

Wild Japan in Winter

Naturetrek Tour Report

7 - 22 February 2020



Blakiston's Fish Owl



Asian Rosy Finch



Daurian Redstart



Steller's Sea Eagle, Raussu

Report & Images by Stu Elsom



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Tour participants: Stu Elsom (Leader) with local guides, Masa-san, Hitomi-san and Kyoko-san
 With 12 Naturetrek clients.

Day 1

Friday 7th February

We departed from Heathrow on our overnight BA flight to Tokyo, where we arrived safely the following morning.

Day 2

Saturday 8th February

Having negotiated the train system and somehow navigated from Tokyo to our present location, we were all feeling very optimistic when we arrived at the Kasai-Rinkai state park, overlooking Tokyo Bay. It was a beautifully bright and crisp morning.

On arrival we were greeted by our first Dusky Thrush - a superb male, and it fed totally unconcerned only a few feet away on the grass. Nearby an active group of Japanese White-eye showed well on the edge of the ornamental garden whilst numerous Tree Sparrows fed on the grassy bank amongst the leaf-litter.

Working our way down to the sea wall, we quickly spotted a huge raft of sea-duck in the bay. The vast majority were Greater Scaup, probably numbering into thousands, with a few Great Crested Grebe, Black Scoter, and the odd Stejneger's Scoter. The relief channel held more Scaup, Red-breasted Merganser and at least six Black-necked Grebes, their piercing red eyes glowing in the sunlight. On the pontoon leading out to the west a handful of Black-headed Gulls accompanied at least two Kamchatka Gulls. Nearby on the wharf, a powdery-blue male Blue Rock Thrush perched atop a rusty ladder.

After enjoying lunch in the nearby cafe, we headed out into the woodland. This produced good views of Bull-headed Shrike, Pale Thrush, numerous Oriental Turtle Doves and our first looks at Brown-headed Bulbul. A few hours at this nicely situated park had been very productive and made for a good start to our tour.

Day 3

Sunday 9th February

An early start today saw us take an early flight from Tokyo to Hokkaido. As we came into land at Kushiro, the scenery was simply stunning - a dramatic snowy landscape with iced-up harbours and big chunks of sea ice offshore. Upon landing we were greeted with quite a shock to the system in that the temperature had gone from 8° C in Tokyo to -13° on Hokkaido!

Very soon we were on our way from the airport to Tsurui crane reserve. It was clear that recent snowfall had been heavy and frequent as snow was piled up high on the roadside. We arrived at Tsurui within around 40 minutes and were treated to the majestic sight of 150+ Red-crowned Cranes feeding in the meadow only a few hundred yards from our viewing position on the roadside. As cranes flew in and flew out, lots of dancing and displaying was noted, with raucous choruses of bugling - what a sight and what a sound!

Also here were several Japanese Tits and a Great Spotted Woodpecker, while a Nuthatch of the far eastern form *asiatica* was noted as well. This striking bird, having wholly white underparts showing no rufous or brown tones,

looks so different to the birds in Europe, with the reflection off the snow making the bird look even whiter. Nearby a single Willow Tit and another Great Spotted Woodpecker showed well behind the small cafe here.

On route to our hotel we stopped at Lake Kussharo which was largely iced over, but several patches of open water had remained ice free due to the nearby hot springs. This produced great views of Whooper Swans, a few Mallard and a very cold looking drake Falcated Duck, which even had icicles on its scapulars - an indication of just how cold and hostile the conditions can be on Hokkaido.

Day 4

Monday 10th February

The following morning saw us at Ottawa Bridge at dawn. Several Red-crowned Cranes fed in the river in the early morning mist as did a pair of Little Grebes and a few Goosander. Nearby a superb Crested Kingfisher perched above the stream and gave great views. It was only a short drive to our next stop - a patch of sunlit woodland where a ghostly pale Ural Owl was perched at its daytime roost. Obviously in a nice sun-trap, this large and impressive owl occasionally opened one eye to check us out but largely carried on snoozing.

Our next site was the Ito crane sanctuary where on arrival a group of several hundred Red-crowned Cranes strutted their stuff against the backdrop of snow fields and snow-covered trees. Nearby a walk around Tsurui village produced a single Hawfinch, and several Japanese Tits fed in roadside trees and bushes.

Retiring to a nice warm cafe for a well-earned hot bowl of soup, we enjoyed a brief Brambling on the feeders as well as lots of Tree Sparrows and another asiatica Nuthatch gave great views. The afternoon saw us pay a visit to lake Mashu; one of the largest calderas on Hokkaido. The snow and strong winds made for challenging conditions, but the scenery here was nonetheless spectacular.

