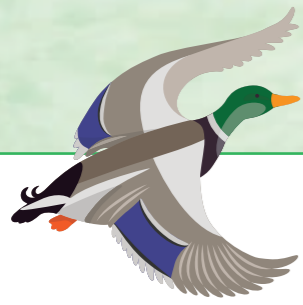


# Hong Kong Wetland Park

Wildlife Pictorial Guide  
for Interpretation

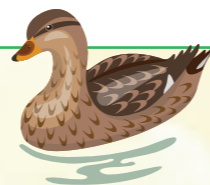
For Teachers





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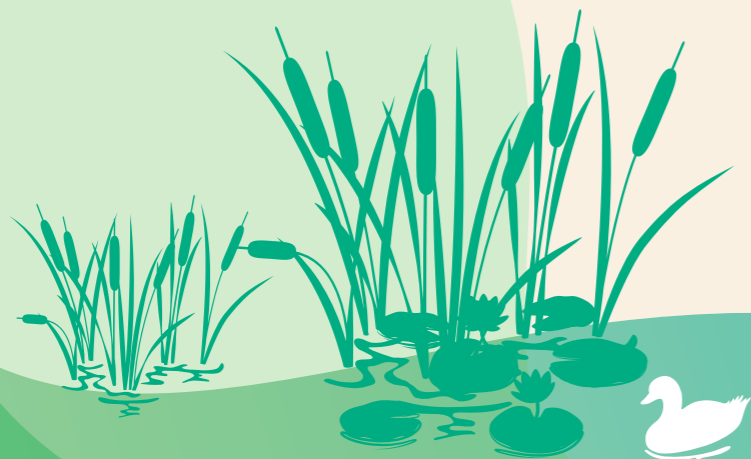
## User Guide

This pictorial guide introduces 25 common wildlife in Hong Kong Wetland Park. Teachers may fold the pictorial guide inside out during interpretation, so as to refer to the information of the wildlife while showing the corresponding photograph to the students.

QR codes are available on some birds' photographs. Teachers may scan the codes that link to the webpage to play the birds' calls for students.

Protect our natural environment, please:

- Keep quiet, do not shout or run in the Park;
- Do not picnic in the Park or leave any food in outdoor areas;
- Use durable and reusable materials, e.g. reusable water bottles, handkerchiefs, etc.;
- No littering. Put litter into litter bins or take it with you;
- Take care of children, do not climb over fences;
- Help to protect the exhibits and do not damage them;
- Do not pick or damage plants, do not disturb or catch animals; and
- Do not touch wild animals, their feathers or droppings. Wash hands after the visit



English Name : Saltwater Crocodile (Nickname: Crocodile Pui Pui)

Scientific Name : *Crocodylus porosus*



### Features

- Crocodile Pui Pui is a female saltwater crocodile. Adult females are about 2.5 - 3 meters in length, while males are about 5 meters and can be up to 6 - 7 meters in length
- Reptile, covered by scales



### Habitats

- Mainly found in coastal, estuarine and other brackish water areas, also found in rivers and marshes
- Widely spread across the globe, including India, Sri Lanka and Australia



### Habits & Fun Facts

- There are no wild crocodiles in Hong Kong; Pui Pui might be illegally imported as a pet or for trading when she was young
- Pui Pui was discovered in Shan Pui River in November 2003; kept by Hong Kong Wetland Park from August 2006 for safety concerns of the public and the ecosystem
- Sometimes opens her mouth to regulate body temperature
- Junveniles prey on insects, crustaceans, small reptiles and fish; adults feed on larger animals such as turtles, monitor lizards, water birds and even wild boars



### Observation Areas in the Park : Pui Pui's Home



**Saltwater Crocodile**  
***Crocodylus porosus***



English Name : Tilapia

Scientific Name : *Oreochromis* spp.



