

## **SOUTH KOREA**

**26<sup>th</sup> February to 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

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### **CONTENTS**

- |                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Introduction           | 7. Food.               |
| 2. Timing & Guides        | 8. Birding hours       |
| 3. References/Resources   | 9. Itinerary           |
| 4. Costs                  | 10. Birding sites      |
| 5. Driving in South Korea | 11. Birds              |
| 6. Accommodation          | 12. Mammals & Reptiles |

### **1 - INTRODUCTION**

I first planned to visit South Korea in late 2013 but unfortunately had to cancel the trip at the last minute. In hindsight this worked to my advantage as the following year Petri Hottola produced his outstanding report <http://www.club300.se/Files/TravelReports/SKorea14.pdf> on independent birding in South Korea. His report is an essential source of reference for anyone planning an independent trip to South Korea and I have also included some of his maps in this report.

While South Korea does not offer the same spectacles as winter birding in Japan most of the key species are available. In addition it is a cheaper and easier alternative for the independent birder particularly as the distances between sites are relatively short and there is no need for expensive and time-consuming flights necessary in Japan.

South Korea is still a relatively under-visited country. Hopefully Petri's report coupled with this one will encourage more people to visit the country independently.

This was not an attempt to clean up but an attempt to see particular target species including Steller's Sea Eagle, White-naped and Hooded Crane, Scaly-sided Merganser, Swan Goose and Solitary Snipe. The only targets I missed were Siberian Crane which unfortunately had not overwintered this year and Oriental Stork which I could not find despite a lot of searching. I spent most of my time visiting wetland sites spending relatively little time in forest and I did not bother visiting the coastal areas in the north-east. I also didn't make any attempt to see Red-crowned Crane and Siberian Accentor which I had seen elsewhere.

The winter had been unusually mild and a lot of species had been wintering in lower numbers than in some years. Japan had experienced a similar phenomenon. This had a knock-on effect in that numbers of some species were much lower than expected and some had already disappeared completely. Conversely geese numbers seemed much higher than in most winter reports which presumably reflected the fact that birds were on the way back north from Chinese wintering grounds.

Nevertheless it was a highly enjoyable trip.

## **2 - TIMING AND GUIDES.**

Most people visit in January and February when conditions are far more extreme with temperatures of -10°C or even lower not being uncommon. After reading some information on late February/early March birding on [www.birdskorea.org](http://www.birdskorea.org) I opted to visit at the end of February when all the wintering specialities should have still been around but in less extreme conditions. In the event as mentioned above it had been a mild winter and was even milder during my visit with temperatures above 10°C every day and on several days the temperature reached 15°C. This meant that most thrushes had already left, I only saw three thrushes on the whole trip, and the large numbers of divers and alcids had already gone from the Guryongpo Peninsula but it was certainly a pleasant time to be birding.

One point to be aware of is that 1<sup>st</sup> March is a public holiday and Joonam Reservoir was heaving with people particularly as it was a glorious sunny day. Traffic that weekend was heavier than at other times and Guryongpo Peninsula was overrun with tourists on the Sunday.

Some people do visit South Korea on fully guided trips but it really isn't necessary as most of the key sites are well known and South Korea is a really easy country to travel in. An alternative that many previous trips have adopted is to hire Nial Moores, [nial.moores@birdskorea.org](mailto:nial.moores@birdskorea.org), to guide part of their trips. I had planned to hire Nial for a day to visit the restricted zone near the border with North Korea to look for Siberian Crane but decided not to do so when I heard that the cranes were not there this year.

I spent eight full days birding in South Korea. In hindsight I would recommend nine or ten instead,

### 3 – REFERENCES/RESOURCES

Petri Hottola's excellent report, <http://www.club300.se/Files/TravelReports/SKorea14.pdf>, is the key reference but the following reports were also useful in planning the trip.

- **Jens Thalund.** South Korea 20-28 January 2013 - [https://www.cloudbirders.com/tripreport/repository/THALUND\\_South\\_Korea\\_01\\_2013.pdf](https://www.cloudbirders.com/tripreport/repository/THALUND_South_Korea_01_2013.pdf)
- **Falk Wilker.** Birding South Korea 17-29 January 2010 - [http://www.birdskorea.org/Birds/Trip\\_Reports/BK-TR-Zoo-Lu-Leipzig-2010.shtml](http://www.birdskorea.org/Birds/Trip_Reports/BK-TR-Zoo-Lu-Leipzig-2010.shtml)

Barry Reed also provided site details from his trip in 2017.

- **International Travel Maps – South Korea and Seoul.** A useful map for planning routes etc. but relatively useless for navigation particularly at local level. A satnav is essential.
- **Birds of East Asia (Mark Brazil)** – The essential field guide.

Do not be tempted to rely on the outdated first edition of **A Photographic Guide to the Birds of Japan and North-East Asia** which is outdated taxonomically and has extremely inaccurate range maps. I have not seen the new January 2019 edition which is hopefully much better.

I also regularly consulted the South Korea pages of Ebird for details of recent sightings although ultimately I didn't see any extra species because of it.

### 4 – COSTS

I obtained local currency at the airport and used cash for everything other than hotels. Most hotels accepted cards although a couple preferred cash. I spent a total of £1590 for a nine-night trip, including flights. With a full car load I could probably have saved about £320 bringing the cost down to about £1270.

