

MISCELLANY

Big Fish Count 2005

by Ng Wai Chuen and Priscilla Leung

The Big Fish Count 2005, organized by WWF Hong Kong, was held on a sunny, calm Sunday on 2 October. This was the second year of the annual fund-raising event which aims to arouse public awareness about marine life and conservation. The data collected could also contribute to database establishment and better understanding of local fish communities and associated environment. This year, the participating teams increased from 4 to 10 compared to last year. The SWIMS formed a six-diver-team which included Anna Situ, who previously participated in the Big Fish Count 2004, Valerie Ho, Wallace Choi, Liu Min, Priscilla Leung and Ng Wai Chuen; the team was also supported by Wai Tak Cheung, Jasmine Ng and Karen Lui. With the full support of Dr Gray Williams, the Director of the SWIMS, and organization by Dr Kenneth Leung, our team got everything set and ready to dive (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. The SWIMS diving team for Big Fish Count 2005; from the left, Karen Lui, Ng Wai Chuen, Priscilla Leung, Anna Situ, Wallace Choi, Valerie Ho, Liu Min and Jasmine Ng (Photo: Wai Tak Cheung).

Within the 'game' period of 8 hours, each team could choose 3 sites for their fish counts, and each diving pair could do a 45-minute dive at each site to witness and record as many species as possible. We chose Ung Kong Wan at Bluff Island as our first survey site; the bay contains mainly sandy substrate with a band of rich coral at the north side and rocky reef at the northwest outcrop. In order to record a wider range of fish species, our three diving pairs decided to swim along separate routes to cover different habitats; coral, soft substratum and rocky reef. After jumping into the sea, we knew that it would be an enjoyable day, with nice visibility of

6 to 7 m, good water temperature and light penetration. We then went for our first reconnaissance and recorded 55 species within the 45 minute-dive. The site is occupied by locally common species, such as clown fish *Amphiprion clarkii* (Fig. 2), schools of Chinese demoiselle *Neopomacentrus bankieri*, bubblefin wrasse *Halichoeres nigrescens* and various cardinalfishes from the genus *Apogon*. We also encountered some rarer fishes like Raccoon butterflyfish *Chaetodon lunula*, Eclipse puffer *Takifugu ocellatus*: Min and Valerie's record of a Pearlscale butterflyfish, *Chaetodon xanthurus*, was the first record of this species within Hong Kong waters.



Fig. 2. The clown fish *Amphiprion clarkii* at Ung Kong Wan (Photo: Ng Wai Chuen).

Apart from the diverse fish fauna, the hard coral assemblage at Ung Kong Wan is one of the most diverse and abundant communities in the territory. However, it is also one of the most easily accessed sites for pleasure vessels from Sai Kung, and hence a hot spot for leisure diving and other water activities. Although a "no anchoring area" has been established to protect the hard coral (AFCD, 2005), its effectiveness is definitely not enough as colonies are suffering from breakage and unrooting (Fig. 3). The damage is probably caused by anchoring, poor diving practice and fishing activities. We believe Ung Kong Wan should receive greater protection to conserve the coral community and its associated flora and fauna.

The second station was set at Shelter Island, the site contains lower abundance of coral and larger areas of rocky and sandy substrata than Bluff Island. In this site, we encountered more sand-associated species including various gobies and lizardfishes, and shoaling species such as Yellowstripe scad *Selaroides leptolepis* and Barracuda *Sphyraena* sp. (Fig. 4). Some less common species like Threespot dascyllus *Dascyllus trimaculatus* and Honeycomb filefish *Cantherhines pardalis* were also observed. At the end of the dive, our team counted 64 species in this site.

After two dives, we took a quick rest to recover our cold, dry and tired bodies before the more intense third one. For the last site, we wanted to survey a deeper rock reef to get a better score on deeper water species, and so we decided to dive at Lak Lei Tsai. This is a site comprising three rock piles with a steep slope running down to 12 m. The rocky walls, colonies

of short-spine and long-spine sea urchins were seen everywhere. At the bottom there was a garden of sea anemones occupied by groups of clownfish. We recorded fewer coral-associated species, but more rocky reef species, like Spottedtail morwong *Cheilodactylus zonatus* and Largenose boxfish *Ostracion rhinorhynchos*. Finally, we finished this station with a record of 51 species.

