

Wild Japan in Winter

including Kyushu Extension

Naturetrek Tour Report

31 January – 15 February 2018



Red-crowned Cranes



Steller's Sea Eagle



Steller's Sea Eagle



Blakiston's Fish Owl

Report by Paul Stanbury & Duncan McNiven
Images courtesy of Paul Stanbury



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Days 1 & 2 Wednesday 31st January & Thursday 1st February

UK - Tokyo

Our flight to Tokyo departed Heathrow mid-morning and after a foreshortened day and night, we landed in the vast metropolis of Tokyo around 7am local time. Passing through immigration and collecting luggage was as quick and efficient as you would expect from Japan and in no time we met up with Duncan, boarded the bus and were heading into the city's busy high-rise streets. It took around half an hour or so to reach the Shinagawa Prince Hotel opposite the Shinagawa Railway Station, our base for tonight and our other nights in the city. Most of the group opted to do their own thing today and explore Tokyo, but four joined Duncan and Paul for a birding trip to Kasai Rinkai Park which introduced us to our first Japanese trains, a very fast and efficient way to travel around the city.

Although the somewhat inclement weather made the birding pretty tricky at times, we found an interesting selection of species including our first Dusky Thrushes running around on the grassy lawns, plus three Black-faced Buntings, a couple of Daurian Redstarts, Brown-eared Bulbul, Japanese Tit, Japanese Bush Warbler, Japanese White-eye and a vast mixed flock of Greater Scaup and Great Crested Grebes out in the bay.

Later in the afternoon we met up with our final four members of the group and all braved the drizzle to eat out in our first Japanese restaurant and sample our first Japanese food.

Day 3 Friday 2nd February

Tsurui, Lake Kussharo & Tesikaga, Hokkaido

We all had an early start today and around 5.45am left the hotel and walked the short distance to Shinagawa Station for our train to the airport and our flight to Kushiro in snowy Hokkaido. We left a damp grey and drizzly Tokyo for the one and a quarter hour flight, passing over some pretty nice snowy scenery en route. On exiting the airport the drop in temperature was very noticeable, but the sun soon came out and we enjoyed a day of stunning blue skies and snowy landscapes. We quickly met up with our delightful guide, Sono, and headed off for lunch at a small restaurant on a hill, complete with Eurasian Nuthatch, Marsh Tit and Brown-eared Bulbul on the bird feeders outside.

After lunch, we drove the short distance to Tsurumidai for our first look at the stunning Japanese or Red-crowned Cranes, around 100 of which had gathered in a snowy field to be fed. From time to time a pair would start bugling and then leap into the air, stretch their necks and fan their wings. This would then set off another pair and another pair ... wonderful to watch! The winter light was perfect and the keen photographers in the group enjoyed capturing some stunning images. After an hour or so we left Tsurumidai and drove to Tsurui Ito, a second crane reserve, where they feed the birds at 2pm. Here we enjoyed watching another 150 or so cranes to a beautiful backdrop of snowy fields and trees.

After having enjoyed this picture-postcard scene, we headed north to our traditional Japanese ryokan accommodation in the small town of Teshikaga, sandwiched between the crater lakes of Kussharo and Mashu.

En route we stopped at two sites along the edge of Lake Kussharo where warm thermal waters had melted the ice, attracting flocks of wintering Whooper Swans. Once again the scenery was stunning and as the evening light started to fade, we enjoyed the sight and sound of these beautiful birds, almost within arm's length, plus the added bonus of our first Red Fox and Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker.

Day 4

Saturday 3rd February

Otowa Bridge, Tsurui Ito & Lake Mashu, Hokkaido

The weather remained on or side and the skies were clear as we left the hotel at 5am for sunrise at the Otowa Bridge. Here a couple of hundred Red-crowned Cranes roost for night in the Setsuri-gawa River, a few hundred metres away from the bridge. It was yet another stunning spot, which became even more beautiful as the sun rose, lighting the hoar frost that covered the riverside trees. Mist rose slowly from the river then, in places, floated down once again as very fine ice crystals lit by the rising sun. This gave some idea of just how cold it was; in fact we were told it was around -14°C when we arrived! All the time the sound of trumpeting cranes drifted up the river and, through the binoculars, pairs could be seen flapping and danced whilst others slept or slowly fed in the shallows, all to the backdrop of a frozen and frosty landscape. As time ticked on many of the other visitors and photographers left, but we opted to stay, hoping that when the cranes left they would give us a good flypast. Our patience paid off for around 8.45am we were rewarded with flock after flock of cranes flying straight towards us down the river and then low over our heads... breathtaking!

