

FIELD REPORT

JAPAN IN WINTER: A CRANE, SEA-EAGLE & SNOW MONKEY SPECTACULAR

JANUARY 14–27, 2024



White-naped Cranes © Mark Brazil

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Our Japan in Winter tour was the very first tour that Mayumi and I have led for VENT, and my first time leading a birding company's group in 36 years, making it especially memorable for us. Since first designing expeditions around Japan in the early 1980s, it has become clear that no two trips are ever the same. Tweaking journeys, both in advance and also during a trip, sometimes adding in extra experiences and sometimes working with the weather we get, makes each trip unique, but the biggest factor in the fun and pleasure we derive is YOU. We were blessed in many ways on this trip, but most of all in the shared sense of fun while birding, and the sense of flexibility when trying new things culturally. We thank you for making the tour fun for us, too.

It was a pleasure traveling and sharing with you the many and varied aspects of Japan's avifauna and natural history. It felt like we were on an extended convivial family outing. As I mentioned many times during our travels, Japan is a country through which one cannot travel, for whatever purpose, without being exposed to its very distinctive culture. "Incidental culture" was part of every day of our journey. Thank you for taking it all in the spirit in which it was intended, enjoying the fun, and perhaps developing a deeper understanding of some of the quaintness and quirks of this extraordinary culture.

We were certainly a fortunate group, experiencing a very wide range of winter weather in good company and with great wildlife experiences. I am so glad that I had my Swarovski telescope with me, as it was possible to share so much birdlife with you. Thanks to John C. and Simon, too, for not only carrying their scopes but also sharing them with the group, thereby allowing us all to have great views of the majority of species encountered.

As you no doubt quickly realized, neither Mayumi nor I are "listers" of any kind. So, rather than finding joy in the group field list, our motivation derives from the group members seeing as many of the species we find as possible. Sometimes birds move on before the last person can reach the telescope; sometimes they merely fly over, giving glimpses in flight, yet on the whole we had pretty good views of almost everything we located, especially some of the star species such as Blakiston's Fish-Owl. We hope that on reviewing our species list you will find few that you missed.

What amazing contrasts we experienced, not only in the weather and the culture, but also in the ecosystems we visited, from the small market garden atmosphere of southwestern Kyushu via the rugged alpine mountains of central Honshu to the great open expanses and volcanoes of east Hokkaido. We wonder how many of you now feel the same way that we do, that Hokkaido deserves far greater recognition as the most exciting and wildest part of Japan. You probably understand now why we live in the eastern part of the island, so close to many of the areas that we visited together.

We were fortunate throughout our journey with extraordinary wildlife experiences, from the displaying White-naped Cranes in Kyushu to the dancing Red-crowned Cranes in Hokkaido. We also had great sightings of Japanese Macaque (Snow Monkey), Japanese Deer, Japanese Serow, and Eurasian Red Squirrel, and several fantastic views of the dramatic Blakiston's Fish-Owl. We were fortunate, too, in finding the Common, Sandhill, and Siberian crane "needles" among the almost 13,000-strong "haystack" of cranes at Izumi in Kyushu, and in seeing so many Black-faced Spoonbills, too.

Each day was filled with different activities, and as much as I would like to have shown you more of Japan, I don't think that we could actually have fitted in any more in the time available. Our cultural experiences came thick and fast too, from the diversity of the fantastic food (a UNESCO registered cuisine) to the wonderfully relaxing hot springs (onsen) with their outdoor pools (rotenburo), from the ancient mythology explaining the forging of the Japanese archipelago and the imperial line, to modern slipper customs and the ubiquitous vending machines serving both cold and hot drinks.

We experienced contrasts in our meals and accommodations too, from gourmet dinners to our self-assembled picnic lunches, and with each of our accommodations differing as greatly as possible from the previous and the following. We stayed in a large-scale airport hotel, a rural town hotel, an upscale hot spring resort, a unique rural ryokan hot spring, and ended our tour back at our very convenient Haneda Airport hotel.

