



South Korea

Socheong-do, Gageo-do and Jeju-do

17 May – 5 June 2011

This was my second trip to South Korea, after a brief spell on Eochoeng-do in late April 2009. By visiting later in Spring this time, and going to a different set of islands, I was hoping to see some of the birds that I missed out on the last time.

I chose Socheong-do, as it's position in the extreme northwest of the country would make it better for picking up late and more northern migrants migrating to Northern China and Siberia. Gageo-do lies approximately 400 km due south of Socheong-do, and is regarded as a prime location for watching migrants in early Spring (March – mid May), but my main interest here was finding the resident Black Wood Pigeon and the late arriving Pleske's Warbler. The same applied for Jeju, a little further south, where I was primarily interested in seeing Fairy Pitta, which usually arrives in late May/early June.

I wish to thank Matthew Poll and Young Ho Kim in Jeju for taking the time to show me around the island, and not least for great views of Fairy Pitta.

For questions and further information please feel free to email me.

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General information on travelling in South Korea.

Many airlines fly to South Korea, usually arriving in Incheon (ICN) an hours travel west of Seoul. Thankfully it's not necessary to go into Seoul to move on, as express intercity busses leaves directly from the airport to cities all over the country, and the ferry terminal in Incheon, for boats to Socheong-do, is also just an hour away. Wether it's busses, trains or ferrys, they leave on time, except for bad weather which can cause the cancellation of ferries. This happened on two days during my stay on Socheong-do.

Accommodation is easy to find on the mainland and on Jeju, with motels often plentiful near bus and ferry terminals, look out for the neon-signs on top of the buildings. On the smaller islands accommodation is less obvious, and often restricted to *minbaks/yeogwans* (pensions) where you get blankets and a sleeping mat on the heated floor, a bathroom and a place to eat (usually a budget, set menu called *siksa*).

There is obviously a language barrier for most visitors, but I found it easy to get on with just a few phrases of Korean and lot's of sign-language, and there usually seemed to be someone around speaking some English at the places I visited, quite often the local policeman.

On the mainland and on Jeju getting something to eat was not a problem, as restaurants (Korean) were plentiful and convenience-stores like 7-eleven or Family Mart were almost always within sight, with their usual assortment of beers, softdrinks, biscuits and other snacks. On Socheong-do and Gageo-do the menu was centered around local seafood, where a *siksa* consisted of soup, fish, rice and numerous small side-dishes.

Money.

At the time of my travel the exchange rate for the South Korean Won (KRW) was roughly 1 EUR = 1500 KRW and 1 USD = 1000 KRW. I exchanged some EUR at the airport on arrival, and also withdrew a little more KRW from an ATM at a shopping mall in Incheon later on, but on the small islands there are no banks or ATMs.

Useful reading.

The most useful fieldguide to bring to South Korea is undoubtedly **Birds of East Asia** by Mark Brazil, and for general travel, either the **Lonely Planet Travel Guide** or **Rough Guide** would be sufficient for getting around and finding accommodation on the mainland and Jeju.

There are a few trip reports on www.travellingbirder.com but for more information on where to go and what to expect www.birdskorea.org is the best source of information. Under '*archived bird records*' there are many entries from the last few years, with more details on interesting sites in South Korea.

Weather.

Temperatures increased markedly during my stay, from 18-20°C to 25+°C, but on the islands temperatures were somewhat lower because of the surrounding cold seawater. Sunrise was around 6 am and sunset around 7.30 pm.

On Socheong-do I had a few days with strong wind in the first few days, but otherwise it was usually calm and quite foggy, especially in the morning, but visibility was rarely more than 5 km.

Gageo-do, being much further south, was sunny and warm, except the last day, when it got windy with low cloud cover, presumably the effects of a typhoon passing east of Japan.

Jeju was sunny and warm, except near the coast, where the fog seemed to linger for most of the day.

Socheong-do (37°46'25N, 124°45'01E).

The island lies in the far northwest corner of South Korea, within sight of the North Korean mainland, and therefore has a large military presence, with many look-outs, trenches and soldiers, but this caused no problems, despite carrying binoculars and camera close to sensitive sites.

Socheong-do is quite hilly, with the highest point being approx. 125m asl., and about 4 km long. Because of the steep hillsides birding is mostly confined to the concrete roads, but a gully at the lighthouse provides access all the way down to the sea. Large parts of the island is forested, especially the eastern part, with a few fields around the two villages, and along the side road leading down to a fish hatchery and a small jetty on the north coast.

I usually headed out to the lighthouse in the morning, to see if there was any visible migration taking place, slowly walking back, checking the side roads later in the day. Most days I did an eastern circuit in the afternoon, following the concrete road beginning either from behind the football field or along the harbourfront and onward past the garrison.



Google Earth-view of Socheong-do.

There are 3 daily ferries, leaving from the Yeonan pier in Incheon, at 8.00 am, 8.50 am and 1.00 pm (51.600 KRW, 3.5 hours and the first stop), and in the other direction leaves Socheong-do for Incheon at 8.30 am, 1.30 pm and 2.30 pm. On Socheong-do I found accomodation in a *minbak* in the main village, found by turning right, up a short alley where the main road from the ferry pier meets the seafront (look out for an orange sign above the door, see picture below). At the entrance to the alley, there was a small convenience store in a house with green roof (bisquits, beer, snacks). Prices at the *minbak* were 30.000 KRW/night and 5.000 KRW/meal (*siksa*), including a discount for the long stay.



