Warbler at Mai Po and a Barred Button Quail at Lai Chi Wo in October, up to four Scaup at Mai Po or San Tin from November, a Yellow-eyed Flycatcher-warbler at Mount Nicholson in December and a pair of Crested Kingfishers at Plover Cove from late December. The last are the first Hong Kong record since 1968 and provided a spectacular sight to those who prevailed upon David Galloway's hospitality to view these magnificent birds.

The birds excavated a hole in January 1984, apparently laid eggs and may even have hatched young when at least one of the adults appears to have been caught at the nest hole. What is clear is that the birds suddenly disappeared and there was evidence of human interference at the nest hole.

Although this opportunity of regaining this spectacular kingfisher to our breeding list was tragically lost, there were some breeding gains in 1983. A series of sightings of Black-naped Terns in Mirs Bay led to the finding of at least two pairs breeding on an isolated rock, the first confirmed breeding record for this or any other seabird species in Hong Kong, although it is apparently widespread along the coast of east China. Even more surprising was the finding of a family of Slaty-legged Crakes on Lantau in late June. This was only the third record for Hong Kong and the first for the summer period. A notable feature at Mai Po was the establishment of a breeding colony of Little Green Herons in the dead mangroves.

In Category E (possible escapes) a Grey-headed Parrotbill was seen at Mount Nicholson in January with seven more in Kowloon in February, a Brambling at Mount Nicholson and a Chestnut-flanked White-eye on the Peak in November and a dead Grass Owl was picked up at Kai Tak in December.

Three special projects were continued during the year. These were the waterfowl count in Deep Bay in mid-January (see paper in 1981/82 report), the breeding birds survey and the netting of warblers at Mai Po for examination and release under a special permit issued by the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries. The last resulted in useful data on weights and dimensions of Great Reed, Von Schrenck's and Dusky Warblers as well as the trapping of the Thick-billed Warbler referred to above.

A brief monthly summary is given below:—

January

The flock of Dalmatian Pelicans was first noted in Deep Bay on 8th and numbers increased to 21 by the end of the month. Up to two Baer's Pochards, 30 Tufted Duck, 30 Garganey, 240 Falcated Teal, 355 Shelduck and 25 Lesser (Black-faced) Spoonbills were seen at Mai Po. Up to four Imperial Eagles and one Spotted Eagle were also present and a roost of 200 Chinese Starlings was established in the mangroves. The co-ordinated wildfowl count in the Deep Bay area on 15th and 16th produced over 19,000 birds of 52 species including 1,790 Pintail (a new high), 1,445 Cormorant, one Sanderling and two Ruff. Grey-backed Thrushes, Black-birds and Black-tailed Hawfinches were widespread with smaller numbers of Dusky and White's Thrushes and Red-flanked Bluetails. There was an unusual winter record of a Grey-spotted Flycatcher at Wong Chuk Hang between 10th and 17th. On 25th a White-bellied Green Pigeon, the first for Hong Kong, was seen at Sek Kong Catchwater and up to 15 Water Pipits were regularly reported at San Tin from 15th until 27th February. The month ended with an immature Black Stork at Mai Po which was first seen on 29th and remained until 27th February.

February

At Tai Po Kau a flock of up to 100 Black Bulbuls was first reported on 15th and remained until 2nd April. A flock of seven Grey-headed Parrotbills was seen at Kowloon Reservoirs on 13th (this followed an earlier

sighting of one at Mount Nicholson on 1st January). Two Common Starlings were noted at Lok Ma Chau on 26th.

March

On 6th a dead Eagle Owl was found in the Castle Peak Firing Range and on 18th a Black-throated Laughing Thrush was seen at Sui Lam, one of the few New Territories records. From 19th Blue and White Flycatchers were numerous and on the last day of the month the first of several Ferruginous Flycatchers turned up at Tai Mei Tuk. Numbers of Dalmatian Pelicans rose to 38 before departing on 31st. The wader passage began with one Asiatic Dowitcher at Mai Po on 26th and a flock of 80 Oriental Pratincoles at Kai Tak on 31st.

April

The month was notable for the conspicuous flycatcher passage with Blue and White Flycatchers particularly numerous, especially between 1st and 9th when at least 15 and probably up to 50 were present at Tai Po Kau. A single Swinhoe's Egret was seen at Starling Inlet on 2nd. A pair of White-bellied Yuhinias was watched building a nest in Tai Po Kau on 12th and at least 100 Eye-browed Thrushes were present there on 16th. Other migrants included 20 Ashy Minivets at Tai Po Kau on 9th, one Purple-backed Starling at Mai Po on 13th and at least 12 White-throated Needletails there on 17th with two more on 30th. With water levels high at San Tin there was little evidence of wader passage. The main concentrations appeared to assemble beyond the fence at Mai Po where viewing conditions were difficult.

May

The only other Asiatic Dowitcher record submitted for the year was three at Mai Po on 14th. There were no reports of Spoon-billed Sandpipers and the only Great Knot were single birds on 30th April and 9th May. Numbers of the commoner waders were also generally lower than normal. Two unusual owl records were a Brown Hawk Owl at Cheung Chau on 21st and an Eagle Owl at Sui Lam on 22nd. A colony of at least nine pairs of Little Green Herons was found in the mangroves at Mai Po and Little Ringed Plovers attempted to breed at Tuen Mun.

June

Black-naped Terns were regularly seen in Mirs Bay from 15th with up to 50 on 26th. At Tai Mo Shan, Large Grass Warblers and Chinese Babax were seen in suitable breeding habitat. On 25th and 26th a family of Slaty-legged Crakes was seen at Tong Fuk, Lantau and an unidentified bee-eater was reported at the Chinese University on 25th.

July

Black-naped Terns continued to be seen near Tap Mun and breeding was confirmed on 23rd when two separate families with young were found.

August

Several Treepies remained at Hong Kong University throughout the summer and breeding was strongly suspected. On 26th at least 500 Large White-rumped Swifts were seen over Sunset Peak, Lantau and several Large Grass Warblers were again observed in that area. Wader passage resumed in mid-month at Mai Po.

September

A female Lesser Frigatebird was found dead at Island School on 12th in the aftermath of Typhoon Ellen. The next day a Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler was seen at Mai Po and on 22nd a Nordmann's Greenshank was reported at Tsim Bei Tsui. Common Terns were regular in coastal areas and wader numbers increased with up to 100 Terek Sandpipers and 40 Bar-tailed Godwits at Mai Po, where there was one early Saunders' Gull on 18th. A flock of up to 100 Black-winged Stilts returned to San Tin and remained throughout the winter. Flycatcher passage included one or two Asian and Japanese Paradise Flycatchers and an unusual autumn record of a Ferruginous Flycatcher on 18th.

October

Rare migrants included a single Thick-billed Warbler at Mai Po on 15th, Barred Button Quail at Lai Chi Wo on 16th and male Amur Falcon at Tai Po Kau on 27th. Pride of place goes, however, to the Crested Goshawk first seen at Hong Kong University on 19th and subsequently reported in several other localities before the end of the year. Twelve Black Bazas were counted at Sek Kong on 17th and a strong passage of Yellow-breasted Buntings was noted at Mai Po from 16th until 5th November.

November

Numbers of wintering waterfowl increased rapidly with up to 2000 Cormorants in Deep Bay. Duck included 23 Tufted Duck, a drake Pochard and up to four female Scaup at Mai Po at the end of the month. Rubythroats, Silky Starlings, Blackbirds and to a lesser extent Little Buntings became widespread. A Chestnut-flanked White-eye was found on the Peak on 5th and 6th, a Brambling at Mount Nicholson on 17th and up to ten Brown Thrushes at Hong Kong University from 28th.

December

A probable Mountain Bush Warbler was found skulking at Kadoorie Beach on 1st and a Yellow-eyed Flycatcher-warbler was recorded at Mount Nicholson on 7th. Duck numbers continued to rise in the Deep Bay area with 440 Shelduck and 3 Baer's Pochard on 27th. A Grass Owl was found dead at Kai Tak on 25th and four Spotted Eagles were observed at Mai Po on 27th. The year ended on a high note with a pair of Crested Kingfishers taking up residence at Plover Cove.

The Systematic List incorporates records submitted by the following observers:

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The assistance of M.A. Webster and G.C.H. Cooper, as the other two members of the Records Committee, is gratefully acknowledged.

My thanks also go to C.A. Viney for compiling the second half of the Systematic List.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1983

M.L. Chalmers and C.A. Viney

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

4. Little Grebe

Podiceps ruficollis

Reported throughout the year at Mai Po with up to 30 in the winter months. Also present at Tsing Tam Reservoir along the Sek Kong Catchwater between April and October. Breeding confirmed at both localities by sightings of adults with young.

7. Dalmatian Pelican

Pelecanus crispus

Wintering birds either of this species or not specifically identified present in Deep Bay from 8 January until 31 March. Numbers varied with maxima of 21, 17 and 38 in January, February and March respectively. Also seven pelicans, probably this species, seen from Mai Po on 27 December.

8. Cormorant

Phalacrocorax carbo

Very numerous in the Deep Bay area from Mai Po to Nim Wan throughout the winter. Large flocks totalling several hundred birds often seen with high counts of 1,445 in January, 1,500 in February, 1,500 in March (possibly up to 2,000) and 2,000 in November (a new high count). Also recorded at Plover Cove, with over 40 in January, and at Silvermine Bay, with up to three also in January. Extreme dates were up to 23 April and from 6 October.

9.1. Lesser Frigatebird

Fregata ariel

An adult female was found dead on the roof of the squash courts at Island School, Mid-Levels, on 12 September in the aftermath of Typhoon Ellen. This is the first confirmed record for Hong Kong. It has been suspected that this species occurs but it has previously defied positive separation in immature plumage from Great Frigatebird *F. minor*. Identification was confirmed by measurements, black head, chin and throat with white collar, breast and "spurs" on underwing and dull red bill (CAV, MLC). Tail was in active moult.

