

have been set up to house Baiji and Finless Porpoise and provide a disturbance-free habitat for them to reproduce.

We would like to express our gratitude to the OPCFHK and SWIMS for their support of such a meaningful programme. Special thanks to Dr. Kexiong Wang and Mr. Zhuo Wei from IHB for their patience and guidance during our internship; their passion in conserving these lovely creatures has really impressed us.

## The bird fauna of Lung Fu Shan and the University of Hong Kong

by Hung Tun Hei, Sung Yik Hei, Fu Wing Kan, Yuen Pui Yu  
Environmental Life Science 2004-2007

Lung Fu Shan Country Park is the latest designated Country Park in Hong Kong and is situated right behind our university. Lung Fu Shan is almost entirely covered by secondary forest and exotic tree plantation (AFCD, 2006). Whilst many fellow students visited this area while bird watching for the course 'Ecology of Hong Kong' last year, we are some of the ENS students who are particularly keen on bird watching and have returned to Lung Fu Shan regularly in our spare time. In the past year, we found that Lung Fu Shan is indeed a bird paradise. Over the last winter, we recorded rare and uncommon species such as Mugimaki Flycatcher (*Ficedula mugimaki*), Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike (*Coracina metaschistos*), Asian Stubtail Warbler (*Urosphena squameiceps*) and Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler (*Pomatorhinus rufucollis*). On 14 February 2006, Allen To discovered the rare Brown-headed Thrush (*Turdus chrysolaus*) along the little path right next to the University Drive. Since then, this little path and the surrounding area have become our favourite birding sites with more than 7 thrush species seen. On 23 March 2006, Fu and Sung recorded a rare Ferruginous Flycatcher (*Muscicapa ferruginea*), the first record at Lung Fu Shan (Fig. 1). Furthermore, Hung, Fu and Chloe Ng saw a Grey-crowned Warbler (*Seicercus tephrocaphalus*) at Lung Fu Shan on 31 March 2006. If this record is accepted by the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, it will be the second record of this species in Hong Kong.

In addition to the bird records we have made since last year, we have reviewed the literature and compiled a bird list of Lung Fu Shan and HKU (Table 1). A total of 90 species have been recorded so far. These include some locally rare and uncommon species such as the Blacked-winged Cuckoo-shrike, Eurasian Hooby, Grey Treepie, Plumbeous Redstart, Ferruginous Flycatcher and Brown-headed Thrush (Fig. 2). According to AFCD (2006) there are more than 150 bird species in Lung Fu Shan, although there was no detailed species list in the AFCD report. Useful references are Lock (2000) and So (1996, 2000).



Fig.1. Ferruginous Flycatcher (Photo: Billy Hau)

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Fig.2. Brown-headed Thrush (Photo: Allen To)

Table 1. Birds recorded at Lung Fu Shan. Unless specified, the records were made by the authors and other Environmental Life Science students. The status column refers to the status of the species in Hong Kong according to Viney *et al.* (2006).

English name	Species name	Month seen	Status	Source
Schrenck's Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus eurhythmus</i>	Spring 2000		Samson So
Cinnamon Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i>	Spring 2000		Samson So
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Year round	Very common	
White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	Sept	Uncommon	So, 1996
Crested Goshawk	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>	Year round	Common	
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Oct - Nov	Common	
Eurasian Hooby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	Sept	Uncommon	So, 1996
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	Nov	Uncommon	So, 1996
Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Year round	Very common	
Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	Year round	Very common	
Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>		1999	Samson So
Yellow Crested Cockatoo	<i>Cacatua sulphurea</i>	Year round	Very common	
Chestnut wing Cuckoo	<i>Clamator coromandus</i>			Samson So
Large Hawk Cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx sparverioides</i>			Samson So
Koel	<i>Eudynamis scolopacea</i>	Year round	Common	
Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	Sept - Nov	Common	So, 1996; Lock, 2000
Collared Scops Owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>	2006		Samson So
Pacific Swift	<i>Apus pacificus</i>	Sept	Common	So, 1996
House Swift	<i>Apus nipalensis</i>	Year round	Common	
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Oct	Common	So, 1996
Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>	Sept	Uncommon	So, 1996
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Sept - Nov	Common	Lock, 2000
Forest Wagtail	<i>Dendronanthus indicus</i>	Sept	Uncommon	So, 1996
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Sept	Common	So, 1996

