Japan Bird Trip

Hokkaido & Honshu 18th – 27th February 2017

Blakiston’s Fish Owl

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Planning:
The planning for this trip started in early 2016, initially sorting out likely dates and duration. Ideally you need two to three weeks to do the whole of Japan but work constraints for a couple of us meant we were limited to ten days. Allowing for travel time we would have eight days for birding and we decided to spend most of our time, six days, birding on Hokkaido with a couple of days at Karuizawa on Honshu. Wilton had a couple of more days free than the rest of us and opted to stay on after we left spending a day on the ferry to Hachijojima and a day birding around Tokyo. Information from trip reports on the internet
suggested that the second half of February would be the ideal time to bird Hokkaido with the best chance of sea-ice being present off Rausu

We booked flights with British Airways from Dublin to Tokyo via Heathrow arriving at Haneda airport at 7.30a.m. on 18\textsuperscript{th} February and returning to Dublin on Sunday 26\textsuperscript{th}. The flights cost £515.00 each.

For internal flights to and from Kushiro in Hokkaido we used ANA for the flight out and JAL for the flight back to Tokyo. Both airlines offer a special Explore Japan rate of 10,800 Yen per flight for up to five flights for non-Japanese residents.

We used Sarus Bird Tours to arrange car hire in both Hokkaido and Karuizawa. Nigel Moorehouse at Sarus arranged a Nissan X-Trail four wheel drive jeep for Hokkaido, collected at Kushiro airport, and a Nissan Serena people carrier for Karuizawa collected from the Nissan Car Hire depot beside the train station. The X-Trail cost £488 for six days and was excellent for driving in the snowy conditions if a little cramped when loaded with four birders and all their gear. The Serena cost £252 for two days and was fine on the main roads but definitely not good on some of the icy side roads. Although both cars had English speaking satnavs Wilton brought his iPad and we bought a sim card (£35 for 3GB data) at Haneda airport and used Google Maps for all of our navigating and it worked perfectly.

When we arrived at Haneda we bought JR East Tokyo wide 3 day rail passes to start on our return from Hokkaido on the 23\textsuperscript{rd}. This covered our monorail and train costs to and from Tokyo station and the bullet train to and from Karuizawa and cost ¥10,000 each.

White-tailed Eagle
Reading the various trip reports it was clear that, for our accommodation and other arrangements on Hokkaido, we needed to contact Takeyoshi Matsuo. Take-san is an English speaking birdwatcher who, along with his wife, runs a minshuku (guesthouse), Furen Lodge, on the shores of Lake Furen in eastern Hokkaido. I e-mailed Take-san, matsuo-t@plum.plala.or.jp, in June 2016 setting out what we wanted to do and within 24 hours Take-san e-mailed back confirming that he had booked three nights’ accommodation at Furen Lodge, two nights’ accommodation at the Minenoyu Hotel in Rausu, places on a boat trip from Habomai on the Nemuro Peninsula and on two Eagle boats from Rausu. We had wanted to stay at Washi No Yado, the Blakiston’s Fish Owl site on the outskirts of Rausu, but Take-san explained that, although our trip was still eight months away, this place was already booked up by a bird tour group on the dates we wanted. He was able to arrange for us to visit the site on the two evenings that we would be in Rausu. We can thoroughly recommend Take-san to anyone visiting Hokkaido who needs assistance and accommodation on the island which is probably anyone who doesn’t speak Japanese. The costs were as follows: Furen Lodge Y7,200 per person per night, Minenoyu Hotel Y9,870 per person per night, the Habomai boat was Y5,000 each, the Rausu eagle boat trips were Y10,000 each and the Washi No Yado was Y3,000 each per evening. Furen Lodge and Minenoyu Hotel costs were for bed, breakfast and evening meal.

For Karuizawa we decided to book accommodation for the two nights at the Pension Edohara. Although the Pension has an English language website we had some trouble making contact, a couple of e-mails went unanswered, but eventually, with the assistance of Chris Cook from the Kantori bird group, we were able to book a couple of rooms. Like Furen Lodge we can recommend Pension Edohara for anyone looking for a place to stay in Karuizawa. The cost for the Edohara was Y10,000 per person per night, again for bed, breakfast and evening meal.