Day 5

Tuesday 11th February

After a very nice Varied Tit on the hotel feeders, our first site today was Shari harbour, situated on the north coast of Hokkaido. The harbour was largely frozen, but a small patch of open water produced Black Scoter and Red-breasted Merganser. A Red Fox walked nonchalantly past us on the headland, whilst in a nearby harbour a recently returned fishing boat attracted a melee of gulls including Glaucous-winged, Vega and Slaty-backed as well as our first Harlequin Ducks of the trip.

Our afternoon boat trip was phenomenal with point-blank views of Steller's and White-tailed Eagles and lots of gulls including Slaty-backed, Glaucous-winged, Glaucous and Kamchatka. In the harbour rafts of Harlequin Ducks mingled with smaller numbers of Long-tailed Duck and a handful of Scaup. We finished in the harbour where the eagles were jostling for space on the sea wall. The views were incredible - truly great birding!

Checking out the stream behind the hotel late afternoon produced at least two Brown Dippers and a female Goosander. Remarkable how any bird survives such hostile conditions when the late afternoon temperature was 16 below freezing!

An early dinner was taken allowing us to get to what has become known locally as the 'fish-owl observatory'. Taking our places in this narrow wooden hide, we settled down to wait for the arrival of our much-wanted and

highly-desired target species. The pools here are surrounded by deep snow, so just as well the hide is now heated as years ago, you had to wait in your car with the ignition turned off...Brrrrrr, that was chilly!

After about an hour, our anticipation levels were going through the roof - just as well then that the adult Blakiston's Fish-owl flew in, landed at the water's edge and promptly dived in, catching several fish. It repeated this about 30 minutes later and gave tremendous close views. What an impressive bird a 'shaggy haystack' of an owl, and the largest in the world, and what's more, we had all seen it brilliantly!

Day 6

Wednesday 12th February

Our early morning boat trip was a huge success. Great views again of feeding eagles, gulls and corvids as well as sightings just after first light of Crested and Least Auklet, several Pelagic Cormorants and good numbers of sea-duck including Black and Stejneger's Scoter, Harlequin Duck, Red-breasted Merganser and Greater Scaup. Superb birding in superb light!

After our now regular visit to 7-11 for ice cream and strawberry sandwiches, we headed out to Notsuke Peninsula. This hook shaped peninsula is well known for producing good numbers of auks and sea-duck, as well as plenty of eagles and gulls. On our way there, a chance stop at some roadworks allowed us to scan the sea, and to our surprise this revealed a small group of Steller Sea Lions just off the sea wall.

As we headed down the peninsula the harbours and breakwaters were checked. This produced several exciting new species with Spectacled Guillemot and Red-throated Diver close inshore amongst several flocks of Stejneger's Scoter, the male showing the distinctive swollen reddish bill and diagnostic white tick around the eye. Also here was another marine mammal; this time a Harbour Seal or two.

We headed down to the furthest car park at the southern end of the peninsula, where the road runs out at the car park and we have to set out on foot and head down to the lighthouse. Almost immediately out of the car park Helen found a beautiful Lapland Bunting feeding amongst the shingle. A great sighting and a Japanese tick for the leader too!

Working our way further south produced a flock of 35 Glaucous Gulls, a ridiculously confiding Red Fox and after some searching, a flock of 40+ Asian Rosy Finches. These hardy little finches were feeding on the tideline and into the debris washed ashore. Attractive birds with broad ginger collar, blackish face and bright pink flanks, they can be notoriously difficult to find on account of their nomadic lifestyle, so we were pleased to have seen them, and seen them well.

Day 7

Thursday 13th February

Our early morning walk around the hotel and into the village produced several Brown Dippers, Japanese Wren, Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker and Eurasian Treecreeper.

As with the previous day we headed over to the Notsuke Peninsula. The sea was flat calm, and yesterday's Lapland Bunting had been replaced by a flock of Snow Buntings, which no sooner had they been scoped by the group promptly flew off west, their distinctive rippling calls ringing out overhead as they went.

The sea ice was starting to form offshore, prompting comments akin to 'if only we could stay on the peninsula for one more day'. It was rather gripping that just as the habitats and weather had started to co-operate, it was very nearly time for us to head south. Before that however, we had a very good morning with 30+ Glaucous Gulls, 20+ Spectacled Guillemots, numerous eagles and sea-duck, and views of local people ice fishing on the frozen lake. It looked a very cold and precarious way to make a living for sure.

