

# Wild Japan in Winter

Naturetrek Tour Report

7 - 22 February 2018



Ural Owl



Olive-backed Pipit



Hooded Crane



Oriental Turtle Dove

Report and images by Eric Barnes



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## Summary

Japan is unique in so many respects: a gentle insular society, so different from the hustle of other Asian cities. The Shinto religion makes nature a central theme of their being and it shows in the way their wildlife has thrived. They have high standards for everything: the way that they drive, the way they treat individuals and the way they respect their environment. It is partly for these reasons that they enjoy the accolade of being the Crane capital of the world, have eagles in their harbours like we have gulls, and have the world's biggest owl regularly visit traditional feeding stations.

Over our 16 day break we saw wildlife spectacles at every turn, but perhaps the most surprising of our observations was discovering a society free of petty crime. Witnessing people regularly leaving their unattended bicycles unlocked in the knowledge they would still be there when they returned was a refreshing sight in this day and age.

### Day 1

Wednesday 7th February

The tour started with an overnight flight from the UK

### Day 2

Thursday 8th February

The British Airways flight was not busy and landed about 7.50am on a crisp, sunny day in Tokyo. It was about 6°C but the sunshine made it seem warmer. Driving to Hotel Prince Shinagawa down the swathes of concrete, lined with tightly packed buildings, we wondered how we were going to see any wildlife in this landscape of concrete. After dropping our bags we headed out about 10.30am. The twelve of us navigated the Tokyo underground system without too many hiccups despite having to reach the outer galactic line for Kasai Rinkai Park.

We picked up some refreshments at a convenience store at the station and headed towards the park. Dusky Thrushes, Brown-eared Bulbuls and Oriental Turtle Dove all gave excellent views as we got to stretch our plane-weary legs. The common birds fell like dominoes: the beautiful Bull-headed Shrike, White-cheeked Starling, Daurian Redstart, Pale Thrush, Eastern Buzzard, Black-faced Bunting, Azure-winged Magpie and Grey-capped Greenfinch. A pleasant three-and-a-half hour walk in the fresh air got us warmed up as we tried to resist the jet lag. Seven duck species including about 1400 Scaup, 10 Black-necked Grebes, a solitary Kentish Plover, distant Vega and Slaty-backed Gulls and a fly-over Black-tailed Gull provided light entertainment for the afternoon, till we returned to Hotel Prince to conclude our day. We aimed for an early dinner as we had an early start the next morning.

## Day 3

Friday 9th February

Today we started with a 5am breakfast, and a 6am departure via Shinagawa station made for a smooth exit. Two hours later we were air-bound for Hokkaido. Arriving to temperatures of -10°C and blue skies, we soon set off in search of our first of the 'Japanese Big 5'.

We all knew the order – Red-crowned Crane, Steller's Sea Eagle and Blakiston's Fish Owl followed by Hooded and White-naped Cranes; except the Steller's Sea Eagle - what was he doing perched in a tree by the side of the road less than 10 minutes from the airport! The Red-crowned Cranes were also close to the road – all 170 of them! The light was spectacular and we enjoyed their antics; intermittently bugling and chasing the Whooper Swans. A Willow Tit put in an appearance to grab some attention.

We tore ourselves away to visit the HeartNTree restaurant for lunch. The website menu wasn't inspiring but the meal was an absolute success. We had to ring our order through and the food was well worth the visit. A White-tailed Eagle and three Steller's Sea Eagles also showed during lunch.

That afternoon an unlikely string of loosely connected events unfolded. The restaurateur was stocking the bird feeder and randomly said "nice scope" as she walked past. Eric took this to mean she had some inside knowledge of birding and pressed her for birding information. 20 minutes later, with some rather vague directions, we were standing amongst an elite group of Japanese photographers looking at an Ural Owl!

We were persuaded to leave for Kussharo Lake, where Whooper Swans loitered with intent round a hot spring in a frozen lake. It was very picturesque. A few Goosanders flew over but we knew we had found our best bird for the day already. We checked into the Kawayu Onsen around 5pm and had a large and lovely Japanese meal before we headed off for a well deserved slumber.