Happy, we left the bridge shortly after 9.15am and drove the short distance to the feeding station at Tsurui Ito. There were less birds here than yesterday, although a fair number flew in whilst we were there and the light was nice. We remained here for an hour or so and then opted for an early lunch.

It was planned to have some time to enjoy the hotel's Onsen in the afternoon, so we arrived back a little earlier than usual. Still, that gave us plenty of time to visit a viewpoint over the stunning crater lake of Mashu (with the volcanic cone of 'Mr Akan' in the distance) and the nearby fumaroles at Mount Io. Although not a lot of other wildlife was seen, we did find our first perched adult Steller's Eagle and an immature in flight, plus another Red Fox, Marsh Tit, a distant Japanese Wagtail and the Hokkaido race of Eurasian Jay. We ended the day with another traditional Japanese meal back at our Ryokan.

Day 5

Sunday 4th February

Rausu, Hokkaido

The weather took a turn overnight and we awoke to heavy, but fine, falling snow. We left the hotel at 9am for our drive to Rausu, which took us through a snowy landscape, past bare forests and small villages, to our first view of the cold waters of the Nemuro Strait at the coastal town of Shibetsu. Here we acquired some lunch from a store then ventured down to the harbour in search of sea duck. By now, however, the wind had picked up and the snow was horizontal, which made for pretty challenging sea-watching conditions, although we did see a nice flock of Black Scoter, plus a couple of Harlequin Ducks and a few Common Goldeneye. A little further along in the harbour was a flock of Goosander, plus our first Glaucous Gull of the holiday. As we neared Rausu the number of eagles started to increase including one little village where over 30, mostly Steller's Sea Eagles, were perched in the trees above.

On arrival we boarded the boat pretty much straight away and were fortunate that there was nobody else on board. The cruise lasted an hour and stayed close in shore around the harbour, given the strong winds and driving snow. Wow, what a fantastic trip though! We all enjoyed eye-to-eye encounters with numerous Steller's Sea Eagles and their smaller cousins the White-tailed Eagles, both perched and in flight. The crew started by throwing fish overboard and encouraging eagles of both species to swoop down alongside the boat at point blank range. After enjoying this for a while, we cruised alongside the harbour breakwater for eye-level encounters with more Steller's Sea Eagles sitting and feeding on the high snow-covered wall. The birds were wonderfully close and it was very fitting to see and photograph these powerful birds (pretty much all of which were adults) with the snow whipping around them. During the day we also saw a couple of Brown Dippers, a lone Black-tailed Gull and lots of Large-billed Crows, plus Red-breasted Merganser and another Red Fox.

We returned to the dock to defrost and then checked into our next traditional Japanese ryokan just outside the town. After an early dinner, we completed the day with a visit to the Blakiston's Fish Owl stakeout at Washi No Yado. Here a lady puts fish out for the owls every night and has built a hide onto the side of her guest house which overlooks a small stream. The snow was still horizontal at this point, but as we pulled up we noticed the owl was already there ... although it headed off shortly after we got out of the bus. Luck was on our side, however, for this magnificent bird, the largest owl in the world, return twice more over the next hour or so, taking a fish each time and posing beautifully! We arrived back at the hotel shortly after 8pm.

Day 6

Monday 5th February

Rausu & Notsuke Peninsula, Hokkaido

We awoke to a thick blanket of snow this morning and snowploughs moving up and down the road. After a 7.30am breakfast of various delights (including squid guts), we left the hotel at 9am to slowly drive back south to Shibetsu and then out along the Notsuke Peninsula. It was still snowing lightly at this point and once down on the coast a stiff north-westerly was blowing. We stopped where possible at a few vantage points and overlooking harbours, but the choppy sea and stiff wind made sea-birding difficult. In the harbours we found a couple of groups of Harlequin Ducks, a flock of female Scaup and a few Eurasian Wigeon, whilst out in the sea there were plenty of Black Scoters. Out on the Notsuke Peninsula itself, it was bleak and windswept, but nevertheless, strikingly beautiful. We did find a nice flock of Snow Buntings, a somewhat fitting sight given the conditions, two Red Fox and three stag Sika Deer.

We returned the same way we came and after another early dinner, returned to the Blakiston's Fish Owl stakeout at Washi No Yado. Our luck stayed with us once again and during our time there the owl made two prolonged visits to the stream, giving everyone great views of this impressive bird. Back to the hotel by 7pm.

