Eocheong Island May 2018 (29.4 - 21.5)

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Photographing Birds on Eocheongdo we had the pleasure to visit the Island two weeks in April 2017 (10.4 – 20.4) , and next three weeks in May month 2018, to see other parts of the migration. (by 21.5. nearly no birds left any longer). Nearly no waders on the short beachline.

Staying in the central city area, combining photositting with small walks around, the ciffers of our bird recordings must be seen more as tendencies than fully representatively counts for the island.
April 2017 differed from May 2018 by :

1- Weather: April was more clear and sunny – May visitors should absolutely check the many ferry cancellations - weather was in May more periodically wet and windy.
2- Birds in April seen in much higher numbers than May were generally :
Trushes (mostly Dusky) ,Siberian Stonechats, Red-flanked Bluetails, Daurian Redstarts, Little (and Elegant) Buntings and Bramblings.

Birds on the Island May 2018 seen or heard daily during all three weeks were :

Black-tailed Gulls in different ages (50 or more)

Chinese Pond Heron in different ages (4-5)

Eastern Cattle Egret (increasing from 1- 12)

Grey Heron (1-2)

Common Kingfisher (1-2)

Bull-headed Shrike (at least one breeding pair)

Brown-eared Bulbul (6+)

Peregrine (a possible breeding pair on the rocky southern part ?)

Blue Rock Thrush (8)

Korean Bush Warbler (8+)

Oriental Turtle Dove (4+)

Grey Wagtail (2)

European Cuckoo (1 only heard)

Starlings (a few Chestnut-cheeked , Red-billed and White-cheeked)



Black-tailed Gull *Larus crassirostris*



Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus*



Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*



Bull-headed Shrike *Lanius bucephalus* male



Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius* ssp philippensis



Korean Bush Warbler *Horornis borealis*



Above - **Chestnut-cheeked Starling** *Agropsar philippensis* - male and female

Under - **Red-billed Starling** *Spodiopsar sericeus* and **White-shouldered Starling** *Sturnus sinensis*

<u>Rare or lesser common Birds :</u>

White-shouldered Starling *Sturnus sinensis* (**2** 19/5 and **2** 29/4)



Thanks to kind and eager korean birders during a (in the beginning) peaceful passage towards Eocheongdo for notifying us about the rare, Rufous-bellied Woodpecker, who had been seen a few days before on the Island and still were reported present. Finally arrived we rushed up, it was still there and seen(returning sapsucking to the same tree) by ca 20 birders , last day 30th of April .

Rufous-bellied Woodpecker *Hypopicus hyperythrus ssp subrufinus* – 3. Record for South Korea



Rufous-bellied Woodpecker *Hypopicus hyperythrus* Male

Booted Warbler *Iduna caligata (Hippolais caligata)*

A late evening just before sunset a very small bird drew attention, fouraging quickly in some weed.

Got a few pics, but we couldn`t identify it.

Thanks to Nial Moores (and Klaus Malling Olsen and Tim H. Hansen ID agreeing) - in spite of a diffuse and quite short, whitish eyebrow - to finally identify the bird as a Booted Warbler.



Booted Warbler *Iduna calligata* 13.5.18



Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus* 19.5 , first presumed seen very far away in a tree 13.5 , a drongo with a weird broadish tail. Securely seen and photographed 17.5 – 19.5 noon.



1 Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* female (14.5 and 16.5)



3 Siberian Chiffchaffs *Phylloscopus tristis* – 6.5 evening , 3 fouraging together after heavy rain and fog, Winds Westerly.



1 Black Wood Pigeon *Columba janthina* 21.5 **.** Resting long time on the promenade bridge the last bird empty day 21.5 before departure suddenly a bigger, elusive, long-bodied and small-headed dove softly sweeps into the foliage landing. It looked overall darkgrey, with contrasting blackish/dark tail and wingtips in flight.



Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius ssp pandoo* 8.5 – with chestnut on vent

3 Forest Wagtail *Dendronanthus indicus ,* seen 13.5 – 20.5





Bull-headed Shrike female took our best Forest Wagtail model. They fed their youngs with migrating birds . If you look like a newly painted pedestrian crossing, swaying your body loudly shouting VYT all the time , things must go wrong. From 13.5 and 14.5



Yellow Bunting *Emberiza sulphorata* 2.5 - **2** seen



1 Purple Heron *Ardea Purpurea 8.5*



1 Brown-headed Thrush *Turdus Chrysolaus* 3.5

1 White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus* 8.5



General Sightings - with mostly numeral maximum priorities :

Week 29.4 - 5.5 :

