

Wild Japan in Winter

Naturetrek Tour Report

27th January – 11th February 2026



Blakiston's Fish Owl



Siberian Crane



Japanese Macaque



Steller's Sea Eagle

Tour report by Duncan McNiven
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Tour participants: Duncan McNiven (tour leader) with 12 Naturetrek clients.

Day 1

Tuesday 27th January

Travel to Tokyo

The entire day and (shortened) night were spent flying from London to Tokyo.

Day 2

Wednesday 28th January

Tokyo – Kasai Rinkai Koen

After checking in at our comfortable hotel, nine guests followed Duncan through the intricacies of the Tokyo metro system, to emerge on a bright but cold day with a slight breeze, at the waterfront park of Kasai Rinkai Koen. We walked to some picnic tables for our picnic lunch, noting our first birds of the trip. Brown-eared Bulbuls and White-cheeked Starlings were conspicuous and noisy, and small groups of Tree Sparrows reminded us that this much-diminished species back in Britain is still plentiful here.

A small group of trees proved productive: they concealed a solitary Ryukyu Minivet foraging among the vegetation, while three smart Masked Buntings scratched around on the ground and were briefly joined by an odd-looking Pale Thrush, with substantial white feathering in its face. Other common birds noted here were Cinereous (Japanese) Tits, and both Large-billed and Carrion Crows. A small pond harboured some attractive Eastern Spot-billed Ducks and some more familiar Mallards, which were soon joined by a Grey Heron. Our picnic lunch break was briefly interrupted by a very smart Japanese Wagtail which joined the more numerous White Wagtails stalking the lawns. Before long we were ready to continue our exploration.

We made our way down to the bay, adding Warbling White-eyes and Oriental Turtle Doves to our growing list. The tide was out, exposing some mud for feeding waders: they included Dunlins, Eurasian Oystercatchers, Eurasian Curlews, Kentish Plovers and a single Red-necked Stint. Out on the water, there were large flotillas of Greater Scaups and Great Crested Grebes, while closer in we noted Black-necked Grebes, Eurasian Teals and Wigeons, and a single Little Grebe. Further scanning revealed some Ospreys perched on posts out in the bay, with Vega and Black-headed Gulls patrolling the air.

Out on another island, large numbers of Great Cormorants were roosting, along with one Common Shelduck, an uncommon bird here. Small bird interest was provided by a female Blue Rock Thrush bouncing around on stones by the tide line, and a smart Bull-headed Shrike in command of a patch of coastal scrub.

A walk to the freshwater wetland at the east end of the park produced more Warbling White-eyes, Northern Shoveler, Tufted Duck, Eastern Buzzard, a flock of Azure-winged Magpies and a vocal Japanese Bush Warbler lurking in the reedbed. Satisfied with our introduction to Japan's bird fauna, we retraced our steps to the metro, and headed back to Tokyo, where we joined the rest of the group and enjoyed our first meal together.

Day 3

Thursday 29th January

Tokyo – Kushiro (Hokkaido) – Tsurumidai – Ito Crane Sanctuary – Lake Kussharo

An early start today saw us catch the metro back to Haneda airport, where we caught the morning flight to Kushiro, on the magical, snowy island of Hokkaido. We met our local guide, Sonoko, and our driver, Mr Endo, and drove a short distance to where around 160 Red-crowned Cranes were gathered in a snow-covered field. This was Tsurumidai, where local farmers have fed the wintering birds for many years, and have saved this threatened population from extirpation. We walked over to the side of the meadow, where the cranes seemed unconcerned by the attention they were receiving. They went about their business of social interaction, which included bouts of balletic display, accompanied by loud trumpeting. Is there a more beautiful sight in nature than these big, elegant, noisy white-and-black cranes patrolling their snowy landscape? It's hard to think of one.

After an hour of watching these fabulous creatures, we moved on to the lovely Heart 'n' Tree restaurant for lunch, where we were greeted by our delightful hostess for the seventh year in succession! As ever, it was a beautifully prepared meal in delightful settings. Afterwards we spent some time enjoying the birds visiting the feeders. They included the cinnamon-headed *brandtii* form of Eurasian Jay, frosty *asiatica* Eurasian Nuthatches, Marsh Tits, Great Spotted Woodpeckers and Cinereous (Japanese) Tits on the feeders. Reluctant as we were to drag ourselves away from this idyllic setting, we waved goodbye to our hosts just as a Steller's Sea Eagle soared over a distant forest.

Next, we went to the nearby Ito Crane Sanctuary to watch a group of Red-crowned Cranes receiving their afternoon feed. There was much bugling and dancing as the corn was distributed to the excitable birds. There was remarkably little other bird activity at the site, apart from two Redpolls that briefly dropped in to feed on a patch of snow-free ground, so after enjoying the cranes, we moved on.

We drove up to Lake Kussharo, pausing to admire a beautiful 'Ezo' Red Fox by the side of the road. Lake Kussharo proved to be largely frozen, except for some small patches of water near the shore, kept clear by some hot springs. Some Whooper Swans spend the winter here, and have become remarkably confiding. It was a memorable experience to be able to get so close to these beautiful birds, noisily bugling, with the stunning backdrop of the frozen lake and snow-covered mountains. As dusk fell, many Sika Deer emerged from the forest to browse near the road, and we made our way to our comfortable lakeside hotel for dinner, followed by the evening bird list.

