



***Misattributed*** →  
**Japanese Bird Prints**  
**Sold by the Shima Art Company**

## Introduction

During the early 1900s the Shima Art Company sold Japanese art prints to the American public from a store in New York City. They sold both original prints and reproductions which were a less expensive alternative to the originals. These reproductions bear the seal of the Shima Art Company (picture 1) and were made for the Company by publishers of art prints in Japan. Most of these prints also showed the signature of an artist. Unfortunately, the signature appearing on many of the prints was *not* that of the artist who drew the original design. To illustrate, and correct, some of these misattributions this virtual exhibition presents 28 examples of bird prints misattributed to six artists whose signatures are shown in pictures 2-7. These six famous artists each drew pictures of birds but not these particular designs. For each of the misattributed designs the original design is shown alongside and the name of the original artist is given. The following, additional information is also provided for each pair of prints: names of the flowers and (or) birds depicted, printing method and print size. Copies of the 28 misattributed prints and their original counterparts are included in the Reader Collection of Japanese Art.



## Additional Reading

Kotarō Sumii. 2004. Shima Art Company, the History of My Grandparents' Business.

<http://shotei.com/publishers/shima/shima.htm>

1m Scops owl (*Otus* sp.) misattributed to **Bairei**  
**Kōno**, woodblock print, 260 x 380 mm



1o Scops owl (*Otus* sp.) by **Koson Ohara**, woodblock print,  
285 x 275 mm





2m White-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons*)  
misattributed to **Bairei Kōno**, woodblock print, 190 x  
260 mm



2o White-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons*) by **Koson Ohara**,  
woodblock print, 285 x 275 mm



3m Domestic fowl (*Gallus gallus*) misattributed to **Bairei Kōno**, woodblock print, 250 x 385 mm



3o Domestic fowl (*Gallus gallus*) by **Bihō Takahashi**, woodblock print, 240 x 270 mm



4m Rock dove (*Columba livia*) misattributed to **Bairei Kōno**, woodblock print, 195 x 260 mm



4o Rock dove (*Columba livia*) by **Gekkō Tanaka**, woodblock print, included in Meika Gafu (Picture Album by Celebrated Artists), edited by Naosaburō Yamada, 1907, 310 x 240 mm





5m White-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons*)  
misattributed to **Bairei Kōno**, woodblock print,  
260 x 385 mm



5o White-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons*) by **Ryōmi**,  
woodblock print, 240 x 270 mm



6m Plum (*Prunus mume*) and golden pheasant (*Chrysolophus pictus*) misattributed to **Hōbun Kikuchi**, woodblock print, 190 x 255 mm



6o Plum (*Prunus mume*) and golden pheasant (*Chrysolophus pictus*) by **Keinen Imao**, woodblock print, included in Keinen Kachō Gakan (Pictorial Models of Flowers and Birds by Keinen), edited by Gessai Fukui, 1892, 275 x 205 mm





7m Cherry (*Prunus* sp.) and oriental greenfinch (*Carduelis sinica*) misattributed to **Hōbun Kikuchi**, woodblock print, 190 x 260 mm



7o Cherry (*Prunus* sp.) and oriental greenfinch (*Carduelis sinica*) by **Keinen Imao**, woodblock print, included in Keinen Kachō Gakan (Pictorial Models of Flowers and Birds by Keinen), edited by Gessai Fukui, 1892, 275 x 205 mm



8m China rose (*Rosa chinensis*) and Java sparrow (*Padda oryzivora*) misattributed to **Hōbun Kikuchi**, woodblock print, 195 x 260 mm



8o China rose (*Rosa chinensis*) and Java sparrow (*Padda oryzivora*) by **Ōju Maruyama**, woodblock print, included in Sho Meika Kachō Gafu (Picture Album of Flowers and Birds by Various Famous Painters) edited by Gessai Fukui, 1898, 195 x 260 mm



9m Winged spindletree (*Euonymus alatus*) and Japanese white-eye (*Zosterops japonicus*) misattributed to **Hōbun Kikuchi**, woodblock print, 195 x 260 mm



9o Winged spindletree (*Euonymus alatus*) and Japanese white-eye (*Zosterops japonicus*) by **Bairei Kōno**, woodblock print, included in *Bairei Kachō Gafu* (Picture Album of Flowers and Birds by Bairei) edited by Gessai Fukui, 1893, 270 x 210 mm