The afternoon was spent travelling across to our last hotel on Hokkaido, but the journey did produce a couple of Eastern Buzzards and a single Crested Kingfisher at the bridge. Brown Dippers were also on the stream with Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker, Brandt's Jay, asiatica Nuthatch and both Marsh & Willow Tit. A Hokkaido Red Squirrel also gave brief views late afternoon.

The evening saw us take a traditional style Japanese meal which no sooner had been served, was promptly dumped as we all headed for the dining room, and our second views of Blakiston's Fish-owl - how lucky were we??

Day 8

Friday 14th February

Birding the hotel grounds before leaving to take a mid-morning flight produced Crested Kingfisher, calling Grey-headed Woodpecker and several Northern Long-tailed Tits, their fluffy white heads making them look strikingly different to the birds found in Europe and UK. Also this morning, a group of Mealy Redpolls contained a very striking paler bird with white rump and undertail. It might yet prove to be an Arctic Redpoll, but this has not yet been confirmed.

Day 9

Saturday 15th February

Starting early morning we walked across Tokyo, through the railway station and on to the Imperial Palace. Several stunning Falcated Ducks were in the moat along with Eurasian Wigeon, Gadwall and Pochard. Several Little Grebes were also feeding in the moat alongside Mute Swan, Tufted Duck and a single fishing Great Cormorant.

Moving along into the palace grounds the plum blossom was coming into bloom and looked fantastic as we entered the valley. A male Daurian Redstart (shown below) perched atop a rock only a few feet away was a beautiful sight. Dusky Thrush and Pale Thrush fed in the short grass paddocks surrounding the moat, and a noisy group of Azure-winged Magpies gave great views as they marauded through the trees.

It was soon time to catch our bullet train or 'Shinkansen' from Tokyo Station, and before you knew it, we were in Nagano. Dinner that evening was most enjoyable in a restaurant just by the hotel which had been recommended by a fellow Naturetrek leader. Excellent food, and great company!

Day 10

Sunday 16th February

Early this morning we headed for the hills at Jigokudani, the home of the Japanese Macaque or Snow Monkey. Recent mild weather had resulted in a virtually complete thaw-out with most of the previous week's snow now vanished. Nevertheless, the monkeys gave great views, both in the hot springs and on the surrounding cliffs and

rock faces. After a relaxing lunch at the Enza Cafe we headed off to Tatsumi Park where large numbers of duck spend the winter. Top of our priority list was Baikal Teal and soon we had located at least three, together with large numbers of Wigeon, Pintail, Gadwall, Eastern Spot-billed Duck and an interesting candidate for a Wigeon x American Wigeon hybrid.

Our last stop of the day was at Zenkoji Temple, an impressive building dating back to the 7th century, and said to be the building around which Nagano was built. Not only is it an impressive structure, it has immaculately kept grounds. This produced several Grey-capped Greenfinch, and brief views of both Bohemian and Japanese Waxwing. The tell-tale red tail tip was hardly visible in the rapidly deteriorating light, but once back to the hotel, very visible on edited photographs. Very frustrating that they appeared at last knockings.

Day 11

Monday 17th February

This morning we headed the couple of hours to Nagashima Shrine. Before the bus had even stopped, a group of Waxwings were located in roadside trees, and yes, they definitely had very grey wings with no yellow - and red tail tips! We had found our own Japanese Waxwings in good light and in plenty of time - a complete reversal of yesterday afternoon's events and totally brilliant!

Nearby we explored the woodland around the shrine and Toni promptly discovered more Japanese Waxwings feeding in the mistletoe. Great views were enjoyed by all, and we also managed to 'twitch' a pair of Mandarin Ducks which Richard had found on the fast-flowing stream nearby. Also here, a group of at least five Siberian Meadow Buntings showed well in riverside vegetation.

Karuizawa Forest was next, and by its own high standards was quiet. A Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker and a couple of Varied Tits was all we had to show for the first couple of miles. Soon we started to climb the Kose Rindo Trail and then our first new bird here in the form of the superb Japanese Green Woodpecker. The way back to the car park produced Daurian Redstart, Marsh Tit and several white-headed Northern Long-tailed Tits.

A restful hour followed with us relaxing and watching the feeders at Shiotsobu Hotel. This produced several Varied Tits, Nuthatches and Grey-capped Greenfinch. The stream at the back of the hotel was checked but there was no sign of any Solitary Snipe, not today anyway. However, a nice male Japanese Wagtail showed well, before we had to start our journey to Tokyo.

