



Hong Kong Wetland Park
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Hong Kong SAR Government

World Wetlands Day 2016 Hong Kong Celebration Programmes

1. Hong Kong Wetland Park (HKWP) is a world-class conservation, education and ecotourism facility with a theme on the functions and values of wetlands. With a vision to educate the general public and visitors from all parts of the world on wetland conservation, HKWP has developed a wide range of programmes in accordance with the Ramsar Convention's "Communication, Capacity Building, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA)" programme to promote the sustainable use of wetland resources.
2. HKWP celebrates the World Wetlands Day (WWD) every year to deliver wetland conservation messages. The theme of WWD 2016 was "Wetlands for our Future: Sustainable Livelihoods". To echo with the theme, a series of fun-filled activities were organised since November 2015.
3. Details of the activities organised for the WWD 2016

3.1. Thematic Activities on "Feathers and Flight"

HKWP organised the winter highlight event Bird Watching Festival. With "Feathers and Flight" as the theme this year, the Festival introduced to visitors the distinctive shapes and structures of feathers, and how closely bird feathers are connected to the daily life of human beings through exhibitions and an array of edutainment activities.



3.2. Public Lectures

Speakers were invited to share with visitors about the importance of conserving birds and wetlands in the following two public lectures:

- I. From Korea to Hong Kong – The Migration Journey of Black-faced Spoonbill
- II. Know More about Black Kites



3.3. Bird Watching Guided Tours

Situated next to the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site, HKWP attracts numerous winter birds migrating from the north. As an important habitat for birds and hotspot for bird watching, the Park has cumulatively recorded 254 bird species.



From November 2015, regular bird watching guided tours were organised for visitors every day. Visitors followed interpreters and volunteers on a journey of bird watching at different habitats as well as the bird hides of the Park. Thousands of visitors participated in the tours; they were satisfied with the tours and gave positive feedback.

3.4. Thematic Interpretation Sessions on Birds

HKWP organised thematic interpretation sessions for visitors who were eager to learn more about feathers and flights. Our speakers presented informative facts about the amazing bird flights, and visitors could also closely examine a specimen of the endangered Black-faced Spoonbill, as well as the feathers and nests of other species.



3.5. DIY Workshops

For those with an artistic mind, DIY workshops were organised to allow visitors to learn about conservation messages by expressing their creativity. These workshops aimed to raise visitors' interest and enrich their knowledge of birds.

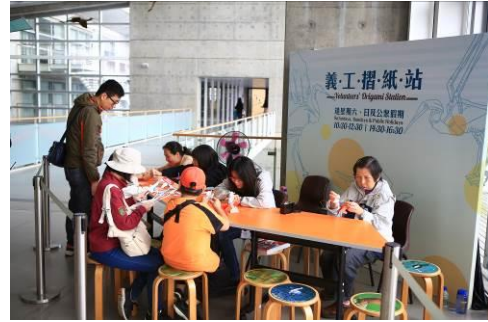
Sock Doll Making Classes

Participants in this workshop made cute and chubby Black-faced Spoonbill sock dolls by safe and simple cutting, pasting and thread coiling techniques; no sewing was necessary. Participants young and old thoroughly enjoyed the process, and were delighted to bring their handmade sock dolls home with them.



Badge and Origami Workshops

In the joyful workshops, children learned about the features of birds with their creative drawing. The origami and badge stations served over thousands of family visitors during the thematic period.



Special editions of the origami and badges were also distributed during the Christmas and Lunar New Year holiday seasons to bring a festive atmosphere to the Park.

Christmas Cookies Decoration Class

In this festive workshop, in addition to learning about the importance of wetlands as habitats for birds, participants also learned to use icing to dress up Christmas cookies with their hearts and creativity.



3.6. Thematic Exhibitions

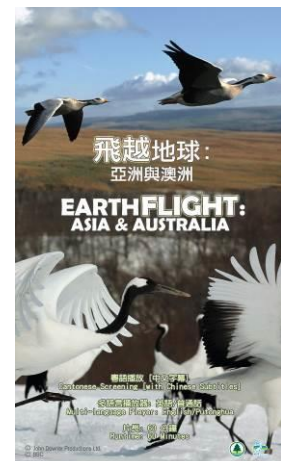
Thematic Exhibition – “Feathers and Flight”

The exhibition introduced to visitors the various shapes, structures and functions of feathers, and the principle of flight in aeroplanes and birds. Visitors could also select the most suitable breeding plumage for birds of the Park from an interactive matching game.



3.7. Wildlife Documentary: “Earthflight – Asia & Australia”

To extend the theme of migratory birds into our Visitor Centre, the Park presented the BBC documentary "Earthflight - Asia & Australia" in our Theatre. In the documentary, the shooting team used fascinating filming techniques, in the bird's-eye view of two continents, Asia and Australia, to create the experience of flying with birds as they encounter natural barriers.



3.8. Photo Collection and Exhibition

"The Colour of Birds" photo collection and exhibition activity was organised in the Park. Visitors could redeem a souvenir by submitting photographs of birds at the Visitor Centre. Outstanding entries were exhibited in the Park.



3.9. Wetland Classroom: Birds

The "Wetland Classroom: Birds" this season included "Waterbird Survey" and "Bird Study" elements. Participants could join different part(s) of the class according to their own interest.

3.9.1 Waterbird Survey Beginners' Class

Participants learned and experienced collecting waterbird ecological data in the "Waterbird Survey Beginners' Class". Participants who had completed the class were invited to join the "2016 International Black-faced Spoonbill Census" in January 2016, to contribute to frontline conservation work.



3.9.2 Bird Study Intermediate Class

The "Bird Study Intermediate Class" was tailored for participants with some basic background in bird watching, and helped to hone their skills in bird identification in the field.



3.10. The 9th Storytelling Competition

HKWP and the Hong Kong Council of Early Childhood Education & Services (HKCECES) jointly organised "The 9th Storytelling Competition". A total of 26 kindergarten and primary school teams took part in the competition enthusiastically and prepared amusing scripts, lovely costumes and stunning props for the event. Children conveyed the message of wetland conservation by their lively performances, which received thunderous applause from the audience.



3.11. World Wetlands Day 2016 Hong Kong Celebration Ceremony

As a highlight of the WWD celebrations, the Park organised the "World Wetlands Day 2016 Hong Kong Celebration Ceremony" on 30 January 2016. In the ceremony, prizes were awarded to the winners of competitions and volunteers who provided great support to the Park in the past year.



4. More information on the activities celebrating WWD 2016 can be found on http://www.wetlandpark.gov.hk/en/education/Bird_Watching_Festival_2015.asp