For information on birding sites in both Hokkaido and Honshu there are numerous trip reports available on Cloudbirders, www.cloudbirders.com. I also picked up a second hand copy of Mark Brazil’s book, A Birdwatcher’s Guide to Japan, it is rather dated now having first been published in 1987 but still provided some useful information. The only guide book we used was the Helm Field Guide The Birds of East Asia also by Mark Brazil. This is an excellent guide but because of the vast area it covers and the large number of species illustrated it is a little sparse on some of the sub-species that occur in Japan and the range maps can sometimes be too small to be of any great use. There is also an English speaking bird group, Kantorilode yahoo group, http://Kantorilode.weebly.com/, on the net which can provide some useful information on current sightings.
The Trip:

Saturday 18th February

We arrived in to Tokyo Haneda Airport at 7am and transferred to the domestic terminal. After buying a data SIM, a JR Tokyo rail pass (for our train in a week’s time) and checking in our bags, a walk around the terminal grounds produced a few Dusky Thrushes, Pied Wagtail, Kestrel and Tree Sparrows. However the best was unfortunately a dead Oriental Turtle Dove. We flew from Tokyo to Kushiro. The flight was delayed for 15 minutes and they advised it may not even land due to high winds at Kushiro. However much to our relief we arrived safely. We picked up the car relatively quickly from Nissan and drove to the Akan Crane Centre. There was no public feeding of the Cranes this year due to bird flu, however there were still circa 200 Red-crowned Cranes present. Also present were two adult Steller’s Eagles, an adult White-tailed Eagle and 3 Black-eared Kites. There was also a Red Fox, the first of many that we saw on Hokkaido. In and around the car park we had Japanese Tit, Marsh Tits, a Nuthatch, Hawfinch, Siskin and Brown-eared Bulbul. We then went to the Tsurui area. About a mile north of the village we explored fields / fodder areas around a farm. Tree Sparrows and a family of Red-crowned Cranes were the best we could find. South of the village on the way towards Kushiro, we had more Cranes and a flock of Whooper Swans.
When travelling around the eastern side of Kushiro, we had circa 200 Black-eared Kites at sunset, in the air, from a filling station. A few other stops produced e.g. Wren and Goldeneye, Carrion Crow and Large-billed Crow.

We stopped at the bridge at Km 100 just off Route 44 on the road to Furen Lodge and had a brief look for Blakiston’s Fish Owl and Ural Owl but without success. Overnight at Furen Lodge.

**Sunday 19th February**

In the garden of Furen Lodge, over breakfast we had: Hawfinch, Brambling, Nuthatch (all white underparts except undertail coverts), Marsh Tit, Great-Spotted Woodpecker, Brambling, Steller’s Eagle, White-tailed Eagle, Goosanders, Brown-eared Bulbul, Japanese Tits and plenty of Tree Sparrows. Not a bad garden list!

It was windy with, at times, snow falling when we went to Nemuro /Cape Nosappu Lighthouse / Habomai. We stopped at all harbours and accessible points on the coast. We had loads of Black Scoter, Harlequin and Long-tail Ducks. We also had 2 White-winged Scoter (stejnegeri), Pochard, Scaup, Wigeon, Red-necked Grebes, Pacific Divers, Red-throated Diver, Great Northern Diver, Pelagic Cormorants, Rhinoceros Auklet, Ancient Murrelet, Brunniches Guillemot, Black-headed Gull, Common Gull (Kanchatchka 100+), Glaucous Gull, Glaucous-Winged Gull, Steller’s Eagles (20+), White-tailed Eagles (30+), 3...
Raven, 8 Asian Rosy Finch and a Dusky Thrush. We failed to find any Red-faced Cormorant on the stack at Cape Nosappu. Conditions were very difficult indeed with high winds which made it bitterly cold (feeling -15 to -20). It was at this stage, very difficult to bird. When we were looking for Rock Sandpipers at Onnemoto, snow showers were falling and visibility was poor. Overnight Furen Lodge again.

![Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker](image)

**Monday 20th February**

The Furen Lodge garden had the usual birds on the feeders e.g. Marsh Tit, Nuthatch and Hawfinch. We then took a boat trip from 9-11a.m. out of Habomai. There were plenty of Least Auklets, Ancient Murrelets, Spectacled Guillemots and a few Pigeon Guillemots. After the boat trip we went back up to Cape Nosappu. In beautiful conditions we immediately found a juvenile Red-faced Cormorant on the ‘rock’ just to the west of the lighthouse. Then we went to Onnemoto to look for any Rock Sandpipers again but this proved unsuccessful.
We then headed north on the 3-hour drive to Rausu. On the way we had numerous White-tailed Eagles, more Steller’s Eagles, a Japanese Eastern Buzzard, Black-eared Kites and a tame Fox. Hundreds if not thousands of Sika Deer were at the north east end of Lake Furen. We also added Smew and Tufted Duck to the trip list.

We arrived in Rausu and to our disappointment; there was no sign of any sea ice. After checking in to our hotel we got ready for a cold night ahead.

At 6 pm we arrived for the Blakistons Fish Owl at Washi No Yado, about a mile outside Rausu. The bird had been seen at 5:40 pm on the previous evening. However we had a 'long' wait until 10 p.m. when one of the birds put on a great show for circa 25 minutes. During that time it took 3 fish. This was a highly successful day again. Overnight hotel in Rausu.

**Tuesday 21st February**

Before breakfast and on the river at the back of the hotel, David had the find of our trip, a Solitary Snipe. We all got on to it before a blizzard set in and we retreated to the hotel for breakfast! Also 10+ Brown Dippers and a single Japanese Wagtail were on the river.
We were booked on a 9a.m. Eagle boat trip out of Rausu harbour. Amazingly the sea ice had magically appeared and stretched for miles so that the eagle boats could only get a very short distance outside the harbour. It seems that the strong overnight winds had brought the sea ice in - and what a spectacle it was to produce. We had over 100 Steller’s Eagles and 50+ White-tailed Eagles. After the boat trip, a look around the river in Rausu and a journey south along the coast produced Whoopers in flight, Long-tailed Ducks, Black Scoters, Goldeneye, Goosander, Red-breasted Mergansers, Harlequins, Tufted Duck, Scaup, Wigeon, Chinese Spot-billed Ducks, Mallard and Pelagic Cormorants. Gulls seen included Slaty-backed, Glaucous, Glaucous-winged and Common (Kamchatka Gull).

Birding was cut short for the day due to snow and high winds which also made driving very risky. Overnight Rausu.

**Wednesday 22nd February**

We left the hotel early without availing of breakfast (we did not want to face fish and vegetables for breakfast again!) There had been about 2cm of snow overnight. Outside the
hotel at 6:15am we had 6 Northern Long-tailed Tits and a Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker. We had decided to twitch a Siberian Accentor (seen and photographed a few days previously) at Tsurui and changed our travel route to accommodate.

On the way towards Tsurui we had Steller’s Eagles, White-tailed Eagles, Large-billed Crow, Marsh Tit and Dusky Thrush. In and around the Tsurui area we had plenty of Red-crowned Cranes, Whooper Swans, Japanese Tits, Dusky Thrush, Steller’s and White-tailed Eagles, Nuthatch and Great Spotted Woodpecker. There was no sign of the Accentor but we found a flock of 40 Asian Rosy Finches, 2 Hawfinches, Mealy Redpolls and some Siskins.

We then headed to Lake Furen via Kushiro. In Kushiro we went firstly to the most western harbour wall and had a Temminicks Cormorant and 15 stejnegeri White Winged Scoters along with many Common Gulls. We then headed up to the most eastern part of Kushiro harbour and had a Shoveler and all the common sea duck, there was also a flock of Slaty-backed, Glaucous-winged and Glaucous Gulls roosting here. We then headed on to Lake Furen for the evening. Overnight Furen Lodge.

**Thursday 23rd February**

Today we were leaving Hokkaido. The forecast was for heavy snow at Kushiro so we headed off straight after breakfast. We went via Cape Kiritappu. In a harbour on the way we added Teal and a few Pochards to the list. At the Cape itself we had good views of a Crested Auklet. The first house on the right as you drive up onto the plateau had Tree Sparrows and
Hawfinches but it is clear that the owner does not like / want birders! (60 Asian Rosy Finches were seen there shortly after we left).

After going back across the bridge, on the 'mainland' we had a flock of 30+ Black Brant.