That evening our final meal as a group was an excellent mix of Italian and Japanese cuisine (although not on the same plate), and we raised our glasses to Japan. It had been a great trip with so many highlights, incredible scenery, great birds, lots of laughs and some very interesting food, none more so than the delicious strawberry and cream sandwiches with which several group members had developed quite an affinity, oh, and the pistachio ice cream was very good too!

Day 12

Tuesday 18th February

We bade our farewells to those heading home or onto the next leg of their Japanese adventure, and soon there were just seven of us heading on the early flight to Kumamoto.

On arrival in Kumamoto we quickly headed south to the Yatsushiro Estuary. Our first sightings here included at least five Ospreys and a roost of Night Herons numbering at least 15. Black-eared Kites were everywhere, and female Daurian Redstart hopped around an area of waste ground on the riverside.

Moving along to the bay, it was clear that the very low tide resulted in good numbers of gulls and waders, some of which were at close range and in excellent light. Saunders's Gull was the highlight species here with no less than 30 individuals, several of which were in full summer plumage.

Also here were Chestnut-eared Bunting, Chinese Penduline Tit and several Asian Buff-bellied Pipits. Black-faced and Masked Buntings were numerous at the north end of the sea wall and we witnessed a sizeable pre-roost gathering of Russet Sparrows. A very productive couple of hours.

Day 13

Wednesday 19th February

Our first visit to the Crane Centre early morning was quite incredible. What a spectacle was in front of our very eyes; around 15,000 cranes of five species. The noise was deafening as they all flew in to feed at dawn. Mostly Hooded Cranes, but also good numbers of the elegant White-naped

Crane. These were joined by several Common Cranes, at least six Sandhill Cranes from USA, and finally the first Demoiselle Crane for Arasaki in 15 years originated from India.

The supporting cast was very good too with Black-faced and Eurasian Spoonbills, Peregrine, Japanese Reed and Meadow Buntings, Daurian Jackdaw, hundreds of Grey-capped Greenfinch, good numbers of Eurasian Lapwing and Snipe. These were joined by some good estuary birds too including Kentish Plover, Dunlin, Eurasian Curlew and Greenshank.

Day 14

Thursday 20th February

We visited the Crane Centre early morning once again to say cheerio to the amazing spectacle at Arasaki. We also enjoyed close views of several Daurian Jackdaws and caught up with European Starling for our Japanese lists. The afternoon was spent at Kogawa Dam which produced a whole host of goodies including Japanese Hawk-eagle, Japanese Sparrowhawk, Red-flanked Bluetail, Daurian Redstart and a couple of Japanese Grosbeaks, which played hide and seek with us until eventually giving themselves up in a fruiting tree.

We ended the day with a visit to Fumoto, where we were shown around a beautifully preserved traditional Samurai house, dating back over 400 years, and admired some wonderfully ornate Japanese gardens complete with immaculate bonsai trees.

Our final stop of the day took us to the fast-flowing river in Izumi late afternoon. A pair of Long-billed Plovers were wonderfully camouflaged amongst the pebbles mid-stream. Nearby several Japanese Wagtails were busy flycatching over the stream with both Black-backed and Grey Wagtails also in attendance.

We were reminded that spring is only around the corner with a group of feeding Asian House Martins, followed shortly afterwards by a large flock of Barn Swallows.

Day 15

Friday 21st February

Our first stop of our final day was at the Sendai River. With the early morning mist hanging over the water, the view greeting us on arrival was picture-postcard stuff. A magnificent Crested Kingfisher perched on the wires crossing the road, and on the riverbank itself a Common Sandpiper fed on the grassy edge whilst a male Masked Bunting fed in low vegetation.

Our walk around the deciduous woodland surrounding Lake Miike produced several Japanese Pygmy Woodpeckers, a brief White-backed Woodpecker and a small flock of inquisitive Ryukyu Minivets. A Japanese Bush-warbler gave its loud and penetrating song from cover whilst several Olive-backed Pipits walked purposefully around the campground. On our way back to the coach, a lone male Daurian Redstart worked its way along the roadside, occasionally flashing its bright orange tail - a stunning bird with which to end such a great trip.

We headed to Kagoshima Airport and boarded our flight to Tokyo, where our tour concluded the following day. The tour may have ended there with our flight home, but the memories of a great trip will last a lot longer, that's for sure.