Day 7

Tuesday 6th February

Rausu & Yoroushi, Hokkaido

The snow stopped and the wind eased overnight as predicted and we were all hopeful of getting out to the drift ice. It was icy cold (around minus 10 or so) and the land was still carpeted in a thick layer of snow when we left the hotel at 8.30am, ready for our 9am boat cruise. Down at the docks the sky was full of eagles, circling overhead and swooping around one of the tourist boats already out on the water. Along the breakwater dozens

of eagles sat, some patiently, others bickering, all probably awaiting their next frozen meal. Soon after boarding the boat we learnt that the captain had decided that the ice was now too far away to visit – probably blown further out to sea by the previous day’s wind – so our cruise would follow the same course as the last one and stay close to port. With the much better weather today, however, there were far more eagles than previously. There must have been well over 150 eagles lined up along the breakwater alone, two thirds of which were Steller’s Sea Eagles with dozens in the air at the same time. An incredible sight and one of the world’s great ornithological spectacles! If the sight of all the eagles wasn’t good enough, we even found a little Ancient Murrelet bobbing on the sea, a bird that Barbara particularly wanted to see. Then it was back to the harbour for 11am and after a quick photographic stop looking up the river to the mountains beyond (plus a Brown Dipper and the unusual sight of five Whooper Swans asleep right next to a White-tailed Eagle), we drove back down the coast for a traditional Japanese lunch at Shibetsu.

From Shibetsu we drove back inland for 40 minutes or so to a superb hotel and onsen called Dai Ichi near Yoroushi, which overlooked a small stream backed by snowy woodland. Much of the front of the building was edged with large picture windows, the ones opposite the reception overlooking bird feeders which attracted a steady flow of Eurasian Nuthatches, Marsh Tits and Jays, with smaller numbers of Brown-eared Bulbul, Coal Tit, Japanese Tit and Great Spotted Woodpecker. Just after dark the staff uncovered a small fish pond only a few metres from the window and not long afterwards a Blakiston’s Fish Owl flew in and landed nearby. It was very close! There it remained slowly accumulating a toupee of snow for over an hour before flying off whilst we were having dinner, not to be seen again that evening. What did pop up later, however, was a Japanese Sable, a beautiful cream-coloured mustalid endemic to Japan.

Day 8

Wednesday 7th February

Yoroushi & Tokyo

We enjoyed a leisurely start to the day watching the Dai Ichi feeders. It paid off as not only did the Japanese Sable come back again, but two beautiful Red Foxes came down to the other side of the stream and, for the birders, a rare Solitary Snipe was found feeding in full view. Globally, this is a difficult bird to find and even here it, apparently, only turns up every 10 days or so. A Brown Dipper also showed well as we ate breakfast, and a regular passage of common birds flew back and forth to the feeders.

Sadly our time in Hokkaido had come to an end and we had to start heading back to Kushiro Airport. En route we briefly stopped at the base of the Kiritappu Peninsula where we finally found the Long-tailed Ducks that had eluded us so far, and a large herd of Sika Deer. Time was not on our side, however, and so we had to complete the journey to the airport where we said our goodbyes to our excellent guide Sono and flew back to Tokyo. A short train ride later we were back in the shiny, and familiar, surroundings of the Shinagawa Prince Hotel.

Day 9

Thursday 8th February

Tokyo & Nagano, Honshu

Today we all had a free morning to either explore Tokyo independently or join Duncan and Paul on a trip to the Imperial Palace. It was a lovely sunny day with blue skies and light winds. The moats around the outskirts of the Palace held plenty of duck including 20 or so stunning Falcated Ducks, the bronze and green sheen of the male’s

heads catching the sun beautifully. There were also plenty of Eurasian Wigeon and Gadwall, plus smaller numbers of Shoveler, Spot-billed Ducks and Tufted Ducks. A stunning male Daurian Redstart popped up on a fence post almost alongside a Bull-headed Shrike, and we were somewhat surprised by a flyover from a House Swift. We then made our way into the East Gardens for our final hour and wandered around the paths that cut through the meticulously manicured grounds. Here we had a few additional birds including Japanese White-eye, Long-tailed Tit, another Daurian Redstart and, best of all, a small group of Varied Tits hopping around on the ground.