Street-view, looking north from the seafront in main village on Socheong-do.

Gageo-do (34°04'16N, 125°07'03E).

Gageo-do is about 400km due south of Socheong-do, about double the size, and much steeper, with the highest point 639m asl. There are three villages (1-Gu, 2-Gu, 3-Gu), with concrete roads connecting 1-Gu and 2-Gu, and halfway from 1-Gu to 3-Gu (white line on map). A rough trail leads around the northern end from 2-Gu to 3-Gu, and onwards, to meet the concrete road to 1-Gu, just below the radar station, at the highest point on the island. The area around the villages have mostly been cleared, but the central and northern parts of the island is heavily forested. An abandoned quarry just east of 1-Gu is a very good spot to look for migrants, and the boat ramp in the harbour in 1-Gu is the best spot for shorebirds on the island.



There is one daily sailing from the Coastal Ferry Terminal in Mokpo at 8.10 am (55.600 KRW, 4 hours and final stop) returning from 1-Gu to Mokpo at 12.40 pm. There seems to be a number of *minbaks* along the harbour in 1-Gu, above some of the many seafood restaurants, and I stayed in the purple building, paying 40.000 KRW/night, and 7000 KRW/meal (*siksa*).

I only did the whole island round trip once, as there were very little birdlife in the forest along the path to the lighthouse, but I found the last bit of road up to the radar station to be very rewarding. Ditches along the road held many *Locustella*-warblers, and by walking very slowly here and with lot's of patience, managed to get excellent views of 4 species (all except Pleske's Warbler). The old quarry east of 1-Gu was also one of the best sites for migrants, as relatively little groundcover made observations easier.

Jeju-do.

Jeju is a very large island compared to the other two visited, roughly 60x30km, and reaching 1950m asl. on Mt Hallasan, the highest mountain in South Korea. It's a popular island for holidaying, with many flights from Seoul and other large cities, as well as a few ferry-lines.

I took one of the 3 daily ferries from the International Ferry Terminal in Mokpo at 9 am (27.000 KRW), and arrived in Jeju-si some 3 hours later. On my return to the mainland, I took the ferry to Wando at 8.20 am (24.000 KRW). In Jeju-si accomodation is plentiful, and I found a motel near the McDonald, in the Tapdong area for 25.000 KRW/night. I got a bus-schedule in English at the Tourist information at the International Ferry Terminal, and used the cheap and efficient bus network for getting around the island. Destinations are usually written in English on the front of busses, and individual bus stops are announced in English as well.

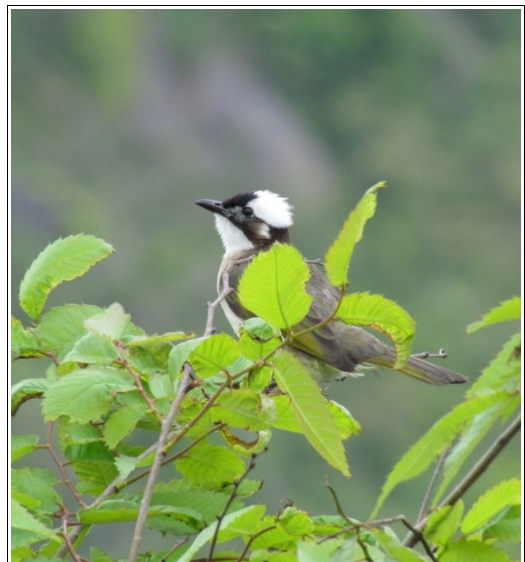
To visit the forest on Mt Hallasan I took the first bus going to Yeongsil from Jeju-si at 6.30 am (2.500 KRW/1 hour), got off at the trail-head for the Yeongsil trail, and walked up to Witseoreum shelter (1700m asl) and then down to the main road along the Eorimok trail. The lower parts are lush, mixed forest giving way to open subalpine grassland with dwarf bamboo higher up. Many people on the trails from late morning onwards - even on a weekday.

I went to Seogwipo on the south coast the next day, to look for Fairy Pitta and Japanese Paradise Flycatcher with Canadian expat. birder Matthew Poll, and made a rather unproductive stop by the Halla Arboretum near Jeju-si in the afternoon.

The following day was spent with Matthew Poll and Young Ho Kim, visiting a few forest sites on the northern part of Jeju, again looking for Fairy Pitta, which showed beautifully.

Itinerary.

- 16 May : arrived Incheon (ICN) pm, and took subway/metro into Incheon town. Night in Hong Kong Motel near harbour (35.000 KRW).
- 17 May: ferry to Sochoeng-do am, Socheong-do pm.
- 18-25 May: Sochoeng-do
- 26 May: Sochoeng-do am, ferry to Incheon pm, night spent in Romantic Motel (40.000 KRW) near bus terminal in Incheon.
- 27 May: 6.20 am bus to Mokpo (30.000 KRW/4 hours). In Mokpo booked into Hae Woon Motel (30.000 KRW) near Ferry Terminal, and birded Yudalsan Park in the afternoon.
- 28 May: ferry to Gageo-do am,
- 29-30 May: Gageo-do
- 31 May: Gageo-do am, ferry to Mokpo pm, night in Mae Woon Motel again.
- 1 June: ferry to Jeju am, relaxing and shopping pm.
- 2 June: Jeju - Mt Hallasan.
- 3 June: Jeju – Seogwipo area am with Matthew Poll, Halla Arboretum near Jeju-si pm.
- 4 June: Jeju – northern half of the island with Matthew Poll and Young Ho Kim.
- 5 June: ferry to Wando am, bus to Gwangju and then on to Incheon pm.