- **Flights** – You can get cheaper flights with connections in China or the Middle East but I flew directly from London to Seoul on Asiana for £608.62. The service was excellent.
- **Car hire** – I hired a saloon car with satnav included from Avis for £266. A standard vehicle was fine for all the sites I visited although I did avoid driving some of the rougher tracks at Seosan Lakes. Given the mild conditions there was no snow or ice around so winter tyres/snow chains that can be necessary on mid-winter trips were not needed.
- **Accommodation** – I spent 416800 KRW (£290) for 9 nights' accommodation.
- **Food** – I spent a total of 124,590 KRW (£92).
- **Tolls** – Motorway tolls do stack up. I spent about 105,000 KRW (£77).
- **Petrol** – 246,000 KRW (£180).

### 5 – DRIVING IN SOUTH KOREA

- **Traffic** – Traffic was heavy on all roads around Seoul and in and around the other major cities, particularly during the rush hour, but elsewhere the toll roads were relatively clear. Korean

drivers overtake and undertake at speed so you need to be fully alert to the cars around you at all times.

- **SatNav** – Provided automatically in my car at no extra cost and essential. For birding sites you often need to point the waypoint marker at the point you want to visit on the map as trying to identify site names is pointless. Very useful when you need to find hotels, fast food restaurants, gas stations etc. as well.
- **Waze** - The SatNav failed to recognise a couple of hotel names but [www.waze.com](http://www.waze.com) which I had downloaded on my smartphone did recognise them so provided useful back up directions.
- **Tolls** – The SatNav will tell you how much the tolls are and will also tell you which gate(s) are Hi-Pass gates. These are not always the same, they may be the inside lanes at some tolls and the outside lanes at other gates. Consequently it is not always easy to ensure you are in the right lane as you approach the gates. Check with your car hire company to see if they include Hi-Pass and whether tolls will automatically be charged to your credit card at the end of the trip as it will make life easier if it is. I hadn't checked so tried to get to the pay gates each time. This wasn't always possible as Korean drivers were not always accommodating if you tried to switch lines so I ended up going through a few Hi-Pass lanes. At the time of writing I have not been charged anything for these. On the pay gates you normally get a ticket on entry and pay on exit.
- **Red lights** – There seemed to be considerable variations in drivers' attitudes to red lights on turning right. On more than one occasion I was 'encouraged' to turn right on red lights but at other times drivers appeared to wait for them to change.
- **Fog lights** – Korean drivers appear to drive with their hazard lights on when driving through fog. However they often have their hazards on without their headlights.
- **Speed cameras** – The SatNav normally gives you 700 metres warning about an upcoming speed camera particularly on main roads. These cameras are also signposted (yellow signs) about a kilometre or two before you reach them. There were a couple of occasions on smaller roads where the SatNav gave no prior warning.

## 6 – ACCOMMODATION

Most independent birders find hotels as they go along and Love Hotels/Motels with large neon signs are easily located in most cities. To avoid language difficulties I tended to book hotels via [www.booking.com](http://www.booking.com) the night before. The added advantage of this was it then enabled you to put the hotel details in the SatNav and go straight to the hotel on arrival which is advantageous if arriving late. It is worth requesting non-smoking rooms online as a couple of the smoking rooms were extremely unpleasant.

I stayed at the following hotels all of which had free wifi and most rooms had kettles.

- **Incheon Airport** – Rain Boots Guesthouse – 37,000 KRW (£24). About 15 minutes' drive from the airport. Clean rooms with use of a kitchen area with microwave etc. Parking on the road.
- **Seosan** – Hotel Aria – 50,000 KRW (£34). Good rooms but very warm with underfloor heating and I needed the window open at night. The floor was too hot to leave bags lying on the floor. Private car park.
- **Gunsan** – La Siesta Hotel - 50,000 KRW (£34). Several kilometres outside the city but only a five-minute drive from the viewpoints along the Geum River. Breakfast available but too late to be

of any use. Private car park. SatNav did not recognise the hotel name or telephone number but did find the address. Waze recognised the hotel.

- **Suncheon Bay** – Four Seasons Pensions – 50,000 KRW (£34). Excellent studio apartment with fully equipped kitchen less than a kilometre from the reserve and three kilometres from the best birding areas. Parking at front of building.
- **Changwon (Joonam Reservoir)** – Hotel Gray – 50,000 KRW (£34). Easily accessed city centre hotel with secure underground car parking.
- **Busan (Nakdong Delta)** – Hotel Louise J – 46,800 KRW (£32). The most upmarket of the Love Hotels stayed at with underground car parking. Excellent location close to river.
- **Gwangju** – Seokcheon Motel – 35,000 KRW (£24). Average rooms but easily accessed from the motorway. Close to 7-Elevens and bakeries.
- **Incheon Airport** – Incheon Airport Oceanside Hotel – 40,000 KRW (£28). Reasonable but small rooms and not as close to the terminals as expected, 20 kms by road.

## 7 – FOOD

Restaurants are easily found around hotels and if like me, you are not a fan of oriental food, fast food restaurants such as McDonald and KFC, are easily found in towns and cities using SatNav. For breakfasts, snacks etc. 7-Eleven convenience stores or local equivalents are found in most areas. The only area I couldn't find one was Ganwoldo 1-Gil the closest place to Seosan Lakes.

## 8 – BIRDING HOURS

On the west coast it was light enough to bird from 0700-1830, on the east coast from 0645-1815 although on a couple of mornings on the west coast thick fog made birding difficult for the first hour or so.