Day 16

Saturday 22nd February

Flight back to the UK

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Sea-duck comprising mainly Greater Scaup at Kasai-Rinkai Park

Species Lists

Birds (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 | Mute Swan - I | <i>Cygnus olor</i> | | | | | | | | | 5 | | | | | | |
| 2 | Whooper Swan | <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> | | 60 | 2 | | | | 12 | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Common Shelduck | <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 12 | |
| 4 | Mandarin Duck | <i>Aix galericulata</i> | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | |
| 5 | Baikal Teal | <i>Sibirionetta formosa</i> | | | | | | | | | | 3 | | | | 3 | |
| 6 | Northern Shoveler | <i>Spatula clypeata</i> | | | | | | | | | 40 | | | | | 1 | |
| 7 | Gadwall | <i>Mareca strepera</i> | 2 | | | | | | | | 30 | 40 | | 20 | 20 | | 3 |
| 8 | Falcatid Duck | <i>Mareca falcata</i> | | 1 | | | | | | | 30 | | | | | 6 | 1 |
| 9 | Eurasian Wigeon | <i>Mareca penelope</i> | 2 | | | 5 | | | | | 50 | 75 | | 100 | 100 | 100 | 20 |
| 10 | Eastern Spot-billed Duck | <i>Anas zonorhyncha</i> | 20 | 8 | | | | | | | 16 | 12 | | 100 | 100 | 30 | 40 |
| 11 | Mallard | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> | 3 | 20 | | 100 | 10 | | 4 | | | | | 2 | 30 | 30 | 5 |
| 12 | Northern Pintail | <i>Anas acuta</i> | | | | | 2 | | | | | 60 | | 10 | 30 | | |
| 13 | Eurasian Teal | <i>Anas crecca</i> | 40 | | | | | | | | | 5 | | 3 | 3 | | 30 |
| 14 | Common Pochard | <i>Aythya ferina</i> | 6 | | | | | | | | 10 | 50 | | | | | |
| 15 | Tufted Duck | <i>Aythya fuligula</i> | | | | 20 | 10 | 1 | | | 30 | 50 | | 2 | | | |
| 16 | Greater Scaup | <i>Aythya marila</i> | 3000 | | | 40 | 50 | 50 | | | | | | | | | |
| 17 | Harlequin Duck | <i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i> | | | | 25 | 75 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 | White-winged Scoter | <i>Melanitta deglandi stejnegeri</i> | | | | | 40 | 30 | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | Black Scoter | <i>Melanitta americana</i> | 30 | | | 50 | 100 | 100 | | | | | | | | | |
| 20 | Long-tailed Duck | <i>Clangula hyemalis</i> | | | | 1 | 20 | 40 | | | | | | | | | |
| 21 | Common Goldeneye | <i>Bucephala clangula</i> | | | 6 | 10 | 10 | 20 | | | | | | | | | |
| 22 | Goosander | <i>Mergus merganser</i> | | | 10 | 8 | 15 | 100 | | | | | | | | | |
| 23 | Red-breasted Merganser | <i>Mergus serrator</i> | | | | 60 | 40 | 50 | | | | | | 4 | | | |
| 24 | Red-throated Diver | <i>Gavia stellata</i> | 1 | | | | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 | Little Grebe | <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> | | | 1 | | | | | | 15 | | | | 5 | 5 | 2 |
| 26 | Great Crested Grebe | <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> | 20 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 3 | | | |
| 27 | Black-necked Grebe | <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i> | 30 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| 28 | Eurasian Spoonbill | <i>Platalea leucorodia</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| 29 | Black-faced Spoonbill | <i>Platalea minor</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | 9 | 9 | |

