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The Passion of the Migratory Birds

起風了，天空很藍，陽光燦爛。一群季節的候鳥，拍動著時間的翅膀，南來北返，在中部過境、度冬或繁衍；起風了，天空依然很藍，陽光燦爛。一群季節性的過客，因著有點刻意的偶然，從各個角落來到大肚溪，停泊高美濕地，是暫時的停留，也似永恆的飄泊...

應是作夢也沒想過要到梧棲，後來卻是高興到過梧棲，且不是因為在作夢。令人驚豔的容顏卻讓更多仰慕者如翩然而至的候鳥般，不畏白浪巨風奮力往前飛。

這些因著刻意的偶然前來的嬌客，許多是抽到海巡的阿兵哥。他們像是中部地區的陸鳥，數量最豐富也最具特殊性，但也有少數在此定居了。除此之外，大部分的阿兵哥們就像多數的候鳥般，隨著季節的交替變換，他們的行程，就這般年復一年，每年都會有新的嬌客前來，為這小地方頻添許多的愛情故事。就曾遇到小兵變成老兵，帶著他們的家人來造訪，一邊懷想又不禁感歎。

而真正的仰慕是愈來愈多的觀光客，他們就像衆多在盛夏來訪的鸚鵡科夏候鳥，為梧棲的夏天帶來熱鬧的氣氛。或許每年的賞鳥團都該稱為「發現鳥」之旅，只是觀光客們本身不是，他們因著自然景致、地方特色或人文采風而來。有人光是坐對著風景發呆也可以耗掉大半天，不知是否就是相看兩不厭。大家的喜愛重點不盡然相同，卻多半同樣在盛夏刮起「梧棲風」時，真真實實的循風而至，愈來愈多。

其他還有像是種類很少的留鳥，只有在水庫或沙灘才可容易見到的水鳥。尤其以遷移性的候鳥為大宗。或許中部的過客無法像鳥類族群那麼明確分類，卻像候鳥般的在任何一個起風的季節，過境梧棲，然後眷戀著梧棲。

又起風了，天空還是那麼藍，如候鳥般的過客終究將展開回憶的翅膀，在任何吹起「梧棲風」的季節，迎風而上。

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As the breezes pick up, the skies are aqua blue, and the sunshine is magnificent. As flocks of seasonal migratory birds flapping along the rhythm of time and traversing between the north and the south, they pass by the central Taiwan to stay in winter and to reproduce there. As the breezes pick up, the skies are always crystal blue, and the sunshine is glorious. These seasonal guests come in flocks from almost every corner to Da Du Shih by somewhat coincidence on purposes, perching on Gaumei swamp. It might be a fleeting stop over; it could also signify a perpetual wandering.

Unexpected to be coming to Wuchi, they have, however, arrived gingerly but never in daydreaming. Astonished by the appearance of the birds, admirers struggle with the waves bravely to fly high like the birds.

Many that greet these expectant and rare visitors are soldiers serving coast guard duties through the random selection. They can be likened to landlocked birds form the central region, in that they are abundant in number and rather unique, and with a small number of them choosing to stay permanently. Besides, a majority of the soldiers also rotate along the reason, much like the migratory birds, and the cycle goes on year after year, where new visitors arrive every year, adding more love stories to the little town. A chance encounter finds a recruit who has turned into an old-hand soldier, who calls on with their families, reminiscing with a touch of trepidation however.

Yet the true admirers come in the form of tourists, who are much like the migratory gulls that call on the region in midsummer, brining a touch of fanfare for Wuchi. The yearly bird watching groups should; perhaps, be more appropriately termed as the bird discovery journey; however, tourists are coming for the natural scenery, local feature or humanity flare. Some could stare blankly at the scenic sights for hours, which makes other wonder if they never get tired of staring at each other. Though not everyone is into the same things, it remains true that they begin to come in droves to Wuchi in this midsummer pilgrimage, and the more the merrier.

Mixed in are some rare species of birds that actually stay, which are water fowls that could only be occasionally spotted at the dam or on the sandy beaches, particularly of the migratory birds that take up the bulk. Perhaps one couldn't really classify the visitors passing through the central region as distinctly as the bird groups, yet they continue to pass through Wuchi and linger for Wuchi, much like the migratory birds in any of the breezy seasons.

Here come the breezes again, and the skies remain so blue, the visitors that are likened to the migratory birds would eventually spread their wings of memories, and brace forward in the season when the breezes hit Wuchi again.

(The author is a member of the Wenliao security inspection center, 3rd Head Patrol Platoon)



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