

The list compiled will outline the likelihood of species, confusion species, as well as suggesting localities and seasons of a potential find.

\* Unlikely, but possible

\*\* Perhaps likely

\*\*\* Likely

Species	Likelihood	Details	Confusion Species	Location	Time of Year
<b>Tundra Swan</b> <i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	*	Holarctic tundra breeder, wintering in Japan and E China. One record of Whooper/Tundra from 1992	Whooper Swan	MPNR	W
<b>Common Merganser</b> <i>Mergus merganser</i>	**	Winters in E China, Korea & Japan. Accidental in Taiwan. Similar range to Red-Breasted.	Red-Breasted Merganser	Deep Bay, Southern/ Eastern Waters, Po Toi.	W
<b>Black-Throated Diver</b> <i>gavia Arctica</i>	**	Overlapping wintering range with Red-Throated and Pacific.	All <i>Gavia</i> species. Especially Pacific & Red-throated	Southern/ Eastern Waters, Lamma, Sai Kung, Po Toi.	W/Sp
<b>Laysan Albatross</b> <i>Phoebastria immutabilis</i>	*	Commonest albatross in E Asia. Quite rare in Taiwan, has even straggled to Thailand.	Reasonably unmistakably, an imm. Short-Tailed would perhaps be the most likely confusion species.	Po Toi, Cape D'Aguillar.  Possible from a pelagic trip, but an individual would most likely be typhoon driven, eliminating the chance of a pelagic.	W?
<b>Flesh-Footed Shearwater</b> <i>Puffinus carneipes</i>	**	Many Taiwanese sightings.	All dark, and dark-morphed Shearwaters; Wedge-Tailed, Short-Tailed & Sooty.	Southern/ Eastern Waters, Po Toi, Cape D'Aguillar.	Sp

<b>Sooty Shearwater</b> <i>Puffinus griseus</i>	**	Very numerous, global shearwater. Sightings in Taiwan.	Possibly overlooked by other all dark, and dark-morphed shearwaters. Particularly, Short-Tailed.	Southern/ Eastern Waters, Po Toi, Cape D'Aguillar.	Sp/Su?
<b>Leach's Storm Petrel</b> <i>Hyrobates leucorhus</i>	**	Recent Guangdong record, as well as some sightings from E China and Taiwan.	Other white-rumped Storm Petrels	Southern/ Eastern Waters, Po Toi, Cape D'Aguillar.	Su/A?
<b>Indian-Pond Heron</b> <i>Ardeola grayii</i>	*	Records from Taiwan and Japan.	Breeding adults are diagnostic, though non-breeding are virtually indistinguishable from Chinese Pond Heron.	Any aquatic habitat, could perhaps even be found in a park.	Su?
<b>Red-tailed Tropicbird</b> <i>Phaethon rubricauda</i>	***	Some records very near to HK water; Guangdong and Taiwan.	Other Tropicbird species.	Southern/ Eastern Waters, Po Toi, Cape D'Aguillar.	Su
<b>Merlin</b> <i>Falco columbarius</i>	**	Recorded throughout SE Asia; Mainland China (Guizhou, Jiangxi & Zhejiang), Taiwan, Thailand & Vietnam.	Relatively unmistakable, compact falcon.	Open country habitat; LV, MPNR etc.	W
<b>White-tailed Eagle</b> <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	**	Several records in Taiwan, as well as C China and S Asia.	Very characteristic, large eagle. Even an imm., which would be most likely, is quite diagnostic, relative to other HK raptors.	MPNR	W
<b>Western/Eurasian Marsh Harrier</b> <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	**	Recorded in Taiwan and S Asia	Could, and is surely overlooked by EMH in E Asia.	MPNR	W
<b>Jack Snipe</b> <i>Lymnocyptes</i>	**	Sightings in Taiwan, C China	Common Snipe.	NT wetland; LV most likely	AW/Sp