## 9 - ITINERARY

- 26th** Drove to Gwangneung Arboretum, delayed by accident on route. 0845-1115 Gwangneung Arboretum then drove to Paldang Bridge. 1230-1630 Paldang Bridge (Han River). Drove south to Seosan for night.
- 27th** 0745-1600 Seosan Lakes (east lake and fields east of lake) then drove south Gunsan for night.
- 28th** 0715-0800 Geum River. Thick fog so left and drove south to Gomso Bay. 0900-1245 southern side of Gomson Bay then drove east to Suncheon Bay. 1530-1815. Suncheon Bay. Night Suncheon Bay.
- 1st** 0715-1015 Suncheon Bay. Drove east to Changwon. 1330-1730 Joonam Reservoir. Extremely busy due to public holiday. Night Changwon.
- 2nd** Returned to Suncheon Bay to collect keys left behind in error. 0930-1015 birding Suncheon Bay. Drove east to Busan. 1430-1730 Nakdong Delta (west side). Night Busan.
- 3rd** Drove north to Pohang. 0915-1415. Guryongpo Peninsula from Pohang to Guryongpo-Eup. Afternoon drove back west. Night Gwangju.

- 4th** 0815-1420. South side of Gomso Bay. Drove north to Seosan Lakes. 1610-1820 Seosan Lakes. Drove north to Seosan for night.
- 5th** 0700-1000 Seosan Lakes then drove north due to thick fog. 1200-1230 Maehyang-Ri Mudflats then drove north-east. 1430-1730 Nanhansanseong Fortress. Drove back to Incheon Airport for night.

## **10 – BIRDING SITES**

This should be read in conjunction with the maps (some of which are copied here) and other details in Petri Hottola's report

### **1 - GWANGNEUNG ARBORETUM (37.751945, 127.168306)**

The arboretum is closed on Sundays and Mondays and opens at 0900 on other days. According to various websites you need an advance reservation to visit the arboretum as they strictly control visitor numbers. I tried calling the number and only got a recorded message in Korean but turned up without a reservation and had no difficulties. I suspect that advance reservations would be necessary on public holidays and in the busier summer months. There also appeared to be access via the two bridges north of the visitor centre and nobody was checking tickets at either bridge.

Local photographers said that the bridge after the ticket office at 37.751945, 127.168306 was the current hotspot for Solitary Snipe and the river upstream of the bridge was also good.

I checked the area upstream as far as the second bridge north of the visitor centre without success but saw one from the main bridge when I got back. The two bridges north of the visitor centre enable the river to be viewed outside arboretum opening hours.



### **2 – PALDANG BRIDGE ON HAN RIVER (37.5508770067,127.2372690216)**

I initially parked east of Paldang Bridge at point A on the map. Leave the dual carriageway at the exit marked Paldang Dam. At the bottom of the slip road park just before the restaurant on the right hand side. It is worth letting the restaurant know you have parked there and what you are doing.

The owners were happy for me to park there. I then walked park west along the footpath/cycle way to the bridge and then carried on for another 400 metres beyond the bridge.



Scaly-sided Merganser is regularly seen near the bridge. I saw a pair just east of the bridge and then twice saw pairs to the west of the bridge although these may have been the same mobile pair. Although it was mild and there was no river ice there were still good numbers of wildfowl along the river including c.300 Tundra Bean Geese with a few Taiga Bean geese, Whooper Swan, Common Merganser (Goosander) and Goldeneye. There was also a White-tailed Eagle on one of the islands.

After returning to the car I continued on the road towards Paldang Dam and stopped at a point where about 20 Korean photographers were lined up along the side of the road. Two adult Steller's Sea Eagles were perched up on the hillside on the opposite side of the river.

### 3 – SEOSAN LAKES (36.594107, 126.464600)





I suspect that the area is less disturbed in winter but during my first visit the weather was warm and there were a lot of anglers along the ditches. Thick fog made my second visit less productive. I spent much of the time exploring the eastern fields. These can be accessed from two access points.

1. From the east leave the dual carriageway opposite the gas station a few hundred metres before reaching the east lake at 36.594107, 126.464600. Turn immediately right and then take the first track on the left. This will take you up onto the concrete road that runs alongside the reservoir.
2. From the west take the slip road at the eastern end of the causeway signposted for the harbour and the Bird Science Centre. At the bottom of the slip road turn left at 36.595072, 126.457476 under the dual carriageway onto the concrete road running alongside the reservoir.
3. There are several vantage points along the eastern side of the east lake for scanning for wildfowl, gulls etc. I saw White-tailed Eagle & Eastern Imperial Eagle here.
4. The fields to the east of the lake held large numbers of geese and 600+ Hooded Cranes and can be accessed by a network of tracks that were readily passable in a 2WD vehicle while I was there. There was no snow or ice when I was there but the tracks were all firm apart from a muddy section where there were construction vehicles.
5. A concrete track leads to the Bird Science Centre on the right hand side of the track. At the end of the track you can turn right or left on another track which runs alongside a wide ditch bordered by trees and shrubs. This area was good for buntings including Black-faced, Pallas's Reed, Rustic, Little and Yellow-throated, Bull-headed Shrike, Azure-winged Magpies and other passerines.
6. The causeway across the lake has a couple of points at which you can stop and view either side of the causeway although traffic is so light you can realistically stop and scan anywhere along this road.

7. A small reedbed alongside a ditch and track on the western side of the lake was excellent for good numbers of buntings. I suspect it might also be good for Chinese Penduline Tit in stiller conditions.
8. The bay by the village of Ganwoldo 1-Gil had a good number of gulls and a few waders.
9. A bird reserve is signposted to the north of the main road between the two lakes but the fog was so thick it was not worth visiting while I was there.