### Features

- Small to medium-sized, about 15 - 30 cm in average
- High-backed and laterally compressed body with a long dorsal fin and a truncated tail
- Body trunk generally brownish grey, with black stripes on both sides



### Habitats

- Freshwater areas or brackish water areas along the coast
- Invasive alien species, native in Africa; commonly found in Hong Kong's rivers, ponds and even ditches, also cultured in some fish ponds in Hong Kong



### Habits & Fun Facts

- Omnivorous that mainly feed on plants and organic debris
- Very high adaptability and fertility, able to survive in water bodies with poor water quality and low oxygen level; compete with native fish for food and habitats
- Females hatch their eggs in their mouths to enhance protection to their eggs



Observation Areas in the Park : Wetlands at Work, Life Zone and Stream Walk



**Tilapia**  
***Oreochromis spp.***



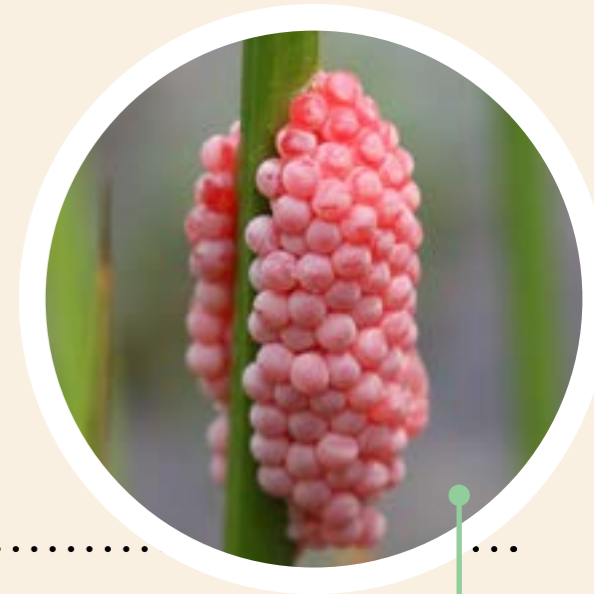
English Name : Golden Apple Snail

Scientific Name : *Pomacea canaliculata*



### Features

- Belongs to the phylum Mollusca, the shape of the shell is spiral
- Smooth shell with golden, dark brown or black stripes
- Flat foot for slow crawling



### Habitats

- Commonly found in freshwater wetlands in Hong Kong, such as paddy fields
- Invasive alien species that native to South America, threatening local aquatic lives



### Habits & Fun Facts

- Primarily feed on young leaves of aquatic plants
- Breathe with gills, spend most of the time in water except when spawning
- Use breathing tube to breathe air out of water in polluted water bodies
- **Pink eggs** are laid on the dry rocks or plants, on top of the water surface
- Able to close the shell and stay still for few months during drought seasons



Observation Areas in the Park : Dipping Pond, Life Zone and Stream Walk





**Golden Apple Snail**  
*Pomacea canaliculata*



English Name : Grass Carp

Scientific Name : *Ctenopharyngodon idella*



### Features

- Herbivorous freshwater fish species, average length is about 60 - 100 cm
- Elongated body, short blunt mouth with no barbels, body covered with large broad scales



### Habitats

- Native to China, and had been introduced throughout the world. One of the most important aquaculture species in China
- Lives in middle and bottom layers of lakes, ponds and rivers grown with aquatic vegetation



### Habits & Fun Facts

- Herbivorous, mainly feed on phytoplankton and algae
- Common artificial breeding species, can be used as food and for controlling the spread of aquatic weeds
- One of the four most important cultivated freshwater fish in aquaculture (The remaining three species are Silver Carp, Black Carp and Big Head Carp)



Observation Areas in the Park : Wetlands at Work and Stream Walk



**Grass Carp**  
***Ctenopharyngodon idella***



# English Name : Long-tailed Skink

## Scientific Name : *Eutropis longicaudata*



### Features

- Body trunk can be longer than 10 cm, tail length up to twice the length of the trunk
- Brown scales on dorsal side, greenish yellow scales on ventral side; a dark brown band on each side of the body



### Habitats

- Mainly found in woodland boundaries, perching on rocks which covered by weeds

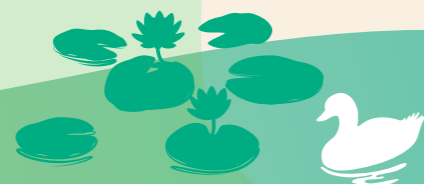


### Habits & Fun Facts

- Primarily feed on insects and other small invertebrates
- Active in daylight and like sun-bathing
- Very agile and may drop its tail to escape when being threatened
- Lay eggs under the rocks or in the caves



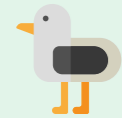
### Observation Areas in the Park : Wetlands at Work and Stream Walk



**Long-tailed Skink**  
***Eutropis longicaudata***



# Life Cycle of a Dragonfly and Damselfly



## Features

- Dragonflies and damselflies are close relatives; they have the same life cycle, including three distinct stages: eggs, naiad and adults. This transformation is called “incomplete metamorphosis”