The Lesser Frigatebird occurs widely throughout tropical seas and oceans, and probably breeds in the islands in the South China Sea.

An unidentified frigatebird was also seen and photographed over Gau Rock, Mirs Bay on 18 September (ARL), and there was an unsubstantiated report of another over Cheung Chau during the typhoon on 10 September.

12. Yellow Bittern

Ixobrychus sinensis

Common at Mai Po in summer with at least 20 in May and June. Elsewhere one at Tai Long on 7 May and two at Luk Keng on 28 May. Most reports were between April and October, but single wintering birds were seen at Mai Po in January, March, November and December.

13. Chestnut Bittern

Ixobrychus cinnamomeus

An adult male at Tung Chung on 9 April, a female at Tai Long on 7 May, two at San Ha Tsuen (south of Yuen Long) on 29 May, two adults and two young at Pui O on 2 and 3 July, one at Tai Tam Harbour on 1 September and one at Lai Chi Wo on 2 September.

16. Bittern

Botaurus stellaris

Single birds seen intermittently at Mai Po up to 27 February and from 30 October.

17. Night Heron

Nycticorax nycticorax

Recorded in all months except March. At least 50 at Mai Po between April and October with about 100 there in September. Over 300 present in the Starling Inlet egretries in May. Also recorded in smaller numbers at the Grenade Range, Tai Po, Chinese University, Lai Chi Wo, Hebe Haven and Tai Tam.

18. Chinese Pond Heron

Ardeola bacchus

Common and widespread in coastal areas. Bred at Mai Po and Yim Tso Ha egretries. A single bird perched in a tree at USRC, Kowloon on 5 October.

19. Cattle Egret

Bubulcus ibis

Recorded throughout the year, mainly in the northern New Territories. At least 200 were present in the Starling Inlet egretries in May. A flock of over 200 was seen feeding at San Tin on 17 July whereas the maximum number in winter was about 50. Two passage birds grounded by heavy rain at Sandy Bay on 15 May.

20. Little Green Heron

Butorides striatus

Up to nine nests seen at Mai Po in May and June. An adult at Mai Po on 8 January was an unusual winter record from this locality. Other winter records of up to three birds were from Tai Tam, Pokfulam, Plover Cove, Tai Lam and Sek Kong Catchwater. Also reported in spring at She Shan and Tong Fuk (Lantau).

21. Little Egret

Egretta garzetta

Common throughout the year in the northern New Territories with over 500 at Mai Po in February. Bred at both Mai Po and Starling Inlet egretries, with at least 300 birds in the latter area in May. Also recorded at Lai Chi Wo, Double Haven, Long Harbour, Tai Tam Harbour and Nam Wai.

22. Lesser Egret (Intermediate Egret)

Egretta intermedia

All records are from Mai Po with three on 28 January, one on 5 February, two on 27 February, at least eight on 20 March and at least one on 15 October.

23. Swinhoe's Egret

Egretta eulophotes

One at the water's edge below the Yim Tso Ha Egretty on 2 April (RPT).

- 24. Reef Egret** *Egretta sacra*
Seen throughout the year around rocky coasts with maximum count of over five at Ninepins in June and a flock of at least seven at Port Shelter in January.
- 25. Great Egret** *Egretta alba*
Common in the Deep Bay area in winter with 214 counted in January, at least 100 in March and over 200 in October. Also recorded in small numbers at Starling Inlet and Tolo Harbour (Shuen Wan). The only summer records were up to 15 at the egrettries in Starling Inlet where this species regularly breeds.
- 26. Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*
As usual several hundred wintered in the Deep Bay area with high counts of 478 in mid-January, and over 300 at Mai Po in March. Also one or two seen at Starling Inlet, Pak Nai and Shuen Wan. Extreme dates were up to 8 May and from 29 August except for an unusual summer record of two seen over the border from Mai Po on 4 June.
- 27. Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*
Recorded in small numbers in all months at Mai Po or San Tin. Usually not more than six, but up to ten recorded between March and May and over 15 counted in October. Also a single bird at Ocean Park on 6 August.
- 29. Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra*
A single immature first seen and watched feeding on a drained gei-wai at Mai Po on 5 February, and seen again there on 27 February.
- 30. White Ibis** *Threskiornis melanocephalus*
Single birds at Mai Po between 16 January and 20 March and again on 5 October.
- 31. European Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*
One with a flock of 19 Lesser (Black-faced) Spoonbills at Mai Po on 27 February.
- 32. Lesser Spoonbill (Black-faced Spoonbill)** *Platalea minor*
All records are from Mai Po or Deep Bay with extreme dates up to 29 May and from 21 September. Highest flock counts in the winter months were 25, 19 and 19 in January, February and March respectively, and 16 in December. These numbers represent a continuation of the increasing occurrence in recent years of this uncommon SE Asian bird. Also spoonbills not specifically identified included one on 29 August and ten in November.
- 33. Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*
Except for a drake at Mong Tseng on 13 November, all other records are from Mai Po with one (a drake) on 20 January, two on 20 March, up to two (a pair) between 6 and 26 November and five (four drakes and one duck) on 3 December.

- 34. Yellow-nib Duck** *Anas poecilorhyncha*
Reported throughout the year at Mai Po with highest numbers (up to 50) in autumn and winter. A large duck with downy young seen on 5 June was probably this species (HMAB).
- 35. Gadwall** *Anas strepera*
One at San Tin on 5 and 12 February, four at Mai Po on 31 March, four (drakes) at Mai Po on 10 September, three at San Tin on 27 November, at least six there on 3 December, and two at Mai Po on 10 December.
- 36. Falcated Teal** *Anas falcata*
Large wintering flock regularly recorded at Mai Po or San Tin with extreme dates up to 31 March and from 30 October. Maximum counts were 240, 50, 80 and 120 in January, February, November and December respectively.
- 37. Teal** *Anas crecca*
Common in winter in the Deep Bay area with several hundred up to 24 April and from 10 October. 783 were recorded during the waterfowl count on 16 January. An unexpected drake was reported flying over the cross-harbour tunnel approach at Causeway Bay on 19 January.
- 38. Garganey** *Anas querquedula*
All records are from the Deep Bay marshes. Up to 40 on spring passage up to 24 April and over 50 in autumn from 15 October. Although one or two birds are often reported wintering, the total of 30 recorded regularly between January and March was unusual.
- 40. Wigeon** *Anas penelope*
Present at Mai Po or San Tin up to 9 April and from 27 October. Highest counts were 100 in January, over 80 in February, 40 in March and 70 in December.
- 41. Pintail** *Anas acuta*
Very large numbers present throughout the winter in the Deep Bay area, especially in Yuen Long Creek. Maximum counts were 1,790 in January (a new high), 1,200 in February and 1,600 in December. These totals are considerably greater than previous years, when not more than 600 have been counted, and clearly established this species as the most numerous wintering duck for the first time.
- 42. Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*
Common in the Deep Bay area but in smaller numbers than last year, with maximum counts of 300 in January, February and November. Extreme dates were up to 15 April and from 15 October.
- 44. Scaup** *Aythya marila*
Four ducks associated with Pochard on a flooded gei wai at Mai Po on 27 November and at least two were still present on 3 December. Intermittent reports continued into 1984. These are the first sightings of this species at Mai Po.

- 45. Baer's Pochard** *Aythya baeri*
Up to two at Mai Po from 8 January until 5 February, with three there on both 31 March and 27 December.
- 46. Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*
The wintering flock noted at Mai Po at the end of 1982 remained until 5 February with numbers varying between 20 and 30. Also four there on 20 March. In the following autumn two and one were seen on 27 and 30 October respectively, and then up to 23 from November throughout the winter. Also one at San Tin on 27 November.
- 47. Common Pochard** *Aythya ferina*
Single drakes at San Tin on 26 and 27 November and Mai Po on 27 November. Two drakes at Mai Po on 10 December and a pair there on 27 December.
- 50. Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*
Numerous in winter in Deep Bay with small numbers (up to 20) occasionally seen on the marshes at Mai Po or San Tin. Maximum counts were 355 on 20 January and 440 on 27 December. Extreme dates were up to 20 March and from 19 November, except for unusual summer and early autumn records of single birds at Mai Po on 2 July and 17 September.
- 55. Black-eared Kite** *Milvus migrans*
Common and widespread with the usual large winter roost at Stonecutters Island. A regular day roost was also established during the winter months in dead mangroves west of the rocky outcrop at Mai Po; up to 50 birds were regularly seen with several counts of over 100. Elsewhere 50 to 60 noted spiralling over Ma Nam Wat, another breeding and roosting area, in July.
- 56. Black Baza** *Aviceda leuphotes*
Reported at She Shan, with at least two pairs displaying on 23 April and two on 31 May, and at Sek Kong Catchwater, where single birds were seen between 24 April and 1 November and 12 on 18 October.
- 57. Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*
Widespread reports of single birds in the New Territories and on Hong Kong Island up to 31 March and from 30 October. At least two at Mai Po in January and March.
- 58. Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*
Single birds seen at Mai Po on 31 March, Hong Kong University on 27 October, Pak Nai on 3 November, Kai Lung Wan on 22 December and Bride's Pool on 28 December. Because of their late dates, records submitted for females at Mount Nicholson on 1 and 21 May and at Sek Kong Catchwater on 18 June are considered doubtful due to possible confusion with closely-related species. Single small accipiters seen at the Peak on 2 March and 5 April were not positively identified.
- [**59. Japanese Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter gularis*
A male at Mai Po on 27 October was probably this species.]

- [**60. Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*
One or two seen at Sek Kong Catchwater and Route Twisk on 20 and 24 April and 22 September cannot be safely separated from Crested Goshawk.]

- 60.1 Crested Goshawk** *Accipiter trivirgatus*
One observed perched in a dead tree at Hong Kong University on 19 October was the first confirmed record for Hong Kong (DW, TRC).