<i>minimus</i>		and Thailand.			
<b>Wandering Tattler</b> <i>Tringa incanca</i>	*	Common American wader. Few accidentals in E China, Taiwan, Korea & Japan.	Grey-tailed Tattler	Deep bay	Sp
<b>Collared Pratincole</b> <i>Glareola pratincola</i>	**	Nearest records in Thailand & E Bengal. Previously, thought to occur in HK. If Small can occur, why not Collared?	Oriental Pratincole	MPNR	Sp
<b>Sabine's Gull</b> <i>Xema sabini</i>	**	Recorded in Sumatra, Taiwan, East China.	Possibly, Black-legged Kittiwake & Little Gull. Though it is very characteristic.	Southern/ Eastern Waters, Po Toi, Cape D'Aguillar. Deep Bay?	W?
<b>Chinese Crested Tern</b> <i>Thalasseus bernsteini</i>	***	Sightings in Guangdong, Thailand and South China. May very well, occasionally, migrate through HK waters.	Greater Crested Tern & Lesser Crested Tern.	Southern/ Eastern Waters, Po Toi, Cape D'Aguillar.	Sp/A
<b>Lesser Crested Tern</b> <i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>	**	Recorded in Taiwan, E China, Hainan & N Malaysia.	Greater Crested Tern & Chinese Crested Tern.	Southern/ Eastern Waters, Po Toi, Cape D'Aguillar.	Sp/A
<b>Arctic Tern</b> <i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	**	Migrates through the Pacific ocean, has straggled to Thailand.	Similar to, Arctic Tern, certainly a species that hasn't been on our radar enough.	Southern/ Eastern Waters, Po Toi, Cape D'Aguillar.	Sp/A
<b>Sandwich Tern</b> <i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	**	Recorded in Guangdong and E China	Gull-billed Tern	Deep Bay?	W
<b>Black Tern</b> <i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	**	Records from Japan and C China	White-Winged Tern	Deep Bay	W
<b>South Polar Skua</b> <i>Stercorarius maccormicki</i>	***	Migrates through the Pacific, occasional off Indian and Taiwanese	Brown Skua	Southern/ Eastern Waters, Po Toi, Cape D'Aguillar.	Sp/A

		coasts			
<b>Himalayan Cuckoo</b> <i>Cuculus saturatus</i>	*	A late Oriental-type Cuckoo in June 2021, may be this species.	Eurasian & Oriental Cuckoo. Could very well be overlooked.	MPNR	S, A
<b>Mountain Scops Owl</b> <i>Otus spilocephalus</i>	***	Breeder in Guangdong, SE China ( <i>O. s. latouchi</i> ). ( <i>O. s. hambroeki</i> ) on Taiwan.	Collared Scops Owl	Montane forest habitat; TPK, Shing Mun, Tai Lam?	S (R?- Potential Coloniser)
<b>Red-Headed Trogon</b> <i>Harpactes erythrocephalus</i>	***	Breeds in Guangdong.	Unmistakable!	Montane forest habitat in central NT	S (R?- Potential Coloniser)
<b>Hooded Pitta</b> <i>Pitta sordida</i>	**	Breeds on the Philippines and in SE Asia. Accidental to Taiwan and Japan.	Unmistakable!	Po Toi, Tai Lam	Sp
<b>Gray's Grasshopper Warbler</b> <i>Locustella fasciolata</i>	*	Rare migrant from Siberia, Sakhalin and Japan to wintering grounds in SE Asia and New Guinea. Range very similar to Middendorff's.	Midendorff's and Pleske's Grasshopper Warblers. Extremely skulky! Could likely occur, but highly unlikely be found...	Trapped at Mai Po Reedbeds?	Au/Sp
<b>Kamchatka Leaf Warbler</b> <i>Phylloscopus examinandus</i>	***	Overlapping range with Arctic and Japanese Leaf Warbler.	Part of the Arctic Warbler complex. Practically indistinguishable from Arctic and Japanese Leaf Warbler, though call and song are unique. Could be very easily overlooked by non-vocal Arctics.	Tai Lam, TPK, PSO, Po Toi	May/December (as Japanese Leaf Warbler)?
<b>Claudia's Leaf Warbler</b> <i>Phylloscopus claudiae</i>	**	Breeding grounds in N & C China, wintering from the Himalayas, to S China and	Very similar to Blyth's Leaf Warbler, though EC is the most likely confusion species in HK.	Tai Lam, TPK, PSO, Po Toi	W/Sp

		SE Asia.			
<b>Siberian Stonechat</b> <i>Saxicola Maurus</i>	**	Ranges from C & S Asia to the Middle East. Range overlaps with Amur Stonechat.	Practically inseparable from the newly split Amur Stonechat. A safe ID would require DNA sampling. Surely, Siberian occurs further East, and is understandably overlooked.	Trapped Mai Po/LV	W?

Do take this list with a grain of salt, this list is just sharing some of my thoughts and to raise awareness on possible new species in HK. Some of this species I genuinely, strongly believe will or have arrived in HK, others are highly unlikely. Yet, just consider all the species that have occurred in HK, which would never have been considered 10, 20, 50 years ago! Birding is constantly evolving, scientific studies are being done and unbelievable results are being found. Anything could happen out in the field, so it's just about being prepared for anything. I wanted to give a huge thanks to all of you in the HK birding community, you're an inspirational bunch and I can't wait to see what you'll find next. Lastly, a special thanks to Bart who is expertly breaking the expectations of all, with his ground breaking studies on Po Toi. He's filling the gaps of the HK species list which we never thought could be filled, and I know there's more to come. Again, thank you all, I hope you enjoyed or found some inspiration in this post.