Day 4

Friday 30th January

Otowa Bridge – Kushiro Marsh – Lake Mashu

We made an early start this morning, and made our way to the famous photographic site at Otowa Bridge: we arrived as dawn broke. However, although the conditions were clear and cold, the hoped-for river mist and hoar frost that sometimes produce wonderfully atmospheric images did not materialise. Nevertheless, downriver we could see groups of Red-crowned Cranes that had not yet left their night-time roost, sharing the shallow river shoals with groups of Goosanders and Goldeneyes, while a Brown Dipper sped downstream. Small bird activity was at a premium, but a flock of attractive Meadow Buntings feeding on reed seeds on the riverbank near the bridge provided an engaging diversion.

Small groups of cranes began to disperse from the river heading for their feeding stations, so we jumped in our bus and followed them back to Ito Crane Sanctuary, where we were able to watch the excitable birds at close quarters, feeding on grain scattered for them. Some of them engaged in prolonged bouts of loud trumpeting, pirouetting and dancing.

We still had some of the morning left to explore the area, so we opted to visit the Onnenai Visitor Centre, part of the vast Kushiro Marsh complex, in which the last few remaining cranes secreted themselves when their population was at a low ebb and facing extinction. We had a very pleasant walk on the reserve boardwalk through some fringing woodland, and emerged onto part of the open (but now frozen) marshes. Among a handful of woodland birds, including Marsh Tits, Eurasian Jays and Eurasian Nuthatches, the star of the show was undoubtedly a confiding Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker, which was initially located via its curious buzzing call.

A tasty *bento* lunch in a local restaurant followed and, after inspecting a nearby wildlife photography gallery, we headed up to Lake Mashu, a wonderfully scenic caldera lake, surrounded by mountains. Today it was partly obscured by some moderately thick falling snow. Having retreated from the near-blizzard conditions into the nearby retail outlet, some shopping was undertaken. We also had an opportunity to converse with an ingenious talking Long-tailed Tit!

On the journey back to our hotel, we stopped at another uniquely scenic site. Mount Io is a truly weird and wonderful lunar-style landscape, where volcanic vents spew forth steam, boiling water and sulphurous fumes amid a snowy landscape. We spent a little time exploring this extraordinary place, before we headed back to our hotel for another sumptuous banquet, with time to relax in the hot springs for those who wished to indulge.

Day 5

Saturday 31st January

Shibetsu – Rausu – owl evening

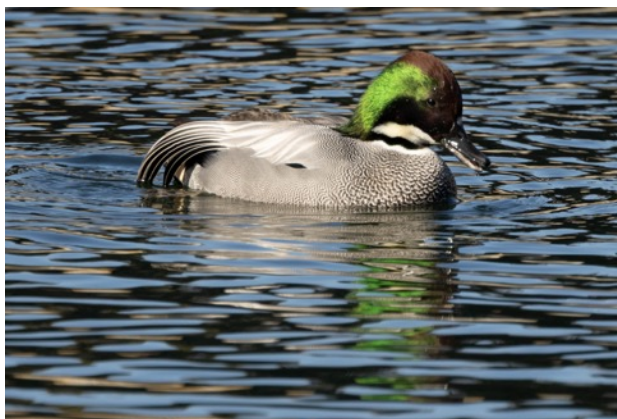
A relatively leisurely start saw us heading east towards the coast, where our first port of call, quite literally, was Shibetsu Harbour. Despite it being a working harbour, we were able to walk around unhindered, scanning for birds sheltering from the open seas. We found lots, at quite close quarters. We saw our first Harlequin Ducks of the trip, including some gaudy males, as well as Common Goldeneyes, Red-breasted Mergansers, Goosanders, Eurasian Wigeons, Tufted Ducks, and Pelagic Cormorants. The breakwaters were lined with large gulls, mostly Slaty-backed with a few Vegas, and some impressive adult Glaucous Gulls with gleaming white wing tips.

Having sampled our first seabirds of the Sea of Okhotsk, we moved north-east along the Shiretoko Peninsula, and after an hour arrived at the little port of Rausu, encountering a pod of loafing Steller's Sea Lions just offshore en route. At Rausu, we boarded a boat for a short cruise, which began with a race south to examine more closely the sea lions we had seen from shore. After that, we returned to the environs of the harbour, where the boat crew began to launch chunks of frozen fish into the sea. An impressive number of both White-tailed and Steller's Sea Eagles were soon attracted: they swooped down close to the boat, affording excellent photo opportunities.

After that excitement, we returned to the harbour and paused briefly to look at a solitary Glaucous-winged Gull, hanging around his favourite boat along with the numerous Slaty-backs. We still had a little time to spare before checking in at our hotel, so while some of the group opted to warm up in the local coffee shop, the rest followed

the leader on a short walk up the river. Before long, we were watching the underwater antics of a couple of Brown Dippers.

After checking in at our hotel and having a short rest, we set out again, but only drove a few miles to an appointment with an extraordinary bird, which for many promised to be the highlight of the trip. Shortly after dark, we watched in awe as a giant Blakiston's Fish Owl swooped down to a floodlit river pool and extracted some Cherry Salmon smelts from the water in its fearsome claws, transferring the wriggling fish to its mouth and swallowing them whole. Our photographers were in paradise! There are no guarantees with this species, and sometimes we must endure anxious evenings of no-shows, but this encounter kept up our record of never failing to see this remarkable owl. To cap it all, this evening we were treated to a second visit a short while later, and the presence of leg rings on one of the birds proved we had seen two different individuals. Elated with the outcome of our early evening jaunt, we returned to our hotel for a sumptuous traditional Japanese banquet, and celebratory drinks.