The field description noted the following salient points: slight crest on nape, upperparts dark brown with white edges to wing coverts and flight feathers. Underparts whitish with dark central streak on throat bordered by moustachial streaks. Upper breast with rufous streaking. Broad rufous bars on belly. Faint barring on thighs and vent. Tail brown with four dark bands. At rest, wing tips reached only to base of tail.

Subsequently, a single bird was seen at rest and then joined by another at Mount Nicholson on 5 November (CAV). The second bird then performed a display flight in which the wing tips were quivered (very shallow rapid beats) and the white undertail coverts spread (tail-flagging). Further sightings of single birds were also made at Mount Nicholson on 21 and 27 November. Furthermore, a single bird was also seen perched at Eagle's Nest Nature Trail on 3 December (ARL).

The Crested Goshawk is a sedentary species which breeds in much of SE Asia. Apart from an isolated race in Taiwan, it was formerly thought to extend eastwards only as far as Hainan. The above records and subsequent sightings in 1984, both in Hong Kong and the Nam Kun Shan area of Guangdong, appear to indicate a range expansion.

The above records have led to a critical review of all previous Goshawk *A. gentilis* records and several have now been withdrawn by the observers. Few of the others can be satisfactorily confirmed as Goshawks on the descriptions available.

It therefore now seems likely that a pair of Crested Goshawks is resident on Hong Kong Island and may have been present for at least two years. Previous records also suggest that further pairs may be resident at Tai Po Kau and the Route Twisk/Sek Kong Catchwater area. Whilst (Northern) Goshawks have no doubt occurred in the winter months and on passage, all summer records and all reports in which the fluttering display flight is noted are now considered probably to refer to Crested Goshawks.

- 63. Imperial Eagle** *Aquila heliaca*
All sightings were from Long Valley, the hills east of Lok Ma Chau (Grenade Range), the Deep Bay marshes or the coast of Deep Bay near Nim Wan. Maximum count was five. Most reports were of juveniles although one or two adults and sub-adults were also observed. Extreme dates were up to 31 March, except for one at San Tin on 24 April (a new late date) and from 3 November.

65. Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga*
All records are of juveniles from Mai Po. Single birds seen on 28 January, 27 November and 28 December, two on 31 March and exceptionally four on 27 December.

66. Bonelli's Eagle *Hieraaetus fasciatus*
Single birds or pairs reported from Lantau, Pokfulam, Beacon Hill, Port Shelter, Lok Ma Chau and Mai Po on widely scattered dates throughout the year.

67. White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*
Reported from widespread coastal areas, especially in eastern waters, throughout the year with two pairs in one area apparently occupying nest sites within 50m of each other. One bird seen flying with a black and yellow snake in its talons in Tolo Harbour. An immature flushed from the edge of the water catchment at Lady Clementi's Ride.

68. Grey-faced Buzzard Eagle *Butastur indicus*
Single birds in flight at Mai Po on 28 January, the Peak on 1 March and Shap Long, Lantau on 9 April.

69. Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela*
Between one and three reported in May from Sha Tau Kok, Tai Po Kau and Ha Tsuen. Single birds at Tai Mo Shan in June, Hong Kong University in October and Long Harbour in November.

70. Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*
Apart from single birds at Long Valley and Mong Tseng, all other reports were from either Mai Po or San Tin. For most of the winter numbers varied between three and six. Extreme dates were up to 13 April and from 8 October.

71. Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucos*
A female/immature seen at Mai Po on 19, 27 and 29 November and 27 December.

74. Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*
Between one and three present in the Deep Bay area up to 5 June and from 7 September. One regularly seen at Plover Cove Reservoir up to mid-March and from 7 November. Elsewhere single birds at Causeway Bay on 15 January, Starling Inlet on 6 November and Mid-Levels on 8 November.

74.1 Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis*
An adult male seen in flight over Tai Po Kau on 27 October (AW). Formerly in Category E due to possible escapes but because of reduction in trade due to changes in the law, this record is considered to be of a genuinely wild bird.

75. Hobby *Falco subbuteo*
One at Hong Kong University on 4 May and one at Mai Po on 2 November.

76. Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*
Intermittent records of single birds throughout the year including Central, Pokfulam, Mid-Levels, Wanchai, Mount Nicholson, Kowloon, Tuen Mun, Tai Po, Lantau and the Deep Bay area.

78. Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*
Between one and three reported from widespread areas with many urban records up to 20 March and from 17 September.

79. Chinese Francolin *Francolinus pintadeanus*
Seen or heard in widespread parts of the New Territories, Lantau and Hong Kong Island through the year, including Mount Nicholson on 28 June and Long Harbour at the late date of 5 November.

80. Japanese Quail *Coturnix japonica*
Single bird flushed from the central bund between San Tin ponds on several dates between 8 and 16 January, two there on 5 February and one at the Grenade Range on 9 October.

81. Barred Button Quail *Turnix suscitator*
One seen at close quarters both on the ground and in flight at Lai Chi Wo on 16 October (DW, BT). This is a new early autumn date, the previous earliest being 26 October.

84. Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*
Single bird at Mai Po on 28 January.

85. Banded Rail *Rallus striatus*
Single birds seen at Mai Po in March, May and November and at Lai Chi Wo in September; two at San Ha Tsuen (south of Yuen Long) in May, two at Chek Keng and Tai Long in December; at least three at Ham Tin in May.

85.1 Slaty-legged Crake *Rallina eurizonoides*
Two adults with at least four downy young seen and photographed in the catchwater near Tong Fuk, Lantau on 25 and 26 June (RDES, JSRE).

These sightings are only the third record in Hong Kong (the other two were single birds in December 1978-January 1979 and December 1981) and for the first time provided proof of breeding, hitherto unsuspected.

[**87. Ruddy Crake** *Porzana fusca*
A single crake at Mai Po on 29 January and several flushed from the flooded paddy at Ham Tin (Tai Long) on 7 May and 15 June were probably this species.

88. Crimson-legged Crake *Amaurornis akool*
One flushed from a flooded area next to a path on the lower slopes of Sharp Peak on 7 May (CAV).

89. White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*
Widespread and common in marshy areas throughout the territory.

90. Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*
Common at Mai Po throughout the year with at least 50 in the winter months. Also recorded in smaller numbers at San Tin, Mong Tseng, Lau Fau Shan, Long Valley, Chung Pak Long and Shuen Wan.

91. Watercock *Gallicrex cinerea*
A male and two females flushed at Luk Keng on 28 May and a male at Mai Po on 27 October.

92. Coot *Fulica atra*
Common at Mai Po and San Tin in winter with much smaller numbers in summer. Maximum count was 900 at Mai Po with a total of 1,052 in the Deep Bay area up to Long Valley in mid-January. Not more than five seen between May and August with single juveniles seen on 9 May and 26 August suggesting that breeding occurred. Also one at Shuen Wan on 19 March and two there on 28 December.

93. Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*
Single birds at San Tin on 8 May, Mai Po on 4 June (dead), San Tin on 3 August, 19 and 20 November and at a roadside pond at She Shan on 13 November.

97. Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus*
Between 8 and 24 seen at San Tin on intermittent dates between 2 January and 2 April. In the autumn up to 12 at Mai Po between 25 September and 27 November, two at San Tin on 20 November and six or seven at Mong Tseng on 12 November and 27 December.

99. Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
Up to 40 in the Deep Bay area during the winter months and six at Shuen Wan in March. On 1 May about five pairs were present at Yuen Long Industrial Estate, on 14 May at least ten birds were seen at Tai Po Industrial Estate and on 29 May at least five pairs were observed on the public tip at Area 18 Tuen Mun. All the above birds exhibited territorial behaviour and breeding is strongly suspected.

100. Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*
Large numbers in the Deep Bay area in winter with 180 in mid-January, over 200 in mid-October and mid-November, and about 500 in early November. 1,800 small waders seen in dense distant flocks in Deep Bay on 16 January were probably this species. Elsewhere, three at Tung Chung on 20 February, over ten at Tong Fuk, Lantau on 9 April, at least 35 at Nam Wai and one at Tai Long Wan (Sai Kung) on 17 December.

101. Greater Sand-plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*
In spring seven at Tong Fuk and two at Tung Chung on 9 April and up to 150 at Mai Po between 23 April and 14 May. In autumn not more than about ten at Mai Po between 17 September and 15 October. Three sand-plovers at Pak Nai on 12 March were not specifically identified.

102. Mongolian Sand-plover *Charadrius mongolus*
Eleven at Tong Fuk on 9 April. Recorded at Mai Po and Deep Bay between 17 April and 29 May with over 150 on 23 April and at least 300 on 30 April. Apart from about 30 on 24 September numbers in autumn did not exceed about 10 between 17 September and 15 October.

104. Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
Wintering birds noted in Deep Bay and at Mai Po up to 17 April and from 8 October with maxima of 29 in January, 60 in February, 30 in March and 20 in November. Also ten at Nim Wan on 13 November and two at Starling Inlet on 28 December.

105. Asiatic Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominicus*
Two at Mai Po on 27 February. Subsequently recorded in the Deep Bay area between 13 March and 23 April with maximum of 30 on the former date. Up to 15 in autumn at Mai Po and Deep Bay (including Pak Nai and Nim Wan) between 18 September and 13 November.

106. Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*
At Mai Po recorded between 17 April and 15 May in spring with maximum of at least 15 on 23 April. Up to eight in autumn at Mai Po or Deep Bay (from Tsim Bei Tsui fence) between 17 September and 1 October.

107. Fantail Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*
Widespread in the New Territories including Lantau with maximum counts of 30 at Mai Po in February. Extreme dates were up to 23 April and from 1 October.

108. Pintail Snipe *Gallinago stenura*
Over 25 flushed from the paddy behind the beach at Pui O, Lantau on 9 April, at least two at Long Valley on 23 April, over 20 there on 29 April, five at Ham Tin on 17 December and at least five at Mong Tseng on 27 December.