## Habits & Fun Facts

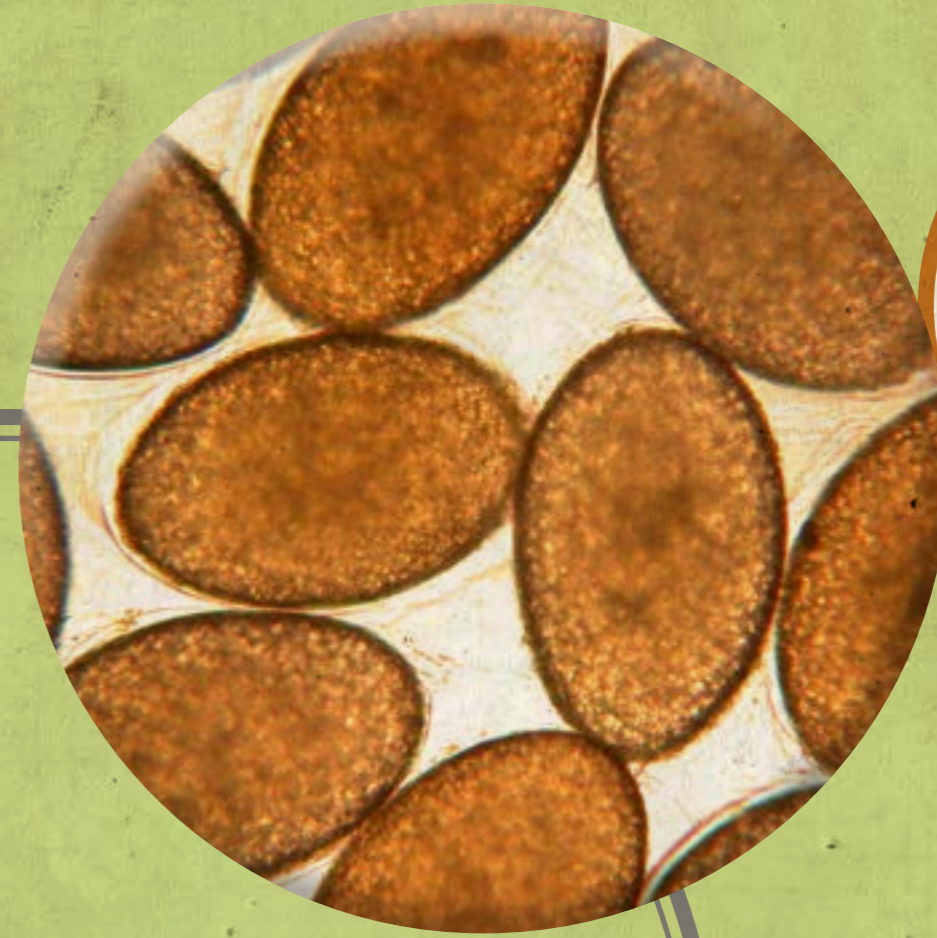
- Dragonfly lays eggs into water, aquatic plant surface or stem; location for laying eggs depends on species
- Eggs hatch into naiads that live underwater
- Dragonfly naiads breathe with rectal gills, adults breathe via spiracles in thorax and abdomen
- When naiads are about to transform, they emerge into adults by crawling out of water surface along the stems of aquatic plants or rocks



Observation Areas in the Park : Dipping Pond, Stream Walk and Life Zone



# Life Cycle of a Dragonfly and Damselfly



Egg



Naiad



Adult

English Name : Variegated Flutterer

Scientific Name : *Rhyothemis variegata arria*



### Features

- Medium-sized dragonfly, abdomen is about 22 - 27 mm in length
- Forewings and hindwings covered with bright black and yellow patterns, often confused with butterflies when flying
- Males and females look similar, but females have transparent wing tips



### Habitats

- Found in marshes, ponds and artificial pools
- Widely distributed, the population mainly lives in the northwestern New Territories regions

