

TROPICAL BIRDING

Japan in Winter: Birding on Ice

Set departure tour

5th – 17th February, 2012

Extension: 17th – 19th February, 2012

Tour leaders: Susan Myers & Charley Hesse

Report & photos by Charley Hesse (All photos were taken on this tour)



Japan in winter offers some of the greatest avian displays on earth and it is high on many birder's 'bucket list'. Steller's Sea Eagles visit the northern island of Hokkaido in large numbers in winter and on our boat trip we had staggering views of dozens of these enormous raptors at close range. Also on Hokkaido, the courtship displays of the beautiful Red-crowned Cranes on the snow were also absolutely breath-taking. These 2 spectacles rank as some of the best opportunities for bird photography in the world. On the southern Island of Kyushu, we visited the wintering grounds of thousands of cranes at Arasaki, where we managed to find 4 species. Japan also offers an amazing variety of ducks, and we saw more than 20 species including such beauties as Harlequin, Falcated & Mandarin Ducks. On our extension we braved the cold to see a good variety of alcids. In addition to birds, the trip participants were fascinated by Japanese cuisine and culture explained by our fluent Japanese-speaking guides.

5th February – Tokyo to Karuizawa

Most of the tour participants had taken the opportunity to arrive in advance of the tour and see something of Tokyo beforehand. This morning, after picking everybody up from their respective hotels, we had a fairly long drive to the town of Karuizawa in the Japanese Alps of Nagano Prefecture. During the drive we started off our lists with some common birds like **Great Cormorant, Great Egret, Grey Heron, Black Kite, Pacific Golden Plover** and **Northern Lapwing**. In the afternoon we arrived at our pension which was conveniently located for the following days of birding. We finished off the day with a bit of birding in the front yard, seeing **Oriental Turtle Dove, Pied Wagtail, Brown-eared Bulbul, Great Tit** and **White-cheeked Starling**.



The endemic race of Meadow Bunting is a common but very attractive bird.

6th February – Karuizawa

Today we started birding the fantastic Karuizawa area, nestled on the slopes of the impressive Asamayama volcano. The morning was rainy, snowy and overcast. We went on a short drive and saw **Rough-legged Buzzard** and **Green Pheasant**. The latter is Japan's national bird and an endemic species (although now only considered a sub-species of Ring-necked Pheasant by Clements). Later we went on a short walk to the edge of '*Yacho no mori*' (literally 'wild bird forest') where we saw some nice forest birds, including the very smart **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, the diminutive **Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker** and our first endemic of the trip in the form of **Japanese Green Woodpecker**. We also saw endemic races of **Long-tailed Tit, Willow Tit** and **Meadow Bunting** along with a medley of other nice forest birds such as **Coal Tit, Great Tit**, the attractive **Varied Tit, Eurasian Nuthatch, Brambling, Rustic Bunting** and **Grey-capped Greenfinch**. We also took a short walk along the Yukawa where we saw the wonderful **Brown Dipper**.

7th February – Karuizawa

Today we spent exploring a dam called Ooshioko in neighbouring Gunma Prefecture, coming back via another small lake. We saw a great variety of waterfowl, including **Little Grebe, Great Cormorant, Eurasian Wigeon, Eurasian Teal, Spot-billed Duck, Northern Pintail, Common Pochard, Tufted Duck, Greater Scaup, Common Merganser, Eurasian Moorhen** and **Eurasian Coot**. We had a good haul of other birds during the day, including **Common Buzzard, Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker, Japanese Wagtail, Dusky Thrush**, the beautiful **Daurian Redstart, Long-tailed, Willow, Varied, Coal & Great Tits, Bull-headed Shrike**, an endemic race of **Eurasian Jay, Grey-capped Greenfinch, Black-faced, Meadow & Rustic Buntings**, the introduced **Chinese Hwamei** and our first **Japanese Macaques**.



Daurian Redstart is a delightful winter garden bird in Japan.

8th February – Karuizawa to Arasaki

First thing this morning we went up north of our hotel to a warm lake at a hot spring and from there, further up the road where we saw **Falcated Duck**. From here we pushed on further up the hill where we parked the car in a small parking lot and took a walk. Other birds we saw in the morning were **Great Spotted Woodpecker, Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker, Brown-eared Bulbul, Dusky Thrush, Willow, Varied, Coal & Great Tits, Grey-capped Greenfinch** and our first **Japanese Grosbeak**.