We experienced two beautiful ice-rimmed calderas and their lakes—Mashū-ko and Kussharo-ko in east Hokkaidō. We saw snow-covered peaks and volcanoes in Kyūshū (the Kirishima range), Honshū (the Japan Alps), and Hokkaidō (the volcanoes of the Akan-Mashū National Park, and even had splendid views of Japan's highest peak: Mt Fuji (3,776 m).

On the whole we had great weather in Honshu and Kyushu, though Hokkaido showed two very different faces with delightful winter sunshine and blue skies one day and a full-on blizzard trapping us at our hotel on the next.

We were treated to some amazing avian spectacles, most notably the swirling, starling-like flocks of Baikal Teal at Inbanuma, and the 13,000-strong Hooded and White-naped crane flock at Izumi in Kyūshū, providing us with a visual and auditory treat. We had the added bonus of lesser numbers of Common Crane and Sandhill Crane, the gorgeous Siberian Crane, as well as several Eurasian Spoonbill, small flocks of Black-faced Spoonbill, and triple digit numbers for Saunders's Gull.

Our sightings of the White-naped Cranes left us with the lasting dilemma: deciding which of the cranes is the most beautiful! The displays in Kyushu were just a prelude to the magnificent and iconic Red-crowned Cranes of Hokkaido, which we experienced in various situations at several sites around Tsurui Village (literally the village of the cranes).

Perhaps it will be the owls that will linger strongest in our minds; after all, we had phenomenal views of two very different species on the same day! A Ural Owl, of the pale northern race, showed well at its traditional day roost; then, the same evening, we heard then saw a pair of Blakiston's Fish-Owls as they began to roam their territory. Eventually we saw the male just a few meters from us at Yoroushi Dai-ichi. Perhaps the monkeys, or the swans, or the cranes were your personal favorites; there are so many possibilities.

With warmest regards to you all,

Mark & Mayumi Brazil
Teshikaga, Hokkaido, February 2024

DIARY:

15 January 2024 Tōkyō, Honshū

We met up this morning in the lobby of the Art Hotel Narita for introductions before boarding a mini-fleet of taxis and heading off to Naritasan—the nearby temple with its park-like garden. This was an opportunity to add something to the planned itinerary and combine culture and birding within easy reach of the international airport. After exploring the garden for its birds (which included our first Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker, Bull-headed Shrike, and Varied Tit), and learning about the differences between Japanese Buddhism and Shintoism, we ate an impromptu Japanese-style lunch at a local restaurant, then headed back to our hotel by taxi with time to freshen up before our welcome dinner this evening.

Overnight at the Art Hotel Narita

16 January 2024 Chiba Prefecture, Honshū

In the interests of finding more birds, we began the day at two locations not actually on our itinerary. Motono hosts a winter gathering of swans, and there we were able to see a large group of about 1,000 Bewick’s Swans with 60–70 Whooper Swans among them. We also had our first good looks at Dusky Thrush. Then at Inbanuma we found an array of wintering species, but foremost among them was the enormous wintering flock of Baikal Teal—a star bird and a spectacular experience on the first day! At Choshi we added several gull species and ate lunch, then in the afternoon we visited Go-no-ike with its excellent Falcated Duck to round out the day.

Overnight at Hotel Seaside Edogawa



Baikal Teal in flight, Inabanuma © Mark Brazil

17 January 2024 Tōkyō to Kambayashi Onsen (Jigokudani) then to Karuizawa, Honshū

As our hotel was located within the Kasai Rinkai Koen, we were able to begin our day with early morning birding, before setting off for the Honshū hinterland. Our goal was to reach Hell Valley in time to hike in to watch the famous hot spring-bathing Japanese Macaques at Yaen Koen. Fresh snowfalls in recent days gave us beautiful scenic views of the Japan Alps and a great time with the monkeys and even an elusive Japanese Serow and a pair of Alpine Accentors. Leaving the monkey site, we drove to Karuizawa.