Falcated Duck



Warbling White-eye



Japanese Serow



Red-crowned Cranes

Day 6

Sunday 1st February

Rausu – Shiretoko Peninsula – Rausu

Despite birding until after dark the previous day, we had a sunrise cruise booked for this morning! The captain steered the boat to an area just north of the harbour, and the crew then began to throw out frozen fish. It wasn't long before the sky around the boat filled with both White-tailed and Steller's Sea Eagles, swooping down, chasing and interacting with each other, and allowing the photographers to fill their memory cards with wonderful images.

As the light improved, we noticed that the forested hills along the shoreline were dotted with even more eagles. On our way back into the harbour, the captain paused by the outer harbour wall, which was at the exact same height as the upper deck of our boat. The crew lobbed some fish on to the wall, and very soon we were treated to the astonishing spectacle of at least eighty eagles (of both species) standing almost within touching distance of us as they devoured their prey.

After enjoying that spectacle, we made our way back to our hotel for a welcome breakfast, before heading out again to see what else we could find. We drove south along the coast, stopping briefly to admire the herd of Steller's Sea Lions loafing just offshore south of Rausu, and then turned out along the Notsuke peninsula, a huge twenty-seven-kilometre-long spit sticking out into the Sea of Okhotsk. From the peninsula, we had a great view of the magnificent snow-covered mountains of the Shiretoko Peninsula to the north-west, where we had just been. Over to the north-east, we could clearly see the volcanoes of Kunashir Island, part of the Kuril Islands chain, which are politically part of Russia, a claim disputed by Japan.

We stopped at a convenient point to scan for seabirds on the open sea to the north and, apart from the ubiquitous Harlequin Ducks and Pelagic Cormorants, picked out a range of interesting species, including Black Scoters, Goosanders, Red-breasted Mergansers, Spectacled Guillemots, Red-necked Grebes and Red-throated Divers. There was also some interest on the frozen marshes on the south side of the peninsula, where a colourful army of tents had sprung up. Ice fishers had gathered to fish for Japanese Smelts, locally known as *chika*, through holes drilled in the ice.

We explored further along the peninsula, adding a group of twelve (mainly male) Long-tailed Ducks to our list, and near the lighthouse a small flock of three Stejneger's Scoters, flashing their white wing-patched in flight. Along the peninsula road, we noted occasional Steller's and White-tailed Eagles perched on roadside posts, while mammal interest was provided by some confiding Sika Deer stags, and more beautiful 'Ezo' Red Foxes.

We returned up the coast road to Rausu for a brief rest, before venturing out again for another owling session. It was a little more relaxed this time, after last night's successes. Tonight, the main actor took a little more time to show, but when it did the camera shutters were rattling again: the huge Blakiston's Fish Owl plunged into the floodlit pool and emerged with its spoils. Very content with our two nights of success, we returned to the hotel for another slap-up banquet.

Day 7

Monday 2nd February

Notsuke Peninsula – Yoroushi

The day dawned bright and sunny as we left our hotel in Rausu, after a leisurely breakfast, and drove down the now-familiar coast road to Shibetsu. We checked the harbour again, in case anything new had turned up, but it hadn't, so we decided to have a look again at the Notsuke Peninsula. That proved to be a good move, as we encountered a Short-eared Owl on a post in the marsh, while on the other side of the road we encountered some Common Gulls of the *kamchatkaensis* subspecies, as well as a showy drake Stejneger's Scoter, some Long-tailed Ducks, Spectacled Guillemots and Red-throated Divers.

After a stop back in Shibetsu for lunch at a very pleasant restaurant, we headed inland to our next hotel, the luxurious Ryokan at Yoroushi, set in some forested hills and overlooking a beautiful river. After checking in, we had time to relax in the comfortable lounge, looking out of the huge windows over the river. Some well-stocked feeders were visited by a constant stream of Marsh Tits, some remarkably tufty-headed Coal Tits, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Eurasian Jays, Eurasian Nuthatches and Cinereous (Japanese) Tits. However, the bonus bird was definitely a Solitary Snipe, much sought-after by birders, which was bobbing along mid-stream as it probed for invertebrates under stones.

This superb hotel really was a great place to chill out, and some clients chose to experience one of the hotel's fabulous *onsens* (hot pools) or relax in their opulent rooms. Later in the evening, we headed into our private dining suite, where a lavish traditional banquet had been laid out for us. The river at Yoroushi also hosts a pair of Blakiston's Fish Owls, which can be seen fishing in a pool right outside the hotel windows. While we waited patiently for the owls to appear, some of us glimpsed a Sable, a rare species of mustelid, working its way up the opposite bank of the river. This year, this pair of owls was playing hard to get, and in fact didn't appear until all but two of our party were already tucked up in bed. There were point blank views for those two lucky clients, but thankfully everyone else was very satisfied with our experiences with these spectacular owls on previous evenings.

Day 8

Tuesday 3rd February

Yoroushi – Kushiro – Tokyo

Today was largely a transfer day, so after a leisurely and sumptuous breakfast, some opted to stay and watch the river and the feeders from the comfort of the hotel, seeing a similar variety of birds to yesterday, plus a cute Eurasian Red Squirrel. Meanwhile, the others took the opportunity to stretch their legs with a gentle walk up the road, through the snowy forest. By mid-morning, we reluctantly had to leave our wonderful accommodation, and after waving goodbye to our hosts, we drove back to Kushiro to catch our flight back to Tokyo. On the way through the snowy landscape, we kept our eyes open for wildlife, and were rewarded with sightings of a few cranes, eagles, deer and foxes ('old hat' now of course). We made a brief stop at Lake Shirarutoro for some interesting-looking wildfowl, which turned out to include eight Falcated Ducks.