It was time to head to Haneda Airport in Tokyo for our internal flight to Kagoshima on the southern island of Kyushu. As our plane approached the city some of us were treated to views of Sakurajima, one of the most active volcanos in Japan which overlooks Kagoshima. It was a good deal warmer than Tokyo when we arrived and after picking up our new vehicle we were on our way to Arasaki. The site of one of the greatest avian spectacles in Asia where over 10,000 cranes congregate every winter to take advantage of the feeding stations. It was already too late to go birding by the time we arrived so we relaxed before dinner.

9th February – Arasaki

We left at dawn to catch the sight of thousands of cranes flying in to the feeding station. We watched a beautiful sun rise as small and large groups of cranes flew overhead and landed in the fields. The majority were **Hooded Cranes** with many **White-naped Cranes** too. A handful of **Common Cranes** usually show up along with 1 or 2 Common/Hooded Hybrids. After quite a bit of scanning we located these, but it was the smallest crane present this year, the **Sandhill Crane**, that took time to find. We were assured by one of the locals where it was but it remained hidden behind its larger cousins until the birds started to dissipate and we had good views of our 4th crane species of the morning. On overhead wires we had some **Grey-capped Greenfinches** plus **Red-throated Pipit** and **Grey Wagtail** in the nearby fields and ditches. After enjoying the feeding spectacle, we drove to the crane centre. It was still closed so we walked around nearby, picking up **Black Kite**, **Northern Goshawk**, a smart **Merlin** perched on a post, **Northern Lapwing**, **Bull-headed Shrike** and **Daurian Redstart**. We tried unsuccessfully to pick out a Daurian Jackdaw from the large flocks of **Rooks**, **Carrion & Large-billed Crows** but we did find several **Russet Sparrows** amongst the hundreds of **Eurasian Tree Sparrows**. The centre was now open so we went in for elevated views of the crane filled fields plus 3 **Black-faced Spoonbills**, an endangered East Asian endemic.



The sight of over 10,000 cranes in one place has to be seen to be believed.

We drove past a residential area with **Common Buzzard**, **Brown-eared Bulbul**, **Japanese White-eye** and **Great Tit** to a nearby river where we saw **Eurasian Wigeon**, **Eurasian Teal**, **Spot-billed Duck**, **Common Pochard**, **Little Grebe** and **Osprey** along with **Chinese Penduline Tit** and **Common Reed Bunting** in the reedbeds. We took a short drive along the coast and found a nice area of scrub with **Pale Thrush**, **Japanese Bush Warbler**, **Black-faced & Meadow Buntings**. It had been a productive morning and we drove back to the crane centre for lunch at a small restaurant run by a very friendly elderly couple. After lunch we meandered around the Arasaki area, spotting **Eurasian Moorhen**, **Coot**, **Northern Shoveler** and **Common Kingfisher** at a pond, **Brambling** and many buntings at an area of trees next to an estuary where we saw our first **Vega Gull** and a lucky **Peregrine Falcon** along with many other ducks. We explored local rice fields where we found **Eurasian Skylark** & **Buff-bellied Pipit** and another estuary with **Black-tailed & Slaty-backed Gulls**, **Black-necked Grebe** and **Temminck's Cormorant**. Our last birding of the day was along a different river where we added **Gadwall**, **Eurasian Kestrel**, **Common Greenshank** and a surprise **Dusky Warbler**.

10th February – Arasaki to Miike

We were leaving Izumi in Kagoshima prefecture and heading to the neighbouring Miyazaki prefecture. On the way we stopped at the Satsuma river where we saw **Little & Black-necked Grebes, Great Cormorant, Eurasian Wigeon, Eurasian Teal, Spot-billed Duck, Tufted Duck, Pied, Black-backed Wagtail & Japanese Wagtail**. Nearby in a rice field we also spotted a fine male **Green Pheasant**. Further along we stopped when we spotted a large **Crested Kingfisher** on a wire above the river and later on at a beautiful waterfall where we saw **Long-tailed Tit** and **Japanese White-eye**. We based ourselves at the small town of Kirishima (famous for its hot springs) where we visited the beautiful Kirishima Jingu Shrine. It wasn't all culture though as we spotted **Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker, Varied & Great Tits** as well as the introduced **Red-billed Leiothrix** in the grounds. We also had another **Crested Kingfisher** nearby.



We enjoyed a brief cultural visit to the beautiful Kirishima Shrine

We made our way to Miike, a beautiful volcanic lake overshadowed by one of the most active volcanoes in Japan. So recently active that the whole area was closed off last year. Luckily there was nothing keeping us from making it down to the lake car park where we kick-started our birding with a male **Daurian Redstart** perched on a roof and a fine **Japanese Green Woodpecker**, a Japanese endemic. We walked down to the lake from here and scanned the water to find **Great Cormorant, Eurasian Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler** and our hoped for **Mandarin Duck**. We all had good scope views of a stunning male of what is arguably the most beautiful duck in the world. Next we walked to the trailhead and a short distance along a forest trail where we saw **Japanese Grosbeak, Eurasian Wren** and heard **Grey Buntings** before heading back to the vehicle and driving to a temple overlooking the lake. It was a beautiful view and from here we saw **Eurasian Jay, another Japanese Green Woodpecker, Pale Thrush** and a **Eurasian Nuthatch**. It was time to start heading back to the hotel which was a large hot spring hotel where some of us took the opportunity and took a dip in their wonderful hot pools before making our way to dinner in our *yukatas* (a kind of kimono).