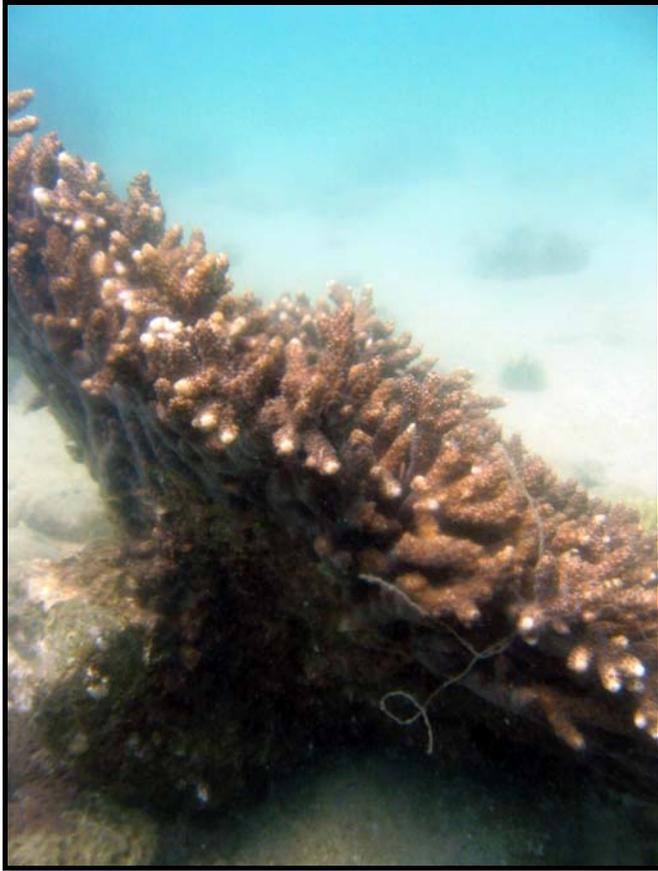


Fig. 3. Unrooted coral colony (*Acropora* sp.) at Ung Kong Wan (Photo: Ng Wai Chuen).

Although exhausted, the whole game period was very enjoyable, and we were excited that we had seen so many species in one day. The final score of the SWIMS team was 92 non-overlapping species, are 2 species higher than our record last year. The luckier team was CUHK team who completed the game with 96 species, and they also recorded an Axilspot hogfish *Bodianus axillaris* which has not been reported in local waters before. Integrating the data from all teams, a total of 173 species were identified in the Big Fish Count. It is an impressive figure to remind us that our sea still supports diverse fish assemblages (Sadovy & Cornish 2000). On the other hand, we must be alarmed that most of the fishes that we saw were either juveniles, or small, non-commercial, species which are escapees from the over-crowded and too-small-mesh-sized fishing activities. We believe that these surviving fish communities cannot recover or sustain themselves without long-term, effective, measures that address unregulated fishing operations.

Finally, we hope this event will continue year by year to raise public awareness about marine conservation, to keep breaking species records, and to maintain its title as “Big Fish Count”

instead of having to change it to “Small Fish Count” or “Fry Fish Count”.



Fig. 4. Barracuda *Sphyraena* sp. at Shelter Island (Photo: Ng Wai Chuen).

Bibliography:

AFCD (Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department) 2005. Conservation website <http://www.afcd.gov.hk/conservation/con_e.htm>

Sadovy, Y. & Cornish, A.S. (2000). *Reef fishes of Hong Kong*. Hong Kong University Press, Hong Kong.

More information about the Big Fish Count is available at [<http://www.wwf.org.hk>].

Environmental Life Science (ENS) students in Hainan, China

by Vivian Lam Yan Yan (ENS 2), Wan Pak Ho (ENS 3) and Fu Wing Kan (ENS 2)

On the 29 July 2005, a combination of 20 year 1 & 2 ENS students embarked on a once-in-a-lifetime journey to Bawangling National Nature Reserve, Hainan Island, to participate in the Hainan gibbon (*Nomascus* sp. cf. *nasutus hainanus*) conservation project of the Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden (KFBG). The trip was organized and led by Dr. Billy Hau, Mr. Yu Yat-Tung, Mr. Allen To and Ms. Maria Lo of DEB as well as Ms. Sharon Chow, Dr. Bosco Chan, Dr. Ng Sai Chit and Mr. Ken So of KFBG. Fifteen undergraduate students and 3 teachers from the Hainan Normal University also joined us in this trip. The trip was kindly supported by Wofoo Social Enterprises (see Box 1) (Fig. 1).

