

大埔滘野外研習園

TAI PO KAU OUTDOOR STUDY CENTRE

in Country Parks

Tai Po Kau Outdoor Study Centre Field Trip

Species Identification Guide



Birds

Tips for Observation:

Judge the positions of the birds hidden in the woods by listening to the bird calls, then track them using a binocular. Keep quite during the observation to avoid frightening the birds.



叉尾太陽鳥 Fork-tailed Sunbird
Aethopyga christinae

Characteristics The male has a green crown and nape, a red throat and breast, and a forked tail. The female has a green-grey upper body and yellow rump.

Diet Mainly nectar and some small insects.



蒼背山雀 Cinereous Tit
Parus cinereus

Characteristics It has a black crown and neck, white ear patches, and bluish-grey back. There is a black stripe extends from its throat to belly.

Diet Feed on fruit and insects.



鵲鵯 Oriental Magpie-robin
Copsychus saularis

Characteristics The male has a black head, breast, upper back. There are white strips on its black wings. Its belly and undertail coverts are white. The female looks like the male, but it has a head, breast, and upper back with dark grey colour.

Diet Feed mainly on insects and other arthropods.



灰喉山椒鳥 Grey-chinned Minivet
Pericrocotus solaris

Characteristics It has a dark gray head and back. The male's belly is orange and female's belly is yellow.

Diet Feed mainly on insects and some seeds.



栗背短腳鶇 Chestnut Bulbul
Hemixos castanonotus

Characteristics It has a black crown and white belly. It also has brown ear patches and back.

Diet Feed mainly on fruit and seeds. Sometimes it also feed on some insects.



赤紅山椒鳥 Scarlet Minivet
Pericrocotus speciosus

Characteristics It has a dark gray head and back. The male's belly and back are red, and female's belly and back are yellow.

Diet Feed mainly on insects.



黃頰山雀 Yellow-cheeked Tit
Machlolophus spilonotus

Characteristics It has a black belly. Its black crown and yellow ear patches are its unique marks.

Diet Feed on fruit and insects.



黑喉噪鵲
Black-throated Laughingthrush
Pterorhinus chinensis

Characteristics The areas around the eyes and throat are black, the ear patches are white, and the rest of the body is predominantly bluish-grey to brown.

Diet Feed on fruit and insects.

Birds (cont'd)



紅耳鶇 Red-whiskered Bulbul
Pycnonotus jocosus

Characteristics The tall black crest and red patches on ears are its unique marks.

Diet Feed on fruit and insects.



白頭鶇 Chinese Bulbul
Pycnonotus sinensis

Characteristics Popularly known as “white-headed old man” because of the white patch on its crown and ears. Its back is olive.

Diet Feed on fruit and insects.



珠頸斑鳩 Spotted Dove
Streptopelia chinensis

Characteristics It has a black head. Brown overall with a unique white-spotted black nape patch.

Diet Feed mainly on seeds.



暗綠繡眼鳥 Swinhoe's White-Eye
Zosterops simplex

Characteristics It has a green back, and a white ring round the eye.

Diet Feed on fruit, nectar, pollen and insects.

Insects (butterflies)

Tips for Observation

Since some butterflies are fast-flying, it is hard to catch them by naked eyes, so be patient and wait until they rest or eat.



青鳳蝶 Common Bluebottle
Graphium sarpedon

Characteristics It has green-dish blue bands on its wings.

Diet Feed mainly on nectar. The larvae feed on Pond Spice and Camphor Tree.



紅珠鳳蝶 Common Rose
Pachliopta aristolochiae

Characteristics The body is mainly red. There are red and white patches on its wings.

Diet Feed mainly on nectar. The larvae feed on India Birthwort.



報喜斑粉蝶 Red-base Jezebel
Delias pasithoe

Characteristics The wings are composed of black, white, yellow and red colours.

Diet It loves to visit flowers on trees for nectar. The larvae feed on *Macrosolen cochinchinensis* (鞘花).



玉斑鳳蝶 Red Helen
Papilio helenus

Characteristics It has obvious white markings on its hindwings and crescent-shaped red markings on the margin of its hindwings.

Diet Feed mainly on nectar.