The weather started to turn bad with our first rain of the trip. It was continuous and we headed back to the airport. One last stop was again at the western end of Kushiro harbour. In calm conditions we enjoyed good views of White-winged Scoters, a Black-necked Grebe and numerous Great-Crested Grebes. We were then on the 2:35p.m. JAL flight to Tokyo Haneda. From Haneda we got the monorail and train to Tokyo Station were we caught a Bullet Train to Karuizawa, arriving around 8p.m.. Overnight, Pension Edohara, Karuizawa.

**Friday 24th February**

Up and out for 6am. We soon got lost on the tracks and side-streets behind Naka-Karuizawa and no sign of our number one target, Copper Pheasant. However we got Japanese Accentor (3), Japanese Grosbeak (4), Jay, Varied Tit, Willow Tits, numerous Bramblings, Sparrowhawk, 3 Bullfinch (grey bellied race griseiventris), Oriental Turtle Doves, Japanese White Eye, Rustic Bunting (10+), Oriental Greenfinch (50+), Meadow Bunting (10) and White-cheeked Starlings (8+). The track along the river at the Wild Bird Park was very icy and hence extremely dangerous. We gave up after a few falls. Indeed many tracks in the
area were very icy and treacherous. We did however come across some great habitat around the International School of Asia (ISAK) at: Dropped pin near 4533-243 Nagakura, Karuizawa-machi, Kitasaku-gun, Nagano-ken 389-0111, Japan  
https://goo.gl/maps/FJVj89AWZkn. This was a superb area for buntings and finches.

Male Copper Pheasant

We decided to retrace our route, driving various ice-free tracks and roads, but still no sign of a Pheasant. However just when we thought all hope had gone and were planning our itinerary for the following day, we headed up a side road at the very north end of the town and unbelievably at 5:10p.m. we had a stunning male Copper Pheasant feeding next to the road! Overnight, Pension Edohara, Karuizawa. (With a bottle of celebratory Sake).

**Saturday 25th February**

We decided to head back to the horticultural area at the ISAK School on the west side of Naka-Karuizawa - a good call. We got there for 6am and shortly afterwards we were into the same finches and buntings from the previous day. We eventually tracked down two Japanese Green Woodpeckers. We then picked up two Long-tailed Rosefinches and then two Pallas's Rosefinches. There were probably about 10 Rosefinches in total in the area. We also had a female Daurian Redstart.
After another great breakfast at Pension Edohara, we headed off to Lake Toden just south of Saku, on our way to see the Snow Monkeys. At Lake Toden and on the adjoining river, new trip birds were Japanese Wagtail, Long-billed Plover, Pintail, Coot, Osprey and Bull-headed Shrike. We also enjoyed two stunning male Daurian Redstart.

After Lake Toden we headed to the Snow Monkeys. We got there for circa 1:45 p.m. and took the near 2km walk up to the thermal pool. The path was dangerously icy in places but we all walked it without problem. Bird species in the area were very limited. The monkey experience is as has been described in previous trip reports - but is still an interesting experience in a stunning environment.

We then drove back to Karuizawa for an 18:06 Bullet Train back to Tokyo. On arrival we all headed for JAL City Haneda Hotel where the rest of the team stayed as they were travelling home the following morning. Wilton went down for the 10:30 ferry from Tokyo to Hachijojima for a day of sea-watching. A bunk on the ferry cost about 11,500 Yen, this at least allowed for some sleep in relative quietness.

**Sunday 26th February (Wilton only)**

I woke at about 6:15 and was sea-watching for 6:30. I could have been up earlier but felt I needed the rest and took a gamble that I would get any birds I would miss, later on!
Conditions early on were a moderate to strong westerly wind but as the day went on, the wind eased and at times the sea was flat calm. There was no rain. Totals over the day were:

Laysan Albatross- 44 (including 7 together on the water), Short-tailed Albatross - 17 (at least half sub adult), Black-footed Albatross - 4 (none on way back), Streaked Shearwater – thousands, Fork-tailed Petrel - 2, presumed. (Best described as looking like a cross between a Soft-plumaged Petrel and a Storm Petrel, but they flew like storm petrels), Short-tailed Shearwater, presumed - 1. (If seen in Irish waters I would have called this a Balearic Shearwater. I could not get any colour on the bare parts and not shaped like e.g. Sooty Shearwater), Kittiwakes, Black-tailed Gulls, Slaty-backed Gulls, Pomarine Skua.