English name	Species name	Month seen	Status	Source
White wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba leucopsis</i>	Sept	Common	
Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	Nov - Mar	Common	
Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina metaschistos</i>	Sept - Feb	Uncommon	
Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocothus flammeus</i>	Nov	Common	
Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	Year round	Very common	
Chinese Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus sinensis</i>	Year round	Very common	
Orange-bellied Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis hardwickii</i>	Nil	Uncommon	So, 1996
Rufous-tailed Robin	<i>Luscinia sibilans</i>	Nov - Mar	Uncommon	
Red-flanked Bluetail	<i>Tarsiger cyanurus</i>	Nov - Feb	Common	
Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	Year round	Very common	
Daurian Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus aureus</i>	Sept - Nov	Common	Lock; 2000
Plumbeous Redstart	<i>Rhyacomis fuliginosus</i>	Nil		Samson
Grey Bushchat	<i>Saxicola ferrea</i>	1998		Samson So
Blue Whistling Thrush	<i>Myiophonus caeruleus</i>	Year round	Common	
Scaly Thrush	<i>Zoothera dauma</i>	Sept - Nov	Uncommon	So, 1996, 2001
Japanese Thrush	<i>Turdus cardis</i>	Dec - Mar	Uncommon	
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Dec - Mar	Common	
Brown-headed Thrush	<i>Turdus chrysolaus</i>	Feb - Mar	Rare	
Grey-backed Thrush	<i>Turdus hortulorum</i>	Nov - Mar	Common	
Pale Thrush	<i>Turdus pallidus</i>	Feb - Mar	Uncommon	
Eye-browed Thrush	<i>Turdus obscurus</i>	Nov - Mar	Uncommon	
Dusky Thrush	<i>Turdus naumanni</i>	Spring 2000		Samson So
Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus ruficollis</i>	Jan	Uncommon	
Masked Laughingthr	<i>Garrulax perspicillatus</i>	Year round	Very common	

English name	Species name	Month seen	Status	Source
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Black-throated Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax chinensis</i>	Year round	Common	
Hwamei	<i>Garrulax canorus</i>	Sept - Nov	Common	
Silver-eared Mesia	<i>Leiothrix argenteauris</i>	Sept - Mar	Common	
Red-billed Leiothrix	<i>Leiothrix lutea</i>	Feb	Uncommon	
White-bellied Yuhina	<i>Yuhina zantholeuca</i>	Sept - Nov	Uncommon	So, 2001
Asian Stubtail Warbler	<i>Urosphena squameiceps</i>	Nov - Mar	Common	
Japanese Bush Warbler	<i>Cettia diphone</i>	Nil	Common	So, 1996
Yellow-bellied Prinia	<i>Prinia flaviventris</i>	Sept - Nov	Common	So, 1996; Lock, 2000
Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	Year Round	Very common	
Dusky Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus fuscator</i>	Sept - Nov	Common	Lock, 2000
Radde's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i>	Mar	Uncommon	
Pallas's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	Sept - Dec	Common	So, 1996; Lock 2000
Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	Sept - Nov	Very Common	
Arctic Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>	Sept - Dec	Common	So, 1996; Lock 2000
Blyth's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus reguloides</i>	Nov - Jan	Uncommon	
Grey-crowned Warbler	<i>Seicercus tephrocephalus</i>	Mar	Very rare	
Dark-sided Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa sibirica</i>	Sept - Nov	Uncommon	So, 1996; Lock 2000
Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>	Sept - Mar	Common	
Ferruginous Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa ferruginea</i>	Mar	Very rare	
Veriditer Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassina</i>	1996		Samson So
Mugimaki Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula mugimaki</i>	Nov - Dec	Uncommon	
Asian	<i>Terpsiphone</i>	Sept -	Uncommon	So, 2001