1 Hoopoe 30.4 and 4.5 heard, Yellow-browed Warbler max 60+ (1.5), Eastern Crowned Warbler 10+, Black-faced Bunting 40 (max 4.5), Pallas Reed Bunting 2 (30/4 , 1.5 and 2.5), Red-billed Starling 4 (3.5), Yellow-browed Bunting 10 (3.5), Tristram`s Bunting 5+ (4.5), Chestnut- flanked White-eye 8 (4.5), Little Bunting 15, 30 Barn Swallows (4.5), 5 Red-rumped Swallows, Dusky Warbler 4, Chestnut-flanked White-eye 8+, Hawfinch 1 (30.4), 1 Black-naped Oriole , 1 Tajga Flycatcher , 1 Asian Stubtail (30.4), 1 Pechora Pipit, 1 Richards Pipit,



Eastern Crowned Warbler *Phylloscopus coronatus*



Black-faced Bunting *Emberiza spodocephala*



Pallas's Reed Bunting Emberiza pallasi



Tristram's Bunting *Emberiza tristrami*



Chestnut-flanked White-eye *Zosterops erythropleurus* male



Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*



Chestnut Bunting *Emberiza rutila* ad male



Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*



Stejneger's Stonechat *Saxicola stejnegeri*



Taiga Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla* 30.4 (2 males seen first week)

Week 6.5 – 12.5 :

A foggy rainy day : Yellow-browed warbler (45+, 6.5), Dusky Warbler 15, Olive-backed Pipit 30 (from a walk to the Lighthouse, here more thrushes in the air), Little Bunting 25, Black-faced 40, Chestnut-flanked White-eye 20, Chinese Grosbeak 8 (6.5), Rufous-tailed Robin 3 (heard), 1 Northern Hawk Cuckoo (heard), Siberian Chiff Chaff 3, 1 Brown Shrike (6.5), 1 Black Drongo (7.5), 1 Yellow-breasted Bunting (7.5), 6 Oriental Honey Buzzards overflying (7.5), 2 Wood Sandpiper (7.5), 4 Yellew-rumped Flycatcer (6.5), 1 Brown Shrike (7.5), 1 Night Heron (8.5) 6 Common Sandpiper (9.5), 1 Black-capped Kingfisher (9.5), 1 Oriental Reed Warbler (9.5), 3 Richard`s Pipit (9.5), 1 Dollarbird, Barn Swallows 75, Sand Martins 5+, 2 Japanese Grosbeak , 1 Striated Heron (11.5), 1 Tiger Shrike M (11.5) , 1 Eye-browed Thrush (11.5), 10 Asian Brown Flycatcher , 12 Chinese Sparrow Hawk (11.5), 1 Dollar Bird



Presumed **Pin-tailed Snipe** ? *Gallinago stenura* 2.5



2 Chestnut-eared Bunting *Emberiza fucata 8.5*



Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi* - 5.5

1 Pechora Pipit *Anthus gustavi* (5.5)





Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus* 2cy – 8.5



1 Wood Sandpiper in Salad Garden 6.5



2 **Ashy Minivet** *Pericrocotus divaricatus* , here 1 female 9.5



Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus* 9.5



Striated Heron *Butorides striata* 11.5



Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola*

<u>Last Week 13.5 – 21.5 :</u>

1 Little Grebe (13.5), 1 Common Moorhen (13.5), 5+ Grey-streaked Flycatcher (13.5),

10+ Asian Brown Flycatcher (13.5) , 2 Dark-sided Flycatcher (13.5), 12 Yellow Wagtails,

2 Richard´s Pipit, 1 Dollarbird (18.5)

2 Yellow-breasted Bunting, 2 Chestnut Bunting, 20 Olive-backed Pipit , 3 Black-naped Oriole,

1 Eastern Yellow Wagtail (14.5), 1 Ashy Minivet (14.5), 1 Green Sandpiper (15.5), 1 Black-capped Kingfisher, 1 Hair-crested Drongo, 2 Black Drongo (17.5), 1 Tiger Shrike (15.5), 1 Lesser Cuckoo (21.5) , 1 Arctic Warbler, 1 Black Wood Pigeon,



1 Tiger Shrike *Lanius tigrinus* male (15.5)



1 Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* 20.5



Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa latirostris* 11.5



Dark-sided Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica* 13.5



Eastern Yellow Wagtail Motacilla tschutschensis ssp taivana 14.5.

First of all we want to thank Nial Moores for all ID help, and for introducing us to Eocheong Island .

We stayed a nice place at Yangjis Minbak incl. meals. (other Minbaks are also possible on the island).

Kim the owner doesn`t speak english, but will receive sms bookings on mobile tlf 063-466-0607.

Thanks also for the nice company of all the skilled, enthusiastic Korean birders we met there.

Thanks especially to our helpfully Seoul guiding birder and photographer Kee .

Kind regards

Bo L. Christiansen and Eva F. Henriksen, Denmark.