

**HKBWS AGM, 23 October 2013:
Recorder's Report**

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Since the last AGM in October 2012, the **HKBWS Records Committee** (members Geoff Carey, Gary Chow, Paul Leader, Mike Leven, Richard Lewthwaite and Yu Yat Tung plus secretary Geoff Welch), has met on four occasions (22 Nov 2012, 25 Feb, 20 May, 24 Aug 2013), resulting in the changes listed below, which bring the main Hong Kong list (Cats I-II) to **520 species**.

New species added to Category I were:

- **Varied Tit *Poecile varius*** on Po Toi on 16 September 2012; this bird was part of an invasion of the species into eastern China and subsequently individuals were also recorded at Tai Tong and Quarry Bay
- **Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*** on Po Toi on 1 November 2012; acceptance of this record as Category I was followed by a review of all historical records of Hawfinch and a further seven records between 1984 and 2011 were accepted as Category I
- **Red-headed Bunting *Emberiza bruniceps*** at Long Valley on 23 December 2012; acceptance of this record as Category I was followed by a review of all historical records of Red-headed Bunting and a further three records between 2008 and 2010 were accepted as Category I
- **Martens's Warbler *Seicercus omeiensis*** at Pak Sha O on 5 January 2013;
- **Japanese Tit *Parus minor*** at HK Wetland Park on 15 January 2013;
- **Slaty Bunting *Emberiza siemsseni*** at Tai Po Kau on 8 February 2013;

Category changes:

- **Huet's Fulvetta *Alcippe hueti*** ; previously in Appendix II as 'Grey-cheeked' Fulvetta following the split of this species by IOC, the birds present in Hong Kong were identified by vocalisation as this Guangdong resident species and the species was assigned to Category IIA

New subspecies added to Category I:

- **Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*** subspecies *confusus*.

Work is continuing on the following species or species groups:

- **Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis* sp**
- **Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata***

Record assessment. The Records Committee has completed assessment of 132 URFs for the year 2012. Details of these and an updated list giving the status, peak counts and dates of occurrence of all species on the HK List as at the end of 2012 have now been posted on the HKBWS Website.

Hong Kong Bird Reports (HKBR). The current situation is as follows:

- **HKBR 2009-2010** was posted to members in November 2012.
- **HKBR 2011** was posted to members in June 2013. This was the first HKBR to be available in both printed and digital format.

The **HKBR 2012** is expected to be completed by year end 2013 and posted to members in early 2014. This will bring publication of the HKBR up to date, and it is expected that a similar timetable will apply to future reports.

The **number of species** recorded in each year has now stabilised following increases from 2006 onwards as follows:

318 species in 2000
377 in 2006
381 in 2007
383 in 2008
394 in 2009
397 in 2010
393 in 2011
396 in 2012

HKBWS Archive. The Records Committee, together with assistance from HKBWS Staff, is compiling a digital archive of all historical records comprising data used in *The Avifauna* plus all records since that publication (1999 to date), in the form of digitised Record Cards, Unusual Record Forms and Annual Master Files. This is intended as a permanent and easily referenced digital archive of all important HKBWS data.