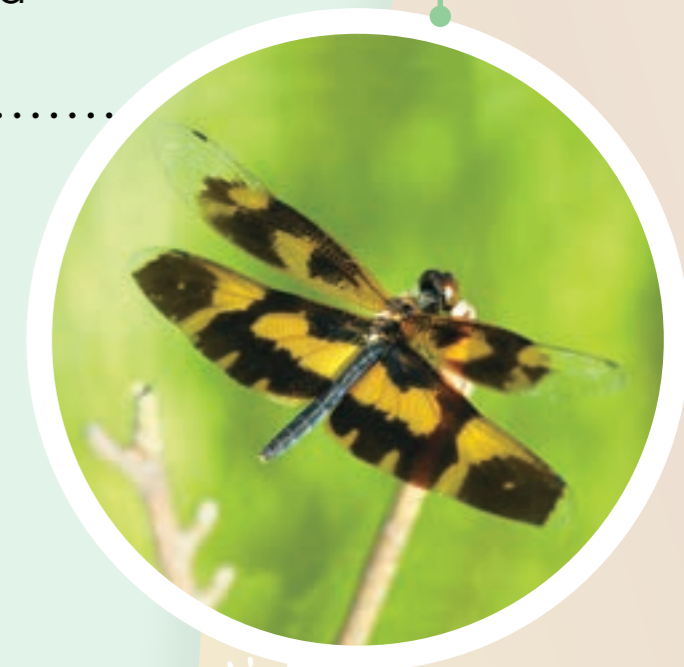


### Habits & Fun Facts

- One of the few dragonflies in Hong Kong that have bright wing pattern and colouration



Observation Areas in the Park : Dipping Pond, Stream Walk and Life Zone







**Variegated Flutterer**  
***Rhyothemis variegata arria***

English Name : Common Flangetail

Scientific Name : *Ictinogomphus pertinax*



### Features

- Large-sized dragonfly, abdomen is about 51 - 54 mm long
- Black synthorax and abdomen with yellow stripes
- A black leaf-like projection near the tip of abdomen



### Habitats

- Mainly found in ponds and still water, also in rivers and artificial pools
- Widely distributed throughout Hong Kong



### Habits & Fun Facts

- Very territorial, actively expel the invaded dragonflies
- Like perching on the emergent plants or branches
- Compared to males, females are uncommon that can mainly be seen at breeding sites during breeding seasons



Observation Areas in the Park : Dipping Pond, Stream Walk and Life Zone



A photograph of a Common Flangetail dragonfly perched on a thin, brown branch. The dragonfly has a black body with prominent yellow bands and four large, transparent wings. The background is a dark, olive-green color. The entire image is framed by a thick, light-colored border with rounded corners. Scattered around the white background are small, colorful leaf-like shapes in shades of orange, green, and brown.

**Common Flangetail**  
***Ictinogomphus pertinax***

English Name : Orange-tailed Sprite

Scientific Name : *Ceriagrion auranticum ryukyuanum*



### Features

- Medium-sized damselfly, abdomen is about 28 - 35 mm long
- Males have green compound eyes, olive green synthorax and reddish orange abdomen, whereas females have lighter colouration



### Habitats

- Commonly found in pond margins, marshes, abandoned fields or grasslands near water bodies



### Habits & Fun Facts

- Carnivorous and quite aggressive, prey on smaller damselflies
- Adults have longer flight periods than other species, usually found in spring to early winter



Observation Areas in the Park : Dipping Pond, Stream Walk and Life Zone





**Orange-tailed Sprite**  
***Ceriagrion auranticum ryukyuanum***

English Name : Plain Tiger

Scientific Name : *Danaus chrysippus*



### Features

- Black body with many white spots
- Orange-yellow wings, with black and white markings at the edge
- Males are smaller than females, and their hindwings have a pouch-type androconia
- A pair of front legs are reduced



### Habitats

- Usually found in areas with host plant, **Blood-flower**, near countryside or woodlands



### Habits & Fun Facts

- Usually hover around their host plant: Blood-flower
- Larvae can store toxin from Blood-flower as a self-defence weapon to avoid predators, and adults are also toxic
- **Adults and larvae are brightly coloured** to warn predators of their toxicity



Observation Areas in the Park : Butterfly Garden



**Plain Tiger**  
***Danaus chrysippus***



## Scientific Name : *Nephila pilipes*



### Features

- Dorsal side resembles a human face, also known as the “human-faced spider”
- Males are orange in colour and their size is only one-fifth of the females
- One of the largest native spiders in Hong Kong



### Habitats

- Widely distributed in subtropical regions, commonly found in Asia, Africa and America