With time ticking on, we made our way back to Shinagawa where we regrouped before taking the train back to Tokyo main station in time to catch the Shinkansen (bullet train) to the city of Nagano. On the dot of 3.24pm the bullet train pulled smoothly out of the station and one and a half hours later we pulled into Nagano.

Day 10

Friday 9th February

Snow Monkeys' & Zenkoji Temple, Honshu

Today we climbed into the hills above Nagano to visit the 'Snow Monkeys', the famous Japanese Macaques that regularly bath in a hot spring at a reserve called Jigokudani (Hell Valley). The bus and our guide, Hitomi, met us at 9am for the one hour drive to the entrance to the so-called 'Monkey Park'. From the coach parking area it was then a 10 minute walk up a road to the main parking area with a cafe and toilets, and a further 1.6 kilometres to the macaques themselves. The sky was a clear, bright and sunny all day and although the temperature must have been near or just above freezing, it didn't feel that cold. The walk through the forest was on a pretty level snowy path with a steep set of steps near the end and after 30 minutes or so we reached the entrance to the park. There we indeed Japanese Macaques aplenty, although only one ventured into the hot spring. It must have been just a bit too mild! Nevertheless, the setting was very beautiful and it was interesting to watch the macaques' behaviour and interactions (the most northerly non-human primate in the world).

After lunch at the cafe near the entrance we returned to the coach at 2.30pm and drove back to Nagano to visit the Zenkoji Temple; an interesting place both culturally and ornithologically. The latter included three beautiful Japanese Grosbeaks (our only ones of the tour), a male Bull-headed Shrike, a flock of around 20 Bramblings, plus Varied Tit, Dusky Thrush and Japanese Tit. We were back by 5pm and then two thirds of the group ventured out to sample another local restaurant, where the bracken-goo ice cream was a particular favourite!

Day 11

Saturday 10th February

Karuizawa & Tokyo, Honshu

Our bus arrived to collect us at 8am for the one and a half hour drive through the mountains to the hill resort of Karuizawa. The sky was blue once again and the snow-capped mountains - including the peaks of the Japanese Alps - looked quite dramatic in the morning light. The drive took us through numerous tunnels, through snowy valleys and past one of the most active volcanoes in Japan which last erupted in 2015. We even had a brief flypast of a group of waxwings of unidentifiable species ... a good omen we hoped!

On arriving in Karuizawa, we parked by the entrance to the 'bird park' and spent the next couple of hours walking up a gravel road through the beach forest alongside a fast flowing stream. The woods were quiet – as is

sometimes the case in the winter – but it was a very pleasant walk all the same which did produce a few interesting birds, best of all being a flock of beautiful Japanese Waxwings feeding on mistletoe! We continued to explore the area until around 2pm when we all met up back at the coach and drove the short distance downhill to the railway station. Other birds seen during our visit to Karuizawa included Japanese Green Woodpecker, Meadow Bunting, Varied Tit, Willow Tit, Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker, Oriental Greenfinch, Brambling and Dusky Thrush.

Our Shinkansen left Karuizawa at 2.59pm and we arrived back into Tokyo Main Station at 4.15pm. From there it was back to Shinagawa for our final night as a group before some headed home tomorrow, and others set off on the Kyushu extension.

Day 12

Sunday 11th February

Yatsushiro & Izumi, Kyushu

Duncan escorted those group members heading home to the airport first thing, and then the rest of us made the same journey to catch our 11.30am flight to Kumamoto on the southern island of Kyushu. Although it was a clear morning we still didn't get to see Mount Fuji as the route of the aircraft today took us over the top of the volcano so the views passed directly beneath us out of sight. On arrival we met our guide, Masako, and headed down to Yatsushiro for a spot of coastal birding. It was unusually cold for Kyushu, in fact although we'd flown two hours south, the temperature had dropped by 10 degrees centigrade!

In the end our quest for Saunders's Gull was somewhat thwarted by road closures, the cold and a couple of other unforeseen issues, but we did see a Black-faced Spoonbill in flight, plus Black-tailed Gull, Blue Rock Thrush, Peregrine, Osprey, Common Kingfisher, lots of Spot-billed Ducks and a distant offshore group of Brown Boobies. From Yatsushiro we headed south and completed our drive to the town of Izumi, our base for the next three nights.