On Hachijo Island:

Izu Thrush - male and a presumed female between the red and blue buildings at the harbour. This was a mad dash from the boat but I was lucky to connect with the birds early on. Blue Rock Thrush (Red-bellied) - 1 stunning bird at the harbour. Also seen were Oriental Turtle Doves, (could be mistaken for the Woodpigeon with poor views), Bull-headed Shrike, Brown-eared Bulbul, Tree Sparrow, Buzzard, Japanese White-eye and Dusky Thrushes. All in 30 minutes, in and around the harbour.

Also seen from the ferry on the journey back were:

8 Sperm Whales (a single and two groups - the angled blows were the initial give away), 2 Humpback Whales, 1 dead whale, probably a Sperm Whale, 1 dead Laysan Albatross.
This ferry trip was a hard day as I was on my own. However the tallies speak for themselves and it will go down for me as a stunning and superb days birding. Overnight at the JAL City Haneda Hotel, Tokyo.

Laysan Albatross

**Monday 27th February**

I met Chris Cook for a walk around Yoyogi Park, Tokyo at 7am. The target for me was Grey Bunting and it did not take Chris long to pick up birds on call. I was able to get on to them easily enough. Most seemed to be first winter males or females, often with Black-faced Buntins. They fed in the denser undergrowth close to the path. In the park I also saw Red-flanked Bluetail, many Pale Thrushes, 300+ Brambling, Japanese Bush-Warbler and Goshawk displaying as well as a supporting cast from the widespread Dusky Thrush to Japanese White-eye. A quick visit to the Shrine in the park was worthwhile. After another coffee in the new trendy coffee house at the park entrance next to Harajuku Station, I headed over to Ukima Park to see the Baers Pochard that had been found about three weeks previously. This is not a big lake but it was crammed with duck. Finding the Baers was easy; I just headed to the long line of powerful cameras....
The bird showed well and whilst it was largely asleep, it would occasionally wake up and move around. There is some uncertainty over whether this bird could have e.g. some distant Pochard genes. I am not qualified to say one way or another. However it was still an honour to see one of the rarest ducks in the world.

![Baer’s Pochard](image)

Apart from the 'Baers' the site also had Moorhen, Gadwall and Night Heron new for the trip. There were also good numbers of Oriental Turtle Dove, White-cheeked Starling, Pochard, Tufted Duck, Wigeon and Pintail. A Japanese Bush Warbler was heard but not seen. I had planned to go to a few other parks in Tokyo (e.g. the Imperial Palace) but disappointingly they are all shut on a Monday! And so this was the end of the trip.

**Summary.**

This was a superb trip, everything went pretty much as planned and we saw some fantastic birds in stunning scenery. The bird list is not long but the quality is outstanding. If you do make the trip to Hokkaido to see and photograph the birds take plenty of warm clothing and memory cards but remember to put the camera down sometimes and just enjoy the avian and scenic spectacle.

If you have any queries about this trip please feel free to e-mail:

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**Bird List:**

Whooper Swan – Flocks near Akan Crane Centre and with the cranes at Tsurui, a few singles elsewhere.

Black Brant – A flock on the sea just west of Kiritappu

Long-tailed Duck – In almost every harbour around Hokkaido

White-winged Scoter – A couple in Habomai harbour and up to ten in Kushiro harbour.

Black Scoter - Common all around the coast in Hokkaido

Common Goldeneye – Small numbers in most of the harbours on Hokkaido.

Smew – A couple of Redheads on Hokkaido and a male and female on Lake Toden.

Goosander – Common in all the harbours on Hokkaido.

Red-breasted Merganser – Common on the sea off the Nemuro Peninsula.

Harlequin Duck – Common in most of the harbours on Hokkaido.

Common Pochard – Small numbers around the Nemuro Peninsula, also on Lake Toden.

Baer's Pochard – Returning bird in Ukima Park, Tokyo.

Tufted Duck – A couple near Rausu and four on Lake Toden.

Greater Scaup – Small numbers all around the Hokkaido coast.
Northern Shoveler – A single bird at Kushiro Harbour.

Eurasian Wigeon – Small numbers at numerous sites on Hokkaido and good numbers at Lake Toden.