### Habits & Fun Facts

- Large web is weaved between trees in woodlands or near roadside, spiders will wait still in the centre of the web for preys which are mainly insects
- Have long fangs; inject venom into the preys to induce paralysis when the preys had fallen into the trap. The preys are then wrapped by spider silks which produced from the abdomen
- Digestive fluid is first injected into the prey allowing spider to absorb the digested tissue fluid of its prey



### Observation Areas in the Park : Return Route





***Nephila pilipes***



English Name : Spiny Ant

Scientific Name : *Polyrhachis dives*



### Features

- Body length is about 4 - 6 mm, mainly black and occasionally brown in colour
- Body covered with a layer of light yellow or silver grey soft hairs, worker ants have yellow stripes on the abdomen



### Habitats

- Primarily nesting on trees, but some nests were built under rocks or inside the bush
- Ant nests look similar to bee hives, which are fabricated with wood and leaves chips



### Habits & Fun Facts

- Feed on plants' sap, aphids' secretions and small insects
- Prey on caterpillars that eat leaves
- If the nest is disturbed, large numbers of worker ants will pour out instantly to defend



Observation Areas in the Park : Stream Walk, Succession Walk and Return Route




**Spiny Ant**  
*Polyrhachis dives*




English Name : Water-lily

Scientific Name : *Nymphaea* spp.




 Features


- Leaves float on water surface
- Underwater rhizome is attached to a soft petiole
- Leaves have incomplete rim
- Colours of flowers petals include white, pink, purple, purplish red, yellow, etc.

 Habitats

- Commonly found in freshwater marshes, ponds and artificial pools

 Habits & Fun Facts

- Introduced to Hong Kong for horticultural planting
- Flowering season starts from May to August
- Flowers usually open at daytime but close at night

 Observation Areas in the Park : Stream Walk, Dipping Pond and Succession Walk





**Water-lily**  
***Nymphaea* spp.**

English Name : Indian Lotus

Scientific Name : *Nelumbo nucifera*



### Features

- Bright green and shield-shaped leaves
- Flowers and leaves with long stem are emerged out of the water surface
- Leaves have a layer of fine hairs to allow water droplets flow away quickly



### Habitats

- Stable and calm lakes, marshes and ponds



### Habits & Fun Facts

- Perennial aquatic plants
- Flowering season starts from June to August, only lasts for 3 to 4 days
- After flowers wilted, seed bowls become swollen and lotus seeds are stored inside
- Each body part has different uses. Lotus seeds and lotus roots are common food, while lotus leaves and seed bowl can be used as herbal tea ingredients



Observation Areas in the Park : Wetlands at Work, Succession Walk and Dipping Pond



**Indian Lotus**  
***Nelumbo nucifera***



## Scientific Name : *Kandelia obovata*



### Features

- Green and pen-shaped propagules, have sharp tips
- White flowers with 5 to 6 petals

### Habitats

- Widely distributed in Hong Kong's brackish estuaries and coastal regions, such as Northwestern New Territories, Sai Kung and Tolo Harbour

### Habits & Fun Facts

- One of the most common mangrove species in Hong Kong
- Pen-shaped propagules grow along the waterside
- Seedlings reproduce in viviparous form (propagules), which started to grow before they have left the parent plant
- Premature propagules will drop into the soil and can quickly grow into saplings once the environmental conditions are flavoured
- Prop roots provide additional stability to the trees in soft unstable substratum by broadening the tree base

### Observation Areas in the Park : Mangrove Boardwalk







***Kandelia obovata***

English Name : Many-petaled Mangrove

Scientific Name : *Bruguiera gymnorhiza*



### Features

- Cylindrical and cigar-shaped propagules
- Tissue contains a high content of tannin, which tints the plant tissues red
- Dark red calyx, broad leaves and pointed at both ends



### Habitats

- Widely distributed in Hong Kong's brackish estuaries and coastal regions, such as Northwestern New Territories, Sai Kung and Tolo Harbour



### Habits & Fun Facts

- Seedlings reproduce in viviparous form (propagules), which started to grow before they have left the parent plant
- Premature propagules will drop into the soil and can quickly grow into saplings once the environmental conditions are flavoured
- Some roots develop "knee-like" roots above the mud surface to facilitate gaseous exchange
- Tree sap contains tannin that avoids pest consuming plant parts. Human often use tannin as natural dye



### Observation Areas in the Park : Mangrove Boardwalk





**Many-petaled Mangrove**  
***Bruguiera gymnorhiza***

## Scientific Name : *Aegiceras corniculatum*



### Features

- Rounded leaves, reddish petioles and leaf tips are slightly concaved
- Leaves have salt glands
- Propagules are curved and sharp, resemble the shape of a candle and therefore also known as the “Candle Fruit” in Chinese



