

# 黑面琵鷺不在時

## When Black-Faced Spoonbill Is Not Around

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去年夏天，一位熟識的美國漢學家，再次受邀到台灣教書。早些年，他來時，我們旅行的地點，多半集中在溼地和低海拔森林。這回，我想邀他上合歡山，一了未曾接觸台灣高山鳥類的宿願。

豈知，他竟反問我，「能不能去看黑面琵鷺？」那時他正在翻譯我的一篇文章，碰巧跟此鳥有關係。

我聽到後，面有難色。他有些不解，既然有空上高山，為何換個更近都會的地點，卻遲疑了。

我急忙解釋，「牠們是候鳥，早就離開了。現在去曾文溪口，可能會白跑。」

沒想到，他又回答，「我當然知道黑面琵鷺走了，但是能夠到現場也可以呀。」

他這麼堅持，我還能說什麼。還好，半途想到，黑面琵鷺保育中心已經設立，或許帶他到那兒觀賞，也是不錯的選擇。

於是，在前往河口的路途上，我們按照安排的計劃，先在保育中心參觀。黑面琵鷺缺席的季節，那兒很冷清。偌大的空間，只有一位服務員。因為沒有遊客，為了節約能源，服務員減弱了多數閱覽室的燈光。我們出現後，他才開啓。

半年前，我來時，裡面的資訊即展現豐富的内容。大至七股周遭物產和生態環境，旁及世界琵鷺家族的種種資料。更遑論，黑面琵鷺遠在北韓棲的繁殖，都有翔實的記錄。在國外旅行時，我曾多次參訪單一特有鳥種的保育中心，相較之下，都遠不及它的豐厚。我帶他進去時，其實是有些驕傲的。

逛完後，我們再到曾文溪口。這裡更空曠淒清了，一個人也沒有，只有孤伶的涼棚，空對毫無鳥跡的河口溼地。

An American sinologist I know came to Taiwan to teach again last summer. Years ago, we used to visit wetlands and low-altitude forests. So this time I intended to invite him to see the high mountain birds in Mt. Hehuan.

Surprisingly, he asked me “Can we go see black-faced spoonbill? energy, lights were dimmed and only turned on when we showed up of stuff in the back and screamed happily “Look at this!”

On the way to the river mouth, he had already showed such interest. When Taijiang National Park is founded to include the large wet land and preserve more life on the west coast, there should be more international visitors.

My eyes were wet on this idea. The camera hid my embarrassment. To prevent him from noticing, I had to move around and press the camera shutter without stop. Surprisingly, he asked me “Can we go see black-faced spoonbills?” He was translating my article on the bird.

I hesitated. He was confused: Why wouldn't I prefer to go somewhere closer when I have time for high mountains.

I explained, “These migrants may have left Zengwun River mouth now.”

Again, he replied “Of course I know they are gone by now but it would be nice just to visit the site!”

So, I gave in. Fortunately, it occurred to me that the Black-Faced Spoonbill Conservation Center has been set up, and would be a good place to visit.

On the way to the river mouth, we first visited the center, which was empty in off-season with only one service representative. To save energy, lights were dimmed and only turned on when we showed up.

When I visited six months ago, the information on display was already enriched to encompass species and ecological environment in the surroundings of Cigu and various data

我刻意和他面面相覷，再無奈地攤手，半開玩笑地說，「不能怪我喔，我早就警告你了。」

他點點頭，沒吭聲。河口無鳥影，他就在四周閒晃。我走上高處瞭望，試圖找到什麼時，他在涼棚裡喊叫。

到底發生什麼事呢？我走下去，只見涼棚後方一些堆疊的物品裡，他抽出了一張海報看板，高興地叫道，「你看，這是什麼？」

我仔細瞧，標題為四個大字：「撓杯兮歌」，下面又寫道：「烏面撓杯」。原來，這是一首黑面琵鷺的台語歌。海報上都是深澳的台語，我一知半解，跟他解釋變得很辛苦。

勉強講完後，他繼續持著看板不放，要我取出相機拍照。

我好奇地探問，「就跟它拍照嗎？」

「對啊！好不容易來到這裡，總要留個紀念。」

我點點頭，舉起相機，對準他和海報。突然想起，前幾年，自己遠赴紐西蘭南島。為了觀賞皇家信天翁，特別在保育中心等上半天。結果，未看到任何一隻飛起。只好跟一隻模型拍照，聊表心意。這時，我對他所處的情境，彷彿有了深層的共鳴。

但我更感動的是，沒想到他遠從紐約到來，明知黑面琵鷺不在，仍要來觀看場地。一張殘留的海報看板，還讓他如此興奮莫名。

我們對黑面琵鷺的保育宣傳，在國際還未正式展開，人家就已經如此嚮往。未來台江國家公園成立，將涵蓋此地遼闊的溼地，為西海岸保住更大的生機，屆時應該會有更多國外旅人到來吧？

想及此，我的眼睛竟有點溼濡，還好相機遮住了。接著，怕他注意到我的不自在，我只好不斷地移位，不斷地按快門……。

on the world spoonbill family, including that in N. Korea. The center offers far richer info of one single bird than any other one of its kind I visited overseas, which made me proud when I showed him in.

Then, we visited Zengwun River mouth, an even more desolate place without a single human being but a bower and an empty wetland.

I looked at him and said jokingly "Don't blame me. I've told you."

He nodded quietly and then walked around. I took a higher ground and tried to find something and he shouted.

What happened? I went in the bower and saw him picking up a poster bulletin out of a pile of stuff in the back and screamed happily "Look at this!"

On the poster, it said "Song of Black-Faced Spoonbills" in Taiwanese with lyrics. Not an expert in poetic Taiwanese, I explained the lyrics to him in difficulty.

He then asked me to take a picture of him with the poster. "Just with the poster?" I asked.

"Yeah! I had to have something that shows I visited here."

I agreed, and held up the camera, ready to shoot as I recalled a few years ago when I visited New Zealand, I also took a picture with a model of royal albatross after I waited in a conservation center and did not get to see any. Now I understood how he felt.

It was touching to see that a New Yorker would visit the site without presence of black-faced spoonbills and a left-behind poster would make him so happy.

With our official promotion on conserving black-faced spoonbills yet to unfold internationally, he had already showed such interest. When Taijiang National Park is founded to include the large wetland and preserve more life on the west coast, it should attract even more international visitors.

My eyes were wet on this thought. The camera hid my embarrassment. To prevent him from noticing, I just kept moving around and pressing the shutter.

## 作者簡介 Author profile

劉克襄，長期在台灣自然觀察、拍攝與繪畫，暨自然教學、寫作。多年自然生態相關著作有近40餘部，曾獲吳三連獎、吳魯芹散文獎、金鼎獎等獎項。目前為專業寫作者，近作《永遠的信天翁》甫獲2009台北國際書展大獎。

Ke-siang Liou is a long-term observer, photographer and painter of Taiwan's Nature. He also teaches and writes with nearly 40 natural ecology-related publications. Winner of Wu Sen-Lian Award, Wu Lu-cin Prose Award and Golden Tripod Awards, Liou is now a professional writer. His "Forever Albatross" just won the awards at the Taipei International Book Exhibition 2009.