## Day 4

Saturday 10th February

Otawa Bridge had trees dripping with ice, when we joined the queue of 80-100 photographers at 6.30am. The temperature was -13°C. The first bird to greet us was a Northern Shrike – quite unusual in this area. About 140 Red-crowned Cranes milled about in the riverbed waiting for the sun to warm them up. Amongst them was a Common Crane, which was the first individual in this part of the world for more than three decades. Goosanders, Whooper Swans and Goldeneye made up the quorum. Unfortunately the sun never really broke through enough to get the cranes moving early. We spent three hours using various techniques to warm up and enjoying the odd group of low flying Red-crowned Cranes. By around 9.15am about 50% of them had flown over the bridge and it was time to move on to Tsurui-Ito crane sanctuary.

Tsurui-Ito gave spectacular close views of displaying cranes. The snow-white cranes, with their black ink-dipped tails, strutted, danced and bugled in the snowy landscape, dropping their wings and throwing back their necks. We also visited the coffee shop to warm up. The Common Crane was also at point blank range here. At 11.30am we headed to the nearby Taito Restaurant for a 'Bento box' meal.

After lunch we headed to Lake Mashu, a famous tourist spot because of the beauty of the caldera lake. In the 1930's it was rated as one of the clearest lakes in the world, but this is no longer the case since the introduction

of Sockeyed Salmon and Rainbow Trout. Two perched Steller's Sea Eagles and a White-tailed Eagle allowed perched telescope views. Another magnificent Steller's Sea Eagle flew in below us to join the small group, whilst a small herd of Sika Deer foraged on the distant hillside. After half an hour we moved on to Mt. Ito with its hot sulphur spring: a dramatic geological site but with no bonus birds. We then returned to town. Some had a dip in the onsen, and then we had another large Japanese feast.

## Day 5

## Sunday 11th February

Today we all had a well-deserved sleep and a late start. The buffet breakfast had a good selection of Japanese food and enough variety to satisfy those with a more occidental taste. By 9am we were on the bus heading to Rausu.

The sun threatened to break through but never did. We stopped for a comfort break near Shibetsu and David came up trumps with a few Ravens. It was quite birdy around the pond and two Whooper Swans came in from nowhere. A little north of Shibetsu, we stopped to watch a couple of Red Foxes on a derelict roof and a large flock of gulls. Roy and Rex managed to pick out an Iceland Gull in clear view but it wasn't seen on our return.

We continued on, eager not to miss our harbour cruise. We stopped at a small supermarket en route and navigated the food aisles with the aid of Shibuya-san. We had lunch on the bus and then a short walk around the port produced a bathing gull flock consisting largely of Slaty-backed and Kamkatcha (Mew complex) Gulls and a Glaucous-winged Gull.

As we set off for our cruise a Harlequin Duck flew past. Soon we were pushing through a mixed flock of alcids. Fish was thrown out rather unenthusiastically and a few White-tailed and Steller's Sea Eagles cruised around us. A Harbour Seal and drake Harlequin completed the cruise.

We headed to the Minenoyu onsen where Eric walked down the road to the bridge and spotted four Brown Dippers and nine Goosanders. The Fish Owl stake out failed miserably that evening.

## Day 6

## Monday 12th February

We had an early start for a 6.15am boat trip, but a quick head count showed we were unexpectedly one short. Lucy's alarm was playing up but she managed to get out the door without any significant delay. As the sun rose, the eagles and the gulls circled our boats knowingly. The next two hours were jam-packed with eagle after eagle coming round the boat, scooping fish off the surface. Sometimes it got too cold to trigger the camera and we just watched the spectacle. Some got very cold with the wind chill factor; the temperature must have been about -18°C - a suitable climate for the accompanying Harlequin Ducks and Slaty-backed and Glaucous-winged Gulls.

We sped back for a quick breakfast. Some headed down to the bridge to see Brown Dipper and got a bonus Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker. After breakfast we set off for Notsuke Hanto on a bright wintery day. The Russian Kuril Islands were clearly visible the other side of the Sea of Oshotsk. First spot was a magnificent stag Sika Deer. We stopped at Todowara and sieved through some Black Scoter and Mergansers. Slaty-backed, Black-headed and Glaucous-winged Gulls zipped past with little obvious purpose. A diver appeared and caused some identification problems, but eventually Gill's photograph clinched it as a Red-throated Diver. Two Spectacled

Guillemots and a few Long-tailed Ducks were scoped. We were struggling with the wind and temperature, which must have been below -10°C.

