

**Hong Kong Natural History Society**  
**December 2014 Outing Report - Lamma Island**

Our Christmas hike began with 20 members gathering for a light briefing at So Kwu Wan Public Pier in Central, from where the ferry took us to Lamma in 40 minutes. We moved along the coastline, heading to the direction of Tung O. There were a lot of banana trees and a few star fruit trees growing near the village. Our first stop was at Shek Pai Wan, a very scenic long beach. Everyone took their break for a second breakfast there. Some members shared with us their cookies and Christmas cakes - adding a touch of flavour and festivity to this outing!



After the break, we started to ascend for about 20 minutes, and on the way we saw the Balcony Rock. Most of the members made their way to the pavilion where we could admire the sea view of Tung O Wan and Sham Wan on one side and look up to Mount Stenhouse on the other. We then descended by the steps at the valley of Ling Kok Shan to arrive at Tin Hau Temple, which we had a look at before making our way to Yung Shue Wan. Further along, just before we crossed the bridge to pick up the family trail, we discovered two long green-legged Striated Herons (*Butorides Striata*) - one perching on a branch and one resting by the side of the pond. Members took pleasure bird-watching here for a while.



The next stop of interest was the Cave Kamikaze, where the Japanese soldiers used to hide their speed boats for their suicidal attacks during the Second World War. It appeared to us a very deep dark cave, but that didn't stop some members going into the cave to explore a little further.

This area is also a significant landmark for the HKNHS with its plaque commemorating Dr John Roma, one of the founders of our Society, who first discovered the Tree Frog later to take his name. Though, this time, none of us could discover any tree frogs around! Finally we made our way to Yung Shue Wan across Lo So Shing and Hung Shing Yeh Beaches. We arrived at the restaurant at 3:30pm and two other members joined in the Christmas meal at this restaurant close to the pier. We took the 5:00 ferry back to Central.



A very merry Christmas walk enjoyed by everyone - following the tradition - a hike in Santa hats!!

*Reported by Mak Wei Ming  
Photos taken by Mak Wei Ming, Jan Campbell, Chan Ping Chung*



**Striated Herons (*Butorides Striata*)**  
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