Japanese Bird Art, 1950 to present day

Part 2 Intaglio prints by 85 artists
Introduction

Intaglio printmaking is a European invention. In this method of printmaking the design is cut into a piece of metal and the cuts are filled with ink. A piece of paper is then pushed into the cuts using a mechanical press to transfer the ink to paper. Cuts could be made using a metal tool or acid or both to create different artistic effects. This method is very different from the traditional woodblock printing method used by Japanese printmakers. First, it required metal instead of wood. Second, the design was cut into the metal while in woodblock printing the areas around the design were cut away leaving the design standing in relief above surrounding areas of wood. Third, it required a mechanical press to transfer ink to paper while in woodblock printing hand pressure was sufficient to transfer ink to paper by rubbing the backside of the paper. Perhaps because of these major differences between intaglio and woodblock printmaking the intaglio technique was largely ignored by Japanese printmakers from the late 18th century, when the first intaglio print was made by a Japanese printmaker, until the mid-20th century. At that time it became part of the academic curriculum in post-secondary art schools and a number of students subsequently continued to use it during their professional career. From the 1950s to date about one hundred Japanese artists have used intaglio printmaking to make prints that featured birds (i.e., bird prints). Prints by eighty-five of these artists are part of the Reader Collection of Japanese Art and this virtual exhibition includes an example of the work of each artist. Some artists (prints 1-9) drew birds objectively (i.e., true-to-life shape and color) while others (prints 10-58) drew birds only semi-objectively. The remaining artists (prints 59-85) were more creative and intentionally falsified both bird shape and color.

For each of the eighty-five prints the following information is given: name of the bird depicted (when identifiable), name of the artist, print title (when titled) and print size. Each of the prints has wide, white borders which, of course, are of less interest than the design itself. To allow details of the design to be seen more easily on a computer screen the design portion of each print is shown alongside the entire print (i.e., with borders).