Most people had to go back to the bus at some point for their lunch and warmth. Eric decided to explore on foot a little of the surrounding area. About 100 metres from the vehicle we saw one, and then a second Red Fox. It dragged a freeze-dried piece of something edible - perhaps a dead rat - and gnawed it in front of us. The cameras were once again in action - what a special moment! We had been lucky and decided to head back. The trailing group had great views of a female Hen Harrier at close quarters.

It was time to drift back to Rausu as we had a date with an important owl. En route we had a flock of Snow Buntings by the road. Arriving about 3.30pm, we decided to explore the harbour briefly for Harlequin Ducks. They did not disappoint. Some eagles were bathing at the river mouth and Slaty-backed Gulls and Large-billed Crows were exploring the fishing boats. We had a hurried dinner at 4pm before looking for Blakiston's Fish Owl. The owl arrived at 5.25pm and didn't stay a minute. Roy made a tactical error and Rob suffered from it; we all shared their pain. Paul felt a bit ill and had to leave at 6.50pm, but Rob and Eric stayed another three hours, but to no avail.

## Day 7

## Tuesday 13th February

We left Rausu on a fine cold morning and meandered our way to Yoroshi Onsen. The stops along the way were short but productive as we saw a couple of close Stejneger's Scoters and the usual army of gulls on route 335. The Salmon Factory put a nemesis bird to rest for several people: a Hawfinch; the only one of the trip was spotted by Rob.

Soon we were tucking into another Japanese meal and then heading through the taiga-like forests to Yoroshi Onsen. There was less snow here than usual but the feeders were active. Audrey walked up to the huge picture window and saw a pale yellow animal standing next to the feeders. Initially she thought it was an ornament, but then it moved! Japanese Sable, what a welcome! Nuthatches, four species of tit, Brown Dipper and a lightning-fast Crested Kingfisher sped through before it got dark and the tension rose.

We were booked for a 6pm meal and we held our position in shifts. At 7.50pm there was activity and Eric sensed the bird was about to appear. The restaurant emptied and a Blakiston's Fish Owl put on an excellent display for about ten minutes. What a relief!

## Day 8

## Wednesday 14th February

We were a little 'eagled out' and decided to have one last look at the Red-crowned Cranes. We had one last try for the Solitary Snipe but we didn't connect, however a couple of Brown Dippers, a group of eight 'Brandt's' Jays and an Hokkaido Red Squirrel were rewards for our effort.

We had a smooth ride to Tsurui-Ito to drop off half the group for the Crane feeding, whilst the other half went to Ottawa bridge again, hoping for a fly-over by the Crane flock. Unfortunately, neither really worked out. The Cranes weren't very interested in the feed and the temperature at -18°C overnight meant they were slow to get moving. We took a few more photographs of the cranes and headed to HeartNTree for another lovely meal.

Soon we were on our way back to Haneda Airport from Kurishino, where we had an early dinner in preparation for our visit to the Imperial Palace and trip on the Bullet train.

## Day 9

Thursday 15th February

Today was a complicated transfer day with a visit to the Imperial Palace Gardens, followed by our Bullet train transfer to Nagano. We pitied the Japanese commuters who had to get on those rush hour trains daily. We all didn't get on the same train because of the number of commuters, and we were crammed like sardines for part of the journey between Shinagawa and Tokyo.

The transfer went uneventfully and soon we were walking to the East Gate Garden of the Imperial Palace. Common ducks dotted the moat and a Vega Gull looked out of place. We arrived at the palace as the gate opened at 9am. Inside the pleasant palace gardens we had great views of Pale, Dusky and for some Brown-headed Thrushes. Varied Tits put on a show at ground level and an unusually showy Japanese Bush Warbler even posed for photographs, much to Eric's astonishment. A perched Eastern Buzzard was soaking-in the warm sunshine, a male Daurian Redstart flitted amongst the early spring buds, and Oriental Turtle Doves sifted the leaf litter for morsels. Roy managed to find a small group of Olive-backed Pipits. At noon we marched to the Sakuradomon Moat and had great views of a group of 14 Falcated Ducks, most of them males with their splendid shaggy iridescent crests, black and white scalloped breasts and long tail plumes; truly imperial beasts.