11th February – Miike to Kadogawa

We returned to Miike for a short time in the morning looking unsuccessfully for Copper Pheasants by the roadside. We first went back to the temple where we found the **Ryukyu Minivet** only seconds after Susan said we were looking for it. We drove down to the lake car park and heard the response of **White-backed Woodpecker** which then came in to give good views. We had a long way to go, and losing no time we started our drive to the east coast of Kyushu island. On the way, we stopped in at the Kota Shrine, overlooking a hidden lake full of ducks. Here we saw our target **Baikal Teal** along with **Great Cormorant**, more stunning male **Mandarin Ducks**, **Northern Pintail**, **Common Pochard** & **Osprey**. Along a path by the side of the lake, we saw the gorgeous **Yellow-throated Bunting** which showed very well. On our way out, we had **Common Buzzard** and **Barn Swallows** in the fields along with countless **Bull-headed Shrike** which were very common.



Yellow-throated Bunting is also known as Elegant Bunting.

Next we stopped in at Hitotsusegawa but unfortunately it was high tide, so there were not many waders and no Saunders Gull. We did however see **Great Crested Grebe**, **Eurasian Shelduck** and **Eurasian Curlew** on a muddy spit, **Osprey**, **Black-tailed** and **Vega Gulls**, **Eurasian Skylark** giving its beautiful song and **Northern Lapwing** in fields nearby. Back on the highway, we stopped at a rest area with a beautiful view where we enjoyed our packed lunch before going on to the small fishing port of Kadogawa where we looked unsuccessfully for Japanese Murrelet from the harbour wall. Here we saw **Great Crested Grebes**, **Osprey**, **Black-tailed** & **Vega Gulls** and **Common Buzzard** circling with **Black Kites**. On the way back to the car we had some very lucky **Japanese Woodpigeon** flying between forested peaks. These are very difficult to see on the main islands on Japan. We also had **Blue Rock Thrush** sat on rocks and a **Brown-headed Thrush** amongst many **Pale Thrushes** chasing each other round the bushes and lawns. It had been a long but very productive day and we headed to our hotel in the town of Hyuga where we spent the night.

12th February – Miyazaki to Kushiro

Today was mainly a travel day. We drove straight to Miyazaki airport early in the morning and flew to Tokyo where we had lunch in the airport before boarding our connecting flight to Kushiro on the northern island of Hokkaido, the most visually stunning part of Japan. Here was a drastically different climate and the freezing cold air hit us as soon as we stepped outside the airport. We picked up our hire car and drove to the nearby town of Akan and our hotel which was just across the road from the Akan Crane Centre. We walked down to the centre and spent time watching the **Red-crowned Cranes** and taking photos in the soft afternoon light. We also had several **Sika Deer** coming in to share some of the grain that had been put out for the cranes. We were staying in another hot spring hotel and we again enjoyed having a dip in the hot baths and wearing our traditional *yukatas* to dinner.



Watching Red-crowned Cranes dance in the snow is a once in a lifetime opportunity

13th February – Kushiro to Rausu

We were back at the crane centre at 7:30am but it was freezing cold and pretty quiet so we stayed warm inside the heated building. Meanwhile some of the cranes were keeping warm in the natural thermal pools nearby. They arrived in pairs and slowly became more active until around 9am when they were in the full swing of vocalizing with pairs strutting up and down mirroring each other's postures. It was a wonderful display and everything we had hoped for. We had **Whooper Swans** flying over and **Eurasian Jay**, **Willow Tit** and **Eurasian Nuthatch** were seen in the neighbouring trees.