Overnight at Hotel Longing House, Karuizawa

18 January 2024 Karuizawa, Honshū

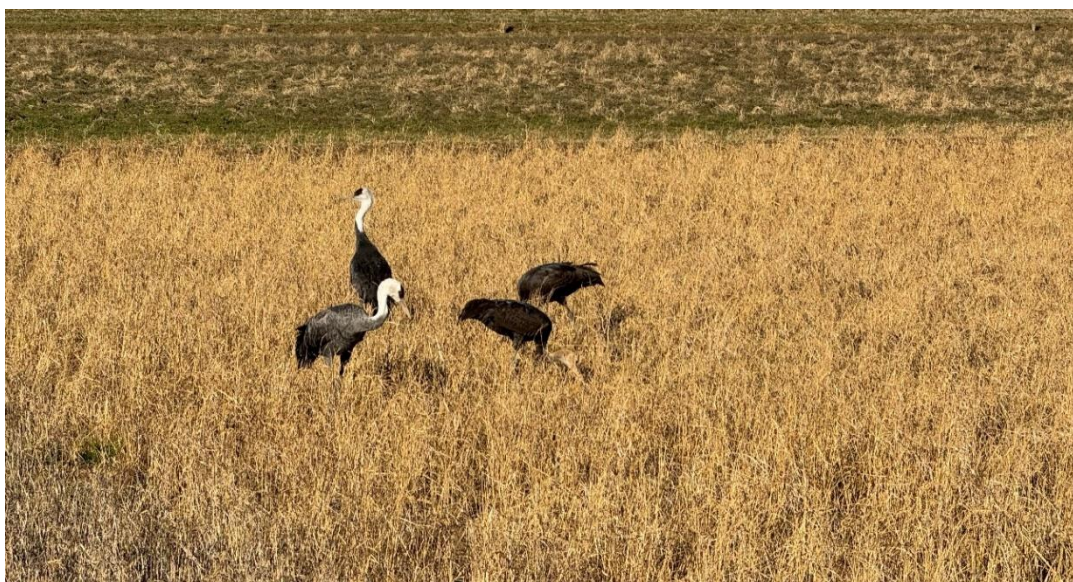
Taking advantage of our hotel’s location we met early, before breakfast, and wandered the quiet local backroads and gardens. Hawfinch, Brambling, and Dusky Thrush were all great to see, but a White’s Thrush stole the show. After breakfast we explored local woodland at Kumoba Pond and in the Wild Bird Forest and

were lucky with views of two highly sought-after species: Japanese Sparrowhawk and a flock of Japanese Waxwings. The afternoon saw us enjoying winter waterfowl in Saku, at Saku Chosei-ike. Here the stars were the several male Smew that gave fantastic views, and the Long-billed Plover on the nearby Chikuma River. Overnight at Hotel Longing House, Karuizawa

19 January 2024 Karuizawa to Haneda, Honshū

This morning we headed out after an early breakfast on a successful search for the endemic Green Pheasant, then wound our way up into the hills to another spot not on our itinerary—Oneyama. A flurry of birds there included a superb male Red-flanked Bluetail. Then, down at the nearby river, we found Brown Dipper and a flock of Japanese Grosbeaks to whet our appetites for lunch at the famous Oginoya Restaurant, which served us a very special and tasty kamameshi lunch cooked in a unique ceramic pot that we were allowed to take away.