Half the group went back to Hotel Prince to pick up the luggage for our 'Snow Monkey short break' in Nagano, whilst the other half enjoyed a leisurely walk back to the palace for ice cream and coffee. Eastern Spot-billed Duck and White-cheeked Starlings were seen en route.

Tokyo station was busy as usual but with everyone looking after each other, the transfer to the Bullet train and Nagano went smoothly. Dinner was a pleasant meal in a typical Japanese eatery in the basement of the Nagano Tokyo REI hotel. For a moment we thought we were going to sit on the floor to eat but soon discovered there were foot wells! We enjoyed the experience so much that we tried to leave Rex guarding the room till our next dinner.

## Day 10

Friday 16th February

We met our guide Hitome and headed off to the Snow Monkey park at 9am. The trip took about an hour, with a flock of 80 White-fronted Geese over the road being the birding highlight. The walk up to the hot baths was moderately steep in places and we were able to buy ice grips for our shoes at the base of the trail for those who hadn't come prepared. It was dangerous not to have them.

The group stretched out along the path, which was about a mile long. Rex was fortunate in spotting a Japanese Serow on the ridge to the left of the steep stairs just below the Monkey Park entrance, and Rob also managed a decent view. Despite further searching, no other Serows were seen. The ambient temperature was a little above freezing and only a few Japanese Macaques entered the pool. About 50 were playing on the hillside behind the pool and it was clear it wasn't cold enough for most of them to warrant a dip.

We headed slowly back to the coach and discussed our options. There was a site for Baikal Teal about 50 kilometres away and we negotiated an additional fee for this. We headed northwards to a snow-filled landscape. There was some confusion about the precise body of water we were heading towards. Eventually we found Joetsu Lake Asama but it was largely frozen and inaccessible. We could see a bird concentration in one corner of water and picked out a redhead Smew and had good views of a couple of flocks of Taiga Bean Geese for our efforts. Unfortunately Baikal Teal were not seen, but it had been a memorable day.

## Day 11

## Saturday 17th February

Today started well with a trip to Zenkoji Temple. The interested group of ten arrived about 7.15am and were just in time for a ceremonial blessing. The temple complex was large and fascinating and the timing was perfect for a peaceful spiritual visit. The birding was surprisingly good, considering the frequently visited shrine has never made it as an 'eBird' site. A flock of 30 Bramblings, four Grey-capped Greenfinches, a few White-cheeked Starlings, and Pale and Dusky Thrushes were totted up in a very short period.

Kariuzawa beckoned and we were back on the bus for the one-and-a-half hour drive, passing the dormant Mt. Asama volcano which last erupted 230 years ago and flattened the area. The 7-Eleven shop had some construction work going on behind it and there was nothing but a few Grey-capped Greenfinches, Willow Tits and Brown-eared Bulbuls. We arrived at the Bird Park and got some information from the Visitor Centre. We wanted to see Japanese Waxwing and searched in some suggested areas. A few of us at the back had scope views of Japanese Grosbeak. The snow was falling heavily and we struggled to see birds. The paths were treacherous in areas and there were a few slips but nothing serious. A Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker and some common passerines were all we could muster up. We checked an area for Long-tailed Rosefinch and some Serow feeding sites without any success.

Then disaster struck. Rex was leaning on a branch of a tree and it snapped off, sending him sliding down the slope on his back till he was flipped on to his front and was snagged by a stump half way down. He dislocated his shoulder and had some superficial grazes to his scalp. With a good team effort we managed to get him on to the trail and escorted him off to hospital, whilst we caught the Bullet train back to Tokyo that afternoon. We were all relieved that Rex managed to make it back to Tokyo in time for the evening checklist and in good enough shape to manage the Kyushu extension!

## Day 12

## Sunday 18th February

Eric escorted those heading back for the UK to the Haneda Airport train at 6.15am and met up with the extension team at 9am for the journey to Kumamoto. The trip went smoothly and we arrived at Osozo Ryokuchi Park about 3pm. We realised the tide was going out in the afternoon but because of the geography, we had to make this stop today on our way south from the airport. The estuary was full of birds but unfortunately many were distant. We were excited to see the endangered Black-faced Spoonbill at about 50 metres range. In the 1990's Black-faced Spoonbill had a world population of less than 300 birds. The population has since risen to about 2,700 individuals but remains on the brink of extinction. Four birds were in the estuary and one showed exceedingly well.