The lighthouse at the western end of Socheong-do, where Chinese Bulbuls often tried to leave the island.

Birdlist

Japanese Quail (*Coturnix japonica*) -

Socheong-do: a ♀ was flushed from the Lighthouse Gully 23 May.

Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) -

Mokpo: 3 ♂♂ heard and two ♀♀ seen in Yudalsan Park.

Jeju: heard and seen regularly around the island.

Eastern Spot-billed Duck (*Anas zonorhyncha*) –

seen commonly around wetlands and rice paddies on the mainland.

Streaked Shearwater (*Calonectris leucomelas*) -

Socheong-do: 4 birds seen from the ferry going to the island 17 May, and 35-40 on the way back to Incheon 26 May.

Jeju: 25 birds seen from the ferry between Mokpo and Jeju 1 June, and 17 were feeding off the north coast 4 June.

Swinhoe's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma monorhis*) -

Gageo-do: a single bird was seen from the ferry, some 20 minutes before reaching the island on 28 May.

Yellow Bittern (*Ixobrychus sinensis*) -

Socheong-do: one bird had to crashland in the trees below the lighthouse, to avoid falling prey to the local Peregrine Falcons, as it came off the sea in the morning of 25 May.

Gageo-do: one bird was flushed from a ditch above 1-Gu on 31 May.

Striated Heron (*Butorides striata*) -

Socheong-do: a single bird along the north coast 22-23 May

Gageo-do: a single in the harbour in 1-Gu 30-31 May.

Chinese Pond Heron (*Ardeola bacchus*) -

Socheong-do: 1-4 birds seen daily 17-26 May, with some turnover, as birds were regularly seen coming off the sea.

Gageo-do: 1-4 birds seen daily 28-31 May.

Eastern Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus coromandus*) -

Socheong-do: one bird was present 18 May, another 7 arrived 19 May after which 4-8 birds daily, but 12 seen 26 May.

Gageo-do: 15 birds at 1-Gu 28 May, 87 counted 29 May (12 1-Gu, 57 2-Gu, 6 3-Gu and 12 migrating), 16 birds arriving at 1-Gu on 30 May and still 7 present 31 May.

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) -

Socheong-do: 1 migrating 25 May and 3 migrating 26 May.

Gageo-do: 1 bird around 1-Gu 28-31 May, and 3 migrating 30 May.

Great White Egret (*Casmerodius albus*) -

Socheong-do: 3 migrating birds 26 May.

Gageo-do: 1-3 birds around 1-Gu 28-31 May.

Intermediate Egret (*Mesophoyx intermedia*) -

Socheong-do: one bird arrived with a group of Eastern Cattle Egrets on 19 May and was still present 26 May.

Gageo-do: up to 3 present 29-31 May.

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) -

Socheong-do: 3 migrating 18 May, and 1-3 seen daily 19-26 May.

Gageo-do: 4 birds 1-Gu 28 May and a single on 31 May.

Pacific Reef Egret (*Egretta sacra*) -

Jeju: 3 dark phase birds were found along the coast, west of Jeju-si on 4 June.

Temminck's Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax capillatus*) -

Socheong-do: 15+ seen daily around the island 17-26 May.

Gageo-do: 2 birds at the northern end 29 May.

Pelagic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pelagicus*) -

Socheong-do: seen daily around the island 17-26 May, especially off the lighthouse, with up to 70 feeding 25 May.

Eurasian Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) -

Mokpo: 1 ♂ near Yudalsan Park 27 May.

Amur Falcon (*Falco amurensis*) -

Socheong-do: a ♂ seemed to go to roost in the forest on the northeast coast late afternoon on 20 May.

Northern Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*) -

Socheong-do: singles seen 17-20 May, 4-5 daily 21-26 May with 2 pairs holding territories and scattered birds migrating.

Gageo-do: single bird seen daily 28-31 May (breeding bird?).

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) -

Socheong-do: one pair close to the lighthouse seen daily.

Gageo-do: one pair seen almost daily, hunting both over forest and on tired migrants arriving off the sea.

Jeju: one pair heard near Seogwipo 3 June.

Oriental Honey Buzzard (*Pernis orientalis*) -

Socheong-do: 2 birds 21 May, 1 on 22 May, 5 on 23 May and 2 on 25 May – all migrating.

Gageo-do: a single migrating ♀ at the lighthouse 29 May.

Eurasian Black Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*) -

Jeju: a single bird was soaring over Eorimok Trail in Hallasan NP 2 June. One of three birds that have been present on the island for a while.

Chinese Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter soloensis*) -

Socheong-do: seen daily 18-26 May, with 2-4 exhausted migrants in the first days, but also some migration with a total of 16 on 20 May, 10 on 23 May and 24 on 25 May.

Gageo-do: 1 bird 28 May, 40 on 29 May, 26 on 30 May and 1 on 31 May.



Small numbers of migrating Grey-faced Buzzards and Oriental Honey Buzzards were seen.

Japanese Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter gularis*) -

Socheong-do: single migrating birds seen on five days 20-26 May.

Gageo-do: a ♀ succeeded in killing a *Locustella*-warbler that I had just flushed in the quarry at 1-Gu on 30 May.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) -

Socheong-do: a single bird migrating 22 May.