### Habitats

- Widely distributed in Hong Kong’s brackish estuaries and coastal regions, such as Northwestern New Territories, Sai Kung and Tolo Harbour



### Habits & Fun Facts

- One of the most common mangrove species in Hong Kong
- Excessive salts will be discharged from the salt glands of the leaves to adapt high salinity environment
- Seedlings reproduce in viviparous form (propagules), which started to grow before they have left the parent plant
- Premature propagules will drop into the soil and can quickly grow into saplings once the environmental conditions are flavoured
- Some roots develop “knee-like” roots above the mud surface to facilitate gaseous exchange



### Observation Areas in the Park : Mangrove Boardwalk



***Aegiceras corniculatum***



English Name : Shuttles Hoppfish, Great Blue Spotted Mudskipper

Scientific Name : *Periophthalmus modestus*, *Boleophthalmus pectinirostris*



### Features

- Shuttles Hoppfish: about 5 - 7 cm long. Body is brownish grey in colour, covered with tiny dark black spots and some dark grey bands on both sides of the body
- Great Blue Spotted Mudskipper: about 8 - 12 cm long. Dark grey body covered with metallic blue spots
- Have muscular pectoral fins to bend forward that act like an arm to crawl



### Habitats

- Live in intertidal mudflats and also attached to the mangrove trunks or rocks
- Able to dig and stay inside the burrows on mudflats



### Habits & Fun Facts

- Fish instead of amphibian because they breathe with gills and have scales and fins
- Shuttles Hoppfish are carnivorous that primarily feed on small invertebrates, while Great Blue Spotted Mudskipper are herbivorous that feed on algae during low tide periods
- Gill chambers can store water while the moist skins can facilitate gaseous exchange, allowing them to forage on land



Observation Areas in the Park : Mangrove Boardwalk





**Shuttles Hoppfish**  
*Periophthalmus modestus*



**Great Blue Spotted Mudskipper**  
*Boleophthalmus pectinirostris*

## Scientific Name : *Uca arcuata*



### Features

- Body is mostly red in colour
  - Males have a huge claw and a small claw while females only have two small claws
- 



### Habitats

- Live in the intertidal mudflats and mangroves
  - Able to dig and stay inside the burrows on mudflats
- 



### Habits & Fun Facts

- Males wave the large claw to guard territory and attract mates while the small claw is used for feeding
  - Fiddler crabs forage on the mudflat during low tide and the movement of males waving their claws are like attracting the waves, so it is called “Wave-attracting crab” in Chinese
  - Mouth can filter tiny food particles in the mud including debris, algae, bacteria and microorganisms. The filtered mud or sand will be spitted out directly
- 



### Observation Areas in the Park : Mangrove Boardwalk





***Uca arcuata***



English Name : Red-whiskered Bulbul

Scientific Name : *Pycnonotus jocosus*



### Features

- Small-sized bird, about 20 cm long
- Adults have a black crown and red ear-coverts; juveniles lack the red ear-coverts
- Orange-red vent



### Habitats

- Very common and widespread residents in Hong Kong
- Found in open countries, woodlands and urban areas



### Habits & Fun Facts

- Mainly feed on fruits and insects
- Usually appear in groups
- Have a clear and loud call



Observation Areas in the Park : Different areas in the Park such as:  
Stream Walk and trees near Life Zone



A photograph of a Red-whiskered Bulbul perched on a thin branch. The bird has a black crest, a white forehead with a red stripe, and a white breast with a dark collar. Its wings and tail are brown and grey. The background is a blurred green forest. The image is framed by a thick, light-brown oval border with some small green and orange leaves scattered around it.