There were rafts of ducks to sift through and large flocks of Russet Sparrows and Grey-capped Greenfinches. Hundreds of gulls were mainly Vega Gulls, but quite a few Black-tailed Gulls, and a solitary Caspian Tern. Buff-bellied Pipits flitted between the ditches, whilst Daurian Redstarts and Bull-headed Shrikes darted between telephone lines. Rob and Rex were fortunate enough to flush a slow flying Solitary Snipe from their feet. A couple of Meadow Buntings were nearby and several Brown Bobbies were feeding in the distance. One perched on a small fishing boat to make life easier for Eric to convince everyone. The light improved and good numbers of Black-tailed Gulls amongst the Vega Gulls loafed nearby, but still no Saunders's Gulls. Dabbling ducks in their thousands included a few Falcated Ducks. A male red bellied form of Blue Rock Thrush perched on the sea wall giving good telescope views. We really had run out of time and hot-footed it back to Izumi to have a traditional local Japanese meal.

## Day 13

## Monday 19th February

The main focus of the extension started this morning, leaving at 6.15am to Arasaki Crane Centre. The weather was forecast for rain all day and unfortunately the Japanese weather forecast was spot on. Thousands of Hooded and several hundred White-naped Cranes streaming in over the tower like rush hour. The noise of the cranes in the hustle and bustle was mesmerising. It was difficult to resist trying to take photographs despite the weather. Black-eared Kites, Oriental Rooks and over a thousand ducks added to the mad mix of bird activity. The rain however did drive many off the roof to the first floor viewing picture window intermittently. There was some dismay when an immature female Goshawk steamed over the cranes and landed distantly, and we managed telescope views.

After the Crane feeding site we headed towards the East Polder, where we spotted our fifth crane species of the trip: Sandhill Cranes very close to the road! A group of Black-faced Spoonbills were next and despite the rain, we managed good views of many birds because the bus was high and the windows allowed easy viewing.

We decided to try our luck at Komenotsu River. Near our destination we chanced upon a male Japanese Green Pheasant, which showed down to ten metres. Soon after parking our coach, we were about to cross the road when a small flock of birds flew onto some wires across the road. The telescope was up and Eric expected a group of White-cheeked Starlings, and was shocked to see Japanese Waxwings with red tipped tails and vents. Excellent! The river was higher than expected and produced little else besides another flock of Japanese Waxwings taking the total up to 32, several Black-faced Buntings and a nice male Blue Rock Thrush.

We stopped at a convenience store for a packed lunch and then meandered back to the East Polders. Whilst searching the roadside we saw a massive flock of 1000+ Bramblings, lots of Grey-capped Greenfinches, the usual Hooded and White-naped Cranes, and Dusky Thrushes. At one stop we saw some pale Reed Buntings, a pair of Chinese Penduline Tits and a Chestnut-eared Bunting.

We had a quick coffee and crane stop and then headed to a large reed bed. Here the highlights were a group of Eurasian Spoonbills and a few Meadow Buntings. We settled for an early dinner at 6.30pm.



## Day 14

## Tuesday 20th February

We had another early start at Kogawa Dam, hoping for Crested Kingfisher. Staking out a White-bellied Green Pigeon site, we were disappointed to see some cartridges around the viewing area. The pigeon was heard and several unidentifiable pigeons flew past. A pair of Crested Kingfishers dashed to and fro refusing to stop for a picture. Varied Tits, Red-flanked Bluetails and Meadow Buntings were prominent. After an hour-and-a-half we felt we had exhausted our chances of the pigeon and moved on.

The next bridge had a pair of Brown Dippers, Bull-headed Shrike and a perched Crested Kingfisher. A rush of thrushes on a raised field gave us Dusky, Pale and Eye-browed Thrushes in the same field of view at one time!

As we walked round with the bus trailing behind, we managed many Mandarin and Falcated Ducks, and more Red-flanked Bluetails and Black-faced Buntings, before picking food up at a supermarket and getting some post cards sent for an incredible 70 Yen! Then it was off to the East Polder at Arasaki for Naumann's Thrush. Despite the windy conditions he did not disappoint. A Kestrel dive-bombing a Goshawk was not seen by many, and a LBJ (little brown job) had us focused on some blue tarpaulin. No sign of the bird but a Siberian Weasel with its rich orange coat and black tail tip shot out! Before we got back on the bus a Hen Harrier gracefully flew through low.