Day 13

Monday 12th February

Arasaki Crane Centre, Kyushu

We left the hotel around 6.15am for the 20-minute drive to the Arasaki Crane Centre. As we got off the bus we were greeted to a wonderful cacophony of trumpeting and the sight of thousands and thousands of cranes spread out over the fields in front of us. The view from the roof of the centre was even more spectacular and revealed a 180 degree panorama of cranes! Many were flying off, but we were assured that since they would be feeding them at 7am they'd all be back. Although quite a few thousand had stayed put, sure enough as the light began to increase so the flocks began to return and soon the sky was full of cranes, line after line after line of them flying in to join the others already on the ground. It was a truly spectacular sight to see so many cranes crammed into one area. The majority were small and thickset Hooded Cranes of which there were currently 13,000 in the vicinity. Amongst these were parties of elegant White-naped Cranes which have a wintering population here of around 3,000 birds (although there seemed somewhat more). To add to the spectacle great flocks of duck, mostly Pintail and Wigeon, rose into the air from time to time mixing in with the raucous parties of cranes. On the ground there were lots of Eastern Rooks, a Green Sandpiper and a flypast Hen Harrier. All in all a stunning and unforgettable couple of hours!

Around 9.30am we left the crane centre and spent time before lunch slowly driving the roads in the flat 'polder-like' fields nearer the coast. Once again small parties of cranes were everywhere along with some larger accumulations. Indeed, the sound of their bugling was our near constant background noise of the day. We also did some short walks, but the cold wind made any extended time out of the bus uncomfortable. Bird highlights included Chestnut-eared and Meadow Buntings, Buff-bellied Pipit, Eurasian Spoonbill and a huge mixed flock of Brambling and Oriental Greenfinch.

We returned to the Arasaki Crane Centre for lunch and then headed back out into the 'polders' for a few further hours in the afternoon, finding a variety of birds including a surprise Richard's Pipit. In the evening the group split with some eating out at a traditional Japanese restaurant and others staying back at the hotel.

Day 14

Tuesday 13th February

Crane Fields' & Kogowa Dam, Kyushu

It was a bit of a surprise this morning to step outside into a blizzard, although fortunately a short-lived one! We left at 6.15am once again and drove down to the polders to position ourselves in the flight path of the cranes on the edge of their eastern feeding grounds. Although it was still quite dark when we arrived the cranes were already flying over in their hundreds and most of us braved the sleet and cold to watch them pass overhead. It was a shame that the weather was so bad; on a clear morning it would have been just stunning. Even so, we had many hundred pass over us and it was still quite magical to watch and listen to. In the end we opted to retreat to the warmth of the Arasaki Crane Centre for an hour or so in the hope that the rain (which it had now become) would stop. That at least allowed us to watch the huge mass of cranes enjoying their early morning feed once again and we even had the added bonus of a Goshawk attacking a flock of ducks. A party of Japanese White-eyes and a male Daurian Redstart just outside the window also kept the group entertained.

The skies gradually brightened and so we left the crane centre to drive the 40 minutes or so into the mountains to the Kogawa Dam, our main birding site of the day. The mountains and hills had obviously had a fall of snow overnight but fortunately by the time we got up there most of it had melted, leaving just a dusting on the higher slopes. The Kogawa Dam was a lovely spot. A one lane road follows the shoreline of the reservoir crossing over the occasional bridge from time to time, and the slopes are covered in evergreen broadleaf forest with patches of conifer. The lake itself held plenty of 'genuine' Mandarin Ducks, a lone male Falcated Duck and a variety of commoner species. During the next four hours we clocked up an interesting variety of species including Red-flanked Bluetail, Daurian Redstart, Pale Thrush, Black-faced Bunting, Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker, Goshawk and a stunning Crested Kingfisher.

Later in the afternoon we decided to drop back down to the polders for the final hour or so of the day and to see some cranes and other lowland birds in the sun rather than the wind and rain. We walked for an hour or so along the edge of a drainage canal with the crane fields to the left and found an interesting variety of birds including Chestnut-eared Bunting, Russet Sparrow, Green Sandpiper, plenty of Oriental Greenfinch and Brambling, and a surprise Naumann's Thrush, a rare wintering bird in Japan.

