

HKBWS Annual General Meeting Recorder's Report

25 October 2018

Since the last AGM in October 2017, the **HKBWS Records Committee** (members Geoff Carey, Gary Chow, Paul Leader, Richard Lewthwaite and Yu Yat Tung plus secretary Carrie Ma), has met on three occasions (23 Jan, 25 Apr, 9 Aug 2018). Four species have been added to the main Hong Kong list (Cats I-II) and two species (Caspian Gull and Japanese Bush Warbler) have been removed from the list as a result of taxonomic changes. The HK list currently stands at **551 species**.

The RC decided to publish once each year an updated HK list to include additional species and all relevant taxonomic changes.

Species added to Category I:

- **Chinese Bush Warbler** *Locustella tacsanowskia* 中華短翅鶯, Mai Po NR, 5 September 2014 and 30 September 2014
- **Black Noddy** *Anous minutus* 玄燕鷗, Kung Chau, 18 June 2017
- **Rook** *Corvus frugilegus* 禿鼻烏鴉, Mai Po NR, 1 November 2017
- **Lapland Longspur (Lapland Bunting)** *Calcarius lapponicus* 鐵爪鷗, Nam Sang Wai, 13 March 2018.

Subspecies added to Category I:

- **Oriental Scops Owl** *Otus sunia* 紅角鴞 ssp *malayanus*, Tai Po Kau, 19 April-30 June 2000 (this southern taxon accepted on the basis of sound recordings). The northern ssp *stictonotus* is already on the HK list on the basis of measurements of trapped birds.

Additions to Category III:

- **Laughing Kookaburra** *Dacelo novaeguineae* 笑翠鳥, Kop Tong, 24 June 2016 (non-migratory Australian species)
- **Monk Parakeet** *Mylopsitta monachus* 灰胸鸚哥, Long Valley, 12 October 2016 (S America)
- **Cordillerean Parakeet** *Psittocara frontatus* 紅額鸚哥, Long Valley, 17 October 2016 (S America)
- **Maroon Oriole** *Oriolus traillii* 朱鸚, Po Toi, 30 March 2017 (non-migratory Taiwan ssp)
- **Desert Wheatear** *Oenanthe deserti* 漠鷗, Chek Lap Kok, 19 February 2013 (showing obvious signs of cage damage)
- **Sahel Paradise Whydah** *Vidua orientalis* 北維達雀/寬尾天堂維達雀, Tuen Mun, 12 October 2016 (Africa).

Species removed from the HK list:

- **Caspian Gull** *L. cachinanns*. (see Vega Gull ssp *mongolicus* below)
- **Japanese Bush Warbler** *H. diphone* (see Manchurian Bush Warbler below).

Major changes to the main HK list:

- **Grey-headed Swamphen** *Porphyrio poliocephalus viridis* 紫水雞 replaces Black-backed Swamphen *P. viridis* on the HK list. Following yet more revisions to the former Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio* complex, the IOC list now treat Grey-headed Swamphen as the species occurring closest to HK, with Black-backed Swamphen restricted to SE Borneo, Sumatra and Java.
- **Vega Gull** *Larus vegae* 織女銀鷗 ssp *mongolicus* replaces **Caspian Gull** *L. cachinanns* 蒙古銀鷗 on the HK list. Also known as Mongolian Gull *L. mongolicus* in East Asia, the taxon *mongolicus* has previously been treated in HK as a form of *Larus cachinanns*, with English names of Yellow-legged Gull in the 1990s and Caspian Gull in the 2010s. Whilst allowing that *mongolicus* may later prove to be a full species, the RC has decided for now to follow the IOC treatment and list it as a subspecies of Vega Gull *L. vegae mongolicus*. HKBWS members are asked to submit records separately for *mongolicus* and nominate *vegae*.
- **Oriental Magpie** *Pica serica* 喜鵲 replaces Common (Eurasian) Magpie *Pica pica* on the HK list. Following the revision of the former Common Magpie *Pica pica* complex, Oriental Magpie *Pica serica* is treated as a full species by the IOC, with the nominate ssp occurring from Burma east to E China, including HK, and also on Taiwan.
- **Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia* 崖沙燕 replaces **Pale Martin** *R. diluta* 淡色沙燕 on the HK list. Based on DNA results, the *Riparia* martins occurring regularly in HK have been identified as **Sand Martins** *R. riparia*, presumably of the East Siberian taxon *ijimae*, and are not Pale Martins *R. diluta*, as was thought for some years.
- **Manchurian Bush Warbler** *Horornis canturians* 遠東樹鶯. Following a revision, this is now treated as a full species by the IOC, with two subspecies – *borealis* breeding in SE Siberia, Korea and NE China, and nominate *canturians* breeding in C and E China. Both subspecies have been recorded in HK. Nominate *canturians* was previously treated as a subspecies of Japanese Bush Warbler *H. diphone* 日本樹鶯.