This great view of a male Harlequin Duck was another trip highlight

We checked out and headed towards the Notsuke Peninsular. At the beginning of the peninsular there was a parking area from where we had views over the frozen sea with a few patches of open water with **Long-tailed Duck**, **Common & White-winged Scoters**. We drove on a bit and saw our first **Steller's Sea Eagle** from which point on they became common with **White-tailed Eagle** also present. We had a rather cold looking **Dusky Thrush** followed by our first **Slaty-backed & Glaucous Gulls** before reaching the Notsuke Todowara Nature Centre. They had some interesting displays and more importantly some toilets and outside a view over some more open water where we saw **Red-breasted Merganser**, **Common Goldeneye** and many more scoters. We headed north along coast towards Rausu and stopped at a port just south of Rausu which was a good spot for photography. Here we had close views of **Pelagic Cormorant**, **Harlequin Duck**, **Common Goldeneye** and **Red-breasted Merganser** inside the harbour plus **White-tailed & Steller's Sea Eagle** sitting on walls. It was also a good place for gulls, with **Black-headed**, **Slaty-backed**, **Glaucous & Glaucous-winged Gulls** present. The latter was easy to point out as it had a starfish in its bill. At Rausu, we checked out the fishing port which had lots of gulls, eagles and ducks including **Northern Pintail**, **Greater Scaup**, **Harlequin Duck** and **Common Mergansers**. We were pretty well frozen by now and it was a relief to thaw ourselves out in our very warm and friendly family-run pension which also had delicious food.

14th February – Rausu to Yoroushi

This morning was our long-awaited boat trip to photograph the **Steller's Sea Eagle**. We were disappointed to hear that there was no pack ice yet, so instead we stayed inside the harbour and the boat man fed the eagles there. It turned out great as there was a mini ice flow right there and we saw dozens of **White-tailed Eagles** and **Steller's Sea Eagles** which came in to feed on fish that were being thrown out for them. They entertained us for 2 hours and we had countless close-range, eye-level flybys, landings, takings off, squabbling on the ice and aerial dog fights. It was an amazing spectacle and the best bird photographic opportunity I have ever experienced. As well as eagles, we also had **Black-headed, Slaty-backed & Glaucous Gulls** flying around in the hope of scraps. In the harbour on the way back were **Pelagic Cormorant, Greater Scaup, Harlequin Duck, Common Goldeneye** and **Red-breasted Merganser**. Driving over a bridge in town we saw **Brown Dipper** and **Whooper Swan** plus several ducks.



Two juvenile White-tailed Eagles amazed us with their aerial displays.

What a morning it had been. We checked out and left Rausu for the Yoroushi Onsen, one of the spots where you can see **Blakiston's Fish Owl**. It was an amazing place and we saw **Great Spotted Woodpecker** on the feeder outside the front door of our hot spring hotel. After checking in, we were keen to head out for a walk. We saw **Brown-eared Bulbul** along the road, then **Brown Dipper** and **Crested Kingfisher** on the river. We turned on to a path and took a walk through the forest where we saw **Great, Willow, Coal & Long-tailed Tits** (an interesting white-headed race) plus **Eurasian Nuthatch**. We got back and went in the hot spring before a beautifully presented dinner. The window of the restaurant overlooked a feeding pool set up for the **Blakiston's Fish Owl** and during dinner one person noticed the huge hulking form of an owl perched on the side of the pond but had a mouthful of sake and spluttered to tell us. We ran back for our binoculars to our rooms which also looked over the pond. Later, we were lucky enough to spot a **Japanese Marten** coming in to feast on a fish.

15th February – Yoroushi to Nemuro

The owner of the hot spring resort stayed up every night watching his close circuit TV camera of the fish owl pond. When it arrived, he would call the telephone in the rooms of any guests that wanted to see it. Even though we had seen the bird once, we were delighted to get a phone call at 5am. We looked out our window to see the **Blakiston's Fish Owl** hunched over the pond in a hunting posture. We watched sleepily as it caught a couple of fish before flying off. What a set up they had there! It certainly beats standing out in the freezing cold. We watched feeders during our delicious breakfast and saw **Great Spotted Woodpecker, Willow Tit, Eurasian Nuthatch, Eurasian Jay** along with the introduced and very destructive **Mink** that also came in to catch a fish.



The Beautiful Great Spotted Woodpecker is a common visitor to feeders

We checked out and started our drive towards the town of Nemuro where we would spend the next 2 nights. Our first birding stop was at Hakuchodai (literally 'swan platform'): A great viewpoint over the sea where we did actually see many **Whooper Swans** close to the coast as well as **Brant** a bit further out. We had a nice pair of **Pine Buntings** in some nearby trees and scanning the snow covered open areas we saw some small birds which in our scopes we were able to identify as **Lapland Longspur**. We also had a nice view of a **Red Fox** hunting over the snow. We had lunch looking over Lake Furen at a nice service area and restaurant where they had a scope set up on **Steller's Sea Eagle** out on the frozen lake surface. Unfortunately the Shunkunitai Nature Centre was closed so we drove down to the harbour to look at **Long-tailed Duck, Black Scoter, Common Goldeneye, Slaty-backed, Glaucous-winged & Glaucous Gulls**. We carried on to Cape Nosappu where we braved the biting cold to look at **Black-tailed Gull, Pelagic Cormorant, Harlequin Duck** and **Harbour Seal**. There were no alcids to be seen and we retreated to the warmth of the vehicle to thaw out. We would be back there tomorrow. Driving back we saw a nice **Rough-legged Buzzard** before checking in to our hotel, having a nice hot bath and dinner.