Grey-faced Buzzard (*Butastur indicus*) -

Socheong-do: single migrants seen daily 19-25 May, except 2 on 21 May and 9 on 23 May.

Gageo-do: 2 birds on 29 May, 19 migrating on 30 May and 45 birds soaring at 5.30 am over 1-Gu, before disappearing in the low clouds.

White-breasted Waterhen (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*) -

Socheong-do: one bird was flushed east of main village 20 May, and another was in the Lighthouse Gully 22-26 May.

Gageo-do: one bird flushed near 3-Gu 29 May and one bird in 1-Gu 31 May.

Eurasian Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostrinus*) -

Socheong-do: 3 birds flew west along the north coast 22 May.

Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) -

Gageo-do: a ♀ at the ramp in 1-Gu on 30 May.

Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) -

Socheong-do: one bird heard 20 May.

Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) -

Socheong-do: one bird heard 20 May.

Grey-tailed Tattler (*Tringa brevipes*) -

Gageo-do: two birds feeding on the ramp 28-30 May.

Terek Sandpiper (*Xenus cinereus*) -

Gageo-do: a single (oil stained) bird on the ramp 28-31 May.



The ramp in the harbour of 1-Gu on Gageo-do was the 'best' spot for waders on my trip, incl. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) -

Socheong-do: singles 21-25 May, except two birds on 24 May.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*) -

Gageo-do: a single bird on the ramp in 1-Gu 29-30 May.

Black-tailed Gull (*Larus crassirostris*) -

Socheong-do: seen daily around the island with up to 45 birds.

Gageo-do: a single bird in 1-Gu 30 May.

Mongolian Gull (*Larus mongolicus*) -

Socheong-do: seen daily around the island, but less numerous than Black-tailed Gull, with only 3-6 birds.

Gageo-do: a single 2nd cal bird in 1-Gu 28-31 May.

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo longipennis*) -

Socheong-do: one bird seen from the ferry going back to Incheon 26 May.

White-winged Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*) -

Socheong-do: a single bird was seen from the ferry between the island and Incheon 26 May, roosting on driftwood.

Ancient/Japanese Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus/wumizusume*) -

Gageo-do: two birds took off from the sea close to the ferry but were only seen through the soiled windows.

Japanese Woodpigeon (*Columba janthina*) -

Gageo-do: up to 10 were seen/heard daily, but seemed to be most common on the northern part of the island, where I only came once. One or two birds were noted regularly near the pass above 1-Gu.

Oriental Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia orientalis*) -

Socheong-do: up to 12 birds seen daily 17-26 May.

Mokpo: 7 birds in Yudalsan Park incl. 1 fresh juvenile 27 May.

Jeju: seen fairly commonly around the island.

Red Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia tranquebarica*) -

Gageo-do: a ♀ was flushed from the grassy hillsides north of 3-Gu 29 May, and was seen in flight and also briefly perching before disappearing behind a hillside. A vagrant to South Korea.

Northern Hawk Cuckoo (*Cuculus hyperythrus*) -

Socheong-do: one bird was calling from the forest on the northeast coast 22-23 May.

Jeju: single birds calling on both Yeongsil and Eorimok Trail in Hallasan NP 2 June.

Eurasian Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*) -

Socheong-do: one heard 17 May, 1-3 heard daily 20-24 May, along with up to 4 unidentified seen-only Cuckoos.

Mokpo: heard in Yudalsan Park 27 May.

Gageo-do: 1 heard 28 May and 2 on 29 May.

Jeju: singles heard at 4 sites on the island.

Oriental Cuckoo (*Cuculus optatus*) -

Socheong-do: singles heard 21 May, 22 May and 25 May.

Jeju: one bird heard along the Yeongsil Trail in Hallasan NP, and one bird heard in the northern part 4 June.

Lesser Cuckoo (*Cuculus poliocephalus*) -

Socheong-do: singles heard 21 and 25 May.

Gageo-do: 2 birds heard around 1-Gu, one at 2-Gu and 2 at 3-Gu.

Jeju: in Hallasan NP 7 birds were heard on Yeongsil Trail and 5 on Eorimok Trail on 2 June, 1 heard near Seogwipo 3 June and 4+ heard on the north island 4 June. Clearly thriving with the numerous Japanese Bush Warblers.

Oriental Scops Owl (*Otus sunia*) -

Socheong-do: a single bird was heard calling late morning 23 May.

White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) -

Socheong-do: 4 with swallows on 22 May,

Gageo-do: 2 birds feeding with swallows on 28 May and 4 birds on 29 May.

Pacific Swift (*Apus pacificus*) -

Socheong-do: 18 birds on 22 May, 4 on 23 May, 10 on 25 May and a single bird 26 May.

Gageo-do: 10 on 28 May, 38 on 29 May and 18 on 30 May.

Dollarbird (*Eurystomus orientalis*) -

Socheong-do: strong arrival on 20 May with 12-15 birds (mostly migrating) and from 22 May 1-2 pairs seemed to hold territories on the island.

Gageo-do: one bird 28 May, 4 on 29 May and 3 on 30 May.

Black-capped Kingfisher (*Halcyon pileata*) -

Socheong-do: a single bird was seen daily 18-24 May, usually along the ridge above the powerplant, and another was found near the lighthouse 25 May.

Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) -

Socheong-do: a single bird in the harbour 19 May.

Gageo-do: a single near the ramp in 1-Gu 30 May.



Hair-crested Drongo, Socheong-do and Fairy Pitta, Jeju.