At Kushiro airport, after posing for a group photo in front of the famous owl sculptures, we said goodbye to our lovely guide Sonoko, and were soon winging our way to Tokyo, where we settled into a city centre hotel near Tokyo Station, ready for our next adventure the following day.

Day 9

Wednesday 4th February

Tokyo – Nagano

Today we were heading up into the mountains of central Honshu on the *Shinkansen* (bullet train), but since our train was not due to depart until mid-afternoon, we had time to explore the grounds of the Imperial Palace, close to the station, in the morning. We began by exploring the moats outside the walls, where we quickly had much closer views of a group of Falcated Ducks than we had had yesterday: we marvelled at how the iridescence on the drakes' heads seemed to change from green to bronze as the birds changed position in the sunshine. There were

plenty of other birds in the moats to look at, including Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Tufted Duck and Eurasian Wigeon, Black-crowned Night Heron, Great and Little Egrets, and a couple of dazzling Common Kingfishers.

Satisfied with our observations of these waterbirds, we entered the East Gardens, where in the trees and shrubbery of the formal Japanese gardens, we found our first smart Varied Tits of the trip, as well as Pale and Dusky Thrushes, Masked Buntings, Oriental Greenfinch, a female Daurian Redstart, and a stonking male Red-flanked Bluetail. Delightfully, the plum trees in the gardens were already in blossom, and this was attracting several diminutive Warbling White-eyes to feast on the nectar, giving the photographers excellent photo opportunities.

In the afternoon we caught the *Shinkansen* from Tokyo station, which whisked us smoothly up into the mountains. Before long, we were settled in our comfortable hotel in Nagano, our base for the next two nights.

Day 10

Thursday 5th February

Nagano – Snow Monkey Park – Tatsumi Park – Zenkoji Temple

Today was going to be a special day for many of our group, as we planned to visit Jigokudani (literally ‘Hell’s Valley’) to see the fabled ‘snow monkeys’, or Japanese Macaques to give them their proper name. Hell’s Valley gets its name from the vents of steam that emanate from fissures in the rocks along the valley floor, and is known for its resident troupe of around 170 macaques, which habitually use the pools of hot volcanic water for bathing and socialising. We met our charming local guide, Haruna, in our hotel, and as we drove up into the mountains, she gave us an insight into the geography and history of Nagano and the surrounding area.

We donned our ice grips for the gentle but icy walk up through the snow-encrusted trees to the hot springs. The trees near the trailhead often harbour some interesting birds, and this occasion was no different: we had excellent views of a pair of Eurasian Bullfinches, of the beautiful grey-bellied *griseiventris* subspecies, and a small flock of Eurasian Siskins. We soon emerged into the natural amphitheatre, where the macaques were indeed in residence, and everyone filled their boots with point blank images of the engaging primates. Meanwhile, Duncan was busy scouring the snow-covered slopes for other interesting wildlife, resulting in some great scope views of that rather strange goat-antelope, the Japanese Serow, as well as three Japanese Accentors feeding on the gravelly river channel lower down. The way back down through the forest, although beautiful, was largely quiet, apart from a small flock of birds comprising included Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker, Cinereous (Japanese) and Coal Tits, and some streaky-headed Eurasian Jays of the *japonicus* group, which were distinctly different from the birds we had seen in Hokkaido.

After an enjoyable lunch at Enza café, which offered a varied Japanese menu as well as some excellent fish and chips, we headed off back down to Nagano and called in at the tiny Tatsumi ‘pocket park’. Small it may be, but the park is always full of birds, and as usual afforded great close-up views of a variety of birds, including seven species of duck. They featured an entertaining flock of Northern Shovelers spinning around in a tight group, stirring up the sediments so that they could filter the food particles out through their spatulate bills. Other interesting birds in the park included three Black-crowned Night Herons, a Great Egret, some Azure-winged Magpies, a Hawfinch and an elusive Japanese Bush Warbler.

The day was now drawing to a close, so we finished off our time in Nagano with a visit to the site of the Zenkoji Temple, founded in the seventh century. While some of us went off to examine the venerated temple with Haruna, the rest of the group took a leisurely stroll around the temple gardens in the twilight.

Day 11

Friday 6th February

Nagano – Karuizawa – Tokyo

We left Nagano after breakfast, and headed east through the mountains to the upmarket ski resort and summer retreat of Karuizawa, whose famous previous residents include John and Yoko Lennon. Our first stop was a park on the outskirts of Karuizawa where, after scouring the tall trees, we located a small flock of Japanese Waxwings. The waxwings were, as ever, feasting on mistletoe berries high up in the trees. However, some local bird photographers kindly indicated that the birds were dropping down to drink from a particular stretch of a nearby river, so by carefully positioning ourselves we eventually got much better views of these delightful birds at eye level. Other birds coming down to drink included a Hawfinch, some Meadow Buntings and two Rustic Buntings. A flock of about twenty Eurasian Siskins fed under the trees, while an accommodating pair of endemic Japanese Green Woodpeckers provided some close views as they posed on the tree trunks above.

