

Report of HKNHS Outing 4 January 2020 - HK Trail Section 4 Coombe Road to Wong Ngai Chung Gap

Another warm and sunny winter's morning saw our NHS group of eight start off down Aberdeen Reservoir Road where we were immediately greeted by a large mother wild boar calmly leading her brood of 4 (and, later, a fifth) along the opposite bank towards us. We spent a few minutes watching them file past, then turned off along shady HK trail section 4.



Photo - Maureen

Along the trail we saw many camellia bushes covered with their lovely "fried egg" flowers attracting tiny fork-tailed sunbirds and various butterflies active in the sunshine.



Fork-tailed sunbird, Picture from e-bird



Camellia – Photo Maureen

Bees were enjoying the sweet-smelling flowers of the ivy tree and a group of laughing thrushes (Black-throated, with their distinctive white cheek patches) was seen right near the path.



White cheeked laughing thrush. Picture from e-bird



Ivy tree. Picture: HK Herbarium

As well as enjoying “forest bathing”, we also enjoyed views of Aberdeen reservoirs, small waterfalls, and Ocean Park. Finally, as we swung up to Middle Gap, we exchanged the rocky cliffs of Mount Cameron for those of Mount Nicholson and had great views over Shouson Hill to Middle Island and beyond.



Our walk finished at the end of Black’s link, where had we waited until nightfall, we may have been lucky and seen the porcupines that are frequently in the area.

Porcupine on Black’s link - Maureen

Report: Chris Bailey