109. Swinhoe's Snipe *Gallinago megala*
One at Pui O and at least two at Tong Fuk, Lantau on 9 April, one at Ham Tin on 7 May and at least ten there on 22 October.

112. Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*
One at Yuen Tuen CAS Camp on 14 February. One seen regularly at Hong Kong University between 13 September and 7 November, one or two at Sek Kong Catchwater on 19 October, one at Mount Nicholson on 6 November, one at Deep Water Bay Golf Course on 14 December and up to three at Wah Fu from 12 December until the end of the year.

113. Curlew *Numenius arquata*
Regular in the Deep Bay area up to 17 April and from 20 August. Maximum counts were 140 on 5 February, 80 on 31 March, over 60 on 21 September and over 100 on 28 December. On the last date the flock was continually harried by a Spotted Eagle.

114. Australian Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*
Single birds at Mai Po on 17 April and 9 May.

11. Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

The only spring records were single birds at Mai Po on 17, 24 and 30 April, four there on 15 May and four on 25 June (a new late date). In autumn reported from Mai Po and Deep Bay between 10 September and 19 November with maximum of 70 on 1 October. Elsewhere five at Lai Chi Wo on 1 and 2 September and at least two at Nim Wan on 12 and 13 November.

117. Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Up to three at Mai Po/San Tin between 5 February and 20 March and 15 to 20 at Mai Po between 2 and 16 April. Single birds at Mai Po on 22 July and Yim Tso Ha on 1 August were new early dates. All other records occurred between 20 August and 27 November with maximum of 15 at Lai Chi Wo in September and 16 at Mai Po in November.

118. Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

One at Mai Po on 17 April, about 40 on 18 September and several on 7 October. Also four in Deep Bay on 24 September and one there on 1 October.

119. Asiatic Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus*

The only reports of this usually regular passage migrant were at Mai Po with one on 26 March and three on 14 May.

120. Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Regularly recorded in small numbers in the Deep Bay area and along widespread marshy streams in the New Territories. Also one at Tai Tam Harbour on Hong Kong Island on 24 September. A single bird at Mai Po on 17 July was an early date.

121. Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Common during the winter at San Tin with 200 in February and 100 in October. Up to five reported at Long Valley, Mai Po and Deep Bay on various dates and at least two at Pui O on 9 April. Extreme dates were up to 24 April and from 29 August.

122. Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Most reports from the Deep Bay Marshes with flocks of up to 20, except for 100 on 30 April and 100 on 20 August. Elsewhere, one at Chek Keng on 7 May. Extreme dates are 13 March to 14 May and 20 August to 15 October.

123. Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Common on the Deep Bay Marshes with extreme dates up to 14 May and from 29 August, except for a new late date of two at Mai Po on 25 June. Maximum numbers reported varied between 100 to 300 up to May and from October, except for over 500 at San Tin on 2 April.

124. Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Recorded at Mai Po and Deep Bay up to 14 May and from 17 September. Maximum monthly counts ranged between 10 and 30 except for over 50 in mid-April and 50 in mid-October.

125. Nordmann's Greenshank *Tringa guttifer*

A single bird was seen on 22 September with two Great Knot in Deep Bay from the fence between Tsim Bei Tsui and Yuen Long Creek (CRC).

126. Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

Up to 40 on spring passage at San Tin/Mai Po between 13 March and 24 April and up to five in autumn between 17 September and 19 November. Unusually, there were no wintering records.

127. Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Widespread on the marshes and along shores up to 14 May and from 26 August.

128. Grey-rumped Sandpiper *Heteroscelus brevipes*

Fewer records than usual. Two at Chek Keng on 7 May and four there the next day. Fourteen at Starling Inlet on 14 and 28 May. One in Deep Bay on 1 October, two at the RHKYC, Kellett Island on 2 October, at least three at Deep Bay on 15 October and one there on 6 November.

129. Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

All reports are from Mai Po or Deep Bay between 17 April and 15 May and between 17 September and 15 October. Highest numbers were 40 on 30 April, 62 on 17 September and about 100 the next day.

130. Knot *Calidris canutus*

At least eight at Mai Po on 23 April and four there on 30 April.

131. Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*

Single birds at Mai Po on 30 April and 9 May. Between one and five in Deep Bay between 21 and 24 September.

132. Eastern Little Stint (Red-necked Stint) *Calidris ruficollis*

Fewer sightings and smaller numbers than usual. Nineteen at San Tin on 27 February and one at Tong Fuk on 9 April. All other records are from the Deep Bay area between 2 April and 14 May and on 24 September and 15 October. Numbers rose in spring to about 100 on 30 April, but not more than six were seen in autumn.

133. Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*

All reports are from San Tin with up to 14 in the first part of the year to 24 April and up to ten from 9 October.

134. Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Recorded at Mai Po and San Tin up to 20 March and from 6 November. Usually in small numbers but over 30 in February and over 20 in November.

135. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*

Reported in spring between 17 and 30 April at Mai Po and San Tin with maximum of over 20 on 23 April. Only autumn record was a single bird in Deep Bay on 1 October.

- 136. Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*
A flock of 23 on the foreshore at Pak Nai on 16 January with a single bird at Tsim Bei Tsui the same day. About 20 at San Tin on 2 April, one at Mai Po on 18 September and 20 November, at least five in Deep Bay on 15 October and two at Nim Wan on 12 November.
- 137. Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*
Recorded in the Deep Bay area between 2 April and 14 May and between 24 September and 15 October. Most reports are of small numbers except for 50 and 200 at Mai Po on 23 and 30 April respectively. Maximum count in autumn was only five.
- 138. Sanderling** *Crocethia alba*
Single birds in Yuen Long Creek on 16 January and at Mai Po on 17 April and 15 May.
- 140. Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Limicola falcinellus*
Very few records, all at Mai Po, of this normally regular passage migrant. Single birds on 17 April and 8 May, and about ten on 30 April.
- 141. Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*
All reports are from San Tin with one on 15 and 16 January and 5 February and three on 27 February and 28 December.
- 142. Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus*
Small groups or flocks sighted in spring with up to 20 at Starling Inlet and 34 in Victoria Harbour between 7 and 13 April. In the autumn five were seen off Sai Kung on 1 October and two in Deep Bay on 15 October.
- 143. Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*
Large wintering flock resident at San Tin up to 24 April and from 17 September. Maximum counts were 33, 50, 56 and 55 in January, February, March and April respectively, and 10, 65 and at least 100 in September, October and November (no count for December). Also occasionally seen at Mai Po with up to ten on 15 April and single birds on 15 May and 18 September.
- 144. Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*
The wintering flock in Deep Bay numbered 97 on 16 January and 130 on 20 March. In the autumn recorded only at Mai Po and San Tin between 6 and 27 November with maximum of 89 at San Tin on 20 November.
- 145. Oriental Pratincole** *Glareola maldivarum*
Widespread in spring between 30 March and 7 May with sightings of up to nine at Aberdeen, Victoria Harbour, Mai Po and Ham Tin and 80 at Kai Tak on 31 March. The only autumn record was one at Mai Po on 8 October.
- 146. Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*
The main roost continued to be on the beach at Pak Nai with several hundred birds usually present in winter. Maximum count was 344 on 16 January, with sightings in spring up to 13 April. Also reported regularly in groups of up to 20 in the inner Deep Bay area, Victoria Harbour and southern approaches.

- 151. Brown-headed Gull** *Larus brunnicephalus*
An immature was seen at Mai Po on 16 and 28 January.
- 152. Black-tailed Gull** *Larus crassirostris*
Two immatures at Starling Inlet on 11 January, single immatures at Pak Nai on 16 January and Mai Po on 20 March, and one adult at Starling Inlet on 12 February.
- 153. Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*
Very common and numerous in winter in Deep Bay and Victoria Harbour with flocks of several hundred regularly seen. Also counts of over 500 at Starling Inlet and Tolo Harbour and over 150 at Lo Wu. Between 2,000 and 3,000 roosted at San Tin in December, and the total number in Hong Kong waters was clearly far greater. Extreme dates were up to 9 April and from 15 October.
- 154. Saunders' Gull** *Larus saundersi*
All reports are from Mai Po with two on 27 February, three on 20 March, one on 18 September and two or three on 19 November.
- 156. White-winged Black Tern** *Chidonias leucoptera*
Up to 30 at Mai Po on 14 and 15 May, and several identified in a mixed flock of over 30 marsh terns in Deep Bay on 1 October.
- 157. Whiskered Tern** *Chidonias hybrida*
About 20 widely dispersed over the sea south of Lamma on 28 August and one at Mai Po on 17 September.
- 158. Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*
Two in Victoria Harbour on 9 April, at least two at Castle Peak Bay the next day, about 15 at Mai Po on 13 April and single birds there on 14 May and 25 June (the latter a new late date).
- 159. Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia*
Up to 30 recorded at Mai Po between 13 April and 29 May except for the maximum of 150 on 16 April. Also occasional reports in the winter months at Pak Nai with not more than two in January and November rising to 27 on 18 February and 38 on 18 March.
- 160. Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*
At least eight near Pearl Island on 10 September and up to 40 in Victoria Harbour and West Lamma Channel between 12 and 25 September. Also up to seven terns in Port Shelter, 15 at Tai Long Wan and at least 34 in Double Haven between 10 and 38 September were probably this species.
- 161. Black-naped Tern** *Sterna sumatrana*
At least seven noted in the vicinity of Tap Mun on 15 June. On 26 June a flock of about 50 was seen around a nearby rocky island, and a landing was made there two weeks later on 9 July (ARL). The terns, still present, flew anxiously around and even dive-bombed the intruders. Although no eggs or young were found, it was then realised for the first time that the birds were almost certainly breeding.

An attempt to confirm this on 16 July was thwarted by bad weather, but up to 13 adults and one juvenile were seen (MLC). The following weekend on 23 July a sampan party was able to approach close to the island. Between 20 and 40 adults were present and two young, about three weeks old, and one even younger separate bird were seen and photographed on the rock ledges being fed small fish by the adults (CAV, HEA *et al*).