The trip came to a shaky start as a typhoon hit the island on the first two days, delaying our schedule and making the road to our anticipated gibbon observation point inaccessible. Luckily, after 3 hours of a much-feared bus ride (with ideas of falling into the swirling waters any moment popping into our

heads), we arrived at the Bawangling Nature Reserve safely, thanks to the courageous and skilled bus driver. The first programme was a valuable chance to listen to the experiences of the pioneers of conserving the Hainan gibbon, Prof. Liu Zhenhe and Mr. Hong Dewei who worked at the reserve in the 1970s and 1980s.



Fig.1. A group photo taken at Hainan Normal University, Haikou City.

Bawangling National Nature Reserve was established for the protection of the endangered Hainan gibbon (Fig. 2). Since the late 1990s, KFBG has been helping the Chinese authorities to enhance the protection of this highly endangered species. Only 13 gibbons appeared in Bawangling in the latest survey in 2004, the entire global population!



Fig. 2. Hainan gibbon *Nomascus* sp. cf. *nasutus hainanus* (Photo: Bawangling NNR).

During these 10 days, we mixed with the Hainan students and split into small groups for projects. We were shown around different areas of the nature reserve. Although we were unable to see the Hainan gibbons due to a landslide blocking the road to the gibbon site during the typhoon, none of us was disappointed as we saw many other interesting species, such as the very cute Rufous Woodpecker (Fig. 3). The field trips inside the reserve were also made so much more meaningful through the company of knowledgeable local staff who patiently guided and taught us along the way. We have learnt a great deal from these field trips which have broadened our interests to many different taxa groups.



Fig. 3. Rufous Woodpecker, *Celeus brachyurus*.

We also had a night safari on a seemingly peaceful and quiet night with stars illuminating the ebony black sky... and yet, we managed to see quite a lot of wildlife in action ranging from flying squirrels to frogs and even snakes! It was amazing that over 10 frog species were found in one single stream in the reserve (Fig. 4). There were a lot of 'firsts' on that night; the first time seeing so many stars, hiking at night, rushing at full speed into total darkness, staring at dozens of fireflies and close contact with a leech. Besides getting to know the biodiversity of this unique place, we also participated in a tree planting project which aims to restore a forest corridor linking two patches of forests utilized by the Hainan gibbons (Fig. 5).



Fig. 4. Hainan Cascade Frog, *Amolops hainanensis*.



Fig. 5. Setting off to plant native tree seedlings for the Hainan gibbon.

We visited several villages of different ethnic minorities in the surrounding areas of the nature reserve in the participatory rural appraisal (PRA) exercise. To many of us, the PRA exercise was a unique and valuable chance to understand the life of local villagers, some of whom are living below the poverty line. Poverty has led to serious conflict between resource users and nature conservation as many local people rely on biodiverse resources in the forest for food, fuel and medicine. The PRA exercise enabled us to understand and appreciate the difficulties in nature reserve management in rural China through first-hand experience (Figs. 6 & 7). Conservation is indeed not an easy or straightforward task! Determination, expertise and continuous hard work are vital. Conservation measures have to be done progressively with the cooperation of local villagers. Conservation is a much more challenging task than we had ever imagined.



Fig. 6. Conducting a PRA interview with a local villager outside his house.



Fig. 7. A picture with the village children (Photo: KFBG).

An amazing part of this trip is how it brought together many people with the same interest in, and passion for, conserving the environment. We truly enjoyed ourselves immensely and did not want this trip to end. We will always cherish this chance of spending quality time with experienced field experts who gave us lots of valuable advice on learning and careers. Working closely with the Hainan students on the group projects was also a very valuable experience. Being brought up in a different culture and environment, we have very different logic and working styles. It was not easy at the beginning but we soon found ways to compromise with each other. The Hainan students were very good hosts throughout the trip and took us around Haikou City during our last night in Hainan (Fig.8). We were all overwhelmed by their hospitality and passion and we have been keeping in touch through the Internet after the trip.