藍點紫斑蝶 Blue-Spotted Crow
Euploea midamus

Characteristics Its black-brown wings appear shiny purplish blue under sunlight. For the females, there are two rows of small white dots on the edge of the hindwings.

Diet Feed mainly on nectar.



巴黎翠鳳蝶 Paris Peacock
Papilio paris

Characteristics Small green dots can be seen from its black wings when reflected by the sun. There are two large blue markings near the wing tails.

Diet Feed mainly on nectar. The larvae feed on Thin Evodia.



燕鳳蝶 White Dragontail
Lamproptera curius

Characteristics The smallest swallowtail butterfly in Hong Kong. In addition to the transparent centre of the forewings, it also has obvious wing tails.

Diet Feed mainly on nectar. The larvae feed on Illigera.



絹斑蝶 Glassy Tiger
Parantica aglea

Characteristics Many white marks can be found on its dark brown wings.

Diet Feed mainly on nectar.

Insects (dragonflies) (damselflies)

Tips for observation

Despite the high flight speed, some dragonflies like emergent or waterside plants to perch, so you can wait until they stay on plants and then observe them.



藍額疏脈蜻 Blue Dasher
Brachydiplax flavovittata

Characteristics The body is mainly composed of blue, yellow and black colours. In contrast to the blue former half of the abdomen, the latter half is black.

Diet Feed on other small insects.



曉褐蜻 Crimson Dropwing
Trithemis aurora

Characteristics Small dragonfly. The thorax and abdomen of the male are mainly purplish red, and there are reddish brown spots on wingbases. The female has a brown body.

Diet Feed on other small insects.



華麗灰蜻 Red-faced Skimmer
Orthetrum chrysis

Characteristics frons is red. The thorax is brown, and the abdomen is red. The female has a yellowish-brown thorax and abdomen.

Diet Feed on other small insects.



翠胸黃蟴 Orange-Tailed Sprite
Ceriagrion auranticum ryukyuanum

Characteristics A damselfly with large body size. The thorax and abdomen are olive and orange, respectively.

Diet Feed on other small insects and damselflies with smaller body sizes.



黑尾灰蜻 Common Blue Skimmer
Orthetrum glaucum

Characteristics The colour of the male's body is pruinose pale blue and abdomen is black at the end. The female's body is yellowish brown.

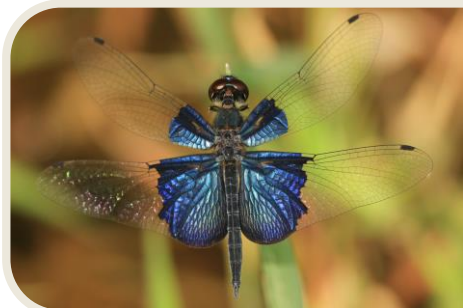
Diet Feed on other small insects.



毛狹扇蟴 Black-kneed Featherlegs
Pseudocopteryx ciliata

Characteristics The thorax is black with neat white stripes. The abdomen is white at the end.

Diet Feed on other small insects.



三角麗翅蜻 Sapphire Flutterer
Rhythemis triangularis

Characteristics Metallic blue spots (male) /black spots (female) on wingbases can be found.

Diet Feed on other small insects.

Insects (others)

Tips for Observation

Insects are generally small in size, you can use a magnifier to observe slow moving insects. You can also identify the positions of the insects by listening to the flapping sounds produced from their wings.



金斑虎甲 Blue Spotted Tiger Beetle
Cicindela aurulenta

Characteristics Beetle. The back of its body is metallic blue, and there are white spots on its wings.

Diet It aggressively preys on other insects.



豹尺蛾 False Tiger Moth
Dysphania militaris

Characteristics Moth. The whole body is mainly yellow and black, with distinctive yellow and black patterns on the wings.

Diet Feed mainly on nectar.



豆芫菁 Blister Beetle
Epicauta spp.

Characteristics Beetle. Its body is black and head is red. It secretes toxins when attacked.

Diet Adult has a wide range of feeding habits and chews on the flowers, fruit and leaves of plants (especially ferns) in groups.



廣翅蠟蟬 Planthopper
Ricanula sp.

Characteristics Longitudinal stripes and spots are found on its reddish-brown wings.

Diet Feed on sap of plants (especially Chinese hibiscus 大紅花).