White-backed Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos leucotos quelpartensis*) -

Jeju: 1 ♀ seen and two birds heard in Hallasan NP on 2 June, a pair recorded near Seogwipo on 3 June and two birds heard in the north of Jeju on 4 June. Rather heavily marked striping on breast and belly, is more reminiscent of populations in Japan than birds from mainland Korea.

Grey-headed Woodpecker (*Picus canus*) -

Mokpo: in Yudalsan Park a ♂ was drumming on a metal light-post and another bird was heard calling.

Fairy Pitta (*Pitta nympha*) -

Jeju: 2 calling birds heard near Seogwipo on 3 June, and 1 ♂ seen and another heard in the northern part of Jeju on 4 June.

Black-winged Cuckoo-Shrike (*Coracina melaschistos*) -

Socheong-do: a ♂ was found 25 May perching for a short period on telephone wires near the second village before flying off into the pine forest along the ridge. A vagrant to South Korea.

Ashy Minivet (*Pericrocotus divaricatus*) -

Socheong-do: 2-3 birds noted daily 17-25 May, except 5 birds on 19 May. The majority of birds were migrating.

Gageo-do: 3 birds on 29 May and one on 31 May.

Tiger Shrike (*Lanius tigrinus*) -

Socheong-do: 2♂♂ 19 May, 2♂♂1♀ 23 May, 1♂1♀ 24 May, 1♂ 25 May and 1♀ 26 May – all single-day records.

Mokpo: 1♂ was found singing in the Botanical Garden section of Yudalsan Park 27 May.

Gageo-do: 1♂ and 2♀♀ seen on 30 May.

Bull-headed Shrike (*Lanius bucephalus*) -

Gageo-do: a ♂ near the rubbish dump in 1-Gu 29 May.

Jeju: two birds found in the open moorland near Witseoreum shelter in Hallasan NP 2 June.



Brown Shrike ♂ *ssp lucionensis*, *Tiger Shrike* ♀ and *Brown Shrike* ♂ *ssp superciliosus*.

Brown Shrike (*Lanius cristatus*) -

Socheong-do: 17-25 May 11-15 birds recorded daily, with a peak of 19 on 23 May. Only 5 seen 26 May. The majority of birds were *ssp lucionensis* (and *confusus*?), but 2♂♂ *ssp superciliosus* were seen on 17 May and 1♀ on 19 May.

Gageo-do: 1♂ *ssp superciliosus* above 1-Gu on 28 May.

Black-naped Oriole (*Oriolus chinensis*) -

Socheong-do: 3-7 birds seen daily 17-26 May, except 11 birds on 21 May and 10 birds on 25 May.

Mokpo: one singing ♂ Yudalsan Park 27 May.

Gageo-do: 4 birds recorded 30 May.

Black Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocercus*) -

Socheong-do: 6-7 birds were recorded 17-20 May, 3 on 21 May, 10 on 22-23 May and 4 birds 24-25 May. A few birds could regularly be seen in the morning, trying to leave the island by the lighthouse, unsuccessfully.

Hair-crested Drongo (*Dicrurus hottentottus*) -

Socheong-do: one bird could be found feeding in the same flowering bush on the hillside behind the churches in the main village 21-26 May. An odd bird, with an all yellow bill. A vagrant to South Korea.

Japanese Paradise Flycatcher (*Terpsiphone atrocaudata*) -

Jeju: 2♂♂1♀ seen near Seogwipo 3 June, and 4♂♂3♀ found on northern Jeju on 4 June.

Eurasian Jay (*Garrulus glandarius brandtii*) -

Socheong-do: seen daily 19-26 May with up to 5 birds. A few tried repeatedly to leave the island at the lighthouse.

Mokpo: 3 birds in Yudalsan Park 27 May.

Jeju: singles seen at a few forest sites.

Common Magpie (*Pica pica*) -

Mokpo: 7 birds, including fresh juveniles, in Yudalsan Park 27 May.

Gageo-do: a single bird around 1-Gu on 30 May. The bird has apparently been on the island a while – ship-assisted?

Jeju: common, but an introduced species to the island.

Large-billed Crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos*) -

Socheong-do: common with 10+ recorded daily.

Jeju: common, especially in Hallasan NP.

Japanese Waxwing (*Bombycilla japonica*) -

Socheong-do: a single bird was found near the power plant 19 May.

Eastern Great Tit (*Parus minor*) -

Socheong-do: around 15 birds noted daily 17-26 May.

Mokpo: 4 birds Yudalsan Park 27 May.

Gageo-do: less common than Varied Tit, with only a couple of birds daily.

Jeju: common.

Coal Tit (*Periparus ater*) -

Jeju: 5+ noted while walking Yeongsil and Eorimok Trails in Hallasan NP.

Varied Tit (*Poecile varius*) -

Mokpo: one bird in Yudalsan park 27 May.

Gageo-do: up to 12 birds recorded daily on the island.

Jeju: fairly common at forest sites.

Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*) -

Socheong-do: 4 migrants recorded on 22 May and 2 on 23 May.

Gageo-do: a single bird on 29 May.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) -

Socheong-do: 2-10 birds recorded daily 17-26 May, except 30 on 20 May, 50 on 22 May and 210 on 23 May.

Mokpo: 20 birds 27 May.

Gageo-do: up to 10 birds 28-30 May.

Jeju: a few seen in the north of the island 4 June.

Northern House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*) -

Socheong-do: singles seen on both 21 and 23 May.