| | Common name | Scientific name | February | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|------------------------------------|----------|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|----|----|-----|------|------|----|
| | | | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | |
| 30 | Black-crowned Night Heron | <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | 14 | | | |
| 31 | Grey Heron | <i>Ardea cinerea</i> | 2 | | | | | | | | 2 | 1 | | 30 | 30 | 15 | |
| 32 | Great Egret | <i>Ardea alba</i> | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 20 | 20 | |
| 33 | Little Egret | <i>Egretta garzetta</i> | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 20 | 3 | |
| 34 | Pelagic Cormorant | <i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i> | | | | 10 | 100 | 100 | | | | | | | | | |
| 35 | Great Cormorant | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> | 40 | | | | | | | | 2 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 100 | 500 | |
| 36 | Western Osprey | <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | 5 | 4 | 3 | |
| 37 | Mountain Hawk-Eagle | <i>Nisaetus nipalensis</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 38 | Japanese Sparrowhawk | <i>Accipiter gularis</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 39 | Eurasian Sparrowhawk | <i>Accipiter nisus nisosimilis</i> | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 40 | Eastern Marsh Harrier | <i>Circus spilonotus</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| 41 | Black-eared Kite | <i>Milvus migrans lineatus</i> | | | | 3 | 5 | 3 | | | | 3 | 15 | 50 | 100 | 100 | 20 |
| 42 | White-tailed Eagle | <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> | | 2 | 1 | 60 | 100 | 5 | | | | | | | | | |
| 43 | Steller's Sea Eagle | <i>Haliaeetus pelagicus</i> | | 1 | | 40 | 80 | 5 | | | | | | | | | |
| 44 | Eastern Buzzard | <i>Buteo japonicus</i> | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | 3 |
| 45 | Common Moorhen | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| 46 | Eurasian Coot | <i>Fulica atra</i> | 10 | | | | | | | | 100 | 10 | | 30 | 30 | 25 | |
| 47 | Sandhill Crane | <i>Antigone canadensis</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | 5 | 2 | |
| 48 | White-naped Crane | <i>Antigone vipio</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | 500 | 150 | |
| 49 | Red-crowned Crane | <i>Grus japonensis</i> | | 200 | 200 | | | | 200 | | | | | | | | |
| 50 | Demoiselle Crane | <i>Grus virgo</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| 51 | Common Crane | <i>Grus grus</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | |
| 52 | Hooded Crane | <i>Grus monacha</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | 5000 | 5000 | |
| 53 | Northern Lapwing | <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | 100 | 100 | |
| 54 | Grey Plover | <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | 60 | | | |
| 55 | Long-billed Plover | <i>Charadrius placidus</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | |
| 56 | Kentish Plover | <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | 20 | 2 | |
| 57 | Eurasian Curlew | <i>Numenius arquata</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | 7 | | | |
| 58 | Dunlin | <i>Calidris alpina</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | 100 | 100 | 100 | |
| 59 | Common Snipe | <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | 30 | | |
| 60 | Common Sandpiper | <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 4 | 2 | |
| 61 | Common Greenshank | <i>Tringa nebularia</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | 5 | | | |

| | Common name | Scientific name | February | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|
| | | | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 62 | Black-headed Gull | <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> | 30 | | | | | | | | 10 | | | 20 | | |
| 63 | Saunders's Gull | <i>Chroicocephalus saundersi</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | 35 | | |
| 64 | Black-tailed Gull | <i>Larus crassirostris</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | |
| 65 | Kamchatka Gull | <i>Larus canus kamtschatschensis</i> | 2 | | | 2 | 5 | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| 66 | Glaucous-winged Gull | <i>Larus glaucescens</i> | | | | 20 | 20 | | | | | | | | | |
| 67 | Glaucous Gull | <i>Larus hyperboreus</i> | | | | 3 | 60 | 30 | | | | | | | | |
| 68 | Vega Gull | <i>Larus vegae vegae</i> | 2 | | | 50 | 50 | 20 | | | | | | | | |
| 69 | Mongolian Gull | <i>Larus vegae mongolicus</i> | | | | | | | | | | | 10 | 1 | 1 | |
| 70 | Heuglin's Gull | <i>Larus heuglini</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| 71 | Slaty-backed Gull | <i>Larus schistisagus</i> | | | | 30 | 25 | 4 | | | | | | | | |
| 72 | Common Guillemot | <i>Uria aalge</i> | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| 73 | Spectacled Guillemot | <i>Cepphus carbo</i> | | | | | 20 | 40 | | | | | | | | |
| 74 | Least Auklet | <i>Aethia pusilla</i> | | | | | 20 | | | | | | | | | |
| 75 | Crested Auklet | <i>Aethia cristatella</i> | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| 76 | Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon | <i>Columba livia</i> | | | | | | | | | | | 10 | 20 | 10 | |
| 77 | Oriental Turtle Dove | <i>Streptopelia orientalis</i> | 20 | | | | | | | | 30 | 2 | 20 | 100 | 30 | |
| 78 | Blakiston's Fish Owl | <i>Bubo blakistoni</i> | | | | 2 | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 79 | Ural Owl | <i>Strix uralensis</i> | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 80 | House Swift | <i>Apus nipalensis</i> | | | | | | | | | 4 | | | | | |
| 81 | Common Kingfisher | <i>Alcedo atthis</i> | 1 | | | | | | | | 2 | | 1 | 6 | 3 | |
| 82 | Crested Kingfisher | <i>Megaceryle lugubris</i> | | | 1 | | | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | |
| 83 | Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker | <i>Yungipicus kizuki</i> | | | | | | 3 | 1 | | | 2 | | | 1 | 3 |
| 84 | Great Spotted Woodpecker | <i>Dendrocopos major</i> | | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | | | | |
| 85 | White-backed Woodpecker | <i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i> | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 86 | Grey-headed Woodpecker | <i>Picus canus</i> | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| 87 | Japanese Green Woodpecker - E | <i>Picus awokera</i> | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| 88 | Common Kestrel | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | |
| 89 | Peregrine Falcon | <i>Falco peregrinus</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 1 | |
| 90 | Ryukyu Minivet - E | <i>Pericrocotus tegimae</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 6 |
| 91 | Bull-headed Shrike | <i>Lanius bucephalus</i> | 2 | | | | | | | | 2 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 92 | Japanese Jay | <i>Garrulus glandarius japonicus</i> | | | | | | | | | | 10 | | | | |
| 93 | Eurasian Jay | <i>Garrulus glandarius brandtii</i> | | | | | | | 20 | | | | | | | |