#### 4 – GEUM RIVER (GUNSAN)

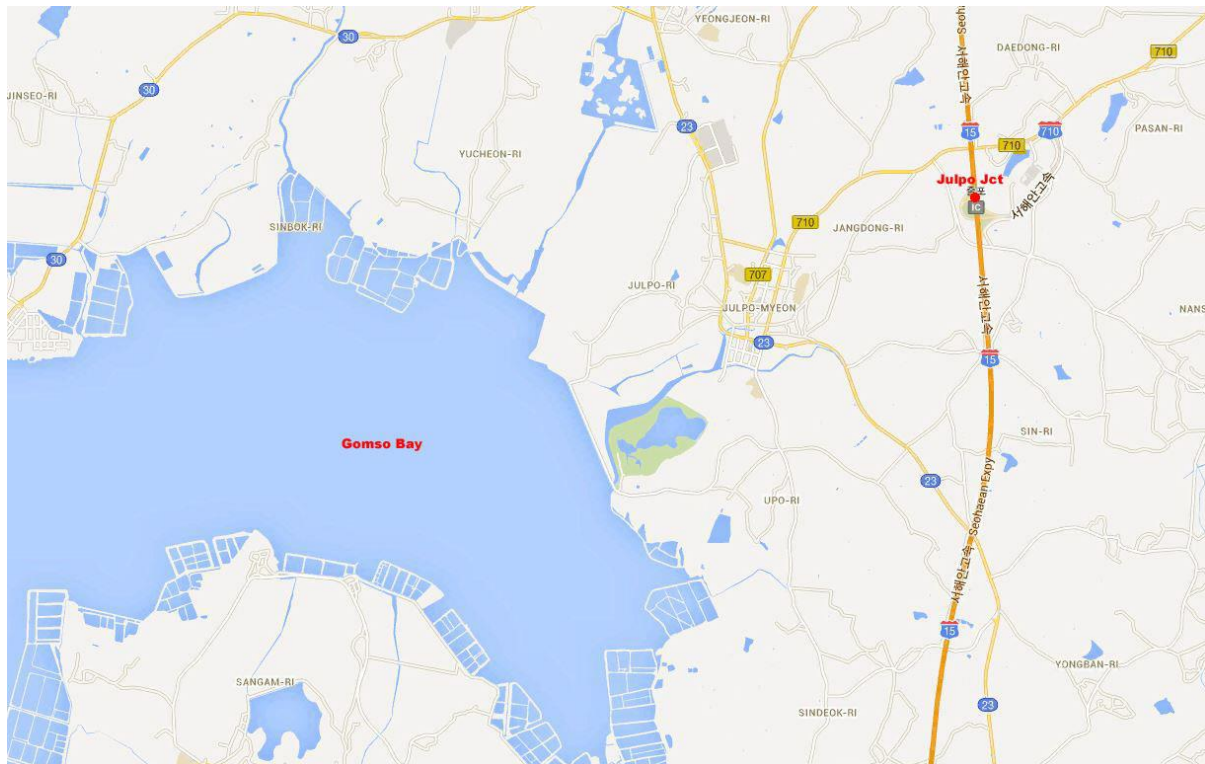


A – La Siesta Hotel

B – The Wild Bird Park Visitor Centre with the giant Baikal Teal.

C/D – Good points for viewing the mudflats along the river. Large numbers of wildfowl and waders but thick fog during my visit so limited visibility.

## 5 – GOMSO BAY



1 - Buan Ecological Park SW of Julpo-Myeon (35.577986, 126.664694) – I saw three Black-faced Spoonbills from the road running between the reserve and the shore line but to see all the pools within the reserve you would need to enter the reserve itself. Others have seen Oriental Storks here.

2 – The fields at Yucheon-Ri west of Julpo-Myeon held large numbers of geese. The reedbeds around the pools just south of route 30 looked good for passerines including Chinese Penduline Tit and the pools held a variety of duck.

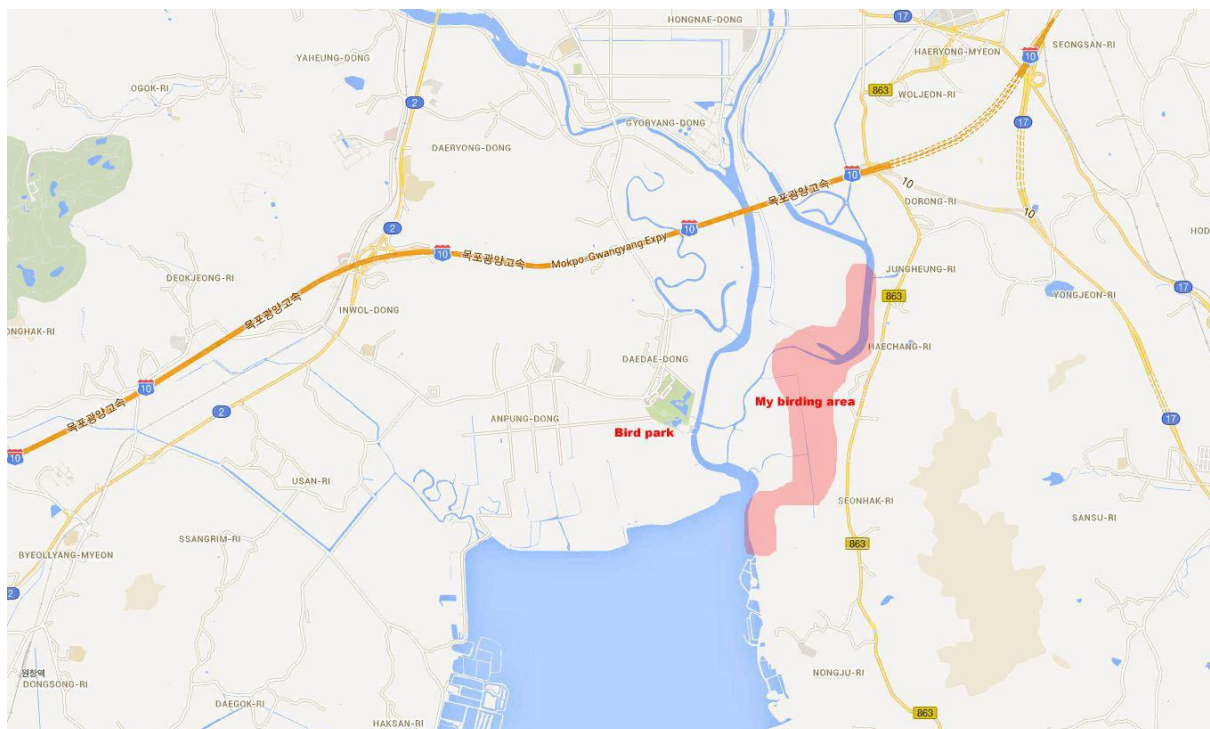
3 – The area south of the bay east of Sangam-Ri has historically been a good area for Oriental Stork. I was unable to find any but did find Swan Goose and several Cinereous Vultures in this area.

