



Migratory Birds Who Love to Travel

愛旅行的候鳥

Author: Da-Li Lin **Illustrator:** Yu-Ming Chen **Publisher:** Les Gouttes Press

Date: 01/2024 **Rights contact:** bft.children.comics@moc.gov.tw

40 pages | 27.5 x 21.5cm **Volume:** 1

BFT2.0 Translator: Helen Wang

With vivid, knowledge-rich text and detailed illustrations depicting various bird species, this book explores the life journey of migratory birds. It inspires readers to respect nature and protect Taiwan and the Earth.

Taiwan's unique geographical location and rich environment natural make it a vital and popular stopover site for migratory birds. Every year, hundreds of species pass through Taiwan, much like travelers from remote lands. Some stay for the winter, while others pause briefly before continuing their journeys further south. In spring, Barn Swallows build nests on verandas. In summer, the Greenish-brown Cuckoo appears above Kinmen. Norther Lapwings gather in Yunlin's peanut fields, while Grey-faced Buzzards make a brief stop at the southmost of Taiwan.



Author Da-Li Lin

Da-Li Lin is an associate researcher at the Taiwan Biodiversity Research Institute of the Ministry of Agriculture, with a Ph.D. from the University of Queensland. He is passionate about birdwatching and meticulous in his reading. He believes that attention to detail is essential in exploring the world. His works *Oh! I See: Interesting Ornithology* and *The Virus Didn't Do It on Purpose?!* won the Golden Tripod Award in 2022 and 2023.



Illustrator Yu-Min Chen

Yu-Min Chen, a graduate of the Fine Arts Institute of Nagoya University of the Arts, is known for his realistic painting style and works in industrial machinery design. He has won multiple awards, including the first place in the 2016 COPIC TAIWAN ONLY Original Illustration Competition. He specializes in natural ecology illustrations and enjoys creating works based on ancient history.

The Diversity of Migratory Birds and Their Journeys through Taiwan

by Meng-Chieh Feng

The term “migratory birds” often conjures images of changing seasons and long-distance journeys, evoking a sense of romance and wonder. However, bird migration is, in reality, a diverse and intricate phenomenon.

“Migration” refers to the regular, seasonal movement of individuals away from, and back to, the breeding grounds. Globally, over 4,000 bird species are migratory, each characterized by a unique life history, migratory route, purpose, and set of survival challenges.

Taiwan and its surrounding islands serve as a crucial stopover along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. Globally, eight major flyway can be identified, mapped according to the migration paths of numerous bird species. The East Asian-Australasian Flyway encompasses Russia and Japan in Northeast Asia, traverses Taiwan, the Philippines, the Indochina Peninsula, stretches across the Malay

Archipelago, and concludes in Australia and New Zealand. Annually, this flyway supports the migration of nearly 600 bird species, totaling over two billion individuals, a significant portion of which traverse or settle in Taiwan. Taiwan’s unique position along this vital migratory corridor, coupled with its rich diversity of habitats across elevations, makes it a year-round haven for a wide range of birds. Indeed, migratory birds stands as a defining hallmark of Taiwan’s avian diversity, reflecting its important role in global migration networks.

In *Migratory Birds Who Love to Travel*, we see barn swallows are portrayed arriving in Taiwan during summer to nest, Grey-Faced Buzzards passing through in autumn, and bar-headed geese making accidental visits after losing their way. Tens of thousands shorebirds also come to Taiwan for the winter. Not all migratory birds,

however, traverse oceans. For example, Taiwan’s endemic White-Whiskered Laughingthrush breeds at high altitudes during spring and summer but descends to lower altitudes in winter. Conversely, some lowland birds exhibit “uphill migration,” moving to higher altitudes during the non-breeding season. The author of this picture book, a professional ornithologist, vividly showcases the unique cross-altitude migration of Taiwan’s birds with meticulous attention to detail.

In addition to the diversity of migratory birds, *Migratory Birds Who Love to Travel* also explores challenges affecting migration, among them breeding, foraging, physiological senses, and survival risks. Migration is an extraordinary yet arduous journey, often fraught with peril. It is far from a simple endeavor. Against the vibrant backdrop of Taiwan, this captivating picture book takes readers on a seasonal journey

through diverse habitats, latitudes, and altitudes, offering a profound insight into the intricate and fascinating nature of bird migration.