The rest of the morning and the early afternoon were spent exploring nearby woodland on the outskirts of Karuizawa, including a pleasant walk along the Kose Rindo trail by the river. The walk produced a trio of woodpeckers (Japanese Green, Japanese Pygmy and Great Spotted), as well as Coal, Cinereous, Willow, Varied and Long-tailed Tits, a Eurasian Nuthatch, a couple of Dusky Thrushes, a flock of Oriental Greenfinches, a couple of Meadow Buntings, a Brambling and another Hawfinch. The final bird was a nice pink male Siberian Long-tailed Rosefinch, although it did its best to conceal itself in some dense bamboo undergrowth.

Finally, it was time to head back to Tokyo on the bus, royally entertained on the way by our wonderful guide Haruna, who played us some music on her traditional *shinobue* instrument, as well as leading a rousing chorus of “Knees Up Mother Brown”! After checking in to our hotel, located conveniently close to Haneda airport, we went out for a last group meal together in a nearby restaurant, before saying farewell to the clients who were completing the tour at this point.

Extension Day 1

Saturday 7th February

Tokyo – Kumamoto – Yatsushiro – Izumi

For those of us heading down to the southern island of Kyusho for the extension tour, it was another early start to catch the morning flight to Kumamoto. The snow-capped peak of Mount Fuji was showing magnificently in the distance as we boarded our plane for the flight, and a couple of hours later, we were meeting our guide local guide and bus driver, who would take care of us for the next few days. After a couple of hours drive south of Kumamoto, we arrived at the Kuma River mouth and associated mudflats of Yatsushiro. A familiar collection of wildfowl was feeding along the river, while the trees nearby held good numbers of Black-crowned Night Herons, Oriental Turtle Doves and Black-eared Kites. An island just offshore had a roost of Grey Herons, but of more interest to us were four Black-faced Spoonbills feeding nearby. It was a treat to connect with this globally

threatened species, which has a world population of only four thousand individuals, which is at least an improvement on the estimate of only 288 birds thought to exist in 1988.

Out on the mudflats of the estuary, careful scanning revealed the presence of some Grey and Kentish Plovers, and a few Common Sandpipers along the sea wall. The other star bird patrolling the estuarine mud was the tern-like Saunders's Gull, several of which were occasionally dropping down to pick up crustaceans. This is also a globally threatened species, which currently number about fourteen thousand individuals, but unlike the spoonbill, its population is unfortunately still declining: mudflat 'reclamation' throughout its east Asian range is an ongoing threat. Yatsushiro is an important wintering site for this species, and at least a hundred of these diminutive, rare gulls were feeding or roosting out on the tideline.

Inland from the sea wall, the fields, bushes and power lines were rather devoid of birds, due to an unusually biting wind, but we managed to find some Tree Sparrows, Oriental Greenfinches and Siberian Pipits, before we climbed back aboard our bus to complete our journey to Izumi, our base for the next three nights.

Extension Day 2

Sunday 8th February

Izumi – Arasaki

Izumi sits alongside the Komenotsu River which, as it enters the sea, is surrounded by a series of low-lying marshy polders. These serve as rice paddies in the summer, but in winter are a major wintering ground for cranes and other wetland birds. The Arasaki Crane Sanctuary was our destination this morning. We wanted to be in place at dawn to watch one of the world's great wildlife spectacles from the roof of the Crane Centre, so we left our hotel before dawn, and after only a twenty-minute journey in the coach, we were climbing up to our vantage point.

As dawn broke, the air reverberated with the trumpeting of thousands of cranes as they streamed past us at eye level, arriving from their flooded roosting sites out on the polders, and settled in the fields below us, where crane centre staff were putting food out for them. At this time of year, their normal feed of grain is supplemented by large blocks of frozen fish, to help the birds prepare for their upcoming northward migration to their breeding grounds in northern China and southern Russia. Around thirteen thousand cranes winter here at Arasaki, with by far the most numerous being Hooded Cranes, with 11,548 birds counted during the latest survey, and the taller, elegant White-naped Crane, with 1,754 birds counted. It was difficult to know whether to take photos or video, or just stand and drink in the whole amazing spectacle.

We also couldn't ignore that fact that the free handout was attracting masses of other birds in the form of wildfowl and corvids; in particular the power lines adjacent to the centre were dripping with Rooks of the eastern subspecies *pastinator* like a scene from Hitchcock's "The Birds". Carefully scrutiny of these massed ranks revealed a dozen Daurian Jackdaws, although only one of the strikingly pied adults could be found. Out on the polder, there was a good selection of wildfowl including Common Shelduck, Mallard, Eurasian Wigeon, Northern Pintail and a lone Swan Goose, all helping themselves to the food put out for the cranes. One of the features of these large concentrations of migratory cranes is they always carry with them a small number of passenger species, which 'hitch a ride' with the masses, and this winter was no exception. Carefully scrutiny of the feeding birds revealed the presence of a very attractive Demoiselle Crane, as well as at least one Common Crane. Congregations of thousands

of birds are always going to attract the attention of predators, and inevitably the ever-present scavenging Black-eared Kites were joined by hunting Hen Harrier, Peregrine Falcon, Eurasian Sparrowhawk and Eastern Buzzard.