We headed to the crane centre for some sustenance and the rest rooms, before going for a walk by the crane bridge. A flock of 40 Russet Sparrows mixed in with some Grey-capped Greenfinches and Brambling greeted us. Daurian Redstarts and the usual common 'Sibes' distracted us. Around 4.35pm we got in the bus and headed back to the hotel. We got to the Izumi Wing hotel at 5.10pm. Eric had spotted some suitable birding habitat and went straight out the door to investigate its potential, being rewarded with a good selection of species including Black-faced Bunting, Falcated Duck and, best of all, a pair of Long-billed Plovers!

## Day 15

## Wednesday 21st February

We made a 7am start, straight to the Long-billed Plover site. It was drizzling and we had to limbo round the tripod, which was set up in the bus! We had good views and when the rain stopped, we shuffled down to the water's edge, spotting three Japanese Wagtails, Falcated Duck and a large flock of Asian House Martins.

An hour later we headed off for our last fix of cranes, savouring the atmosphere. By 10am we had 'filled our boots'. We wanted to divert the bus to Lake Mi-ike, 40 kilometres from Kagoshima Airport, having seen Long-billed Plover already. Once again Mikiko, our local guide, came up trumps and after an hour we got the green light. Meanwhile we connected with two Greater White-fronted Geese, four species of cranes and an unusually large tabby cat stalking them.

Two hours later we were at Lake Mi-ike. It was a beautiful old forest by a quiet lakeshore. Our target bird was Ryuku Minivet and it didn't take us long to connect with a male. Goldcrests, Varied Tits, Red-flanked Bluetails, Olive-backed Pipits, a short-lived Elegant Bunting for some, Japanese Bush Warblers and a flotilla of ducks vied for attention. Most of the group headed down the shoreline but Rex and Eric loitered around the campsite, walking amongst the shaded trees with Pale and Dusky Thrushes, Red-flanked Bluetails and Olive-backed Pipits. Suddenly a 'Zoothera' flew across their paths and landed on a bare tree – White's Thrush! It eventually settled

down on a green lawn and was scoped by Rex, whilst Eric went back to get the rest of the group. Thankfully it stayed for everyone to get good views.

We were back on the bus and heading for the airport by 3.30pm, and arrived at 4.40pm in good time for our flight back to Tokyo. We met another Naturetrek group who were doing their extension before their main tour and joined them in the transfer bus. We were all tired but content by the time we got to the Hotel Prince around 9.30pm.

## Day 16

Thursday 22nd February

Our group had become a cohesive team over our 16-day adventure. The whole experience was better because of the people in the group and their attitude to help each other. Undoubtedly, Rex would not have managed the extension without everyone's support. In that spirit we set off at 6am to help Rob and Audrey negotiate the Japanese underground with their very long ski bag! Between us we had achieved more than we could have done individually and it is always a pleasure to spend time with like-minded people exploring our natural world.

We were at Haneda around 6.30am and said our goodbye to Rob and Audrey. Standing at a closed check in queue for 15 minutes before it opened watching the regimented Japanese British Airway staff have their team brief; what could go wrong at this stage!

We were all safely delivered to Heathrow around 1.30pm, thus ending our inaugural Japanese winter tour.

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Harlequin Duck

## Species Lists

Birds (✓=recorded but not counted; H = heard only; hyb = hybrid; E = endemic; N = near endemic; I = introduced)