10m *Sasanqua camellia* (*Camellia sasanqua*) and chattering lory (*Lorius garrulus*) misattributed to **Hōbun Kikuchi**, woodblock print, 190 x 255 mm



10o *Sasanqua camellia* (*Camellia sasanqua*) and chattering lory (*Lorius garrulus*) by **Keibun Matsumura**, woodblock print, included in *Keibun Kachō Gafu Kōhen* (Picture Album of Flowers and Birds by Keibun, Sequel) edited by Gessai Fukui, 1894, 275 x 205 mm



11m Red-crowned crane (*Grus japonensis*)  
misattributed to **Ippō Mori**, woodblock print, 105 x  
155 mm



11o Red-crowned crane (*Grus japonensis*) by **Koson Ohara**, woodblock print, 150 x 205 mm



12m Japanese morning glory (*Ipomoea nil*) and great tit (*Parus major*) misattributed to **Keinen Imao**, woodblock print, 190 x 260 mm

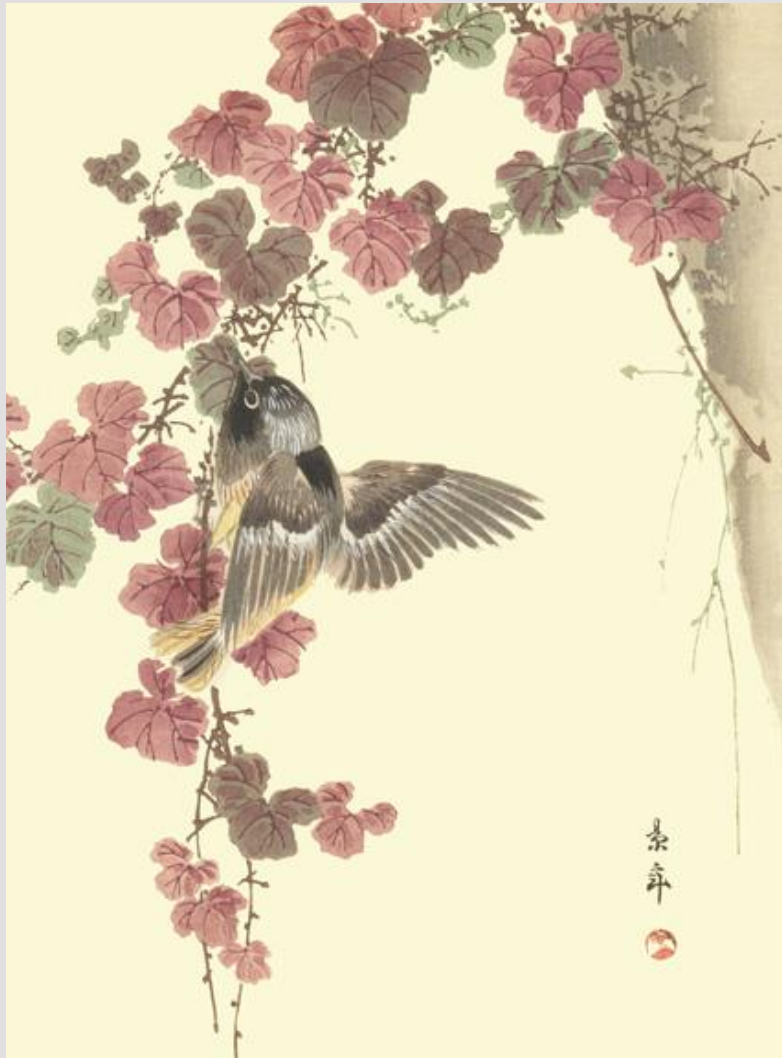


12o Japanese morning glory (*Ipomoea nil*) and great tit (*Parus major*) by **Bairei Kōno**, woodblock print, included in Bairei Kachō Gafu (Picture Album of Flowers and Birds by Bairei) edited by Gessai Fukui, 1893, 270 x 210 mm





13m Daurian redstart (*Phoenicurus aureus*) misattributed to **Keinen Imao**, woodblock print, 195 x 260 mm



13o Daurian redstart (*Phoenicurus aureus*) by **Bairei Kōno**, woodblock print, included in *Bairei Kachō Gafu* (Picture Album of Flowers and Birds by Bairei) edited by Gessai Fukui, 1893, 270 x 210 mm



14m Japanese iris (*Iris ensata*) and common kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) misattributed to **Keinen Imao**, woodblock print, 190 x 380 mm