Terns continued to be seen in the area in decreasing numbers up to 14 August, with one isolated record of three in Long Harbour on 16 October. This is the first occasion on which this species (or indeed any seabird) has been recorded breeding in Hong Kong.

165.1 White-bellied Green Pigeon *Treron sieboldii*

A male seen along the Sek Kong Catchment (100m asl) at about 1000h on 25 January (GCHC). This is the first record for Hong Kong.

The following is a precis of the submitted field notes:—

(i) The bird was perched about 2m from the ground in a roadside tree in a well-wooded area and was viewed for about 5 minutes down to 15m and in flight.

(ii) A direct comparison with two Rufous Turtle-doves was made and the bird was at least as large or even a little bulkier but this could have been the effect of the difference in colour. (It is worth noting that Rufous Turtle-doves are considered very rare along this well-watched catchment).

(iii) Obviously a pigeon both in behaviour and appearance.

(iv) The most remarkable field point was the colour of the bird. Face and breast a beautiful yellowish-green; belly white to whitish-yellow under the vent and this area was barred with some black; nape mantle and tail dark green; primaries slaty-grey with some white showing, the wing showed a maroon bar which was obvious in flight. The bill was bluish and the legs and feet a striking bright red; iris reddish. The plumage was fresh with no signs of abrasion. No calls were heard.

v) The observer was using 10×40 Leitz binoculars and is familiar with all other local dove species. It was very cold (down to 5°C) and bright.

This species has a variety of common names: White-bellied Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon (Goodwin), White-bellied Pigeon (King), Japanese Green Pigeon, Siebold's Pigeon (Cheng), Siebold's Green Pigeon (Etchecopar & Hue), Green Pigeon (Gruson) and White-bellied Green Pigeon (Clements).

Its range extends from Vietnam in the south, across China to Taiwan and Japan. In the northern parts of Japan it is only resident in summer. Occurs in both deciduous and mixed woodlands but with a strong preference for the remaining areas of primeval forest. Most often in wooded hills or wooded mountain slopes. Feeds largely on fruits.

The nominate race *sieboldii* breeds in Japan and possibly north China. Other races breed in Fukien, Taiwan (r. *sororius*), south China, Hainan and Vietnam (r. *murielae*). This last race, which has been recorded in Kweichow and Kiangsi, is distinctive inasmuch the male has a rich golden tinge on the crown, forehead and breast (Goodwin).

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166. Rufous Turtle-dove *Streptopelia orientalis*

Recorded from widespread areas of the New Territories and Hong Kong Island with largest concentrations (up to 30) at Tai Po Kau and Mai Po (roosts in mangroves). Extreme dates were until 14 May and from 30 October.

167. Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

Common and widespread.

168. Red Turtle-dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica*

Scarce. Only two spring records: three at the Grenade Range on 24 April and two at Mai Po on 1 May. More frequently recorded in the autumn, between 1 October and 13 November from widespread areas (including Hong Kong Island and Kowloon) but always in small numbers. Five at Mong Tseng on 27 December.

170. Himalayan Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus*

An adult at Fung Yuen on 19 March.

171. Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus*

Heard calling in widespread areas of the New Territories and Hong Kong Island between 23 April and 15 June. Considered commoner than usual.

- 172. Large Hawk-cuckoo** *Cuculus spaverioides*
Recorded from Sek Kong, Tai Po Kau, Lantau, Lam Tsuen Valley and Hong Kong Island between 1 April and 18 June.
- 174. Plaintive Cuckoo** *Cacomantis merulinus*
Much less common than usual. Recorded from widespread areas of the New Territories and occasionally on Hong Kong Island. Mostly calling during late April and early May but also as early as 2 January; last heard 18 June. Two sight records of hepatic birds.
- 175. Red-winged Crested Cuckoo** *Clamator coromandus*
Four spring records: a pair at Big Wave Bay in April, heard at Sek Kong on 24 April, two at Chek Keng on 7 May and a pair at the Chinese University between 12 and 22 May. One at Wu Kau Tang on 16 October.
- 177. Koel** *Eudynamis scolopacea*
Recorded throughout the year from widespread areas of the New Territories and on Hong Kong Island, where it is an urban species. Generally scarce outside of the main calling period (April to June).
- 178. Greater Coucal** *Centropus sinensis*
Widespread, including Hong Kong Island. Juveniles seen in November and December.
- 179. Lesser Coucal** *Centropus bengalensis*
Widespread but local, generally preferring hilly areas of the New Territories. Single birds at Kowloon Tong (2 January) and Mount Nicholson (November) were unusual records.
- 182. Collared Scops Owl** *Otus bakkamoena*
Local. Recorded from the Chinese University, Pak Tam Au (specimen), Tsung Pak Long and Lai Chi Wo in the New Territories and at Pokfulam and Mount Nicholson on Hong Kong Island.
- 186. Brown Hawk Owl** *Ninox scutulata*
One at Cheung Chau on 21 May being mobbed by various passerines.
- 187. Eagle Owl** *Bubo bubo*
One at Siu Lam on 22 May. A freshly dead bird was found in a stream-bed at Castle Peak on 6 March; the cause of death was not apparent, but starvation or even poisoning could not be ruled out.
- 189. Savannah Nightjar** *Caprimulgus affinis*
A series of records of at least three birds at Siu Lam between 24 March and 4 June. A female flushed at Mai Po on 19 November. Also heard at Pat Heung on 15 May.
- 189.1 White-throated Needletail** *Hirundapus caudacutus*
Twelve plus at Mai Po on 17 April and two there in a mixed flock of swifts on 30 April.

- 190. Large White-rumped Swift** *Apus pacificus*
Widespread during the spring passage (5 February to 7 May) with flocks of up to 50. Five hundred plus migrating over Sunset Peak on 26 August.
- 191. House Swift** *Apus affinis*
Recorded throughout the year from widespread areas. An unusual record of one roosting on a lightning conductor at Sandy Bay.
- 192. Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*
Recorded from Mai Po and Plover Cove throughout the year. Also reported from Deep Bay south of Mai Po, San Tin, Luk Keng and Lai Chi Wo. Two adults were seen feeding a juvenile at Mai Po on 5 June; two juveniles were being fed by an adult at Plover Cove on 28 May and two adults and two juveniles were seen together at Lai Chi Wo on 1 and 2 September. An encouraging series of records for this species, which has been adopted as the symbol for the WWF HK Mai Po Reserve.
- 193. Crested Kingfisher** *Ceryle lugubris*
A pair present at Plover Cove from 20 to 31 December was seen by several observers. Aggressive behaviour, such as chasing off Pied Kingfishers, was noted and on 24 December an excavated nest hole was found in a bank above the reservoir. Last reported in 1968.
- 194. Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*
Recorded throughout the year from widespread areas.
- 195. White-breasted Kingfisher** *Halcyon smyrnensis*
Recorded throughout the year from widespread areas. Bred successfully at Mount Nicholson and breeding was strongly suspected at the Grenade Range, Luk Keng and Chi Ma Wan.
- 196. Black-capped Kingfisher** *Halcyon pileata*
Recorded throughout the year from widespread areas. Breeding suspected in the Shouson Hill area.
- [**197. Blue-tailed Bee-eater** *Merops philippinus*
Bee-eaters not specifically identified were reported from the Grenade Range (three on 25 April), Stanley (two on 7 May) and the Chinese University (one on 25 June). It should be noted that the Blue-throated Bee-eater *Merops viridis* is a summer visitor to South China.]
- 198. Broad-billed Roller** *Eurystomus orientalis*
At least five separate birds recorded between Chek Keng and Tai Long on 7 May. One at Cheung Chau on 21 May and single birds at Mount Nicholson on 11 May and 5 June (new late date). One at Hong Kong University between 17 and 20 October.
- 200. Great Barbet** *Megalaima virens*
Recorded at Tai Po Kau, Chinese University, Lam Tsuen Valley, Sek Kong and Tai Long between March and June.

203. Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*
Fewer records than usual. Single birds at the Grenade Range on 5 February, 23 April (equals previous late date) and 28 December, Mai Po on 27 February and 20 March and at Hong Kong University on 7 November.

206. Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
As usual common in the summer months but also occasionally seen in January, February, November and December. Successful breeding was noted at Kowloon Tong and Pat Heung. A striking bird with orange-rufous underparts was seen at Mai Po on 30 April.

207. Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*
Two at Tong Fuk, Lantau on 9 April is the only spring record. Ten at Mai Po on 26 November and one there on 7 December. Good numbers passed through on 27 December when up to 50 were seen at Mong Tseng and ten at Lok Ma Chau.

[**208/208.1 House Martin/Asian House Martin** *Delichon urbica/dasypus*
Single house-martins, not specifically identified, were seen at Yuen Long on 23 April and San Tin on 19 November.]

209. Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*
All records are from Mai Po. Two on 2 January and up to five between 30 April and 14 May.

211. Rufous-backed Shrike *Lanius schach*
Common and widespread. Noted feeding on a tree frog which had been tightly wedged in the fork of a branch.

213. Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*
One at Wong Chuk Hang between 27 January and 14 April. One near Castle Peak on 7 March. Single birds at Mount Nicholson on 25 April and 3 May. One at Aberdeen on 1 May. A few widespread records during the autumn passage from 18 September to 3 November. One at Sek Kong on 18 December.

214. Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*
A male at Ting Kau on 17 July. An immature male at Pak Nai on 1 October. A male and a female at Lai Chi Wo on 16 October. One in the Lam Tsuen Valley on 13 November. Also known to have been present on the Fanling Golf Course during the summer months but no record cards were submitted.

215. Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocerus*
Common and widespread between April and October. Reported from San Tin, Mong Tseng, Long Valley, Three Fathoms Cove and Shouson Hill outside of this period.

216. Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*
In the spring single birds were seen at Cheung Chau on 22 March and Tung Chung on 9 April. In the latter part of the year reported from Sai Kung on 28 October, Mount Nicholson on 15 November and Fung Yuen on 3 December (following a flock of Scarlet Minivets).

217. Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*
Reported throughout the year from widespread areas but much less common in the winter months. Up to seven wintered in the Shouson Hill area. A juvenile was seen at Mount Nicholson on 24 June.

218. Chinese Starling *Sturnus sinensis*
Mostly recorded from the Deep Bay area in small numbers but sizeable flocks at Mai Po on 8 January (200+) and 28 December (55+). Also seen on Lantau and at King's Park and the Zoological and Botanical Gardens. No records submitted for the period 24 April to 23 September.

218.1 Purple-backed Starling *Sturnus sturninus*
One at Mai Po on 13 April.

219. Silky Starling *Sturnus sericeus*
Mostly recorded from the northern and western areas of the New Territories in flocks of up to 50 until 19 March and from 3 November. Notably, over 100 at San Tin on 5 February. Two at Wong Chuk Hang (Hong Kong Island) on 9 November.

220. Grey Starling *Sturnus cineraceus*
Flocks of up to 40 in the Deep Bay area and Long Valley until 24 April (a new late date). Again reported in the Deep Bay area from 5 November. Two at Wong Chuk Hang (Hong Kong Island) on 10 January.

221. Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*
Two at Lok Ma Chau on 26 February.

222. Black-necked Starling *Sturnus nigricollis*
Locally common in the New Territories but also regularly reported from Shouson Hill (range expansion). Four at Kowloon Tong on 2 January. Breeding recorded from Pat Heung, Chek Keng, Ham Tin and Chi Ma Wan.

223. Crested Mynah *Acridotheres cristatellus*
Common and widespread.

224. Jay *Garrulus glandarius*
Up to six regularly seen in the Plover Cove area until 13 April and from 6 December. Single birds in the Tai Po area on 15 February, Tai Po Kau on 24 April and Chek Keng on 7 May. Several in the Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve between 17 September and 2 October.

225. Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*
Locally common.

226. Magpie *Pica pica*
Common and widespread. Breeding activity noted on 9 January and 17 December.

227. Treepie *Crypsirina formosae*
Up to twenty recorded in the Pokfulam area throughout the year, which strongly suggests breeding. Single birds seen at Sek Kong on 15 January and Three Fathoms Cove on 10 December. Not previously recorded between 25 April and 6 October.

228. Jungle Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*
Recorded regularly from widespread areas including Hong Kong Island, Lantau and occasionally Mai Po (unusual).

229. Collared Crow *Corvus torquatus*
Always at Mai Po but usually in small numbers, however at least 50 counted there on 17 September. Also seen carrying nesting material at Mai Po on 5 December. Otherwise generally common in the Deep Bay area and regularly reported from the eastern New Territories.

230. Black-winged Cuckoo Shrike *Coracina melaschistos*
Up to four at Hong Kong University during both winters. Also reported from Shuen Wan, Chek Keng, Tai Long, Mount Nicholson, Lam Tsuen Valley and Tai Po Kau. Extreme dates were until 7 May and from 12 September.

233. Ashy Minivet *Pericrocotus divaricatus*
Twenty at Tai Po Kau and two at Tai O on 9 April and a female at Kadoorie Beach on 16 April. A small flock at Mong Tseng on 5 November.

235. Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus*
Flocks of up to 50 at Tai Po Kau throughout the year (fewer in summer). Six at Shuen Wan on 19 March, a flock of 17 female/immatures at Fung Yuen on 3 December and a female at Plover Cove on 28 December.

236. Chestnut Bulbul *Hypsipetes castanotus*
A flock of six at Tai Po Kau on 19 March. One near Shouson Hill between 1 and 4 April. One in full song near Shouson Hill on 24 December.

237. Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes madagascariensis*
Up to 100 reported from Tai Po Kau between 15 February and 2 April (about 60% with white heads). One at Mount Davis on 13 February. A flock of 20 at She Shan on 15 February.

238. Crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*
Common and widespread. First young reported 15 May. A nest with three eggs found at Mount Nicholson in late June (all fledged).

239. Chinese Bulbul *Pycnonotus sinensis*
Common and widespread. First young reported 9 May. Found on the Ninepins on 26 June.

240. Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster*
Locally common. Recently fledged young seen at Sandy Bay on 25 June.

241. Black-faced Laughing Thrush *Garrulax perspicillatus*
Common and widespread. Breeding activity noted from 12 March.

242. Black-throated Laughing Thrush *Garrulax chinensis*
Present at Mount Nicholson throughout the year. On Hong Kong Island was also noted at Hong Kong University, Tai Tam, Mount Cameron, Lady Clementi's Ride (regularly) and at the Zoological and Botanical Gardens. One seen and heard singing near Tuen Mun between 14 February and 13 April, which is an unusual mainland record.

243. Hwamei *Garrulax canorus*
Widespread throughout the territory, probably the second most common babbler.

244. Greater Necklaced Laughing Thrush *Garrulax pectoralis*
A small party recorded at Tai Po Kau between 29 October and 27 November. Four or five seen on the north side of the Lam Tsuen Valley on 25 November.

245. Chinese Babax *Babax lanceolatus*
Two small parties on Tai Mo Shan (above 650m) on 25 June.

247. White-bellied Yuhina *Yuhina zantholeuca*
Two at Tai Po Kau on 2 and 12 April. On the latter date the birds were seen to be nest building but breeding was not subsequently confirmed. Reported on other occasions but no record cards submitted.

248. Asian Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi*
Single female/immatures reported from Lai Chi Wo and Hong Kong University on the autumn passage between 2 September and 23 October.

249. Japanese Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone atrocaudata*
Single birds at Tai Po Kau on 6 September and 16 October (not full-plumaged males). A female on the Soko Islands on 25 September.

250. Grey-headed Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*
Up to five in Sek Kong woods until 16 March. One at Tai Po Kau on 2 April. One or two returned to Sek Kong woods from 22 October (a new early date).

251. Black-naped Monarch Flycatcher *Hypothymis azurea*
A male at Hong Kong University on 7 October. A female and a young male at Kowloon Tong between 16 and 23 October. A male at Mong Tseng on 5 November. A male and a female at Sek Kong on 10 December.

252. Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa latirostris*
Reported from widespread areas until 23 April and from 15 September. Six at Lung Kwu Tan (Castle Peak) on 14 October. Fewer records than usual.

- 253. Grey-spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa griseisticta*
Single birds at Ho Sheung Heung on 23 April and at Mount Nicholson between 8 and 11 May. One at Shouson Hill on 9 September and three at Lung Kwu Tan (Castle Peak) on 14 October. An extraordinary winter record of one at Wong Chuk Hang between 10 and 27 January.
- 255. Ferruginous Flycatcher** *Muscicapa ferruginea*
One at Tai Mei Tuk between 26 and 30 March. One at Tai Po Kau on 2 April.
- 256. Verditer Flycatcher** *Muscicapa thalassina*
A male at Tai Mei Tuk on 6 March. One at Hang Ha Po on 19 November and one on the north side of the Lam Tsuen Valley on 25 November. A male at Tai Mei Tuk from 25 December.
- 257. Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva*
Reported from widespread areas until 15 February and from 14 October. Occasionally two or three birds in a small area.
- 258. Robin Flycatcher** *Ficedula mugimaki*
Single female/immature birds at Tai Po Kau on 1 April, Mount Nicholson 2 to 11 November and Tsung Pak Long on 16 November.
- 259. Narcissus Flycatcher** *Ficedula narcissina*
Single males at Sek Kong woods on 2 April and Tung Chung, Lantau on 9 April.
- 261. Hainan Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis hainana*
A male in Tai Po Kau on 2 April.
- 262. Blue and White Flycatcher** *Cyanoptila cyanomelana*
Strong spring passage between 1 and 9 April. Records were submitted for Tai Po Kau (at least ten males and five females but probably as many as 50 separate birds on 2 April), Mount Nicholson, Shouson Hill, Lady Clementi's Ride (up to five), Shap Long and Tung Chung (a male and two females) on Lantau. A corresponding strong passage was also noted in Macau at this time (CAV).
- 263. Chinese Bush Warbler** *Cettia diphone*
Quite common and widespread (including Hong Kong Island, Lantau and Kau Sai Chau) until 23 April and from 3 November. Singing birds at Mai Po in the spring and one heard and seen there on 4 June was a new late date.
- 264. Short-tailed Bush Warbler** *Cettia squameiceps*
Fewer records than usual. Two in Tai Po Kau and one at Sek Kong Woods on 2 April. Single birds at Hong Kong University on 19 September and on the Soko Islands on 25 September.
- 265. Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella certhiola*
One at Mai Po on 17 September.

- 267. Von Schrenck's Reed-warbler** *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*
Recorded at Mai Po on 17 April, 23 April (several) and 19 November.
- 268. Great Reed-warbler** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*
Common at Mai Po between 17 April and 15 May, and between 10 September and 19 November. Occasionally seen elsewhere, notably one in the Lam Tsuen Valley on 25 November.
- 268.1 Thick-billed Warbler** *Phragmaticola aedon*
An adult seen and subsequently caught in a mist net at Mai Po on 15 October (MLC). This is the second record for Hong Kong. The submitted detailed notes and measurements include a series of good photographs.
- 269. Dusky Warbler** *Phylloscopus fuscatus*
Common and widespread in suitable habitat until 17 April and from 1 October.
- 270. Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*
Common and widespread until 23 April and from 1 October but noticeably scarcer during very cold weather in January and February.
- 271. Pallas's Warbler** *Phylloscopus proregulus*
A few records from widespread areas until 13 March and from 7 December.
- 272. Arctic Warbler** *Phylloscopus borealis*
Single birds at Tai Long on 7 May and Mount Nicholson on 19 May are the only spring records submitted. Several records from widespread areas for the autumn passage between 30 August and 30 October.
- 273. Pale-legged Willow-warbler** *Phylloscopus tenellipes*
One at Kadoorie Beach on 21 November.
- 276. Yellow-eyed Flycatcher-warbler** *Seicercus burkii*
One at Mount Nicholson on 7 December.
- 279. Long-tailed Tailorbird** *Orthotomus sutorius*
Common and widespread.
- 280.1 Large Grass Warbler** *Graminicola benghalensis*
Up to four recorded from the summit area of Tai Mo Shan between 4 and 25 June. Also, up to ten on Sunset Peak (Lantau) between 26 August and 2 September and one probable heard near the summit of Nam Kwo Chau (Ninepins) on 26 June.
- 281. Brown Wren-warbler** *Prinia subflava*
Common at Mai Po throughout the year. Also noted at Long Valley, Pak Nai and Shuen Wan.
- 283. Yellow-bellied Wren-warbler** *Prinia flaviventris*
Common and widespread wherever suitable habitat occurs.

