

## HKBWS AGM, 27 October 2016: Recorder's Report

Since the last AGM in October 2015, the **HKBWS Records Committee** has undergone two changes in membership. After 23 years of service, **Mike Leven** announced his resignation from the Records Committee at the meeting of 30 November last year, and at the meeting of 5 September this year, **Geoff Welch** stepped down after 5 years of service as Secretary. Geoff's successor as Secretary is **Carrie Ma**. As a result of these changes, there are now five voting members of the Records Committee (Geoff Carey, Gary Chow, Paul Leader, Richard Lewthwaite and Yu Yat Tung) plus Carrie Ma as Secretary.

The period since the last AGM has been exceptionally good for rare birds, with 10 new species found. Also three species have been upgraded to Category I. Together these bring the main Hong Kong list (Cats I-II) to **547 species**:

### Species new to Hong Kong accepted to Category I:

- **American Wigeon** *Anas americana* Mai Po boardwalk, 17 January 2016
- **European Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria* Mai Po, 25 October 2015
- **Franklin's Gull** *Leucophaeus pipixcan* Mai Po boardwalk, 26 November 2015
- **Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon** *Treron sphenurus* Pak Sha O, 6 March 2016
- **Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher** *Ceyx erithaca* Tai Po Kau, 7 May 2015
- **Asian Short-toed Lark** *Alaudula cheleensis* Long Valley, 24 November 2014
- **Brown-eared Bulbul** *Hypsipetes amaurotis* Chai Wan, 9 March 2015
- **Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides* ssp *viridanus* Tai O, 18 December 2015
- **Emei Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus emeiensis* Pak Sha O, 22 November 2015
- **Booted Warbler** *Iduna caligata* Mai Po, 27 November 2015

### Species previously recorded in Hong Kong upgraded to Category I:

- **Grey-backed Shrike** *Lanius tephronotus* upgraded from Cat III to Cat I following records from Ng Tung Chai in 2014 and 2015. The Tai Po Kau record of 22 April 2004 has also been accepted.
- **Black-throated Tit** *Aegithalos concinnus* upgraded from Cat IIA to Cat I following records at Po Toi in winter 2012/13.
- **Olive-backed Sunbird** *Cinnyris jugularis* upgraded from Cat III to Cat I following one at Po Toi on 16 April 2016 and recent records from Guangdong.

### In addition to these, three species have been added to Category III:

- **Zebra Dove** *Geopelia striata* Chek Lap Kok 22 November 2015
- **Golden Babbler** *Stachyridopsis chrysaea* Tai Po Kau, 19 June 2015
- **Ruby-cheeked Sunbird** *Chalcoparia singalensis* Tai Po Kau, 18 November 2015.

### Potential first records still circulating / under review:

- **Rosy Minivet** *Pericrocotus roseus* at Po Toi on 27 April 2014.

### **On-going work on difficult species or species groups:**

- **Styan's / Middenforff's Grasshopper Warbler** (still awaiting DNA results on some birds)
- **Black-throated Laughingthrush** *Garrulax chinensis* (individuals with brown upperparts and/or grey cheeks)
- **Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca* subspecies occurring in Hong Kong.

### **Taxonomic changes** (as per IOC 6.2 and 6.3)

- Intermediate Egret: genus changed from *Egretta* to *Ardea*
- Short-tailed and Wedge-tailed Shearwater: genus changed from *Puffinus* to *Ardenna*
- Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio* becomes **Black-backed Swamphen** *P. indicus viridis*.
- Asian Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi* becomes **Amur Paradise Flycatcher** *T. incei*, following recognition of the latter as a full species.

### **Hong Kong Bird Reports (HKBR)**

- **HKBR 2014** (Chief Editor John Allcock, Editors Gary Chow, Geoff Welch) published May 2016.
- **HKBR 2015** (editors as above) expected publication May 2017.