Japanese Bird Art, 1950 to present day

Part 1
Woodblock prints
by 100 artists
Introduction

For hundreds of years the Japanese have used woodblock printing to produce printed art. To make an art print the picture design was first outlined on the surface of a block of wood. Areas surrounding this outline were then chiseled away. Next, ink was applied to the outline, followed by a piece of paper, and the back of the paper was rubbed to transfer ink to paper. To make a multi-colored print the piece of paper was placed sequentially on a series of wooden blocks each carved and inked differently to show a particular portion of the design.

The first woodblock-printed bird art was made in the early 18th century. These art prints were sold individually to provide a relatively inexpensive form of visual entertainment and they continue to be produced today for the same purpose. The number of artists who used woodblock printing to make bird art has increased substantially from the 18th to the 20th century, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Approximate number of Japanese artists making woodblock-printed bird prints which were sold individually (as opposed to prints sold together in a book) during sixty-year intervals between 1710 and 2009.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>60-year interval</th>
<th>1710-1769</th>
<th>1770-1829</th>
<th>1830-1889</th>
<th>1890-1949</th>
<th>1950-2009</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approximate number of Japanese artists</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>200</td>
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This virtual exhibition presents examples of woodblock-printed bird art produced since 1950. A print by each of one-hundred artists represented in the Reader Collection of Japanese Art is included in the exhibition. Prints are arranged by the level of accuracy used by the artist to depict the bird subject, starting with the most accurate. Only a few artists (prints 1-10) depicted birds objectively (i.e., accurate shape and color). More artists (prints 11-68) depicted birds semi-objectively (i.e., semi-accurate shape and [or] color) while others (prints 69-100) depicted birds subjectively (i.e., inaccurate shape and color). The predominance of semi-objective and subjective depictions of birds in these prints reflects their purpose – to entertain.

For each print the name of the bird depicted is given along with the name of the artist, print title (if any) and print size.
1  Ural owl (*Strix uralensis*) by Tōshi Yoshida, entitled two owls, 555 x 375 mm

2  Egret (*Egretta* sp.) by Tsukasa Yoshida, entitled sunset, 480 x 350 mm
3  Whooper swan (*Cygnus cygnus*) by Fumio Kitaoka, entitled *swans on icefield*, 925 x 635 mm

4  White-backed woodpecker (*Dendrocopos leucotos*) by Hirokazu Fukuda, entitled *gentle rain*, 325 x 250 mm
5 Narcissus flycatcher (*Ficedula narcissina*) by Shizuo Ashikaga, entitled narcissus flycatcher, 305 x 440 mm

6 Indian peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*) by Okiie Hashimoto, 330 x 440 mm
7 Domestic fowl (*Gallus gallus*) by Yasuo Matsunaga, entitled waiting for a favorable chance, 175 x 220 mm

8 Mute swan (*Cygnus olor*) by Ray Morimura, entitled mute swan, 140 x 160 mm
9 Greater-spotted woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*) by Yasu Katō, 235 x 325 mm

10 Oriental greenfinch (*Carduelis sinica*) by Mihoko Kasamatsu, entitled early spring, 320 x 240 mm
11 Blakiston’s fish-owl (*Ketupa blakistoni*) by Keisaburō Tejima, entitled owl’s lake – winter moon, 450 x 610 mm

12 Long-tailed duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) by Izumi Fujita, entitled between the waves – long-tailed duck, 320 x 400 mm
13  **Cormorant**  
*(Phalacrocorax sp.)* by Masaharu Aoyama, 415 x 300 mm

14  **Little ringed plover**  
*(Charadrius dubius)* by Gyōjin Murakami, entitled little ringed plover, 485 x 330 mm
15  Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*) by **Gihachirō Okuyama**, 245 x 120 mm

16  Red-crowned crane (*Grus japonensis*) by **Tadashirō Fukui**, entitled *fly*, 310 x 230 mm
17 Ural owl (*Strix uralensis*) by Takashi Hirose, entitled Ural owl, 150 x 200 mm

18 Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax* sp.) by Shirō Kasamatsu, entitled cormorant group, 275 x 400 mm
19  Ural owl (*Strix uralensis*) by **Mikio Ohkawa**, entitled Ural owl, 155 x 210 mm

20  Ural owl (*Strix uralensis*) by **Fū Takenaka**, entitled happiness, 230 x 320 mm
21 Ural owl (*Strix uralensis*) by Kōhō Ōuchi, entitled blooming, 180 x 180 mm