| | Common name | Scientific name | February | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|----|----|----|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|----|---|
| | | | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | |
| 94 | Azure-winged Magpie | <i>Cyanopica cyanus</i> | | | | | | | | | 15 | | | | | | |
| 95 | Daurian Jackdaw | <i>Coloeus dauuricus</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | 7 | 1 | | |
| 96 | Rook | <i>Corvus frugilegus pastinator</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | 100 | 100 | | |
| 97 | Carrion Crow | <i>Corvus corone</i> | 1 | | 6 | 3 | | 4 | 2 | 5 | 4 | | 100 | 50 | 100 | | |
| 98 | Large-billed Crow | <i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i> | 20 | 10 | 20 | 50 | 100 | 100 | 20 | 9 | | | | 75 | 30 | | |
| 99 | Northern Raven | <i>Corvus corax</i> | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 100 | Coal Tit | <i>Periparus ater</i> | | 1 | | 2 | | | | | 6 | 2 | | | | | |
| 101 | Varied Tit | <i>Sittiparus varius varius</i> | | | | 3 | | | | 2 | 4 | 4 | | | 2 | 2 | |
| 102 | Marsh Tit | <i>Poecile palustris</i> | | | | | | 1 | 5 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| 103 | Willow Tit | <i>Poecile montanus</i> | | 4 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 20 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 104 | Japanese Tit | <i>Parus minor</i> | 3 | 2 | 6 | 2 | | 3 | 3 | 6 | 6 | | | | | 2 | |
| 105 | Chinese Penduline Tit | <i>Remiz consobrinus</i> | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| 106 | Eurasian Skylark | <i>Alauda arvensis</i> | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 100 | 100 | | |
| 107 | Brown-eared Bulbul | <i>Hypsipetes amaurotis</i> | 6 | 1 | 2 | | | 3 | 6 | 40 | 10 | 25 | 30 | 50 | 30 | | |
| 108 | Barn Swallow | <i>Hirundo rustica</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 40 | |
| 109 | Asian House Martin | <i>Delichon dasypus</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | 4 | 10 | 5 | |
| 110 | Japanese Bush Warbler | <i>Horornis diphone</i> | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 3 | 3 | 2 | |
| 111 | Long-tailed Tit | <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i> | 6 | 5 | | 6 | | | 10 | | | 3 | | | 3 | | |
| 112 | Warbling White-eye | <i>Zosterops japonicus</i> | 4 | | | | | | | 6 | 3 | | 5 | 30 | 20 | 4 | |
| 113 | Goldcrest | <i>Regulus regulus</i> | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| 114 | Eurasian Wren | <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | |
| 115 | Eurasian Nuthatch | <i>Sitta europaea</i> | | 2 | 3 | 2 | | 6 | 6 | 1 | | 2 | | | | | |
| 116 | Eurasian Treecreeper | <i>Certhia familiaris</i> | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| 117 | White-cheeked Starling | <i>Spodiopsar cineraceus</i> | 20 | | | | | | | 30 | 30 | 5 | 15 | 4 | 4 | 20 | |
| 118 | Common Starling | <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> | | | | | | | | | | | 12 | 5 | 3 | | |
| 119 | Bohemian Waxwing | <i>Bobyrcilla garrulus</i> | | | | | | | | | 4 | | | | | | |
| 120 | Japanese Waxwing | <i>Bombyrcilla japonica</i> | | | | | | | | | 1 | 6 | | | | | |
| 121 | Pale Thrush | <i>Turdus pallidus</i> | 4 | | | | | | | 5 | | | | 1 | 5 | 2 | |
| 122 | Brown-headed Thrush | <i>Turdus chrysolaus</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | |
| 123 | Dusky Thrush | <i>Turdus eunomus</i> | 20 | | | 2 | | | | 6 | 2 | 1 | 25 | 30 | 15 | | |
| 124 | Red-flanked Bluetail | <i>Tarsiger cyanurus</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | 2 | |
| 125 | Daurian Redstart | <i>Phoenicurus aureus</i> | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 3 | 6 | 10 | | |