Fig. 8. Having fun in Haikou city!

This trip has highlighted the importance of learning outside the classroom. Despite our busy schedule at school, we will seize every opportunity to go out and explore (even if it is just in Lung Fu Shan behind the University!). This is just one of the good habits that the trip has helped us to develop. This trip

has also led us to think about the possibility of working in the Mainland for conservation. Lastly, this was no ordinary field study trip. Together, we've been through a whole array of new experiences, from tasting hairy vegetables to the joy of learning about new species and seeing the innocent smile of a village child. There is simply just way too much to tell. The trip was an experience of a lifetime for all of us.

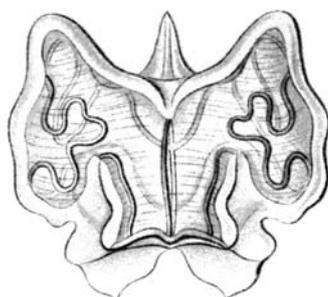
Box 1

Wofoo Social Enterprises (WSE)

Wofoo Social Enterprises (WSE), chaired by Mr. Joseph Lee, BBS, JP, gained momentum in the 1990s as a pioneer in advocating and supporting not-for-profit models of social services. WSE believes in the benefits of an entrepreneurial approach to providing social services because of its emphasis on customer-care and focus, efficiency and innovation - only through such manner can limited resources be mobilized and shared to meet the increasing demands of society. In parallel, WSE inspires individuals and organizations from different walks of life, sectors and groups, to contribute to Hong Kong's social services. On this common platform and joint belief, WSE can join hands with many to enhance "*Harmony amongst people to Build Prosperity of our Home and Country*", to illustrate the principle of "socializing social service."

After years of gestation, WSE is striving for further development based on its solid foundation of services in areas of Youth Development, Education, Elderly Care, Humanitarian Services, and Strategic Partnership. At present, the WSE Family includes Wofoo Foundation, Chinese Youth Exchange Centre (Hong Kong), Hong Kong Youth Institute, Warehouse Teenage Club, School of Continuing Family Education, Beijing International Committee for Chinese Orphans, Civic Heritage, W F Joseph Lee Primary School and Grace Nursing Home (Kowloon Tong and Tak Tin). W F Joseph Lee Primary School became the first primary school operating on the Direct Subsidy Scheme in the New Territories when it first admitted students for Fall 2002. Furthermore, Grace Nursing Home (Tak Tin) established another milestone for WSE and Hong Kong's social services when it became the first private sector operator of a Social Welfare Department tendered home in 2004.

Heading towards the future, WSE will continue to fulfill its corporate citizen duties and contribute to building a harmonious society and country by uniting societal energies, and providing social services of high quality.



Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden - wildlife updates & sightings

by Gary Ades, Roger Kendrick, Amanda Haig, Alex Grioni & Captain Wong

Wildlife recording, surveys and rehabilitation at Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden (KFBG) have produced a number of interesting and unusual records since March 2005. In this report, KFBG Fauna staff provide some of the highlights of their findings.

General wildlife sightings are posted on the KFBG Wildlife Sightings Board on a fortnightly basis, with records provided by staff and visitors. Many records are generated by the Security team on night shifts.

(1) The following sighting records from Kwun Yum Shan (KYS) and elsewhere in KFBG (Fig. 1) were posted between April and September 2005:

April 05

- 4 April, a bamboo snake at the Apiary.
- 7 April, three young wild boar piglets at Sign Post Corner.
- 15 April, two porcupines at the new Deer Haven.
- 21 April, a many banded krait snake near Great Falls arch.
- 30 April, a leopard cat above the Norman Wright Chicken Display

June 05

- 3 June, a group of rhesus macaque monkeys at Sign Post Corner.
- 11 June, a Chinese cobra near the Twin Pavillion.
- 12 June, three wild boar near Magnolia Falls.
- 18 June, a barking deer at the Butterfly Garden.
- 24 June, a rhesus macaque at the Native Tree Nursery.
- 27 June, several golden birdwing and common rose butterflies at the Butterfly Garden.
- 28 June, several golden birdwing, common rose and plain banded awl butterflies at the car park by Reception.
- 30 June, a common rat snake at the Native Tree Nursery.