22 Domestic fowl (*Gallus gallus*) by Hiromu Satō, 115 x 160 mm
23 Large-billed crow (Corvus macrorhynchos) by Yoichi Nakano, entitled crow B, 180 x 180 mm

24 Large-billed crow (Corvus macrorhynchos) by Masaaki Terada, 480 x 385 mm
25 Yellow-crested cockatoo (*Cacatua sulphurea*) by Eiichi Kotozuka, entitled Chinese quince and yellow-crested cockatoo, 300 x 450 mm

26 Cockatoo (*Cacatua sp.*) by Kazuhiko Sanmonji, entitled my dreams, 270 x 350 mm
27 Red-crowned crane (*Grus japonensis*) by **Tomikichirō Tokuriki**, 275 x 295 mm

28 Indian peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*) by **Shirō Takagi**, entitled spring bird, 310 x 430 mm
29  Red-crowned crane (*Grus japonensis*) by Yasushi Ōmoto, 160 x 105 mm

30  Rock dove (*Columba livia*) by Jun’ichirō Sekino, 180 x 140 mm
31 Long-tailed tit (Aegithalos caudatus) by Yoshiyuki Nakano, 360 x 275 mm

32 Mandarin duck (Aix galericulata) by Kaoru Kawano, 420 x 290 mm
33  Indian peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*) by Shūzō Ikeda, 190 x 175mm

34  Daurian redstart (*Phoenicurus auroreus*) by Natsuo Ikegami, 110 x 110 mm
35 Bull-headed shrike (*Lanius bucephalus*) by Yutaka Ōkubo, 150 x 125 mm

36 White-backed woodpecker (*Dendrocopos leucotos*) by Hajime Ōkubo, 150 x 125 mm
37 Ostrich (*Struthio camelus*) by Hiroshi Ueda, 285 x 375 mm

38 Common cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*) by Tomoko Kyūki, entitled bird’s time – cuckoo, 100 x 150 mm
39 Scops owl (Otus sp.) by Kan Kozaki, 220 x 330 mm

40 Scops owl (Otus sp.) by Iwao Akiyama, 250 x 300 mm
41 Scops owl (Otus sp.) by Manjirō Asaka, 280 x 400 mm

42 Scops owl (Otus sp.) by Makoto Yumeda, entitled silence, 300 x 410 mm
43  Scops owl (*Otus* sp.) by Kunio Satō, entitled owl, 290 x 185 mm

44  Red-crowned crane (*Grus japonensis*) by Yūzaburō Kawanishi, entitled flight, 175 x 130 mm
45  Domestic fowl (*Gallus gallus*) by Shun’ichi Kadowaki, entitled self-carved woodcut rooster, 240 x 270 mm

46  Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax* sp.) by Totsurō Shimada, 320 x 335 mm
47 Domestic fowl (*Gallus gallus*) by Shigeru Takaku, 150 x 200 mm

48 Barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) by Yūkichi Utakawa, 165 x 190 mm
Domestic fowl (*Gallus gallus*) by Seikō Kawachi, entitled getting up, 180 x 250 mm

Scops owl (*Otus* sp.) and pygmy woodpecker (*Dendrocopos kizuki*) by Kiyomi Moji, entitled home in the forest, 215 x 240 mm
51 Brown-eared bulbul
(Ixos amaurotis) by
Katsuyuki Nishijima, 330 x
255 mm

52 Duck (Anas sp.) by
Susumu Yamaguchi, 585 x
370 mm
53 Crane (*Grus* sp.) by Yūji Watanabe, entitled flying-star, 715 x 575 mm

54 Large-billed crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos*) by Tadashige Ono, entitled shallow beach, 235 x 155 mm
55 Azure-winged magpie (*Cyanopica cyana*) by **Waichi Hayashi**, entitled *morning snow*, 240 x 280 mm

56 Little egret (*Egretta garzetta*) by **Tomonosuke Ogō**, entitled *little egret*, 285 x 315 mm
57  Rock dove (*Columba livia*) by Yutaka Kagimoto, entitled *Nishino Kyōtō*, 160 x 220 mm

58  Large-billed crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos*) by Akyio Onda, 300 x 340 mm
59  Oriental turtle-dove (*Streptopelia orientalis*) by Morikazu Maeda, entitled flowers turtle-dove, 300 x 200 mm