16th February – Nemuro & Cape Nosappu

In the morning we were back at the Shunkunitai Nature Centre. The people there were very friendly and helpful and told us what was and wasn't about. On the feeders here we saw **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, **Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker**, **Great Tit** and **Eurasian Nuthatch** from the warmth of the inside. We also took time to work through the distinguishing features of the very similar **Willow & Marsh Tits**. Next we drove to Cape Nosappu where the conditions were marginally better than yesterday and we finally saw our first alcid in the form of **Spectacled Guillemot**. Other birds seen here were **Pelagic Cormorant**, **Harlequin Duck**, **Common Scoter**, **Common Goldeneye** and **Red-breasted Merganser** but unfortunately no sign of Red-faced Cormorant.



The Pelagic cormorant has a distinctly thinner bill than the other cormorants.

After a surprisingly delicious convenience store lunch, we drove to the Kurumaishi light house where we picked up another alcid in the form of **Ancient Murrelet**. Here we braved the cold to see **Long-tailed Duck**, **Harlequin Duck**, **Common Scoter**, **Common Goldeneye**, **Common Merganser** and **Red-breasted Merganser**. Ochiishi was frozen but we did see a nice big group of confiding **Sika Deer** there. Driving back we had another **Rough-legged Buzzard**, a **Red Fox** and a **Dusky Thrush**. Back in Nemuro, we heard a Gyr Falcon had been seen in Meiji Park so we went to try and track it down. As we started our walk around the snow covered park, we had a flyby of a **Eurasian Sparrowhawk** and at a bird hide we put out some seed ourselves which brought in **Brown-eared Bulbul**, **Marsh & Great Tit**, **Eurasian Jay** and an opportunistic **Brown Rat**. We had to give up on the Gyr Falcon and headed back to our hotel for dinner.

HOKKAIDO TO HONSHU PELAGIC CRUISE EXTENSION

17th February Nemuro to Sapporo

Today was mostly a travel day. We left Nemuro after breakfast and had a few hours drive to get to Kushiro where we had lunch. We said goodbye to two members of our group here before boarding our express train to Sapporo and from there our connecting bus to the Oarai ferry terminal where we boarded our boat for the extension..



The East Asian endemic Slaty-backed Gull is common around Japan's coastline

18th February – Oarai to Tomakomai Ferry

We were keen to get our day started and straight after breakfast we were up on deck birding. It was very cold and windy but we started seeing some new birds for the tour, like **Northern Fulmar**, **Black-legged Kittiwake** and **Common Murre**. A while later, a rather distant large flock of alcids were identified as **Crested Auklet**. Gulls were well represented with **Black-tailed**, **Slaty-backed** and **Mew Gulls** (sometimes split as Kamchatka Gull). The latter new for the trip. We took several breaks inside to warm up, and after lunch the ocean became very quiet with just a single **Ancient Murrelet** to add. In the afternoon, activity picked up again and we saw our first **Streaked Shearwater**, some seals and distant loon & jaeger species which went unidentified. Before dark, as we approached Tokyo we saw large numbers of **Least Auklet** from the side of the boat. The majority were a little far away but some flushed from fairly close and we managed to make out the field marks on these tiny birds before the light started to fade and our final day of birding came to a close. It hadn't been easy but our perseverance had paid off in a respectable list. We spent the night in the town of Mito and the following day went back to Tokyo where we finished our unforgettable trip.