Born in Taipei in 1994, Meng-Chieh Feng holds a Master’s degree from the Department of Forestry and Resource Conservation at National Taiwan University. In 2018, she traveled to Indonesia, Malaysia, and other locations for birdwatching. She has also volunteered for bird specimen work at the National Taiwan Museum and Academia Sinica. Her interests span ornithology, anatomy, bird folklore, the history of natural history, and Southeast Asian ecology. Currently, she is dedicated to writing, illustrating, conducting ecological surveys, and preparing bird specimens.

**The journeys are long,
and migratory birds need to rest!**



Whether their journey is long or short, the birds need to find good places to rest a few days, and eat food to replenish their strength, so they can fly longer and further.

To fly from the temperate zone in the Northern Hemisphere to the Southern Hemisphere, a route of six to seven thousand kilometres, most migratory birds need to rest on the way.

They will find a suitable environment on the migratory route to be their temporary resting place, to stop a while and feed.

Taiwan lies between the temperate zone and the tropics,

between the mainland and the ocean.

With its high mountains and vast coastal mudflats, it is a resting place for birds from the tropics.

These are islands around Taiwan. Although they are small, they are emergency resting places for migratory birds. Flying long distances is exhausting, and birds do not know when they will reach their physical limit, and whether they will be able to reach land in time. So these islands are like a lifeline for migratory birds.



Penhu Archipelago



Green Island



Orchid Island



Kinmen Islands



Beigan Island



Nangan Island



Dongyin Island



Dongju Island



Xiju Island

Some birds fly at night,
and try to follow a particular star.



Savannah Sparrow

Migratory birds don't use smart phone , they have innate navigation!

Some birds can detect Earth's magnetic field
and use geomagnetism to navigate.
It is an innate special sense, like sight and hearing,
and is called magnetoreception.



Bar-tailed Godwit

Some birds navigate by surveying
the formation of the land they are flying over.

A migration can be hundreds, even thousands,
of kilometres,
yet every year these birds return at fixed times
to their breeding grounds and wintering grounds.
Their brains have a natural compass.
They don't need a map, or a cell phone—they know where to fly.

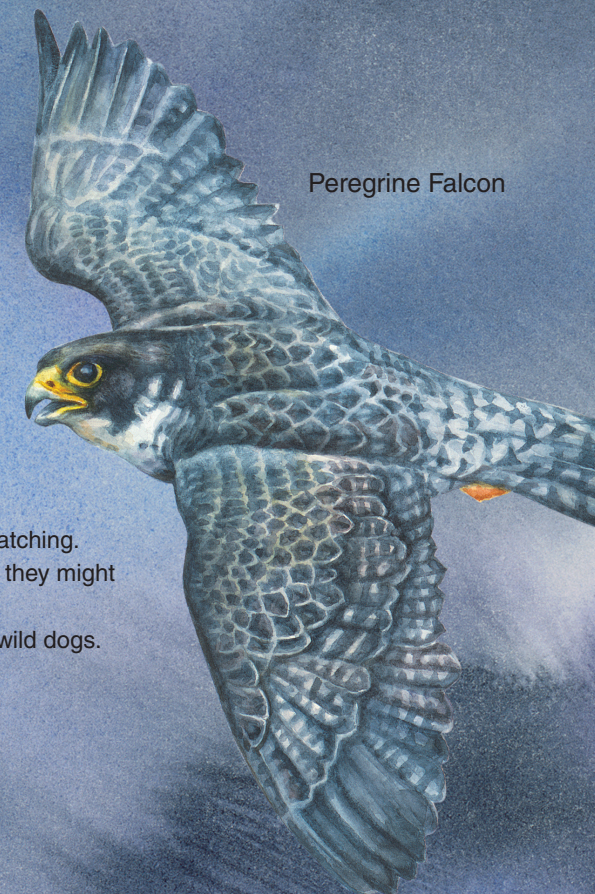
Wild storms can make it difficult for migratory birds so keep flying.



Northern Lapwing



Peregrine Falcon



Ferocious predators are watching. If the birds are not careful, they might be eaten by birds of prey, wild cats, or wild dogs.

Migratory birds face all kinds of dangers!

The migrating birds' journeys might look leisurely and carefree.

In fact, there are all kinds of danger. Migration isn't fun;

it's a dangerous and life-risking journey.

Barn Swallow

