

Table 31 ... continued. Important Bird Areas in Hainan Province (see Map 5).

441	Wuzhi Shan Nature Reserve	Protected	■ A1 ■ A2 ■ A3
Coordinates 18°50'N 109°41'E Altitude 250–1,876 m Area 13,436 ha Habitats Forest			
■ Threatened species <i>Arborophila ardens</i> ■ Endemic Bird Areas 142: Hainan ■ Biomes AS08: Sino-Himalayan subtropical forest; AS09: Indochinese tropical moist forest			
442	Diaoluo Shan Baishuiling Nature Reserve	Protected	■ A1 ■ A2 ■ A3
Coordinates 18°43'N 109°43'E Altitude 400–1,290 m Area 3,050 ha Habitats Forest			
■ Threatened species <i>Arborophila ardens</i> , <i>Columba punicea</i> , <i>Phylloscopus hainanus</i> ■ Endemic Bird Areas 142: Hainan ■ Biomes AS08: Sino-Himalayan subtropical forest; AS09: Indochinese tropical moist forest			
443	Jianfengling Nature Reserve	Protected	■ A1 ■ A2 ■ A3
Coordinates 18°37'N 108°46'E Altitude 100–1,100 m Area 7,762 ha Habitats Forest			
■ Threatened species <i>Gorsachius magnificus</i> , <i>Arborophila ardens</i> , <i>Columba punicea</i> , <i>Pitta nympha</i> , <i>Phylloscopus hainanus</i> ■ Endemic Bird Areas 142: Hainan ■ Biomes AS08: Sino-Himalayan subtropical forest; AS09: Indochinese tropical moist forest			
444	Yinggehai Salt Pans	Unprotected	■ A1 ■ A4iii
Coordinates 18°31'N 108°41'E Altitude 0–1 m Area 30,000 ha Habitats Wetlands			
■ Threatened species <i>Platalea minor</i>			
445	Ganzaling Nature Reserve	Protected	■ A1 ■ A2 ■ A3
Coordinates 18°21'N 109°34'E Altitude 200–347 m Area 1,715 ha Habitats Forest			
■ Threatened species <i>Arborophila ardens</i> ■ Endemic Bird Areas 142: Hainan ■ Biomes AS08: Sino-Himalayan subtropical forest; AS09: Indochinese tropical moist forest			

HONG KONG

LAND AREA 1,091 km² HUMAN POPULATION 6,843,000 (6,272 per km²)
 NUMBER OF IBAs 2 TOTAL AREA OF IBAs 65 km² STATUS OF IBAs 1 protected; 1 partially protected

KEY HABITATS AND BIRDS

- Hong Kong lies on the Pearl River delta, the largest intertidal area in southern China, and the extensive inter-tidal wetlands around Deep Bay in north-west Hong Kong support large numbers of waterbirds on passage and in winter. They include the threatened Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus* (Inner Deep Bay is the only regular wintering site in East Asia), Chinese

Egret *Egretta eulophotes*, Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor*, Spotted Greenshank *Tringa guttifer*, Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*, Saunders's Gull *Larus saundersi* and Styan's Grasshopper-warbler *Locustella pleskei*.

- From the 1960s to 1980s a few pairs of Chinese Egret *Egretta eulophotes* bred at Yim Tso Ha, Starling Inlet, north-east Hong Kong, the only known breeding population in the world until colonies were found in Korea and northern China in the 1980s.

The Inner Deep Bay and Shenzhen River catchment area (IBA 1) is an important passage and wintering area for many waterbirds, including several globally threatened species. (PHOTO: SAMUEL HUNG)

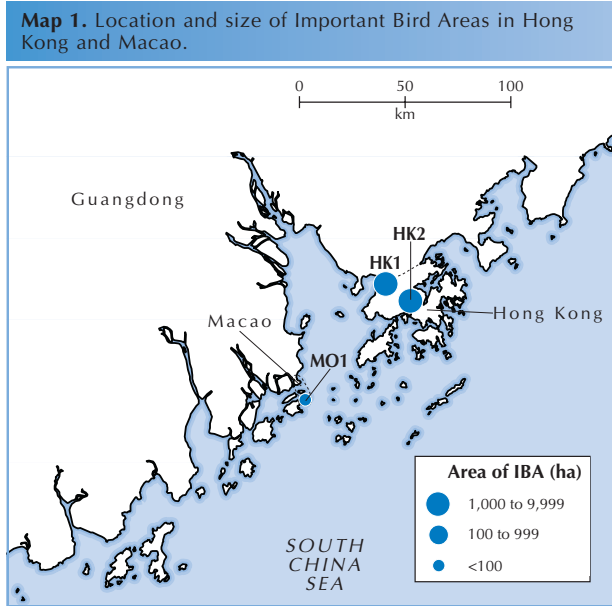


The colony at Yim Tso Ha was affected by development and disturbance as border traffic between Hong Kong and mainland China increased in the 1980s, and the last breeding record there was in 1985; it is therefore not listed as an IBA.

- Almost all of the original forest in Hong Kong had been cleared by the mid-nineteenth century. Although subsequent reforestation allowed a reasonable forest cover to develop, most of this secondary forest was destroyed during the Second World War. Since then, areas of forest have regenerated, with the most extensive in the central New Territories (including Tai Po Kau, Shing Mun and Tai Mo Shan). Some of these secondary forests have not been seriously disturbed for more than 50 years, and there is almost no hunting pressure as most species of wild animals are protected by law. The forests of Hong Kong therefore support healthy populations of many of the typical forest birds of south-east China (*Biome AS08: Sino-Himalayan subtropical forest*).