60  Scops owl (*Otus* sp.) by Masahiro Hayashi, entitled paradise smile return trip, 640 x 480 mm
61  Rock dove (Columba livia) by Hideo Hagiwara, entitled migratory bird, 210 x 175 mm

62  Ural owl (Strix uralensis) by Kōzō Onishi, 125 x 110 mm
Indian peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*) by Tamami Shima, entitled *avec*, 305 x 440 mm

Brown shrike (*Lanius cristatus*) by Yoko Funamoto, entitled *forest spring in the afternoon*, 285 x 390 mm
65 Crested ibis (*Nipponia nippon*) by Shin’ichi Takahashi, 285 x 345 mm

66 Large-billed crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos*) by Hiroko Izumi, entitled early afternoon, 240 x 320 mm
67  Crane (*Grus* sp.) by Tadashi Nakayama, 590 x 840 mm

68  Azure-winged magpie (*Cyanopica cyana*) by Tomoo Inagaki, 440 x 560 mm
69 Unidentified birds by Akiko Ohba, entitled strange bird trainer, 180 x 175 mm

70 Dodo bird (Raphus cucullatus) by Hideshi Yoshida, entitled Sherlock dodo, 150 x 150 mm
71  Rock dove (*Columba livia*) by **Makoto Ueno**, 635 x 485 mm

72  Goose (*Anser sp.*) by **Reika Iwami**, entitled *water fantasy E*, 510 x 345 mm
73  Scops owl (Otus sp.) by Gashū Fukami, entitled surrounded in green, 230 x 310 mm

74  Unidentified bird by Gorō Kumagai, 405 x 525 mm
75 Brown-eared bulbul (*Ixos amaurotis*) by Tatsuteru Kimijima, entitled bird of fortune, 210 x 295 mm

76 Domestic fowl (*Gallus gallus*) by Jōichi Hoshi, entitled blue bird, 195 x 180 mm
77 Ural owl (*Strix uralensis*) by Kiyoharu Yamada, entitled snow, 285 x 375 mm

78 Unidentified bird by Toyohide Akiyama, entitled my blue bird, 240 x 310 mm
79  Gull (*Larus* sp.) by Rokushū Mizufune, entitled seagull, 225 x 250 mm

80  Unidentified bird by Kunihiro Amano, entitled morning 31, 170 x 230 mm
81 Swan (Cygnus sp.) by Kiyonori Kuriki, entitled play, 450 x 330 mm

82 Unidentified bird by Masanori Katsuyama, entitled come flying, 200 x 140 mm
83  Hawk (*Accipiter* sp.) by Shiko Munakata, 345 x 305 mm

84  Unidentified bird by Takeji Asano, entitled bird and fruit, 400 x 295 mm
85 Unidentified bird by Yasuko Ōnishi, entitled winter’s day, 460 x 590 mm

86 Owl (Family Strigidae) by Motoi Ōi, entitled turn-a-face owl, 355 x 455 mm
87  Owl (Family Strigidae) by Fumiaki Fukita, entitled child sitting many days, 605 x 470 mm

88  Duck (Anas sp.) by Yoshiharu Kimura, entitled returning birds, 715 x 520 mm
89  Unidentified bird by Yoshio Kanamori, 145 x 125 mm

90  Japanese bush-warbler (*Cettia diphone*) by Kieko Tsurusawa, 150 x 125 mm
91  Unidentified bird by Yasuhide Kobashi, entitled birds at night, 195 x 255 mm

92  Unidentified bird by Fujio Nishitani, 180 x 240 mm
93 Unidentified birds by Takeo Takei, 145 x 125 mm

94 Unidentified bird by Fumiko Odajima, 140 x 140 mm
Unidentified bird by **Umetarō Azechi**, 125 x 115 mm

Unidentified bird by **Fumio Fujita**, entitled to the sky, 140 x 160 mm
97 Swan (Cygnus sp.) by Takao Yamazaki, entitled cygne de grèce (greek swan), 245 x 160 mm

98 Quetzal (Pharmomachrus sp.) by Toshi Imai, 165 x 220 mm
99  Domestic fowl (*Gallus gallus*) by Sakio Fujiwara, entitled bird A, 240 x 310 mm

100  Blue-and-white flycatcher (*Cyanoptila cyanomelana*) by Mokurei Nakagawa, 130 x 180 mm