Chinese Spot-billed Duck – A single bird near Rausu, common on Lake Toden.

Mallard – Common everywhere.

Gadwall – Only seen in Ukima Park, Tokyo.

Northern Pintail – Small numbers on Lake Toden and Ukima Park in Tokyo.

Common Teal – Two birds in a small harbour east of Kiritappu and a few on Lake Toden.

Copper Pheasant – Single male bird feeding at the edge of a side road at the north end of Naka-Karuizawa.

Green Pheasant – Two females behind the Seven-Eleven in Naka-Karuizawa.

Red-necked Grebe – Three singles in the harbours of the Nemuro Peninsula.

Great Crested Grebe – A large flock in Kushiro Harbour and a few on Lake Toden.

Black-necked Grebe – A single bird in Kushiro Harbour.

Oriental Turtle Dove – A single dead bird at Haneda Airport, three around Karuizawa and good numbers in Ukima Park in Tokyo.
Common Moorhen – Ukima Park only.

Common Coot – Single bird on Lake Toden.

Red-crowned Crane – Good numbers at Akan Crane Centre and near Tsurui, small groups and individuals on farmland around Tsurui.

Red-throated Diver – A few around the coast on Hokkaido, especially off Cape Nosappu.

Pacific Loon – Only seen around the Cape Nosappu area of the Nemuro Peninsula.

Great Northern Diver – Only seen off Cape Nosappu on the Nemuro Peninsula.

Laysan Albatross – Good numbers from the ferry to Hachijojima Island.

Black-footed Albatross – Four from the ferry to Hachijojima Island.

Short-tailed Albatross - Seventeen from the ferry to Hachijojima Island.

Fork-tailed Storm-petrel – Two from the ferry to Hachijojima Island.

Short-tailed Shearwater – A single from the ferry to Hachijojima Island.

Streaked Shearwater – Thousands from the ferry to Hachijojima Island.

Grey Heron – A single bird in flight near Lake Toden.

Night Heron – Only seen at Ukima Park in Tokyo.

Pelagic Cormorant – Very common around the coast of Hokkaido.

Red-faced Cormorant – Single immature on the small stack to the west of the lighthouse at Cape Nosappu.
Great Cormorant – Only seen at Lake Toden.


Long-billed Plover – Two birds on the Chikuma River beside the bridge at Lake Toden.

Solitary Snipe – A single bird on the small stream behind the Minenoyu Hotel in Rausu, probably find of the trip.

Rhinoceros Auklet – A single bird off Cape Nosappu on the Nemuro Peninsula.

Least Auklet – Good numbers off Cape Nosappu and from the boat trip from Habomai.

Crested Auklet – A single bird at the base of the cliffs by the lighthouse on Kiritappu.

Pigeon Guillemot – Several birds from the Habomai boat trip.

Spectacled Guillemot -

Ancient Murrelet – Common off Cape Nosappu and from the Habomai boat trip.

Brunnich’s Guillemot – Two birds seen from Cape Nosappu and a single bird from the Habomai boat trip.

Common Guillemot – A single bird from Cape Nosappu and a few birds from the Habomai boat trip.

Black-tailed Gull – Only seen from the ferry to Hachijojima Island.
Mew (Kamchatka) Gull – Fairly common around the coast in Hokkaido.

Vega Gull – Only two definitely seen at Habomai.

Slaty-backed Gull – Common around the coast of Hokkaido.

Glaucous-winged Gull - Common around the coast of Hokkaido.

Glaucous Gull - Common around the coast of Hokkaido.

Osprey – A single bird over Lake Toden was a surprise.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk – A single bird seen briefly while searching for Copper Pheasant near Naka-Karuizawa.

Northern Goshawk – A single bird displaying in Yoyogi Park, Tokyo.

Steller's Sea Eagle – Good numbers of this magnificent eagle seen all round eastern Hokkaido but especially plentiful at Rausu.

Black-eared Kite – Small numbers seen inland on Hokkaido, not so common around the coast. Small numbers around Karuizawa.

Japanese Buzzard – A single bird beside the road on the way to Rausu and another single was on Hachijojima Island.

Blakiston's Fish Owl – Great views of a bird at Washi No Yado, the bird of the trip.

Japanese Woodpecker – Fairly common around Karuizawa.
Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker – One seen in Rausu, common around Karuizawa.