螞蟻 Ants

Characteristics They are small, and some of them have no wings. Their bodies are mainly black or brown.

Diet They are generally omnivorous and feed on dead insects and fruit. Some ants actively prey on live insects.



蜜蜂 Bees

Characteristics They are small. Their bodies are mainly divided into yellow and black. They make “buzzing” sound when flying.

Diet Feed mainly on pollen.



蚊 Mosquitoes

Characteristics They are small and have dark or dark to brown bodies.

Diet All mosquitoes feed on nectar and plant sap. Female mosquitoes supplement their diet with additional nutrients by sucking blood for reproduction.



水黽 Water Skaters

Characteristics They have long and thin middle legs and hindlegs and can slide on the water.

Diet Prey on insects that fall into the water.

Reptiles & Amphibians



變色樹蜥 Changeable Lizard
Calotes versicolor

Characteristics Reptile. The body changes colours in response to the intensity of light and changes in temperature and humidity.

Diet Being a carnivore, it preys on some small insects and small vertebrates.



黑眶蟾蜍 Asian Common Toad
Duttaphrynus melanostictus

Characteristics Amphibian. It is commonly known as “toad”. The whole body is brown and covered with “warts” of varying sizes. There are black lines behind its eyes.

Diet Feed mainly on insects.



中國壁虎 Chinese Gecko
Gekko chinensis

Characteristics Reptile. It has a flat body with loose, scaly skin.

Diet Feed mainly on insects.



闊褶蛙 Brown Wood Frog
Hylarana latouchii

Characteristics Amphibian. There are two thick distinctive dorsolateral folds on the sides of its body.

Diet Feed mainly on insects.

Tips for Observation

You may hear calls from the frogs. Pay attention to any movement from the tallgrass and crevices and look observe carefully.



香港瘰螈 Hong Kong Newt
Paramesotriton hongkongensis

Characteristics The only amphibian with a tail in Hong Kong. The body is dark brown, and there is a distinct ridge on the back.

Diet Feed on small fish and shrimps in the water, and also some insect larvae.



沼蛙 Günther's Frog
Sylvirana guentheri

Characteristics Amphibian. Its back is brown with black vertical stripes and belly is white. The mating calls of the male sound like dog's bark.

Diet Feed mainly on insects.



烏游蛇 Mountain Water Snake
Sinonatrix percarinata percarinata

Characteristics It has a light brown or olive body with yellow or white ring patterns.

Diet It mainly preys on freshwater animals, such as fish and some amphibians.

Fish

Tips for Observation

Pay attention to the water surface where ripples can be found since it may imply that there are animals moving nearby.



魚 Fish

Characteristics It is an aquatic animal. Its body is covered by scales. It does not have limbs and it moves with its fins.

Diet It feeds on aquatic plants and some small aquatic animals, such as insect larvae.

Mammals

Tips for Observation

Try to search for signs such as footprints and dung.



猴子 Monkeys

Characteristics The colours of their fur diverse from grayish to golden brown. The skin colour of their faces and buttocks are pink. They are good at climbing trees.

Diet Feed mainly on plant materials like leaves, fruit, flowers and shoots.



野豬 Wild Pigs

Characteristics They have large bodies and have thick and short coats of brownish grey to black colour. The males have fangs.

Diet They use their noses to sniff out food including roots, bulbs, and small animals (e.g. insects) from soil.

Classification of Plants



Woody Plants - Trees

Plants with elongated stems or trunks. Trees have obvious trunks, and the differences between the trunk and crown of a tree are distinguishable. Trunks of trees often begin to branch at a high position.

The heights of trees range from 6 meters to tens of meters.



Woody Plants - Shrubs

Shrubs are significantly shorter than trees and have no obvious trunks. The branches of shrubs start to diverge at a very low position (generally below the waist of an adult), so it is difficult to differentiate the crown of a shrub from the trunk.

Herbs

Herbs are plants without woody stems. It is hard to find structures like trunks on herbs with naked eyes (no brown branches and trunks). The branches of herbs are evergreen and soft.



Aquatic Plants

Aquatic plants generally refer to plants that can grow normally in water over a long time or periodically. Some aquatic plants have their whole bodies or leaves floating on the water surface, while some have their stems and leaves emerging from the water.