The distance yet to travel meant that we had to continue on our way for Haneda for the remainder of the afternoon, but light traffic allowed us to reach our accommodation with plenty of time to spare before dinner. Overnight at Hotel Haneda Excel Tokyo, Haneda Airport



Hooded Cranes © Mark Brazil

20 January 2024 Haneda to Izumi, Kyūshū

Our morning flight took us from Tōkyō's Haneda Airport to Kagoshima Airport in Kyūshū, from where we drove across country first to the Sendai River to look for the birdlife of the oddly rocky-bedded river. Long-billed Plover and three species of wagtails were the targets, but were upstaged by a Crested Kingfisher! We explored an area of fallow rice-fields on our way to the coast in search of buntings, but found Hen Harrier instead, and then had great looks at our first Mandarin Duck at a small reservoir near the coast. A coastal stop further north at Akune gave us sightings of Japanese Cormorant, Brown Booby, and Blue Rock-Thrush, but the late afternoon was devoted to the crane flock at Arasaki. It is always a joy to experience the massed ranks of diminutive Hooded Crane and delightfully elegant White-naped Crane, but it didn't take long for sharp eyes to spot Common Crane, then Sandhill Crane, and finally the single Siberian Crane that has been gracing a favorite spot in the 'eastern fields' this winter.

Overnight at Hotel King, Izumi

21 January 2024 Izumi Area, Kyūshū

Before breakfast we explored the local river and associated reed bed vegetation in search of buntings and were lucky with Chestnut-eared Bunting. After breakfast we returned to the crane fields and visited the Crane

Viewing Centre from where we not only had great views of the crane gathering but also found flocks of Eastern Rook and Daurian Jackdaw.

Later we explored inland to Kogawa Reservoir, and there found noisy hordes of Japanese Brown Frog and very visible Western Japanese Toad along with our first butterflies of the trip. Flyby Japanese Green-Pigeon were the best birds of our walk there. We rounded out the day with a return to the crane fields for our farewell to the southern cranes, and also visited an area of reed beds where, eventually, we were lucky to encounter Chinese Penduline-Tit.

Overnight at Hotel King, Izumi

22 January 2024 Izumi to Hikawa and Uki, then to Kirishima, Kyūshū

Our journey took us first northwards, visiting river mouths and tidal mudflats as we explored into Kumamoto Prefecture. We found small flocks of Black-faced Spoonbill, gratifying numbers of Saunders's Gull and large numbers of Common Shelduck along with flocks of Dunlin, Gray Plover, and Kentish Plover. The surprise birds here were two Common Ringed Plovers, a very uncommon species in Japan. A flyover, calling Red-throated Pipit was the best view we could manage of that species, but by scoping distant sparrows we finally turned up our target Russet Sparrow.

Eventually we left the coast and cut inland and southeast to reach the Kirishima National Park area. Our hotel being a renowned hot spring, our next activity was partaking of the thermal waters on a hot-spring-bathing expedition! It was a great way to unwind and enjoy the mineral therapeutic baths so popular among Japanese visitors.

Overnight at Kirishima Hotel, Kirishima

23 January 2024 Kirishima National Park, Mi-ike, and Kagoshima, Kyūshū to Kushiro, Hokkaido

We spent the morning in the woodlands around Mi-ike searching for woodpeckers, buntings, thrushes, and other woodland species. Wintering waterfowl were common on the crater lake, but we spent little time searching through them, as woodland birds were our targets. Olive-backed Pipit and Daurian Redstart were two great birds to see on and near the ground; then, eventually, we encountered a mixed feeding flock in the trees. The flock consisted mostly of Warbling White-eye, but gave us good looks at the beautiful Elegant Bunting (Yellow-throated Bunting) and by far the rarest record for our trip—a Hume's Leaf Warbler!

All too soon it was time to bid Kyūshū farewell, and soon we were on our way to Hokkaidō, first flying back to Haneda Airport, then with a connecting flight to Kushiro. Extreme weather in Hokkaidō had been threatening disruption to the final leg of our journey, but miraculously our afternoon flight was able to take off—and land! A late dinner awaited us at our hotel, and what a relief it was for us to be safely in Hokkaidō.