Bird list

Taxonomy follows Clements 6.6 online checklist. Updated Aug 2011

1	Brant (Brent Goose)	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Several distant birds seen at Hakuchodai.
2	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Seen at Akan, Rausu & Hakuchodai.
3	Eurasian Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Seen at Hitotsusegawa.
4	Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>	This stunning E Asian endemic was seen well at Miike & Kota Shrine.
5	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Seen at Arasaki.
6	Falcatad Duck	<i>Anas falcata</i>	This near-threatened species was seen at Karuizawa.
7	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	Seen in the Karuizawa area, Arasaki, Satsuma River, Miike & Kota Shrine.
8	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Seen in the Karuizawa area, at Arasaki, Satsuma River, Miike, Kota Shrine & Hitotsusegawa.
9	Eastern Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas zonorhyncha</i>	Seen in the Karuizawa area, at Arasaki, Satsuma River, Miike, Kota Shrine & Hitotsusegawa.
10	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Seen at Arasaki, Miike & Kota Shrine.
11	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Seen in the Karuizawa area, at Miike, Kota Shrine & Rausu.
12	Baikal Teal	<i>Anas formosa</i>	Seen at Kota Shrine.
13	Green-winged (Eurasian) Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Seen in the Karuizawa area, at Arasaki, Satsuma River, Miike, Kota Shrine & Hitotsusegawa.
14	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya farina</i>	Seen in the Karuizawa area, at Arasaki, Miike & Kota Shrine.
15	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Seen in the Karuizawa area, at Satsuma River, Miike & Kota Shrine.
16	Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	Seen in the Karuizawa area, at Rausu, Hakuchodai & Nemuro.
17	Harlequin Duck	<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>	Seen at Rausu, Hakuchodai, Nemuro & on the Nosappu Peninsular.
18	White-winged Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca stejnegeri</i>	Seen on the Notsuke Peninsular.
19	Black Scoter	<i>Melanitta americana</i>	Seen on the Notsuke & Nosappu Peninsulars, at Rausu, Hakuchodai & Nemuro.
20	Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Seen on the Notsuke Peninsular & at Nemuro.
21	Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Seen on the Notsuke & Nosappu Peninsulars, Rausu, Hakuchodai & Nemuro.
22	Common Merganser (Goosander)	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Seen in the Karuizawa area, at Rausu & Nemuro.
23	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Seen on the Notsuke & Nosappu Peninsulars, Rausu, Hakuchodai & Nemuro.
24	Ring-necked (Green) Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus (versicolor)</i>	This endemic ssp (many authors consider it a full species) was seen in the Karuizawa area & near Satsuma River.
25	Loon sp.	<i>Gavia sp.</i>	Seen briefly in flight on the Oarai to Tomakomai ferry.
26	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Seen in the Karuizawa area, at Arasaki, Satsuma River, Miike & Kota Shrine.
27	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Seen at Hitotsusegawa & Kadogawa.
28	Eared (Black-necked) Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	Seen at Arasaki & Satsuma River.
29	Streaked Shearwater	<i>Calonectris leucomelas</i>	This regional breeding endemic was seen on the Oarai to Tomakomai ferry.
30	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Seen in the Karuizawa area, at Arasaki, Satsuma River, Miike & Kota Shrine.
31	Japanese Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax capillatus</i>	Seen at Arasaki & Kadogawa.
32	Pelagic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i>	Seen at Rausu, Nemuro & on the Nosappu Peninsular.
33	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Seen in the Karuizawa area, at Arasaki, Satsuma River, Miike & Kota Shrine.
34	Great Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	Seen in the Karuizawa area, at Arasaki & Hitotsusegawa.
35	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Seen at Arasaki, Satsuma River, Miike, Kota Shrine & Hitotsusegawa.