Plants in the Study Centre



Plants (1 – 8)

Tips for Observation

As some plants contain toxic substances, you should avoid touching any plants during the field trip. You should also be aware of the ant nests and beehives near the plants.



竹
Bamboos

1

Characteristics Herbs. Most bamboos can grow very tall, they have leaves that are long flat, and the branches are divided into sections. Some insects that can be found on bamboos, such as weevils, stink bugs and aphids will feed on bamboos.



雙莢決明
Double-fruited Cassia
Senna bicapsularis

5

Characteristics Shrub. The branches are abundant, with 3 to 4 pairs of leaves growing on each branch. It is attractive to insects when its yellow flowers are bloomed.



金錢蒲
Grass-leaved Sweet Flag
Acorus gramineus

2

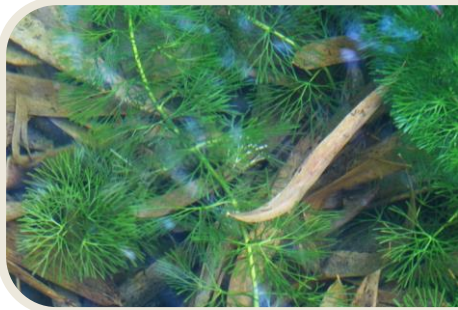
Characteristics It is an herbaceous plant that is generally 20 to 30 cm tall and grows in a cluster.



腎茶
Clerodendranthus spicatus

6

Characteristics Herb and shrub. The edge of its leaves is jagged. The flowers are white to lavender, with stamens extend out of the corolla. It is attractive to insects like butterflies.



水盾草
Carolina fanwort
Cabomba caroliniana

3

Characteristics An aquatic herbaceous plant that grows under the water. Its leaves are as slender as needles, and it looks like a ball from a distance.



楊梅葉大青
Clerodendrum myricoides

7

Characteristics Shrub. It is also called “blue butterflies” because of its blue flowers resemble butterflies. It can attract insects when it blooms.



果樹 (芸香科)
Fruit Trees (Rutaceae)

4

Characteristics Shrubs and trees. They have many branches, and their leaves are mainly oval (egg-shaped). Depending on the species, they bear round or oval fruits. These fruit trees are attractive to insects as food, such as larvae of some swallowtails.



翅莢決明
Winged Cassia
Senna alata

8

Characteristics Shrub. It can attract insects like butterflies when brunches of eye-catching yellow flowers are bloomed.

Plants (9 – 14)

Tips for Observation (2)

It is hard to identify plants when they are not blooming or bearing fruit, you can take photos of them and then identify them with reference to illustrated books or other resources.



馬纓丹

Lantana

Lantana camara

Characteristics Shrub. It blooms all year round, and the colourful flowers are attractive to insects. It is also a host plant for some butterfly larvae.

9



簕桐

Pagoda Flower

Clerodendrum japonicum

Characteristics Shrub. Its large heart shaped leaves and red flowers are food for insects.

10



青果榕

Common Red-stem Fig

Ficus variegata

Characteristics Tree. Its bark is gray. The most dominant feature of this plant is the fruit (fig) on its branches. Many animals (e.g. birds, mammals) feed on its fruit.

11



睡蓮

Pygmy Water-lily

Nymphaea tetragona

Characteristics Aquatic herbaceous plant. There is a clear indentation at the edges of its leaves. Flowers of water-lily open at daytime and close at dusk.

12



海芋

Giant Alocasia

Alocasia macrorrhizos

Characteristics Aquatic herbaceous plant. It can grow up to several meters, and its leaves are very large. The leaf surfaces of taro are fluffy and wild taro (which is poisonous) are smooth.

13



藿香薊

Billygoat-weed

Ageratum conyzoides

Characteristics Herb. The spherical flowers are lavender or white in colour, and the edges of the leaves are jagged. It can be seen everywhere in the Study Centre.



三裂葉蟛蜞菊

Wedelia

Wedelia trilobata

Characteristics Herb. Small yellow flowers are bloomed in summer. It can be seen everywhere in the Study Centre.



As some organisms are poisonous, touching them may lead to allergy or poisoning. Therefore, you should only observe them at a distance and not touch them.