Additional Reading

1 Ruddy turnstone (Arenaria interpres) by Mitsuru Nagashima, entitled ruddy turnstone, 400 x 320 mm
2 Common kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) by Tadashi Ikai, entitled river breeze, 440 x 300 mm
3. Japanese quail (*Coturnix japonica*) by Yoshimichi Fujimoto, entitled autumn quail, 390 x 470 mm
4 Great tit \textit{(Parus major)} by Hidetaka Yamanaka, entitled red autumnal color, 285 x 380 mm
5 Common snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) by Akira Baba, entitled *memory on paper – bird II*, 205 x 280 mm
6 Domestic goose (*Anser cygnoides*) by Mikio Watanabe, entitled goose I, 300 x 250 mm
7 Siberian blue robin (*Luscinia cyane*) by Akira Fujie, entitled purple beautyberry, 260 x 375 mm
8  Domestic fowl (*Gallus gallus*) by Keisuke Akahoshi, entitled “it’s mine”, 180 x 240 mm
9  Hazel grouse (*Bonasa bonasia*) by Etsuko Ishikawa, entitled *walking*, 215 x 190 mm
Mallard duck (*Anas platyrhynchos*) by Shigeru Oda, entitled bird with flowers, 485 x 370 mm
Indian peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*) by Takehiko Mōri, entitled bright light, 320 x 395 mm
Black kite (*Milvus migrans*) and mandarin duck (*Aix galericulata*) by **Keito Joh**, 280 x 335
13 Little egret (*Egretta garzetta*) by Teruhiko Kondo, entitled little egret, 400 x 305 mm
14  Eurasian eagle-owl (*Bubo bubo*) by Tomiko Matsuno, 195 x 195 mm
15 Babbler (*Pomatostomus* sp.) by Ryō Arai, 165 x 230 mm
Domestic fowl (*Gallus gallus*) by Tazuko Nakamura, entitled _mom_, 360 x 265 mm
Japanese white-eye (*Zosterops japonicus*) by Jusō Watanabe, 255 x 280 mm
Oriental turtle-dove (Streptopelia orientalis) by Hideko Nagahama, entitled with all my heart, 200 x 250 mm
19 Scops owl (*Otus* sp.) by Hiroko Yamada, entitled hunting, 300 x 240 mm
20  Cormorant  
*Phalacrocorax* sp.) by Tai Nakatani, 380 x 285 mm
21  Rock dove (Columba livia) by Akira Okabe, entitled girl with dove, 245 x 245 mm
Little ringed plover (*Charadrius dubius*) by Tatsumasa Watanabe, entitled water bird II, 235 x 255 mm
23 Ural owl (Strix uralensis) by Yukie Matsui, entitled always together, 240 x 170 mm
24  Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax* sp.) by Shigeki Kuroda, entitled cormorant, 140 x 205 mm
Pygmy woodpecker (Dendrocopos kizuki) by Hideo Yoshihara, 165 x 225 mm
26  Dusky thrush (*Turdus naumanni*) by Takeshi Nakai, 135 x 155 mm
27 Blakiston’s fish owl (*Ketupa blakistoni*) and scops owl (*Otus scops*) by Kōji Ikuta, entitled Blakiston’s fish owl and scops owl, 460 x 260 mm
28 Ural owl (*Strix uralensis*) by Tokio Miyashita, 360 x 260 mm
29  Rock dove (*Columba livia*) by Ryōhei Tanaka, entitled stone paving, 300 x 255 mm
30 Japanese quail (Coturnix japonica) by Toshio Suda, entitled Japanese quail and Japanese lantern, 480 x 400 mm
31 Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) by Kōhei Wakatsuka, 190 x 160 mm
Golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos) by Takeshi Katori, 395 x 270 mm
Great tit (*Parus major*) by Kazuyoshi Kurahashi, entitled bird, 150 x 150 mm
Common kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) by Masaki Shibuya, entitled portrait in wood – Mr. K, 155 x 165 mm
35 Black scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) by Fuhito Fujimiya, entitled black scoter, 195 x 135 mm
36 Large-billed crow (Corvus macrorhynchos) by Yoritake Seki, 695 x 420 mm
37 Scops owl (*Otus* sp.) by Kōichi Sakamoto, entitled catbird No. 2, 185 x 150 mm
Eurasian tree sparrow (*Passer montanus*) by Kaoru Saitō, 380 x 450 mm
Black guineafowl (*Agelastes niger*) by Yasuaki Sanmotoki, 330 x 420 mm
Japanese white-eye (*Zosterops japonicus*) by Katsunori Hamanishi, entitled spring song, 140 x 200 mm
41  Rock dove (*Columba livia*) by Yoshinobu Masuda, entitled pigeons in Venice, 360 x 550 mm
Domestic goose (*Anser cygnoides*) by Kenji Ushiku, entitled in the forest (Y), 315 x 495 mm
Hawk (*Accipiter* sp.) by Bin Takaba, entitled hawker’s haniwa, 225 x 305 mm
Large-billed crow (Corvus macrorhynchos) by Matazō Kayama, 120 x 95 mm
45  Rock dove (*Columba livia*) by Shigeru Kimura, 280 x 380 mm
Large-billed crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos*) by Tarō Toriumi, entitled bird, 150 x 160 mm
Ural owl (*Strix uralensis*) by Ryōnosuke Shimomura, entitled OYAT, 240 x 265 mm
48 Wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) by Shinzaburō Takeda, 165 x 230 mm
Scops owl (*Otus* sp.) by Makiko Hattori, entitled moonlight owl, 190 x 240 mm
50  Rock dove (*Columba livia*) by Kazuo Nishimura, entitled bird family, 255 x 165 mm
51 Rock dove (*Columba livia*) by Mikuo Konoki, 345 x 290 mm
52 Domestic fowl (*Gallus gallus*) by Teizō Ogaki, entitled today like yesterday like tomorrow, 650 x 500 mm
53 Cassowary (*Cassuarius* sp.) by Tamiji Kitagawa, 250 x 215 mm
Japanese robin (*Erithacus akahige*) by Ushio Takahashi, entitled *temari ball II*, 355 x 535 mm.
Crane (*Grus* sp.) by Ren Itō, 190 x 245 mm
56 Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax* sp.) and crane (*Grus* sp.) by Yō Sugano, entitled ancient birds, 180 x 225 mm
Penguin (Family Spheniscidae) by Hideshi Yoshida, entitled penguin Othello, 150 x 150 mm
58 Japanese bush-warbler
(*Cettia diphone*) by
Hakudō Inagaki, 760 x 565 mm
Domestic fowl (*Gallus gallus*) by Toshio Sakai, entitled domestic fowl, 320 x 330 mm
Hawk (*Accipiter* sp.) by Mio Omori, entitled 'night bird', 440 x 595 mm
61  Unidentified bird by 
Yasuko Nakanishi, entitled 
energy, 235 x 190 mm
Unidentified bird by Eiko Kawakubo, entitled Mexico, 195 x 165 mm
63
Unidentified birds by Mizue Shiratori, entitled movement, 180 x 100 mm
Domestic goose (*Anser cygnoides*) by Seishi Ozaku, 285 x 380 mm
65  Rock dove (*Columba livia*) by Nobuo Satō, entitled dove of Mexico, 480 x 530 mm
Owl (Family Strigidae) by Minoru Yokota, 190 x 250 mm
Unidentified bird by Taira Motomura, 290 x 380 mm
Unidentified birds by Shiho Murakami, 100 x 150 mm
Unidentified bird by Hideko Seki, entitled to the garden, 330 x 250 mm
Unidentified bird by Akahide Imamura, entitled "bird song," 545 x 395 mm
Unidentified bird by Keiko Minami, 370 x 450 mm
72 Unidentified bird by Hideo Horii, entitled person who keeps a pet bird, 535 x 765 mm
73  Unidentified bird by **Keiko Arakawa**, entitled garden of the little bird, 245 x 320 mm
Unidentified bird by Tadayoshi Nakabayashi, entitled not all things go bad, 345 x 445 mm
Unidentified bird by Seiji Togō, 495 x 640 mm
76  Crane (*Grus* sp.) by
**Masao Yoshida**, 615 x 480 mm
77  Unidentified bird by Shōsuke Ōsawa, 285 x 380 mm
Eurasian tree sparrow (*Passer montanus*) by Atsushi Shimizu, entitled Eurasian tree sparrow, 235 x 310 mm
79  Unidentified bird by **Masuo Ikeda**, entitled happy bird, 285 x 380 mm
Unidentified bird by Yoshirō Nagase, 225 x 300 mm
81  Unidentified bird by Kiyomi Katō, 130 x 130 mm
82 Unidentified bird by Shigeru Matsuzaki, 350 x 450 mm
Unidentified bird by Hideo Sugita, entitled bird dreams, 230 x 300 mm
Unidentified birds by Yoshi Takahashi, entitled bird dance, 655 x 565 mm
85  Unidentified bird by Yukio Fukazawa, entitled birds in the sky, 295 x 345 mm