One thing that was notably different this year was the weather! Cold, windy and occasionally snowy conditions seem to have followed us down from Hokkaido to this normally mild southern island. So, having absorbed the scene in front of us we beat a retreat from the chilly roof top, and set out to explore the polders from the comfort of our bus. One species that we were particularly keen to track down, but which had eluded us so far, was a solitary Siberian Crane that was wintering here, a Critically Endangered species with a global population of only around seven thousand. Just as we were climbing aboard the bus, a large white bird was seen to drop into an area of polders just to the east of the crane centre, so we headed over there, and sure enough we found our target feeding in a paddy with a group of Hooded Cranes. Unfortunately for this bird, it seemed to have lost the lower portion of one of its legs, perhaps in a collision with a power line somewhere on its long migration from northern Siberia, but it seemed to be feeding successfully, so fingers crossed it will have made the return journey safely. A little way further on, we spotted a couple of handsome Chestnut-eared Buntings, but they dropped into some rough ground, never to be seen again. However, compensation was provided by a nice flock of seventy Russet Sparrows on some wires. We continued our search across the polders, looking for anything new, and careful scanning of a further flock of cranes produced two Sandhill Cranes close to the road, taking our crane total for the entire trip to an incredible seven species! Only in Japan in winter can you see such an impressive selection of species from this majestic family of birds.

Having scoured the polders, we tried a different habitat, having made our way over to the Komenotsu river mouth, where Vega and Slaty-backed Gulls were bathing in the freshwater, and a group of four Long-billed Plovers was settled on the riverbank nearby. Retracing our steps, we headed back west to explore the reedbeds of the Euchi river. The continuing stiff winds and blustery snow showers made finding the key species difficult, so after clocking the inevitable hunting Ospreys, a flock of Eurasian Spoonbills, a huge flock of Great Cormorants sheltering from the wind in the bay, and a having a brief sighting of an elusive Siberian Weasel in a ditch, we decided to try again the next day, and headed back to Izumi.

Extension Day 3

Monday 9th February

Izumi – Arasaki – Kogawa

We had another early start today, as we wanted to be down on the East Polder as dawn was breaking to watch the cranes fly overhead as they came out of their roost in the flooded polder and headed to the Arasaki Crane Centre for the morning's feeding. Luckily for us, the weather had ameliorated somewhat, so while still cold, it was at least sunny and calm. It was a wonderful spectacle watching huge flocks of noisy cranes flying overhead in the twilight as the sun rose in the east, bathing the sky with a golden glow, while all around us singing Eurasian Skylarks indicated that spring was not too far off. Once the cranes began to settle in their feeding areas, we headed back to the Arasaki Crane Centre to have another look at the throngs of birds there, before continuing to the reedbeds again as the light improved.

This time it was much calmer, and we were able to listen for the birds calling in the reeds, which eventually enabled us to track down a feeding flock of smart Chinese Penduline Tits. Common Reed Buntings and Meadow Buntings were flitting around the reed stems, a Japanese Bush Warbler shouted from a hidden perch, Daurian Redstarts,

and Grey-capped Greenfinches and Dusky Thrushes haunted the fringing bushes. Closer examination of the roosting flock of eleven spoonbills determined that three of them were Black-faced Spoonbills, one of which was sporting some colourful bling on its legs. A little bit of online detective work revealed that it had been ringed in a breeding colony on a small island off the South Korean coast.

Satisfied with our time on the polders, we decided to head up into the hills, to explore some different habitats along the upper reaches of the Komenotsu River. We checked the rocky river from a variety of road bridges, which turned up a trio of wagtails in the shape of Grey, White and the smart Japanese. Brown Dippers, Common Kingfishers and a Blue Rock Thrush were feeding along the river, but the hoped-for Crested Kingfisher proved to be elusive. We drove up to the Kogawa reservoir, which we normally circumnavigate in the bus, but our driver determined that the overhanging branches were too low for his liking this year, so we took a stroll along the south side of the reservoir. Pale Thrushes, Japanese Pygmy Woodpeckers, and Varied and Cinereous (Japanese) Tits were moving through the trees, and we had a couple of brief sightings of overflying White-bellied Green Pigeons. A roadside culvert concealed an enormous Japanese Toad, and a ray of winter sunshine persuaded a Japanese Oakblue butterfly to stretch its wings. Our main quarry here was the wildfowl that spend the winter on this heavily-forested reservoir. Careful searching through the commoner ducks revealed the presence of a handful of dapper Mandarin Ducks hugging the shoreline under overhanging tree branches, while out in the middle of the water there was a large nervous flock of Baikal Teals, which we could see through the thick shroud of fringing tree foliage.

We decided that we had just enough time to revisit one of yesterday's sites down by the coast, so we headed back to the Komenotsu river mouth again, and this time we managed to connect with some handsome Black-tailed Gulls which had arrived from the open sea to bath in the freshwater. Satisfied with our haul, we headed back to Izumi for our last night on Kyushu.

Extension Day 4

Tuesday 10th February

Izumi – Lake Miike – Kagoshima – Tokyo

Our last day on Kyushu was spent taking a winding circuitous route, leading ultimately to Kagoshima Airport for our internal flight back to Tokyo. The first part of our journey took us along the upper reaches of the Komenotsu River, so we thought we would check out some sections of the river from the river bridges. That proved to be a good decision, as we quickly realised that Japanese Grosbeaks had arrived in the valley, and we saw several flocks of these striking birds, including one comprising at least twenty birds. In addition, we saw Common Kingfisher again, as well as Japanese Wagtail, Brown Dipper, and Meadow and Masked Buntings.

