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

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

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
China rose (*Rosa chinensis*) and Java sparrow (*Padda oryzivora*) misattributed to Hōbun Kikuchi, woodblock print, 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 Köhen (*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 auroreus*) misattributed to Keinen Imao, woodblock print, 195 x 260 mm

13o  Daurian redstart (*Phoenicurus auroreus*) 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
Japanese iris (*Iris ensata*) and common kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) misattributed to Keinen Imao, woodblock print, 190 x 380 mm

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

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 auroreus*) misattributed to Seitei Watanabe, woodblock print, 125 x 180 mm

25o  Cherry (*Prunus* sp.) and Daurian redstart (*Phoenicurus auroreus*) 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