July 05

- 9 July, a common wolf snake at Main Gate Security Cabin; several Indian moon moths (*Actias selene*) at KYS & Misha's Bungalow (Fig. 2).
- 13 July, a group of baby rhesus macaques below the Upper Canteen.
- 18 July, a small Indian civet at Magnolia Falls.
- 22 July, five wild boar piglets at Great Fall arch.
- 23 July, a mother wild boar with 8 piglets at the composting area.

嘉道理農場暨植物園 KADOORIE FARM AND BOTANIC GARDEN



- 1 接待處 Reception
- 2 生態園 Eco-garden
- 3 有機耕作示範 Organic Farming Display
- 4 溫室 / 蘭花溫室 Greenhouses / Orchid Greenhouse
- 5 植物保育實驗室 / 植物標本室 Plant Conservation Laboratory / Herbarium
- 6 農產品售賣處 Farm Produce Sales Counter
- 7 行政辦公室 Administration Offices
- 8 豬舍 Pigties
- 9 野豬之家 Wild Boar Display
- 10 鯪魚園 Kwun Yum Garden
- 11 猛禽飛行園 Raptor Flight Aviary
- 12 本土哺乳動物 Native Mammal Display
- 13 兩棲及爬行動物 Amphibian and Reptile House
- 14 淡水生態 Streamlife Display
- 15 葛先生紀念花園 Walter Kerr Memorial Gardens
- 16 昆蟲館 Insect House
- 17 鸚鵡護理中心 Parrot Sanctuary
- 18 孔雀飼養區 Peafowl Enclosure
- 19 水鳥園 Waterfowl Walkthrough
- 20 生態池塘 Wildlife Pond
- 21 辦公室 / 保育大樓 Offices / Conservation Building
- 22 職員飯堂 Staff Canteen
- 23 人工濕地污水處理系統 Constructed Wetland Wastewater Treatment System (CWWTs)
- 24 堆肥區 Composting Area
- 25 野生動物拯救中心 Wild Animal Rescue Centre (WARC)
- 26 鹿苑 Deer Haven
- 27 有機菜園 Organic Vegetable Terraces
- 28 諾曼·萊特紀念雞舍及展覽中心 The Norman Wright Memorial Chicken Display
- 29 艾先生猛禽護理中心 The Jim Ades Raptor Sanctuary
- 30 果園 Orchards
- 31 直升機坪 Helicopter Pad
- 32 米加克屋 Miha's Bungalow
- 33 大瀑布及彩虹亭 Great Falls and Rainbow Pavilion
- 34 蜜蜂園 Apiary
- 35 修女花園 Convent Garden
- 36 蕨類植物小徑 Fern Walk
- 37 蝴蝶園 Butterfly Garden
- 38 四柱擎天 Post Office Pillars
- 39 中藥園及茶園 Medicinal Herb Garden and Tea Garden
- 40 黃金亭 Golden Pavilion
- 41 世界主要城市之指示牌 Signpost Corner
- 42 蘭花亭 Orchid Haven
- 43 「農林綜合系統」實驗場地 Agroforestry Test Site
- 44 葛先生橋、龍亭及小瀑布 Kerr's Bridge, Dragon Pavilion and Little Falls
- 45 嘉道理兄弟紀念亭 The Kadoorie Brothers' Memorial Pavilion
- 46 胡振生先生紀念亭 The T.S. Woo Memorial Pavilion
- 47 所羅路 Enkianthus Walk
- 48 古祭壇及熱氣粥 Ancient Altars and Hot Pots
- 49 鯪魚山頂峰 Kwun Yum Shan Summit
- 50 野生動物拯救中心延伸設施 WARC Extension
- 51 辦公室/植物標本室 Offices / Herbarium and Specimen Room



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 電話 Tel : (852) 2488 1317/2483 9733 傳真 Fax : (852) 2488 3035 網址 Website : www.kfbg.org 電郵 Email : info@kfbg.org

- 導遊員陪同進入 For guided visitors only
- 只於每日指定時間開放 (請在接待處查詢) Open only at certain periods of the day (please check at the Reception)
- 停車場 (包括預約) Coach & Car Park (advance booking essential)
- 洗手間 Toilet

Printed on recycled paper with vegetable based ink.