4 – North of Sangam-Ri a concrete track runs along the sea wall to the north of Sangpo eventually coming out by the 734 just east of its junction with the 22 near Yonggi-Ri. Tracks which criss-cross the fields could be good for storks, geese etc. A small reedbed along one of the tracks held at least one Chinese Penduline Tit and good numbers of Pallas's Reed Bunting, one of the creeks along the seawall held a Black-faced Spoonbill and one of the pools held several Falcated Ducks.



## 6 – SUNCHEON BAY

Many people visit the Suncheon Bay Ecological Park (34.885452, 127.510225) while Petri birded the areas east of the park as shown on the map but there are also good areas to the south-west of here.



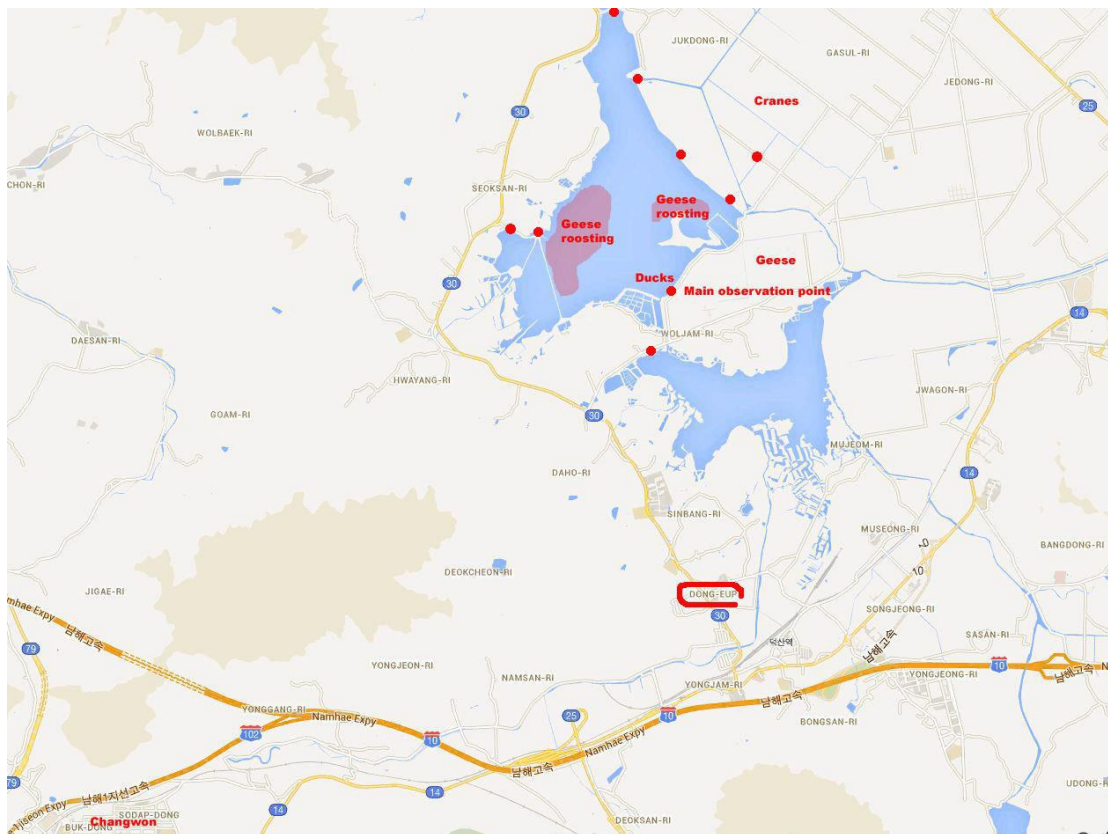
1 - Drive west past the Ecological Park and take the second track on the left. Follow this down to a T-junction and turn left. Continue to the end where there is a viewpoint overlooking the fields with flocks of cranes, geese etc. Continue along this track it swings back to the right and then continues on and over a small bridge.

2 - After the bridge turn left and then after a few hundred metres turn left again. This takes you down to a reedbed behind the seawall. This was good for several species of bunting and others have seen Chinese Penduline Tit here. There were lots of tracks of Northern (Amur) Leopard Cat and Raccoon Dog in this area. The seawall provides good views over the bay which has large numbers of waders plus Saunders' Gull.

3 – Continue west along the sea wall & then turn right on the third track on the right. A reedy pool at this point held good numbers of duck including two Baikal Teals.

4 – Having turned right there is an area of fields holding cranes, geese and passerines. A series of tracks criss-cross the area and are all worth exploring. Several of these tracks will take you back to the main road west of the Ecological Park.