Asian House Martin (*Delichon dasypus*) -

Socheong-do: 3 birds on 19 May, 1 on 20 May, 2 on 22 May, 1 on 23 May and 1 on 25 May.

Gageo-do: one bird 28 May.

Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica*) -

Socheong-do: noted daily 18-26 May with 4-15 birds, except 22 on 19 May and 40 on 23 May.

Gageo-do: up to 25 birds around 1-Gu 28-30 May.

Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*) -

Mokpo: 2 birds seen in Yudalsan Park (ssp. *magnus*).

Jeju: 3 birds near Seogwipo, feeding in the canopy, so not seen well, but should be ssp. *trivirgatus* on Jeju.

Greater Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*) -

Socheong-do: on 24 May one bird at the lighthouse in the morning and another at the eastern end of the island in the afternoon. Different birds, based on plumage details, and perhaps different ssp as well, as the second bird showed obvious rufous wash to the breast (ssp. *dukhunensis*?).

Chinese Bulbul (*Pycnonotus sinensis*) -

Socheong-do: recorded daily 20-26 May, with up to 10 birds seen trying to leave the island at the lighthouse on 25 May. Birds seemed to move much around the island, after unsuccessful migration attempts in the morning, usually turning up around bamboo patches in the villages.
Gageo-do: 1-3 birds encountered around all 3 villages.

Brown-eared Bulbul (*Microscelis amaurotis*) -

Socheong-do: common and conspicuous, with 15+ recorded daily.
Mokpo: 15+ birds in Yudalsan Park 27 May.
Gageo-do: fairly common, with up to 8 birds daily.
Jeju: common and noisy, even in cities.

Japanese Bush Warbler (*Cettia diphone*) -

Gageo-do: common, especially in more open areas around the villages.
Jeju: commonly heard all over the island, but especially common in dwarf bamboo in Hallasan NP.

Korean Bush Warbler (*Cettia canturians*) -

Socheong-do: up to 7 birds daily, with most only heard singing.
Mokpo: 1 singing Yudalsan Park.

Lanceolated Warbler (*Locustella lanceolata*) -

Socheong-do: 1 20 May, 3 22 May, 1 25 May, all birds heard singing from areas of long grass.
Gageo-do: 1 28 May (ditch inside forest), 2 30 May (1 singing and one flushed in quarry).

Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella certhiola*) -

Socheong-do: 2 23 May (lighthouse and north cove), 1 25 May (lighthouse).
Gageo-do: 3 28 May (ditch inside forest), 7 on 30 May (quarry).

Middendorff's Warbler (*Locustella ochotensis*) -

Gageo-do: 8 on 28 May (ditch inside forest), 2 29 May (one recently dead 1-Gu, one at lighthouse), 22+ birds 30 May (both forest ditches and quarry). The majority of the 30+ Pallas's/Middendorff's flushed on 30 May, were probably this species as well.

Pleske's Warbler (*Locustella pleskei*) -

Gageo-do: 8-9 singing 29 May (3 above 1-Gu, 1 2-Gu, 2 Lighthouse and 2-3 3-Gu), 5 birds 30 May (4 singing above 1-Gu, 1 migrant at the quarry), 4-5 on 31 May singing above 1-Gu around the pass. All singing birds were found in areas with larger patches of bamboo.

Gray's Warbler (*Locustella fasciolata*) -

Gageo-do: 1 bird 28 May, 2 on 30 May, all along the forest edge towards the radar station, where many other *locustella*-warblers were feeding in the ditches.



Several *Locustella*-warblers, like this Middendorff's Warbler were feeding in roadside ditches on Gageo-do.

Thick-billed Warbler (*Acrocephalus aedon*) -

Socheong-do: 1-2 birds recorded daily 17-26 May, except 4 on 22 May and 5 on 25 May.

Oriental Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus orientalis*) -

Socheong-do: 1 on 20 May, 3-4 daily 22-26 May.

Gageo-do: 1 28 May, 9 birds 30 May.

Black-browed Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*) -

Socheong-do: 2-6 seen daily 17-26 May, except 11 22 May and 13 24 May, mostly in tall grass at lighthouse.

Gageo-do: 8 birds 30 May.

Dusky Warbler (*Phylloscopus fuscatus*) -

Socheong-do: 15-20 seen daily 17-23 May, except 26 on 19 May and 24 on 21 May, down to 3-4 birds 25-26 May.

Tickell's Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus affinis*) -

Socheong-do: one bird 24 May was seen well, but briefly, on the hillside behind the churches in the main village. A vagrant to South Korea, but another bird was present on Eochoeng-do in mid May.

Radde's Warbler (*Phylloscopus schwarzi*) -

Socheong-do: 11-15 birds seen daily 17-26 May, with a maximum of 18 on 23 May. Not the obvious drop in numbers towards the end of my stay as with Dusky and Yellow-browed Warblers.

Pallas's Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus proregulus*) -

Socheong-do: 2-3 birds noted daily 17-24 May (none 20 May).

Yellow-browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus inornatus*) -

Socheong-do: 20-25 birds seen daily 17-23 May, with a peak of 40 on 18 May, down to 7-9 birds 24-26 May.

Arctic Warbler (*Phylloscopus borealis*) -

Socheong-do: 1-4 birds 17-19 May, rising to 25-30 birds daily 21-26 May, peaking with 67 on 24 May and 44 counted on 25 May.

Gageo-do: 2-3 birds 28-31 May, except 18 on 30 May, of which several were in full song.