Fig. 1. Map of KFBG showing areas and buildings referred to in the General Wildlife Sightings.

- 30 July, a mountain wolf snake near KARC road junction (Fig. 3).



Fig. 2. Common wolf snake (Photo: KFBG Security Team), July 2005.



Fig. 3. Mountain wolf snake (Photo: KFBG Security Team), July 2005.

August 05

- 5 August, three porcupines at Magnolia Falls.
- 8 August, a small Indian civet at the Upper Canteen.
- 26 August, a baby python at KYS and a Chinese water snake at the Norman Wright Chicken Display.
- 28 August, two porcupines on the road above Misha's Bungalow and one porcupine below the Norman Wright Chicken House road.
- 29 August, a mother wild boar with 5 piglets at the Apiary.

September 05

- 5 September, three porcupines at the new Deer Haven.
- 11 September, a king cobra below the Twin Pavilion.
- 16 September, a masked palm civet at Signpost Corner; several male birdwing butterflies flying in the Butterfly Garden and a constable butterfly patrolling the summit of KYS; one adult wild boar and four piglets at the Upper Canteen.
- 18 September, a mother wild boar with five piglets near Misha's Bungalow.
- 27 September, a Chinese cobra near the Upper Canteen.

(2) Fauna Conservation Department Project News:

The monthly moth survey [RK] has been affected by poor weather on scheduled recording nights. Only on three evenings (in April, July and September) were recordings possible. April was not special in terms of unusual species. The recording on July 9, timed to coincide with the National Moth Night in the United Kingdom [1], resulted in 261

species being seen. Amongst the more interesting observations were a third Hong Kong record of *Calletaera postvittata* (Walker, 1861) (Geometridae, Ennominae), a couple of unusual species like *Warreniiplema fumicosta* (Warren, 1896) (Fig. 4) (Uraniidae, Epipleminae), the probably undescribed *Chiasmia* sp. indet. near *triangulata* (Fig. 5) (Geometridae, Ennominae), and the following species thought to be endemic to Hong Kong: *Sigilliclystis kendricki* Galsworthy, 1999 (Fig. 6) (Geometridae, Larentiinae); *Ogla stygiana* Galsworthy, 1997; *Pangrapta bicornuta* Galsworthy, 1997; *Pangrapta roseinotata* Galsworthy, 1997; *Ugia purpurea* Galsworthy, 1997 (all Noctuidae, Calpinae); *Athetis hongkongensis* Galsworthy, 1997 (Noctuidae, Hadeninae) and *Luceria striata* Galsworthy, 1997 (Noctuidae, Strepsimaninae). In September several new species to Hong Kong were recorded; these were all small species whose identities are still being determined by microlepidoptera specialist M.J. Sterling in the U.K.



Fig. 4. *Warreniiplema fumicosta* (Photo: Roger Kendrick).



Fig. 5. *Sigilliclystis kendricki* (Photo: Roger Kendrick).

An additional moth record was made by AG of a mating pair of atlas moths (*Attacus atlas*) on September 16 at the WARC. This species (Fig. 7) is regularly recorded at KFBG, with adults seen in April, July and from late August through early October. The dramatic larvae are occasionally seen feeding on *Cinnamomum camphor* and *Ilex rotundifolia*.



Fig. 6. *Chiasmia* sp. indet. near *triantulata* (Photo: Roger Kendrick).



Fig. 7. Atlas moth at KFBG (Photo: Alex Grioni).

(3) Wild Animal Rescue Centre (WARC) – update

Interesting animal acceptances at the WARC include:

A juvenile Cuckoo had both the WARC team and local ornithologists guessing as to its correct identification. It is believed that it is in fact a Lesser Hawk Cuckoo (*Cuculus poliocephalus*) (Fig. 8). The bird had suffered minor injuries from what appeared to be a predator attack. Once recovered the bird was subsequently I.D. ringed and released. Feathers were taken for future DNA analysis.

