

Hong Kong Natural History Society

A Report on January 2008 Outing

It was a glorious day! 22 of our society members spent about an hour at the culture house and Fung Yuen Butterfly Reserve. It was good to see that the village is under renovation and a large bit of the old village is being preserved at Mak Uk. We also found that the Reserve is working and up-keeping with the support of Tai Po Conservation Association and other volunteer workers. Special plants are actually planted there to attract and encourage the breeding of different species of butterflies. Dave with his note book kept a good track of 12 species found on the day. Here are some pictures of the types he has taken.



Pale blue tiger (with damaged wing)

Rustic

Dark Veined Tiger

After the Reserve, the group continued to ascend to make their way to Sha Lo Tung. On the way, some members found a few porcupine quills and we believed that there might have been a fight over two animals recently. Then, we took a brief rest at one of the semi-deserted villages of Cheung Uk. From there, we made our way to the foot of Pat Sin Leng Range where we had our lunch break by the side of a stream.



After lunch, we continued to hike to Hok Tau Reservoir, admiring the picturesque mountain ranges under the golden shimmering lights. At the reservoir, we found a pair of birds gliding gracefully along the water. Dave afterwards confirmed they were a pair of **Little Grebes**.*(You can just about to see them like two spots sailing near the middle of the water here)*



After a short break at the reservoir, our members strolled along Hok Tau Road where the coach picked us up at about 4:00. At this point, some members took the opportunity to visit the Tai Po Lavender Garden where we discovered that there was a wide range of activities there.