14o Japanese iris (*Iris ensata*) and common kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) by **Koson Ohara**, woodblock print, 190 x 370 mm





15m Cherry (*Prunus* sp.) and large-billed crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos*) misattributed to **Keinen Imao**, woodblock print, 190 x 380 mm



15o Cherry (*Prunus* sp.) and large-billed crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos*) by **Koson Ohara**, woodblock print, 195 x 365 mm





16m Barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)  
misattributed to **Keinen Imao**,  
woodblock print, 125 x 255 mm



16o Barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) by **Koson Ohara**, woodblock print,  
190 x 370 mm



17m Weeping forsythia (*Forsythia suspensa*) and Java sparrow (*Padda oryzivora*) misattributed to **Keinen Imao**, woodblock print, 130 x 255 mm



17o Cherry (*Prunus* sp.) and Java sparrow (*Padda oryzivora*) by **Koson Ohara**, woodblock print, 120 x 165 mm



18m Cherry (*Prunus* sp.) and barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) misattributed to **Keinen Imao**, woodblock print, 190 x 260 mm



18o Cherry (*Prunus* sp.) and barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) by **Gogyō Miyake**, woodblock print, included in Meika Gafu (Picture Album by Celebrated Artists), edited by Naosaburō Yamada, 1907, 310 x 240 mm





19m Eulalia grass (*Miscanthus sinensis*), aster (*Aster* sp.) and little egret (*Egretta garzetta*) misattributed to **Keinen Imao**, woodblock print, 190 x 380 mm



19o Eulalia grass (*Miscanthus sinensis*), aster (*Aster* sp.) and little egret (*Egretta garzetta*) by **Soseki Komori**, woodblock print, 190 x 345 mm



20m Little egret (*Egretta garzetta*) misattributed to **Keinen Imao**, woodblock print, 250 x 390 mm



20o Little egret (*Egretta garzetta*) by **Ryōmi**, woodblock print, 235 x 270 mm





21m Plum (*Prunus mume*) and little egret (*Egretta garzetta*) misattributed to **Ōkyo Maruyama**, woodblock print, 80 x 340 mm



21o Plum (*Prunus mume*) and little egret (*Egretta garzetta*) by **Inshō Dōmoto**, lithographic print, 75 x 355 mm





22m Japanese persimmon (*Diospyros kaki*) and Japanese white-eye (*Zosterops japonicus*) misattributed to **Seitei Watanabe**, woodblock print, 190 x 380 mm



22o Japanese persimmon (*Diospyros kaki*) and Japanese white-eye (*Zosterops japonicus*) by **Koson Ohara**, woodblock print, 195 x 375 mm



23m Sacred lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*) and zitting cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*) misattributed to **Seitei Watanabe**, woodblock print, 125 x 180 mm



23m Sacred lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*) and zitting cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*) by **Koson Ohara**, woodblock print, 195 x 370 mm





24m Black-tailed gull (*Larus crassirostris*)  
misattributed to **Seitei Watanabe**,  
woodblock print, 190 x 380 mm



24o Black-tailed gull (*Larus crassirostris*) by **Koson Ohara**,  
woodblock print, 175 x 360 mm





25m Cherry (*Prunus* sp.) and Daurian redstart (*Phoenicurus aureus*) misattributed to **Seitei Watanabe**, woodblock print, 125 x 180 mm



25o Cherry (*Prunus* sp.) and Daurian redstart (*Phoenicurus aureus*) by **Koson Ohara**, woodblock print, 150 x 210 mm



26m Japanese white-eye (*Zosterops japonicus*) misattributed to **Seitei Watanabe**, woodblock print, 125 x 255 mm



26o Japanese white-eye (*Zosterops japonicus*) by **Koson Ohara**, woodblock print, 120 x 180 mm



27m Japanese bush-warbler  
(*Cettia diphone*) misattributed  
to **Seitei Watanabe**,  
woodblock print, 80 x 340 mm



27o Japanese bush-warbler  
(*Cettia diphone*) by **Hirakufu  
Hyakusui**, lithographic print,  
70 x 355 mm





28m Narcissus flycatcher  
(*Ficedula narcissina*)  
misattributed to **Seitei**  
**Watanabe**, woodblock print,  
80 x 340 mm



28o Cherry (*Prunus* sp.) and  
narcissus flycatcher (*Ficedula*  
*narcissina*) by **Hōshun**  
**Yamaguchi**, lithographic  
print, 75 x 355 mm



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