Jeju: one bird seen in the north of the island 4 June.

Pale-legged Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus tenellipes*) -

Socheong-do: 2-5 birds daily 17-26 May except 9 birds on 18 May. Mostly heard only, as birds were feeding low down, inside the forest.

Two-barrred Greenish Warbler (*Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus*) -

Socheong-do: 1-2 birds daily 17-24 May (none 19 and 22 May) with a peak of 4 on 26 May, were mostly heard only.

Gageo-do: one bird heard calling 30 May.

Eastern Crowned Warbler (*Phylloscopus coronatus*) -

Socheong-do: singles recorded on 17, 22 and 25 May.



Arctic Warbler and Radde's Warbler - common migrants on Socheong-do.

Vinous-throated Parrotbill (*Paradoxornis webbianus*) -

Mokpo: 2 birds in Yudalsan Park 27 May.

Chestnut-flanked White-eye (*Zosterops erythropleurus*) -

Socheong-do: flocks were very mobile, but 17-24 May 50-85 birds were recorded daily, after which numbers dropped to only 25 on 26 May.

Japanese White-eye (*Zosterops japonicus*) -

Mokpo: 1 singing ♂ in Yudalsan Park 27 May.

Gageo-do: up to 4 birds daily.

Jeju: fairly common at forested sites.

Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) -

Jeju: common (10+) heard singing in forest in Hallasan NP 2 June.

Daurian Starling (*Sturnus sturninus*) -

Socheong-do: one pair 17 May, one ♀ 19-20 May, one pair 21 May, one ♀ 24-25 May.

White-shouldered Starling (*Sturnus sinensis*) -

Socheong-do: one ♂ 19 May.

Gageo-do: one pair in 1-Gu 28 May.

White-cheeked Starling (*Sturnus cineraceus*) -

Socheong-do: two birds 23 May and one bird 24 May.

Gageo-do: one bird in 1-Gu 28 May.

Siberian Thrush (*Zoothera sibirica*) -

Socheong-do: a ♀ was seen beautifully (but too briefly) in the Lighthouse Gully 25 May.

Grey-backed Thrush (*Turdus hortulorum*) -

Socheong-do: one ♀ 22 May and one 2nd cal. ♂ 25 May.

Eye-browed Thrush (*Turdus obscurus*) -

Socheong-do: recorded daily 17 May (11 birds) to 26 May (1 bird), except 20 and 25 May (none), usually 5-10 birds.

Highest number noted were 16 birds on 18 May. Difficult to observe, flushing easily from just within the forest.

Pale Thrush (*Turdus pallidus*) -

Socheong-do: one ♀ 23 May.

Mokpo: a singing bird in Yudalsan Park 27 May.

Gageo-do: one ♂ heard singing 29 May.

Dusky Thrush (*Turdus eunomus*) -

Socheong-do: a single, halfblind ♀ seen daily 17-20 May.

Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*) -

Socheong-do: one ♂ seen 18 May.

Siberian Rubythroat (*Luscinia calliope*) -

Socheong-do: one 2nd cal. ♂ seen 24 May.

Siberian Blue Robin (*Luscinia cyane*) -

Socheong-do: 1-3 birds seen daily 17-26 May, except 5 on 25 May.

Red-flanked Bluetail (*Luscinia cyanura*) -

Socheong-do: one 2nd cal. ♂ 22 May and one adult ♂ on 25 May seems rather late.

Rufous-tailed Robin (*Luscinia sibilans*) -

Socheong-do: single birds found on 17. 18 and 22 May.

Daurian Redstart (*Phoenicurus auroreus*) -

Socheong-do: one ♀ 20-21 May and one ♂ on 23 May.

Siberian Stonechat (*Saxicola maurus*) -

Socheong-do: seen in steadily diminishing numbers 17-24 May, with 8 birds on 18 May being the biggest day.



Not all migrants were dull and featureless – White-throated Rock Thrush ♂ and Yellow-rumped Flycatcher ♂.

Red-bellied Rock Thrush (*Monticola (solitarius) philippensis*) -

Socheong-do: approx. 5 breeding pairs along the coast, seen daily.

Gageo-do: 1-2 pairs around 1-Gu.

Jeju: singing ♂♂ seen Jeju-si harbour, Seogwipo busterminal, and 5+ northwest coast of Jeju.

White-throated Rock Thrush (*Monticola gularis*) -

Socheong-do: 1-3 birds daily 18-24 May (6 ♂♂, 6 ♀♀) involving a minimum of 9 different birds.

Grey-streaked Flycatcher (*Muscicapa griseisticta*) -

Socheong-do: seen daily with up to 4 birds 17-24 May.

Gageo-do: 3 birds seen 28 May and 4 birds on 30 May.

Dark-sided Flycatcher (*Muscicapa sibirica*) -

Socheong-do: recorded daily 21-26 May with 2-6 birds, except 9 birds on 23 May and 10 on 24 May.

Gageo-do: one bird on 28 May and 3 on 30 May.

Asian Brown Flycatcher (*Muscicapa dauurica*) -

Socheong-do: seen daily 17-26 May, usually 4-10 birds, but peaking with 13 recorded 21-22 May and 27 on 24 May.

Gageo-do: a single bird on 30 May.

Yellow-rumped Flycatcher (*Ficedula zanthopygia*) -

Socheong-do: 6 birds on 17 May, after which 2-4 birds daily 18-25 May.

Jeju: on 2 June 2 ♂♂ singing Yeongsil Trail and 3 ♂♂ singing Eorimok Trail in Hallasan NP.