36	Black-faced Spoonbill	<i>Platalea minor</i>	This endangered E Asian breeding endemic was seen at at Arasaki.
37	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Seen at Arasaki, Kota Shrine, Hitotsusegawa & Kadogawa.
38	Black (Black-eared) Kite	<i>Milvus migrans (lineatus)</i>	Commonly seen at most sites.
39	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	Seen on the Notsuke Peninsular, at Rausu, Hakuchodai & Nemuro.
40	Steller's Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus pelagicus</i>	This vulnerable E Asian endemic was seen on the Notsuke Peninsular, at Rausu, Hakuchodai, Lake Furen & Nemuro.
41	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Seen at Nemuro.
42	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Seen at Arasaki.
43	Common (Eastern) Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo (japonicus)</i>	Seen in the Karuizawa area, at Arasaki, Kota Shrine & Kadogawa.
44	Rough-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	Seen in the Karuizawa area & near Nemuro.
45	Eurasian Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Seen at Arasaki & Kadogawa.
46	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Seen at Arasaki, Satsuma River & Nosappu Peninsular.
47	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrines</i>	Seen at Arasaki & near Kota Shrine.
48	Eurasian Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Seen in the Karuizawa area, at Arasaki, Satsuma River & Kota Shrine.
49	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Seen in the Karuizawa area, at Arasaki & Kota Shrine.
50	Sandhill Crane	<i>Grus canadensis</i>	A single individual of this North American species was seen at Arasaki.
51	White-naped Crane	<i>Grus vipio</i>	This vulnerable species was seen in the thousands at Arasaki.
52	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	Several individuals were seen at Arasaki along with a Common/Hooded Crane hybrid.
53	Hooded Crane	<i>Grus monacha</i>	This vulnerable & restricted range E Asian species was seen in the thousands at Arasaki.
54	Red-crowned (Japanese) Crane	<i>Grus japonensis</i>	This endangered E Asian regional endemic was seen at Akan Crane Centre.
55	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Seen on the way to Karuizawa, at Arasaki & Hitotsusegawa
56	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	Seen on the way to Karuizawa.
57	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Seen at Arasaki & Hitotsusegawa.
58	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Seen at Satsuma River.
59	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Seen at Arasaki.
60	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	This near-threatened species was seen at Hitotsusegawa.
61	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Seen at Rausu & Nemuro.
62	Black-tailed Gull	<i>Larus crassirostris</i>	Seen at Arasaki, Hitotsusegawa, Kadogawa, Nemuro, on the Nosappu Peninsular & Oarai to Tomakomai ferry.
63	Mew/Common (Kamchatka) Gull	<i>Larus canus (kamtschatschensis)</i>	Seen on the Oarai to Tomakomai ferry.
64	Herring (Vega) Gull	<i>Larus argentatus (vegae)</i>	Seen at Arasaki, Hitotsusegawa, Kadogawa, Rausu & on the Oarai to Tomakomai ferry.
65	Slaty-backed Gull	<i>Larus schistisagus</i>	This E Asian endemic was seen at Arasaki, Notsuke Peninsular, Rausu, Hakuchodai, Nemuro & on the Oarai to Tomakomai ferry.
66	Glaucous-winged Gull	<i>Larus glaucescens</i>	Seen at Rausu & Nemuro.
67	Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Seen on the Notsuke Peninsular, at Rausu, Hakuchodai, Nemuro & on the Oarai to Tomakomai ferry.
68	Jaeger sp.	<i>Stercorarius sp.</i>	Seen distantly on the Oarai to Tomakomai ferry.
69	Common Murre (Guillemot)	<i>Uria aalge</i>	Seen on the Oarai to Tomakomai ferry.
70	Spectacled Guillemot	<i>Cephus carbo</i>	Seen at Nemuro.
71	Ancient Murrelet	<i>Synthliboramphus antiquus</i>	Seen at Nemuro & on the Oarai to Tomakomai ferry.
72	Least Auklet	<i>Aethia pusilla</i>	This species was seen in the thousands on the Oarai to Tomakomai ferry.
73	Crested Auklet	<i>Aethia cristatella</i>	Seen on the Oarai to Tomakomai ferry.
74	Japanese (Black) Woodpigeon	<i>Columba janthina</i>	This near-threatened E Asian endemic was seen at

			Kadogawa.
75	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>	Seen in the Karuizawa area, at Arasaki, Satsuma River, Miike, Kota Shrine & Kadogawa.
76	Blakiston's Fish Owl	<i>Ketupa blakistoni</i>	This endangered NE Asian endemic was seen at Yoroushi.
77	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Seen at Arasaki.
78	Crested Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle lugubris</i>	Seen near Satsuma River, at Kirishima & Yoroushi.
79	(Japanese) Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos kizuki</i>	Seen in the Karuizawa area, at Miike, Yoroushi & Lake Furen.
80	White-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>	Seen at Miike.
81	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Seen in the Karuizawa area, at Yoroushi & Lake Furen.
82	Japanese Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus awokera</i>	This endemic species was seen in the Karuizawa area & at Miike.
83	Ryukyu Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus tegimae</i>	This endemic species was seen at Miike.
84	Bull-headed Shrike	<i>Laniusbucephalus</i>	Seen in the Karuizawa area, at Arasaki & Kota Shrine.
85 a	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius bambergi</i>	This distinctive ssp was seen at Yoroushi & Nemuro.
b	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius japonicus</i>	This endemic ssp was seen in the Karuizawa area & at Miike.
86	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Seen at Arasaki.
87	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Seen at most sites.
88	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	Seen at most sites.
89	(Eurasian) Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis japonica</i>	This endemic ssp was seen at Arasaki & Hitotsusegawa.
90	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Seen at Kota Shrine.
91	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris hensoni</i>	This ssp endemic to Hokkaido and the Kuril Islands was seen at Yoroushi, Lake Furen & Nemuro.
92	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus restrictus</i>	This endemic ssp was seen in the Karuizawa area, Akan, Yoroushi, Lake Furen & Nemuro.
93	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	Seen in the Karuizawa area & at Yoroushi.
94	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Seen in the Karuizawa area, Arasaki, Miike, Yoroushi, Lake Furen & Nemuro.
95	Varied Tit	<i>Sittiparus varius</i>	Seen in the Karuizawa area & at Miike.
96	Chinese Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz consobrinus</i>	Seen at Arasaki.
97 a	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus caudatus</i>	This white-headed race was seen at Yoroushi & Lake Furen.
b	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus trivirgatus</i>	This endemic ssp was seen in the Karuizawa area.
c	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus kiusiuensis</i>	This endemic ssp was seen at Miike.
98 a	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea asiatica</i>	This distinctively pale race was seen at Akan, Yoroushi & Lake Furen.
b	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea amurensis</i>	Seen in the Karuizawa area.
c	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea roseillia</i>	This endemic ssp was seen at Miike.
99	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Seen at Miike.
100	Brown Dipper	<i>Cinclus pallasii</i>	Seen in the Karuizawa area, at Rausu & Yoroushi.
101	Brown-eared Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes amaurotis</i>	Seen at most sites.
102	Japanese Bush Warbler	<i>Cettia diphone</i>	Seen at Arasaki & Miike.
103	Dusky Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>	Seen at Arasaki.
104	Japanese White-eye	<i>Zosterops japonicus japonicus</i>	This endemic ssp was seen at Arasaki, Satsuma River, Miike & Kota Shrine.
105	Chinese Hwamei	<i>Leucodioptron canorus</i>	This introduced species was seen in the Karuizawa area.
106	Red-billed Leiothrix	<i>Leiothrix lutea</i>	This introduced species was seen at Kirishima Shrine.
107	Daurian Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus aureoreus</i>	Seen at Arasaki, Satsuma River & Miike.
108	Blue (Red-bellied) Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius (philippensis)</i>	Seen at Kadogawa.
109	Pale Thrush	<i>Turdus pallidus</i>	Seen at Arasaki, Miike, Kota Shrine & Kadogawa.
110	Brown-headed Thrush	<i>Turdus chrysolaus</i>	Seen at Kadogawa.
111	Dusky Thrush	<i>Turdus naumanni</i>	Seen in the Karuizawa area, on the Notsuke Peninsular & at Nemuro.
112	White-cheeked Starling	<i>Sturnus cineraceus</i>	Seen in the Karuizawa area, at Arasaki, Satsuma River, Kota Shrine & Hitotsusegawa.

