

# The Ecological Trip in Jilin Province: The Bird Habitats in Xianghai and Mai Po

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## Overview of The Whole Trip

The NENU x EdUHK Joint-U ecological studies in Jilin province provided a chance with us to travel from the west to the east within Jilin province, visiting various ecological landscapes and nature reserves, such as wetland, grassland, forests and mountain. At each site, we joined the NENU students group, who major in Ecology and had conducted ecological investigation previously, to do the field inspection by measuring a deal of environmental index in accordance with particular features of the landscapes.



## Xianghai Nature Reserve: The first stop

The most impressive attraction that we want to present is Xianghai Nature Reserve. As a site recognized by Ramsar international wetland list, Xianghai wetland area is an important habitat for many precious bird species, such as Red-crowned crane, white stork and so on (National Forestry and Grassland Administration, 2016).

**Ecological bird watching process:** To investigate the number, types and behaviors of birds, we adopted the route method to watch them. That is, choose a direction and walk along towards it for 500 meters, use the telescope to watch birds and recorded the information.

**Watching results (name amount action):** *Falco vespertinus* (1) flying; *Crane* (4) flying; *Anseriformes* (15) flying; *Lawpwing* (4) flying; *Dove* (1); *Barn swallow* (2).



## Mai Po Nature Reserve: Important Wetland in HK

Xianghai and Mai Po are both recognized Ramsar wetland, which have international importance and conservation value as the geographical factor has made the wetland very suitable for migrating birds, different kinds endangered, vulnerable and

critically endangered species (The Ramsar Convention Secretariat, n.d.). The wetlands has been habitats for many of the animals that require living conditions of a wetland. The comparisons of the two is significant in the way of the differences in the characteristics of the two wetlands. In particular of the

geographical factors including: land formation, terrain, latitude and longitude, temperature and precipitations. And more particularly the vegetation and bird species. The different kinds of species are protected with unique methods and measures in the two places.

## Comparison of Bird Habitats in Xianghai and Mai Po

	Xianghai Nature Reserve	Mai Po Nature Reserve
<b>1. Landform</b>	Wetland, Plain, Reed marsh, Lake, River, Forest	Wetland, Plain, Estuarine delta, Mangrove,
<b>2. Terrain</b>	Flat	Flat
<b>3. Vegetation</b>	Over 600 species	190 species
<b>4. Coordinates</b>	44.50° N, 122.35° E	22.50° N, 114.03° E
<b>5. Mean Annual Temperature</b>	4.9°C	23.9°C
<b>6. Average Annual Precipitation</b>	400 - 450mm	1400mm
<b>7. The number of bird species</b>	286 species	Over 350 species
<b>8. Globally threatened species of birds</b>	<i>Red-crowned crane</i>	<i>Black-faced Spoonbill, Saunders' Gull and Nordmann's Greenshank</i>

The table compares 8 items of bird habitats in these two wetlands. It is noteworthy that there are some differences of the weather between these two places, including the mean annual temperature and average annual precipitation, which are the main factors influencing the biodiversity and the amount of bird species in Xianghai and Mai Po. We can see that there are around 290 species of bird in Xianghai, while Mai Po records over 350 bird species. According to the Ramsar Convention Secretariat (n.d), there are some of the globally threatened bird species recorded in these two wetlands, including the *Red-crowned crane* in Xianghai (张艳红, 邓伟, & 张树文, 2006) and *Black-faced Spoonbill, Saunders' Gull and Nordmann's Greenshank* in Mai Po (秦卫华, 邱启文, 张晔, & 沈兴兴, 2010).

## Reflections & Insights

The environment, climate and landscapes of HK and Changchun are distinctive that contribute to the difference in what we can learn and distinguish some of the common and many differences characteristics in the field. The method, kind of measurements may be

similar, but as Changchun is so unique in the geographical and biological formation, this study without a doubt gave us treasurable opportunity to get in the woods and rivers and the extensive grasslands which we never have the chance to see in Hong Kong.

This study tour has brought us a lot of unforgettable memories that shared among all the group mates, teachers and friends in NENU and EdUHK, though the time we spent together is very short, we will always remember the joyful and meaningful moment we share together.

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