

Lantau Conservation Fund
Research Project

Project Number	RE-2022-06
Recipient Organisation	The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society
Project Title	Unveiling the unseen in the dark: Owls and nocturnal birds surveys on Lantau Island using passive acoustic monitoring
Project Description*	Owls and other nocturnal birds are not well-researched in Hong Kong due to limited systematic surveys. Although causal records and previous surveys suggest that Lantau Island's diverse and undisturbed habitats are home to a variety of nocturnal birds, no extensive survey has been conducted due to the island's remoteness. As a result, there is a significant lack of information on the owls and other nocturnal birds in Hong Kong, particularly on Lantau Island. To fill this knowledge gap, this project proposes the use of autonomous recording units (ARUs) and transect surveys at five sites with different habitats on Lantau Island. The project would utilise passive acoustic monitoring to detect the vocalizations of nocturnal birds. Each ARU would record sound from sunset to sunrise every day for a year. The project aims to provide insights into the distribution, habitat preferences, phenology, and vocal patterns of these understudied species. The results of this project could inform future ecological monitoring efforts by establishing a standard protocol for detecting nocturnal species.
Project Period	1 October 2023 to 31 March 2025 (18 months)
Approved Grant	\$2,174,180

*The project description is provided by the project proponent