English name	Species name	Month seen	Status	Source
Black-throated Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax chinensis</i>	Year round	Common	
Hwamei	<i>Garrulax canorus</i>	Sept - Nov	Common	
Silver-eared Mesia	<i>Leiothrix argenteauris</i>	Sept - Mar	Common	
Red-billed Leiothrix	<i>Leiothrix lutea</i>	Feb	Uncommon	
White-bellied Yuhina	<i>Yuhina zantholeuca</i>	Sept - Nov	Uncommon	So, 2001
Asian Stubtail Warbler	<i>Urosphena squameiceps</i>	Nov - Mar	Common	
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Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>	Sept - Mar	Common	
Ferruginous Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa ferruginea</i>	Mar	Very rare	
Veriditer Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassina</i>	1996		Samson So
Mugimaki Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula mugimaki</i>	Nov - Dec	Uncommon	
			Uncommon	So, 2001

English name	Species name	Month seen	Status	Source
Paradise-flycatcher	<i>paradisi</i>	Nov		
Yellow-bellied Tit	<i>Parus venustus</i>	1996		Samson So
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Year round	Very common	
Plain Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum concolor</i>	1998		
Buff-bellied Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum ignipectus</i>	Sept – Nov	Uncommon	So, 1996; Lock 2000
Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum cruentatum</i>	Sept - Nov	Common	So, 1996; Lock 2000
Fork-tailed Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga christinae</i>	Sept - Nov	Common	
Japanese White-eye	<i>Zosterops japonica</i>	Year Round	Very common	
Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	Nov	Common	So, 1996
Black-faced Bunting	<i>Emberiza spodocephala</i>	Nov	Common	So, 1996
White-rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>	Sept – Nov	Very common	
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Year round	Very common	
Black-collared Starling	<i>Sturnus nigricoll</i>	Year round	Very common	
Crested Myna	<i>Acridotheres cristatellus</i>	Year round	Very common	
Blue Magpie	<i>Urocissa erythrorhyncha</i>	Sept - Mar	Common	
Grey Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta formosae</i>	Sept - Nov	Rare	So, 1996; Lock 2000
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Sept - Nov	Very common	So, 1996; Lock 2000
Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	Year round	Very common	
Budgerigar	<i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>	Sept	Uncommon	So, 1996
Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>	Nov	Common	
Red Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>	Sept – Nov	Uncommon	So, 2001

## SWIMS tidings....

Another year seems to have come and gone since the last *Porcupine!*, but this does not reflect a lack of activity – rather a rather rapid passing of time! SWIMS, as ever, has been a centre of research activities, including hosting workshops and talks (the most notable being on tidal movements and patterns with the Hong Kong Marine Biological Association); receiving research visitors (from China, Germany, Italy, UK, Korea, Singapore, Russia) and participating in the second year of the highly successful Ocean Park Conservation Foundation Internships, during which students worked with giant pandas, river dolphins and baiji.

This year has also seen a huge increase in visitor numbers and outreach activities, the most ambitious involving 17 King George V school students on work experience, who, together with helpers from other Hong Kong schools and universities in the UK, Canada and of course our own HKU students, helped boost the research and also social activities at SWIMS.

We have also seen an influx of new research students and Post Doctoral fellows. Ex-SWIMS graduate, Dr Ng Wai Chuen, returned in January to coordinate an RGC project on barnacle distribution and genetics, joined by Dr Wai Tak Cheung, who has been working on the trophodynamics of marine communities. The SWIMS research community was further strengthened by the arrival of Dr James True, from James Cook University in Australia. James is a coral biologist and has initiated a system to cultivate and grow local corals. The transfer of Ms Joyce Ng to help establish culture facilities in SWIMS from the Kadoorie Agricultural and Research Centre has further enhanced this development.

Finally, congratulations to Drs Andy Cornish and Benny Chan who left SWIMS for new positions at WWF (HK) and Academia Sinica, Taiwan, respectively. We look forward to collaborating with them in the near future.

Gray A. Williams  
Hon. Director SWIMS