Overnight at ANA Crowne Plaza Hotel, Kushiro

24 January 2024 Tsurui, Teshikaga, Lake Kussharo, Lake Mashū, then Yoroushi Dai-ichi, Hokkaidō

On what was to become a clear sunny day, we began early with a visit to the Setsuri River, the famous roosting site of quite a number of Red-crowned Crane—tall birds that make their southern cousins, the White-naped Crane, in Kyūshū seem diminutive! Though distant, the atmosphere of the place, with mist rising from the river into the frosted riverside trees, and cranes standing in the river in the distance, was wonderful. Not far away several Steller's Eagles perching in tree tops were another wonderful addition. Given the cold conditions, it was clear that the roosting cranes here would not move for a while, so after picking up a picnic breakfast we checked a local roost site and had fantastic views of a sleepy Ural Owl.

With time now on our side, we were able to spend some time with a flock of almost 200 Red-crowned Cranes at the Ito Sanctuary before traveling north to Teshikaga to stop by at our own garden so as to check which birds were at our feeders. Two local children had been stocking our feeders in our absence specially so that we

could enjoy great views of beautiful pink-cheeked, Gray-breasted (Eurasian) Bullfinch. This was a bird we had guessed we might not see elsewhere during the trip, which turned out to be true. It was great to see that a small flock of bullfinches was present, and it was difficult not to be distracted by Brown-eared Bulbul, Marsh Tit, Japanese Tit, and even Varied Tit all shuttling back and forth between the feeders.

Next we visited the shore at Lake Kussharo to admire the enormous crater lake and a flock of Whooper Swans swimming with their reflections. Nearby, we lucked into close views of White-backed Woodpecker and Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker before enjoying a local lunch at a restaurant in Teshikaga. Time and the weather were still in our favor, so we drove up to the crater rim of the Mashū Caldera to admire the expansive volcanic scenery of the Akan–Mashū National Park, with Mt O-Akan and Mt Me-Akan off to the west and Mt Mashū to the east across the lake of the same name. From there it was just a short drive to our accommodation for the next two nights.

Blakiston’s Fish-Owl is a global rarity with only about 100 birds in Hokkaidō. Luck (and persistence) were on our side, and as darkness fell we were able to listen to, then watch, a pair of these white-tailed-eagle-sized owls as they moved away from their daytime roost and set off hunting. Not long later, the male delighted us all (and many non-birding guests at our hotel) by visiting the feeding site in front of the hotel’s windows! What a fitting end to a fantastic day. Overnight at Yuyado Daiichi, Yoroushi



Whooper Swans, Lake Hussharo © Mark Brazil



Blakiston's Fish-Owl © Mark Brazil

25 January 2024 Yoroushi

After an adventurous day with birds yesterday, today was an adventure of a very different kind. A terrific storm had blown in overnight bringing powerful winds, fine powder snow, and snow drifts. By morning almost all roads in northeast Hokkaidō were closed—and we were trapped, unable to reach the coast as we had planned! Fortunately, we were trapped in the best accommodation in east Hokkaidō, with excellent food, a wonderful hot spring on hand, and birds (including white-headed Long-tailed Tit) and Eurasian Red Squirrel visiting the feeders to entertain us throughout the day.

Some of us ventured out into the blizzard to brave the wind and snow so as to feel and breathe the storm as it swept through the valley. It seemed that whichever way we walked, it was into a head wind! Amazingly, despite the buffeting wind (normally shunned by large owls), all of us were treated to another grand showing by the male fish-owl, which came down once more to entertain us!

Overnight at Yuyado Daiichi, Yoroushi

26 January 2024 Yoroushi to Tsurui, and Kushiro Airport, Hokkaidō to Haneda Airport, Honshū

The storm had continued into the night, giving concern about our departure, but the highway department eventually came through with a snow plough, and we left in a convoy. We said our farewells to the friendly staff of Yoroushi Dai-ichi, and to the land of the fish-owls, then through white-out conditions we followed the road crew and the only route out to the south, before we were eventually able to head west towards Tsurui. Amazingly, along the way we lucked into a small group of Steller’s Eagle close to the road along with a fully adult White-tailed Eagle—our best view of this species this trip. Miraculously, we reached our lunch spot in time to say sayonara to the Red-crowned Cranes at the Tsurumidai Sanctuary, where about a hundred birds were gathering along with a single, rather out-of-place, Sandhill Crane, looking tiny in comparison. All too soon it was time to head to Kushiro Tancho Airport for our flight to Haneda and then our final dinner together and our farewells.