A Crested Serpent Eagle was received with a fractured pelvis and is expected to make a full recovery. The bird was struck by a cross border truck on Sha Tau Kok Road. Fortunately for the bird, the driver stopped and reported the incident immediately to the AFCDD so that the bird could be rescued.

A pair of juvenile Black Bazas (*Aviceda leucophotes*) (Fig. 9) were found at Sham Shui Po Market. The origin of the birds is unknown but both were found with leg chains attached indicating that they were perhaps intended to be used for illegal falconry or the pet trade.



Fig. 8. Lesser hawk cuckoo prior to release at KFBG (Photo: Leo Ko)



Fig. 9. The juvenile black baza (Photo: Gary Ades).

Animal rehoming to organisations involved in captive breeding & conservation projects for those species included:

Siamang Gibbon (*Hylobates syndactylus*) was sent to Melaka Zoo, Malaysia in April 2005.

2 Spotted Linsangs (*Prionodon pardicolor*) were sent to Taiping Zoo, Malaysia, in May 2005.

2 Malaysian Painted River Turtle (*Callagur borneoensis*) were sent to Fuengirola (Malaga) Zoo, Spain in June 2005.

7 Malaysian Box Turtle (*Cuora amboinensis*) were returned to the AFCDD HK in July & August, for education programmes.

Below is a list of some of the animals received since February 2005 and that have been successfully rehabilitated and subsequently released (Fig. 10 & 11).

SPECIES	LOCATION FOUND	RELEASE DATE	RELEASE LOCATION
REPTILES			
Chinese Softshell Turtle <i>Pelodiscus sinensis</i>	Lam Tsuen	06.04.05	Nam San Wai
RAPTORS			
Common Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>	Stubbs Road, HK	21.01.05	Mai Po
Common Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>	Tuen Mun Highway	07.03.05	KFBG
Collard Scops Owl <i>Otus lempiji</i>	Pok Fu Lam Rd	15.03.05	KFBG
Common Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>	Mai Po	24.03.05	Mai Po
Collard Scops Owl <i>Otus lempiji</i>	Sai Kung	04.05.05	Sai Kung (Return to Nest)
Black eared Kite <i>Milvus migrans lineatus</i>	Aberdeen CP	14.05.05	Aberdeen CP (Return to Nest)
Black eared Kite <i>Milvus migrans lineatus</i>	Kowloon Bay	18.05.05	Kowloon Bay
Collard Scops Owl <i>Otus lempiji</i>	Tuen Mun	18.05.05	Tai Po Kau
Collard Scops Owl <i>Otus lempiji</i>	Tsuen Kwan O	03.06.05	Kau Lung Hang
Black eared Kite <i>Milvus migrans lineatus</i>	Aberdeen	08.07.05	
Crested Goshawk <i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>	Kowloon Bay	04.08.05	KFBG
Crested Goshawk <i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>	HKUST Sai Kung	08.09.05	Tai Po Kau
Collard Scops Owl <i>Otus lempiji</i>	Tai Po	05.10.05	KFBG
OTHER BIRDS			
Oriental Tree Pipit <i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	KFBG	14.01.05	KFBG
Grey-headed Lapwing <i>Vanellus cinereus</i>	Kam Tin	10.03.05	Kam Tin
Spotted Dove <i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	Tai Po	07.04.05	KFBG
Koel <i>Eudynamis scolopacea</i>	TST	13.05.05	KFBG

Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montansus</i> x 2	KFBG	05.06.05	KFBG
Japanese White-eye <i>Zosterops japonica</i> x 3	KFBG	27.06.05	KFBG
Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i> x 2	Tuen Mun	06.07.05	KFBG
Magpie Robin <i>Copsychus saularis adamsi</i>	Tai Po	25.08.05	KFBG
Red-whiskered Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	KFBG	25.08.05	KFBG
Lesser Hawk Cuckoo <i>Cuculus poliocephalus</i>	Sai Kung	07.10.05	KFBG
Slaty Legged Crake <i>Rallina eurizonoides</i>	North Point	07.10.05	KFBG
Yellow Bittern <i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>	Jordan	10.10.05	Kam Tin
MAMMALS			
Common Noctule Bat <i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	KFBG	16.06.05	KFBG
Common Noctule Bat <i>Nyctalus noctula</i> x 10	KFBG	23.06.05	KFBG
Common Noctule Bat <i>Nyctalus noctula</i> x 5	KFBG	25.06.05	KFBG



Fig. 10. Black-eared kite chick after being returned to its nest in Aberdeen Country Park (Photo: Leo Ko).