- 283. Fantail Warbler** *Cisticola juncidis*
Recorded from widespread areas, in suitable habitat, until 23 April and from 1 October.
- 285. Red-tailed Robin** *Erithacus sibilans*
Four records of single birds at the Chinese University on 15 February and 1 April, Mount Nicholson on 4 April and Shap Long, Lantau on 9 April.
- 286. Bluethroat** *Erithacus svecica*
Two at San Tin on 8 January and one at Three Fathoms Cove on 3 December.
- 288. Rubythroat** *Erithacus calliope*
Heard and occasionally seen in widespread areas, including Hong Kong Island, until 23 April and from 29 October.
- 289. Red-flanked Bluetail** *Tarsiger cyanurus*
Recorded from widespread areas until 19 March and from 10 November. As usual, sightings of females and immatures predominated.
- 290. Magpie Robin** *Copsychus saularis*
Common and widespread in suitable habitat. Singing birds first noted on 12 February. Several broods were raised in nest boxes at Mount Nicholson during April and May.
- 291. Daurian Redstart** *Phoenicurus aureoreus*
Quite common and widespread until 20 March and from 3 November.
- 292. Plumbeous Water-redstart** *Rhyacornis fuliginosus*
Three records from Bride's Pool. A male, female and immature on 9 January and two female/immatures on 28 and 31 December.
- 294. Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata*
Common and widespread in suitable habitat until 23 April and from 25 September. A strong passage was noted in the northern New Territories on 23 April.
- 295. Grey Bushchat** *Saxicola ferrea*
Single males at Hong Kong University on 25 November and Tai Long Wan on 31 December.
- 296. Blue Rock Thrush** *Monticola solitaria*
Quite common and widespread, including males of both races, until 14 May and from 25 September.
- 298. Violet Whistling Thrush** *Myiophonus caeruleus*
Locally common. A juvenile with an adult at Mount Nicholson on 11 July.

- 299. Pale Thrush** *Turdus pallidus*
Only recorded from Mount Nicholson, Victoria Peak, Mai Po and the Grenade Range until 20 March. From 21 November recorded at Mount Nicholson, Hong Kong University (up to ten), Wah Fu, Kadoorie Beach, Sek Kong and Tung Chung.
- 300. Eye-browed Thrush** *Turdus obscurus*
A male and a female at Mount Nicholson from 12 to 16 February. Very large numbers (at least 100) present in Tai Po Kau on 16 April. A male at She Shan on 23 April. Up to four at Mount Nicholson between 20 and 22 November. Two at Hong Kong University from 30 November.
- 301. Brown Thrush** *Turdus chrysolaus*
One at Tai Mei Tuk between 15 and 26 February. At least ten at Hong Kong University from 28 November (a new early date).
- 302. Grey-backed Thrush** *Turdus hortulorum*
Quite common and widespread until 10 April and from 15 November. Occasionally several over a small area.
- 303. Dusky Thrush** *Turdus naumanni*
Single birds at Lok Ma Chau and Sek Kong Woods on 8 January. Two at Mong Tseng on 16 January. Two at Hong Kong University between 28 and 30 November. Two at Mai Po on 27 December.
- 304. Blackbird** *Turdus merula*
Regularly reported from widespread areas until 16 April and from 3 November. Small flocks of up to ten noted.
- 305. Grey Thrush** *Turdus cardis*
Single birds at Shouson Hill and Aberdeen Reservoir on 17 and 29 January respectively. One at Sek Kong on 16 March. Locally common from 12 November; ten were seen feeding in and around fruiting Camphor trees *Cinnamomum parthenoxylon* at Hong Kong University on 28 November.
- 308. White's Thrush** *Zoothera dauma*
One at Mount Nicholson throughout January. One at Sek Kong Woods on 8 and 16 January. One at Tai Mei Tuk between 6 and 14 March and one at Sek Kong on 16 March. One at Hong Kong University on 29 and 30 November, one at Deep Water Bay Golf Course on 14 December, one at Wong Chuk Hang on 21 December and two at Wah Fu on 24 December.
- 310. Great Tit** *Parus major*
Common and widespread in wooded areas.
- 313. Richard's Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae*
Quite common and widespread. Summer records from Sharp Peak and Tai Mo Shan may be of the race *sinensis*.
- 314. Indian Tree Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni*
Common and widespread until 24 April and from 23 October.

- 315. Red-throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus*
Up to ten at San Tin until 27 February. Two at Pui O on 9 April. Four at Sek Kong on 18 December.
- 317. Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta*
Up to 15 on Water Hyacinth *Eichhornia crassipes* at San Tin between 15 January and 27 February. This is the first record of this species for several years but it may possibly have been overlooked.
- 318. Upland Pipit** *Anthus sylvanus*
Recorded at Tai Mo Shan (above 600m) on 25 June and on Sunset Peak, Lantau between 20 August and 3 September (15-20 birds).
- 319. Forest Wagtail** *Dendronanthus indicus*
During the autumn passage single birds were recorded at Lady Clementi's Ride, Hong Kong University and Pak Nai, between 27 August and 15 October.
- 320. White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*
Common and widespread until 23 April and from 1 October.
- 321. Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*
Quite common and widespread until 24 April and from 20 August. A strong passage was noted at Mai Po on 23 April and 1 October.
- 322. Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*
Locally common (particularly during passages) until 9 May and from 29 August. Adults of the grey-headed race *macronyx* were seen at Mai Po on 27 February.
- 324. Fork-tailed Sunbird** *Aethopyga christinae*
Regularly recorded at Tai Po Kau, Shouson Hill and Mount Nicholson. Also noted at Sek Kong Woods, Beas River, Chek Keng, Tai Long and the Pokfulam area.
- 325. White-eye** *Zosterops japonica*
Common and widespread.
- 326. Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum cruentatum*
Only regularly recorded at Tai Mei Tuk and Shouson Hill. Also noted at Tai Po Kau, Tsung Pak Long and Hong Kong University.
- 328. Black-tailed Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes migratoria*
Widespread reports until 24 March and again from 6 November. Notably, over 50 in Sek Kong Woods on 8 January.
- 329. Chinese Greenfinch** *Carduelis sinica*
Very few records. Only regularly reported from the Tuen Mun and Siu Lam area. Also seen at Sek Kong, Pak Nai and Shuen Wan in the winter months.
- 331. Common Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus*
Up to ten at Sek Kong Woods between 6 and 16 March.

- 332. Masked Bunting** *Emberiza spodocephala*
Quite common and widespread until 14 May (equals late date) and from 3 November.
- 333. Tristram's Bunting** *Emberiza tristrami*
Noted in Tai Po Kau on 19 March.
- 334. Chestnut Bunting** *Emberiza rutila*
Separate male and female in the Lam Tsuen Valley on 19 November. A female/immature at Mount Nicholson on 24 November.
- 335. Yellow-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza aureola*
Strong passages noted at Mai Po during April (peaking 23-30 April) and from 16 October to 5 November (over 100 present on 27 October). One at Lai Chi Wo on 14 October. Single males at Wong Chuk Hang in January may have been escapes.
- 337. Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla*
Locally common and widespread (including Hong Kong Island) until 8 May; occasionally in small flocks. Reported again in smaller numbers, from 1 November.
- 339. Crested Bunting** *Melophus lathami*
A male at She Shan on 10 April. Singing males heard at Sharp Peak on 7 May. A male at Sunset Peak on 2 September. A female at the Chinese University on 6 December. Indications are that this species is declining locally.
- 340. Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*
Commensurate with man.
- 341. Chestnut Munia** *Lonchura malacca*
Only odd birds seen at Mai Po between 7 September and 15 October.
- 342. Spotted Munia** *Lonchura punctulata*
Quite common and widespread (including Hong Kong Island), usually in small flocks of up to 30.
- 343. White-backed Munia** *Lonchura striata*
Regularly reported, in small flocks, from Tai Po Kau, Mount Nicholson and the Shouson Hill area. Successful breeding was confirmed at two localities on Hong Kong Island. Also noted at Sunset Peak, Route Twisk and Kowloon Reservoirs.
- 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*
Reported from Tai Po Kau, Tai Long, Chek Keng, Chi Ma Wan, Tai Mei Tuk (regularly), Luk Keng, Tai Tam and Lai Chi Wo.

502. Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*
Common in small flocks in the Victoria Barracks/Zoological and Botanical Gardens/Central Government Offices area throughout the year, occasionally straying to Happy Valley and Mount Nicholson. An occupied breeding hole was found at St. John's Cathedral in the spring. Regularly seen in the Deep Bay area, sometimes in sizeable flocks (70+ flying north over Mai Po on 27 October). Also occasionally seen on the south side of Hong Kong Island (flock of 23 at Wong Chuk Hang on 11 November). Isolated records from Tsung Pak Long and Sek Kong.

503. Common Mynah *Acridotheres tristis*
Two at Long Valley on 26 February. Four at Sek Kong on 9 September and a flock of five at Mong Tseng on 12 November. One regularly seen in Causeway Bay in May was certainly an escape.