Day 15

Wednesday 14th February

Kogawa Dam, Satsuma & fly Tokyo

Finally, after days of unusually cold, snowy weather, we awoke to a more typical Kyushu day with sunshine and warm temperatures. However, the previous day's snow scuppered our plans to drive to Lake Mi-ike to look for some Kyushu specialities and so, after breakfast at our hotel, we collected a packed lunch from the local convenience store and found time to have a quick look at the river that flows through the centre of Izumi town. A scan of the wildfowl loitering on the stony river islands soon located a couple of handsome drake Falcated Ducks among the more numerous Eurasian Wigeon, Eastern Spot-billed Duck and Northern Shoveler. The close views in the sunshine allowed us to admire the way the iridescence of the Falcated Duck's head plumage changes from green to bronze depending on the angle of the light, and also to admire the long, sickle-shaped tertial feathers that give the bird its name. We also noticed a Japanese Wagtail catching insects along the river as were, more surprisingly, three Barn Swallows. Were the swallows early returning migrants or had they just not bothered to migrate any further south for the winter?

Leaving Izumi for the last time we headed back up into the hills to try our luck again at Kagowa Dam. A brief sighting by David of a Crested Kingfisher flying along the river prompted us to stop at a bridge to see if we could refind it but, apart from a Pale Thrush, a Grey Heron and some Brown-eared Bulbuls, we drew a blank so continued on our way up to the dam. As with yesterday, we used a combination of coach transport and short walks to work our way around the periphery of the lake but the bird activity proved to be much quieter than the previous day. At the dam a Meadow Bunting was singing, heralding the approaching spring, and another Crested Kingfisher perched up briefly on the dam wall. Out on the lake, a similar mixture of ducks including Common Pochard and Mandarin Duck were still present along with Great Cormorant and Little Grebe, whilst in the fringing woodlands we noted Red-flanked Bluetail, Japanese Varied Tit, Daurian Redstart, Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker and Black-faced Bunting whilst some confiding Japanese White-eyes provided excellent photographic opportunities.

After eating our packed lunch it was time to start making our way towards Kagoshima Airport to catch our evening flight back to Tokyo. A brief 'comfort break' just twenty minutes down the road provided all too brief views of a White-bellied Green Pigeon as it disappeared into the canopy of a roadside tree, whilst a Peregrine Falcon soared overhead. But there was time for one more stop on the way to the airport as the route took us over the Sendai River near the town of Satsuma, where in recent years a small number of Scaly-sided Mergansers have been known to spend the winter. Scanning a few stretches of the meandering river suggested that none of those rare sawbills had shown up this year, but it did provide us with very good views of some Long-billed Plovers, a chunky relative of the familiar Ringed Plover, that inhabit stony river beds throughout east Asia. A pair of Japanese Wagtails were also sharing the river with more numerous White Wagtails and a Brown Dipper. Finally, it was time to put our binoculars away as we made our way to the airport and after an hour and half's flight we found ourselves back in the 'concrete jungle' of Tokyo again.

Day 16

Thursday 15th February

Fly London

After a comfortable night in the familiar surroundings of the Shinagawa Prince Hotel, we caught the metro for the final time to Haneda Airport. Soon our British Airways Boeing 777 was whisking us north and west over the

Siberian tundra and twelve hours later we were back at London Heathrow, but perhaps still thinking about elegant cranes dancing in the snow, giant owls catching fish in the rivers and hundreds of sea eagles swooping down over the sea!

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Species Lists (✓ = recorded but not counted; H = heard; c. = circa; I = introduced; E = endemic; N = near-endemic)

	Common name	Scientific name	February													
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Mute Swan - I	<i>Cygnus olor</i>								✓						
2	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓							
3	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>											4			
4	Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>														30+
5	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	✓							✓						
6	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	✓							✓		✓	✓			✓
7	Falcat Duck	<i>Mareca falcata</i>								20					2	2
8	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Eastern Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas zonorhyncha</i>	✓									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>				✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>						✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	
12	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	✓							✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	✓						✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓					✓	✓
15	Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	✓			✓	✓									
16	Harlequin Duck	<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>				✓	✓	✓								
17	Black Scoter	<i>Melanitta americana</i>				✓	✓	✓								
18	Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>							10							
19	Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
20	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
21	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>				✓		✓	✓							
22	Green Pheasant - E	<i>Phasianus versicolor</i>								✓		✓				
23	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>					1									
24	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>														✓
25	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	✓													
26	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	6													
27	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>											6			
28	Black-faced Spoonbill	<i>Platalea minor</i>										1				
29	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>										1				
30	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓							1		20	50	10	6	