In June 2005, WARC staff were called on a number of occasions to deal with bats that had apparently been washed out of their roof roosts during heavy rain. A bat box was produced and erected near to the roost site to help place bats back in a dry environment. This had limited success, as some bats were young and were not being cared for by adults. It would be interesting to know how widespread this phenomenon is during torrential rain.



Fig. 11a. Collard Scops Owl chick after being returned to its nest in Sai Kung. Fig. 11b. The same owl chick, two weeks later (Photo: Leo Ko).

(4) Other News

South East Asian Lepidoptera
Conservation Symposium
Hong Kong 2006



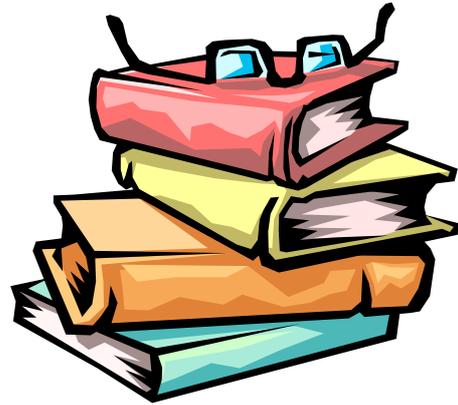
Between 4 and 8 of September 2006, KFBG will host the first South East Asian Lepidoptera Conservation Symposium. Unlike Europe, the Americas and Africa, there has been no regional or continental approach to the conservation of butterflies and moths in South East Asia. There exist various bodies at national and local levels, almost all non-governmental, that undertake conservation measures of some sort, and to varying degrees. By bringing such bodies together, an overall assessment of the state of Lepidoptera conservation in the region can begin.

The symposium is intended to bring together conservationists, academics, field workers, traders and natural history enthusiasts, to identify and agree upon regional conservation strategies and actions through a practical series of talks and workshops. The possibility of setting up a regional Lepidoptera conservation umbrella body will be explored.

Anyone interested in participating in the symposium should contact the Fauna Conservation Department at fauna@kfbg.org. Further information on the symposium is available on-line [2].

[1] <http://www.nationalmothnight.info>

[2] <http://asia.geocities.com/hkmoths/SEALCS2006/>



BOOK REVIEWS

A Field Guide to the Amphibians of Hong Kong

by Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), 212 pages, softcover. Friends of the Country Parks and Cosmos Books Ltd., 2005.

This is the latest in a series of field guides to local fauna produced by AFCD, and is the first dedicated solely to Hong Kong amphibians (but do not be taken in by the disingenuous claim on the inner sleeve that this is the first comprehensive text on the amphibians of Hong Kong: the Urban Council's *Hong Kong Amphibians and Reptiles*, co-written by Hong Kong's leading herpetologists, was equally comprehensive, at least in the second edition (1998), and broke considerably more new ground than the current guide). It is a misfortune, therefore, that the formatting and layout of much of the book have departed so waywardly from the staid, sensible approaches adopted in AFCD's other recent field guides to dragonflies, butterflies and freshwater fish. Some hooligan at AFCD or Cosmos Books has been handed a profusion of frog photographs, drawings, snippets of text and an early version of Photoshop, and instructed to do their worst with it. What a migraine-inducing dog's dinner he or she has come up with.

Did I say "dog's dinner"? That is perhaps a little harsh. The book divides into five parts, of which the first three ('Introduction', 'Knowing More About Amphibians', and 'Observing Amphibians in the Wild') are relatively easy on the eye and do not induce any kinetic psychosis in the reader (although the mind does boggle somewhat at the assertion, made in the introduction, that amphibians evolved a mere forty million years ago, which would place their emergence considerably later than the demise of the dinosaurs which evolved from them; it is to be hoped that this misprint will be corrected in the second edition).

The field guide portion of the book, however – Part Four - is cluttered with a ghastly, clamorous jumble of overlapping amphibian photographs printed in oval-shaped frames or, even more jarringly, with the backgrounds entirely removed. Each