504. White-cheeked Laughing Thrush *Garrulax sannio*
Reported from Mount Nicholson (up to five throughout the year), the Zoological and Botanical Gardens (up to ten throughout the year), Wah Fu (up to ten), Tai Tam (four), Cheung Chau (two carrying food on 21 May), Yuen Tuen and She Shan.

505. Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava*
A flock of five female/immatures at Pui O on 8 October.

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

601. Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua sulphurea*
Up to 31 seen daily in the Victoria Barracks area. Small flocks quite regularly seen at Mount Nicholson, where a bird of the citron-crested race *citrinocristata* was identified on 30 January. A pair successfully bred at Hong Kong University in the spring producing one fledged young. Other reports on Hong Kong Island included Wong Chuk Hang (two), Aberdeen Reservoirs (r. *citrinocristata*) and Shouson Hill (up to eight regularly).

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

708. Pekin Robin *Leiothrix lutea*
Single birds at Mount Nicholson in early September and Island School in November were almost certainly escapes.

709. Chestnut-flanked White-eye *Zosterops erythropleura*
One found in a garden at Victoria Peak on 5 and 6 November.

710. Java Sparrow *Padda oryzivora*
Two at Island School from 17 October. Two at Kowloon Tong on 26 October.

711. White-headed Munia *Lonchura maja*
An immature at Hong Kong University on 12 November.

712. Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus*
A male at Mai Po (with munias) on 17 September.

715. Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus*
Obvious escapes reported from Mount Nicholson and Hong Kong University.

720. Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*
A winter-plumaged male feeding with Indian Tree Pipits at Mount Nicholson on 17 November. This record corresponds with an immature seen in the same locality between 16 and 18 November 1981. The possibility of this being a genuinely wild bird cannot be ruled out.

723. Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*
A small flock was regularly seen on the south side of Hong Kong Island (usually four birds).

725. Azure-winged Magpie *Cyanopica cyanus*
A free-flying resident population of over 20 in the Zoological and Botanical Gardens; nest building observed on 23 April. One reported from Kowloon Park in December.

726. Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata*
A male at Kai Tak on 23 July.

727. Yellow-fronted Canary *Serinus mozambicus*
One at Mai Po on 9 October.

732. Grey-headed Parrotbill *Paradoxornis gularis*
One at Mount Nicholson on 1 January. Seven at Kowloon Reservoirs in February.

740. Fischer's Lovebird *Agapornis fischeri*
Single birds at Mount Nicholson from 21 to 23 July and at Kowloon Tong on 7 December.

F. SPECIES OF WHICH ALL PUBLISHED RECORDS MUST BE REGARDED AS DOUBTFUL BECAUSE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF MISTAKEN IDENTIFICATION

818. Mountain Bush Warbler *Cettia fortipes*
In view of the difficulty in identifying this species in the field, the following notes are given (in full) of a bird seen and heard at Kadoorie Beach (1230 and 1700h), 19m Castle Peak Road on 1 December by MLC.

'First attracted by very soft "tuk, tuk" from thick bamboo scrub. Bird could not be seen but responded to "pishing" by calling more loudly. Came quite close but would not break cover. Obviously a great skulker, although not shy. Eventually by peering into bush from underneath I was

able to see the bird hopping about from within at close range (3m) without binoculars. It was very small, c.4". Plump round body, relatively long bill for its size and actions immediately recalled a Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* but its tail although short, was not cocked and it had no discernible barring on body or wings. Very nondescript. Upperparts dull brown; underparts greyish-buff with very little contrast. A slightly paler indistinct supercillium. Appeared uniform both above and below. Legs not black; appeared horn. Eye dark. Bill colour indeterminate. Once when it flew to cover between scrub the upperparts were seen to be rufous in daylight. However, the bird was much smaller and stubbier than nearby female Chinese Bush Warbler *Cettia diphone*. On landing it uttered a shrill trill — rather wren-like and not as harsh as Chinese Bush Warbler'.

The observer provided an accompanying sketch.

Although this nondescript bird may fit available information on several little-known *Cettia* and *Bradypterus* species, it is pertinent to note that the behaviour and description closely follow that given by La Touche and the Caldwells for *Cettia fortipes*. It is also worth recording that a good description was taken of a very similar bird at Tai O on 20 December, 1969 (DGR).

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MAI PO WARBLER STUDY

M.L. Chalmers

Mist-netting was carried out on a limited and intermittent basis at Mai Po between 21 April 1982 and 31 December 1983. The objects were to study migrant reed and grasshopper warblers, to collect biometric data on weights and measurements and generally to add to the knowledge of the Mai Po area.

Table 1 summarises the total of 113 birds of 15 species which were trapped and subsequently released. Sufficient numbers of Great Reed, Von Schrenck's and Dusky Warblers were caught to enable the statistical analysis of measurements presented in Table 2.

No grasshopper warblers (*Locustella* sp.) were seen or caught and no new species were found. However, the Thick-billed Warbler trapped on 15 October 1983 was only the second for Hong Kong.

Wing measurements of Great Reed Warblers confirmed that birds were of race *orientalis* as expected. All had blue, purple or grey legs, pale whitish tips to the tail, except for the most heavily worn, and most showed some fine streaking on the throat.

Of particular interest were the very high spring weights recorded. Six out of seven birds were greater than 27g with the highest being 39.9g on 8 May 1983 and 43.3g on 16 May 1983, the mean being 30.8g. Williamson quotes weight ranges of 17-33g for *orientalis*. The high weights indicate that the birds were using Mai Po as a staging post for a further long-distance migrational flight. By contrast in autumn only two out of eight birds exceeded 27g and the mean was only 25.8g.

Only one warbler was noted in active moult. An adult Great Reed Warbler caught on 16 October 1982 still had the waxy sheath on the second primary and the underwing coverts, breast and tail were in active moult. *Acrocephalus* warblers are noted for their variable moult strategies with respect to their autumn migration and further study is needed locally on this aspect.

The assistance of the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries in issuing the necessary special permit for trapping is gratefully acknowledged.

References

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TABLE 1: SPECIES TRAPPED

Species	21/4/82 — 30/5/82	2/10/82 — 27/12/82	8/10/83 — 31/10/83	Total
Common Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	1	1	—	2
White-breasted Kingfisher <i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	—	—	2	2
Chinese Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus sinensis</i>	2	3	4	9
Chinese Bush Warbler <i>Cettia diphone</i>	—	1	2	3
Von Schrenck's Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus bistrigiceps</i>	1	7	—	8
Great Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	9	6	3	18
Thick-billed Warbler <i>Phragamaticola aedon</i>	—	—	1	1
Dusky Warbler <i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>	1	7	7	15
Brown Wren-warbler <i>Prinia subflava</i>	—	1	—	1
Yellow-bellied Wren-warbler <i>Prinia flaviventris</i>	1	2	—	3
Rubythroat <i>Erithacus calliope</i>	—	1	—	1
Stonechat <i>Saxicola torquata</i>	—	1	—	1
Grey-backed Thrush <i>Turdus hortulorum</i>	—	1	—	1
White-eye <i>Zosterops japonica</i>	13	29	2	44
Masked Bunting <i>Emberiza spodocephala</i>	—	4	—	4
Total	28	64	21	113

TABLE 2: MEASUREMENTS AND WEIGHTS

		Great Reed Warbler	Von Schrenck's Reed Warbler	Dusky Warbler
Wing	range	74 — 91	51 — 56	56 — 63
	number	18	7	15
	mean	81.7	53.9	58.5
	s.d.	4.2	1.6	2.2
Tail	range	61 — 76	45 — 50	45 — 56
	number	17	7	14
	mean	70.0	47.3	47.9
	s.d.	3.9	1.7	2.8
Tail/wing ratio		0.80 — 0.91	0.81 — 0.92	—
Bill (to feather)	range	28 — 30	20 — 22	20 — 23
	number	18	7	15
	mean	29.2	21.1	21.3
	s.d.	0.8	0.8	0.7
Weight	range	22.8 — 43.3	7.9 — 10.9	7.5 — 10.7
	number	16	7	15

All measurements are mm or g in accordance with Svenson (1975).

s.d. = standard deviation.

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 × 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 Hon. 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 decided that the Society will maintain a collection of reports submitted by members of birds seen during their visits to other parts of South-east Asia and China 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 unmistakable 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) Notes 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 Hon. 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. 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 Hon. Recorder may request descriptions of other species under unusual circumstances. Records submitted without descriptions may not be considered.

CATEGORY A

Red-throated Diver
 Red-necked Grebe
 Swinhoe's Fork-tailed Petrel
 Spotted-billed Pelican
 all frigatebirds
 Von Schrenck's Little Bittern
 Japanese Night Heron
 Lesser Egret
 Swinhoe's Egret
 White Stork
 Glossy Ibis
 Baikal Teal
 Mandarin
 Scaup
 Baer's Pochard
 Tufted Duck
 Common Pochard
 Velvet Scoter
 Goldeneye
 Ruddy Shelduck
 Lesser Whistling Teal
 Cotton Teal
 all geese
 Crested Honey Buzzard
 Japanese Sparrowhawk
 Goshawk
 Crested Goshawk
 Horsfield's Goshawk
 Golden Eagle
 Steppe Eagle
 Bar-tailed Cuckoo-dove
 White-bellied Green Pigeon
 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

Spotted Eagle
 Grey-faced Buzzard Eagle
 Pied Harrier
 Hen Harrier
 White-legged Falconet
 Merlin
 all button quails
 all crakes
 Oystercatcher
 Common Ringed Plover
 Oriental Plover
 Harting's Ringed Plover
 Little Whimbrel
 snipe (other than Fantail)
 Asiatic Dowitcher
 Long-billed Dowitcher
 Bar-tailed Godwit
 Common Gull
 Nordmann's Greenshank
 Glaucous Gull
 Slaty-backed Gull
 Brown-headed Gull
 Great Black-headed Gull
 Saunders' Gull
 all skuas
 Common Tern
 Black-naped Tern
 Greater Crested Tern
 Sooty Tern
 Ancient Auk
 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
 Pechora 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