Great Spotted Woodpecker – In the garden at Furen Lodge, also a few others seen while driving on Hokkaido, a few seen around Karuizawa.

Common Kestrel – A single bird at Haneda airport, a couple seen on the drive to the Snow Monkey site.

Bull-headed Shrike – Two birds around the carpark at Lake Toden, a single on Hachijojima Island.

Eurasian Jay – A few seen around Karuizawa.

Carrion Crow – Seen regularly on both Hokkaido and Honshu.

Large-billed Crow – Seen everywhere on Hokkaido, not definitely noted on Honshu.

Japanese Accentor – 3 birds around the feeder at Shiotsubo Onsen in Karuizawa, one also seen near ISAK.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow – Common everywhere.

Japanese Pied Wagtail – One on the river behind the Minenoyu Hotel in Rausu, three at Lake Toden.

White Wagtail – Two at Haneda Airport and one near Lake Toden.
Brambling – A few on Hokkaido including Furen Lodge garden, large flocks in Karuizawa, Lake Toden and Yoyogi Park in Tokyo.

Hawfinch – Seen at several sites on Hokkaido and common around Karuizawa.

Japanese Grosbeak – Four found while searching for Coper Pheasant around Karuizawa were the only ones seen.

Long-tailed Rosefinch – Several birds, perhaps eight, on rough ground near the ISAK School in Karuizawa.

Pallas's Rosefinch – A pair seen with the Long-tailed Rosefinches near the ISAK School.

Eurasian Bullfinch – Three seen in Karuizawa and two near Lake Toden, all were of the race griseiventris, Grey-bellied Bullfinch.

Asian Rosy Finch – Eight birds by the lighthouse at Cape Nosappu and a flock of forty at farm buildings near the Otowa Bridge outside Tsurui.

Grey-capped Greenfinch – Several large flocks around the ISAK School in Karuizawa.

Common Redpoll – A small flock seen on farmland outside Tsurui in Hokkaido.

Eurasian Siskin – A flock at the Akan Crane Centre on Hokkaido.

Meadow Bunting – Very common around Karuizawa.

Black-faced Bunting – Only seen in Yoyogi Park in Tokyo.

Rustic Bunting – Reasonably common around Karuizawa.

Coal Tit – Only seen at Furen Lodge on Hokkaido, common around Karuizawa.

Varied Tit – Seen in good numbers at Karuizawa.

Marsh Tit – Common on Hokkaido and at Karuizawa.

Willow Tit – Only seen at Shiotsubo Onsen and around the ISAK School at Karuizawa.

Brown-eared Bulbul – Commonly seen at all sites on Hokkaido and Honshu.

Long-tailed Tit – Six birds of the northern white headed race seen outside the Minenoyu Hotel in Rausu

Eurasian Nuthatch – On Hokkaido the race asiatica, with pale underparts, was at Akan Crane Centre and Furen Lodge garden, on Honshu the race amurensis was fairly common around Karuizawa.

Eurasian Wren – Single bird seen on the first day on Hokkaido, a few seen in the Tokyo parks.

White-cheeked Starling – Small flocks seen around the ISAK School in Karuizawa, also in the Tokyo parks.

Japanese White-eye – Two were a surprise near the ISAK School, also seen on Hachijojima Island and Yoyogi Park in Tokyo.

Brown Dipper – Common on the river that runs behind the Minenoyu Hotel in Rausu, only a single bird seen at Karuizawa.
Red-flanked Bluetail – Seen in Yoyogi Park, Tokyo only.

Daurian Redstart – A male and female near the ISAK School in Karuizawa and two more stunning males at Lake Toden.

Pale Thrush – Good numbers in Yoyogi Park in Tokyo.

Dusky Thrush – Small numbers on Hokkaido, common around Karuizawa and the Tokyo parks.

Izu Thrush – Male and female near the harbour on Hachijojima Island.

Chinese Hwamei – A single bird behind the Seven-Eleven in Karuizawa.

Blue Rock Thrush – A single bird of the red bellied race philippensis was at the harbour on Hachijojima Island

Goldcrest – One near the carpark at the Snow Monkey Park.

Japanese Bush Warbler – A single bird was seen in Yoyogi Park and another was heard in Ukima Park in Tokyo.