Our final birding destination of the day, and indeed of the whole tour, was Lake Miike, a crater lake formed by a volcanic eruption over four and half thousand years ago. The lake is surrounded by mixed deciduous and coniferous forests, and after a brief stop to take some scenic shots of the lake from the rim of the caldera, we walked down through the forest to the lake shore.

The forest held a typical assembly of woodland birds, including Daurian Redstart, Pale Thrush, Eurasian Wren, Varied Tit and Japanese Green Woodpecker. At the campsite bordering the lake, confiding Olive-backed Pipits were strolling around pumping their tails, while out on the lake, flocks of ducks included Common Pochard, Eurasian Teal, Mallard and Eastern Spot-billed Duck.

Finally, it was time to climb on board our bus for the short journey to Kagoshima airport, where we said our goodbyes to our local guide and driver, and caught our evening flight back to Tokyo. Before too long we were back at our hotel in Tokyo, where we enjoyed our last dinner together as a group, before we said our goodbyes to those who were staying on to explore wonderful Japan independently.

Extension Day 5

Wednesday 11th February

Tokyo – London

For the remainder of us, it was another early morning start to catch the all-day British Airways flight to Heathrow, where we arrived early afternoon, after completing our circumnavigation of the globe via the Canadian Arctic. With plenty of time on the flight to reflect on our adventure in Japan, we could daydream about elegant cranes dancing in the snow, hordes of eagles swooping down over the sea, a troupe of cute monkeys bathing in a hot spring, or perhaps a giant owl catching fish in an icy mountain river. That's Wild Japan in Winter!



Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker

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Species lists

Main tour

Birds (H=heard only)

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced		January - February 2026									
Common name	Scientific name	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Mute Swan - I	<i>Cygnus olor</i>								✓		
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	✓									
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	✓							✓	✓	
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>								✓	✓	
Falcated Duck	<i>Mareca falcata</i>							✓	✓		
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Eastern Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas zonorhyncha</i>	✓		✓						✓	
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>									✓	
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	✓								✓	
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	✓							✓	✓	
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	✓			✓				✓	✓	
Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	✓					✓				
Harlequin Duck	<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>				✓	✓	✓				
Stejneger's Scoter	<i>Melanitta stejnegeri</i>					✓	✓				
Black Scoter	<i>Melanitta americana</i>					✓	✓				
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>					✓	✓				
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓				
Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>				✓	✓	✓				
Feral Rock Dove - I	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>	✓							✓	✓	
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>										✓
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	✓							✓	✓	
Red-crowned Crane	<i>Grus japonensis</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓			
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	✓							✓		
Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>			✓		✓					
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	✓				✓					
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	✓									
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	✓									
Kentish Plover	<i>Anarhynchus alexandrinus</i>	✓									
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	✓									
Solitary Snipe	<i>Gallinago solitaria</i>						✓				
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	✓									
Red-necked Stint	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	✓									
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	✓									
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	✓			✓		✓		✓		
Black-tailed Gull	<i>Larus crassirostris</i>										
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>						✓				
Vega Gull	<i>Larus vegae</i>	✓									
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>				✓	✓	✓				
Glaucous-winged Gull	<i>Larus glaucescens</i>				✓	✓					
Slaty-backed Gull	<i>Larus schistisagus</i>				✓	✓	✓				

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced		January - February 2026									
Common name	Scientific name	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Spectacled Guillemot	<i>Cephus carbo</i>					✓	✓				
Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>					✓	✓				
Pelagic Cormorant	<i>Urile pelagicus</i>				✓	✓	✓				
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓				✓			✓	✓	
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>								✓	✓	
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓							✓		
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>								✓	✓	
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓					✓		✓		
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	✓									
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>							✓			
Black-eared Kite	<i>Milvus migrans lineatus</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Steller's Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus pelagicus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Eastern Buzzard	<i>Buteo japonicus</i>	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>						✓				
Blakiston's Fish Owl	<i>Ketupa blakistoni</i>				✓	✓	✓				
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>								✓		
Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Yungipicus kizuki</i>			✓						✓	✓
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		✓				✓	✓			✓
Japanese Green Woodpecker - E	<i>Picus awokera</i>										✓
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		✓							✓	
Ryukyu Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus tegimae</i>	✓									
Bull-headed Shrike	<i>Lanius bucephalus</i>	✓									
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓
Azure-winged Magpie	<i>Cyanopica cyanus</i>	✓								✓	
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Japanese Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla japonica</i>										✓
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>						✓	✓		✓	✓
Varied Tit	<i>Sittiparus varius</i>								✓	✓	✓
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>										✓
Cinereous (Japanese) Tit	<i>Parus cinereus minor</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Brown-eared Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes amaurotis</i>	✓			✓				✓	✓	✓
Japanese Bush Warbler	<i>Horornis diphone</i>	H								✓	
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>										✓
Warbling White-eye	<i>Zosterops japonicus</i>	✓							✓	✓	
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		✓		✓			✓			
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓
White-cheeked Starling	<i>Spodiopsar cineraceus</i>	✓								✓	✓
Pale Thrush	<i>Turdus pallidus</i>	✓							✓	✓	
Dusky Thrush	<i>Turdus eunomus</i>	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Red-flanked Bluetail	<i>Tarsiger cyanurus</i>								✓		
Daurian Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus aureus</i>								✓		
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	✓									
Brown Dipper	<i>Cinclus pallasii</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓			
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	✓							✓	✓	✓
Japanese Accentor - N	<i>Prunella rubida</i>									✓	

