

Lantau Conservation Fund

Research Project

Project Number	RE-2022-11
Recipient Organisation	The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society
Project Title	A comprehensive approach for Landbird Monitoring at Southwest Lantau: the first for Hong Kong
Project Description*	<p>Fan Lau, at the southwestern tip of Lantau, is a rural settlement within a variety of habitats- from mangroves to woodlands. Due to its location, Fan Lau is an important area for migratory birds, being the first land encountered by northbound birds (Spring migration) and the last for southbound birds (Autumn migration). Our previous baseline survey, the first standardised bird survey in Fan Lau, recorded an extraordinarily high count of migratory birds and rare species, including Yellow-breasted Bunting and Fairy Pitta, both IUCN Red Listed species. This project will develop and improve the bird monitoring around Fan Lau, including five survey methods: transect count, point count, infra-red camera trap, passive acoustics monitoring and bird ringing- the latter being the very first practice on Lantau. Using this range of surveys at a single location is a novel attempt in Hong Kong, and, with this comprehensive approach, we aim to (1) collect data on migratory landbirds to aid the development of bird research in East Asia; (2) assess the ecological importance and conservation value of Fan Lau; (3) determine the feasibility of setting up Hong Kong's first permanent bird observatory for long-term bird studies, accessible for both local and overseas visitors or researchers.</p>

Project Period	1 January 2024 to 31 August 2025 (20 months)
Approved Grant	\$1,514,580

*The project description is provided by the project proponent