	Common name	Scientific name	February													
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
31	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>										1		10	10	
32	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓							1		✓	✓			
33	Pelagic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i>				✓	✓	✓								
34	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓							3					2	10
35	Japanese Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax capillatus</i>	poss													
36	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	1											4	2	
37	Japanese Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>								1					1	
38	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>		□											1	
39	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>		□								1				
40	Black-eared Kite	<i>Milvus lineatus</i>		✓					✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
41	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
42	Steller's Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus pelagicus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
43	Eastern Buzzard	<i>Buteo japonicus</i>	✓		✓					✓	✓		✓	✓		
44	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>					✓							✓	✓	
45	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>										1	2			1
46	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>								✓						
47	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	✓							✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
48	Sandhill Crane	<i>Antigone canadensis</i>												4		
49	White-naped Crane	<i>Antigone vipio</i>												c.3,000	✓	
50	Red-crowned Crane	<i>Grus japonensis</i>		c.200	c.200											
51	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>		1	1									2		
52	Hooded Crane	<i>Grus monacha</i>												c.10,000	✓	
53	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>												12	20	
54	Long-billed Plover	<i>Charadrius placidus</i>														3
55	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	6													
56	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	✓									✓	30			
57	Solitary Snipe	<i>Gallinago solitaria</i>							1							
58	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>									1		10			
59	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>										2			2	
60	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>											4	1		
61	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>								1				1		
62	Black-tailed Gull	<i>Larus crassirostris</i>				1							30			

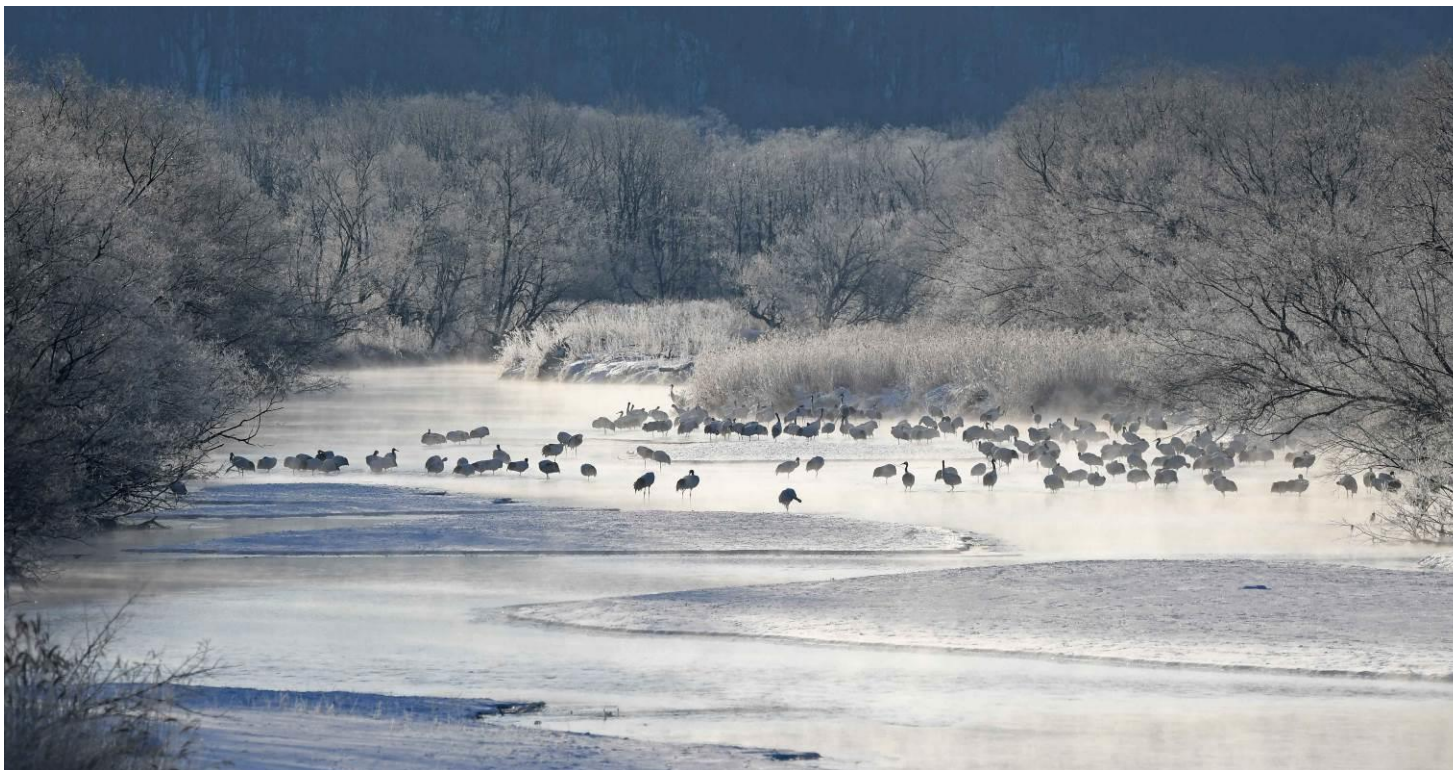
	Common name	Scientific name	February													
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
63	Common (Kamchatka) Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓							
64	Glaucous-winged Gull	<i>Larus glaucescens</i>				✓	✓	✓								
65	Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓							
66	Vega Gull	<i>Larus vegae</i>	✓										✓			
67	Slaty-backed Gull	<i>Larus schistisagus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓							
68	Ancient Murrelet	<i>Synthliboramphus antiquus</i>						1								
69	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓											✓		
70	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>	✓							✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
71	White-bellied Green Pigeon	<i>Treron sieboldii</i>													1	1
72	Blakiston's Fish Owl	<i>Bubo blakistoni</i>				1	1	1								
73	House Swift	<i>Apus nipalensis</i>								1						
74	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>								1			1		1	1
75	Crested Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle lugubris</i>													1	3
76	Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Yungipicus kizuki</i>		1								✓			✓	✓
77	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>						1								
78	Japanese Green Woodpecker - E	<i>Picus awokera</i>										1				
79	Bull-headed Shrike	<i>Lanius bucephalus</i>								1	1	1	1	2		
80	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>			✓			✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	
81	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>												1		
82	Oriental Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus pastinator</i>												200	✓	
83	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	✓	✓	✓									✓		
84	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
85	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>						1								
86	Japanese Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla japonica</i>										20				
87	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>						✓	✓			✓				
88	Japanese Varied Tit	<i>Sittiparus varius varius</i>								3	2					2
89	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓							
90	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>										✓				
91	Japanese Tit	<i>Parus minor</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
92	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>												100	✓	
93	Brown-eared Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes amaurotis</i>	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
94	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>													2	3