Mugimaki Flycatcher (*Ficedula mugimaki*) -

Socheong-do: 1-2 birds daily 17-26 May, except 3 on 22 May and 4 on 23 May.

Taiga Flycatcher (*Ficedula albicilla*) -

Socheong-do: singles on 18, 22 and 24 May, 2 birds on 20 May and 3 on 21 May.

Blue-and-White Flycatcher (*Cyanoptila cyanomelana*) -

Socheong-do: single ♀♀ seen on 17, 19 and 21 May.

Jeju: two pairs seen on the northern part of the island 4 June.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) -

Mokpo: fairly common.

Gageo-do: 2 birds around the rubbish dump at 1-Gu.

Jeju: common.

Forest Wagtail (*Dendronanthus indicus*) -

Socheong-do: singles seen on 5 days 17-26 May, and 3 birds on 21 May and 2 on 22 May.

Eastern Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla tschutschensis*) -

Socheong-do: 1-4 birds recorded daily, with most birds migrating overhead, highest day totals were 9 on 22 May and 11 on 26 May. Only a few birds seen well, with one ♂ ssp *macronyx* in the village 18-19 May and 2♂♂ ssp *tschutschensis* on 24 May.

Gageo-do: one bird heard migrating 31 May.

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*) -

Socheong-do: 1-2 recorded daily 18-26 May, numbers peaking with 12 on 20 May and 9 on 21 May.

Gageo-do: up to 6 birds around the harbour in 1-Gu

Jeju: a single bird seen near Seogwipo 3 June.

White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) -

Socheong-do: 1 ssp *ocularis* 17 May, 1 migr. 21 May, 1 ssp *leucopsis* 25 May and 2 migr. 26 May.

Gageo-do: 1 ssp *ocularis* 28 May, 1 ssp *leucopsis* 29-30 May all in 1-Gu.

Richard's Pipit (*Anthus richardi*) -

Socheong-do: 2-4 birds recorded daily 17-25 May, mostly migrating, with just the occasional bird roosting at the lighthouse.

Olive-backed Pipit (*Anthus hodgsoni*) -

Socheong-do: 4-7 birds noted daily 17-23 May, except 15 on 20 May, with the last, single bird found on 24 May.

Pechora Pipit (*Anthus gustavi*) -

Socheong-do: one migrant 19 May, one flushed from same patch of tall grass 22-23 May.

Gageo-do: one bird seen well on the ground at the quarry 30 May, and one migrating 31 May.

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*) -

Socheong-do: 2 birds on 19 May.

Oriental Greenfinch (*Carduelis sinica*) -

Socheong-do: 6-10 birds noted daily 17-26 May.

Jeju: recorded fairly commonly around the island.

Eurasian Siskin (*Carduelis spinus*) -

Socheong-do: a mobile flock of about 20 was seen on 20 May.

Common Rosefinch (*Carpodacus erythrinus*) -

Socheong-do: a ♀ on 17 May, a ♂ singing 22 May and a ♀ 22-23 May.



Chinese Grosbeak and Japanese Grosbeak.

Chinese Grosbeak (*Eophona migratoria*) -

Socheong-do: seen daily 17-25 May, but numbers somewhat confusing, since a flock of 9 birds moved much around the island 19-22 May, and 8 birds flying west at the lighthouse 25 May, may involve this flock as well.

Gageo-do: 4 birds 28 May and singles 29-30 May.

Japanese Grosbeak (*Eophona personata*) -

Socheong-do: 1 ♂ singing 21 May and 1 adult + 1 imm. 23 May.

Meadow Bunting (*Emberiza cioides*) -

Socheong-do: 5-6 pairs scattered along the road towards the lighthouse, judging from the number of singing ♂♂.

Jeju: 2 singing ♂♂ in the north of the island 4 June.

Tristram's Bunting (*Emberiza tristrami*) -

Socheong-do: 1-2 birds daily 18-22 May.

Chestnut-eared Bunting (*Emberiza fucata*) -

Socheong-do: 3+ pairs on the island.

Gageo-do: up to 4 birds seen around 1-Gu.

Little Bunting (*Emberiza pusilla*) -

Socheong-do: 4-8 birds recorded daily 17-23 May, the last one being found on 24 May.

Yellow-browed Bunting (*Emberiza chrysophrys*) -

Socheong-do: one ♂ 22 May and a ♀ on 23 May.

Yellow-throated Bunting (*Emberiza elegans*) -

Socheong-do: one pair was seen 21-22 May.

Jeju: 1 ♂ on Yeongsil Trail and 2 ♂♂ on Eorimok Trail, Hallasan NP on 2 June, and 1 ♂ in the north of Jeju 4 June.

Yellow-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza aureola*) -

Socheong-do: only 11 birds seen, 3 on 17 May, 1 on 19 May, 2 birds on 23, 24 and 26 May.

Chestnut Bunting (*Emberiza rutila*) -

Socheong-do: seen daily with 1-6 birds 17-26 May, except 11 on 18 May and 8 26 May.

Black-faced Bunting (*Emberiza spodocephala*) -

Socheong-do: 15-21 birds seen daily 17-23 May then declining to only 8 birds on 26 May. Most birds seemed to belong to ssp *spodocephala*, but a few ssp *personata* were found regularly.

Gageo-do: a single, and very worn ♂ 30 May.



Pechora Pipit, Gageo-do and Little Bunting, Socheong-do.