

WWF Hong Kong Liaison

1. Major habitat and infrastructure management works carried out around the site in 2015 included:

- Enhancement of reedbed in *Gei wai* #8b and #10. A total area of 4.7 ha was cut, rotovated and allowed to regenerate naturally.
- *Gei wai* #18 enhancement. The two ends of the *gei wai* were separated. Reedbed at the landward end has been desilted to create wet reedbed conditions whilst the landward end (including the reedbed) will be converted to freshwater from 2016; the seaward end will continue to operate as a *gei wai* for shrimp production. There is now a 49 hectare swathe of freshwater habitat at the Reserve connected together.
- The Southern Floating Birdwatching Hide was substantially renovated during summer 2015. Based on advice from Mike Chalmers, the interior was redesigned to provide better comfort, more room for birders as well as several new features introduced.
- A 470m length of bund within the grazed buffalo ponds (Pond #24) was enhanced to promote the establishment of wet grassland to attract pipits and wagtails, and invertebrates.

2. Bird news

- After Black-winged Stilts failed to breed in 2013, and only one pair successfully nested in 2014, 2015 was a much better year for the species at Mai Po with 10 nesting pairs observed in late May. Nesting was observed on *Gei wai* #16/17 and #21.
- The big news in 2015 was the establishment of an egretty in mangrove at *Gei wai* #14. Breeding activity was reported by local birdwatchers in early spring, then as the season progressed both the number of nesting pairs and species increased. It is believed at least 123 Great Egret, 10 Little Egret, 9 Cattle Egret and 62 Night Herons nested.
- It was another good year for Collared Crows roosting at Mai Po, with a 160 birds counted entering the FCA mangroves in August.
- On 19 April 2015 a Buff-breasted Sandpiper was photographed at the Reserve. It was confirmed as a new species for Hong Kong.