	Common name	Scientific name	February													
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
1	Taiga Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>										34				
2	Greater White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>										80				2
3	Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>											4			
4	Mute Swan - I	<i>Cygnus olor</i>								3						
5	Tundra Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>														
6	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>		240	5	10	10	10	7			85	15			
7	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>											3	3	2	
8	Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>													40	
9	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	9								30	1			1	4
10	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	18								83			200	5	
11	Falcated Duck	<i>Mareca falcata</i>									14			4		5
12	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	18								20			50	500	200
13	Eastern Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas zonorhyncha</i>	2								2			100+	200	350+
14	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	1	13	3	2		3	3			200+		60	60	200
15	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	6			3	3					80+		3000+	1500+	500
16	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	20											1	35	200
17	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>										5				10
18	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>				15					5					
19	Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	1400			4	20	6								
20	Harlequin Duck	<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>				2	75									
21	White-winged (Stejneger's) Scoter	<i>Melanitta deglandi stejnegeri</i>						2								
22	Black Scoter	<i>Melanitta americana</i>				4	55	12								
23	Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>					8									
24	Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>			3	8	20	30	4							
25	Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>										1				
26	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>		5	4	11	80	30	3			1				
27	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	3			40	10	5								
28	Green Pheasant - E	<i>Phasianus versicolor</i>													1male	
29	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>					1									

	Common name	Scientific name	February														
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
30	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	2								3			1		15	15
31	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	80														
32	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	10														2
33	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>													7		
34	Black-faced Spoonbill	<i>Platalea minor</i>											4	9			
35	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>											8				
36	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	3							1			30	40	20	20	
37	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1											10	10	10	
38	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>											1	10	20	30	
39	Pelagic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i>				150	1000	8									
40	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	8							6	30	12	1		10	1	
40a	Cormorant sp..	<i>Phalacrocorax sp</i>											100	2			
41	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>											4	2	2		
42	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nis</i>								1					1		
43	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>												1	1	2	
44	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus</i>					1								1		
45	Black-eared Kite	<i>Milvus lineatus</i>	2	2		12	10	16	3	4	8	8	80	100	80	50	
46	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>		1	1	45	80	25	3								
47	Steller's Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus pelagicus</i>		4	5	45	100	10	1								
48	Eastern Buzzard	<i>Buteo japonicus</i>	4	1		2	1		3	2	3	1					
49	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>														1	
50	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>														2	1
51	Brown-cheeked Rail	<i>Rallus indicus</i>													hr		
52	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>													6		10
53	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	3							40	10		15	10	6		
54	Sandhill Crane	<i>Antigone canadensis</i>													4		
55	White-naped Crane	<i>Antigone vipio</i>													250	30	30
56	Red-crowned Crane	<i>Grus japonensis</i>		200	150				130								
57	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>			1				1					2 hyb.	1 hyb.	1+2 hyb	
58	Hooded Crane	<i>Grus monacha</i>											2	5500+	5000	4000	
59	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>												30	20	40	
60	Long-billed Plover	<i>Charadrius placidus</i>														2	1

	Common name	Scientific name	February															
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21		
61	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>														2		
62	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>														20		
63	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	80														20	10
64	Solitary Snipe	<i>Gallinago solitaria</i>														1		
65	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>															7	2
66	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>														4	1	5
67	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>																1
68	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>																1
69	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>						4										
70	Black-tailed Gull	<i>Larus crassirostris</i>	1													150	1	
71	Common (Kamchatka) Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>				15												
72	Glaucous-winged Gull	<i>Larus glaucescens</i>				2	12	1									1	
73	Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>				50	2	30										
74	Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>				1												
75	Vega Gull	<i>Larus vegae</i>	60			30		28		1						1000	50	
76	Slaty-backed Gull	<i>Larus schistisagus</i>	1			300	250	200									4	
77	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>														1		
78	Spectacled Guillemot	<i>Cephus carbo</i>						5										
79	Ancient Murrelet	<i>Synthliboramphus antiquus</i>				1												
79a	(Least Auklet or Ancient Murrelet)					40												
80	Crested Auklet	<i>Aethia cristatella</i>				30												
81	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>	7								4		3	18	50	60+	30	
82	Rock (Feral) Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
83	White-bellied Green Pigeon	<i>Treron sieboldii</i>																H
84	Blakiston's Fish Owl	<i>Bubo blakistoni</i>						1	1	1								
85	Ural Owl	<i>Strix uralensis</i>		1														
86	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	1											2			1	
87	Crested Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle lugubris</i>							1				1				3	
88	Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Yungipicus kizuki</i>						1	1						3			
89	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>				1			4	2			1	2				
90	Ryukyu Minivet - E	<i>Pericrocotus tegimae</i>																1
91	Northern Shrike	<i>Lanius borealis</i>				1												