## 7 – JOONAM (JUNAM) RESERVOIRS – 35.310653, 128.679978



I visited the reservoirs on a bank holiday afternoon and it was literally heaving with people and unfortunately I was unable to return at a quieter time. I walked the south-eastern bank of the middle reservoir, drove the networks of tracks to the north-east of the middle reservoir and drove around and across the northern end of the central reservoir. In hindsight I probably spent

insufficient time here and should probably have spent more time in the south-western section of the central reservoir.

The reservoir itself had a small flock of White-naped Cranes with two more cranes in fields to the east, a large flock of Baikal Teal and the only Smew of the trip among huge numbers of other wildfowl. The paddies south of the reservoir and the fields north-east of the reservoir held large numbers of Greater White-fronted, Tundra Bean and Taiga Bean Geese and smaller numbers of Whooper Swans.

## **8 – NAKDONG DELTA (BUSAN)**

I checked two areas on a short afternoon visit. I scanned the river west from the embarkment just south of the southern bridge at 35.078405, 128.951111 but apart from a few common gulls and a selection of common wildfowl it was relatively quiet.

I then crossed the southern bridge and took the road down the western side to an observation hide at 35.082970, 128.911500. From here I walked south along the seafront and then walked west overlooking a long island. This was excellent for raptors with three adult Steller's Sea Eagles, 1-2 White-tailed Eagles, Greater Spotted Eagle, Western Osprey and 2+ Eastern Buzzards. There was also a good selection of wildfowl including over 150 Falcated Ducks.



## **9 – GURYONGPO PENINSULA**

I drove along the coastal road from Imgok-Ri , at 35.999145, 129.464698, to Guryongpo-Eup at 35.990117, 129.561171 checking all of the harbours and most of the coastline along the route. The extremely mild conditions had apparently resulted in a lot of winter visitors having already departed. I was only able to find about 10 Harlequins, c.20 Slavonian and one Black-necked Grebe and three Black-throated Divers. I couldn't find any alcids or scoters or the large rafts of divers normally found earlier in the winter.

There were good numbers of gulls but most were Black-tailed and Vega/Mongolian Gulls. I did however find one Glaucous-winged Gull and 1-2 Slaty-backed Gulls (both immatures!).



## 10 – MAEHYANG-RI MUDFLATS

I briefly visited this site to the south-west of Seoul (check the map on the hotspots page on the South Korea page on [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org)) because of a recent report of Oriental Stork but found it a difficult site to bird due to access issues. To the east of the road was a good looking marshy area and I scanned a pool alongside a dual carriageway at roughly 37.061403, 126.749240 and did find a Black-faced Spoonbill with seven Eurasian Spoonbills. I had to use my hazards and scan from the dual carriageway due to the lack of pull-offs but the road is not busy.

Slightly further to the north-west you could pull off on the right hand side of the road and there did seem to be some access to the marsh but everything was closed and padlocked so you could only scan from the layby. There was a layby on the opposite side of the road which provided access to scan the mudflats.

Slightly further to the north-west there is a large bay on the right hand side. It was very difficult to park here but at the south-east end of the bay there were large numbers of birds including White-tailed Eagles.

## 11 – NAMHANSANSEONG FORTRESS – 37.477847, 127.183957

A well-known forest site to the south-east of Seoul. I visited the area for a couple of hours on my final afternoon. The best bird was a White-backed Woodpecker but I also added a few commoner species to the trip list. I am not sure the SatNav took me to the best access point so it is probably best to check the details on Ebird before visiting this site.

## 11 – BIRDS



### Swan Goose

*Anser cygnoides*

One with Greater Whitefronts at Suang-ri south of Gomso Bay.

### Taiga Bean Goose

*Anser fabalis*

Much commoner than expected with good numbers of 'middendorfi'. 30+ Paldang Bridge, 50+ Gomso Bay, common Gomso Bay, Suncheon Bay & Joonam Reservoir.

### Tundra Bean Goose

*Anser serrirostris*

300+ Paldang Bridge, 100s Seosan Lakes, smaller numbers Gomso Bay, Suncheon Bay, Joonam Reservoir & Nakdong Delta.

### Greater White-fronted Goose

*Anser albifrons*

Common at all the main sites visited and commonly seen in smaller numbers across the country even in urban areas. 100s Seosan Lakes & Geum River.