| | Common name | Scientific name | February | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|----|----|-----|-----|----|
| | | | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 126 | Blue Rock Thrush | <i>Monticola solitarius philippensis</i> | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| 127 | Brown Dipper | <i>Cinclus pallasii</i> | | | | 2 | 2 | 7 | 2 | | | | | | | |
| 128 | Russet Sparrow | <i>Passer cinnamomeus rutilans</i> | | | | | | | | | | | 75 | 40 | | |
| 129 | Eurasian Tree Sparrow | <i>Passer montanus</i> | 40 | 30 | 20 | 20 | | 12 | 10 | 30 | 20 | 10 | 30 | 30 | 10 | |
| 130 | Grey Wagtail | <i>Motacilla cinerea</i> | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 1 | 10 | 2 |
| 131 | White Wagtail | <i>Motacilla alba lugens</i> | | | | | | | | | | | 6 | 20 | 20 | 4 |
| 132 | White Wagtail | <i>Motacilla alba leucopsis</i> | 6 | | | 2 | | | | 200 | 200 | 5 | | | | |
| 133 | Japanese Wagtail - N | <i>Motacilla grandis</i> | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | 1 | | | 4 | |
| 134 | Olive-backed Pipit | <i>Anthus hodgsoni</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 4 |
| 135 | Red-throated Pipit | <i>Anthus cervinus</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | |
| 136 | Buff-bellied Pipit | <i>Anthus rubescens</i> | | | | | | | | | | | 30 | 25 | 10 | |
| 137 | Brambling | <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i> | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 138 | Hawfinch | <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i> | | | 1 | | | | | 3 | 2 | 2 | | | 1 | |
| 139 | Japanese Grosbeak | <i>Eophona personata</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | |
| 140 | Eurasian Bullfinch | <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula griseiventris</i> | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 141 | Asian Rosy Finch | <i>Leucosticte arctoa</i> | | | | | 50 | | | | | | | | | |
| 142 | Grey-capped Greenfinch | <i>Chloris sinica</i> | | | | | | | | 2 | 40 | 4 | | 200 | 100 | |
| 143 | Mealy Redpoll | <i>Carduelis flammea</i> | | | | | | | 3 | | | | | | | |
| 144 | Eurasian Siskin | <i>Spinus spinus</i> | | | | | | | | | 30 | | | | 2 | |
| 145 | Lapland Longspur | <i>Calcarius lapponicus</i> | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| 146 | Snow Bunting | <i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i> | | | | | | 15 | | | | | | | | |
| 147 | Meadow Bunting | <i>Emberiza cioides</i> | | | | | | | | | | 5 | | | 4 | |
| 148 | Chestnut-eared Bunting | <i>Emberiza fucata</i> | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | |
| 149 | Masked Bunting | <i>Emberiza spodocephala</i> | | | | | | | | | | | 10 | 6 | 3 | |
| 150 | Japanese Reed Bunting | <i>Emberiza yessoensis</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | 4 | 2 | |
| 151 | Common Reed Bunting | <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i> | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | | |

Mammals

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|-------------------------|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|--|-----|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1 | Japanese Macaque - E | <i>Macaca fuscata</i> | | | | | | | | | 100 | | | | | |
| 2 | Japanese Squirrel | <i>Sciurus lis</i> | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Red Fox | <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Sable | <i>Martes zibellina</i> | | | | 1 | 3 | | | | | | | | | |

| | Common name | Scientific name | February | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|---------------------------|----------|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 5 | Harbour Seal | <i>Phoca vitulina</i> | | | | 5 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | Steller Sea Lion | <i>Eumetopias jubatus</i> | | | | 5 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Sika Deer | <i>Cervus nippon</i> | | | | 40 | | | | | | | | | | |



Red-crowned Cranes flying into Tsurui Crane Reserve



Feeding time, cranes at Arasaki



Group Photo