CONSERVATION INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM

The Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Chapter 170, enacted in 1976, revised in 1980), prohibits hunting or possession of protected animals (including all wild birds) in Hong Kong. The Country Park Ordinance (Chapter 208, enacted in 1976, revised in 1995) provides for the designation, control and management of country parks and special areas, and the establishment of the Country and Marine Parks Board; the country parks designated under this ordinance cover c.40% of the area of Hong Kong. Both ordinances are enforced by Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department



of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) Government. The Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Chapter 499, enacted in 1998) requires proponents of designated projects to avoid, minimise and control adverse impacts as far as practicable. If total avoidance is not practicable, the project proponents are required to mitigate the adverse impact to an acceptable level, or compensate for the impact caused.

Inner Deep Bay area was designated as a Ramsar Site in 1995. The core part of Inner Deep Bay, Mai Po Marshes, was declared as a restricted area in 1976, and has been managed in the form of a nature reserve by WWF Hong Kong since 1984. All of Inner Deep Bay was declared as a restricted area in 1996.

OVERVIEW OF THE INVENTORY

- Two IBAs have been identified in Hong Kong (covering c.6% of the land area of the territory): Inner Deep Bay and Shenzhen River catchment area (IBA 1) is a globally important wetland site that supports very large numbers of passage and wintering waterbirds including several threatened species; Tai Po Kau, Shing Mun and Tai Mo Shan (IBA 2) is a forested area that supports many of the characteristic species of the Sino-Himalayan subtropical forest biome.

CONSERVATION ISSUES

- Tai Po Kau, Shing Mun and Tai Mo Shan (IBA 2) is entirely within protected areas, and Inner Deep Bay and Shenzhen River catchment area (IBA 1) is partially protected.
- The most important threats to Inner Deep Bay and Shenzhen River catchment area are development (industrial, urban and infrastructure), filling in of wetlands, pollution and disturbance to birds, and other threats include aquaculture intensification, abandonment / reduction of land management, dredging and canalization, introduction of exotic plant species and recreation / tourism. The wetland ecosystems in Deep Bay and the surrounding region are generally under great pressure because of the rapid industrial development around the Pearl River delta.
- The Tai Po Kau, Shing Mun and Tai Mo Shan IBA has over 40% forest cover, as well as secondary scrubland, wooded grassland and other habitats. There is no development or hunting pressure in this IBA, and its conservation importance is likely to increase because the remnant forests in adjacent parts of southern China are threatened by development and human disturbance.

SOURCES OF IBA DATA

The IBA data presented here was compiled by Carrie K. W. Ma of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, with contributions from the following HKBWS members: Geoff Carey, Cheung Ho-fai, Lam Chiu-ying, Ng Cho-nam, Llewellyn Young, Yu Yat-tung, and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department of The Hong Kong SAR Government.

Table 1. Important Bird Areas in Hong Kong.

AP = IBA is wholly or partially an Asia-Pacific Waterbird Network site; R = IBA is wholly or partially a Ramsar Site

IBA Number	Name	Conservation Status	AP/R	Other Codes
1	Inner Deep Bay and Shenzhen River catchment area	Partially protected	AP,R	A1, A4i,iii
	Coordinates 22°29'N 114°02'E Altitude 0–10 m Area 3,150 ha Habitats Artificial landscapes (terrestrial); Wetlands			
	Threatened species <i>Pelecanus crispus</i> , <i>Egretta eulophotes</i> , <i>Ciconia boyciana</i> , <i>Platalea minor</i> , <i>Aquila clanga</i> , <i>Aquila heliaca</i> , <i>Tringa guttifer</i> , <i>Eurynorhynchus pygmeus</i> , <i>Larus saundersi</i> , <i>Locustella pleskei</i> , <i>Acrocephalus tangorum</i> , <i>Emberiza sulphurata</i>			Congregatory waterbirds
	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i> , <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> , <i>Egretta eulophotes</i> , <i>Ardea cinerea</i> , <i>Casmerodius albus</i> , <i>Platalea minor</i> , <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> , <i>Anas clypeata</i> , <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> , <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> , <i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i> , <i>Limosa limosa</i> , <i>Numenius arquata</i> , <i>Tringa erythropus</i> , <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i> , <i>Tringa nebularia</i> , <i>Tringa guttifer</i> , <i>Xenus cinereus</i> , <i>Limnodromus semipalmatus</i> , <i>Calidris ferruginosa</i> , <i>Calidris alpina</i> , <i>Eurynorhynchus pygmeus</i> , <i>Himantopus himantopus</i> , <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> , <i>Larus ridibundus</i> , <i>Larus saundersi</i>			
2	Tai Po Kau, Shing Mun and Tai Mo Shan area	Protected		A1, A3
	Coordinates 22°24'N 114°08'E Altitude 200–957 m Area 3,315 ha Habitats Forest; Shrubland			
	Threatened species <i>Pitta nympha</i> , <i>Rhinomyias brunneata</i>			Biomes AS08: Sino-Himalayan subtropical forest