Other taxonomic changes (in line with IOC v. 7.3, 8.1 and 8.2):

- **Baikal Teal** *Sibirionetta formosa* 花臉鴨(replacing *Anas formosa*)
- **Garganey** *Spatula querquedula* 白眉鴨(replacing *Anas querquedula*)
- **Northern Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata* 琵嘴鴨(replacing *Anas clypeata*)
- **Gadwall** *Mareca strepera* 赤膀鴨(replacing *Anas strepera*)
- **Falcated Duck** *Mareca falcata* 羅紋鴨(replacing *Anas falcata*)
- **Eurasian Wigeon** *Mareca penelope* 赤頸鴨(replacing *Anas penelope*)
- **American Wigeon** *Mareca americana* 綠眉鴨(replacing *Anas americana*)
- **Siberian Crane** *Leucogeranus leucogeranus* 白鶴(replacing *Grus leucogeranus*)
- **Black-winged Cuckooshrike** *Lalage melaschistos* 暗灰鶇鶇(replacing *Coracina melaschistos*)
- **Mountain Tailorbird** *Phyllergates cucullatus* 金頭縫葉鶯(replacing *Phyllergates cucullatus*)

- **White-spectacled Warbler** *Phylloscopus intermedius* 白眶鶇(replacing *Seicercus intermedius*)
- **Grey-crowned Warbler** *Phylloscopus tephrocephalus* 灰冠鶇(replacing *Seicercus tephrocephalus*)
- **Bianchi's Warbler** *Phylloscopus valentini* 比氏鶇(replacing *Seicercus valentini*)
- **Alstrom's Warbler** *Phylloscopus soror* 純色尾鶇(replacing *Seicercus soror*)
- **Martens's Warbler** *Phylloscopus omeiensis* 峨眉鶇(replacing *Seicercus omeiensis*)
- **Chestnut-crowned Warbler** *Phylloscopus castaniceps* 栗頭鶇(replacing *Seicercus castaniceps*)
- **Thick-billed Warbler** *Arundinax aedon* 厚嘴葦鶇(replacing *Iduna aedon*)
- **Japanese Marsh Warbler** *Helopsaltes pryeri* 斑背大尾鶇(replacing *Locustella pryeri*)
- **Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler** *Helopsaltes certhiola* 北蝗鶇(replacing *Locustella certhiola*)
- **Styan's Grasshopper Warbler** *Helopsaltes pleskei* 史氏蝗鶇(replacing *Locustella pleskei*)
- **Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler** *Helopsaltes ochotensis* 北蝗鶇(replacing *Locustella ochotensis*)
- **Asian Brown Flycatcher** *Muscicapa dauurica* 北灰(replacing *Muscicapa latirostris*)
- **Russet Sparrow** *Passer cinnamomeus* (replacing *Passer rutilans*)

Potential first records still circulating:

- **Black-throated Thrush** *Turdus atrogularis*, Chek Lap Kok, 4 December 2016
- **Great Egret** *Ardea alba* subspecies *alba*, Shuen Wan, 7 February 2017
- **Ogilvie-Grant's Leaf Warbler** ("Kloss's Leaf Warbler") *Phylloscopus ogilviegranti*, Tai Po Kau, 16 March 2017
- **Racquet-tailed Treepie** *Crypsirina temia* 塔尾樹鶇, Hong Kong Wetland Park, 11 April 2017
- **Germain's Swiftlet** *Aerodramus germani* 戈氏金絲燕, Hong Kong Wetland Park, 27 June 2018
- **Buff-throated Warbler** *Phylloscopus affinis*, Hong Kong Wetland Park, 10 October 2018

Reviews completed:

- **Sykes's Warbler** *Iduna rama* 賽氏鶇 – the two published records of this species (Lok Ma Chau, 30 September-1 October 1994 and Long Valley, 14-15 September 1998) were reviewed by Peter Kennerley, author of the Helm Identification Guide *Reed and Bush Warblers* (2010), who identified the 1994 bird as a Sykes's Warbler and the 1998 bird as a **Booted Warbler** *I. caligata* 靴鶇. This assessment was followed by the RC. As of the end of last month, the 1994 Lok Ma Chau bird is the only accepted record of Sykes's Warbler and there are four accepted records of Booted Warbler (the 1998 Long Valley bird, the long-staying Mai Po bird of November-December 2015, one trapped at Mai Po on 23 September 2016, and the San Tin bird from the end of 2016 into the first week of January 2017).

Record assessment:

- The Records Committee is working to complete assessment of all URFs for the year 2017 by the end of this year.

Hong Kong Bird Reports (HKBR)

HKBR 2016 was delayed but will be published in November 2018.

HKBR 2017 is expected to be published in May 2019.

Number of species by year

No. of species	Year
318	2000
380	2006
382	2007
385	2008
397	2009
399	2010
396	2011
404	2012
393	2013
411	2014
412	2015
404	2016
415 (to date)	2017