113	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Seen at Kota Shrine, Arasaki & Miike.
114a	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba leucopsis</i>	Seen in the Karuizawa area, at Arasaki, Satsuma River, Hitotsusegawa & Kadogawa.
114b	White (Black-backed) Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba lugens</i>	Seen at Satsuma River.
115	Japanese Wagtail	<i>Motacilla grandis</i>	Seen in the Karuizawa area & at Satsuma River.
116	Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	Seen at Arasaki.
117	American (Buff-bellied) Pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	Seen at Arasaki.
118	Lapland Longspur	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	Seen at Hakuchodai.
119	Pine Bunting	<i>Emberiza leucocephalos</i>	Seen at Hakuchodai.
120	Meadow Bunting	<i>Emberiza cioides ciopsis</i>	This endemic ssp was seen in the Karuizawa area, at Arasaki & Satsuma River.
121	Chestnut-eared Bunting	<i>Emberiza fucata</i>	Seen at Arasaki.
122	Rustic Bunting	<i>Emberiza rustica</i>	Seen in the Karuizawa area & Arasaki.
123	Yellow-throated Bunting	<i>Emberiza elegans</i>	Seen at Kota Shrine.
124	Black-faced (Masked) Bunting	<i>Emberiza spodocephala personata</i>	This near endemic ssp and possible candidate for full species status was seen in the Karuizawa area & Arasaki.
125	Gray Bunting	<i>Emberiza variabilis</i>	This range restricted E Asian endemic was heard at Miike.
126	(Common) Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Seen at Arasaki.
127	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	Seen at Arasaki.
128	Oriental (Grey-capped) Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis sinica</i>	Seen in the Karuizawa area, at Arasaki, Satsuma River & Kota Shrine.
129	Japanese Grosbeak	<i>Eophona personata</i>	Seen in the Karuizawa area & at Miike.
130	Russet Sparrow	<i>Passer rutilans</i>	Seen at Arasaki & Satsuma River.
131	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Seen at most sites.

Mammal list

1	Japanese Macaque	<i>Macaca fuscata</i>	This endemic species was seen in the Karuizawa area.
2	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Seen at Akan, Hakuchodai & Nemuro.
3	Sika Deer	<i>Cervus nippon yesoensis</i>	This endemic ssp to Hokkaido was seen at Akan, Lake Furen & Nemuro.
4	Japanese Marten	<i>Martes m. melampus</i>	This endemic ssp was seen at Yoroushi.
5	Mink	<i>Neovison vison</i>	This introduced species was seen at Yoroushi.
6	Harbour Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Seen at Nemuro.
7	Brown Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Seen at Nemuro.