**Red-whiskered Bulbul**  
*Pycnonotus jocosus*



English Name : Sooty-headed Bulbul

Scientific Name : *Pycnonotus aurigaster*



### Features

- Small-sized bird, around 20 cm long
- Adults have a slightly erected black crown feather
- Greyish-brown upperpart, with a greyish white throat and belly
- Red vent, while juveniles have yellow vent



### Habitats

- Residents that widespread in open countries in Hong Kong
- Prefer open area, often found in shrubs and margin of woodlands



### Habits & Fun Facts

- Mainly feed on fruits and insects
- Have a pleasant call



Observation Areas in the Park : Trees near Wetland Discovery Centre and Succession Walk



**Sooty-headed Bulbul**  
***Pycnonotus aurigaster***



English Name : Chinese Bulbul

Scientific Name : *Pycnonotus sinensis*



### Features

- Small-sized bird, about 19 cm long
- Adults have a white nape and olive green back; juveniles do not have the white nape
- White patches on cheek with a grey belly



### Habitats

- Very common and widespread residents in Hong Kong
- Commonly found in wetlands, woodlands, open countries and urban areas



### Habits & Fun Facts

- Mainly feed on fruits and sometimes prey on insects
- Usually appear in groups
- Have a clear and loud call



Observation Areas in the Park : Different areas in the Park such as:  
Stream Walk and trees near Life Zone



**Chinese Bulbul**  
*Pycnonotus sinensis*



English Name : Great Egret

Scientific Name : *Ardea alba*



### Features

- Large-sized egret, about 90 cm long
- All-white plumage with a long neck. Bill is yellow (turns black in the breeding season)
- Black legs and toes
- The gape line extends behind the eyes



### Habitats

- Common and widespread residents and winter visitors in Hong Kong
- Found in streams, brackish and freshwater wetlands



### Habits & Fun Facts

- Often stand and wait along the shore and prey on fishes in shallow waters
- The neck forms a "S" shape in flight (see photo)
- Make a "kok-kok-" call



Observation Areas in the Park : Riverside Hide, Mudflat Hide and Fishpond Hide







**Great Egret**  
*Ardea alba*

English Name : Little Egret

Scientific Name : *Egretta garzetta*



### Features

- Medium to small-sized egret, about 61 cm long
- All-white plumage with long and slender neck. Black bill and legs with yellow toes
- A pair of ornamental plumes appears in the breeding season (see photo)



### Habitats

- Common residents, widespread throughout the coastal areas in Hong Kong
- Prefer streams, brackish and freshwater wetlands, urban areas and coastal areas



### Habits & Fun Facts

- Mainly feed on fishes
- Often stay at the waterside and wait for their prey
- Have a harsh "ah-ah-" call



Observation Areas in the Park : Riverside Hide, Mudflat Hide and Fishpond Hide





**Little Egret**  
***Egretta garzetta***

English Name : Black-faced Spoonbill

Scientific Name : *Platalea minor*



### Features

- Large-sized waterbird, about 76 cm long
- White plumage with black face and legs. The bill resembles a spoon or a Chinese musical instrument, "pipa"
- Yellowish crest feathers and neck turns yellow in the breeding season



### Habitats

- Winter visitors. In early spring, they return to their breeding grounds, such as Northern China and Korea
- Prefer brackish and freshwater wetlands, such as estuaries



### Habits & Fun Facts

- Mainly feed on fishes and other aquatic animals in shallow waters
- Use the spoon-shaped bill to sweep sideway in the water when feeding
- An endangered bird species



Observation Areas in the Park : Viewing Gallery of Visitor Centre, Riverside Hide and Mudflat Hide





**Black-faced Spoonbill**  
*Platalea minor*

English Name : Great Cormorant

Scientific Name : *Phalacrocorax carbo*



### Features

- Large-sized waterbird, about 86 cm long
- All-black plumage with yellow cheek and a hooked bill
- Webbed feet for swimming and diving



### Habitats

- Common winter visitors, about several thousands to ten thousands individuals come to Hong Kong every year
- Found in brackish and freshwater wetlands and coastal areas



### Habits & Fun Facts

- Dive to capture fishes
- Specialised in diving. Their feathers absorb water easily, which can reduce the buoyancy when diving into water. Their webbed feet act as powerful propellers underwater
- Love sunbathing with their wings spread opened on shore after diving to dry their wet feathers
- Live in groups and often fly in V-shape



Observation Areas in the Park : Viewing Gallery of Visitor Centre, Riverside Hide and Mudflat Hide



**Great Cormorant**  
*Phalacrocorax carbo*





## Visiting Rules

- Observe and photograph animals without disturbing them
- Avoid chasing wildlife, walk slowly and quietly
- Stay on paths to avoid trampling on fragile habitats
- Wear subdued colours to keep hidden from wildlife
- Exemplify and educate others on environmental conservation

## Hong Kong Wetland Park

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Tel : 3152 2666 Fax : 3152 2668 Website : [www.wetlandpark.gov.hk/en](http://www.wetlandpark.gov.hk/en)