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced		January - February 2026									
Common name	Scientific name	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>										
Black-backed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba lugens</i>	✓	✓						✓	✓	
Japanese Wagtail - N	<i>Motacilla grandis</i>	✓									
Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>									✓	
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>										✓
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>									✓	✓
Eurasian (Grey-bellied) Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula griseiventris</i>									✓	
Siberian Long-tailed Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus sibiricus</i>										✓
Oriental Greenfinch	<i>Chloris sinica</i>								✓	✓	✓
Redpoll	<i>Acanthis flammea</i>		✓								
Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>									✓	✓
Meadow Bunting	<i>Emberiza cioides</i>			✓							✓
Rustic Bunting	<i>Emberiza rustica</i>										✓
Masked Bunting	<i>Emberiza personata</i>	✓							✓		
Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>										

Mammals

E=Endemic		January - February 2026									
Common name	Scientific name	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Japanese Macaque - E	<i>Macaca fuscata</i>									✓	
Eurasian Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>							✓			
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			
Sable	<i>Martes zibellina</i>						✓				
Steller's Sea Lion	<i>Eumetopias jubatus</i>				✓	✓	✓				
Harbour Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>					✓					
Sika Deer	<i>Cervus nippon</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Japanese Serow - E	<i>Capricornis crispus</i>									✓	

Extension

Birds (H=heard only)

N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced		February 2026			
Common name	Scientific name	7	8	9	10
Swan Goose	<i>Anser cygnoides</i>		✓	✓	
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	✓	✓		
Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>			✓	
Baikal Teal	<i>Sibirionetta formosa</i>			✓	
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	✓	✓	✓	
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>		✓	✓	
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eastern Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas zonorhyncha</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>		✓	✓	
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>		✓	✓	✓
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>			✓	✓

N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced		February 2026			
Common name	Scientific name	7	8	9	10
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>			✓	
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	✓			
Feral Rock Dove - I	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
White-bellied Green Pigeon	<i>Treron sieboldii</i>			✓	
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Siberian Crane	<i>Leucogeranus leucogeranus</i>		✓	✓	
Sandhill Crane	<i>Antigone canadensis</i>		✓		
White-naped Crane	<i>Antigone vipio</i>		✓	✓	
Demoiselle Crane	<i>Grus virgo</i>		✓	✓	
Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>		✓		
Hooded Crane	<i>Grus monacha</i>		✓	✓	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	✓		✓	✓
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	✓		✓	✓
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	✓			
Long-billed Plover	<i>Charadrius placidus</i>		✓		
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		✓	✓	
Kentish Plover	<i>Anarhynchus alexandrinus</i>	✓			
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>		✓		
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	✓	✓	✓	
Saunders's Gull	<i>Saundersilarus saundersi</i>	✓			
Black-tailed Gull	<i>Larus crassirostris</i>			✓	
Vega Gull	<i>Larus vegae</i>	✓	✓	✓	
Slaty-backed Gull	<i>Larus schistisagus</i>		✓		
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>		✓	✓	
Black-faced Spoonbill	<i>Platalea minor</i>	✓		✓	
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	✓			
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓	✓	✓	
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		✓		
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>		✓		
Black-eared Kite	<i>Milvus migrans lineatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eastern Buzzard	<i>Buteo japonicus</i>	✓	✓		
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>			✓	✓
Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Yungipicus kizuki</i>			H	
Japanese Green Woodpecker - E	<i>Picus awokera</i>				✓
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		✓		
Bull-headed Shrike	<i>Lanius bucephalus</i>			✓	
Daurian Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus dauuricus</i>		✓	✓	
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>		✓	✓	
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Varied Tit	<i>Sittiparus varius</i>			✓	✓
Cinereous (Japanese) Tit	<i>Parus cinereus minor</i>			✓	✓

N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced		February 2026			
Common name	Scientific name	7	8	9	10
Chinese Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz consobrinus</i>		✓	✓	
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		✓	✓	
Brown-eared Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes amaurotis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Japanese Bush Warbler	<i>Horornis diphone</i>			H	
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>			✓	H
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>				✓
White-cheeked Starling	<i>Spodiopsar cineraceus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pale Thrush	<i>Turdus pallidus</i>			H	H
Dusky Thrush	<i>Turdus eunomus</i>	✓	✓		
Daurian Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus aureoreus</i>			✓	✓
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>		✓	✓	
Brown Dipper	<i>Cinclus pallasii</i>			✓	✓
Russet Sparrow	<i>Passer cinnamomeus</i>		✓		
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	✓	✓	✓	
Black-backed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba lugens</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Japanese Wagtail - N	<i>Motacilla grandis</i>			✓	✓
Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>				✓
Siberian Pipit	<i>Anthus japonicus</i>	✓		✓	
Japanese Grosbeak	<i>Eophona personata</i>				✓
Oriental Greenfinch	<i>Chloris sinica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Meadow Bunting	<i>Emberiza cioides</i>		✓	✓	✓
Chestnut-eared Bunting	<i>Emberiza fucata</i>		✓		
Masked Bunting	<i>Emberiza personata</i>				✓
Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>		✓	✓	

Mammals

		February 2026			
Common name	Scientific name	7	8	9	10
Siberian Weasel	<i>Mustela sibirica</i>		✓		

Amphibians

		February 2026			
Common name	Scientific name	7	8	9	10
Japanese Common Toad	<i>Bufo japonicus</i>			✓	

Butterflies

		February 2026			
Common name	Scientific name	7	8	9	10
Japanese Oakblue	<i>Arhopala japonica</i>			✓	