	Common name	Scientific name	February														
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
92	Bull-headed Shrike	<i>Lanius bucephalus</i>	1									1		4	2	4	4
93	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		1						9		7				3	hr
94	Azure-winged Magpie	<i>Cyanopica cyanus</i>	3														
95	Oriental Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus pastinator</i>												mixed 500	500	750+	750+
96	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		15	4	8	2	2	3		20+	20	mixed 500	10	5+	25	
97	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	6	40	40	50+	30	90	30	50	2040	4	60	10	4		
98	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>				3	4	3			1						
99	Japanese Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla japonica</i>													32		
100	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>							5				6			8	
101	Japanese Varied Tit	<i>Sittiparus varius varius</i>								5	4	1				5	5
102	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		1					3								
103	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>	1	4	4				6	4		1	4				
104	Japanese Tit	<i>Parus minor</i>	2	1					12	2	5		7	2		3	1
105	Chinese Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz consobrinus</i>													2		
106	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>												hr	25	10	7
107	Brown-eared Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes amaurotis</i>	10	hr	3				3	6	15	1	10	6	15	12	5
108	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>														4	4
109	Asian House Martin	<i>Delichon dasypus</i>															45
110	Japanese Bush Warbler	<i>Horornis diphone</i>									1			3	1	2	5
111	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	2								5						
112	Japanese White-eye	<i>Zosterops japonicus</i>	9								5			20		10	10
113	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>															1
114	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>				2			3	1			1			1	1
115	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		1			1	6	5				2				2
116	White-cheeked Starling	<i>Spodiopsar cineraceus</i>	3								8	1	9	100	50	12	25
117	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>															30
118	White's Thrush	<i>Zoothera dauma</i>															1
119	Pale Thrush	<i>Turdus pallidus</i>	1								2		1		2	10	8
120	Brown-headed Thrush	<i>Turdus chrysolaus</i>									1						
121	Dusky Thrush	<i>Turdus eunomus</i>	16	1	1	2			1		3	1	6	12	20	25	10
122	Naumann's Thrush	<i>Turdus naumanni</i>														1	
123	Eye-browed Thrush	<i>Turdus obscurus</i>														1	

	Common name	Scientific name	February															
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21		
124	Red-flanked Bluetail	<i>Tarsiger cyanurus</i>															✓	✓
125	Daurian Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus aureus</i>	2								1				2	1	5	6
126	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius philippensis</i>												1	1			
127	Brown Dipper	<i>Cinclus pallasii</i>				5	3	4	2				3				2	
128	Russet Sparrow	<i>Passer rutilans</i>												60	40	40		
129	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	42	7		5	1	2	2	8	10	50	80	50	30	40		
130	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>								3			1	2	4	3		
131	White (Black-backed) Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba lugens</i>	✓				✓			✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		
131a	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba leucopsis</i>	7				1			6	3	5	5	20	20	15		
132	Japanese Wagtail - N	<i>Motacilla grandis</i>			2							1		1	3	3		
133	Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>								6								6
134	Buff-bellied Pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>											3	6	5	10		
135	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>										25	6	1000+	45	3		
136	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>						1										
137	Japanese Grosbeak	<i>Eophona personata</i>										6						
138	Grey-capped Greenfinch	<i>Chloris sinica</i>	3										9	200	200	100	10	
139	Meadow Bunting	<i>Emberiza cioides</i>											3	3	12	4		
140	Chestnut-eared Bunting	<i>Emberiza fucata</i>												1	2			
141	Yellow-throated (Elegant) Bunting	<i>Emberiza elegans</i>															1	
142	Black-faced Bunting	<i>Emberiza spodocephala</i>	10											4	7	2		
143	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	2															
144	Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>					15											

## Mammals

1	Japanese Macaque - E	<i>Macaca fuscata</i>									50							
2	Hokkaido Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus lis</i>							1									
3	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	1		3	2	3	1	1									
4	Siberian Weasel	<i>Mustela sibirica</i>													1			
5	Sable	<i>Martes zibellina</i>						2	2									
6	Harbour Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>				1												
7	Sika Deer	<i>Cervus nippon</i>			20		2		1									
8	Japanese Serow - E	<i>Capricornis crispus</i>									1							

	Common name	Scientific name	February														
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
9	Mink sp.										1						
10	Vole sp.								1								



Blakiston's Fish Owl



Red Fox



Siberian Weasel