<b>Whooper Swan</b>	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	25 Paldang Bridge, 40N over Gomso Bay, 25+ Joonam Reservoir & 200+ Nakdong Delta.
<b>Common Shelduck</b>	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	100s Geum River, common Suncheon Bay, smaller numbers Nakdong Delta.
<b>Mandarin Duck</b>	<i>Aix galericulata</i>	Two males Gwangneung Arboretum, six Pandang Bridge.
<b>Baikal Teal</b>	<i>Sibirionetta formosa</i>	Two males Suncheon Bay, 60+ (probably more) Joonam Reservoir.
<b>Northern Shoveler</b>	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	Small numbers Geum River, Gomso Bay, Suncheon Bay & Joonam Reservoir.
<b>Falcated Duck</b>	<i>Mareca falcata</i>	150+ Nakdong Delta, five Gomso Bay.
<b>Eurasian Wigeon</b>	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	Small numbers Gomso Bay, Joonam Reservoir & Nakdong Delta.
<b>Eastern Spot-billed Duck</b>	<i>Anas zonorhyncha</i>	Widespread & common.
<b>Mallard</b>	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Widespread & common.
<b>Northern Pintail</b>	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Common Geum River, Joonam Reservoir & Nakdong Delta, smaller numbers Suncheon Bay.
<b>Eurasian Teal</b>	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Widespread & common.
<b>Common Pochard</b>	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Widespread in small numbers.
<b>Tufted Duck</b>	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Widespread & common.
<b>Harlequin Duck</b>	<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>	10+ Guryongpo Peninsula.
<b>Common Goldeneye</b>	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	200+ Paldang Bridge, common Seosan Lakes, Joonam Reservoir & Nakdong Delta.
<b>Smew</b>	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	Male plus five females Joonam Reservoir.
<b>Common Merganser</b>	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	100+ Paldang Bridge, smaller numbers Seosan Lakes and Joonam Reservoir.
<b>Red-breasted Merganser</b>	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Four Nakdong Delta, 10+ Guryongpo Peninsula.
<b>Scaly-sided Merganser</b>	<i>Mergus squamatus</i>	At least one & possibly as many as three pairs Paldang Bridge,
<b>Common Pheasant</b>	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	1-2 Seosan Lakes, Gomso Bay & Suncheon Bay.
<b>Black-throated Loon</b>	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	One definite & two probables Guryongpo Peninsula.
<b>Little Grebe</b>	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Small numbers Paldang Bridge, Seosan Lakes, Suncheon Bay, Joonam Reservoir & Nakdong Delta.
<b>Great Crested Grebe</b>	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Three Paldang Bridge, small numbers Seosan Lakes, Joonam Reservoir & Nakdong Delta. 200+ Guryongpo Peninsula.
<b>Slavonian Grebe</b>	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	20+ Guryongpo Peninsula.
<b>Black-necked Grebe</b>	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	One Guryongpo Peninsula.
<b>Eurasian Spoonbill</b>	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	12 Suncheon Bay, six Joonam Reservoir three Nakdong Delta & seven Maehyang-Ri Mudflats.

<b>Black-faced Spoonbill</b>	<i>Platalea minor</i>	Gomso Bay, one Sangam-ri & three Buan Ecological Park. One Maehyang-ri Mudflats.
<b>Grey Heron</b>	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Widespread & common.
<b>Great Egret</b>	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Widespread & common.
<b>Little Egret</b>	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	One Joonam Reservoir, 20+ Nakdong Delta.
<b>Great Cormorant</b>	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Widespread & common.
<b>Japanese Cormorant</b>	<i>Phalacrocorax capillatus</i>	40+ Guryongpo Peninsula.
<b>Western Osprey</b>	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	One Nakdong Delta.
<b>Cinereous Vulture</b>	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	13 at Suang-ri south of Gomso Bay including some on the beach, c.30 on route from Suncheon Bay to Changwon.
<b>Greater Spotted Eagle</b>	<i>Aquila clanga</i>	One Nakdong Delta.
<b>Eastern Imperial Eagle</b>	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	Singles Seosan Lakes & Gomso Bay.
<b>Eurasian Sparrowhawk</b>	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Singles Gomso Bay & Seosan Lakes.
<b>Northern Goshawk</b>	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	One Seosan Lakes.
<b>White-tailed Eagle</b>	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	1-2 Paldang Bridge, three Seosan Lakes, three Gomso Bay, one Joonam Reservoir, 1-2 Nakdong Delta & two Maehyang-ri Mudflats,
<b>Steller's Sea Eagle</b>	<i>Haliaeetus pelagicus</i>	Two adults Paldang Bridge, three adults Nakdong Delta.
<b>Eastern Buzzard</b>	<i>Buteo japonicus</i>	Widespread, up to five at most sites visited & frequently seen on route between sites,
<b>Eurasian Coot</b>	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Small numbers Seosan Lakes & Joonam Reservoir.
<b>White-naped Crane</b>	<i>Antigone vipio</i>	23 Joonam Reservoir.
<b>Hooded Crane</b>	<i>Grus monacha</i>	600+ Seosan Lakes, 1000+ Suncheon Bay.
<b>Common Crane</b>	<i>Grus grus</i>	One Seosan Lakes.
<b>Sandhill Crane</b>	<i>Grus canadensis</i>	Five Suncheon Bay.
<b>Eurasian Oystercatcher</b>	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Small numbers Seosan Lakes, Geum River & Gomso Bay.
<b>Northern Lapwing</b>	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	100+ Seosan Lakes, smaller numbers Suncheon Bay, Joonam Reservoir & Gomso Bay.
<b>Pacific Golden Plover</b>	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	Common Suncheon Bay, smaller numbers Nakdong Delta.
<b>Grey Plover</b>	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Small numbers Suncheon Bay.
<b>Black-tailed Godwit</b>	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	One Joonam Reservoir.
<b>Eurasian Curlew</b>	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Common Nakdong Delta.
<b>Sanderling</b>	<i>Calidris alba</i>	c.20 Guryongpo Peninsula.
<b>Dunlin</b>	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Common Suncheon Bay, smaller numbers Nakdong Delta, Gomso Bay & Seosan Lakes.
<b>Solitary Snipe</b>	<i>Gallinago solitaria</i>	One Gwangneung Arboretum.
<b>Common Greenshank</b>	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Seven Suncheon Bay.
<b>Black-headed Gull</b>	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Widespread.
<b>Saunders's Gull</b>	<i>Chroicocephalus saundersi</i>	5+ Suncheon Bay.
<b>Black-tailed Gull</b>	<i>Larus crassirostris</i>	Common in all coastal areas.
<b>Mew Gull</b>	<i>Larus canus</i>	Widespread.