Our Interpreter and Culturalist, Mayumi Brazil © Mark Brazil



Mt. Fuji from Haneda © Mark Brazil

Common Name	Scientific Name	
Ducks, Geese & Waterfowl	Anatidae	
Greater White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	
Taiga Bean-Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	
Tundra Bean-Goose	<i>Anser serrirostris</i>	
Brant	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	
Tundra (Bewick's) Swan	<i>Cygnus bewickii</i>	X
Tundra (Whistling) Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	X
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	X
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	X
Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>	X
Baikal Teal	<i>Sibirionetta formosa</i>	X
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	X
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	X
Falcated Duck	<i>Mareca falcata</i>	X
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	X
Eastern Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas zonorhyncha</i>	X
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	X
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	X
Green-winged Teal (Eurasian)	<i>Anas crecca crecca</i>	X
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	X
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	X
Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	X
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>	X
Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	X
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	X
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	X
Pheasants, Grouse & Allies	Phasianidae	
Hazel Grouse	<i>Tetrastes bonasia</i>	
Copper Pheasant	<i>Syrnaticus soemmerringii</i>	
Green Pheasant	<i>Phasianus versicolor</i>	X
Chinese Bamboo-Partridge (I)	<i>Bambusicola thoracicus</i>	
Grebes	Podicipedidae	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	X
Horned Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	X
Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	X
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	X
Eared (Black-necked) Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	X
Pigeons & Doves	Columbidae	
Rock Pigeon (I)	<i>Columba livia</i>	X
Oriental Turtle-Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>	X
White-bellied Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron sieboldii</i>	X
Swifts	Apodidae	
House Swift	<i>Apus nipalensis</i>	
Rails, Gallinules & Coots	Rallidae	
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	
Eurasian Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	X
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	X
Ruddy-breasted Crake	<i>Zapornia fusca</i>	
Cranes	Gruidae	
Demoiselle Crane	<i>Anthropoides virgo</i>	
Siberian Crane	<i>Leucogeranus leucogeranus</i>	X
Sandhill Crane	<i>Antigone canadensis</i>	X
White-naped Crane	<i>Antigone vipio</i>	X
Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	X
Hooded Crane	<i>Grus monacha</i>	X
Red-crowned Crane	<i>Grus japonensis</i>	X
Stilts & Avocets	Recurvirostridae	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	
Oystercatchers	Haematopodidae	
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	
Plovers & Lapwings	Charadriidae	
Black-bellied (Gray) Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	X
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	X
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	X
Long-billed Plover	<i>Charadrius placidus</i>	X
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	X
Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	
Painted-Snipes	Rostratulidae	
Greater Painted-Snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>	
Sandpipers & Allies	Scolopacidae	
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	X

Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	
Long-toed Stint	<i>Calidris subminuta</i>	
Red-necked Stint	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	X
Solitary Snipe	<i>Gallinago solitaria</i>	
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	X
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	X
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	X
Auks, Murres & Puffins	Alcidae	
Common Murre (Guillemot)	<i>Uria aalge</i>	
Thick-billed Murre (Brunnich's Guillemot)	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	
Pigeon Guillemot	<i>Cephus columba</i>	
Spectacled Guillemot	<i>Cephus carbo</i>	
Ancient Murrelet	<i>Synthliboramphus antiquus</i>	
Least Auklet	<i>Aethia pusilla</i>	
Crested Auklet	<i>Aethia cristatella</i>	
Rhinoceros Auklet	<i>Cerorhinca monocerata</i>	
Gulls, Terns & Skimmers	Laridae	
Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	
Saunders's Gull	<i>Saundersilarus saundersi</i>	X
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	X
Black-tailed Gull	<i>Larus crassirostris</i>	X
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	
Vega (Herring) Gull	<i>Larus (argentatus) vegae</i>	X
Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides thayeri</i>	
Lesser Black-backed Gull (Heuglin's)	<i>Larus fuscus heuglini</i>	
Slaty-backed Gull	<i>Larus schistisagus</i>	
Glaucous-winged Gull	<i>Larus glaucescens</i>	
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	
Loons	Gaviidae	
Red-throated Loon	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	
Arctic Loon	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	
Pacific Loon	<i>Gavia pacifica</i>	
Boobies & Gannets	Sulidae	
Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>	X
Cormorants & Shags	Phalacrocoracidae	
Red-faced Cormorant	<i>Urile urile</i>	
Pelagic Cormorant	<i>Urile pelagicus</i>	X
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	X
Japanese Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax capillatus</i>	X
Herons, Egrets & Bitterns	Ardeidae	
Gray Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	X
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	X
Medium Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>	X
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	X
Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>	X
Pacific Reef-Heron	<i>Egretta sacra</i>	
Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	X
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelicanus onocrotalus</i>	X

Ibises & Spoonbills	Threskiornithidae	
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	X
Black-faced Spoonbill	<i>Platalea minor</i>	X
Osprey	Pandionidae	
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	X
Hawks, Eagles & Kites	Accipitridae	
Mountain Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus nipalensis</i>	
Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga clanga</i>	
Eastern Marsh-Harrier	<i>Circus spilonotus</i>	X
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	X
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	X
Japanese Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter gularis</i>	X
Eurasian Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	
Black-eared Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	X
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	X
Steller's Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus pelagicus</i>	X
Rough-legged Hawk	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	
Eastern Buzzard	<i>Buteo japonicus</i>	X
Owls	Strigidae	
Blakiston's Fish Owl	<i>Ketupa blakistoni</i>	X
Ural Owl	<i>Strix uralensis</i>	X
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	
Kingfishers	Alcedinidae	
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	X
Crested Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle (Ceryl) lugubris</i>	X
Woodpeckers	Picidae	
Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Yungipicus kizuki</i>	X
White-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>	X
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	X
Japanese Woodpecker	<i>Picus awokera</i>	X
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>	
Falcons & Caracaras	Falconidae	
Eurasian Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	X
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	X
Cuckooshrikes	Campephagidae	
Ryukyu Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus tegimae</i>	X
Shrikes	Laniidae	
Bull-headed Shrike	<i>Lanius bucephalus</i>	X
Northern Shrike	<i>Lanius borealis</i>	
Crows, Jays & Magpies	Corvidae	
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	X
Azure-winged Magpie	<i>Cyanopica cyanus</i>	
Daurian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus dauuricus</i>	X
Eastern Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	X
Oriental (Carrion) Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	X
Japanese (Large-billed) Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	X
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	
Tits, Chickadees & Titmice	Paridae	
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	X
Varied Tit	<i>Sittiparus varius</i>	X

Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	X
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>	X
Japanese Tit	<i>Parus minor</i>	X
Penduline-Tits	Remizidae	
Chinese Penduline-Tit	<i>Remiz consobrinus</i>	X
Larks	Alaudidae	
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	X
Cisticolas & Allies	Cisticolidae	
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	
Martins & Swallows	Hirundinidae	
Asian House-Martin	<i>Delichon dasypus</i>	
Barn Swallow		X
Bulbuls	Pycnonotidae	
Brown-eared Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes amaurotis</i>	X
Bush Warblers & Allies	Scotocercidae	
Japanese Bush Warbler	<i>Horornis diphone</i>	X
Long-tailed Tits	Aegithalidae	
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	X
White-eyes, Yuhinas & Allies	Zosteropidae	
Warbling White-eye	<i>Zosterops japonicus</i>	X
Laughingthrushes & Allies	Leiothrichidae	
Red-billed Leiothrix (l)	<i>Leiothrix lutea</i>	
Chinese Hwamei (l)	<i>Garrulax canorus</i>	
Kinglets	Regulidae	
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	X
Nuthatches	Sittidae	
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	X
Treecreepers	Certhiidae	
Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	
Wrens	Troglodytidae	
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	X
Dippers	Cinclidae	
Brown Dipper	<i>Cinclus pallasii</i>	X
Starlings	Sturnidae	
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	
White-cheeked Starling	<i>Spodiopsar cineraceus</i>	X
Thrushes & Allies	Turdidae	
White's Thrush	<i>Zoothera aurea</i>	X
Brown-headed Thrush	<i>Turdus chrysolaus</i>	X
Pale Thrush	<i>Turdus pallidus</i>	X
Dusky Thrush	<i>Turdus eunomus</i>	X
Old World Flycatchers	Muscicapidae	
Red-flanked Bluetail	<i>Tarsiger cyanurus</i>	X
Daurian Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus auroreus</i>	X
Blue Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	X
Hume's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus</i>	X
Waxwings	Bombycillidae	
Bohemian Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	
Japanese Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla japonica</i>	X

Accentors	Prunellidae	
Alpine Accentor	<i>Prunella collaris</i>	X
Japanese Accentor	<i>Prunella rubida</i>	
Old World Sparrows	Passeridae	
Russet Sparrow	<i>Passer cinnamomeus</i>	X
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	X
Wagtails & Pipits	Motacillidae	
Gray Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	X
Japanese Wagtail	<i>Motacilla grandis</i>	X
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	X
Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	X
Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	X
American (Buff-bellied) Pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	X
Finches, Euphonias & Allies	Fringillidae	
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	X
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	X
Japanese Grosbeak	<i>Eophona personata</i>	X
Long-tailed Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus sibiricus</i>	
Pallas's Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus roseus</i>	
Pine Grosbeak	<i>Pinicola enucleator</i>	X
Grey-bellied (Eurasian) Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	X
Asian Rosy-Finch	<i>Leucosticte arctoa</i>	
Oriental Greenfinch	<i>Chloris sinica</i>	X
Common Redpoll	<i>Acanthis flammea</i>	
Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	X
Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	
Longspurs & Snow Buntings	Calcariidae	
Lapland Longspur	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	
Old World Buntings	Emberizidae	
Chestnut-eared Bunting	<i>Emberiza fucata</i>	X
Meadow Bunting	<i>Emberiza cioides</i>	X
Yellow-throated (Elegant) Bunting	<i>Emberiza elegans</i>	X
Japanese Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza yessoensis</i>	
Pallas's Bunting	<i>Emberiza pallasi</i>	
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	X
Rustic Bunting	<i>Emberiza rustica</i>	X
Masked Black-faced Bunting	<i>Emberiza spodocephala</i>	X
Gray Bunting	<i>Emberiza variabilis</i>	

Mammals		
Pigs	Suidae	
Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	
Old World Monkeys	Cercopithecidae	
Japanese Macaque	<i>Macaca fuscata</i>	X
Dogs	Canidae	
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	
Weasels & Allies	Mustelidae	
Japanese Marten	<i>Martes melampus</i>	
Japanese Weasel	<i>Mustela itatsi</i>	
Short-tailed Weasel	<i>Mustela erminea</i>	
Sea Otter	<i>Enhydra lutris</i>	
Horses	Equidae	
Japanese Serow	<i>Capricornis crispus</i>	X
Deer	Cervidae	
Japanese Deer	<i>Cervus nippon</i>	X
Squirrels	Sciuridae	
Japanese Squirrel	<i>Sciurus lis</i>	X
Eurasian Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	X
Rabbits & Hares	Leporidae	
Japanese Hare	<i>Lepus brachyurus</i>	
True Seals	Phocidae	
Harbor Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	