



香港城市大學
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Department of Biomedical Sciences

presents a seminar

“Lessons learned from bird studies in Taiwan”

Prof. Hsiao-Wei Yuan

School of Forestry & Resource Conservation

National Taiwan University

Date : 24 May 2017

Time: 11:00am to 12:30pm

Venue: Meeting Room 2-130, 1/F, Block 2, To Yuen Building

Abstract

There are about 650 and 580 bird species in Taiwan and Hong Kong, respectively. The bird composition in terms of residents, migrants, transients and vagrants are very similar between Taiwan and Hong Kong. These two places share many migratory shore birds according to the bird banding re-sighting data, because both are on the East-Asia Australasian Flyway. Taiwan and Hong Kong have also conducted international Black-faced Spoonbill (*Platalea minor*) censuses since 2003 and promote the Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) conservation together.

This talk will discuss two bird studies I have been working on in Taiwan. One is the cooperative breeding of Taiwan Yuhinas (*Yuhina brunneiceps*) and the other is co-nesting of Great Crested Terns (*Thalasseus bergii*) and Chinese Crested Terns (*T. bernsteini*). Over the past 20 years while studying Taiwan Yuhinas we found that while the weather could be unfavorable and food resources were limited, the parental group would cooperate more with less fighting and more synchronized breeding to increase their overall chick survivorship. By restoring tern habitat and placing satellite tracking devices on surrogate Great Crested Terns, we would be able to attract terns to nest on designated islands and follow their overall migration route. The purpose of the tern study is to protect the very rare Chinese Crested Tern whose population numbers less than 100 individuals in the world.

About the Speaker

Dr. Hsiao-Wei Yuan received her Ph.D from Cornell University in 1993. For her dissertation, she studied the population dynamics and breeding ecology of Common Terns at Oneida Lake, New York. Dr. Yuan teaches Bird Ecology and Conservation, Wildlife Ecology, Wildlife Habitat and Wildlife Management in NTU. With her graduate students, Dr. Yuan conducts research on the ecology of a variety of birds, such as the cooperative breeding of Taiwan Yuhinas, duet behavior of Steere's Babblers, habitat selection of Blue-tailed Bee-eaters, and breeding ecology and migration of Chinese Crested Terns & Greater Crested Terns etc. Dr. Yuan also has involved in the restoration and improvement of the Wu-Wei Harbor Wetland wildlife refuge in Ilan County, and development of the biodiversity education program at the Chi-Shan Hill Cultural & Historical Park and Sitou Education Center. Recently, she has been working on Forest Therapy to enhance human welfare under the urban living environment. Dr. Yuan frequently gives talks to the general public in the hope that more people will come to understand global climate change and environmental sustainability, and to appreciate and conserve wildlife and biodiversity. She received the award of “Contribution to the Forestry & Nature Conservation” from the Council of Agriculture, Taiwan, in 2012.

All are welcome!

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