	Common name	Scientific name	February														
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
95	Asian House Martin	<i>Delichon dasypus</i>											✓				
96	Japanese Bush Warbler	<i>Horornis diphone</i>	2														
97	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>							✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
98	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>														1	
99	Japanese White-eye	<i>Zosterops japonicus</i>									✓				✓	✓	✓
100	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>			✓				✓			✓					
101	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>							✓	✓			✓			✓	✓
102	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓			✓				
103	White-cheeked Starling	<i>Spodiopsar cineraceus</i>	✓								✓					✓	
104	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>													10		
105	Pale Thrush	<i>Turdus pallidus</i>	2									1				3	4
106	Naumann's Thrush	<i>Turdus naumanni</i>														1	
107	Dusky Thrush	<i>Turdus eunomus</i>	✓	✓							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
108	Red-flanked Bluetail	<i>Tarsiger cyanurus</i>														6	2
109	Daurian Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus aureus</i>	1								2				3	2	2
110	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius philippensis</i>											2	1			3
111	Brown Dipper	<i>Cinclus pallasii</i>				2	2	1					1				1
112	Russet Sparrow	<i>Passer rutilans</i>													200	✓	
113	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
114	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>											1	1	2	2	
115	White (Black-backed) Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba lugens</i>	✓			✓		✓		✓				✓	✓	✓	
116	Japanese Wagtail - N	<i>Motacilla grandis</i>			1												3
117	Buff-bellied Pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>													50	✓	
118	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>								✓	20	✓		200	✓		
119	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		1													
120	Japanese Grosbeak	<i>Eophona personata</i>										3					
121	Grey-capped Greenfinch	<i>Chloris sinica</i>					✓			2	6	✓		100	✓	✓	
122	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>					□				H	□			□	□	
123	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>										6					
124	Meadow Bunting	<i>Emberiza cioides</i>											6	2	10	4	2
125	Chestnut-eared Bunting	<i>Emberiza fucata</i>													3	4	
126	Black-faced Bunting	<i>Emberiza spodocephala</i>	2													6	4

	Common name	Scientific name	February													
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
127	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>												1	1	
128	Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>					15									

Mammals

1	Japanese Macaque - E	<i>Macaca fuscata</i>										✓				
2	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓							
3	Sable	<i>Martes zibellina</i>						1	1							
4	Harbour Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>				✓	✓	✓								
5	Sika Deer	<i>Cervus nippon</i>					✓					✓				



Cranes in the mist