<b>Glaucous-winged Gull</b>	<i>Larus glaucescens</i>	One Guryongpo Peninsula.
<b>Vega Gull</b>	<i>Larus vegae</i>	Widespread & common. Includes <i>L. v. mongolicus</i> .
<b>Slaty-backed Gull</b>	<i>Larus schistisagus</i>	Two Guryongpo Peninsula, unexpectedly scarce.
<b>Oriental Turtle Dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>	Widespread & common.
<b>Eurasian Hoopoe</b>	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Three Nakdong Delta.
<b>Great Spotted Woodpecker</b>	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Two Nanhansanseong Fortress. Drumming woodpeckers at Gwangneung Arboretum & Gunsan were not followed up.
<b>White-backed Woodpecker</b>	<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>	One Nanhansanseong Fortress.
<b>Common Kestrel</b>	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Two Paldang Bridge, Seosan Lakes & Gomso Bay. Under-recorded.
<b>Merlin</b>	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	One Joonam Reservoir.
<b>Peregrine Falcon</b>	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	One on route from Seosan Lakes to Gunsan, one Suncheon Bay.
<b>Bull-headed Shrike</b>	<i>Lanius bucephalus</i>	2+ Seosan Lakes, two Gomso Bay & one Suncheon Bay.
<b>Eurasian Jay</b>	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Superb orange-headed birds Seosan Lakes (2), Gomso Bay (1) & Nanhansanseong Fortress (6).
<b>Azure-winged Magpie</b>	<i>Cyanopica cyanus</i>	20+ Seosan Lakes, 10+ Gomso Bay & also seen on route to Suncheon Bay.
<b>Oriental Magpie</b>	<i>Pica serica</i>	Widespread & common.
<b>Rook</b>	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	100+ Gomso Bay, 50+ near Maehyang-Ri Mudflats.
<b>Large-billed Crow</b>	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	Widespread in small numbers.
<b>Varied Tit</b>	<i>Sittiparus varius</i>	One Gwangneung Arboretum, two Namhansanseong Fortress.
<b>Marsh Tit</b>	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	One Paldang Bridge, two Nanhansanseong Fortress.
<b>Japanese Tit</b>	<i>Parus minor</i>	Widespread in small numbers.
<b>Chinese Penduline Tit</b>	<i>Remiz consobrinus</i>	1+ Songhyeon-ri, Gomso Bay.
<b>Eurasian Skylark</b>	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Eight Suncheon Bay, small numbers Joonam Reservoir.
<b>Brown-eared Bulbul</b>	<i>Hypsipetes amaurotis</i>	Widespread in small numbers.
<b>Long-tailed Tit</b>	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Two Paldang Bridge, five Namhansanseong Fortress.
<b>Vinous-throated Parrotbill</b>	<i>Sinosuthora webbiana</i>	Widespread & common often in flocks of 20+ birds.
<b>Goldcrest</b>	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Heard Namhansanseong Fortress.
<b>Eurasian Wren</b>	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	One Guryongpo Peninsula.
<b>Eurasian Nuthatch</b>	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Two Nanhansanseong Fortress.
<b>White-cheeked Starling</b>	<i>Spodiopsar cineraceus</i>	One Suncheon Bay, two Gomso Bay.

<b>Daurian Redstart</b>	<i>Phoenicurus aureus</i>	Singles Paldang Bridge, Seosan Lakes, Suncheon Bay & Joonam Reservoir. Two Guryongpo Peninsula.
<b>Dusky Thrush</b>	<i>Turdus eunomus</i>	Surprisingly scarce, 3+ Suncheon Bay.
<b>Eurasian Tree Sparrow</b>	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Widespread & very common.
<b>White Wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Singles Gomso Bay & Guryongpo Peninsula. 100+ at roadside stop on route to Gomso Bay.
<b>Japanese Wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla grandis</i>	Two Paldang Bridge, one Guryongpo Peninsula.
<b>Olive-backed Pipit</b>	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	Three Suncheon Bay.
<b>Buff-bellied Pipit</b>	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	2+ Suncheon Bay, Joonam Reservoir & Gomso Bay.
<b>Brambling</b>	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	30+ Gwangneung Arboretum.
<b>Grey-capped Greenfinch</b>	<i>Chloris sinica</i>	5+ Guryongpo Peninsula, two on route from Gomso Bay to Seosan Lakes.
<b>Little Bunting</b>	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	Two Seosan Lakes.
<b>Rustic Bunting</b>	<i>Emberiza rustica</i>	10+ Seosan Lakes, four Suncheon Bay & one Guryongpo Peninsula.
<b>Yellow-throated Bunting</b>	<i>Emberiza elegans</i>	10+ Seosan Lakes, 5+ Gomso Bay, 10+ Suncheon Bay & three Nakdong Delta.
<b>Black-faced Bunting</b>	<i>Emberiza spodocephala</i>	Three Seosan Lakes, one Suncheon Bay.
<b>Pallas's Reed Bunting</b>	<i>Emberiza pallasi</i>	10+ Seosan Bay, two Gomso Bay, 40+ Suncheon Bay.
<b>Common Reed Bunting</b>	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Two Suncheon Bay.





## 12 – MAMMALS AND REPTILES

<b>Northern Leopard Cat</b>	<i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i>	Not seen but lots of tracks found at Suncheon Bay.
<b>Raccoon Dog</b>	<i>Nyctereutes procyonoides</i>	An emaciated individual at Seosan Lakes & a dead animal at Gomso Bay.
<b>Wild Boar</b>	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	One Gomso Bay.
<b>Chinese Water Deer</b>	<i>Hydropotes inermis</i>	Singles Seosan Lakes, Gomso Bay and Nanhansanseong Fortress.
<b>Red-eared Terrapin</b>	<i>Trechemys scripta</i>	Three Joonam Reservoir.

